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The Howl - Spring 2019

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The Howl

**SPRING
2019**

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ABOUT THE EDITOR



My name is Gwendolyn DeRosa. I have been teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) for nearly seven years. My favorite aspect of teaching ESL is getting to know the students and hearing their stories. I've known students who have lived through war. I've taught students who had to overcome daunting challenges to study in the U.S. I've spoken to students whose lifelong dream was to learn English.

I'm so proud of our students and their journeys. As the editor of The Howl, I'm excited to share their stories with you. Stories are what connect us to each other.

ABOUT THE HOWL

The Howl is a magazine that is planned, researched, written, photographed and designed by Otterbein University's ESL and international students. The first *Intro to Journalism* class named the magazine "The Howl" to signify the struggle to have a voice in their writing (in English). The magazine serves to give students a safe space to share their cultures, experiences and lives. If you are interested in submitting to the Howl, please e-mail your writing or photography to gderosa@otterbein.edu. Enjoy Otterbein ESL's contribution to the Otterbein community's literary scene.

Meet the Writers

Hyun Jin 

I'm from South Korea. I am Mom student. I have one Daughter. I want to speak English well. I like walking at the park. I like Inniswood Metro Garden in Westerville.



 Gloria Kang

I'm from China. I don't have a definite major now, but I have some classes about business and marketing. It's my second semester at Otterbein. My hobbies are reading and watching movies. I think the campus life in Westerville is peaceful and quiet. I like the environment and friendly people here. I also like making friends with others.



Saori Ishio 

I'm from Miyazaki, Japan. I am an international student, and I will study at Otterbein University for a whole semester. My major is American culture. I like learning it while watching movies. I am taking a film histories class, and it is one of my favorite class at this University. My favorite genres are Romance, Science Fiction, Horror, and Suspense. I really like this University because the classes are so much fun when compared with them in Japan. I also love the atmosphere of Westerville.



Taki Migdady 

I'm from Irbid, Jordan. I live in Delaware, Ohio I finished my study Acc in my country. I like watching movies, traveling, and walking. I like Arabian food and I like make friends. I'm here in USA to learn English because I want to get CPA exam

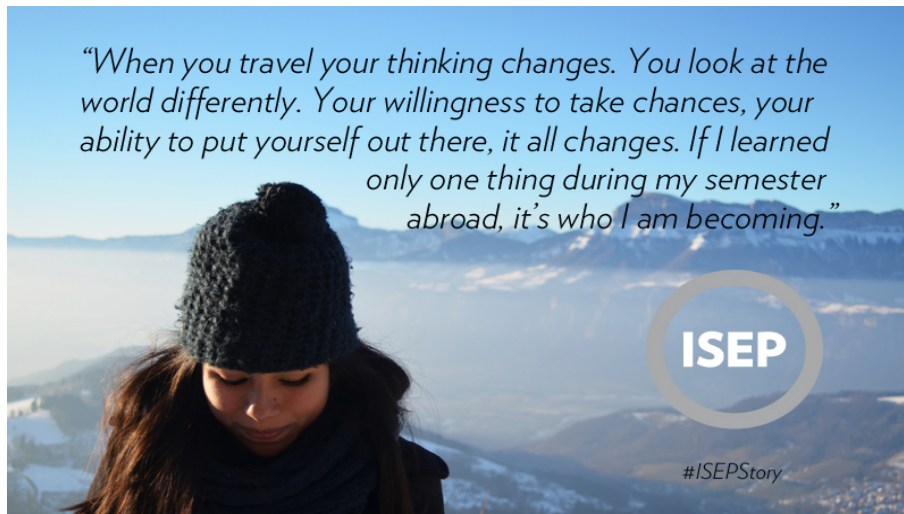


 
Ali Al-Damin

I'm from Jordan. My major is civil engineering. This is my first semester at Otterbein. My hobbies are swimming and walking and traveling. I have been here for 6 months. I would like to learn English and make a new friends and I love the Arabian food



"When you travel your thinking changes. You look at the world differently. Your willingness to take chances, your ability to put yourself out there, it all changes. If I learned only one thing during my semester abroad, it's who I am becoming."



ISEP

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What Makes You Happy the Most?

HYUN JIN CHO

What do you think is the best way to get people to take a rest, to be refreshed and feeling happy? It could be different from each and every person depending on their preference. Someone is saying it is to achieve the success in a job such as promotion to high position, or getting rich is the best thing in life. But for me that is music.



From the beginning of human history, music has played the role of giving comfort, making feel happy and even curing their sadness. There is no question that people also have thought like this.



I remember I felt this way when I was young, 6 years old, which is the reason why I started violin even though I didn't know what music was like at that young age. I am a violist and it is the one that I am loving in the world the most except my husband and daughter. For more details, the violin keeps me realizing what and how to do in my life.



