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*International Voices* is an annual publication of the English Language Institute of George Fox University.

The mission of the English Language Institute (ELI) at George Fox University is to develop the language and academic skills of students whose native language is not English and to raise their level of cultural and spiritual awareness in order to prepare them for academic and social success at George Fox University.

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### Enjoy Your Trip!

by Yi Wanyao



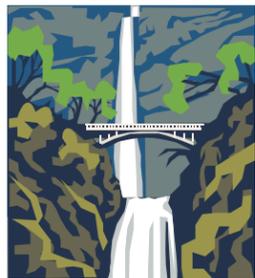
I love traveling, no matter whether it is in China or America. Through my travels, I have found some tourism differences between China and America. For example, America has a better environment and more free time and China has a large population, so the tourism spots are too crowded. But, the most significant point of difference I want to illustrate is that Americans and Chinese spend money in different ways.

First of all, American tourism spots are not very expensive. After arriving in America, I traveled many places in Oregon, ranging from Mt. Hood to Multnomah Falls to Depoe Bay. Those tourism spots are very cheap, and, sometimes, even free. Hiking Mt. Hood and seeing Multnomah Falls are free tourist activities; fishing in the sea at Depoe Bay only costs 70 dollars for a full-day trip. During the sea fishing, I could have everything I caught – such as crabs and fish – totally free. In China, we usually spend more money on entrance tickets and

other extra fees.

Second, American people like to use money for comfortable traveling experiences, while people in China like to use their money for shopping when they are traveling. For example, American people like to sleep in expensive and comfortable hotels, but Chinese people like to spend money on cheaper motels so they can extend their shopping budget. What's more, American people like to spend money on food or traditional snacks, while Chinese people pay more attention to the stuff that they want to buy, such as luxury brands, cameras and computers.

Admittedly, there are many differences between the way people travel in America and China, and such differences are just the tendencies of the majority of the people in their country; not all Americans and Chinese are like that. But both countries have plenty of very beautiful landscapes and spectacular views. No matter where you come from, or where you go, just enjoy your trip.



Multnomah Falls

# International Voices



## The Differences Between America and Rwanda



by Ivan Mutabazi

When you say, "America," all Rwandans understand that you mean "the United States of America." The United States of America is a country which is totally different from Rwanda. Everyone from Rwanda has a few things from America that they know about, because many have heard from people who have been in the U.S.A. They say that life in America is good compared to life in Rwanda because America can offer more help in life than Rwanda does. For example, the United States of America provides clean water to drink. However, there are three major differences: weather, jobs and careers, and foods.

Rwanda is a small country which is equal in size to the state of Maryland. The weather in Rwanda is hot from July to August, and it rains in April. For example, I have been raised in Kigali, Rwanda. The sun shines more than eight months of a year, and people use the shade of trees to hide from the sunlight. Others use

umbrellas while they are walking to keep from the sun. Humidity is rare in Rwanda and only occurs in April and part of May. The weather is approximately 70 degrees Fahrenheit daily.

Jobs and careers are given a lot of emphasis when comparing Rwanda and the U.S. Rwanda is divided into districts which do not offer jobs. Jobs are available only in the capital, Kigali. For example, when I graduated from high school, I tried to find someone to hire me as an employee, so that I could contribute to my parents' income, but none did it, because the jobs which are available are in the agricultural sector and they cannot hire people who are graduates. In rural areas the only work available is to dig, to reap and to harvest, depending on the season of the year. In contrast, the United States of America has a variety of jobs and careers, for example, the farmer, the businessperson and many other types of jobs, which differ from the jobs Rwanda offers. In the U.S., everyone

We hope that the students' writing in **International Voices** will inspire you to reach out to international students at George Fox University and seek friendship and understanding.

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IN MY VILLAGES

WE EAT WHAT

WE'VE

CULTIVATED AND

HARVESTED...

CORN, BEANS,

AND BANANAS

FROM THE

GARDEN ...



IT WAS A REALLY GOOD EXPERIENCE TO BE WITH THESE LOVELY ELDERLY PEOPLE..

