



# International Voices

George Fox University  
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reach out to  
international  
students at George  
Fox University and  
seek friendship and  
understanding.

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# My Favorite Place—Disneyland



By Yuan Runzhi

This place is amazing; it is a magic world. Everything there is attractive and can give you the magic power to make you feel young again. You are as pure there as a child. You can feel excited and happy.

To be honest, I haven't been there before. But it is my dream to visit here, so I have collected as much information as possible about this park. In my imagination, I see the park in this way:

When you step into it, a familiar song which is carrying your childhood memory would fill your ears. While you are immersing yourself in it, several characters jump from fairy tales and give you a bear hug to surprise you.

If you go ahead, you can shake hands with Mickey Mouse. You also could have a big hug with Donald Duck. Sleeping Beauty has waited for thousands of years for your kiss. Snow White has prepared wonderful dances for you. It sounds so cool, doesn't it?

However, these are what you would meet in dream roads of Disneyland and only a small part of this park. You could enjoy yourself in the cinema that is in the western part of the park. There are tremendous numbers of cartoons, including the old ones you watched when you were a little girl/boy and the latest ones.

If you are not a cartoon fan, that is no problem; you could spend your time at the "Magic World Park," which is located in the eastern part of the park. It is divided into two parts: the game center and the amusement park. In the game center, once you come in, you are surrounded by amazing electronic games. In such a high-tech world, you may be confused about what is real and what is virtual. Outside the amusement park, there are many rides prepared for people who are bold and love adventure, such as the jet coaster.

The most attractive part of Disneyland is the "dream in water," which is located in the center of the park. There, you could totally relax in the hot spring with Ariel and watch the Pirates show. If you were laughing and screaming like a seven-year child, nobody would blame you because they are doing the same thing no matter how many decades they have experienced in the adult world. You are who you are!

It is my dream place—Disneyland, I can't wait until winter holiday to start my dream trip!

# Differences Between the Education in America and China

By Peng Li (Penny)



Nowadays more and more Chinese students choose to come to the United States to continue their educations. The number of Chinese students that are studying in America is going up year by year. In contrast, fewer Chinese would like to attend college in China. It's a rising phenomenon in society. Colleges in China and America both offer four-year colleges. But still, a lot of differences exist.

Chinese colleges will be more focused on how you use the basics of knowledge. Many aspects show these differences. Chinese teachers like to hand out lots of homework. In addition, they really like to make it harder and harder in order to let their students have the ability to compete. It's extremely stressful to study in an environment like this. Students pretty much do not have their social time to relax.

In contrast, I think American students are much luckier. The teachers concentrate on teaching students how to use the knowledge to solve problems. It is studying with imagination. Teachers sometimes will teach the students through a game or something fun. That's always nice to learn with other motivation, too. The schools not only care about students' academic achievement, but also athletics. All kinds of sports are really popular on campus.

In general, to study in America will be more like self-determination learning. You choose to learn whatever you are interested in. In China you will learn in a step-by-step way. Everybody is doing the same thing. There is not much individualization in the campus. To be focused on academics is everyone's number one purpose in school. Since I have already studied in America for a year, I have experienced these two different types of school systems. You can't really say that one is better and the other one is not so good. They have their own advantages and also disadvantages.

# “A Bird in the Hand Is Worth Two in the Bush”

By Li Yasi



When I was a little girl, I was interested in the Chinese traditional idiom story. Even though, sometimes, I couldn't understand the meaning of that idiom, I kept reading the idiom story book every day. The most impressive idiom is that “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.”

I remember that in my primary school's textbook, there is a story that can illustrate this proverb. One morning, a lazy monkey entered a fruit mountain, and he was so excited that he could get a lot of fruits. So he slowed down his work speed, jumping from one tree to another. After he saw an acorn, he would throw away the pear he already had, but when he saw the giant watermelon, he would throw down the acorn. He almost ran through the mountain in this way. At the end, there were just some nuts in his hand. The story tells us, it is impossible for people to hold everything in their hands at the same time. If you want to possess each new thing you see, you will lose something you already own.

Before I entered grade three in high school. I attended a lot of training classes to develop my interests. I spent one year on learning piano, one year for drawing pictures, five years for playing dulcimer, and one summer holiday for playing the guitar. But when my mum asked me to apply to an art college, I thought I didn't qualify to pass the entrance examination because there is no one thing that I can play very well. I just know a little about each thing. When I realized this problem, I felt ashamed about myself: I was a greedy monkey.

We should be satisfied with the things that we already have and learn to appreciate them. Don't envy other people's things. Hold onto the bird that is already in your hand.

# Cultural Differences Between China and America



By Xiao Xiong

Different countries have different cultures. Both China and America are great countries in the world. China is an Eastern country with an Eastern culture, and America is a Western country with a Western culture. So there are tons of differences between China and America.

