

History of the Christmas Tree

Right now, Christmas is getting closer and closer to us, the college has arranged a many Christmas tree, I could see a Christmas tree in every building and offices. I feel the atmosphere of Christmas, Which means that we have a great holiday and a long vacation, we can rest and relax for a long time. But do you know the history of the Christmas tree? Why do Americans arrange a Christmas tree in Christmas? I will tell the history to everyone.

First of all, a Christmas tree is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer such as spruce, pine, or fir. Or it can be an artificial tree similar in appearance, all to celebrate Christmas.

The custom of the Christmas tree developed in Germany in the 16th or even possibly the 15th century, in



Li Binxin in the college bookstore

which devout Christians brought decorated trees in their homes. The trees were traditionally decorated with snacks such

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By Li Binxin

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Building a Gingerbread House

By Yifei Zhang

Recently, on December, 5th, our college organized an activity called Gingerbread House Building. I went to that activity to make a gingerbread house by myself.

The gingerbread house has a long history. Ginger is one of the foods we use in making gingerbread. "Ginger root was first cultivated in ancient China, where it was commonly used as a medical treatment. From there it spread to Europe via the Silk Road" (Avey, Web).

After several centuries baking with ginger began. "In 992, Gregory of Necropolis, an Armenian monk, brought gingerbread to Europe and

taught the art of gingerbread-making to the French before he died" (Steinbach, Web). In those days, the cake looked like biscuits, no matter what shape it was, or the color was light or dark, they were all called gingerbread.

During the Middle Ages, people in Europe liked shaping their gingerbread like animals, kings and queens. The shapes of gingerbread also changed by season, "including flowers in the

spring and birds in the fall" (Avey, Web).

However, not all the bakers could bake gingerbread beyond Christmas. In the 17th century, only the professional gingerbread baker could bake gingerbread except at Christmas.

The gingerbread bakers gathered in professional baker's

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Yifei's First Gingerbread House

Christmas Tree (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

as apples, nuts, or other foods. In the 18th century, trees began to be illuminated by candles which were ultimately replaced by Christmas lights after the advent of electricity.

Today, there are a wide variety of traditional ornaments, such as garland, tinsel, and candy canes. An angel or star might be placed at the top of the tree to represent the archangel Gabriel or the star of Bethlehem from the Nativity.

So the Christmas tree has a long history. Today



Gabriel or the star of Bethlehem from the Nativity.

Gingerbread (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

guild, and developed the skill of baking gingerbread. The tradition of making gingerbread house started in Germany, in the 1800s. "The first gingerbread houses were the result of the well-known Grimm's fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel", in which the two children abandoned in the forest found an edible house made of bread with sugar decorations" (Lynne, Web). After this story, gingerbread house building become a tradition for children in many countries.

The location of the Gingerbread House Building event was in the Goose Nest from 10pm to 12am. When I went in the Goose Nest, I was surprised because there were many people already inside. I signed my friend's and my name on the sheet. Then we got a box with several pieces of

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we have the well-established tradition of outdoor Christmas tree decorating. It can increasing the beauty of landscapes and streets. American like share good things with their friends and family. So Americans will decorate electric lights on outdoor Christmas trees. Not only are they durable, but they also can supply beauty lacking on the winter landscapes. They look brilliant!

gingerbread, four bags of different candies and frosting inside. I was excited because this was my first time to build a gingerbread house. I put the frosting on the edge of gingerbread, then stuck two pieces of gingerbread together. After making a cube, I stuck two pieces of roof together and put them on top of the cube.

After finishing that, I put a lot of frosting on the roofs of the gingerbread to make it look like snow. Then I stuck a lot of candies on the roof to make it colorful. Finally, I finished building my gingerbread house.

This was an unforgettable activity for me because it is a traditional thing for Americans to do for celebrating Christmas. By the way, the gingerbread didn't taste as good as I expected.

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My Trip to Philadelphia

By Kanai Dai

Through the program of Washington College, I went to Philadelphia on 8th November. On that day, we left the college at 9:30am. The participants of the trip were every all of international students. It took 2 hours on the way to Philadelphia so we arrived there around 11:30am.

