



# International Voices

George Fox University  
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in  
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will inspire you to  
reach out to  
international  
students at George  
Fox University and  
seek friendship and  
understanding.

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# Sanya City

By Wang Zihui (Gary)



I have gone to many different places in China before. Some of the places are very special in my memory. But today, I want to introduce one of them to you. This place's name is Sanya city. This city is in the Hainan province, which is located in the south part of China. In this city, I really like to go to the part of the city that is called Yalongwan.

Yalongwan is a very beautiful bay. This bay has many very nice hotels and a very beautiful beach. I like the beach of Yalongwan. When you walk on the beach, you can see the crystal seawater, and you can see some very lovely fish swimming in the seawater. You can roam on the sandy beach, and you may smell the salty, sea breeze from the ocean. Also you can enjoy the sunshine on the beach. You can sleep on the reclining chair and listen to music. After that, your body will feel a little hot because the sunshine can make you tan. I think some people really enjoy that. After you take a shower, you may feel a little hungry. You can go to many very good seafood restaurants and enjoy the nice food with your friends. Some of the hotels have some interesting activities at night, such as some shows or dance parties. Also you can do karaoke with your friends or anybody else. This is a very nice and beautiful place and you will have a good time there.

# “Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner”

By Chen Qiang



As we know, China has a long history; of course China has a lot of famous proverbs and sayings. Among all of these proverbs and sayings, I love “Winner winner, Chicken dinner” most.

I got the English version of this saying from a American film named “21.” It means that if someone wins a game, he/she will get a lot. “Chicken dinner” emphasizes the rich reward. I originally heard this saying from my Chinese teacher when I was seven years old. I'm sure I will keep it in mind forever because it encourages me every day. Each time I started something, I would think about the saying; then I would try my best to do the job. It is my friend and teacher; it teaches me “To be the best” and shares my successes. When I wanted to give up on something, it said “Never give up; believe in yourself, you can do it!” and I followed its instruction.

To me, I can't imagine myself without it. I have been using it for more than ten years, and I will keep using it in my remaining life. I will try to be a winner every time. I know that the “chicken dinner” is waiting for me!



# “How to Be a Successful Language Learner”

By Yu Yi



After I read the article “How to be a successful language learner,” I think if you want to be a successful language learner, you will choose the best way for you to study your language.

In my experience, the most important thing when we learn a language is our personal factors. We should control our feelings when we study. I do not mean that other factors are not important. To study a language, we should learn the grammar and vocabulary first. Then we should learn how to use our language and catch every chance to practice our language. Of course, the environment also is very important. “Living in an environment where the target language is spoken” will help us have many more chances to learn and practice our second language.

But all of these are based on our personal factors. If we don’t want to learn or if we want to give up after three days since we began to study, all the ways for us would not work well.

Keeping studying for everyone is important. If we can keep our enthusiasm for learning a language, we would do our best to find the best way to study. For example, if we know many ways to learn language but we can’t keep studying, we would learn nothing.



So the way that we study language is not so important: the important thing is that you want to learn. Then it is okay to say, the way to be a successful language learner is keep studying!

# Basketball and Soccer

By Hu Guizhang



Everybody has hobbies. I love basketball and soccer. And now I want to make a comparison between basketball and soccer.

First basketball and soccer are both sports. The shapes of the balls are spherical. They also can make people who love to play become very excited. Both these two sports need teamwork. But soccer is a sport which you can play using your feet. And we play basketball with only our hands. This is the biggest difference between these two sports. The basketball court is smaller than the soccer field. But the basketball is a little bigger than the soccer ball. To play a basketball match, you need five people for each team at most. To play formal soccer matches, you need eleven players for each team. When we play soccer for fun, we need a field which is covered by green grass and a goal. But for the basketball, we just need a basket and some hard ground around it.

Basketball is very popular in the United States. And soccer is very popular in South America and Europe. But the most popular sport in the world is soccer. There is a grand competition for soccer each four years. But I think basketball is easier than soccer and safer than soccer because I always see a soccer player lying on the grass with a bad injury. In total, though, I think both basketball and soccer are good for health.



# America and China

By Li Qingquan



America is the strongest country in the world, but it has just 232 years of history. China has the biggest population in the world and over 5000 years of history. With such a great historical gap, so many things are different between China and America. I will show some examples regarding food, religion, and life habits to prove this point of view.

Food. American people like cold food, cold water, cold milk and so on. But Chinese people like hot food, (especially Chinese tea, which must use boiling water). They think hot food is good for their health. American people like chicken, pasta and fresh vegetables. Chinese also like eating fresh vegetables once they are cooked, and Chinese people like to eat pork more than chicken. After dinner or lunch, American people like to eat sweet food, but Chinese people like to drink hot tea.

