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### The Howl - Spring 2018

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**Before You Go You Have To  
Know**

**Your Name.**

**Otterbein Music**

**Separated Family**



# THE HOWL

SPRING 2018



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## **ABOUT THE EDITOR**



My name is Gwendolyn DeRosa. I have been teaching ESL for over five 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](mailto:gderosa@otterbein.edu). Enjoy Otterbein ESL's contribution to the Otterbein community's literary scene.

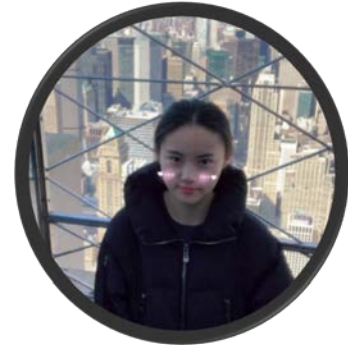
## ABOUT THE WRITERS

My name is Hide Iwata. I am a retiree and trying to develop my second life in the U.S.. I like reading books such as historical novels and detective novels. And I love playing golf and walking as well. After learning English, I'd like to have a task in community and travel abroad with my wife. I am from Japan.



My name is Ayat. I'm from Jordan. I studied Clinical Nutrition in Jordan. My favorite hobby is watching movies.

Hello. My name is Rongrong Yan and I come from China. My major is Business Management. My hobbies are reading, traveling and watching movies.



My name is Vivian Chen. I'm from China. I studied English in a university in China for two years and now I'm a degree-seeking student in Otterbein studying International Business. I enjoy traveling and shopping. And I love Otterbein because people here are all very kind.



I'm Miki and I'm from Japan. I study English literature, especially 19<sup>th</sup> works such as Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen at my Japanese university. I like travelling, shopping, and watching movies.

Hello, my name is Kristyna. I'm from The Czech Republic. I've been in USA since 2016. I used to be an au-pair. I decided to study at Otterbein university. Also I enjoy travelling I've been in 20 cities in USA so far. I really love TV show "The office" is the best one. I love to cook and trying new restaurants and bars.



Hi! My name is Jin. I love Korean dramas and cooking. I've traveled all over Europe and Asia, more than 25 countries. I have two kids. My daughter is studying at OSU. My son is a senior in high school. I want to meet more friends at Otterbein.

My name is Yunan Huang, you can call me Amelia. I'm from China. My major is International Business. I like dancing and singing. I like Chinese food very much. If I could, I would like to have a taste of the world's food.





# Gun Violence in the United States

By Jin

After I came over to America, one of the things I was the most surprised about was gun policies. Every single market was selling guns with price as cheap as about 200 dollars. I could never ever imagined this back in Korea. In Korea, we would go to jail just by owning a gun. Korean men are mandated to do a military service for about two years, so most Korean men know how to use guns. But Korea has very strict laws about guns. American news would only talk



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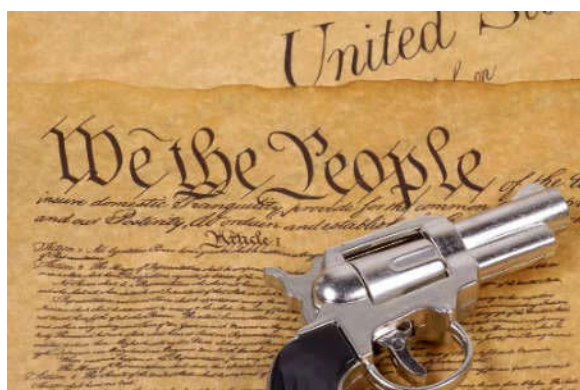


Image from google

about guns when there is a gun shooting with many victims, whereas it would be a headline news in Korea if they ever find a gun somewhere. Nobody can ever own a gun. On the other hand, America is very wrong. Buying a gun is easier than buying a cigarette. In Ohio, you have to be 21 or older to buy cigarettes, but you only has to be 18 or older to buy a gun at any store. In New York, you only have to be 16, and in Montana, you only have to be 15.

Gun shooting is one of the most serious problems that America is currently facing. About an year ago, a gun shooting happened in Las Vegas, and another one happened again in Florida just recently. I think if we had more strict rules about the gun rights, we could have prevented some of these gun shootings. A few days ago, a student from a nearby high school committed suicide with a gun in his school's bathroom. The second gun shooting that occurred in the same high school bathroom was so shocking to me because the school was not that far from my children's high school. I was also surprised how the parents did not know that their kid took the gun to his school. I think people should place their gun in a safe place if they own one.

Even though those tragic gun accidents continuously happen, some people still support gun rights. Some of their arguments have good points: they say that about 30% to 50% of American households already own guns, and there are more than 270 millions of guns that are owned by normal citizens, so there is no way for the government to retrieve all of those guns at this point. They say because it is too late to take away all the



guns from the people, we should just leave them and allow them to have guns for their self-defense. However, if we think carefully, guns as a self-defence is not really practical. When a robber or a rapist suddenly attacks you on a street, they would already have thrust his weapon you, or they would already have hit you several times. It is too late to draw your gun and fight back. You would just have to do whatever he tells you to do. Plus, when someone shoot you with his gun from higher places or hidden places, you cannot defend yourself with your gun.

When someone shoot from darker places to brighter places, you cannot shoot him back either.

As we see here, guns as a self-defence have too many weak points to become actually practical. So allowing people to have guns as self-defence is not actually helping them to defend themselves. As many examples of mass gun shooting suggest, giving guns to people, especially young ones, only results in tragedy.

I understand anyone has to be able to have whatever one wants to have. But especially when people are younger, they are less mature and their emotions sway easily. I think particularly special attentions are needed when we give them the power to easily murder others.



Image from google

# What Is Like To Be a Nutritionist ?

By Ayat Al jbour

Being a nutritionist is something I never planned for . When I was in high school, I choose the public health field. I studied this for about 2 years in high school. I was so interested by this field. That made me think more about choosing my major. I wanted to study nursing, and I applied for that, but in my country rules are different than here in America. They didn't accept me at university for Nursing college because I needed three more grades for my high school total points. So, they said you can study Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics. I thought about it for 2 minutes only, and I said yes.

Anyway the fall semester started at that time and I started taking classes. I liked my major and every year I liked it more and more.

Studying something that contribute to health was very interesting for me. I felt that I learned things that can really affect my entire life. I learned how the body works and how to plan for meals. The importance of food, and choosing the right food for you can save your life If you have a certain illness or disease. It's really fascinating major. Not only for myself. It's important for everyone.



At first we had to memorise a lot of things. like how many calories you can find in each food. I remember I started with fruits list. Then every Tablespoon of oils and fat. Also the protein portions like meat, fish and chicken.

After all that hard time of memorising a lot of information the professors said "don't worry. There's no need to do that anymore". Technology saved you because there's a lot of online websites, and Nutrition programs that can help us. Instead of calculating for someone diets manually for at least six hours, we can do it in less than 5 minutes.

The five years of studying and learning was very interesting experience i ever had in my lifetime. I enjoyed every minute. Even sometimes i had problems, but all the times I was wondering what will happen next ?

After graduating, I got my Nutritionist license and applied for a hospital. That was a new hospital opened in my area near where I lived. My job was meeting people that suffer from certain disease like kidney failure, diabetes. I made diet plans for them and keep seeing their progress each appointment. Also part of my job was avoiding food drug interaction.

It was my life career. After working for one year and a half, I wanted to go further than just stopping at that point, so I decided to study abroad and I chose America. I wanted to study master degree here because I felt that I have to do more about health education, and studying here was the right choice. In addition that many studies about nutrition topics are approved from here.