I walked around the city with a Japanese friend and a Chinese friend. When I arrived there, I saw that there were many skyscrapers. I did not think that Philadelphia was such an urban city before I visited. At the first sight, I think it looks historical city. Actually, the city has not only old part but it has many modern buildings. As soon as we got off the shuttle, we found a Chinese town. We went to the Chinese town and eat Japanese ramen. Although it sounds a bit weird to have Japanese food in the Chinese town. But needless to say, I missed it and my Chinese friend really hoped to eat Japanese ramen, too. I tried to eat it in Japanese Ramen Restaurant “Terakawa Ramen”. Although it was not bad, I felt that something is missing, so I want to recommend everyone to eat in Japan if they want real ramen.

After eating ramen, we went to the Reading Terminal Market, taking 10 minutes for us to walk there. The market was so crowded and it had so many kinds of shops selling variety of products, such as Greek and Middle Eastern food. This market appeared in the *National Treasure* movie, with the American actor Nicholas Cage, so I was excited to be there. Especially, I was interested in that Amish run some shops. Because they are self-sufficient and they do not aim to earn so much, their foods are very reasonable. I also went to the Donut shops, which my friend from Philadelphia recommended me the Donuts because they are reasonable and very delicious. It took 99 cents but it was so sweet and delicious. We were so full! My visit to

the market was very exciting and it was one of my highlights of the trip.

Then we went to see “Liberty Bell”, which is the one of the most important symbols of the United States. On the way, fortunately, I saw the navy parade with sailors returning from their voyage. I was so interested in it because I can hardly see the parade like this in Japan. When we arrived at the hall, we saw that the waiting line to see the bell was long. It took 30 minutes to enter the center because of baggage check. The bell was exhibited in the center of the hall. When the United State declared independence, the Bell was rung. In the center, there were many exhibitions about declaration of independence and Liberty Bell. After going through the exhibitions, we found the bell at the end of Liberty Bell Center. We could see the crack the bell when the bell was rung some times. By seeing the cracked bell, I was able to experience the history of the United States.



Historic Liberty Bell

After Liberty Bell Center, we looked around some cloth shops in downtown.

Then, we went back to Chinatown because there was also an Asian Market, which had Japanese snacks and instant ramen noodle. It made me so happy and I bought so many foods that my hands were full of them. When we went out the market, it was already dark. We went to cheese steak restaurant for dinner because we wanted to have something originally from Philadelphia. However, we had to get on the shuttle at 7:00 pm, so we did not have enough time and gave up it. Moreover, Philadelphia has many famous spots such as museums and a jail which we could not visit this time. If I go to Philadelphia again, I want to try the cheese steak.

Overall, my trip to Philadelphia was very positive and I would like to go back there again.

The Chesapeake Bay

By Yuan Xiangyu

“In North America, the Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary, a semi-enclosed coastal body of water with a free connection to the open sea.” (Maryland State Archives) It is a pleasant fertile spot, well wooded, and rich in pasture, just a short distance from the college. It is an unmissable pleasure with unbeatable views for students.

The Chesapeake region has been around for a very long time. Many tend to begin its history with the establishment of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. But the story of the bay began millions of years before that. This bay made by a rare meteor strike, which created a 55-mile-wide crater.

As the Glacial sheets from the most recent Ice Age begin to retreat, the region's climate began to warm 5000 years ago. However, many experts think that this is just maturity for a bay, actually she still has a lot of time to grow. They guess she will be in her gold age after a few years.

As a foreign student majoring in Environmental science in the college, I was very curious about the ecosystem of Chesapeake region. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, “Ecosystems can be as tiny as a patch of dirt in your backyard or as large as the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.” This is an extremely productive and complex ecosystem. And the bay ecosystem consists of the bay itself, its local rivers and streams, and all the plants and animals it supports. With superior natural conditions, abundant marine resources have shaped

the area's food culture and history. It is a great treasure for the local people and every tourist.