Giving people joy and making them happy by playing violin on my own, on stage, at an event or in front of someone anywhere is a fantastic moment. Violin is my major, so I have been teaching many children and adults so far. It is my desire to make a better world through music by sharing the chance to as many people as possible.

If you are under stress to do something in a rush, have some worry which is not easy to find out answer, or want to get out of routine of everyday life to become fresh, don't hesitate to listen to music whenever you would like to.

And going further, what about trying to learn one musical instrument that definitely could give great joy and happiness to other people whose name you have never heard before, without wishing any compensation about that? I think violin should allow you the most satisfaction based on my experience.

Shall we play together?

A GREAT TEAM WORK

By Gloria Kang

Last semester was my first semester at Otterbein. In order to get the credits, I took some academic classes. The important component of this class was a group project assignment. It was a big challenge for me because most students in this class were native speakers. And I'm an international student who had a language barrier with them. When the professor asked us to find our own group, the only thought in my mind was "Oh my god!"



We formed groups in a hurry in the last few minutes of class. My team members were some American students sitting near me. The group leader said hello and sent some basic requirements of the project to everyone by email. It was a team work about globalization. Firstly, we needed to decide which aspects of globalization we wanted to do. Then we could send our personal thoughts to the group email. Fortunately, we didn't have an awkward situation that both team members wanted to do the same aspect. But there might have been some overlaps between the cultural aspect that I chose and the social aspect that another student chose. However, after discussion, we decided on different priorities to ensure that there would be no repetition.

Sometimes I couldn't understand the professor's requirements clearly. Sometimes I had no idea what were my teammates talking about. They would patiently explain to me and help me quickly integrate into the team. We also confirmed the time to have regular group meeting at the library to go over everything. Basically all the members attended. If any group members were absent for certain reason, the group leader would also send an email to inform him of the content of the meeting. So we finished the task efficiently before the deadline. And we all thought that we had done a good job!

It was really a meaningful experience to me because it's my first time to work together with foreign team members. In the process of solving problems, we shared our different ideas. In all, the team work provide a good chance to know more about each other. And it also let me know that the attitude and cooperation of team members are key points for the success of a team.



Photo Credit:

https://www.google.com/search?q=team+work&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi63oOhgJngAhVsziMKHZG7Cp8Q_AUIDigB&biw=1200&bih=855#imgsrc=4qbGolidSrJTM

Cultural Difference: Beetles as a Pet

By Saori Ishio

Do you have a favorite pet in your house? A pet makes your life wonderful. They make you feel relaxed, happy, and calm. Imagine you are in your comfortable bed with your favorite dog. Your night must be perfect with your lovely pet.

What do you think is the most famous animal to have as a pet in your country? In my country Japan, people like to have dogs or cats. I see Americans walking with their dog more often than I see in Japan. I found that it is very common to have a dog in America. Since everyone has a different culture in their country, we would have a different pet culture.



In Japan, it is usual to have a beetle as a pet. When I was an elementary school student, I also had a beetle as a pet. Some Japanese children go to get wild beetles and bring them home. Others go to store to buy beetles. Not just

beetles, but specifically stag beetles are famous as pets. Some child like to make them fight. When they hang out, they would bring beetles with them and they begin to fight with their pets.



My cousins really like beetles. They loved beetles so much, especially stag beetles. They even raised them from larva and brought them to the store. In my hometown, there is a lot of nature. So you don't need to go far away to get them. You can see more beetles and stag beetles at night. What you have to do is just find a tree which has sap during the daytime and go there at night again. You would see beetles fighting for sap.

Even if children live in the city area, they use a car and go far away to get beetles. I think having an insect as a pet is nice hobby in Japan. I think that this is good for children to come into contact with nature.

Photo credit: <https://matome.naver.jp/m/odai/2146525422589056001/2146525440289264003>

The Seas in Jordan

By Ali Al-Damin

I want to talk about the seas in Jordan, my country. First of all, in Jordan there are two seas. The first one is the Dead Sea. It's a famous sea in the world because it is in a low place in the world. It includes a lot of salt, so it does not have anything live in it.



The Dead Sea is considered a tourist place in Jordan. There are many people who go there every day. It's a beautiful place to hang out.

You can swim in the Dead Sea, but you cannot enter your face in the water because there is a

lot of salt. It has many famous hotels for tourists and citizens.

These hotels are famous all over the world. I advise anybody to come to Jordan and visit it.

It is far from the capital of Jordan, just one hour.



The second sea is Aqaba Sea its far from my house about 4hr or 400 km

It is very beautiful and bigger than Dead Sea

Almost people prefer that and it has a many stores and malls and you can swim in it and the weather there its warm it is good in any season and there is a lot of tourist went to the Aqaba because it is near by the Petra which are considered a tourist mark . In the end I advice anyone coming to Jordan to visit this is the places it is really beautiful.