I always believed that if you want something in your life, you have to work hard to make it. Everything starts with a small step.



Our Food  
Should be  
our medicine  
& Our Medicine  
Should be  
Our Food  
-Hippocrates

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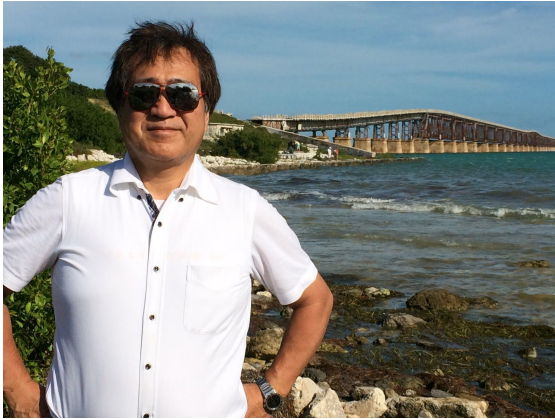
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# IS AUTOMATIC DRIVING FUN ?

**Hide Iwata**



(Photo:At Seven Mile Bridge in Key West)

Does everyone really expect full automatic driving? In these days, not only automobile companies but also some of major IT companies have begun to develop automatic driving technologies. It is certain that automatic driving on everyday commuting or for long driving could make us stress less and it would be possible to use our time for other purposes. On the other hand, it would be very annoying matter for people who want to enjoy driving itself. Although the technologies for improving safety and convenience should be developed positively, it will be unlikely to be accepted because the technologies sacrifice the freedom of driving or the fun to drive oneself.



Automatic driving could be a great driving force to innovate one's life for people who are not interested in driving and the transport industry. And also, it will be able to be possible that a master computer connects each car to all outside data. It means that the function of each car will be changed from just transportation to the information spot of sending and receiving data. This would create a lot of new businesses and in some case, it might be useful to solve criminal cases by utilizing person's position data. Furthermore, it would not be too much to say that these technologies could accelerate flattening the world. These future potential benefits urges many companies to develop auto driving technologies. However, we should recognize that the auto driving has negative aspects in terms of not only the technical difficulties but also humanity and freedom.



It is a excited moment for me to drive to the outskirts on the beginning of summer. Touring on motorcycles is even more fun for me. However, if full automatic driving come true in the future, it means that people who want to have fun to drive won't be able to. Needless to say, it will be good that technical innovation could improve the convenience of life and the product efficiency, but I am worried that



those technologies would deprive drivers of fun to drive and freedom of movement. And, as recent accidents in which the test car of automatic driving killed pedestrians show, there are lots of technical difficulties to overcome such as enhancing sensing accuracy and speed.

Probably full automatic driving won't be released unless each person and each car have each ID. Nevertheless, there will be a huge wall to overcome, that is the personal information protection, in there. Even if these technical difficulties will be overcome, there will be another concern if each owner of a car could bear the expensive cost.



Looking over current trend of automotive industry, the biggest theme is to make counter measures against environmental regulation, which means that the most urgent task is not developing automatic driving technologies but the changing power unit from conventional engines of which energy source are made by the fossil fuel to electric motors. Therefore each company is focusing the technologies on the safety to drive and the driver-friendly operation like automatic parking so that each company could make a difference for drivers. As most of those technologies are available to use in limited conditions from ten years ago, it can't be said that all company are trying to tackle them with all resources.

However, when all power units of cars will have been changed to electric motor, it might have bigger possibility to innovate automatic driving society than we expect. Because the electrification of all power units means they could be operated easily by outside signals. With each car having a smartphone, it will be easy for you, wherever you are, you can identify the location of each car and that you can adjust each car's speed in an automatic manner. But you haven't seen any idea that how you can keep fun and freedom for driving yet.



Current tests of automatic driving and the information of automatic driving from companies are so short-circuited that it cannot avoid serious troubles and we can't have a confidence for the society of automatic driving. I'd expect that a responsible company will create the future image of automatic driving society. Otherwise we would waste much money and valuable time.

Photos Credit

Hide iwata

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# Before you go you have to know

By Kristyna Karbanova

Be curious! Pay attention to details because having great experiences is why you travel. Search for history and have the simple question as “why, where, what, how”. Believe me, you will become smarter and you can use your knowledge later in the future. Also, you will remember things easier because you will have these “real life” experiences. Before you go you need to do research on the internet. Just search “Before you go...” There are so many important things that you should know.



When my best friend Petra and I drove through Death Valley area. We were almost there but, I didn't check it out before. I found really important steps to follow. “Before you enter the Death Valley make sure you had downloaded offline map, there is no service”. It was late too, when I read it last sentence I was out of service. It was the most awkward feeling ever. I was so mad because I didn't look at this website before. There was a paper map at the beginning of



the National Park so we were safe. There was another difficult

situation. We didn't check our display to see how much gas did we had. We were so scared it was lower than half. Luckily we had the paper map. And we made it through with the gas we had.

Try to find at least one or two things that are not tourist attractions. That will be the most amazing experience! Even though you will drive or travel further, it's worth it! You will have the cool pictures and you will enjoy the energy of the place. You might find some unique moments you will remember for your whole life. Good tip: You can ask the people who live there for help. They can give you some tips where you can go or what you can see. We used Couchsurfing on our way to the Grand Canyon last year. It was wonderful and free. The host showed us good spots to visit and gave us tips. For example: If you enter the Grand Canyon before 6 am you don't have to pay an entering car fee. So we saved more than \$50.



Use your senses 100%! Watch the people or animals to see how they are walking and their behavior. Try to open your mind and open your eyes, so you can see every single detail. Listen to the place where you are and put that all in your brain as a “memory folder”. I do that all the time. I always try to stop my life and just enjoy the specific moment. I remember that moment when I was in Grand Canyon and everybody taking pictures of the same place like thousands of times. And I was like, “People what are you doing? You need to stop taking pictures and just feel it now”! You can have a couple pictures, but you can’t feel the senses from the pictures. You will just remember that you were waiting in the line to take good pictures on the end of the cliff. But this is not enough for me.

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## “Avoid tourist attractions and find some special places.”

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Make your own itinerary if you will travel without an agency. First of all, you will remember where everything is located. You can imagine visually the map in your mind, what you want to visit, and where this place is supposed to be.



I did my itinerary for my trip to New York City and I was very surprised that it worked perfectly. The best way you should do your itinerary is: Search for the places you want to go. Put all of the addresses on the map and you can see how far or close. Then you can look at how far is the distance to get from one to the other and If you can walk or you have to take subway, bus, car etc. Don’t forget to count your money. If the place has some public transportation, go online and find some discounts for unlimited 7 days MetroCard. If you going to rent a car, try to find the cheapest economy car. You don’t want to spend so much money for gas!



It’s a really good experience to travel. You are growing up inside yourself. It’s better to travel cheap because you can save your money for your next trip. Avoid tourist attractions and find some special places. Try to see, listen and smell every part of your traveling. Now, you are ready to go since you know these good tips. What is going to be your next trip?



# The Magic of Cancún

Amelia Huang

Walking on the rough, muddy, and sand road at Otterbein, I can remember the feeling of the first time I stepped on the beach in Cancun, the kind of soft, continuous and wet feeling under my feet. Although two weeks have passed, the beach can be seen in Cancun as clearly as yesterday.