Fortunately, I witnessed how condors catch fish cooperatively; it is rarely occurring in my hometown. However, I was also shocked, because I saw a lot of garbage left around the beach with some smelly dead fish. Some condors were trying to get some food from the garbage. I

can't believe that could happen in a place which is a kind of habitat for sea-birds. This is a really serious situation that should be resolved by local government, because I found there was a parking area and a rest area for tourists, but I did not find any facilities that I could throw away garbage.

Finally, I realized that ecological health is inextricably linked between human health and well-being and

the health of the environment. Policy initiatives have to regulate land use from an ecological health standpoint for engaging the sustainability of the various types of ecosystems are required for Maryland Eastern Shore watersheds and similar locations elsewhere. Because even a small empty plastic bottle also can damage the whole ecosystem. Sometimes, tourist just need to bring recycle bags during the tour or just leave the garbage in the car. For local government, place more garbage cans near the beach to reduce the damage and pollution for local animals. And increasing the intensity of investment in environmental protection would motivate more people who are interested protecting the environment.



A View of the Chesapeake Bay

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Maryland State Archives: <http://msa.maryland.gov/>

Chesapeake Bay Program: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/>

Dinner with My Mentor Family

By Mi Sheng



Musicians on Stage

As an international student, we sometimes feel lonely, because we are far away from our homes. Our school is afraid that we miss our homes too much and cannot take care of ourselves very well, so they match us with a mentor family. These families live in Chestertown and are willing to take care of us. I am lucky that I was matched with a mentor family. As a purpose to know each other further, my mentor family invited me to have dinner with them and go to enjoy a concert.

On Saturday evening, I walked to my mentor family's house, which is very close to our college. I brought a box of Chinese tea as a present. Elizabeth, who is the woman master of the house, greeted me warmly. When I entered the house, I saw two other women sitting in the sofa. One of them was Elizabeth's mother and the other was her sister. We sat on the sofa and talked about my school life. Elizabeth told me that she had gone to China and know something about Chinese life. She said that the most impressed thing of her experience in China is that the subways are always very crowded. We talk a lot and I feel warm because it's fantastic to have a family like this when you are abroad.

While we are talking happily, Brad, who is the husband of Elizabeth, came back with pizzas. He drove to get some for our dinner. Then Elizabeth's

sister made some salad, and we sat at the dinner table. The food was delicious, and during the meal, Brad told me some information about the concert we were going to attend. It was called "Messiah", by Handel. It is a concert about Christmas and was written about 275 years ago. Brad told me that there was a very interesting thing when the concert comes to the part of "Halleluiah", all the people should stand up. That amazed me because I never stand up during a concert, so I was very excited.

We drove to the theatre after dinner. When we entered the theatre, the musicians were also entering the theatre. They sat on their seats and practiced playing the music. I never saw musicians practice playing music, so everything was new to me, and I felt very amazed. When the concert began, everyone stopped talking and focused on the music. The music was fantastic, at that moment, all the troubles in my mind disappeared and made me feel calm. And it's true that when the concert came to "Halleluiah", all the people stood up until the part ended.

I spent a very good time with my mentor family and they made me feel that I have a true family in America. It's a very good choice to have a mentor family; so if it is possible, I strongly recommend that you ask for a mentor family because they can help you when you are in need and you can experience life of America. I like my mentor family.



Elizabeth & Brad's Christmas Tree

My Return to Sea World

By Li Linze

During Thanksgiving holiday I went to Sea World in Orlando, Florida. Sea World is one of the famous theme parks in Orlando. I haven't been to Sea World since I was young child, but I have always had fond memories of the place.



Performing Dolphins

Sea World, a marine based zoo, opened in 1973 on 200 acres of land. The park is not big; we choose to look at the main show, and the daily schedule is slightly different. The day we went to the park were arranged five shows: small pet performances, performing dolphins, sea lion shows, underwater world musical, and the famous Shamu show. It is the most attractive at Sea World and takes up the largest area in the park. At the beginning, it has a very big screen combination to show the marine ecology. The host will prompt: this show will be friendly very very wet! Because Shamu will let the audience drenched! The Killer whale shot hit splash with powerful tail fin, because of that, the audience play very happy, this is one of the main attractions. Sea World really takes me back to childhood and the excitement of seeing the Shamu performance.