Photo Credit: Google Images

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Mom Students

HYUN JIN CHO

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to study and take care of your children at the same time? Have you ever seen or talked with a mom before? Usually it is not easy to do one thing well, then what about both? At Otterbein University, there are some mom students (I just want to call person who are studying and raising their children like that). I am also a mom student, so I have come to wonder “what do they think is the advantages and disadvantages of that life”.

After getting married and having children, mothers might not have opportunity to develop their career, especially in my country, South Korea. But it looks like slightly different here in U.S.



Anyways, getting better at English is the most important advantage that mothers could get. You can think if someone is going to school, they can make many friends, participate in various activities experiencing that they have not met yet. Including class, all of them would be helpful for increasing English ability and broadening the human network. Those are some new steps to go further.

As English is getting better, their family could converse in English, which means children may be fluent much earlier than other people form

countries who do not speak English. It could be another big advantage on the part of mom student.

Regarding disadvantage, what is impressive to me is going to school always makes a mom students get tired very easily. They were spending tough time to care of everything at home like from cooking to doing laundry. Studying English was necessary thing for them to live in U.S and achieve their career goal, but it could sometimes cause some effect as much as hurting health.

Even sometimes it is very difficult to find somewhere to leave children when they have no school.



I heard from Mrs.Jin about more details as she has been a student here for the last several years while raising her two children. “Even though it is so much hard to live two lives of student and mom, for me who is going after dream of success of herself and children together, it is the way that I should not get out.”-Mrs.Jin (South Korea)

Image Credit: Google Images

Food and Campus Life

By Gloria Kang

Food is a very important part of life. Even though we are busy with our works and studies, we need to make time to eat. Delicious food will also make people feel energetic almost all day long. As a student who lives in the campus, where can we get the most convenient and easiest food? The answer is definitely obvious: "Campus Center!"



The Campus Center is located in 100 West Home Street, Westerville, OH. It also houses the Cardinal's Nest cafeteria, which opens for breakfast, lunch & dinner on weekdays and brunch & dinner on weekends. To make the students feel more comfortable and enjoyable with the campus life, I interviewed some students who had eaten in CC with the following questions:

"What's your favorite dish in CC? Do you have any suggestions to CC?"

"Mashed potatoes, roasted beef and fish are really good. I like fish, so I want more fish. I want the opening time to become longer because some students have their classes until 8 pm. My class schedule is really hard. For example, on Tuesday and Thursday, I don't have enough time to go to the Nest, so I have to get back to bring it. What's more, the doggy bag is so small and inconvenient. Sometimes I want some soups, but I couldn't put it in the bag." – Saori Ishio



"I like the shrimps and ribeye steaks in CC. And it's really good that the drink in CC is free. I prefer having dinner with Chinese students together. It's a good place for communicating with each other. I can also meet more Asian friends and American friends. In addition, I want to try more Asian flavor food in CC." – Yang Chen



"I love chicken dish and salad bar. Maybe there could be an easier way for commuters. It's hard because there is no meal plan for commuters. You have to pay by cash or credit card." – Katie Schnuerer

Sometimes students may appreciate the options. But sometimes it may be difficult for students to make a good choice. Since the CC mainly serves students, so the students' opinions are very important.

It usually serves from 7:15 AM to 7:30PM

The cost of the meal is from \$7.00 to \$9.35.

Photo Credit: Gloria

Do You Think About the Environment?

By Saori Ishio

On February 18th 2019, in Otterbein University, many people who were looking forward to the presence of a woman, Winona Laduke. She is a famous environmentalist and author. The lecture was held in the Fritsche theatre at Cowan Hall in Otterbein University.



LaDuke is especially working for the improvement of the environment. Shw has been an activist for decade. The range of her work is wide. She cares not only about climate changes or food systems, but also about indigenous communities in the U.S.

In the lecture, she talked about issues regarding the environment, especially about the oil pipelines. This might be unfamiliar for most of you, but it causes a serious environmental problem in the world. Moreover, there was a problem that a Canadian oil company trying to build a pipeline in the area owned by the Native people, the Ojibwe tribe, and a different treaty with the U.S. government which guaranteed the

right for them to live on the land. She has a strong mind to protest against the Canadian oil company.

Her lecture was really powerful. After her speech, there was applause from the audience. A professor Deborah Solmon, who was listening to LaDuke's speech in the lecture, answers the question of what do you think is the most important for the lecture.

"I was paying attention to not only the content of what she was saying but I was also thinking about what were some of the pieces of what made her such a powerful speaker. She had very simple sentences and used simple words, whenever she could, to talk about really deep and complicated problems about the earth and the environment about issues of justice, and about the relationship of history to where we should go going forward."



She also says that the lecture was a good opportunity to have another look at her life.