Cancun is a city in southeastern Mexico on the northeast coast of the Yucatán Peninsula in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. It is an important tourist destination in Mexico. When I saw Cancun photos online, I decided to go there on spring break. Cancun is located in the tropics with an average annual temperature of 27.5 degrees. After spending so long in Ohio, I wanted to experience a summer. So I bought tickets with Vivian and I was going to play in Cancun.

When we got off the plane, the warm temperature made me want to take off my thick coat immediately. My first reaction was that the sky was so blue and green was everywhere. The sea was

clean and very beautiful. I like the beach because I can sunbathe on the beach. We bought a lot of good-looking skirts and bikinis in order to take good pictures here.

Although the trip to Cancun was five days and four nights, the actual time for playing was only three days and the journey was quite tight. On the first day we enjoyed the sunshine on the beach. We also played with motorboats, parasailing and underwater diving. The motorboats were very exciting. The drivers who drove let us drive for a while. It looked very simple, but it was very difficult for me to control the direction and speed when I actually started. Several times almost overturned.





Then we went parasailing. When our parasailing slowly became higher, we saw the panoramic view of Cancun in the highest place. It's so beautiful. My favorite is underwater diving. When we got under the water, we saw a lot of beautiful and different colors of fish and many plants. Unlike when I was underwater diving in China, I had to wear professional diving equipment to participate in this activity. However, only oxygen cylinders are needed here.

We also went to the Mayan pyramid. The tour guide spent an hour introducing us to the history of the Mayan pyramid. The Mayan pyramid is different from the Egyptian pyramids. The appearance of the Mayan Pyramid is flat, the tower is square, and the temple is built on the top of many towers at the bottom; it is mainly used to hold various religious ceremonies. The Pyramid is interesting because when you clapping at a certain distance from it you can hear an echo. Standing in different positions in the pyramid will hear a different voice.



After a few days in Cancun I felt the real relaxation of the mood. I also learned a lot of Mexican culture, and felt the enthusiasm of Mexicans. The most important thing is that Mexican food really fits my appetite. Because I like spicy food. A lot of Mexican food is spicy. I hope to experience different cultures with my father and mother. Now, I think about the sun and the beach, I feel like I am still in Cancun. This is Cancun, a place that feels comfortable when you think about it.



Photos by Amelia Huang

# Amazing trip in NYC

By Rongrong Yan

The city of New York, most often called New York City, is the most popular city in the United States. I heard about New York a lot since I was a child and I was in China. It's a leading global city in the world. The city exerted a powerful influence over worldwide commerce finance, culture and entertainment.



I was so excited to have an opportunity to go there. A few weeks after I came to the United States, we decided to go to NYC for spring break. It's near Columbus Ohio State and only took 2 hours from Columbus to NYC. So we already booked the flight ticket, ticket for Broadway, Empire state Building and State of the Liberty. Spring break is coming. My plan came true. Last few weeks ago, I went to New York with my friend. We encountered many unexpected experiences.

We went to the airport with happiness and excitement, but unfortunately the flight was canceled due to the strong storm. We went back to the school and waited for the next day flight. The flight route was complicated, Columbus-Atlanta-Florida-NYC. It took about 9 hours went there. We had no other choice just received.

And finally, we arrived at NYC safely. We spent almost 3 days to reach our destination. We were all exhausted and we spent the whole night to recover our lost energy.

Ready to go? The answer was definitely yes. I used to hear about a place---New York's park in the sky. It's well-known in America. The New York's park in the sky isn't a real park, it's a city High Line. The High Line has become a view for all manner of events, and millions of people are expected to visit there.

Enormous citizens love to sit and look at the traffics there. I saw different types of people in there, artist, tourists, lovely citizens and so on. There is a fantastic place to admire the scenery. This is a place that can make you young. New York's park in the sky is kind of a stuff of marvelous dreams. I really enjoy the time there both physically and mentally.



We got up very early at morning to see to symbol sign of NYC---The statue of Liberty. It appeared in many Hollywood movies. It is the symbol of the friendship between the American nation and France and it expresses the noble ideas of the American people for democracy and freedom. Freedom is a symbol of the United States. I didn't get a chance to have intimate face with her. The guide boat went so fast and it didn't stop at all.

I only saw the view along the river bank. In the few days I went, the weather was not so good, especially on the river.

At night, we went to the top of the state of Empire. The Empire State Building is a 102-story in Midtown Manhattan. By standing top of the building, I saw the sense of whole NYC that I saw on the TV. All high-rise buildings were on my eyes.



I realized later that NYC was an international metropolis and one of the largest economic centers in the world. People from different kinds of countries gathered here formed a diversified society. It's stood as the world's tallest building for almost 40 years until the completion of the World Trade Centre. Unluckily, the World Trade Center was hijacked by stranger in 2001. I went to the 9/11 Tribute Museum that surprised me a lot. Many innocent lovely people lost their life during the unprecedented issues. Experience the stories of those who were there and discover how you can create your own ripples of kindness and compassion. It's a place to memorizing people who suffered catastrophe at that time.

I went to the Metropolitan Museum twice because the flight was canceled.

The Metropolitan Museum is one of the world 's largest and finest art museums. They're collection includes more than two million works of art spanning five thousand years of world culture, from prehistory to the present and from every part of the globe. There are many cultural artifacts from different countries. I look forward to seeing the Asian artifacts at first time. The museum was too big that I spent a lot of time to find it.

I encountered many unexpected experience in NYC which are meaningful and interesting. No one cares about where you came from, no matter what language you speak. Here, everyone is blooming with the most stretched life. The city attracted different types of people and make them live harmoniously. The comfortable environment allows people who are in a ture freedom of mind. This kind of freedom of the soul was the most attractive part. I really enjoy the time there. It's worth to go there again.

Photo credit: Rongrong Yan





## The Six Things which I was Surprised by in the USA

Miki Kimura

I have lived in the USA since August 2017. That means about 8 months have passed. In these 8 months, I experienced lots of things which I was surprised. It can be called “culture shock” caused by cultural differences between here and my country, Japan. Below are that examples.



First, to be honest, I prefer Japanese toilets than American's. What I was surprised the most was the

door length. It is really short for me. Also, I don't like the gap between the door and the wall. Someone walking outside can peep inside. I cannot relax. The picture above was taken in a restaurant in here. It was the biggest gap that I have seen until now. I couldn't stop taking pictures. On the other hand, almost all of the Japanese toilets have electric seats called “washlet”. It is for washing your buttocks with the comfortable temperature. In addition, the door length is full.

Second, I wonder why most of the American students are reluctant to use



their umbrellas. Even though it is raining heavily, or even though they carry umbrellas, I saw many students who don't use them. It is strange to me. If you come to Asian countries, you might be surprised at the scene that all Asians use umbrellas.



Third, for the first time, it was

interesting to me that if we met eye to eye, some Americans gave me pleasantly smile, even if we don't know each other. In Japan, we don't have such a custom. We just pass by. Therefore, if Japanese people do that in Japan, they are thought as “strange people.” Or some Japanese may misunderstand like; “Does s/he like me?” In addition to that, I was impressed with lots of people who hold a door for someone. I want to bring this great custom back to Japan.



Forth is  
about  
the tip.  
Some



countries such as some Asian countries, France, and Argentina don't have the custom of paying the tip. It was hard for me to calculate how much I had to pay in the beginning. What I want to say is that if you work part-time job at a restaurant or somewhere, please don't be angry about the low tip from international people. They just don't know how much they should pay.