Every show opens a half hour for admission, especially the Shamu show, when the audience has been seated 15 minutes before the play, then the show declined to enter. In the interval time of each

show my friends and I toured the Flamingo Museum, Polar Museum, Shark Aquarium, and ride on the roller coaster. It is like going to the zoo, but the animals perform for you. Due to the movie *Black Fish*, it seemed that they are extra careful to talk about how they only train their animals with positive reinforcement. The sea lion / otter show was just as amazingly cute as you would think it would be.

There are lots of great rides and learning experiences for younger audiences and animal lovers, too. Antarctica and the Penguins was the crowd favorite for us. They offer "mild" and "wild" ride options, which is great for all families. They have fun family-friendly shows and they also offer two great roller coasters and a large water ride for thrill-seekers. Anyway, the park is beautiful and amazing. The park held a party for some of new friends who visit during the Thanksgiving. The party show was exciting; it told us one story about the sea

animals' life, but honestly, I preferred walking around the park and relaxing myself. We also took many photos on the party, I try to remember thing what is pretty. We are not only played very happily, but



also feel very relaxed.

I think this is a great place to travel. All in all, we had a great time, felt like we had got our time's worth in entertainment, and have forged some great lasting memories! If possible, i will lead my parents come to Orlando, and visit the one and only one of the sea world. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Report of Lakers Against Wizards

By Lin SenYuan

On Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015, my friends and I went to see a NBA game, at Verizon Center, in Washington, DC. The NBA team of Washington, DC was called the Wizards, and the opposite side was the Lakers, which was came from Los Angeles, the city in the west coast of America.

We went there by SkyTrain, and it was my first time to take it to Washington, DC. There were plenty of people in the New Carrollton station who were going the same direction as us. In addition, when we arrived at our last stop, over seventy percent of people on the train had the same final destination as us, the Verizon Center.

Although the home team of Washington, DC, was the Wizards, most of the people were wearing yellow and purple clothes with the number 24, which was Kobe Bryant's number. He is one of the greatest NBA basketball players throughout NBA history. The audience was excited because this game may be the last game of Kobe at Washington, DC, since he will retire at the end of 2015-2016 NBA Season.

In the first quarter of the game, Roy Hibbert, a Lakers player, jumped the ball with Marcin Gortat, a Wizards player. Then the Lakers took the ball. Although the Lakers held the ball at the beginning of the game, they missed the first shot. John Wall defended the rebound. After he defended the rebound, he ran as quickly as possible and slam dunked aggressively. John Wall won the first two points of the game. As a result, the ball was given back to the Lakers side. Jordan Clarkson passed the ball to Kobe Bryant, and Kobe Bryant shot a beautifully three-pointer. The audience yelled "Kobe" crazily, which was surprising to me. The audience was supposed to encourage the Wizards in Verizon center, but most of the audience just yelled "MVP" as loudly as they could. The first quarter ended with 34 to 22.

In the second quarter, the Lakers had four substitutes and Kobe Bryant. During that quarter, John Wall became more invasive than before. He did a crossover and passed the ball to Gortat, and Gortat took rebounds most of the time during the game. The Lakers could not find an efficient way to organize their defense. Byron Scott, the coach of the Lakers, asked for a time out and switched the team members again. He asked Nick Young to restrict John Wall to score, and Nick Young did a fairly great job. Metta World Peace, a player of the Lakers, took the ball from Kobe Bryant; then he created a space by himself and shot a three-pointer, ending the quarter with the score 57 to 51.