First are social customs. There are many differences in social customs between Americans and Chinese. The most obvious is that people are very informal in social situations in the United States. For example, they call each other by their given names when they meet for the first time, including everyone from the young to the old. When this happens in China, it will be regarded as quite impolite. Another difference is in topics of conversation. It is all right to ask a Chinese the cost of his possessions, while it is rude to do so in the United States. The Chinese do not care much if they are asked about their age or their political and religious beliefs, but these kinds of topics are usually avoided in conversations in the United States.

Second is the diet culture. In China, the dishes are placed on the table and everybody shares. Chinese are very proud of their culture of food and will do their best to give you a taste of many different types of cuisine. Among friends, they will just order enough for the people there. If they are taking somebody out for dinner and the relationship is polite, then they will usually order one more dish than the number of people. If it is a business dinner or a very formal occasion, the host will order a huge amount of food that will be impossible to finish. In America, people will usually order food just for themselves in restaurants rather than sharing many dishes. There are only a few different kinds of food, and it is served on a plate. The formality of the occasion comes from the special quality of the food and how it is presented on the plate as well as the environment of the restaurant.

Moreover, the interpersonal relationships also have many differences. In China, people are concerned about relationship networks; generally, they are always minding their own business, and people especially don't like to help strangers or people outside of the relationship network. Chinese have a few friends during their whole life, but if you are really a friend, they will help you and do anything that they can do for you. In America, people have lots of friends, but Americans don't like to give responsibility to each other; they like the individual things more.

Every culture has its own things, and we can't avoid the differences between different cultures. But we can learn from each other and make friends with people who come from a different culture.



# The Great Wall

By Luo Minqi

I went to the Great Wall on a trip with my mother, my brother and my mother's friends last winter. It was a five-day trip. We did not have enough time for our trip, so we just walked on the Great Wall for a short distance. When I stood on the Great Wall, I could feel fresh air. The Great Wall, one of the world's biggest structures, is in China. There are two reasons that the Great Wall is so splendid.

First, many people know about the Great Wall because it is longer than any other wall in the world. Anyone visiting Beijing would like to go to the Great Wall. The Wall is about 7,842 miles long, so it is the longest man-made structure in the world. The Great Wall crosses many provinces and many cities.

Second, the Great Wall is in the high mountains, so it follows the steep contour of the land. It was built in ancient times when there wasn't machinery. The working environment was in the high mountains and cliffs, but it was the king's order, so many people sacrificed their lives to build the wall. If the Great Wall didn't rely on human labor, it would have been impossible to complete this enormous project in those times. The Great Wall was finished in 476 B.C.

I am proud of the Great Wall because it is China's symbol. If you have time enough, I hope you can visit the Great Wall of China.



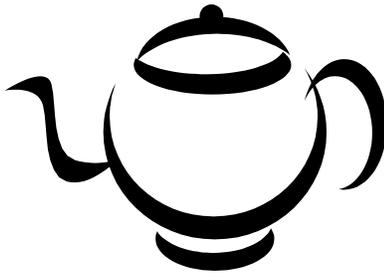
# Chinese Tea

By Fu Jingjing



When I was in China, I knew that Chinese tea is famous in the world, but I did not really understand how much so, until I came to the United States.

During my time in the United States, I have had a couple of chances to taste some different kinds of tea. Actually, they were not bad, but they were totally different from what I had drunk before. I remember my first experience of drinking tea in the United States. I was with my host-family members. I was extremely confused as to which one I should choose because this was my first time being in the United States. Therefore, my host-family recommended one kind of tea that they liked very much—peach tea. “Are they kidding?” This was the first thought I had when I heard I was going to drink that kind of tea. In China, fruit is rarely put into tea; there is only a 5% chance of it. But I couldn’t refuse my host-family’s kind offer. So I accepted it and tasted it. It was so nice! I had to admit that the flavor was extraordinary. Since then, I’ve tasted many kinds of fruit tea. They were different, but they were nice. I have experienced peach tea, blackberry tea, and cherry tea; these teas are made from fruits. On the contrary, Chinese teas are made from trees and flowers.

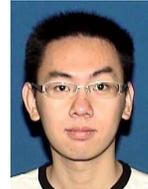


Tea originated in China, and it spread out to Europe and America during the Kingdom of Han, Tang, and Song. Chinese tea has more than 260 species and is classified into six groups, including the black, white, red, light green, and green groups. Each group contains large numbers of species. In China, each kind of tea grows in a certain place. Not every place can raise tea. It all depends on the weather, the soil, and the water. Therefore, there are important restrictions in growing a kind of tea.

I am really proud of Chinese tea. American tea to me, so far, is good. However, I think the American people still should keep learning how to raise tea. Therefore, more people will have a chance to taste how wonderful different kinds of tea are. Maybe I should bring some kinds of tea to the United States next time when I come back from China.