Fifth, I can buy more things than in Japan because of the system of returning. When I went to grocery stores, I saw most stores have the place for the customer



service such as for returning. What is more interesting, I saw some posters which encourage customers to return. In my country, we cannot return items easily unless they are faulty goods. We sometimes have to think of some reasons why we want to return. Therefore, I have

a friend who lived in the USA for 5 years, and she put the shop staff on the spot when she went back to Japan. It's because the shop staff was not used to the custom of returning.

Sixth is about our clothes. Even if it is too cold or snowing, I saw some students wearing T-shirts.



One day, I wore a sweater and a light down jacket in the classroom. The student who sat next to me, however, wore a T-shirt. I couldn't believe it. There were two completely different seasons, midsummer and midwinter. I always wonder whether they don't feel the coldness.

Even though there were so many things which surprised me, I can definitely say that I could enjoy them. I will go back to my country after the end of this semester, but I will never forget these memories in here.

Photo Credit: [http://miyayuki2012.blog.fc2.com/blog-entry-](http://miyayuki2012.blog.fc2.com/blog-entry-70.html)

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<http://www.fieldnstreamrvpark.com/>

# Study Differences

## China vs USA

Vivian Chen

**C**hoosing to study in a different country is a challenge. When I first came to America, there were so many things I couldn't get used to. I didn't know how to use the Blackboard and I didn't know how to check when my assignment was due. Studying in America is so different from studying in China.

When I first came, I was surprised that we should buy or rent our textbooks, which were worth a lot. In China, you just need to pay a textbook fee, and the school will give you all the textbooks you need, which are much cheaper than in America. Back to colleges in China, we don't have such thing like the syllabus. The teachers may just follow the content of the book and we don't actually know what's the agenda for each class. Besides, there are not too many assignments or Chinese teachers



(Gym in my Chinese university)



(Library in my Chinese university)

will tell you what the assignment or homework is and when it is due. However, here, you should check all of them on your Blackboard.

There is one thing happened to me. When I first took my French class, I didn't read the syllabus so that I didn't know where I could get my textbook. Finally I got my book from the schools' bookshop but I threw away the plastic cover which had the code for accessing the online courses on it. In China, the plastic cover of the book is useless but here there may be something important on it. As a result, I couldn't get access to the online course to do my online assignment. Fortunately, my French teacher was very nice and willing to help. He allowed us to do the assignment written on the paper so that we could get grades.

Another difference is the dorm. In China, the girls' dorms and the boy's dorms are

divided by an iron fence; all the girls' dorms are together and all the boys' dorms are together. But here in Otterbein, boys and girls can live in the same building.

In my university back in China, students are divided by class and all students in class have same courses which are arranged by school. But in Otterbein, you can decide all courses you want to take as long as it fits the school's requirement. You can choose the courses you are interested in and you may have different classmates for different courses. I think the relationship between teachers and students is much closer in America than that in China. There is an old saying in China: "Honor the teacher and respect his teaching." As a result, we cannot eat or leave classrooms without permission.

However, it's much freer here. We can eat snacks in class and can also leave classrooms whenever we want. Moreover, there are much more group discussions in America so that we can share thoughts with each other and hear from others. I think this way of teaching is better than China's because we can get used to co-operate with others.

It's hard to say where to study is better. From my point of view, I'm so lucky because I can experience both ways of teaching in different countries and my horizon is broadened.

(Photo Credit:

<http://news.gench.edu.cn/f6/6a/c2092a63082/page.htm>

<https://www.usportscamps.com/lacrosse/nike/nike-girls-lacrosse-camp-at-otterbein-university>)





# *How International Students Adjust in Otterbein*

By Vivian Chen

Nowadays, the world is becoming smaller and smaller. It's common for students studying abroad to learn different cultures and knowledge. As international students, it's hard to adjust in a different environment, where language is different and people are different. So, I interviewed some of my classmates about how they felt when they first came to Otterbein and what they did to adjust here.

The first person I interviewed is Ayat, my classmate who takes ESL courses together with me. She said the weather here was very changeable, sometimes hot and sometimes very cold. It's hard for her to adjust to the weather since she is from Jordan. "The campus is too small", she said, "I thought it would be much bigger." About



the teachers, she said, "For English, I thought every person has their rights and subject. The grammar teacher focuses on grammar and the speaking teachers are adapted in speaking. So they are all in the right places." I think she is doing well here and I hope she can improve and reach her goal.

I also interviewed my Chinese friend, Chen, who has been here for more than 3 years. When he first came here, he liked the whole environment of liberal arts, which made him unforgettable. "The school is beautiful, the CC's breakfast tastes really good, but now I found out only CC's breakfast tastes good and the staff is really friendly." He thinks the equipment here is really good. The professors and teachers are kind and willing to help, especially for international students. I think Otterbein will leave a good impression on him.

Although it's hard for international students to study and live abroad, the kindness and help the local people give are the power to make us go straight to make our dreams come true.

Photo Credits: Vivian Chen



# Mysterious Twitter of Budgerigars

By **Hide Iwata**

Budgerigars are popular for people as a pet in these days. That is because they have charming behavior attracting people and a high learning ability. There are researchers that try to make clear their mysteries on Otterbein's campus.



Do you know budgerigars are being raised in a corner of the science building? As their attractive behavior makes people happy, this area is a rest place for students as well. All budgerigars in the cage are male, female ones are raised in other cages to lower stress. As I heard that six students are taking care of them in turns, I asked one of the students about tips to take care. Her name is Miss Rachel Wilson and she is a junior student now. She said, "I am enjoying taking care of them because I like their chattering voice very much. It sounds like a BGM, that is, like soft music to listen to when I go to bed. We have to keep timely cleaning and feeding because budgerigars are so naïve. The most careful thing is how to handle them at the time of medical examination. We have to avoid

scaring them as much as possible."

These good environments will enable this team to do high quality research.

I asked Professor Anna who is the leader of this team about a current main theme. "What our team is researching now is why budgerigars could develop their language learning ability faster than other birds. Because only a few species of creatures could develop its ability." Anna said vividly.

In addition, she explained another interesting research in South Africa. According to their continuous research, it is becoming clear that there are three dialects, which means each group of the budgerigars living in three different districts speaks a different dialect. It seems that Budgerigars' attraction even for researchers won't be exhausted.



Poto credit: Hide Iwata

Rachel Wilson approved

# Otterbein Counseling Center

Miki Kimura

When you feel nervous, depressed, being alone, what would you do? Doing your hobby? Hanging out with your friends? Or working out? As one of the options, I would like to introduce you the counseling center at Otterbein.

The office is located at 146 W. Home. St., just west of the Campus Center. The appoint hour is Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. They provide counseling and consultation to all currently enrolled Otterbein students. There is no charge for appointments, but a \$20 fee will be charged to your student account for missed appointments that are not cancelled at least 24-hours in advance. You can get an appointment by email, phone call, or just walk-in. Besides, students can go there between 3:00 and 4:00, Monday to Friday without any appointments for an urgent walk-in session.

Otterbein counseling center is perfectly private, so you can trust them. In addition to the private counseling, they have three group counseling in this spring semester. They are “Creating Balance,” which is a three week learning group, “Wellness,” which is a six psychoeducational and process therapy, and “Grief Group,” which is a support group.

According to their website, students come to the center to seek help in areas of academic struggles, college adjustment, family problem,

grief and loss, identity exploration, etc. Students have a lot of stress in their lives.

Dr. Kathy Ryan is the counseling center director, and she saw about 175 students and provided about 600 appointments during the fall semester 2017. In response to my question, “If a student who wants to come to the counselling center feel nervous, what would you tell them?”, she answered, “Anytime you do something for the first time, you are a little bit nervous, and just encourage them to give a try.”

