

Intramural Soccer at Washington College

By Kanai Dai

At Washington College, there are some sports clubs and many students join them. In intramural sports, Washington college students can play the sports. There are intramural administrators, who handle the logistics of paperwork, scheduling, and facilitation of events. Students have to create their teams and hand in it to the intramural coordinator. Each team selects the captains, who have to manage seasonal meetings and tell the details to all students of the team. In addition, in



Night Soccer Game

intramural sports, different sports are played each season.

When I came to Washington College, it was difficult for me to make friends because my English skill was not

(Continued on page 2)

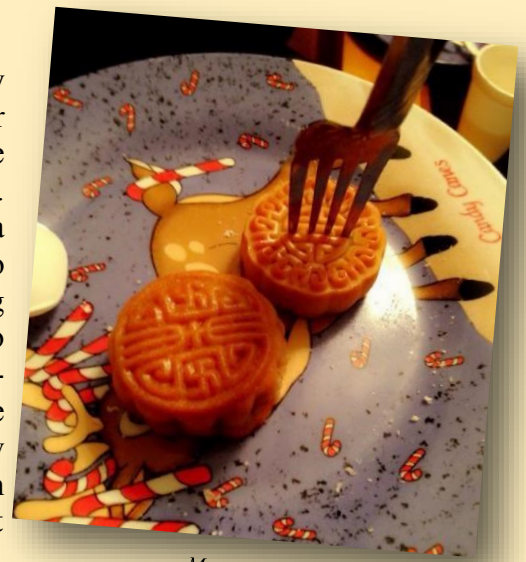
Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival

By Yuan Xiangyu

The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated on September 25th of the Chinese lunar calendar every year, and it is also known as “Harvest Festival” or “Moon Festival.” which is one of the most well known Chinese Festivals. The Mid-Autumn Festival is my favorite one among all the festivals.

My recent memories about the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration were very glorious for me. I still remember that I celebrated with a lot of people that were really interested in Chinese cultures. We shared many legends about the origin of the Mid-Autumn Festival. The story of Chang Er fascinates eve-

ryone the most. This story is about how Chang Er tried to escape from the murderer of her husband. In desperation, she took a pill, which was said to have the ability to prolong the life of the person who took it. However, surprisingly, one member of the audience members knew more about this story than everybody. He was just quietly listening to everyone, but when it came to his



Moon Cakes

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Fall Break in Bogotá, Colombia	3
Review of Bitter Homes and Gardens	4
Attending a BIGBANG Concert	5
My Trip to the Museum of Natural History	6
Xi'an Famous Foods in New York City	7
Professor Interview: Dr. Katherine Wagner	8
My Second Visit to the National Zoo	9
Student Interview: Paloma Matto	9
Movie Review: Pitch Perfect 2	10
My Piano Life	11

Soccer (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

good. Fortunately, I got the email about intramural soccer. I like soccer very much, so I decided to join the event. In the soccer game, the coach tested the skill or the experience that we can play. The field is half size compared to the real one and we play with 6 vs. 6, so we do not have to run in a wide space. In addition, we have to have a minimum 2 women players. It was very interesting for me. I thought it showed the real meaning of intramural sports that every student can enjoy playing soccer because the team does not seek the player only by analyzing the strength but also the enjoyment of the soccer game. The game was always on Tuesday and Thursday nights, so we could play without having to worry about our class schedule. After the whole season, which 10 teams played against each other, the top 4 teams could go to the semifinal of the tournament.

Our team mostly consisted of international students. When I played in a game, we would communicate with each other to make our play better. We played against other 9 teams and, although some team went for victory, I saw the other teams enjoyed the process of playing soccer. I had great fun to play in such a team. I was so surprised that even women players had fun because I cannot see any woman playing soccer in Japan, although Japanese women team is as

Festival (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

turn he talked a lot, and he was not Chinese. Finally I figured it out, he was the only one who was teaching Chinese in our College. He said he was an international student in China and studied in Nanjing University for four years, so he knows Chinese cultures very well.

Another interesting thing is I even found moon cakes in a local supermarket for the Mid-Autumn Festival. I was so happy that I got moon cakes, and because eating moon cakes is a must during the Mid-Autumn Festival, we have variety of types of moon cakes. The most popular one in China is made with red bean paste inside, and tasting sweet and sticky. I bought two kinds of moon cakes to share with my for-

Global Voices, the newsletter for international students at Washington College, is published twice per semester by the students of ELL 101 English for Academic Purposes I.

