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The Howl - Fall 2016

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The Howl

Otterbein ESL Publication

Fall 2016



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Meet the Writers

I'm Hisoka, and from Japan. I am studying abroad at Otterbein for two semester. I love Japan, but also love traveling to foreign countries. The U.S. is very interesting and attractive place for me. During winter vacation, I will go to New York. That is where I've really wanted to visit. So exciting!



My name is Haruna from Japan. I am majoring Linguistic in Japan and now I study about communication theory. I like running and my dream is traveling all over the world. I want to experience a lot of things in Otterbein!



I'm Yang. I'm from China. I'm staying in U.S right now. I'm international student. My major is photography, I can study a lot of knowledge

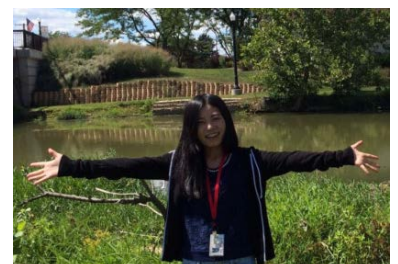
Hi! I am Haruho Yamada, and I am from Japan. I have been learning American culture through films in Japan, and now, I'm learning mainly video production. Obviously, I like watching movies! My dream is to travel lots of countries with my future partner who likes watching movies like me!



Hello I'm Salah. I was born in 1986 in Jordan in the city of Irbid in a big family. For me they are all the world. I decided to study at the university outside Jordan, and specifically in the Ukraine, to college in 2006. I studied veterinary medicine for five years and then studied Master in biology and after PHD studies in biology and in 2015 finished my study in Ukraine and returned to Jordan and I worked in the hospital lab official.



My name is Anna. I'm from Japan. I like traveling and eating desserts. Someday I want to travel around the world.



Hi! I am Yume Ozaki, an international student from Nagaya, Japan. My major is British and American studies, especially American films. I really like to watch movies and dramas, and sometimes I spend whole day in watching them! My favorite time in a day is when I am watching movies and dramas with a cup of coffee, and when I am hanging out with my wonderful friends.



My name is Malek Aldumman. This is my first class at Otterbein University in English second language class. I come from Jordan, where I had been living for twelve years. I was live in Abu Dhabi for ten years almost with my parents, I come to here to learn English language. I am very excited. I think it will very big experience for me. My goals for this year is to continue the English secondary language and I want to go college next year to get bachelor in my major and return to my country with a big degree.



My name is Jin. I am from Korea. My hobby is to watch Korean dramas, and travel around the city.



Editor

My name is Gwendolyn DeRosa. I have been teaching ESL for over four years. My favorite aspect of teaching ESL is getting to know our students and hearing their stories. I've known students who lived through war. I've taught students who overcame overwhelming 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 magazine serves to give them a safe space in which to use their voice 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. Please enjoy Otterbein ESL's contribution to the Otterbein community's literary scene.

The Big Game

By Yang Chen



As one of the most important sports in the world, basketball is more and more popular in China, especially among teenagers. I love basketball. I always play basketball in my school. I still remember when I joined one of the most important basketball competitions in my Chinese university. We were the champion among all grades.

My school set basketball games on campus annually. My classmates and me went to apply to join in basketball game. Many students were willing to participate in the competition, but not everyone could have the chance to join the basketball team. Our team was very experienced and worked hard. After we won against other teams, we entered into the last competition successfully. Our team prepared for three days. We went to gym and practiced every day for the last and final game.

On the final day of the game, there were a large audience surrounding the court. It seemed that all of the students came to watch the competition. I felt so excited

and expectant for the game. I used my strong body to get past another person and shot to get points. My teammates got a three point shot.

The opposite side also had strong bodies and fast speed. My teachers and classmates always gave us applause when we got points. Finally, we won the competition by one score. We were so excited and our team lay on the court, enjoying the audience cheering.

I know it was a very hard game for our team. I learned how to do teamwork and use skills during that competition. I also got friendship and my best friends in that court. Our team had work spirit and in my heart, we are the best. It will be one of the most unforgettable experiences in my life.



International Exchange

By Haruho Yamada

It is so hard for international students to fit in with the other local students. Actually, since I came to America, I cannot help feeling a sense of being an outcast. At first, I thought this country is quite severe for foreign people, and I was a little bit disappointed. However, thinking back now, when I was in my Japanese university, I never talked to international students even though I saw them or knew they were sitting in front of me in the class because I was not sure if I could communicate with them without any misunderstanding. So I can understand how hard it is for even local students to talk to international students.



What is the merit of talking with international students and being friends with them? Actually, I have some friends from foreign countries because I went to a language school in San Diego, California, for three weeks to study English. Although the time we spent together was quite short, we still keep in touch with each other. I learned a lot of things from them, and those memories are my treasure.

What I learned from them is mainly about cultural differences. I hardly remember the words from their language even though they taught them to me. For example, I made friends with Brazilian people, and interestingly,

almost all of them lived a slow pace of life compared with Japanese people.

