

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado
October 14, 2013



S'Mores and More

Students Camp at Golden Gate Canyon State Park

by Manutsawin Teng, Thailand

The camping trip at Golden Gate Canyon State Park was my first trip of camping in the US. First, we had a meeting to get information about how to get ready for this trip, so I can manage myself. I found out what was important for this trip and what I should not do because of problems or danger. I was so excited. I got my stuff ready for the trip.

Second, we planned to meet at Spring International, and we caravanned 3 cars and the school van to the park together at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Then we arrived at Golden Gate Canyon State Park around 12.30 p.m. It was lunch time, so we enjoyed first meal there. Next we set up tents together. The men in this trip were very nice. They helped us set up every tent around the camp ground. It was a happy time, because everybody enjoyed it and was helpful. We played Bean Bag Toss Game together. I never played this game before, so I enjoyed playing. We separated into 2 teams: the men and the women. Who lost this game? They had to cook breakfast for us next morning, so everybody intended to win this game. Who won? I think that it is not important, but both teams worked harmoniously to win.

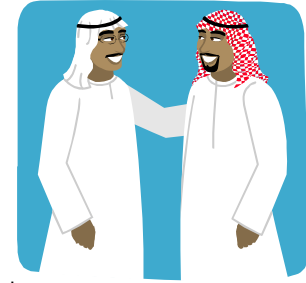
After the game, we hiked together to Panorama Point. It is the best view of the park. We walked around 1.30 hours. Then we went back to the camp, because we didn't want to walk at night. It is dangerous, because you may see animals. For example, you may see bears, elephants, elks, moose, wolves, mountain lions, skunks, coyotes or snake. We went back to camp safely.

It was dinner time already, so everybody helped to cook dinner together. We enjoyed cooking marshmallow American style. How to make it? We put a marshmallow always set it on fire and burn it until it is brown. Then you take a piece of chocolate, and put them together in the middle of 2 pieces of cracker. Finally, you can enjoy eating them. Then it was time to sleep. We slept in tents. Then I heard a sound of coyotes. They were howling far away, but I felt like they were very close. Next day, we traveled around the park by the cars, and we took photos to remember every story there.

Furthermore, I learned new things from traveling, and camping is the top of my favorite activity list. And this trip reminds me of my camping trips in Thailand. When I went camping there, we needed more persons because we had activities together. You have to plan your trip step by step. You have to think about what happens if you get some problems and fix them. But you don't know everything. You may get some problems that are not in your plan. You have to learn how to solve your problems. Can you imagine? I learned how to cook, when I don't have a kitchen. I learned how to sleep, when I don't have the best bed at home. I learned how to share something with my friends... I like to learn new things every day because it keeps me awake, and sometimes to solve some problems without a plan. I would love to make the hard things in life easier.

Saudi Culture Affected My Life

Strange traditions in my culture have affected my life positively. Saudi Arabia (KSA) where I come from has Arabic culture. This culture has its own distinguishing aspects. For instance, food is an important example of the uniqueness of this culture. Kabsa and hummus are two famous Arabic goods around the world. In fact, most Saudis don't use silver utensils such as spoons and forks for eating; they use their hands instead. Also, the majority of people sit on the floor while having a meal with their families. Saudi culture has distinct traditions, such as the way of celebrating weddings, types of dancing, and the style of living. Furthermore, Islam affects Saudi culture, and almost everything is based on Islamic rules. However, people have started to negatively change the traditions. I disagree with some changes in cultural practices since they do not make sense to me and certainly do not come from the religion. My behaviors, beliefs, and adaptation to other cultures have been impacted by some Saudi traditions.



Despite the fact that Saudis' behavior has been influenced by Arabic culture, it has not affected my behavior very much. My behavior is always based on what works best for me, and what both education and family have taught me. For example, celebrating weddings in KSA has become very extravagant, and people spend over \$35,000 in one night. I do not understand the purpose of this. Upon getting married, I will have a simple wedding without a luxury castle or hotel to celebrate in. I would like to save my money for my wife and me and go on a great honeymoon or buy a house. Another example, I do not eat with my hands or on the floor as I think that eating at a table is better for my back and body. Also eating with a fork and spoon is more sanitary.

I believe that religion and education help people understand what is going on around them. Both Islam and education have affected my thinking. For instance, before doing anything, I think about my religion—if it is OK or forbidden—and then I ask myself why. One day an Ecuadorian friend invited me to dinner, and she ordered a glass of wine for me, but I rejected it because drinking alcohol is forbidden in Islam. I understand that everything has a reason. Alcohol is forbidden since it impacts your body and mind. If I had not understood why it is forbidden, I would have drunk it. My philosophy in life is "Don't do it if you don't understand it."