Editor

John Hepler

Assistant Editor

Mi Sheng

Designers

Fu Guanqi

Shen Chixuan

Reporters

Abdulmajeed Alghamdi

Chen Qin

Guo, JunFeng

Kanai Dai

Li BinXin

Li Linze

Lin SenYuan

Yu MengPing

Yuan Xiangyu

Zhu Xiao

Interviewers

Shen Jiayi

Zhang Yifei

strong as the American team. Also, I was so surprised that we could play at the stadium where the official soccer club plays.

In intramural soccer, we won 7 games and lost 2 games. As a result, we were top of the league and went to the tournament. In the semifinal of the tournament, we lost. However, by joining the intramural soccer, many students remembered my name, even the people in the other team. It helped me make a lot of local friends. Intramural sports will be held in other sports during the rest of semester and next semester. I think it should enhance our life and everyone should join the event!!

eign friends. Actually, both kinds got high praise.

Coincidentally, the lunar eclipse was happened at night, the moon light was distinctive red glow, it has been called "Blood Moon," which is kind of astronomical phenomenon that is unlikely to occur again before 2033 and the last time was in 1982. It may not mean the same thing to people of different place. In south of China, the lunar eclipse usually means disaster, but in the north, it means bumper harvest. I was really glad to witness the lunar eclipse with my foreign friends and discussed meaning of the lunar eclipse in the different cultures.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for family reunion. Traditionally, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, every relatives gets together to enjoy a big feast prepared with lots of

(Continued on page 12)

Fall Break in Bogotá, Colombia

By Abdulmajeed Alghamdi

Travelling is always a great opportunity to see the world and to expand the boundaries of your perceptions of life and of what surrounds you. Travelling is one of the best ways to experience what you have never tried before, to look at the usual things from a different angle. That is why I was so lucky to have a five-day trip to Bogota, Colombia.

I was invited to visit Bogota with my second family; I was very happy about this fact as living with people you know is always much better than choosing to stay at a featureless hotel. I live with people who can show me the city from inside and tell me the facts that only those who live in Bogota know. It is information you will never read in any guidebook.

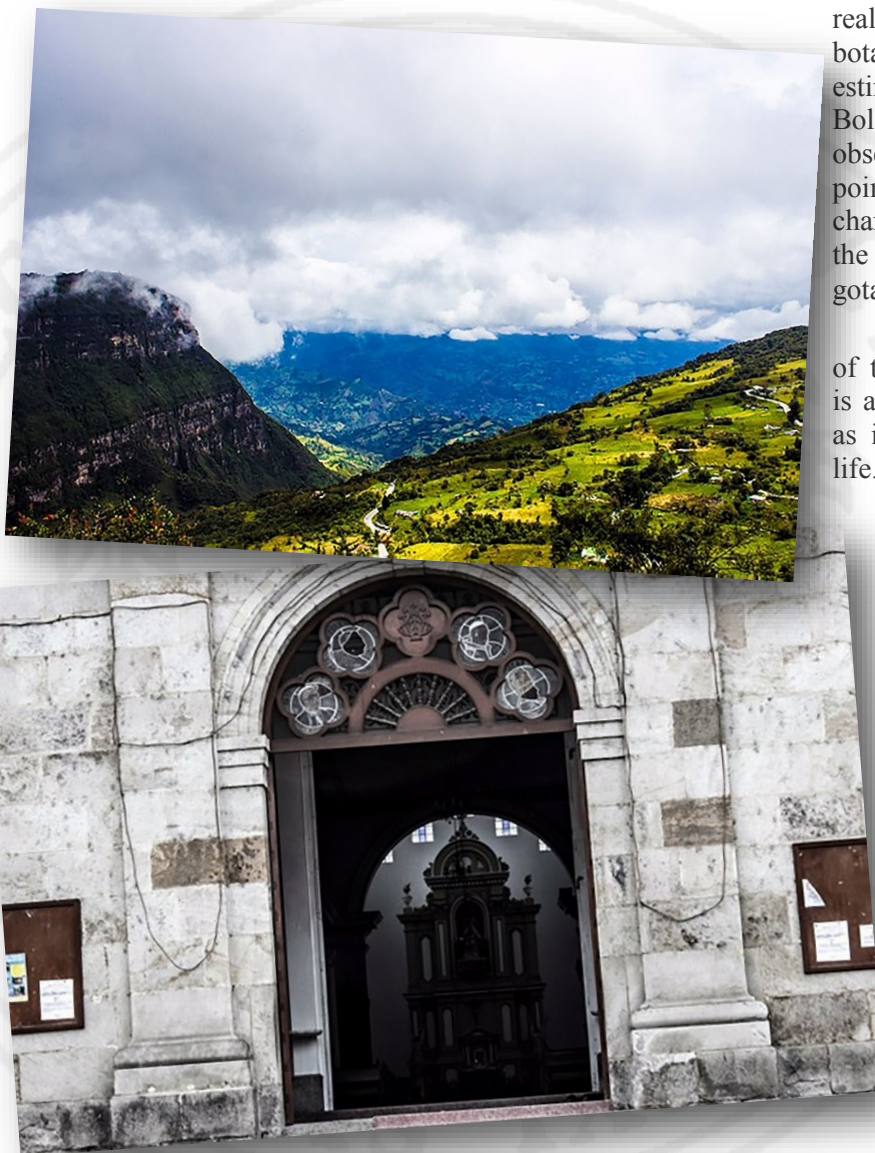
As I exited the airport, I breathed the warm air filled with a mixture of things this city possesses. Bogota is a place where incongruous things are mixed. Here are old quarters built in colonial style, ultramodern skyscrapers and half-ruined slums. It makes this city a place where you can see and find everything from poor people and dirty streets to luxury shops and elite housing.