# The Attitude Toward History

By Xie Bozheng (Bo)



In my first week in the dorm, when I was talking with my friend and my roommates, we talked about the history of the Second World War. We found my roommate didn't pay attention to it. I felt very strange because America had joined this war too. When I asked them, they said they didn't care about it. So I did research about how the attitudes toward history are different between American and Chinese culture.

In China, lots of Chinese people like to know about history, and there are more than five thousand years of history. This history has lots of things and stories. These things and stories affect the culture of China in the modern time. The four great inventions (Printing, Papermaking, Moveable Type, and Gun Powder) even affected the development of the world. So lots of Chinese people like to know about history. I asked about 20 Chinese people in the research, and almost 80% of Chinese students said they enjoyed reading history books. And almost all of them thought that learning history could help people know about the development of culture and how to develop the culture better in the future.

In America, lots of people do not pay attention to history, and there are only four hundred years of history—this history is very short. But America has become the most developed country in the world in just four hundred years. I think it is very interesting to learn about. However, in my research, of about 20 American people, only 20% told me they were interested in history, and the others said they did not pay attention to this. Also, 60% of American people think learning history can help people know how to develop the culture better and how to make relationships to other people better, although some of them think they don't use history in their life, and it is just for knowing what happened in the past time and for making you proud of your country.

I think there are two reasons for different attitudes toward history. One is how adults affect kids' studying in the different cultures of the two countries. When adults do something, the kids will do the same thing; imitation is human nature. In China, adults often tell the kids to read more history books, and the adults also read history books, so Chinese people usually read history books. In America adults don't tell kids to do what they don't want to do, so the kids just do what they like to do, and so they don't usually read history books. The other one is differences in education. In China, people study history at school, and every school requires history classes. So the students in China have a long time learning history. In America, students can choose what classes they want to study; they have lots of freedom about this, so perhaps they do not have a long time studying history.

In this research, I find, in America people know what happened in history, but they don't care about it; in China people often know and like to read it. From learning history, we can know how to have a better life. But, as the proverb says, if we do not pay attention to history, we are likely to repeat it, to make the same mistakes as our ancestors. So please pay attention to history so you will not make a bad situation for your offspring.

# Be A Christian



By Gong Lirong (Albee)

When I arrived in America, when I came to George Fox, I lived with my host family. I found that beliefs are omnipresent. For example, I found that the children and adults in my host family usually pray before the meal. Moreover, they go to church every weekend. I know most of the people who live in America are Christian. However, I don't have religion. In China, I think most people are atheists, but there are also many Christians. In China, I think the atheists are more numerous than the believers. So, I did research about these two kinds of people, about the difference in their daily lives.

I interviewed 10 people with the question, "Why you are Christian?" Seven people said: "Because my parents are Christians, so I follow them." There were two people who had their own stories about why they believe in the Lord. There was only one who said he didn't have religion, and he was Chinese. The other people were all Americans.

One Christian told me her story about why she is a Christian. She said that at first her family didn't believe in God. She had already started reading the bible, but her mother told me not to read it. She said, "I was always curious about Bible." She remembered one day, after she read the bible, she told herself that Jesus is very great and she wanted to believe in Jesus. That's when she started to pray. She didn't know how to pray, but she hid herself in the restroom, and she talked to God with crying and praying when she met something bad or unlucky. Then her mom's friend talked to her. "She brought another sister to our home and shared a lot with us, and then we said the sinner's prayer. Thank God for His wonderful work and bringing us to Him... If I didn't believe in God, I would not know how to survive until now... really. Thank God." This is her story.

There is another story that can represent the different kinds of people. She was a Buddhist, but that was before. Now she is a Christian. She said that when she was a Buddhist before, she kept thinking why she still felt like she was missing something in her life. But thank God, she went back to Him. Her cousin kept talking about Jesus to her a few years ago, and then she read the sinner's prayer. After she read it, she gave up being a Buddhist. She became a Christian. After she became a Christian, then she felt kind and peaceful. That's her story.

However, as a no-religion student, I never think about God. And I have never met big events in my life or things that can change my mind. I can't pray, and I never went to a church before. That's the biggest difference. Because of this, if something could happen, I could not think that it had happened by God's mind. It must be an accident. There is no God in my heart, so sometimes I feel fear and don't feel safe.

When I heard many stories about their experience, I find I want to know about Christians. Maybe I can be affected by them to believe in God. Every Christian said they could hear the voice from God. Then I hope I can hear God's voice to show He is really here. I'm interested in the Bible now. I will try to pray and talk to God.