At the last quarter, the score was tied 95 to 95. My friends and I were extremely nervous because all of us hoped the Lakers would win the game, but John Wall was so strong that even Kobe Bryant could not restrict him efficiently. In the last minute, Clarkson missed a two-pointer shot twice. Luckily, the Lakers always won the rebounds. Hibbert took the rebound and passed it to Kobe Bryant. At that time, all five members of the Wizards were looking for the rebound and forgot to defend Kobe Bryant. Kobe Bryant shot the most important three-pointer, and the score was 98 to 95. Then Kobe took the ball again; this time, he faced two people in the right corner. He did a crossover in front of the penalty line. He jumped suddenly and shot the ball incredibly. "He got it, Kobe Bryant was back!" the announcer yelled. The sound of "MVP" was echoing around the whole center. Finally, the game ended, 108 to 104, with the Lakers winning the game!

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Thanksgiving with American Friends

By Abdulmajeed Alghamdi

One of my American college friends, Juliana Bowland, invited me to Thanksgiving dinner with her family. I had never been to a Thanksgiving dinner before and I was pretty excited for this party. The first thing I noticed as soon as I reached her home was the sweet smell of the dinner being cooked. Juliana opened the door for me and introduced me to her family. Her entire family has come for celebrating the Thanksgiving dinner. I met her Dad, her Mom, and her two sisters. One of her sisters was married and her husband's side of the family had come for the dinner too.

It certainly was a festive climate at the house. I was not expecting so many family members and it came as a pleasant surprise. I instantly felt included in the family. Her family is amazing in making someone feel at home. Everyone seemed to want to know more about me. We were talking when the dinner was served. The dinner was delicious. I fell in love with her Mom's cooking skills. It was a multi-course meal. Obviously, the roasted turkey was the center of attention which was complemented by salads, mash potato, and wine. It proved to be one of the nicest dinners I ever had.

After dinner, we gathered in the living room. With so many people in the house, sometimes I lost track of what was happening around me. It was a surreal experience. The air was filled with our laughter and joy. For passing the time, we started playing games such as *Monopoly*, *Risk*, and a variety of card games. The games were so silly, I felt like a kid again. I hadn't had this much fun in a long time. When everyone was tired, we sat around and started talking about each other's lives. The stories ranged from being silly to hilarious. I had such an amazing experience that time just flew by me.

I can never forget the time I spent at that Thanksgiving dinner. It showed me that true happiness comes only when happiness is shared with others. I am eagerly waiting for the next year's Thanksgiving.

My Trip to New York City

By Fu Guangqi



The Statue of Liberty

On November 17th, 2015, I went to New York City with a couple of my friends. It was a long drive and we were exhausted when we arrived Flushing. The reason we decided to stay in Flushing is because Flushing is a region in Queens in New York, and became a place of Asian immigrants in recent years, mostly from Taiwan, South Korea, China and other places. Where immigrants flocked, concurrent display has a strong flavor of the east Asia business circle. We had a wonderful meal in Cantonese Tea Cafe; we had shrimp dumpling, Mussel and chicken Paws. After we checked in hotel and freshened up, we went to KTV karaoke TV and sang many songs; we all had a good time. After we checked in hotel and freshen up, we went to KTV karaoke TV and sang many songs, we all had a good time.

On the second day in New York, we went to visit the Statue of Liberty on a travel boat. It's an amazing structure, and before I visited it, I'd never believed it was built in 1876 by France. The reason they build it was to commemorate the winning of the American War of Independence, and gave it as an alliance gift to the United States.

The statue is 46 meters high, with base of 93 meters, weighing 225 tons (490000 pounds). It's a metal casting. It was designed and manufactured by the famous French engineer Gustave Eiffel, and I

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Academic Advice from Freshman Cole Rineer

By Guo Junfeng

Studying abroad means making friends across boundaries. Cole Rineer is one of my best (American) friends on campus. Cole is in the same biology class with me, and I considered it as the toughest course for me, but Cole is doing pretty well this semester. I think that sharing the experiences about how the local students do well academically would be helpful for international students to get into the American campus life. Cole would like to share those experiences and give suggestions about how to adjust well in Chestertown.



Cole Rineer

About Daily Life:

Q: What is your first impression about the international students, especially the Chinese students?

A: The international students are very nice and seem to be very focused. I believe it would be very hard to do schoolwork in a secondary language and it is very impressive.