Even if you are hesitant about going there by yourself for the first time, they provide stress less program in the afternoon and meeting greet at the back porch. How about starting by joining them or group counseling?



<http://www.otterbein.edu/public/CampusLife/HealthAndSafety/counseling-center/our-services.aspx>

# The Ohio Wildlife Center

By Rongrong Yan

Many young people enjoy animals. They are cute and have a lovely innocence. There is a good place for animals to stay and enjoy with others. It's called Ohio Wildlife Center. It's in Dublin, Ohio and takes about 20 minutes from Otterbein University to there.



"The Ohio Wildlife Center founded in 1984 by local veterinarian Donald L. Burton. It offers the only hospital of its kind in the central Ohio region and admits nearly 5000 animals. It's open for anyone in the community who found a wild animal in need. They provide medical treatment of injured, sick, displaced or orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning a healthy individual back to the wild for independence." (<https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org>)

There are two parts in the center, one called Educational Institution and another is non-profit hospital. The center has more than 200 plus injured

animal and almost 55 kinds of animal ambassadors. The role of an ambassador animal includes handing and training by staff or volunteers for interaction with the public and support of institutional education and conservation goals.

There are 24 total Otterbein student volunteers and 30 adult volunteers. My dorm mate, Delaney, worked as a volunteer there. Her professor set it up and she is in the zoo and conservation science program. She went to there every Sunday from 10am to 2pm. It's 4 hours and she didn't have time to have lunch. But she enjoys the time there. She has lots of fun there. She prepares diet, clean cages and take care of animals to make sure animals do not feel hungry, and they have enough water and fresh water every day. "Cleaning cages was not so much fun," she said.

There are many animals over there, like opossum, gray squirrel, turkey, box turtle, aquatic turtle, snowy owls, an eagle and so on. I am a little confused why a turkey is also there since turkeys are the food to celebrate Christmas day. They only serve injured animals and Ohio's native species, due to

the temperature and condition are totally different. If some animal injured during the trip or accidental events happens, they will send it to local centers.



They are open to public not for everyday", and \$5/person with kids and under free, unless otherwise noted. All of the profits serve the animals. It's kind of like a charity organization. If you are interested in please email [volunteerinfo@ohiowildlifecenter.org](mailto:volunteerinfo@ohiowildlifecenter.org). (No longer accepting volunteers younger than 18 years of age).



photo credit: Delaney Lyons.





By Kristyna Karbanova

Approximately 10 students visit the writing center per week. When I researched how many students are studying at Otterbein University, I found 2,808 in 2015.

What can students imagine about the writing center? Students can expect to work with assistants who are very good listeners and helpers. For example you might visit when you are studying and your assignments become more challenging for you

The writing center is located in the library on the second floor. I met the supervisor from the writing center, Professor Regina Kengla. She has been here since 2000. Currently there are working 10 students, but it's changing semester to semester." It's important for students to understand that it is free service and there is no cost involved, that they can use, but they have to come early enough" said Regina.

I asked students about the writing center and if they had visited in the past. Most of them have visited a supporting center, especially Math lab, depending on their major. Some students used it when they were a freshman. They had a lot of stuff to do. Gabriela Jonson knew of a couple friends who visited the writing center before, some of her friends are even working there. "I know some people they have been there before, they said they really liked it," said Gabriela.

I think it is really important for students. I wish we could have the supporting center at Universities in my country (Czech Republic) as well. All of the stress will be gone. It would be so much easier for students and also parents. If you are feeling lost and not

productive then you should go there and they will make it easier for you. You are not alone and there is always someone who can help you every time. You can check walk-in hours or make an appointment.



Photos by Kristyna Karbanova

My opinion is there are more students that need help. They may be shy or even they don't know about this support Otterbein University can offer to students.



# Otterbein Music

-Amelia Huang

Music is an integral part of life. Music can adjust tension, monotonous life, so that people's nerves get relaxed, good for your health. Music can give people the sense of pleasure, purify the human soul, make people's spirit get a high degree of enjoyment. So while we learn we can also learn about the school's department of music.

“The Band area at Otterbein (a division within the Department of Music) attracts students specializing on all woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.” Through a wide range of large and small ensembles, students can pursue performance opportunities in any of this bands: Wind Ensemble、Cardinal Marching Band、"Mean Cardinal Machine" Pep Band、Jazz Ensemble、Jazz Combos、Percussion Ensemble、The Anticipations (pop/rock combo) 、Studio Ensembles (low brass ensemble, Towers brass quintet, saxophone quartets, flute choir, etc.)

The bands are open to all students, regardless of their main claim.

Everyone is happy to play and play, and there are music rewards opportunities depending on the level of engagement and interest you expect.

“We play different music. It's just like a concert band. Not very long. Maybe an hour. Every Monday and Wednesday is Wind Ensemble and every Friday is Flute Ensemble.” Miss Megan said. She was offered a scholarship into the music, and she join Wind Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, marching band, and pep band. She said “If you want to join us, you just need to bring the instrument you are good at, so we can have fun together in the music world.”



Photo Credit: [https://www.google.com.hk/search?q=Otterbein+bands&safe=strict&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiLipqtiKLZAhVEbKwKHZVpDGMQ\\_AUICigB&biw=1680&bih=916#imgrc=llzjQhuT3t6](https://www.google.com.hk/search?q=Otterbein+bands&safe=strict&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiLipqtiKLZAhVEbKwKHZVpDGMQ_AUICigB&biw=1680&bih=916#imgrc=llzjQhuT3t6)

# The Clements Recreation Center

By Eun-Jin Jung

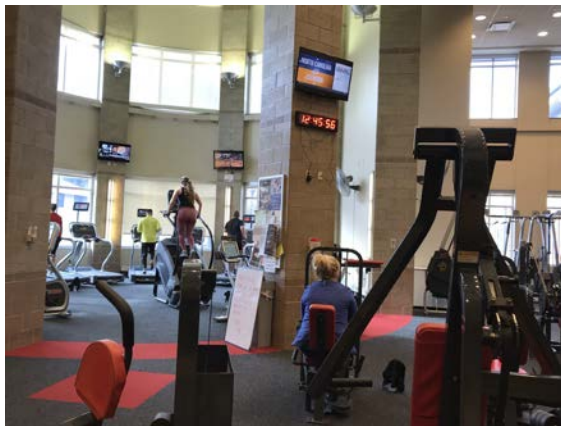
Clements Recreation Center is the Otterbein gym students can visit to exercise. All students need is a Otterbein student card to get in. After checking with the student pass, one can stay as long as they want during the open hour. The hours Clements Recreation Center are open is from 7:00 a.m to 11:00 p.m on Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m to 10:00 p.m on Saturday, and 12:00 p.m to 11:00 p.m on Sunday.

At Clements Recreation Center, there are various classes students and faculty members can attend without any fee. Just by showing

Otterbein student or faculty card, they can attend various classes. Some of the classes are: Total Body Training on Monday from 6:45-7:45 p.m , Hip Hop Cardio on Tuesday from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m, Core Express from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m and Yoga from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m on Wednesday, and Toga from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m and 6:45 to 7:15 p.m on Thursday.

Three students attending Otterbein University were asked about the Clements Recreation Center. When Hao Ming, a Chinese student at Otterbein University was asked about what he does at

Clements Recreation Center and how often he visits, He said, "I come here around 10 Times a month, I usually play basketball with my friends." When second student, Megan Coogan was asked, she said "I like the fact that we have a gym, but it's kinda small. Also, I don't like the fact that we don't have a swimming pool here. I come here often because I live in a dorm." Third student Miki Kimura, a Japanese student, said, "I like to go to the gym, especially for the yoga classes and the running machines."