Many people face difficulties in adapting to another culture. Nevertheless, my hometown, Jeddah, has multiple cultures, which helps me to understand and adapt to different cultures. Besides that, my mother is originally from Egypt, and my father is originally from Indonesia. Therefore, these different cultures have affected my understanding and adaptation to other cultures. For example, since I came to the United States, I have not experienced much culture shock. I see myself adapting very well in a totally different community as a result of what I have seen in my city and in my family. In spite of seeing a lot of weird American traditions, such as celebrating Halloween, I can understand and share this tradition with my friends.

Saudi culture has affected my behaviors, beliefs, and ability to adapt to another culture. Every culture has some traditions that do not make sense. In my opinion, many Saudi citizens have been deeply affected by their culture, and just a few of them really understand other cultures. Fortunately, my life has been impacted by different factors like religion, family, and education.

Best Friends

Today I will introduce my friend. His name is Bong. Who is Bong? Bong is my best friend. We went to the same university and took classes five years ago. My first impression of him was not good. Bong's face is always serious. However, we became friends because we took classes together... Also, he lived in Seoul with his wife and two kids. His wife is pregnant now. Bong is a first-rate person. He studied in Great Britain and the United States for seven years. He can speak eight languages: Korean, Japanese, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. Next, his family is part of a financial clique in South Korea. A long time ago, his parents managed a big company and often appeared on TV. Bong's family is the best family in South Korea. Finally, the important thing is his personality. Bong looks serious all the time because his sight is bad and he has a handicap. Also, he experiences much pain, like Job in the Bible. Nevertheless, Bong is very polite, generous, and honest. His heart is very rich. I expect in the future that Bong and I will have very different environments but our minds will be linked. We believe each other and pray for each other. Bong is my best friend. **By Changhoon Kim, South Korea**



My best friend is very kind in his life, appearance and character. Talal is a wonderful friend of mine. He is married. He is 30 years old. He is an English teacher. He has black eyes, and he is tall. He has black hair. Talal is a very good friend. He loves to help people. Moreover, I would like to help Talal to be funny. First, I tell my friends that Talal is very funny. I always interact with him when he tells a joke. Finally, I am happy because I have a friend like Talal. **By Hamoud AlSamiri, Saudi Arabia.**

Ahmed is a wonderful friend of mine. Ahmed was born in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is 23 years old. He is a professor in King Khaled University. Also, he is handsome. He has black eyes and black hair. In addition, Ahmed is tall and thin. Also he is generous with his family or his friends. For example, he always gives money to his family and to poor people. Ahmed is a helpful person. For example, he helps some people in my country. As well as he always cares for his family and friends and he cares about studying and homework. In fact, he is a great friend, and I'm proud to be his friend.

Moreover, I would like to help Ahmed in his life. I will give him money if he needs it, and I am going to assist him in his study. Finally, I am happy because I have a caring friend. **By Fahad AlQahtani, Saudi Arabia**

Hussein is my best friend. He is from Saudi Arabia. He is 21 years old. He is so friendly. He studies in CU and he studies civil engineering. He has black, short hair. He has big, black eyes. He is thin, and he is short. He likes to help people. When I came to Denver, he helped me. I met him for the first time in the U.S.A. For example, when I came to Denver, he waited for me at the airport, and he helped me in school. He is punctual and so helpful. I think my special friend is Hussein because he is trustworthy.

Moreover, I want to help my friend because he helped me when I came to Denver. I want to help him with his homesickness. First, I will go out with him every weekend. We can go to the park, and we can play soccer. Second, I don't want him to be worried about his family, so I will joke with him and laugh. I will help him with everything because I want him to feel happy. I will do anything for him in order to forget his homesickness. I can talk to him about laughable things. Third, I will make him call his family. I will give him all times, and talk with him if he wants to see his family. I have some programs, so he can see his family from these programs. I like to help my friend. **By Salem AlSaed, Saudi Arabia**

MORE FAVORITE PHOTOS

MY WEDDING PHOTO IS MY FAVORITE PHOTO. My husband and I are in the photo. It's my favorite photo because it's the best memory of mine, and this is my first time to go to another country by airplane. I was married on July 4, 2009, our wedding day. It was two days after our wedding. We went to Taiwan for our honeymoon. We had the best time there. We preferred to honeymoon in Taiwan because my husband wanted to spend time with me before going back to the U.S., and we wanted to have the best time for our memory. My husband knew Taiwan makes beautiful wedding photos because his brother lived in Taiwan and he had a wedding photo seven years ago. They are very beautiful photos, so we went to try on my wedding dress two days before we went to the outdoor studio because we needed the background of a mountain, sea and forest. Taiwan has more beautiful places. And the prices are ten times cheaper than the U.S. I love this photo very much.