One of my Brazilian friends did not even care if she was late for the morning class. I cannot forget the scene when she was eating breakfast happily although the class had already begun! At first, I could not understand them, but later, I came to be able to accept them, and I even thought that it is good opportunity to know some differences of cultures because by learning such differences, I could know my own culture more deeply. Actually, by this experience, I realized how punctual Japanese people are.

In addition, I made friends with Saudi Arabian people. At first, I was scared of them because of my awful bias, but actually, they were so friendly, and in the end, I was always hanging around with them like sister and brothers! Even one of my Saudi Arabian friends sent me a message a couple of weeks ago to ask me to go somewhere while I am in America because he is also in America now. This is an unbelievable thing for my past self. From this experience, I learned how terrible it is to have bias or stereotype against foreign people.

Through these experiences, I was able to learn about not only other cultures but also my own culture. I also realized the importance of taking away bias and stereotypes. Although the first step is quite tough of course, it is important for yourself to communicate with foreign people. I cannot wait to visit them and meet them in their countries!



What is Religion?

By Yume Ozaki

What is religion? This is my first thought which came up in my head when I went to a church in Columbus with my host family. I was completely overwhelmed by everything in the church because I had no idea what was going on. The music concert was held at the beginning of the service, and the music which they played was really beautiful and touching. I was surprised because my host mother was crying while listening to the concert. I asked her, “Why are you crying?” Then she said, “Because I thank God that we can live peacefully and safely, and especially that we got you as a host student.” To be honest, I had no idea who she thanked because I could not believe in the existence of God. However, I was so happy to almost cry to hear her response.



I do not believe in any particular religion. According to the survey which was conducted in 2012 by Pew Research Center, American public opinion polling organization, about 60% of Japanese consider themselves to have a non-religion. About 36% of them think they are Buddhist or “Shinto”, and only 1.6% of them believe in Christianity.

Buddhism and “Shinto” are the main traditional religions in Japan. Interestingly, most Japanese belong to both of them, but they do not recognize a sense of belonging to the religion. There are many conventions related to our religion such as visiting to Shinto shrine on the New Year Day, or the way of the funeral. However, we do not consciously feel our religion when we take part in them. Additionally, we also celebrate Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Halloween even though we do not know they are religious events in other countries. People who have their own religion might think it is weird. Actually, we consider these events just as “cultural” events rather than “religious” events. We do not pray to God on Christmas, but instead, we just hang out with our families, friends or partners, and give presents to each other.

That is why I was surprised to see so many people who believe in something invisible when I visited the church. My host family and friends taught me about Christianity a lot, but I still cannot believe because I have lived for about 21 years without it. However, I would like to respect their faith, so I started studying about it more. There are a lot of religious problems and conflicts around the world. The most important thing is to understand and accept people who have religion, or other religion itself. I think the more people all over the world respect the diversity of religions, the more peaceful the world going to be!

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The Most Noted Place

You Might Not Know

By Hisoka Matsumura

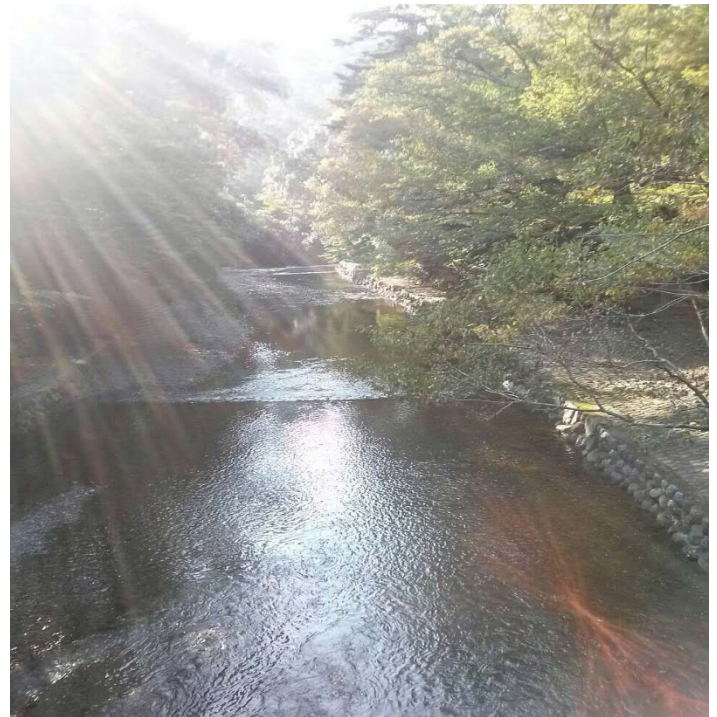


Do you know Ise shrine? It is the most important and famous shrine in Japan, but I think most American do not know it. I strongly recommend this place for people, who have been to Tokyo and Kyoto already and are looking for other place to visit. It is located in 1-7, Iwabuchi, Ise-shi, Mie, Japan.

It is in Mie prefecture, so it is not exciting like other big city, for example Tokyo or Osaka, but you can feel strong spirit power and it will heal you. You can also enjoy eating some foods which are unique there by trying out the foods at various shops. I recommend you to eat Tekone-zushi (traditional style sushi) and Akafuku (rice cake with bean jam), and especially in summer, Akafuku-Gori (shaved ice with green tea syrup Akafuku). These are really famous for Japanese and so delicious.