During my five-day trip to Bogota I have noticed how active this city is. It's not a surprise as it is one of the largest cities in Latin America. The high level of development of the public transportation system impressed me. It is very convenient and cheap.

Nature in Bogota is amazing. The whole city is surrounded by rock forests that are inhabited by different species like jaguars, monkeys, opossum and crocodiles and turtles in the rivers. I really enjoyed visiting the botanical garden José Celestino Mutis, La Quinta de Bolivar and the Colpatria observation point as those points give a wonderful chance to learn more about the beautiful nature of Bogota.

The historical part of the city, La Candelaria, is a must see for art lovers as it's a center of cultural life. I visited the Botero Museum with the great collection of masterpieces and the Gold Museum, where you can find lots of things made of gold. I visited also the Colombian National Museum, which is the oldest in Latin America. It offers a wide range of art objects and works representing different periods of the country's history. I was lucky to attend the concert of the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia at Bogota Philharmonic and it was amazing.

I will always remember Bogota as it is a wonderful place and five days were definitely not enough to learn all its hidden treasures. Still, I was able to make an impression about this city and I will surely visit it once again if I have a chance. I like everything about Bogota: its unique spirit, its hearty people, its architecture and modern facilities. You can find almost everything you want and even more in the city. Obviously, it will take a long time to get to know all of Bogota.



Review of Bitter and Homes Gardens

By Chen Qin

On October 1st, I went to a singing and dancing performance, Bitter and Homes Gardens, with my friends after I saw the publicity from my school email. It talked about what happened in a farm and it combined art and science to tell the importance of the ecological environment to the audience. In this show, all the plants and vegetables were personified. They were not only speaking, but also communicated with each other and expressed their feelings to the audience with song. Also there were people who sat beside the stage for accompaniment who were not acting.

In my opinion, this show was very interesting. Every performer dressed up as different plants and vegetables, such as tomato, corn, potato, and so on, and three

farmers. Their dress was very obvious, so they could not make the audience confused about their roles. The colors of the clothes were also very bright, and their lines were converted into a cheerful melody to sing out. They swayed their bodies and followed the music on the stage, so they could make the audience keep a pleasant mood, at least, I felt the positive attitude that they wanted to express. Certainly, there was an essential part of the performance that was background music. Music is also a way of expressing emotion, and it could make the show more attractive to people.

This show used a very humorous way to narrate the importance of the ecological environment and ecological balance to the audience. For example, there are two scenes that I remembered deeply. One of the scenes was when an angry ear of corn went behind of the curtain

and screamed. When the curtain opened again, we saw a real bowl of popcorn. Another scene was when the farmer harvested the tomato and pressed her into juice. The tomato turned back and shouted loudly; at the same time, there was a pool of "blood" shot on the white curtain from her body. After that, the farmer came out from the curtain and took a real pot of tomato sauce and passed to the audience. Later, another tomato came to the audience to retrieve the tomato sauce that had just

passed down and told us that it was her sister, and all of audience laughed.