## International Voices

### *The Differences Between America and Rwanda*

*(continued from page one)*

can change jobs as much as they want. These differences are caused by the development of each country, which is totally different. Rwanda is mostly rural, where America has rural areas but it also has cities. For example, when I finished high school, I could not find a job because in my village the work available is in farming or looking after cattle, which don't give enough salary or match my qualifications.

Food is a big and an important example to describe the differences between Rwanda and America. Rwanda foods usually are fresh foods. In Rwanda, I haven't eaten the foods from industries, for example, burgers, ice cream or milkshakes. In my villages we eat what we've cultivated and harvested. I used to help my family to reap and to carry corn, beans, and bananas from the garden to our home.

The foods which we do not plant can be found in the market which gathers once a week. Here in America, we usually buy food at a supermarket, and the foods have varieties, such as Chinese, Mexican or other types. For example, pizzas are from Italy and rice from Asia. It was a great experience for me that Americans do not have farms; nevertheless, you can find little farms in their backyards.

To sum up, Rwanda is a country whose weather doesn't change in different seasons. Rwanda also has a traditional culture which defines daily life. In America, people live with a lot of variety around them, like food, weather and jobs, so everyone can be flexible. These countries are good, and these differences also determine their culture.

### Happy Serve Day

by Yipeng Liu

I really like Serve Day because we help people who need help in their lives. And also, God likes helping people and God wants people to get together to help each other. During the last Serve Day, I helped the elderly in three ways.

The day was a sunny day. I went to a retirement home with my housemates. The home looked very nice on the outside. There were a lot of old people living there; some of them were disabled, and some of

them had medical problems so that they couldn't live by themselves. I visited the bedrooms, which looked very cozy inside, and had a lot of family pictures on the walls. Some elderly people told me their family stories. I thought the old people living there, alone, must miss their families very much.

After visiting their rooms, we started our jobs, which were all cleaning tasks. Some people were cleaning the kitchen, some people were cleaning bathrooms, and others helped to wash the elderly people's wheelchairs. I mostly cleaned windows with the help of my roommate. I never did this work before and it

### Lantern Festival in the Temple of Confucius

by Min Zhu

Have you ever seen plenty of beautiful lanterns in a temple? My answer is yes! People celebrate the Lantern Festival after the Spring Festival in Confucius' Temple in Nanjing, which is my hometown, every year. Many people are there in order to see different kinds of lanterns in the Temple of Confucius. And the great popularity of the festival in history dates back to the Ming Dynasty.

Frankly, I think a lot of people may ask, "What is the Lantern Festival?" Historically, it is the first festival after the traditional Chinese Spring Festival. People get together with their family at night, have sweet round dumplings, and appreciate gorgeous lanterns.

People celebrate this unique festival in my hometown. Confucius' Temple is an old temple where people used to worship Confucius. However, the government rebuilt it as a

place of interest for tourists. Also, the famous celebrations and the exhibition of lanterns is held there every year.

A lot of people come to Temple of Confucius to appreciate the lanterns every year because of various kinds of lanterns in the exhibition. People design them as flowers, dragons, houses, etc. Thus, you will be amazed when you see such great lanterns at night. My favorite lantern is rabbit lantern and I call it "classic bunny." In addition to the traditional designs, plane lanterns, lotus lanterns, and dragon lanterns are there as well. All of them are handcrafts. If you like them, you can buy whatever you like from the merchants.

Do you feel excited about the Lantern Festival? Do you want to see the lanterns in person? I will show you some pictures if you like. If you want to know more, you could visit there on vacation.

### *Happy Serve Day (continued)*

was a strange task for me. I sprayed the windows, and my roommate dried the windows with newspapers. From this work, I realized the importance of teamwork.

It took us two and a half hours to finish our jobs, and I felt so tired after working hard. However, it was my pleasure to help the elderly people. Before we left the retirement home, there was an old woman who came out to say thank you to us. She seemed very moved by the work we did there, and it looked like she wanted to cry. At the end, we sang a song together while someone played piano. It was a really good experience

to be with these lovely elderly people, helping them get back to younger days and bringing up good memories of their lives.

I think the day was an interesting and significant day in my life. I did a job that I have never done before, and I learned more information about how to care for others. I think young people should care for their parents more often and take care of them.



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