When you go there from the U.S., you can go Chubu Centrair International Airport in Nagoya, Aichi at first, it takes about 2-3 hours from Ise shrine by train, and then you can get there. If you visit there from another city in Japan, you can get on Shinkansen to Nagoya, and then take a train. You have to take train and bus, so it is not convenient, but it is also a good chance to experience real Japanese life. There are many things that you can experience only in the countryside.

Ise shrine is so important for Japanese as a symbol of our religion and historical heritage. So you should visit there and enjoy the new place to visit and be healed. Japan has a lot of good spots to visit but many people do not realize it. Let's explore Japan!



Rohingya Should Be Accepted as Myanmar Citizen

By Kaho Soga

Have you ever heard the term “Rohingya”? Rohingya people “trace their ancestry to Arabs, Moors, Pathans, Monghuls, Bengalis and some Indo-mongoloid people” (Arakan Rohingya National Organization). They are now escaping from Myanmar to other countries as refugees. However, Rohingya settled in Myanmar a long time ago. It means they should be accepted as Myanmar citizens. There are three reasons to promote this idea; the reason why Rohingya is persecuted, why Rohingya should not be treated as illegal immigrants and the advantage of accepting Rohingya in Myanmar.

First of all, why are Rohingya people persecuted from Myanmar? According to "Myanmar Policy's Message to Muslim: Get Out," Myanmar has approximately 140 different groups, and Rohingya is one of them. The majority religion in Myanmar is Buddhism, but Rohingya is the minority Muslim group. The majority Buddhism group started ethnic cleansing and genocidal action toward Rohingya people because they were considered as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, which is neighbor country. Rohingya people have no right in Myanmar. In particular, they do not have the right of healthcare, education and employment. In the fall of 2014, “14,500 Rohingya have sailed from the beaches of Rakhine State to Thailand”. Yet, in the first place, are Rohingya people illegal immigrants?

The answer is “No”. Rohingya has inhabited Burma, which is composed of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, since 6AD. It means Rohingya people are neither illegal immigrants nor immigrants. Burma was colonized by UK, and they recognized Rohingya as citizens. Thereafter, Bruma was independent from UK in 1948. At that time, the U Ne Win controlled the country and he started to eliminate Rohingya. Aun San Su Chi, who has a powerful authority in Myanmar now, was against U Ne Win and arrested. He died in 2002, but now that military dictatorship is still continued (Arakan Rohingya National Organization).

The temporary Myanmar government’s attitude toward Rohingya is not appropriate. According to New York Times, Aun san Su chi keeps silent towards Rohingya because if she says something about Rohingya to help, the majority Buddhism group will not support her. In order to prevent this situation, she cannot say anything and remain silent. Furthermore, she also thinks Rohingya are illegal immigrants. At the same time, Aun San Su Chi was awarded the Nobel Peace prize because she was praised for her effort to get the democracy, human right and ethnic conciliation. But now she is criticized by world. Besides, there are advantages of accepting Rohingya as Myanmar citizen.

There are two merits to accept Rohingya as Myanmar citizens. First of all, Myanmar lacks diversity. Although there are bunch of ethnic groups in Myanmar, the tolerance toward religion is not developing. Accepting Rohingya will lead Myanmar to accept religions other than Buddhism. Another merit is for Aun San Su Chi. Now, she is complained about for doing nothing to help the Rohingya people by many countries. However, if she accepts the Rohingya people, the view of world toward her will change. Obviously, it is beneficial for her and Myanmar

government. Thus, there are advantages to accept Rohingya.

To conclude, there is no reason to persecute Rohingya people. Moreover, accepting Rohingya gives Myanmar government various merits. Then, why Myanmar government hesitate to accept Rohingya people? Myanmar government should admit Rohingya as 136th official ethnic group, and Myanmar citizen as soon as possible. Now, it is time to change governmental opinions and let in Rohingya people!

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Japanese Government Should Accept More Immigrants

By Tomoya Hiroe

Why doesn't the Japanese government accept many immigrants? In recent years, immigration is one of the most concerning problems in the world. Some countries are accepting more immigrants or making new laws for immigrant. Japan is expected to accept much more immigrants from other developed countries. However, Japan is still persistent in having strict requirements to accept immigrants. The Japanese government should accept more immigrants.

Therefore, these are three arguments below: The Japanese government should compensate its lack of labor force with immigrants in the future, Japan should accomplish a duty as a developed country, and the current situation of immigration is a chance to change a policy for immigrants.

First, Japanese government should compensate its lack of labor force with immigrants in the future. The population of Japan is clearly decreasing. According to Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, the Japanese population was about one hundred twenty million people and Japan began the process of declining in 2010. Moreover, the number of the population will be about eighty six million people in 2060. Then, the Japanese working population is predicted to be forty-four million people in 2060

(http://www8.cao.go.jp/shoushi/shoushika/whitepaper/measures/w-2015/27webhonpen/html/b1_s1-1-2.html). In addition, no hope to raise the birth rate of Japan can be found. In Japan, so many young couples think that giving birth is difficult because of a shortage of money to raise children. This is a hopeless prediction for the Japanese population in the future. The reduction of the working population and the economic strength of Japan are definite. Japan needs to maintain its economic growth and strength to enrich the citizens. However, Japan cannot help to maintain those by Japanese people because no prediction to increase the population can be found. Therefore, immigrants can be used as a solution to compensate the shortage of labor force.