In fact, the performance should be performed outdoors; however, the actors had to change the place to be indoors because it was raining. I think this was not a bad change, although it was not performed in the nature in order to connect with the occasion. The enclosed place makes it easier for the audience to focus on

the performance, rather than attracted by the external environment. The audience all sat in a fixed position that is more convenient for the interaction between performers and the audience.

In addition, I admired these performers who could be vivid and free to show their characters in front of the audience. Even some of the performers played more than one role. Because I am studying in an acting class, the teacher usually asks us to do some plays in class, but I often feel nervous, and even sometimes forgot my lines when I perform in front of lots of people. However, these performers were doing very well; they were also nervous, but they never let the audience see their tension. Therefore, this is a point that I need to learn from them.



Actors in Costumes

Attending a BIGBANG Concert

By Lin Sen Yuan

On Sunday, October 11, 2015, my friends and I went to see a Korean pop band, Big Bang, also known as BIGBANG, at one of their world tour concerts, called MADE, at the Prudential Center, in Newark, New Jersey. There are five members in this band, G-dragon, TaeYang, T.O.P, Sheung Li, and Da Cheng. This year they released four albums and they are holding concerts as part of a world tour.

Before we arrived at the Prudential Center, we saw many people looking for a place to park their cars. Although BIGBANG is an Asian K-pop band, there are a large number of fans from different cultures who are attracted by their performances. When we arrived at the Prudential Center, everyone, especially young women, looked nervous about being late, but actually there were thirty minutes left before the concert started.

The concert started with the songs “Bang Bang Bang” and “Tonight”. Both of them caused everyone to jump in the air. When the accompaniment started, the entire audience yelled crazily, and screamed the name of all five of them in Korean. It came as a surprise to me that foreigners could pronounce Korean perfectly. The started with electric bass and beats, and audiences put their hands in the air and clapped the beats all together. Some of the them could even dance with BIGBANG. The second song, “Tonight”, was really well-known by all of the fans and most of the audiences sang that song excluding the rap parts. My friends and I jumped wildly and yelled loudly.

After these two exciting songs, they sang a more classic, lyrical song, which was called “Blue”. Every one listened quietly, which was totally different than the first two songs. However, Tae Yang said, “Let me hear you,

New Jersey,” and the entire audience, including the Americans, sang the song perfectly in Korean, which was really surprising to not only me, but also BIGBANG.

They then began the solo part, so that other band members could have time to change clothes. The song that impressed me the most was called “Crooked”, which was sung by G-Dragon. The rhythm could easily influence people to jump. Every one stood up and danced with G-Dragon. The lyrics of “Crooked” talk about a man who was dumped, and rebels against how he was before. In the recorded version, “Crooked” can easily make people relax after a long day at work. However at the concert, it was totally different. People were energetic, shaking their hands in the air and yelling “G-Dragon” as loudly as they could.

At the last part of the concert, BIGBANG performed some extra songs for their encore. These were performed more freely. Sheung Li became a DJ and played the songs to other members. G-Dragon sat on the stage and let audiences take pictures.

T.O.P and Da Cheng threw their jackets out into the audience, which made us go crazy. TaeYang sang the song and danced with the dancers. Although they had not as strictly choreographed the extra songs, the audience still loved it and the party was hot.

After the concert, all my friends’ voices were completely gone, but we still look forward to their next concert.



Bigbang on stage at the Prudential Center

My Trip to the Museum of Natural History

By Guo JunFeng



On October 15th, 2015, I went to visit my home in Washington DC over fall break. I went there with my friends and we all stayed at my aunt's house in her apartment. The next day, we met up with my roommate and some of his friends at the zoo. We stayed at the zoo for about three hours and then left the zoo and traveled the metro to the Washington monuments. We went inside a few of them, but my favorite was the Museum of Natural History.

The museum is so beautiful and interesting. There are so many different types of animals, and the environments they live in there. On the second floor there are a bunch of unique gems and stones there. The gems and stones are not as interesting as the animals. There are also documentary videos about certain species and the evolution of humans. There are also pre-historic human skeletons to show the evolutionary progress. The most interesting part of the trip was learning

about the different animal species and their natural habitats.

My favorite type of animal that was there is the Panda bear. I enjoy learning about them and It was very interesting to learn more about them. They are my favorite because of their cute and loving faces. When in the wild they always seem like they want to be friends or run if they feel frightened.

Another animal that I really enjoy seeing is the Tiger. The tiger interests me because it is very similar to a household cat but much more deadly.