Religion. Many American people believe in Christianity and every Sunday will go to church. Most Chinese people believe in Buddhism and the first day of every month will go to the temple.

Life Habits. I found many American people exercise at noon in the summer. If it happened in China, people would think that person was crazy because they think at noon the sun is too hot and will hurt their skin. Asian people think white skin is beautiful. In the summer, when girls go out they will take a sun umbrella to withstand the sun.

There are many different cultural backgrounds and different life attitudes between China and America. I have shown a few examples. In fact, a lot of different things have happened in our lives once we have come to America. If only we notice them, we can learn a lot of things.

# Tipping

By Meng Ren



In China, we don't have the custom of giving a tip to the server after dinner in a restaurant. Tipping the server is a custom in America.

Once when I was a high school student, I went with my friends to a good western-style food restaurant in my city. We saw a foreigner having dinner there. The foreigner spoke excellent English; we thought he was an American. It's unusual to meet a foreigner in a restaurant in my city because it is a small city. We didn't pay much attention to that foreigner but chatted with each other and had dinner.

Later, a funny scene happened. The foreigner finished his dinner, and called a waitress to pay the bill. The foreigner gave large face-value money to that waitress. The waitress returned to the bar, and the foreigner took his stuff and left. The waitress brought back the change and tried to find the foreigner. At last, the waitress found the foreigner, who was outside of the restaurant. The girl gave the change to him, but the girl didn't know how to speak English. The foreigner refused and gave the change back to the girl again. He kept speaking in English. The girl was confused. Then a man, who was a customer, came out from the restaurant and spoke to the foreigner in English. The customer smiled and told the girl that the change was a tip which the foreigner gave to her. Then the girl blushed.

At that time, I thought this was funny. But now I'm in America and I realize tipping is a very normal thing in America. This is a difference of life style between China and America.



# Personalities and Food

By Li Sha (Stella)



I arrived in America almost one year ago; I felt many cultural differences between China and America. In my opinion, the most obvious differences are personalities and food.

Personalities are mainly seen in the self-expression of people and their affiliation with others. In China, a lot of people are very reserved, without much self-expression or affiliation with others. Chinese people are very humble when others praise them. If you say, “You are so beautiful” to a Chinese woman, she will always answer, “No, I am not beautiful; my skin is not soft and my eyes are not so big.” But American women would say, “Thank you very much.”

On self-expression, American people like using body language. They know how to express emotions physically. In China, few people use body language when they talk with others. Personality differences can be seen everywhere in life in both China and America.

The other obvious difference is food culture. I think American food is fast and easy. KFC and McDonald’s are very famous in America. There is high fat and energy content in American food. Chinese food gives much attention to color, smell, taste and nutrition. In China, having meat is an enjoyable and complex process, but both Chinese food and American food have their own characteristics.

The differences of personalities and food culture are important in my mind. I will find more cultural differences between China and America if I stay a long time.



# The Different Education

By Lin Xiaoxue (Denise)



When I was in senior high school, all of my teachers told me the Entrance Examination was the most important thing for my study at the time. Every day they gave us many homework assignments, and we just repeated the same thing again and again. Time flew! When I finished the Entrance Examination, I had a 3-month holiday. It was a long time for rest. I went to visit my aunt. I heard some news from my cousin. She told me if I wanted to find a good job in the future, I needed to learn a special skill, not just learn knowledge from the textbooks. At first, I did not think more about what she said, but now that I am studying in United States, I have found my cousin was right. In America the educational system is different from China, especially in regard to standardized testing and the ability to find a job.

In China, the College Entrance Education is very important. Chinese teachers always use the textbook to teach us, and they talk mostly about theory. They just want students to be able to get good marks on the Entrance Examination, and they do not care whether the students have learnt knowledge in school. Chinese colleges or universities accept students depending on their mark on the Entrance Examination, but in America it is different from China. In America, they use this way to teach students: they care about the examination also, but they think students' experience is more important than their test grades. The American students have more freedom than Chinese students. They also have to take the standardized test for admission to a university. I asked 20 American students about their opinions about the standardized test. About 70% of them do not think the result of the test is the most important thing. The rest of them just think it is a normal test, and it is not different from other test or quizzes.

Another difference between the U.S. and China is about finding jobs when the students graduate from college or university. In China, about 85% of students do not have the special ability to find a job or do something else. For example, many Chinese students cannot find a job after they graduate from university. Except their majors they do not know anything, and they just know how to say their knowledge, but they do not know how to use it. Most American students know how to make a schedule for their future. I have three roommates who are all foreign students. They make a schedule for what they should do every week. In China, students do not like to make the schedule like this. It leads Chinese students to not know what they want to do and what they should do in their lives. And they will not find jobs in the future.