Another reason why Japanese government should accept more immigrants is that Japan should accomplish a duty as a developed country. In the current world situation, many developed countries have tolerantly accepted immigrants. For instance, actually, in Germany and Sweden,

immigrants account for over 20 percent of all those population (<http://www.newsdigest.de/newsde/news/featured/5790-972.html>). However, Japan accepts just a few percent of immigrant applicants. Besides, some countries criticized the Japanese attitude which does not accept many immigrants. The Japanese government has been told to take in more immigrants by other developed countries. The government should not overlook people who fled from a crisis and really want to stay in a better place. Japan can provide help for people who need help as a developed country. In short, Japan has a duty to facilitate immigrants to stay in Japan as one of the top of countries.

Finally, Japanese government should accept more immigrants because this is good opportunity to change Japan's policy for immigrants. The current Japanese cabinet started to discuss immigrants. For example, the government created some districts for immigrants and are encouraging them in those areas. Some new laws for immigrants were created and some restrictions were eased. However, most Japanese people do not agree with accepting immigrants and people are afraid of a consequence after immigrants came in. Moreover, politicians are reluctant to claim accepting immigrants because there is strong possibility that they can be beaten at an election. People's understanding for immigrants, who they are, what they are, how important to accept for Japan's future are important. And this is also an opportunity to show the way to create a model how to accept immigrants for other countries. Whole countries can learn from each other how to deal with crisis of immigrants. Thus, a matter of immigrants should be delivered as a whole Japanese society and Japan has a chance to make a model for immigrants.

In conclusion, more immigrants should be acceptable for Japan. In the situation of declining of population,

immigrants can be used for labor force of Japan. Moreover, taking in immigrants is a duty to keep for Japan as a member of international society. Finally, Japanese people are needed to discuss and understand about immigrants to be exemplar for other countries which are facing the problem of immigrants. Therefore, Japan has a huge possibility to have immigrants and changing its policy is expected.

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What do you think about the Otterbein

By Eunjin Jung

Westerville, OH -- Otterbein University was founded by the Church of the United Brethren in Christ in 1847. Now, a lot of international students study in Otterbein University. And I interviewed couple of these international students to ask what they think about Otterbein.



The first interview was held during the afternoon, when Otterbein had the beautiful autumn season on campus. This student's name was Hao Zhou. Hao is a student from China, and he's currently studying computer science. He said the best place about the Otterbein is gym and he also likes the library and the cafeteria. The worst place he picked was the science building because he gets worse grades from this building every time he takes the exams there. He also mentioned that since the art building is so far away from the main campus, it's tough to go to the art building. When I asked about the house living, he said living in the dorm is really expensive. He estimated about 600 dollars per month if students live in the dorm. So he decided to move out from there and live with his friend in an apartment.

The second interview was with Anna Kato. Anna said she loves the stadium. She watched her first football game about three weeks ago and she said it was fantastic. Anna said, "Even I had no idea with the rule, it was great experience because football is not in my country and of course I never watched it as well. It was pumped just the fact I am watching football." Anna also participates in school life, she joins the yoga class every Monday and Wednesday 7:30~8:30. She said there is about 10 people in the class and it's really relaxing and good.

The third interview was with Yume Ozaki. Yume loves the library but she doesn't like the Towers building. She said since the Towers building is so old, she feels like she can hear the scratch while she's walking inside of the building which is really scary. She said she loves her dorm it's comfy and chill, and her roommate is nice. One bad thing about the room she said, "Sometime it's too cold."

Finally, I asked one question to all three, "Would you recommend Otterbein to your friends or family?"

And they all said yes. They said Otterbein has a really nice education with nice staff and students also it's safe place to stay. Which they highly recommend to others when they go back to their country.



Fall Harvest Festival was held at the Otterbein Garden

By Haruna Ogasawara



WESTERVILLE, OHIO - The annual family- friendly Fall Harvest Festival was held from 10a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday October 22th at the Otterbein Community Garden. The garden is located at 390 N. Spring Road. This festival was conducted by Otterbein staff, students and community members. Unfortunately, the wind was so strong and temperature was 52 degree: however, many people gathered to the festival.

The Fall Harvest Festival started four years ago, and this year, the Westerville Hunger Heroes 5k and 1-mile fun run was held in the same day and the starting point was the Otterbein garden. According to visitwesterville.org, this festival were including carnival games, fall crafts, a farmers market, apple cider and donuts, educational stations and service projects, and everyone could participate in this festival.

A woman who visits this festival every year said “I like some of the biology stuff and looking at the garden, but for the kids, it’s makings things eating donuts everything else,” and “I recommend this festival because it is so fun and I like it.” she added lastly. People enjoyed decorating pumpkins by color pens, playing games, and got a flower seeding.