There are many ways to rethink about your daily life. What is important for the public? Do you think about the environment? The answer is not one. It's time to think your own idea.

Photo credits:

<https://binged.it/2TY8kkG>

Gwendolyn DeRosa

The Conversation Table

By Ali Al-Damin

At Otterbein, there are a lot of international students. Each of them has different goals and seeks to achieve them at the moment or next time so each of them must make a great effort to reach their goals. So there are some ways to achieve that. One of them is attending the conversation table. The conversation table can help us to speak English fluently.

The conversation table is very important for anybody who needs to learn English. It helps us

to learn how to speak and help us by talking to classmates.

They do some things to help. They give us new vocabulary during each class. They play games with us. Last week we played a game which is called "Where is the Wolf?" It is very interesting. The leaders are Harry, who is a Chinese student, and Wesley, who is an American student. They are doing their best to benefit us in a wonderful way.



Image Credit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-data-guardian-emphasises-need-for-a-public-conversation>

Center of Science and Industry

By Gloria Kang

Do you like dragons, unicorns and dinosaurs? These creatures are not seen in our daily life. If you have a dream to see some fabled creatures, you can come to this great place – COSI Museum.



COSI Museum is located in 333 West Broad St. Columbus, OH. It's a huge science and technology museum with various kinds of galleries and exhibitions. For example, there are Dinosaur Gallery, Mythic Creatures, Crocs, Ocean and so on. I'm most interested in the Dinosaur Gallery and Mythic Creatures.



There are so many dinosaur models in the gallery. It's really spectacular! Before you went to the gallery, our common sense told us that

dinosaurs had already died out on the earth. But after looking at the evolution of dinosaurs, you may change your idea. You may find out that these amazing animals never disappeared from us.

The Mythic Creatures exhibition is really wonderful and excellent. You can see the beautiful mermaids, strong dragons and incredible unicorns. There also some differences between western dragon and eastern dragon. In western stories, the dragon is a dangerous creature, usually representing savagery and ferocity. But in China, the dragon symbolizes good luck and dignity. The dragon also represents the supreme emperor of ancient China.



COSI Museum is a good place for both learning and sightseeing. I think it's suitable for all kinds of people. Whether you are a child, a teenager or an adult, you will be attracted to COSI. I may think the only problem with COSI is the price of tickets. It's expensive. Adults pay \$25 to \$40 for each. If you want to buy a family ticket with two adults and two children and there is no discount, you will pay about \$100. But COSI is really amazing. If you really want to enjoy some new things, **just do it!**

Photo Credit: Gloria

<https://www.google.com/search?q=cosi+museum&rlz=1C1GCEU>

NORAH JONES

AND A

BLUEBERRY PIE



BY SAORI ISHIO

Are you interested in jazz? If you are, you may know a singer, Norah Jones. She is a famous singer in the United States. She won 8 categories of the Grammy awards for her album, "Come away with me". If you don't know, please listen to her songs.

Today, I will introduce her movie, *My Blueberry Nights*. It is a romantic drama movie directed by Wong Kar-wai in 2007. This movie was converted to an American movie from an original short Chinese movie. A song by her is actually used in the first part of the movie.

As you can see from the title, a blueberry pie is a key term in this movie. The main



character's name is Elizabeth (Norah Jones). She was jilted by

her lover. When she was feeling down on herself, she met with an owner of a small

New York City café, Jeremy (Jude Law).

She begins to go to the café frequently, and eats blueberry pies with ice cream which were always remaining unsold.

After she has been comforted by him, she decides to leave the city. She gives her key



to him and goes on the road. During the road trip, she experiences many

things. Every time she had something in her mind, she writes him a letter. 300 days later, she comes back to New York City.

You will never forget the ending scene of the movie. Personally I really like the last scene. In a whole story, you will think about the meaning of unsold blueberry pies.

What does it connect to her?

I recommend this movie because of its snazzy images and soundtracks. If you want to feel a romantic love, how about watching this movie with a blueberry pie with ice cream?

Photo Credit: Google Images

Truck Food

By Taki Migdady

I want to talk about a food truck. It's in the Delaware area of Ohio. I love this food because it is delicious and its price is wonderful. The food truck offers many meals like burritos, tacos, and quesadillas. I love to eat burritos because they are delicious and wonderful. It's a great experience when you eat food from another country because food as an identity tells you about the culture of the country it come from.

I love to eat from this truck because you can see everything and you make sure you have a delicious and clean meal.



Photo Credits:

<https://www.centralohiofoodtrucks.org/>

[https://www.columbusunderground.com/12-food-trucks-not-to-miss-at-the-columbus-food-truck-festival-](https://www.columbusunderground.com/12-food-trucks-not-to-miss-at-the-columbus-food-truck-festival-aw1)

[aw1](#)

Downtown Columbus

By Ali Al-Damin

I am talking about my experience when I went to the Downtown Columbus for a number of times. It is a very beautiful because there are a lot of places for fun and many restaurant and coffee shops.