They are also interesting because of the very unique fur design they have. It is a shame that they are endangered because of people poaching them for their fur.

The grizzly bear is another animal that caught my eye. It is huge! I never would like to encounter one out in the wild because some can stand as tall as 11 feet tall and are very aggressive. I like them because they are big and tall and remind me a little bit of myself but I am more like a panda bear.

The animal I am most worried about is the polar bear. Their habitat is slowly being destroyed by global warming caused by humans using so many everyday things like cars that release too much carbon dioxide into the air. It is hard to conserve them when the problem causing their environment to diminish is so vast and nearly uncontrollable. I like the polar bears a lot because they are very independent.

Overall, my experience in Washington was very fun and I could tell my roommate and all of our friends had a very good time. It was a new and exciting experience for them and I was very happy to be showing them around such a wonderful city. Seeing them smile made

me feel good and I am so happy I had the opportunity to spend the day in Washington DC with them.



Xi'an Famous Foods in New York City

By Le Linze

During the fall break, on October 16th, 2015. I went to New York City to experience the local food culture. As a Chinese, the most concern is China's famous food in New York. When we arrived in Manhattan, we went to a very famous Chinese restaurant with local friends. This restaurant is very famous in the whole Manhattan area as well as the whole New York City. It's name is Xi'an Famous Foods. There are three stores distributed in different locations in Manhattan. We went to the store in the middle of Fifth Avenue and Times Square.

When we arrived at the famous Chinese restaurant, we were surprised, because there were so many people waiting in line. In Manhattan, the price per square meter is very expensive, the restaurant is not big, but people with different nationalities filled with small restaurants. Different groups of people in the queue, they include students, workers, businessmen and tourists. We all know that the weather is getting colder and colder, New York is also very cold, the queue of people even lined up outside. We were very excited and lined up. No waitstaff in there, so you need to line up to order and pay. We waited for a long time, and when it was our turn, we saw a picture of the wall, which was the menu. We



Linze at Xi'an Famous Foods

ordered a lot of food, and got the number, to find a seat, because we need pick up our foods when our numbers were called. The tables were all bar style, there wasn't that much room here to sit, just the few stools towards the back where you pick up your food. We waited until some people finished their food to seat ourselves.

Unlike our previous visit, we did not wait too long for our food. When we saw the food in front of us, we couldn't help ourselves, no one could talk, and we enjoyed the food in the plate. Noodles and lamb are the flagship restaurant foods. If you like fresh noodles, and super spicy food, this would be a perfect match for you. There was once a famous gourmet who said that he never knew lamb meat could be so delicious! Yes, they are really delicious!

This restaurant has a long history, and on the walls there are major news newspaper and magazine articles about this restaurant. All Xi'an Famous Foods restaurants are owned by the same man, his ancestral home is in Xi'an, China. His first idea when he came to the United States was that people all over the world should enjoy Chinese food.

When we finished our food, we cleaned the table and dishes, throwing rubbish in the bin. When we left Xi'an Famous Foods, there were still a lot of people in the queue. As a multicultural country, the United States has contained different cultures from all over the world including different food cultures. My friends! If you have time, try Xi'an Famous Foods; they will not let you down!

Faculty Interview: Dr. Katherine Wagner

By Shen Jiayi



Katherine Wagner, PhD

Personal History in Education

1. How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 33 years at Washington College. Well, I taught as an assistant at University of Massachusetts for two years, so I have been teaching 35 years all together.

2. Why did you become an English teacher? When did your interest in teaching English arise?

I always knew I wanted to teach, and my love for poetry let me teach all kinds of literature, so not just poetry but other kinds of literature as well. And then I love Washington College and I love my students, and that made me come and teach here. My love for poetry and my love for teaching made me become an English teacher.

3. How do you define good teaching?

Wanting students to learn in a variety of ways.

4. What do you think is your greatest strength in teaching?

Working with students one on one.

5. How do you prepare your courses?

I read a lot, and I read reviews from other people about the literature text that I am teaching.

6. Which textbook do you like best?

I like the short stories in the Norton Anthology.

7. What classes do you teach besides ENG 101?

I also teach creative writing, Native American culture, poetry, and environmental writing.

Views About Becoming a Good Student

1. How do you define a good student?

Good students do all their homework and more.

2. What attitudes/skills do students need to have in studying?

I think a student needs a joy of learning.