In America, students also need to attend the test, but that is not very important to them. After they graduate from college or university, when they go to find jobs, they do not need to be afraid about not having a high educational background. In China, only those who have the highest academic credentials can find jobs; but many average college graduates cannot find suitable jobs in their field. I think this kind of education system is necessary to be changed. When I study at George Fox University, I am learning many different cultures and knowledge.

# Why is the Popularity of Western Festivals in China Increasing?

By Yan Kelong



Three years ago, I went to my hometown to see my grandfather on Dec. 26th. As we know, that day is one of the Christmas holidays. So I prepared a gift for my grandfather. Unfortunately, when my grandfather opened the gift and I told him that day was Christmas, he looked unhappy and said, "I never heard of this festival before, and I don't need your gift. You're just wasting money!" I felt disappointed to hear that because I thought he might enjoy my Christmas gift. Nevertheless, there is no denying the fact that western festivals are becoming increasingly popular in China day by day. Elderly people in China often complain that some Chinese traditional festivals have lost their real meaning and, to their incomprehension, more and more young people in China are crazy about some western festivals, such as Christmas and Valentine's Day. So I did this research to find the reasons why western festivals in China are becoming popular.

I asked 20 people (10 American students and 10 Chinese students) three questions: Which is your favorite festival? Do you think the western festivals are more interesting than the Chinese festivals? What do you think about the western festivals becoming popular in China?

Regarding the first issue, among American students, four people chose Christmas, three chose Easter, two chose April Fools' Day, and one chose Valentine's Day; among Chinese students, three people chose Christmas, four chose the Spring Festival, two chose Valentine's Day, and only one chose the Mid-Autumn Festival. To the second question, among 20 students, 75% thought that western festivals are more interesting than Chinese festivals. Only 15% prefer Chinese festivals to Western festivals. On the third topic, up to 80% of students said there is nothing wrong with the western festivals becoming more popular in China.

I found these reasons for this phenomenon: Firstly, English as a world language and the development of globalization enable western culture to flood China, and the Chinese are unconsciously getting involved in western culture.

Secondly, usually, in most young people's eyes the western festivals are very romantic. Five Chinese students said that they look forward to receiving gifts or flowers from their friends on Christmas or Valentine's Day. They can enjoy these festivals with their friends. Some Chinese traditional festivals take place in a solemn atmosphere. As we know, most of us stay in the high-pressure community, and people want to relax during festivals. So they are more interested in the relaxing festivals, such as April Fools' Day.

Thirdly, there are more entertainment festivals in the west than in China. In the west, you can find many interesting games for yourself in most public places during many festivals. Two Chinese students said that many Chinese folk entertainments have been neglected.

Last but not least, each Chinese traditional festival has a long history and cultural background. On account of this, not only foreigners but also some Chinese young people find it hard to accept the Chinese traditional festivals. For example, when I asked questions of American students, nobody knew the history of the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival).

The popularity of western festivals in China has become a trend, and I think in modern times Chinese traditional culture should be preserved and promoted through cultural exchange. This is a part of cultural exchange just like the Chinese New Year is becoming popular in other countries. Chinese and Americans can learn more about each culture from the festivals.



# Different Life Styles of the Elderly in the USA and China

By Li Jinwen



Do you know what Americans envy Chinese about the most? Once I read a report about the things that Americans should learn from the Chinese: filial piety.

When I was in China, I heard a quote, “America is the children’s paradise, the youth’s battlefield, the elderly people’s burial ground.” I was confused about this sentence. Don’t Americans have respect for the elderly? So I began to observe the elderly in America. I found that the elderly and their children rarely appear together. It is very different from China. The elderly in the United States are always alone even if they are already 70 or 80 years old. They also insist on driving to go shopping. It is common to see an old couple walking on the street arm in arm, but it is rare to see their children appear together with them in public.

When I arrived in the USA, my college found a host family for me. They were a very kind old couple living in a house near the college. They told me that they have three children in their family, but none of them are living with them, and two of the children are not even living in the United States. When they saw the surprised expression on my face, they told me that in America, when the kids grow up to 18 years old, even if the family has rather large empty rooms and the kids are unmarried, they will move out to their own house.

I think it is a little bit cruel for the kids to become independent so early, and also cruel for the parents. In China, kids can stay with their parents as long as they want. Maybe it is hard for them to become independent, but they can stay much more time with their family, especially their parents. The parents can take care of them, protect them, help them, and look at them whenever they want. When the parents become older, the kids can take care of them and protect them as well.

*Overseas Campus Magazine* said that in Chinese culture people think that the elderly should rely on their children, but American people think that everybody should be independent, including the elderly; Chinese culture emphasizes duty while the American culture emphasizes respect and freedom. I wish that the elderly in America could be given more attention, not just money, but love.