Also, visitors enjoyed seeing the biology showpiece and looking at the garden. Representor of this festival said, “I just love seeing students, staff, community members come together and just enjoy all the things.”

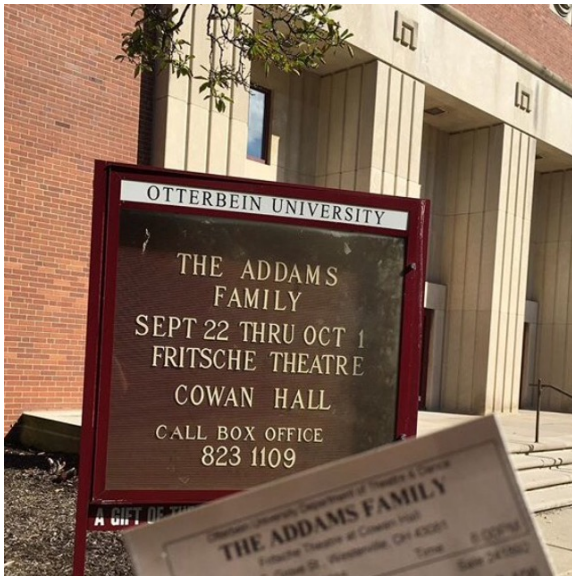
The Otterbein Garden is cultivated by Otterbein students, neighborhood associations, senior citizen living in communities and immigrants community and so on. A part of the harvest is donated to local food pantries to provide the community.



“I just love seeing students, staff, community members come together and just enjoy all the things.”

Otterbein Performance by Theater Major Students

By Anna Kato



WESTERVILLE, OHIO—On September 22nd to 25th and 29th to November 1st, “*The Addams Family*” was shown at Cowan Hall, Otterbein University. Otterbein theater major students appeared in that musical. At Otterbein University, two or three performances are shown in every semester.

“*The Addams Family*” is a humorous musical. The Addams’ deceased relatives return as ghosts in this story. And Wednesday, Addams’s daughter, falls in love with a man. But there is a rumor of him being a normal human. This musical moves the audience to laughter.

“*The Addams Family*” was the first performance in the 2016-17 season at Otterbein University. Otterbein students and professors can enjoy that performances for free.

For performances, including “*The Addams Family*”, the cast and crew rehearse for many times every day except Sunday. Chih-Jou Cheng, who is from Taiwan and a freshman BA major, said, the actors “can remember the music and lighting. And they can remember all changes the director or choreographer gave very quickly.”

“Every actor and actress is super awesome!” Chih-Jou Cheng praised. And “I want everyone to enjoy such a nice performance,” she said.



(Photo by Karl Kuntz)

Otterbein Students Performed in a Music Concert

By Yume Ozaki

WESTERVILLE, OHIO- The students of Otterbein University played in the music concert that was held on Friday, October 23, 2016. The concert was lasted for nearly 2 hours, and closed the curtain as the audience cheered enthusiastically.

The concert was composed of many kinds of music by Otterbein department of music. The audiences enjoyed the string orchestra, opera, guitar, marimba band, jazz ensemble, etc. Some students from the department of theatre also played one famous scene from the musical, *Addams Family*, for which they achieved great success a month ago. Moreover, the music which they chose to play was wonderfully matched the atmosphere of fall season, and most of players wore Halloween costumes which feasted the spectators' eyes.

The tickets of the music events in Otterbein are available for anyone at a reasonable price. "I like the guitar, the clarinet... oh I love the strings group, the pianist," said an older woman, who attended the concert. She and her husband live near Otterbein, and often come to listen to the music concerts there. They knew about the concert from the brochure, which they got at another concert in the past. According to Kovalski Andrew, who is the receptionist of the department of music, there are several ways to get the information about these events. For example, through the calendar of events on the website or their Facebook or

Twitter account. We also can receive e-mails if you request to the office in advance.

According to Layla Arceno who is a member of string orchestra, the members of music concerts in Otterbein are not only the students who are music majors, but also the students who voluntarily want to play music. "Personally for me, I think it's fantastic for students," Layla said, describing that these events are completely good opportunities for non-majors who love music from their heart and hope to continue their music experience.

Layla also thinks that these events are wonderful opportunities for younger students who are considering to go on to the university because they can observe the activities that Otterbein students actually do. "I feel like people can enjoy it as well as people who are in like high school orchestra, middle school orchestra can actually hear what they could sound like in the future," she said. "It's fun for the audiences, it's fun for us."



(Photo by Yasue Arceno)

What Do People Think about the Presidential Election?

By Salah Athamnah

Of course every American citizen has the freedom of choice and to express his opinion without any pressure or hindrance. I think if we need a change, we must be go to vote and choose our new president. Before the election, I did some interviews with citizens to get to know more on their views.

Katie, an Otterbein student and American citizen

Salah: Are you going to vote this year?

Katie: Yes.

Salah: What do you think about the election this year

Katie: I definitely think it's hot mess

Salah: Do you think country will be better with the new president

Katie: Definitely depends on who wins I'm not a fan of either candidate.