3. How would you recommend improving English for international students?

I think attending lectures and going to movies and having many conversations, like the one we are having now, are very good ways to improve, and not just book learning, but interactive learning as well. However, the writing part, like grammar, improves very slowly. You can get help from tutors in the Writing Center. And reading a lot is very good, even magazines. Any kind of reading will do, not just what they do in the classes.

4. What academic and social advice can you give freshmen?

I think they can do all of their homework and hand it in on time. Well, always do a little bit more than the teacher asks you to do. And socially, I think meet as many new people as you can.

5. What hobby can improve students' reading and writing skills?

I think listening to music is good and listening to the media is also a good way.

6. Do you encourage students to keep studying in graduate school after graduating from Washington College?

Absolutely.

Hobbies

1. What do you usually do on weekends?

I like boating on the river. I like to go to the movies. I like to work on my house like in my garden and my yard- a little bit, not too much. I like some sports such as tennis. And I like to travel, but I don't do that on weekends. I need a longer period of time to travel. I travel a lot. I have been to China, Japan, and Thailand. I like every place because every place is different.

2. What is your favorite book? I like South American writer Gabriel García Márquez who wrote *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

3. Describe an interesting thing from when you were a student.

I studied German, and I traveled to Germany with my German professor and her daughter. And she showed me around. I was also an editor of a newspa-

(Continued on page 12)

My Second Visit to the National Zoo

By Zhu Xiao

Many people who are familiar with me know that I am a person who loves animals. I love all kinds of furry animals, and I had many pets when I was young, such as a couple of dogs, a cat and a few hamsters. While I was part of the Lado Summer Program at Washington College, we visited the Smithsonian National Zoo. Unfortunately, the trip was too short and I did not have the chance to see everything in the zoo. So on a fine weekend, I decided to visit the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. again.

The Smithsonian National Zoo is part of the Smithsonian Institution, one of the world's largest museums. The 163-acre zoo is located at Rock Creek Park in the center of the city and is free for everyone. It takes about 1 hour and 40 minutes to get to the Zoo from Chestertown. The parking at the zoo is extremely limited, I suggest either go to the zoo early before 10am to get a parking space or take public transportation such as the Metro train. If you choose to take the metro train, you can stop at Cleveland Park or Woodley Park stop and the walk to the zoo will take about 10-15 minutes, depending on how fast you walk.

The first animal I went to see was the panda! Why would you not visit the national treasure of China when you get a chance? Unfortunately, the Panda



Ziggy, Cirrus, & Orion.
Image by Meghan Murphy, Smithsonian National Zoo

house was closed because the panda Mei Xiang was giving birth to a baby panda named Bei Bei.

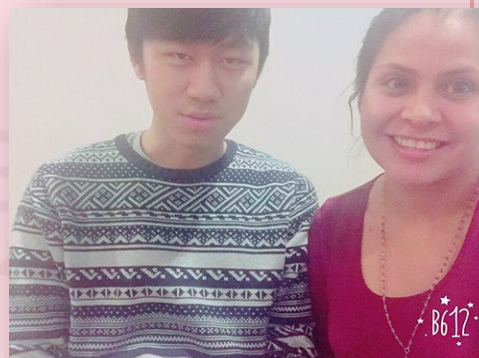
Without wasting more time, I headed to the kids farm to see my favorite animal – alpacas! I was lucky enough that day because all 3 alpacas – Cirrus, Ziggy and Orion were on the field, most of the time one of them will hide in the shed away from sight. The fur of the Alpaca was so soft that I couldn't stop touching them. I want to have a pet Alpaca one day.

Next, I went to the small animal section and saw some small furry animals. The zoo housed many small mammals which included meerkats, short-eared elephant

(Continued on page 12)

Student Interview: Paloma Matto

By Zhang Yifei



Yifei & Paloma

1. Where were you born?

I was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

2. What class are you in?

I'm in the Class of 2019, currently a freshman.

3. What do you think of this college, do you like it?

I think Washington College is a great place, nice environment. I do love to live here. I definitely like it here, it has what I was looking for.

4. What are your long range and short range goals?

I want to graduate and learn from the experience of my professors, to be a successful professional.

5. Why did you select Washington College?

I selected Washington College because it is a small school, and you can easily have access with your professors.

6. Have you decided on your major?

Yes, I am double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy.

7. What led you to choose your majors?

Since I was in middle school, I have been interested in authority and how society itself worked with the laws and policies—government in general. For philosophy, I love to think beyond the barriers so I thought it would be a great opportunity to develop new ideas and concepts.