Q: Some students say that life in the countryside here is boring. How do you like it so far?

A: I grew up in the countryside so to me it is very normal and relaxing. The college also offers a lot of things to do and I enjoy all the opportunities they provide, such as kayaking and clubs like Mixed Martial Arts.

Q: College is the place you socialize with people, but in some cases international students are shy and sometimes don't share their ideas. If I have this kind of problem, how can you help me?

A: I would say that everyone is here for the same reason and that is to be successful. Your ideas matter, and more than likely would want to be heard so don't be afraid to share them. Talking more and communicating more people can be very beneficial as well.

Q: Besides the academic work and the sports, what would you like to do for fun?

A: It is fun playing pool in the Goose Nest and hanging out in the dining hall with friends.

Q: How about sports? As an international student, I am really curious about which sport would rank the most popular in the U.S.

A: In my opinion, football is most followed in the U.S. but many people also enjoy college basketball.

Q: After chatting with so many international students, do you find any kind of cultural gaps at all?

A: There are no cultural gaps in my opinion.

Q: College life means more time to study, does that have negative effects to your normal life?

A: Having more time to study is beneficial if used wisely. Students should take advantage of the free time they have and study even though it can be difficult sometimes.

Academics:

Q: You may have noticed that this semester is really tough for me since I have tough courses to overcome. What specifically would you do if you have a class that you think is tough?

A: If I believe one of my classes is difficult, I have to make sure to stay on track in the class and be well organized. I would also take very extensive notes and pay close attention in lectures, and if that is not good enough, I will seek a tutor for help.

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Interview with Professor James A. Hall

By Zhu Xiao



Dr. James A. Hall

Q: Please tell me a little bit about yourself.

A: I'm a textbook Libra, meaning I care about social justice, love languages, and am a dedicated romantic. I have always lived on borders: places where you can see the beginnings and endings of things. I am a poet. My first book of poems is called *Now You're the Enemy*, and it was published in 2008. I am currently writing a second book of poems called *Romantic Comedy*.

Q: How long have you been teaching at Washington College, and what brought you here?

A: I began teaching here in Fall 2013. The incredible literary community drew to me WAC.

Q: What does your typical teaching day look like?

A: Mondays and Wednesdays are different from Tuesdays and Thursdays. That said, I put in about 8 hours at school, since I like to grade and respond to student writing from my office. At home, I try to work on poetry and reading for class. I teach 2 classes per day M-Th this semester (on overload) and meet with a graduate student in conference with her reading and writing every other Friday.

Q: What do you like about being a teacher?

A: I love seeing that moment where knowledge and execution finally come into concert for a student—it's that "aha!" or "Lightbulb going on" moment that teachers speak about. I love getting to read difficult, artful texts and having complex conversations with students about art.

Q: If you could start again and have a different profession, what would it be?

A: My second profession is as a writer, but I suppose you mean another. I would probably be a lawyer or a judge, someone who advocates for those with no voice.

Q: Why would you pick that profession?

A: I told you I'm a Libra! All kidding aside, I have a lot of empathy for those who find it hard to speak out, those whose rights have been trampled, and those who seek justice. I like making the world a better place. Which is why I teach.

Q: What is The title of the book you've read most recently?

A: I just read Cathy Linh Che's book, *Split*.

Q: What do you like about the book? Would you recommend it?

A: The poems are incredible, and I would recommend it. Che's lyrical gifts are considerable: she writes condensed poems of incredible descriptive beauty. Her poems tackle very difficult subject matter: her parents' immigration, racism she's dealt with, and coping and healing from a rape committed against her by a cousin. It is one of the best books of poems I've read in a long time.

Q: Who is your favorite superhero character? And why?

A: Wonder Woman is the most fabulous hero. She fights for justice, stands up against bigots, and empowers women.

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Interview with Amanda Bland

By Chen Chixuan

Q: What's your name? What is your academic standing?

A: My name is Amanda Bland, and I'm a freshman.

Q: Have you decided your major?

A: Yes. I'm majoring in Environmental Studies.