Downtown Columbus is wonderful. It is not big but it includes anything you need. It is fun. There are restaurants. You can take pictures with tall buildings that include beautiful design. So I advice anybody to visit this area, to hangout and just relax.



Photo Credits:

<https://www.ai-cio.com/news/opers-board-cut-colas-2019/downtown-columbus-ohio/>

<https://citypulsecolumbus.com/downtown-columbus-future/>

Dreaming of Another world : A Review of PetSmart

HYUN JIN CHO

Where is it that makes you happy and think of another world where animals are like people whenever you visit? Where is it that your child (if you have) gets excited to go every moment? It is PetSmart for me.

PetSmart is the place that sells so many kinds of stuff for pets such as dog, cat, rabbit, bird and so on as well as providing training, grooming and hotel service. Compared to my country, South Korea, it is useless to say that how big it is and how various the products are that customer can choose.



I have one Kitty, Jasmine, who is 3 years old. So with my daughter, Clara, we go there twice a week to get some food, a plaything for Jasmine and to look around to see if there is something new that just launched.



Going around with my daughter, we could have

more opportunity to talk about enjoying shopping.

Before raising Jasmine, I didn't know that how many people in U.S think animals are the same as people and how much they are trying to protect animals. In some aspect, PetSmart could be related to business approach using customer's mind, but anyway it makes us think to live more with generosity and kindness even for animals.

The most important a reason why I like PetSmart is the adoption service of kitty who lost their family or house to live. The number of below picture are cats that have been adopted so far after beginning this service. The price you can get is really cheap(\$40 to \$60). This way, they are taking care of needy cats while families become more loyal customer of PetSmart.

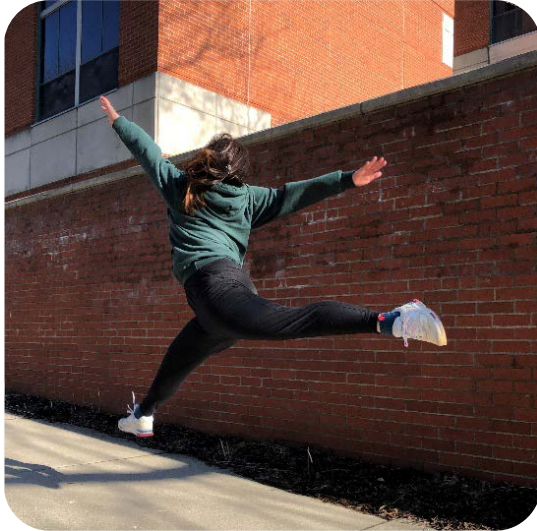


I love this place due to these reasons : dreaming other world that can feel humanity and is people and animals living together.

Place: it is chain store spread all over the U.S.

Time: 9AM to 9PM

Dance to Me is not Only Dancing by Apple Tsai



At 7 AM brushed my teeth, I washed my face and put on my work out outfit. Morning routine starts as usual, but in a different time zone, different college, and facing brand-new challenges. On my way to the dancing studio, my heart was pounding like a racing car, I didn't know what to expect. Once I entered the studio, I saw a pile of belongings on the side of the room, and everyone dressed in their leotards and tights like professional dancers, stretching out on the dance floor.

"I guess I'll just do what they did" I secretly whispered in my head, so I put down

my bag and got to the dance floor and started to stretch. The teacher came into the front and said "This week is the placement week." After hearing that I almost burst into tears while everyone spreading out and ready to start learning the dance moves. With my body I was dancing but my mind was trying its best to pretend that I was okay and confident. But inside I was so scared in this totally unfamiliar environment and dance with people I don't know.

The placement started, and other students quickly gathered to a side of the classroom, at the same time I was frozen like a figure standing stiff. I didn't know what to do next and what was going to happen. At last I plucked up my courage and walked to the teacher to ask what I should do now, with tears in my eyes, which I worked so hard to not let it fall down. She told me to go to the side of the room like other students and wait till the professors called our names. Four professors were sitting in front of a

long square desk. They were smiling but that didn't ease my nerves at all. Finally, my name was called, I came out to the dance floor with three other students, and we started to dance to the combination which had just been taught by the professor. I was panicking but I tried to contain my feelings in me, and instead I kept telling myself that I should look graceful and confident.

That was my first shocking experience in the dance class, and the placement went on for a week! We learned five different type of dance in the dance classes, and I only learned ballet when I was little, thus I was a total blank page for dancing. I was stressed but I know deep inside I still had the passion for dancing, so I wouldn't give up.