Salah: What do you think about only having two party?

Katie: I'm not a fan it because you have to limit yourself. I would like more variety.

Salah: Do you know about the other nominees?

Katie: I really only know about Gary Johnson, other than that not really.

Salah: What do you know about Ben Hartnell-westerville history teacher?

Katie: I do know about Ben Hartnell. He wanted to show his students the process to become president.”

Emily, an American citizen

Salah: Are you going to vote?

Emily: I have already voted.

Salah: What do you think about the election this year?

Emily: I think that this election is a huge mess and that it is going to be really close and I also think that it is a turning point for our country's history. It could be very badly or it could go in a better direction.

Salah: Do you I think country will be better with new president?

Emily: It depends on who ends up winning. I think that if Donald Trump wins, it will definitely not be better. And if Hillary wins, I think it will be relatively the same. Hopefully, we push for policies that will make it better.

Salah: What do you think about only having two party?

Emily: I think that we should have a multi-party system. I think that the two party system is ineffective and creates too much polarization. I think the multi-party system would be more beneficial.

Salah: Do you know about other nominees?

Emily: There are two third party candidates running and neither one of them have any actual information about policies or how to run the government. I identify as a Democrat and, like I said, I think there should be more than two parties.

Ahmed, an OSU professor and American citizen from Egypt

Salah: Are you going to vote?

Ahmed: Yes of course

Salah: What do think about Election this year?

Ahmed: I think it will be enthusiastic and convergent. The winner will be Donald Trump.

Salah: Do you think country will be better with new president?

Ahmed: Yes, if it will be Donald Trump. I think with economy will be very good because he successful businessman. If it will be Hillary Clinton, she will work on improving the role of women in American society and the American foreign relations.

Salah: Do you know about other nominees?

Ahmed: Sorry I don't know.

Salah: What do you think about having only two party? Republican and Democrat.

Ahmed: I think this good because people don't like more choices.



Alum Creek Green trail

By Haruna Ogasawara

I use the Alum Creek Green trail to go to the Easton shopping center from Otterbein University. This route is located in North section of Alum Creek Green trail. The length is about 22 miles and it takes 45 minutes by the bicycle. The good point of this trail is beautiful scenery. There are river, parks and bridges. It is really fun to ride a bicycle with seeing the beautiful nature. Perhaps you can find deer or rabbits. In addition, the trail connects to other trails so you can enjoy many roots. These are not too many hills, and the curve points are very exciting.

On the trail, some ground is bumpy so I think it is a little bit uncomfortable. Also, there is no bicycle pump so it seems inconvenient when the tire is flat. The trail connects to other trails so it can be useful, on the other hand, for the beginner it might be difficult to choice the right way.

I recommend this trail because the scenery is very beautiful. We can enjoy the cycling with feeling plenty nature. The breeze refreshes warm body, and we can feel the clean air. The river is flowing by the trail, and the sounds.



China restaurant

By Yang Chen

There is a very good Chinese restaurant in Columbus called Wei Zhi Xuan. Its English name is Asia Fusion. The restaurant's address is 3512 W Dublin Granville Rd Columbus, OH 43235. Asia Fusion opens all week from 11am to 10pm. One of the most famous meals in the restaurant is braise fish and many Chinese guests would like to order this. The restaurant has many different kinds of menus including fires, steam, and traditional Chinese food and so on.



The food tastes awesome. The meal takes some time to cook and customers are willing to wait because it is very populr. However, the restaurant does not have discount so the price is a little eponsive. The plate is not very big so it may not be enough for more than 3 people to share one meal. Also,you need to have double check the address when you go to the resteraunt because the address in Yelp is not correct. The first time I came to the resteraunt and I got lost.

The food is very traditional, and the restaurant's style conforms to Chinese taste also. In the restaurant, you can feel you are in China, because the style is like most resteraunts in China. I like the Wei Zhi Xuan Chinese restaurant.

New Year's Eve

By Haruho Yamada

New Year's Eve is coming only once a year. How will people spend this day? In the film, *New Year's Eve*, it is described how people spend this day in New York City.

This is an omnibus film that was released in 2011; there are 13 main characters, and every character has their own stories and problems. They are struggling with their own jobs, love, money, family, life and so on. On that day, New Year's Eve, every character pauses and thinks back over the year once again to greet the New Year. When they finally greet the New Year, how will they change their way of living?



One of the most attractive points in this film is that the audience can enjoy seeing many popular actors at once; Robert De Niro, who starred in *The Deer Hunter*, Sarah Jessica Parker, who starred in *Sex and the City* series, Zac Efron, who starred in *High School Musical* series, and so on. Also, since lots of characters appear in this film, it is easy for the audience to empathize with some of the characters. It helps them to enjoy this film more deeply. Even though the story for each character is not so long, each story is well organized, and it is easy to follow the stories.

Moreover, since the setting of this film is New York City on New Year's Eve, the audience can enjoy one of the most famous New Year's Eve countdown at Times Square. In addition to this countdown scene, the audience can enjoy many songs sung by famous singers in this film.