Q: Why did you choose this major?

A: I am interested in the environment and animals. There were a lot of important decisions to make regarding the environment and the world we live in. I've seen a lot of issues first hand and I want to take part in helping to preserve our environment for generations to come.

Q: Why did you choose Washington College?

A: I knew I wanted a small school a few hours from home, and I was really interested in the environmental program. After visiting the campus I knew I loved the feel of the school and the sense of community here at WAC. It was one of the only schools I could actually see myself actually living.

Q: What are your long range and short range goals and objectives?

A: My goal is to be a better version of myself each day. I want to positively influence others based on my own actions. Some days are better than others, but I feel that I succeed if I can manage to just make one person smile, or listen to someone's problems.

Q: When and why did you establish these goals?

A: Partly I developed this goal because it's in my personality. I'm a fairly happy social person, and I care about others and want them to be happy too. The other half I developed through high school. I went to a Catholic High school where I encountered quite a few positive influential people in my life and participated in service projects. It was during these times when I realized how much enjoyment I got out of seeing others happy, and being a positive influence on them.

Q: How are you preparing yourself to achieve them?

A: Truthfully, I've been slacking these past few months. I've been pretty caught up in my own life and adjusting to college, and I've had less time to devote myself to others.



Amanda Bland

Q: Which is more important to you, the money or the type of job?

A: Type of job. My dad always told me that if what I do makes me happy I'll never work a day in my life.

Q: Are you willing to travel for your future job?

A: Yes, I am.

Q: In what kind of a work environment are you most comfortable?

A: I want to work at a quiet place.

Q: Do you have plans to continue your studies after graduating from Washington College?

A: I am not sure yet!

(Continued from page 10)

Every week, I'd rush over to my grandmother's house, because Wonder Woman came on at her place, but not at mine. I loved watching Wonder Woman fly in her invisible plane, or force a man to tell the truth with her lasso, or deflect bullets with her gold bracelets.

Q: If you can have a superpower, what would it be? Why?

A: I think it would be the ability to grade a paper in less than 5 minutes. I think that's self-explanatory!

Q: Do you like to travel? Can you tell me about your most recent trip?

A: I love to travel. I was just in

Philadelphia for a poetry reading, where four poets read from an anthology which had just published us all in its pages. While there, I ate savory crepes and saw fabulous art and hung out at a great bar.

Q: What is your favorite travel spot? Why?

A: If you mean, where would I return? Barcelona. That city (one I've only visited once) has the air of whimsy and nostalgia at the same time. Maybe I am just a fan of the architect and artist Antonin Gaudí, but I think it's more. Barcelona is a city of borders, too: it's a Catalan city of mountains situated next to the sea. It has a duality I love.

Q: Do you live in Chestertown? What is your opinion on commuting to the college?

A: I live right now very close to the college, though for two years I lived about 15 minutes away. I like living closer to campus; it allows me to attend more events and be more involved with the school.

Q: What is your favorite place to hang out at Chestertown, and why?

A: I love the Book Plate, since it sponsors so many poetry readings!

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Student Advice (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

Q: It seems that talking in front of a bunch of people is hard for many students. What are your tips for presenting your thoughts in front of a lot of people?

A: Most of the time when someone is presenting something they have had an opportunity to practice. I would practice the presentation, and when the time comes make sure I feel confident. If a mistake is made, ignore it and continue presenting.

Q: What do you think is the most important characteristic to be successful academically?

A: Organizational skills are very important, and students must be able to keep track of their school work to be successful.

New York City (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

was amazed that they could disassemble and reassemble such a great work at that time.

We also went to Times Square that day and did a lot shopping. After that, we got into real business—eating! It's really hard to decide what to eat in such a bustling place, where you can find any kind of foods, but because my love of barbecue, we had our meal in Virgil's. I ordered a Texas brisket. It was delicious, and it's a pity that I was so hungry that I never got chance to take a picture of it.

We left New York on the third day, but it's a very prosperous place, and I think I'll visit this city again with my families.



Food! Food! Food!