Puffy eyes and yawns all around, at 8 AM we gather in the dance studio for the dance class every morning. I think there is definitely magic around the room, once the music hit, and the lesson goes, everybody is like blossom flowers moving their bodies, shining and pretty. I can't believe they are the same people who were yawning just a few minutes ago. They are dancing with whole passion, not any shyness to

be seen while I was holding myself back, worrying if I would look ridiculous or do something wrong. Hands are raising every few minutes, they kept asking the professor questions of how to make their dance better. I was amazed by their actions, which seemed so brave to me.

I was sad at the first few weeks, because of putting too much emphasis on how imperfect my moves were, and how others would judge me. However, I found out I was so wrong because we are here not because we are perfect, we are here to be closer to perfection.

Classmates in the class are so kind to each other, there are no judgements but a whole lot of encouragements coming towards each other; moreover they do their best to show their moves from the tip the toes to the top of their heads no matter it's right or wrong, because they know there is no shame of making mistakes in here, what is important is to know what your mistakes are and how to correct them.

Our jazz teacher once said to us "Don't be afraid to make mistakes, experience and do your best, try new things and if you fail it's okay, you leave them in this classroom and you walk out

there with these good skills that you work so hard for” I was so inspired by the teacher’s words. Every day I tell myself to enjoy it, work hard and learn more, don’t be afraid of if you will make mistakes. Weeks passed by, I improved little by little, from a girl with all negative thoughts in my head to a dancer feeling her both feet brushing through the floor and her body moving with the beat. Thanks to the teachers and my classmates who really inspired me by being themselves. The encouragements they gave me are the most important energy booster that kept me going.

These things that I learned did not just stay

in the classroom, they also benefit a lot on my daily life. I am more optimistic when things went wrong and I am more daring to try new things. Hence I know how important it is to seize and cherish every chance that comes to me. Always have a heart that is passion to learn, just like Colin Powell once said “Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.” I have much more confidence and I know how important it is to keep improving and learning. Thanks to these dance classes for opening a new window for me, so that I can not only enjoying dancing but also become a better me.

Always have a heart that is passion to learn, just like Colin Powell once said “Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.”

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What I Should Have Noticed

By Reo Taniguchi



Now, I'm breathing the air of the U.S, eating American food and talking with people who are living in this country. I feel that I'm not able to be here without any helps. If I could tell myself of today to my former self, what would my former self think about me?

I decided to study abroad when I became a university student. I believed that studying abroad must improve my English skill and change my thought, life and future. When it was the end of my second year of the college, the plan turned into reality.

In early August, I left my home country for America. On the airplane, I had both of positive and negative feelings. I thought that America was a nice country, so visiting was going to be a valuable experience for me. On the other hand, I was concerned with a lot of things: can I understand what American people say, can I

follow the classes, and will this air plane crash into the Pacific Ocean?

To change the airplane, I arrived at Detroit safely, and I realized that I already stood on the land of America. No one can understand my language, and I should speak English to express my feeling. In contrast to the summer atmosphere, my heart felt cold at the airport. I will never forget such an emotion.

After transferring to the next airplane, I finally reached Columbus, Ohio. The airport was smaller than Detroit one, but I was more excited than I was at Detroit. When I went to the gate near the baggage claim, my host family welcomed me holding a piece of paper with my name written on it. They took me to their house, and I stayed there until the orientation started.

On first Sunday after I came to America, I moved to the dorm, Dunlap-King Hall, which was known as DK. I heard that it was the oldest dorm in Otterbein University, so I felt the history and the tradition from its bricks. My room was not very broad but not so bad. However, the hall was located far from the cafeteria, so my host father said, "it's tough for you to go to Campus Center, especially in winter."

When the orientation got started, I met my Japanese friends and other students who were from other countries. During the orientation week, we played with some games, went to the football stadium and did some fun activities.

What I was most surprised at was that people could talk with usual volume's voice in the library. Besides, if we like, we could make and eat popcorns inside the library. I do not know the other countries' library, but at least, if you speak aloud and eat or drink something in the library, the staffs strictly warn you not to do that there. Now I

think that this is the first thing to tell American students who want to study in Japanese university. Anyway, I enjoyed the orientation, but I was not used to the American life, so sometimes I felt nervous.

After the orientation, the classes finally started. I took ESL classes and one academic class. The teachers of the ESL classes spoke easy English, so I could catch what they said. Furthermore, all the classmates were international students, so I could talk with them easily. In the academic class, however, classmates were domestic students and the teacher spoke English very fast, so it was hard for me to hear their words. In addition, it was challenging for me to live in the dorm because I had not lived alone before I came to America. Namely, I had to be independent, such as doing laundry. Moreover, American weather or environment was different from Japanese one, like temperature and humidity. Japanese weather was more humid in summer, so I had a sore throat when I woke up in the morning.

My condition seemed awful physically and mentally at the beginning of the semester. There were a lot of homework, so I could not sleep well, and then I could not concentrate on the classes. Finally, I had to study more to catch up with the classes. I fell into a deep swamp which I could not get out of by myself.