# Different Fashion Styles Between America and China

By Jian Pei (Virgil)



China and America are different countries, so they have many different points, such as styles, foods, and festivals. Now I want to talk about some differences between China and the USA in male students: hairstyles, clothing styles, and attitudes toward name brands.

Male students in China and the US prefer different hairstyles. The bangs of Chinese students often cover their eyes. Many superstars always show their long hair. A handsome hairstyle can attract many people, both females and males. But in America, long hair is not very popular; most people like short hair, and they consider that short hair is very shiny, handsome and dashing. I surveyed five females who are George Fox students, and 75% of them think that a long hairstyle is not a good style for male students. I do not know why the hairstyle has so many differences between China and America; maybe Chinese people look very delicate, so a long hairstyle is very well suited for them. On the other hand, American people look very valiant, and they are very tall, so short hair is very suitable for them. But this is just my surmise.

Clothing styles also have many differences between Chinese and Americans. Chinese people often like to put on fashionable clothes, and maybe they seem very special and very magnificent (especially to female students). But in America, American people are not like this. They often wear very normal styles. In fact, I have never seen a George Fox student in a dress that looks very magnificent. In summer, they often wear a t-shirt, shorts and a pair of sandals. In some Asian areas, a new style that we call “not mainstream style” is more and more popular. The style includes long hair, strange clothing, a lot of jewelry, and Photoshop the picture. More and more people like the style, and it is becoming a new fashion style in China and Asia.

Name brands are not luxurious things, but in China, many people want to follow the name brands because they represent fashion and status. But in America, name brands are not very expensive; for example, the price of Levis trousers in China is at least 700RMB (about \$100), but in America they are much cheaper than in China. Here, most jeans cost just \$39.99, so everyone can buy them. My friend Tynar considers that name brands are not very expensive, but many guys who want to be a fashion man buy many fashion brands. These fashion brands are often very expensive and may be unfamiliar to Chinese students but very famous in America. I am very surprised that Levis, Nike, and many other very famous brands are not really name brands in America. For example, when I saw Levis in a supermarket, I thought it would be impossible in China. I cannot understand this situation, so maybe I will do more research about fashion brands in America.

Two different countries have their own lifestyles; their hairstyles, clothing styles, and name brands all have many differences. I do not think one is better than other because their own styles suit them very well. I remember that my friend said American people are all very fashionable but, in fact, when I arrived here, I did not think so because I think that the “not mainstream style” is more fashionable because it looks very magnificent. Even though I am very confused about why for the same name brand the Chinese price is more expensive than the American price, I think no matter what the style, showing your own style is a good style!

# My Story

By Ni Ni



During these months, I have always had the same dream: the water, the ink, the Xuan paper (a kind of special paper for the traditional Chinese painting), the bamboo brush and the ink stone. I put all of them on the desk, and get ready to draw, and then I wake up.

When I lived in China, I used to learn about painting—not oil painting, but Chinese traditional painting. Usually, we use the ink, the bamboo brush, our tools. Because there is no wrong, it's hard for me to correct. There are three different branches of Chinese painting: flowers and animals, human figures, and landscapes. What I learned is the third one. I was really interested in it and spent a lot of time on it.



As you know, examinations are very competitive in China. But I still sacrificed my studying time to learn painting. In fact, there is a special rule in our country. When students sign up for the university entrance examination, they can choose art as their major. And then they need to take another art test before the university entrance examination. If they pass the test, they don't need to get such a high score to enter the university in the later examination. So I signed up for the art test, too.

It seemed everything would be okay at that time. I was very confident about myself. No pain, no gain. I paid a lot of attention to it and I thought I would be getting the "gain." But just one month before the test, because of a mistake which was made by my teacher, I couldn't take the test any more. That was really a big shock to me. Art was my most beautiful dream, but it had already been broken even before it started. I was really disappointed and refused to talk to my parents and friends for half a month. I just cried and cried every day.

My parents were so worried about me, but they didn't know how to talk to me. In fact, no matter what they said, I just kept silent. During those days, I felt that I was surrounded by darkness and sadness. I thought the world was so unfair and there was no hope in the world. Sometimes at night, I even thought of giving up my life.

One day, when I was reading a book, I saw a wonderful sentence by Leonhard Frand: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the freedom to choose his attitude in any given set of circumstances." This sentence just lighted me like the sun in my dark life. It made me think much of myself: a stupid mistake destroyed my dream. It had already happened. I had no reason to give up my following life. No matter what happened to me, if I don't give up, there is still a chance to achieve my goal.

When I calmed down, I began to meditate to myself and found something new—I am interested in English, too. And I used to dream about going to a western country to further my education. That night, I talked with my parents. They were so happy and agreed with me. Three days later, I began to prepare for a visa and got it in May.

Now, I am in the USA and feel very good. After this story, I understand a very important thing. Although one of my dreams is broken, if I don't give up, maybe I can make another dream come true.