Photos by. Jin

# Black Panther

Amelia Huang

In the movie, T'Challa the main character returns to this technologically advanced but isolated African nation after his father, his father died for his country and wanted him to be the next king. King Challa, succeeds to becoming the new "black panther". When the former enemies appeared, T'Challa, the "black panther" and the king was in a dilemma and watched Wakanda, a fictional country in Africa, and the world in jeopardy. In the face of betrayal and danger, the young king must unite all his forces, release all the power of the "black panther", and strive to defend his people and the country. First of all, I have to praise the cultural atmosphere of the film, from language, writing, totem, technology, clothing, oral speech sounds, dance and so on. In fact, there is special about the plot, and it is easy to understand the origin

of the well behaved heroes.

Secondly, I am interested in the character's shaping. The cultural background of the depiction and the character's role cannot be separated from each other. Black Panther in this films get more the sublimation, the king of natural without words, in the challa's father died four years, he can feel his father. But as personally to say, I really like Katana the main character, she is so cool in this films and the whole movie to watch her. Her acting skill is very good.

Thirdly, the film is a perfect fusion of tradition and modernity. The music plays a very important role, and it is very adjective, and the music leaves a deep impression.

Fourthly, I think the interaction between the king and his girlfriend

is an understatement in the film.

Until the movie end, they kiss and then I remember, oh, they are lovers.

Fifthly, the role of villain Eric. He is a relatively deep villain in the universe. His reason and motivation can be accepted by the audience easily and identity. He is very typical character. Tile is of dream country is all black people become to the country's member, but he would not be included. This is why he want be the king of the country.

By the end of the movie, my head is reminiscent of Marvel movie effects and stunning racing scene. I love it.



# Legend of the Demon Cat

By Vivian Chen

Recently, I've seen a Chinese film about a mystery in Tang Dynasty (from 618-907). This movie was first released at Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> in 2017. It took the directors six years to finish this film. They spent almost 160 million dollars to build a real imperial city covering an area of more than 260 acres.

There are three main characters in this movie, a delusional poet Bai Letian (Xuan Huang), a Japanese monk Konghai (Sonetani Shota) and a cat who spoke human language. In the late Tang Dynasty (after 806), there were a series of demonic and evil events that happened in



Chang'an City (the capital). All these events happened because of a woman called Yang Yuhuan (Consort Yang). Yang Yuhuan, one of the four most beautiful ladies in

ancient China, was the emperor's favourite. The emperor loved her so much that he gave her everything he owned. However, there was a war happened. Soldiers thought it was she and her family who made the country in danger, so they told the emperor to kill her or they would not be loyal any more. So she was strangled by the rope. After about 30 years, a cat did all the mystic events in order to revenge for Yang. It guided Letian and Konghai to find the truth of Yang's death. They followed the cat and accidentally triggered the three decades, shaking about the rise and fall of the dynasty's secret.

After the film released, audience's reviews are mixed. Some think it's a terrible movie but others think it's wonderful. My first impression of the film is that what I saw was the truly rich and prosperous view of Tang Dynasty. The buildings, the people, the clothing, they all remind me that it's exactly what the Datang would be like at that time. Even if you are not born at that time, you can see and feel how powerful and how rich Tang Dynasty was at that time.

In spite of the strong visual impact, the story is not clear

and attractive enough. It did catch audience's interest at the beginning. But in the latter 3/4 of the film, the relationships between characters are more complex



and the connections of different characters are fragmentary. There is too much information for the audience to understand that the audience may not quite understand the plot.

In my opinion, this movie shows the scenes of the Tang Dynasty very well. It reflects the unprecedented texture of the East by using the abstract pictures, restoring, reproducing and recording China's greatest era. Although the story of this movie is not true, it's worth watching.

Photos credit:

<http://img2015.zdface.com/20170911/c383ee7a98acdbcfb91e7871da88ed78.jpg>

<http://xnnews.com.cn/xnmovie/jryx/201711/W020171102493047751335.jpg>



## **The Pursuit of Happiness**

by Rongrong

Today I am going to introduce the best movie which I've ever seen, "The Pursuit of Happiness." This movie is about a struggling salesman takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional career.

The film was released on December 15, 2006; it inspired by a true story and directed by Gabriele Muccino. For his performance, Will Smith was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for Best Actor.

The main character Will Smith(Chris) who acts as a stockbroker that has succeeded from dilemma. Chris was a salesman who used to sell expensive medical equipment to support his basic living, and due to his bad living standard his wife left him. He chose to become a stockbroker after competition.

Once on the basketball court, he played basketball with his son, he said to his son, "Don't ever let somebody tell you, you can't do something, not even me, alright? You got a dream, you got protected. They can't do something themselves, they want to tell you, you can't do it, you want some, go get it."(The Pursuit of Happiness00:54:45-00:55:45). Looking at his innocent son, his words more attend to encourage himself. This is the most heart-warming parts from the film. When happiness is often knocking on the door, it is often so sudden.

There are no handsome actors in the movie, no fancy clips, and no soundtrack ... but this is an attractive

story, an alluring story that I can read and watch thousands time.

The most impressive part from movie which not Chris encounter difficulties, struggle for life and inspirational, even is really bitter and natural, but the man has never mentioned to anyone about his encounters and he had never tried to find any help for himself by tragic experiences. Chris's success based on the fact that he always faces everything with optimism and positive attitude. He never complains about the hardships of his life, doesn't complain about his wife's ignorance or complains of his humble condition and education. He's always talking and doing what he wants! He firmly believes that the smile is on his face, and the good luck will see you!

This reminded me of the first time I came to the United States. I almost couldn't find my baggage and the way to transfer that I've wasted too much time went through customs. But fortunately, with the mind never abandon, I went to the boarding gate at last few minutes. No matter what predicament happened, solve with smile and never give up forever.



Photo credit

<http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/thePursuitofHappiness/>

# Your Name.

by Miki Kimura

“Your Name.”, “Kimi no na wa” in Japanese, is a Japanese movie released in 125 countries in the



world including here, the USA, the UK, and Canada. Therefore, this movie is the highest grossing Japanese movie ever in the world. It was released in 2016 and directed by Makoto

Shinkai. It won the 49th Sitges Film Festival, 2016 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards, and 71st Mainichi Film Awards for Best Animated Feature Film. Also, a live-action version is going to be released in Hollywood in a few years.

The main characters are Mitsuha, who is a high school student in a small village and yearns for living in a big city, and Taki, who goes to high school in Tokyo. They were complete strangers living separate lives, but one night, they suddenly switch places. Mitsuha woke up in Taki’s body and he in hers. While initially, she thought that they were mere dreams, she soon realized that the switches were for real. They came to wish to meet, but something stronger than distance may keep them apart.

Some people might think this movie as a typical comedic gender swap story. However, the difference from others is that there was a time deviation. Their timelines were separated by three years, and this generated the miracle. On the other hand, some people found the contradiction caused by this time deviation, and they criticize it.

What I liked was the beauty of the visual. Shinkai, the director is famous for being good at drawing background depiction, and it made every shot gorgeous. I felt especially the drawing of light, such as evening sunlight, was so beautiful.



It may sound like a common story, but it is not. It is worth watching, and you will be impressed with the unexpected last scene. In addition, I think not only children but also adults would enjoy it. What Shinkai wanted to tell us through this movie – thinking this question while watching it— will make it more fun.