Nevertheless, I noticed that I was not alone. I had good friends who helped each other. When we were confused about the class, we discussed it. I had good teachers who supported me very well. They did the best in order to make me understand the classes. I had good host family who was so kind. They invited me for some parties and cooked delicious food for me, which was an excellent experience for me. I had my mother in Japan, and she sent me a care package which included some instant food, Japanese snacks and a letter. I thought that because I was supported by a lot of people, I had to be more confident.

Now, if I come across the difficulties, I will not stop my steps as I move forward. I realized that I have many precious people who I can rely on, and I also want to help them if they need. I think that there is no person in this enormous world who can live alone like a wolf. I'm not a wolf because I already noticed the precious things.

I noticed that I was not alone.

To Accept Is To Grow Up

By Jerusa Cadorin Rovai



After the love and happiness of becoming a mother, and after seven months of maternity leave, on a beautiful

summer morning I returned to my job. My thought was, "I need to get back to my job," but at the same time my heart said, "Stay home for more time to take care of your baby. Time goes by so fast; enjoy it with your daughter." This strong dilemma left me with the tight heart. Should I choose maternity or 15 years of work? I was torn between the great desire to be a mother and to take care of our daughter and the desire to get back to my job and have my identity. I decided to do both together. I returned to work, but after three months I was dismissed. The sadness and the feeling of

helplessness were stamped on my face; I had never been through this before. I cried all day, I could not believe the discrimination that happens in Brazil and in many countries with women who have children.

My husband helped me a lot with his emotional support, we decided then that I would stop working for a year to take care of our baby. After one year I began to look for a job again. I was enthusiastic to resume my career, but Brazil entered a political and economic crisis with 12 million Brazilians without a job, and I was among them. In that same period my husband met an American at a work dinner that invited him to go to Columbus, Ohio to talk about business in Latin America. He traveled to the meeting and called me all enthusiastically saying that we had received a proposal for him to do a training and live for a while in the United States.

Again, I was in a difficult situation and choices. I started thinking about my parents, our family, our daughter, the search for my job, and that my career would be blocked again, because I did not speak English and could not work in the USA. With this confusion of thoughts, the first reaction was to say "no". I wanted to stay in my comfort zone, go back to work, live in our apartment that was structured, and be close to my family and friends. And there I was, crying again, but now with the feeling of uncertainty in the choices. My husband said me to rest and think better.

The next day I was more relaxed. I went to the park to reflect on our lives, opportunities, choices and ask for light for our decisions. I began to imagine what it would be like to live in another country, to have new experiences of life, to learn a new language and to overcome challenges. All this would bring us great personal and emotional growth. I remembered the various struggles and choices of my parents, and in talking with them they told me that we should try. If it did not work, we would have our life in

Brazil, and we could go back. I accepted the change and told my husband that I believed that it would make us grow as individuals and as a family, but that on the way we would have the moments of nostalgia and adaptation and that we would have to be strong.

And so, it happened, we moved to Columbus, and today I study English for the future to resume my career. Rodrigo works with Latin America and Sophia is studying in Kindergarten. We are a stronger, united and happy family, because of our learning and our improved values. I talk daily with my family and friends, and I learned that it is no use to be close to people and to be distant. We are far away physically but what really matters is our feeling, the love and attention that we give. The distance only exists if we want, it all depends on how we take care of our relationships. Numerous are the learnings in our lives and looking back I reflect that trying to be someone better is what matters in life, accepting and growing with the changes.

Trapped at the Airport *by Maggie Chen*



This might be the most unforgettable, memorable and authentic challenge I have ever had when I learned that I cannot be 18 anymore. It was my first-time flight abroad and I got trapped at New York airport for 2 days, and. How lucky I am. The New York airport taught me a lesson to check the ticket if you are a standby before you change your ticket.

Maybe because it was my first-time flight to America, I was so excited and worried that I could not see my parents for a long time. I got a really bad fever. So, when I on my first flight to Shanghai, I could not fall asleep and

time seemed longer than usual. Until I found out that the plane was delayed for 2 hours which made me miss all my other connections. I broken-down and did not know what to do. I thought several solutions on the plane because I had plenty of time.

After I arrived at shanghai airport, I found an assistant to help me change the ticket and the next earliest flight was next day in the morning, so I had to stay in Shanghai for one night. I pulled my two big suitcases and called a taxi to go to a hotel. Luckily, the flight from Shanghai to New York was on time and I thought finally I would go to Otterbein. I was so young and naive.

When I was waiting for the flight to Columbus, the assistant checked my ticket and told me I cannot get in the plane because my ticket was a standby ticket. I was confused because I had no idea what

standby mean. After I called my aunt and asked the assistant, I knew that I could not get on this plane. Then the assistant helped me to get an afternoon ticket. I was so hungry, and the airport was so freezing. My medicine had already run out at Shanghai. What I could was rubbing one bare hand with the other. And when sitting at the airport I saw the dark clouds outside the window, and I thought maybe the weather also felt sad.