8. What college subjects do you like best? Why?

I like philosophy because it is an interactive class and it gives you external thoughts that you start to think about.

9. What college subjects do you like least? Why?

(Continued on page 12)

Film Review: Pitch Perfect 2

By Li BinXin

I recommend the movie *Pitch Perfect 2*. It is a comedy and music movie. The director is Elizabeth Banks. This movie has many actors, including Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld, Brittany Snow, Si Gaila, Adam Dewei Ni, Kai Telei, Anna Kemp, Ben Platt, Alexis Knapp, Hana Mae Lee, Louis Ritter Deane, Chrissie Fit, and Flula Borg. The movie main summary that Becca led Barden University of a cappella women's vocal choir to join the performance at the Kennedy Center, invited to the US president's birthday party singing glory. Unfortunately, "Fat Amy" quite unexpectedly emptied during the performance, it caused panic in the audience, so the choir cover an inelegant voice, the Barden University of dean prohibited them public performance and recruit peoples.

The only chance to reinstate is to win the World Championship A Cappella Competition. There are many teams will join it, also the Bellas must to beat the team from Germany, Das Sound Machine, which is very powerful. Can they restore the lost reputation and win the championship? You will know it.

Some people may not know what "a cappella" means. It refers to singing without any musical accompaniment, a performance by human voices singing all the sounds. In the movie, the Bellas a cappella choir was the first all-female group to win a national title, they had beat the three-time defending champs.

Why do I like this movie? The first reason: there are many a cappella performances. For example: "Das Sound Machine". They had a performance at the Atlanta International Auto Show. The German group has replaced Bellas group. The "DSM" (Das Sound Machine) show automotive perfection to people, it has strong rhythm, their movements were smooth and consistent. "They're so freakin' in sync." They showed different voices from tenor, soprano, alto, and perfect layering and gave a strong sense of visual impact. I like the a cap-

ella show.

Second reason: The Bellas group was invited to sing at party. There are five teams: Bellas, The Treblemakers, Tone Hangers, Das Sound Machine, The Green Bay Packers. If they wanted to win a game, they needed to follow the rhythm and beat each other. In the different categories, each team showed strength and songs.

During the competition, they sang many songs, including: "Mickey", "Like a Virgin", "Hit Me with Your Best Shot", "Let's Talk about Sex", "I'll Make Love to You", and "No Diggity". They are good songs. There is a feeling of listening to music all the time.

In the movie, the Bellas group wanted redemption, because they lost the competition. The DSM won it. So, they went to "the lodge at fallen leaves" from movie, it was to build teamwork skills, like a retreat. What happened there were funny and mistrustful things.

But my favorite part is in the world championship time, DSM's performance, them sang song "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark". During the shows, first imitated the entire group like a boat, it is looks grand. Then they sang that song. They fast action, causing a dazzling, just fast cannot describe their movement, also the leader sang a rap song. I really liked it. Later, they showed us a running race. When the runners were close to the end, DSM used slow motion to express the determination and spirit of the sprint. Even if someone cannot to keep up, they should never give up. It's amazing and very exciting. I was shocked, too. Even I think DSM will win the world championship. But the Bellas' performance shows are very perfect. They slap to show the rhythm through the hands; it's a good idea. They sang while performing with good teamwork, and it looked very exciting.

Finally, they sang "Give Me Everything" to end the show. Their songs impressed the judges. So the Bellas won the championship so they could perform in public again.

I liked *Pitch Perfect 2*. I was conquered by the strong sense of rhythm and spiritual music performances. I really like DSM a cappella shows, their performance is very shocking, I like "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark", which has a strong sense of rhythm and sounds very good. Also, there are many songs in the movie. Every song has a nice melody. I hope every audience will like it. So I recommend *Pitch Perfect 2* to everybody. If you have time to see this movie, you will like it. I promise.



Movie Poster

My Piano Life

By Yu MengPing

On June 10th, 2002, I started to play piano. Before that time, I was living in an old house, and there was a piano in it. During that time, because I was so young, I just felt interested about the keyboard, and I always made noise. After that, my parents thought that maybe I had the talent on the piano, so they helped me to take a piano class when I was 5 years old.