Image Credit <http://www.kiminona.com/goods/>  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/2017/12/06/kimi-no-naha\\_a\\_23299537/](https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/2017/12/06/kimi-no-naha_a_23299537/)

# Prison Playbook

Eunjin Jung



Photo by. CJ

E&M

Korean Drama, or known as K-drama, is becoming popular recently and these can easily find on Netflix, YouTube and social medias. And overall, I would like to share one of my favorite K-drama from Netflix called “Prison Playbook.” Which is a story about a professional baseball player’s prison life story due to his bad luck. This drama provides great life lessons, breaks stereotype of prisoners, but it also faces our society of prisoners.

Prison Playbook’s first episode was released on November 22, 2017 and season ended on January 18, 2018. It was directed by Shin Won-ho. The main character, professional baseball player, Kim Je-Hyuk was played by Park Hae Soo. Kim Je-Hyuk was trying to help his sister from being raped, and while he was catching the attacker Je-Hyuk hit the attacker, and gave brain death. Unfortunately, the court violent the Je-Hyuk was too violence and thought it seems like Notwehrexzess (excessive self-defense) so he has to serve one year behind bars.

It was surprising for me the fact Kim Je-Hyuk had to serve one year behind the bar, he was saving his sister from getting raped. If court thought about anxieties that his sister will be going through, as well as the more suffering she will go thought since she will think that she is the reason her brother go to prison. Additionally, Kim Je-Hyuk was known as very famous baseball player going into MLB, he was representing Korea. Due to this reason, I don’t think the court decision was not a good choice and gave negative aspect, since it couldn’t be possible in our society.

My first impression of the film was it is Korean version of “Orange is the New Black,” but it has more Korean culture and mind. And I think this Korean mind gave in prison a positive atmosphere gave positive aspect to the story. Everyone was friendly, nice and caring about one another. Which broke the stereotype of prisoners are bad. Je-Hyuk’s roommates helped Je-Hyuk practicing baseball, paying each other’s supplies, also helped one of the roommates Kang Ki-soo with his parole. They were caring each another and I gave me personal thoughts about everyone is nice, they just made bad mistakes in their life in bad timing.

“Prison Playbook,” is definitely one of the great shows to start off K-drama. This drama shows you how one’s life could change due to trying to help someone else. Also you get to hear how his roommates end up in prison. Some are murders, some are in instead of real criminal, and some did not had money to pay bail. This drama shows the reality of our society, and Je-Hyuk is in the middle to help these people.

# Vaso Rooftop Lounge

By Kristyna Karbanova

Vaso Rooftop Lounge is located at the new AC Hotel in Dublin by the Scioto River. The bar is on the top floor of the Hotel. Rooftop Lounge is opened since 10th of November 2017. They offer mostly drinks and also food.

I've been there several times. I really love the stunning view of the old Dublin downtown. Especially at the night, it is a magical feeling.

Firstly, the moment when you walk in you can see luxurious equipment and top design. You can behold glass windows from the top to the bottom. When you take a couple of steps, you find yourself outside. There is a grand spacious terrace,



where you can sit and watch a sunset, while you are drinking a fancy cocktail. The



atmosphere is warm and friendly.

*"I always have a feeling that someone stopped the time".*

The menu isn't offer much. It's a little bit short, for those people who like to pick from many options. It's worth it, however, it shows us quality over quantity. The main idea of the menu is Spanish food, but it's similar, not as authentic as I expected.

In the menu, you can choose over than 15 drinks/cocktails. The price is about 10-15\$. They have more than 16 kinds of beers. The menu is divided for meat, on bread, vegetable, sandwiches, seafood and fried. In each one of the categories in most cases, is four or five options to order.

I really love: "Hanger Steak, Vizcaína Sauce, Slow Poached Onion, Sweet Red Choricero Pepper Sauce, Roasted Potatoes". It cost 15\$. I have to say, the size of the meal is similar to an appetizer, so don't go

there if you are really hungry. You are going to spend more money than you want it to. Some people might think that this is overpriced, but as I said, this is quality enjoyment.

I would highly recommend this place with positive vibes as long as the quality and prices stay the same point. It is a perfect spot for to get together with your friends and have a really good time. This place has become popular, so you should make a reservation in advance.

I have to mention one of the main fact. This is not a kid's friendly bar at all. They don't even carry a high chair. So please, leave your little, cute kids at home and enjoy your date night or girls/boys night out.

Photo by Kristyna Karbanova



# Which Do You Like, Entertainment or Flavor?

By Hide Iwata

In these days, Japanese restaurants have become more popular than before in America. It's because Japanese food is delicious and healthy, even though it is a little expensive. In fact, there are many Japanese restaurants in Columbus, but each restaurant serves different dishes of Japanese food according to customer's desires.

House of Japan is one of the most popular Japanese style restaurants for families in Columbus these days.



The most popular menu is Hibachi that means all food ingredients are cooked on hot steel plate. It includes a piece of meat you selected such as beef, chicken, shrimp and vegetables. These dishes are so freshly cooked that they are pretty delicious and also you can enjoy the performances as a cook demonstrates in front of you. So there are lots of families and birthday parties for kids are holding here and there.

However, These are not general Japanese dishes, if anything, they are American dishes. And the atmosphere is a little noisy inside. If you want to talk about something with your friends or families, it may be unacceptable.

On the other hand, there are a few restaurants that stick to pure Japanese food. Kihachi restaurant is one of them.

You can choose different kinds of small dishes and are able to taste seasonable dishes because this restaurant are trying to preserve the natural flavors of ingredients. Main ingredients are imported from Japan directly and some of them are still alive.



No matter what kind of restaurant, each has a few original dishes. Without them, it would be difficult to run a restaurant for a long time. All dishes except sashimi dishes in Kihachi restaurant are original. This is another reason why this restaurant is so special. While each dish can't satisfy people who want to eat a lot, it definitely make people who want to taste natural flavor satisfied. I'd like to recommend this restaurant, but each is a little expensive.



like Chinese restaurants and Korean restaurants, there are a lot of different types of Japanese restaurants. You had better select them according to your interests. Otherwise you would make your company disappointed

Photos by Hide Iwata

# Lavash Cafe

By Ayat Al jbour

Lavash Cafe is kind of a Mediterranean restaurant. It's located in 2985 N High Street in Columbus. Its open every day at 11 AM, and closed at 9 PM. Except the weekend they closed at 10 PM.



When I first went there, I found the restaurant very cozy. When you enter the place, you can sit wherever you like, so it's more convenient for me. The other thing is that you don't need to wait for a waiter because you can order what you want. They will give you electronic bell which has the number of your table. So, when they finish preparing your order, they call you by using the bell on your table, and when they call for you, that means your order is ready. You have to come and get it.

You can see their menu. It has a lot of various dishes they serve, like Hummus, Kibbeh, Falafel, Shawarma, and all of the other types of salad, fish, and rice dishes. After you finish your meal, you can't resist the smell of coffee, so you can find two types of coffee: The American and the Turkish coffee. The coffee goes well with some amazing desserts they make there.

Now let's talk about the prices. I found that the prices are really high because this Café serves different kind of dishes that are not found in other restaurants here. Another thing I noticed is that this place is really busy. So, if you looking for a quiet place, don't go there.