As stated above, this is a film with a lot of highlights. Also, it teaches us the importance of thinking back the year before greeting the New Year. If you want to greet the New Year's Eve with full of happiness, you should watch this film before New Year's Eve!

Portia's Café

By Malek Aldumman

It's very simple café, I like it. It has a big menu and most drinks.

I went there last Friday, that was the first time to go there, and surprising it's a small and have a lot people and a big menu, the menu right there has a different food and delicious.

I think it has eight tables, yes just eight tables and all the tables are always busy, I tried falafel and curry soup, but the falafel is different in the Arabic café restaurant.

The good things the services are very well and interesting for customer, the bad thing is, the it is very small

Address: 44228 Indianola Ave, Columbus, OH 43214



My Name

By Na Kyung Kim

When I was naming my children, my mother-in-law called a fortuneteller to find a perfect name for them. As it is believed that a name can change the future of your child, it is considered very important to find a virtuous name for your child in Korea.

However, my parents didn't believe in such thing and considered it very superstitious. They named me 'Na Kyung' because they simply liked the sound of it, not the meaning of it. So, my name ended up meaning 'beautiful Seoul.' My friends used to make fun of it but I found a way to put a better interpretation to it. I used to say, "Well, I'm the one who makes Seoul beautiful! That's how important I am."

Once a fortune teller told my parents that because of my terrible name, I would run away from home when I reach the age of twenty-two. Surprisingly, I did leave my family for a year. I went to Japan as an exchange student and I was exactly twenty-two at that time.

I'm sure it is purely coincidental but sometimes I wonder if it was really my name that sent me to Japan that year. My mother-in-law tells me that I should thank to the good names of my children working as lucky charms for them. Whether superstitious or not, I believe we always hope for the best of our children and I hope they grow up to fulfil all the good meanings put into their names.

By Yu-Ling Tsao

"TSAO!! Yu-Ling" I heard there was someone calling me but I didn't reply because I knew he was making fun of me. After he called my name, everybody laughed and repeated it again and again. This situation was my daily life in elementary school.

My name is Tsao Yu-Ling which was chosen by my grandfather. In our culture, we believe in stroke count which is the number of brush strokes of a Chinese character. My name is great stroke count and a good sound so my grandfather gave me this name to me. When I was a child, I wasn't satisfied with my name.

Here are three reasons why i didn't like my name. First, my family name, Tsao, is the same as a famous historical man, Tsao tsaio, who was ugly and envious. When others called me this name, I felt I'm envious and ugly. Second, it's because of the pronunciation of the last word 莅. This character in Chinese can be pronounced in two ways. One is Ling, the other is Lung which sounds a little creepy. The last reason is my family name: Tsao. If using wrong stress to pronounce, it sounds like 砺 same meaning as a swear word in Mandarin.

After growing up, I realized the no matter how people call me, I am "me". My personality won't be changed if others call me in different ways. Now I am thankful for my name because it makes me stronger now.

Making Dumplings

By Young Joo Kwon

When I was seven years old, I didn't like to meet relatives. In my country, distant relatives were gathering together on holiday. I remembered they were very talkative, petulant and mischievous. Always they mocked me and laughed at me. After they met together, they repeated to chatter and to eat without end. Because many people were talking each other, it was very noisy. My mind was going out, and I didn't know whether foods were going into my mouth or my nose. I always wanted to take a calm holiday. I wanted to enjoy the holiday with my family. I just was a shy little girl who wanted to remain silently.

In Korea, at the start of each New Year, many people eat dumpling and rice cake soup. I had many relatives, so a lot of dumplings were needed. Every year, we used to make dumplings all together. Adult women prepared the sourced of food-vegetables, ground meats, tofu, kimchi, flour and what they wanted in. Women chopped all vegetables, kimchi, tofu and others. And then they combined ground meats with chopped filling ingredients. Also they made flour dough to flat and small round. They completed the outfit. In front of us, there were huge source of food.

It was time to make a dumpling. All members seated round and began to make it. I tried to make well. Some were nice-looking, the others were absolutely not. Aunts and uncles made fun of my work. I wanted to run out getting angry at them. But I was so timid, I just wasn't able to get angry at them. I felt a shame and cried. Except me, all other people enjoyed that time over talking about their concerns. This process continued until late night.

At New Year day morning, we ate the celebrating soup. When aunts and uncles found an ugly dumpling, they were kidding me again. I couldn't understand they were continuously teasing me. I was displeased at their joke. I couldn't enjoy the New Year Celebration.

These days, we don't meet all together any more. Grandparents were died, and relatives have aged very much since then. Now I know I completely misunderstood their intentions. Although I didn't enjoy the New Year Celebration in my childhood, I have good memories now. Making dumplings required a group effort, but it gave me a good time to get together to make and eat them at special day.

My Memory

By Eunjin Jung

When I was six years old, I was going to kindergarten with my friend. When we walked on the road, we found the shore of estuary, small river.

We wanted to see fish and gravel, so we went to the water. I picked up small stones. We build a castle in the stones. We played there. We forgot to go to kindergarten

When we played the shore of an estuary. My mother called us. We were surprised. My mother got angry at me because I stayed. I suddenly remembered that I was going to kindergarten. I was scolded by my mother so I cried and my mother cried too.