For 14 years now I play the piano, and I also have more than three public performances. The first performance was on the Freshman Tal-

ent Show in the first month when I went this high school. On that performance I played a song called "The Dawn", it composed by a band called Dream Tale. My second performance was during the second year, for a Christmas show. I played song called "Lyphard Melodie". And the last performance was in the third year before I graduated. I played a song with my band, which had five students, called "Endless Love".

Now, I am going to Washington College and I also have free time to practice my piano. On November 4th, I had a performance with other students in the same piano class. I played three different songs but other students only played one song, I knew that it was a chance for me to show my piano

skills. At the beginning, my professor told me that I needed to choose one song to play, any song. I told him that I had choices and I did not know which one was better, so he just let me play three songs. I played one song called "Luan Hong", made by Chen Yue. The second song was "Crimson Sakura" and the third song was "Tear of the Earth", both composed by one person called V.K.

When I graduated high school, I found a music game called *DEEMO*, there were more than a hundred songs in this

game, and I felt some pieces music were very nice. Playing this game, I discovered one person called V.K. whose music was so beautiful. After that, I tried to find this person and final-

ly I found him. I like this

performer very much because his music gives me a very strong emotion. For example, "Crimson Sakura", has strong Chinese elements, and everyone knows this song comes from China when they hear it.

There is another example, "Tear of the Earth". This song demonstrates that after people hurt the Earth and the world is ruined, during that age everything becomes the same, no more forest, no more ocean, just desolated land. From this song, you can feel the Earth crying, she needs people's help instead of hurting her. You will love this song after you hear it.



Mengping at the keyboard

Office of English Language Learning

Washington College
Foster House, 2nd Floor
409 Washington Ave.
Chestertown MD 21620

Phone: 410-81-5009
Fax: 410-810-7451
E-mail: oell@washcoll.edu

Zoo (Cont'd)



Cooling Off at the Waterfall

(Continued from page 9)

shrews, long-tailed chinchillas and some other lovely animals. There was a zoologist on duty when I was there; she patiently answered many visitors' questions and told us information about the animals there. I learned a lot about small mammals from the lady.

I spent too much time in the small animal house. By the time I was done with it, it was 4:30 P.M. already and we had to leave. However, before we left, I stopped by the snack kiosk to get a cup of Dip n' Dots ice cream. It was my favorite ice cream and it was a particularly good taste during a hot summer day! I would not recommend the food from the zoo though, it is mostly junk food and pricey, so I would recommend that you bring a small lunch box if you wish to spend a long time at the zoo.

Student Interview (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

I don't think I have a course that I dislike but the hardest course that I have is Sociology because of the amount of work that this class requires.

10. *Did you join any extracurricular activities?*

I do Zumba, and I'm involved in different activities in the Spanish department.

11. *What have you learned from participation in extracurricular activities?*

More than learning, it helped me fortify my leadership skills.

12. *How would you describe the ideal job, following graduation?*

My ideal job will be one related to my major, being part of a law firm, or working for the government. These are jobs that I look forward to obtain.

13. *I heard you will study in London next year, what made you decide to study abroad?*

Yes, one of my professors talked about study abroad and I really liked one of the programs that they offer. Also, I decided this because I think is a great opportunity to be in another country while learning about a different culture.

14. *How do you feel about going to London?*

I am very excited. I'm so ready to experience this new country.

15. *Will you finish your college education in London?*

No, I'm planning on doing one year in London and then coming back to finish my career here.

16. *Please use one word to describe your college experience so far?*

Knowledge.

Festival (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

delicacies and look up at the moon while talking about daily life. As an international student in the United States, I was so surprised that I can

celebrate Chinese festivals with many foreign people.

In the end, I realized that the advantages of studying abroad are that students can broaden their horizons and promote cultural exchanges. I think cultural exchanges serve as bridges for communications among different peoples, it will effectively improve mutual understanding and friendship.

Faculty Interview (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

per and I thought it was a really good and interesting thing to do. When I was a student, I met a lot of writers. They came to campus. I got to know a lot of writers and I had conversations with them. That was very interesting and that may be what helped me to become an English teacher.

General Ideas on Education

1. *What are the challenges of education at Washington College?*

I think even though the college has

been growing and expanding over the last ten years, it is always a challenge to help the individual students. It is a little hard when the institution gets bigger, so I think it is very important.

2. *Could you describe the advantages and disadvantages of the American higher education system?*

The American higher education system is not as strict as systems in other countries. It gives students less discipline at school but more freedom to develop their own interests. It provides much more experience than other countries' educational systems. However, it is more expensive to attend institutions of higher education in America.