Until the flight was delayed again, I realized that the bad weather was not just sad but bad for me. The rain lasted two days so I was trapped in the airport for 2 days. I was not upset anymore, I just wondered how many cancellations I could get. My heart was as cold as the freezing airport. The flights from New York to Columbus have two each day. One is in the morning and one is at afternoon. The morning flight was delayed to the noon and told me it was canceled. The afternoon one was delayed to 9 pm and canceled. Each time it gave me hope and pulled me into the heaven. The flight was delayed and canceled for four times. Normally I just needed 3 tickets to get to school, but I got 8 tickets and

I was still in New York.

By the way I tried to fly to Boston after the first cancellation, but then the flight to Boston was also canceled. I really wanted to say sorry to all the passengers, because I thought it was me on the list which made the flight canceled.

The end of this journey was I flew to Cleveland and my host drove 2 hours to pick me up. And my two pieces of luggage were not at Cleveland airport, because they were on time to the Columbus. My luggage was luckier than me. What a great journey.

Remember to check the weather and if you are on standby list before you travel. Or if you want to have an airport journey instead.

Fighting the Stereotypes of Women *by Gloria Kang*



What are the key words that come to your mind when someone says the word “women”? Someone may think of women as a symbol of weakness. They think women have long hair and short wit, who can only take care of children and families. Women also couldn’t do well in many specific fields such as engineering, computer science, politics and so on. These are actually stereotypes of women. However, women have long fought for equality for themselves because these stereotypes are negative, which limit women’s development. They also demonstrate to everyone that the stereotypes of women can be dangerous.

Women break the stereotype of ignorance with wisdom. Even in the 1850’s in the U.S., women were fighting against this stereotype. One particular woman stand out. “Though best known for conducting enslaved members of her family and many other slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman also aided the cause of liberty by becoming a spy for the Union during the Civil War (Harriet Tubman: Her Service as a Union Spy).” Tubman had made great contribution to the development of society. She not only saved slaves, but also worked as a spy. In order to be a successful spy, she learned a particular set of skills such as

arranging meetings, learning other dialects and dealing with complex information. She also did some scouting and drew the maps by herself. There can be no doubt that she breaks the stereotype that women are naïve and mentally weak.

By insisting on independence, women break the stereotype of being inferior to men. An excellent example is Abigail Adams. Abigail Adams was the famous lady in American history, not only because both her husband and son became the president of the United States, but also result of her own talent and independence. She strongly supported the American Revolution, women’s rights, education and against slavery as well. “Well I suppose we will have to have a new code of laws and when you write those laws, remember the ladies, because all men would be tyrants if they could (Abigail Adams: Feminist, Partner, First Lady).” She had a strong voice in gender equality. She thought women were also involved in society. Therefore, they should have their own status in politics. What’s more, she broke traditional rules, owning property and almost raised the whole family by herself. “And she made a very handy income which supported the family for long periods of time, when her husband was away and not making any money (Abigail Adams: Feminist, Partner, First Lady).” She did a great job in managing business affairs. As the evidence correctly shows she shatters the stereotype that women are subordinate to men and family.

Women break the stereotype of cowardice and vulnerability with passion and bravery. Bessie

Coleman was the first African-American woman pilot. Before that, the occupation of pilot was dominated by men. But Coleman did it! She was brave and passionate enough to make her dream come true. The process of getting her pilot's license didn't go smoothly. "Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, she took it upon herself to learn French and move to France to achieve her goal (Bessie Coleman Biography)." She proved that women can also be good pilots even though there were a lot of restrictions on women especially African-American Women in the social context. In addition, Virginia Hall was another brave and great woman. "She was one of the bravest and most successful spies for the Allies during World War Two (Women Spies)." Some of her traits are similar to Coleman's. That is, she never gave up when faced with difficulties and setbacks. "In Turkey, Virginia Hall suffered a tragic accident. Her gun accidentally fired while she was hunting. The bullet severely wounded her leg. Doctors removed the leg to save her life.

After that, she wore a wooden leg (Women Spies)." She didn't give up her work as a spy although she lost a leg. It's not easy for people to stay in the high-risk occupation after they have been badly injured. Virginia Hall, a woman, did it. There can be no question that they smash the stereotype that women are timid.

Only one conclusion can be drawn. The negative stereotypes of women can be dangerous because they are harmful to women's image as well as the development of society. Women are far more intelligent, independent and courageous than people usually think. Truly, women are also an indispensable part of society. No one should underestimate women. Sometimes, they explode with energy beyond imagination. In fact, gender equality is really important in life. All genders must work together to build a harmonious society.

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