Now I understand how my mother felt because I felt two children. My mother had a lot of anxiety about her small child who did not go to kindergarten. After that I went to kindergarten with my mother.

Poems

By Nana Kim

I am sad and homesick
I wonder if there is a mermaid
I hear singing sounds in the wave
I see flashing tails of a mermaid
I want to go to the sea for swimming
I am sad and homesick
I pretend to be a mermaid when I'm swimming
I feel the fresh water surrounding my body
I touch my legs and feel the scales rising above
I worry my attachments here in land will never let go
I cry because of my desire to return to sea
I am sad and homesick

By Jihye Park

I am curious and adventurous.
I wonder who lives in the moon.
I hear a song from the moon.
I see a fairy who lives in the moon.
I am curious and adventurous.
I pretend to be an astronaut.
I feel I am without gravity.
I touch the surface of the moon.
I worry all secret of the moon is revealed.
I cry when I heard there is nothing in the moon.
I am curious and adventurous.

The Treasures I Got

By Hisoka Matsumura

My heart was beating fast in front of the gate of school. Starting that day, I became a high school student. But actually, I was nervous rather than excited. I was such a girl who liked to stay at home and talk with my parents, who were Japanese and moved to the U.S. before I became an elementary school student. In elementary school and junior high school, I could not get along with classmates because my appearance and culture were totally different from others. In addition to that, I could not talk with classmate in English well at that time, so I felt kind of scary to talk with them. I was getting to be more and more introverted. As I grew up in this country, my English got better, but my personality would not have changed. My parents were always kind and gentle, so my house was the only place I could be who I was.

As I entered the classroom, there were many people there already. I was so nervous that I couldn't look up.

"Hi, what's your name?" one girl talked to me.

"I'm, I'm Konoha." I replied.

"Konoha? That's so cute!"

"Thanks." That's the first conversation with her. Her name was Emily. She was such a kind of person who was always laughing at the center of everyone, and there were no one who didn't like her because of her attractive smile. We got closer soon. Before I met her, I didn't care about my appearance, like fashion and make-up, so after I met her, I learned many things from her.

Thanks for her, I got along with other classmates.

I got feeling fun at my school and with my friends more than with my parents. When I went back home late, my parents looked very worried and sad, but I pretended I did not realize their feelings. I became reticent gradually with my parents not like what I used to be.

One day, some of my friends in my school came to my house. My parents were glad to see them, and we had good time together. However, I cared about how they felt about our way to speak, sober food, which was supported to be unique taste for them, and everything my family had as our culture. When we were eating dinner, I noticed that we did not have enough forks and spoons because we always used only chopsticks.

"Why don't you use forks to eat? It's clumsy!" said one of my friend.


"I think so to, but it's gonna be easy to use it if you get used to it," my mother smiled and replied.

"That's why I don't like to use this," I gave a curt reply to my mother.

Whenever they found the differences from them, they asked my parents about that directly. Sometimes my parents looked confused. I just didn't want them to think that I was weird. I tried to hide my culture and get close to their culture although I didn't think like that before I met them.

After the event, I became silent to my parents more and more. My parents might have known about my feelings. I didn't dislike them, but I didn't know how to deal with these feelings. Maybe, I was afraid that my friends might despise me if they thought I was different from them. I was desperate to attract them, but somehow, the more I got close with my school friends, the more I felt empty in my school life.

One day, I quarreled with Emily. We didn't talk for a one week even we were in the same classroom. I couldn't find the solution for it, and I felt like I was the only one person in the world. Of course Emily was



popular with everyone, so only I was ignored by all classmate. I was deeply sad, and crying in my house. My mother saw me so depressed, and said to me “I don’t know what’s happened to you, but we are always here for you.” At this time, I got really ashamed about my behavior toward my parents. Though they were kind and understood my feelings the most, I tried to take a distance from them. Their affection moved me to tears. Even I had bad attitude to them, they thought about me all the time.

I apologized to and talked with my parents about all my feelings, the relationship with my friends, and fight with Emily. They listened to me and said again “We are here. This is your house. You don’t have to pretend like someone.” I realized that I overextended myself to adapt to my friends. The following day, I talked to Emily about all I felt.

“Actually, I was a little grad to have fight with you because you showed your feeling. I felt you always hid something. That’s not real friends, right?” she said.

And then she smiled me, “I am not mad anymore, but I was just stubborn. Now I’m happy to hear what you think truly. Now, we are real friends.”

I also smiled “Yes. I’m sorry and thank you.”

She gave me a big smile that I saw before we fought.

Now, I have good relationship with both, my parents and friends. Also I feel happy when I am with them. I am always who I am. My parents let me notice these important things.



Hisoka Matsumura

Jin Jung

Salah Athamnah

Malek Aldumman

Anna Kato

Yume Ozaki

Gwen DeRosa

Haruna Ogasawara

Haruho Yamada

Yang Chen

“One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood.”

-Lucius Annaeus Seneca