The experience I had in this restaurant is similar to what I can get in Jordan. Authentic dishes you can really enjoy, and that are reflected on their menu. I recommend going there and trying something you may find new for you.



photo credit :

[https://www.yelp.com/biz\\_photos/lavash-cafecolumbus?select=cgLXvVpTrQDBeQwT5mDjJw](https://www.yelp.com/biz_photos/lavash-cafecolumbus?select=cgLXvVpTrQDBeQwT5mDjJw)

[https://www.yelp.com/biz\\_photos/lavash-cafe-columbus?select=sUeuhwwOZR4LH6YWHU7F\\_g](https://www.yelp.com/biz_photos/lavash-cafe-columbus?select=sUeuhwwOZR4LH6YWHU7F_g)

# My Trip to Petra Desert

By Ayat Al Jbour

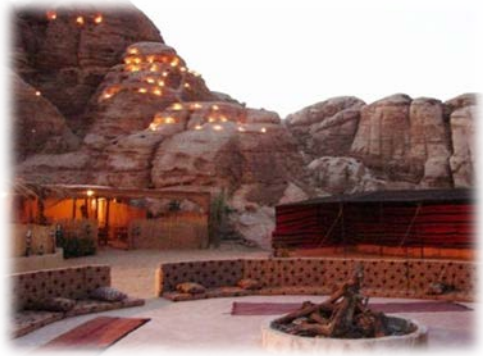
One day when I was eighteen, I made a very big choice, and that was going to mountain climbing. The main reason that made me do that decision is that I always wanted to try something new, and face my fear of the height. Without thinking, I talked to my sister and I said to her, "let's go and have fun"! So, my trip is started right away.

We packed our stuff and went to Petra. It was a very long day. We drove about six hours before we arrived at our destination. It was almost sunset, and I was so amazed by the view. Everything was pink; the desert, the mountains and the sky. It was unforgettable scene.



Then when the night came, me and my sister decided to go to a place called the Seven Wonders Bedouin Camp. It's a camp in the middle of the desert where you can see seven mountains around you. I entered the tent and I saw the fireplace, and I remember the smell of the genuine coffee with cardamom. That smell makes you feel refreshed. I enjoyed that incredible night that I had back then.

The next morning, we start preparing for the main reason that brought me here, which is mountain climbing. With the help I got from amazing staff that work in the area, they explains to me the safety rules. They also encouraged me to do this, because sometimes I got scary thoughts, and kept asking myself why am I doing this? What if something bad happens



to me? I felt afraid but again I kept telling myself to get over this fear. It's not helping me through every step in my life. After a couple of minutes, I said "yes, let's do it".

First thing the staff made sure about the safety conditions. Good preparations must be very accurate. After that they make sure that you are stable, not stressed. I was enjoying that mixed feeling and the rush of the adrenaline. I felt the fresh air in every step I was taking through the mountain. And when I was in the middle of the way to the top, I looked under my legs and I was shaking! Then immediately I looked for the top and I kept climbing step by step till I finally reached the top.

The top was exactly what I expected. fresh air, breathtaking view. I really felt the freedom. The experience was the best thing I ever did in my life, and taught me that nothing is impossible.





# I Couldn't Ask For More

By Kristyna Karbanova

I remember that feeling, three years ago. It was in the middle of September in the early morning. This is my favorite part of the year. Fall. I used to work as a nurse at the clinic. When I was walking to work, I didn't feel happy. I was just doing my routine. I went to work and then home. There wasn't anything fun or surprising that made me happy. I wanted to experience about this world and gain more knowledge which can be hard to find in the books. This was not what I wanted to do. I decided to sign up to be an au pair.

After a year working on it and a lot of struggle, I finally found my host family. How many dreams did I have? Most of the dreams were deeply satisfying. In my dream, I was in New York City, walking in Times Square and I feel independent. I was almost ready to go when my dreams turned to the dark side. I was crying and I didn't want to leave my family, my friends, my stable life, my routine. In the weeks before leaving, I sometimes woke up with real tears on my cheeks. It was a really hard time for me. I had previously never left my family and my friends for more than two weeks. I couldn't focus, my thoughts were everywhere and nowhere. When I look at this part of my life in my memory, I can still feel the exact identical emotion. It was the most difficult decision in my whole life. I'm not good at deciding some situations and choosing new ways in my entire life. I couldn't believe it, but I did it.

I packed my 21 years into two suitcases and I said goodbye to everybody. My family



took me to the airport. We had the last several minutes to spend together side by side.

There was a mysterious feeling because everybody knew what was going on, meaning, I will say goodbye for a very long time. The idea of me living more than 7,500 km away scared everyone. However, you need to step out of your comfort zone and do what you need to do. After a lot of hugs, kisses and of course, tears in

tissues, I finally said my last goodbye.

I felt pressure on my chest, I couldn't even breathe deeply. I was traveling by

myself. No one was behind me for the first time. I was on my way to the USA just by myself. I barely spoke English, I didn't even understand well. I was exhausted like never before. The flights took so long.

The first moment in the USA was unforgettable because it was "almost" the same as another country. The same air, the same trees, the same grass. I was expecting more. Everything was so different and everything was the same. There were different cultures and mostly different habits. I couldn't even remember the specific details. Maybe it was just the picture in my head that here is everything ideal and breathtaking. After a couple of weeks I realized, I was finally happy. I took care of the kids, learned English and traveled around the USA.

It was the best decision of my life. It changed me all over. I have become a different person with the same visage. I'm more confident and responsible. I'm not afraid anymore or of anything. I'm really proud of myself.

**You need to step out of your comfort zone and do what you need to do.**

# Separated Family

By Eunjin Jung

When I was in Korea, I lived under my husband's family for 7 years, with a huge family including grandmother-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, and my 4 family members: husband and my two kids. Because of the Korean culture, I had to do most of the house work and I can describe that it was the hardest 7 years of my life. But every time I looked tired or sad, the grandmother-in-law always scolded me. I couldn't understand her until that one day 13 years ago.

It was around fall, my grandmother-in-law and father-in-law started to cry after they received this one call from the government. The call told them they been selected to meet their separated family from North Korea and they should get ready to meet them. It was right in North Korea.

Both my grandmother-in-law and father-in-law lived in North side about 50 years ago, during the Korean War as well. Since my grandfather-in-law worked in the South side, my grandmother-in-law decided to go to the South side during the war. But she only took her son, my father-in-law. Just days after she made it to South, the 38 border line was created and none of them could go back to the North.

She actually had 2 more kids, twin daughters, but since they were too young and my grandmother-in-law didn't want to take too many children at one time during the war time. She decided to make her twin-daughters stay at her sister's house and promised them she'll come back in 5 days to take them to South.

And my grandmother-in-law couldn't make this promise over 50 years. Due to the 38 border line and they couldn't go to their house in North, my grandmother-in-law started to sell fish in the farmer's market for living. Since they lost all the money they saved, house, and more, they had to started from the bottom. My grandmother-in-law started to save money living

in house that barely fit two people with a tiny disgusting bathroom and tiny sickening kitchen.

She said she was never happy and feel empty because of her two daughters were living in North side. After my grandmother-in-law and father-in-law received the call, my grandmother-in-law was getting ready to meet them, she bought bunch of presents for her two daughters. She went to the mall even though it was raining; sometimes she was crying and sometimes she was the happiest person on the planet. She packed two bags full of clothes with different colors, and for different weathers, tons of cookies and chocolate that her daughters didn't have in North Korea. She bought everything she could for their two daughters she hadn't seen for 50 years.

And when I looked at this, I realized myself I have two children and if I was in same situation as my grandmother-in-law how hard it would be. If I left my two young children in that place that I can't call nor go to see them, how heartbroken it would be. After this day, I started to understand my grandmother-in-law, that she lived a much harder life than I could ever imagine.



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“NEVER GO ON TRIPS WITH ANYONE  
YOU DO NOT LOVE.” -Ernest Hemingway