Additionally, I have another favorite photo of my family. In this photo, my mom, my dad, my sister and my niece came to visit us from the south of Thailand when my niece had vacation from middle school. Before this, we hadn't seen each other much, so they came to visit us. We would like to spend more time together as much as we can. In this photo, my

Dad took some video. My mom and I acted for a fun photo. My niece was very tired from a tour around the park, so she lay down on the chair to relax. My sister took this photo for us. It's my best memory about them and our trip to Thailand. That's why this photo is my second favorite photo. **By May Teng, Thailand**

My Best Friend: A Teacher...by Mona AlAlawi, Saudi Arabia

My best friend is a very wonderful person. First, she works as a teacher at school, and she is 25 years old. She is married and has two children. She doesn't have any sisters. Second, she has black eyes and she has black hair. She is very tall and skinny. She is very beautiful. Third, she is friendly because she has many friends and she is punctual in her life. For example, she always meets her friends on time. She becomes very happy when I visit her. Also, she is kind. For example, she is kind with all people, and she loves children. She always gives me gifts, so she is generous. She does not get angry when I make mistakes because she is forgiving. In conclusion, I love my friend so much because she is a wonderful person.

Furthermore, I want to help my friend because she helps me. Sometimes my friend can't do her work by herself, so she needs some help to do it. Second, I help my friend in her decisions. When she can't decide something, I help her to decide quickly. For example, when we go shopping, I help her in decisions to buy clothes. Third, I give her some advice when she makes mistakes and has problems. I tell her how she can fix her mistakes, so she won't do them again. She talked loudly with her children when they broke a window. After that, I told her that you should be calm with your children because they need you to be patient with them. In conclusion, I like to help my friend in her life.

BOOK REVIEW: THE TENTH MAN BY GRAHAM GREENE

When I read *The Tenth Man*, a novel by Graham Greene, I learned about love versus hate and sacrifice versus cowardliness. There are many cowardly characters in this story; however some of these people change by the end of the story. Janvier illustrated the qualities listed above, and protected his mother and sister from poverty. He was a cowardly man in the beginning of the story and a liar throughout most of the novel, but at the end he was a truthful man. Overall, *The Tenth Man* showed me the value of sacrifice.

The characters in the novel are really interesting because they reflected real life people today. Greene's characters are meaningful. Each one has different feelings and thoughts which make the story interesting. My favorite character is Chavel, a rich lawyer, because his background showed how rich people think and behave. For example, when the Germans put him in prison, he could not believe that a lawyer like him should be in prison. Also, Chavel gave me a considerable idea about how telling the truth saves lives. For instance, when he did not tell the truth about his identity to Therese, he had a lingering doubt that somebody would discover him. However, when he told the truth that he is the real Chavel, his mind was set free.

As you can see, Truth is the theme of the novel. Greene explains the theme by showing us how truth wins over deception. If Chavel had not changed his name and told the truth, he would not have been shot. Also, when Carosse told the truth to Therese, she excused him. In my opinion, this story was written very well because it contains many examples and explanations.

I liked this novel because I did not know that the Germans were so evil and killed innocent people. They forced people to obey them. Greene wrote that people who are untruthful about what they are doing, will eventually fail. For example, the Germans killed the French. However, the French and their allies won the war and freed Europe. I cannot draw a personal connection because I am from a strong country and my King would not allow anything like that to happen to his people. I would like to read this book again because it helps me to know about the hostility of the Germans.

The Tenth Man was well-written with much information that is helpful to readers wanting to understand the effects of war on citizens. I learned that the truth is better than lying because it sets you free. For example, when Chavel told the truth to Therese, he felt free and did not worry about anyone discovering who he was. Also, sacrifice is better than cowardliness because it shows how much you love your family and friends. **By Mitch, Saudi Arabia**



Spring Views is published at the end of each nine-week term to encourage students to write compositions and essays for an audience. Student writers in this issue are from levels 1, 2, and 5.

Connie Shoemaker, editor

LEVEL TWO STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE PHOTOS

ONE LOVELY PICTURE IS OF MY BROTHER'S WEDDING. The wedding was in June 2009 in our house in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. The wedding was at 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. The people who came to this wedding were about 800. Also, some of our relatives came from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nyala and Shendi. During this wedding we ate dinner, which contained chicken, potatoes, vegetables, salads, pasta and cow meat. During the wedding all people were dancing and laughing. I spent special time with my friends, family, and our relatives. This photo is special because it reminds me of my family, friends, and relatives.

On the other hand, another favorite and lovely photo is of our university graduation. It was in June 2010. It was on the second floor near the library. Since this graduation was in Autumn, you can see the surrounding green trees and flowers. From the left to the right, you can see my friend Arcey, Wedad and me. My best friend is not here because she took this photo. I love my friend and my university, and I spent a wonderful time during university studying. I love this photo because it reminds me of them.

By Safaa Tibin, Sudan

THE PICTURES THAT YOU KEEP ARE IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR LIFE, so I have two favorite



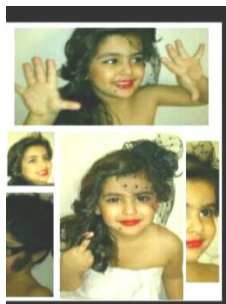
pictures. The first picture is my favorite picture of when I was presented a certificate from the King Khalid University. I love this picture so much. This image was taken on January 18, 2012, by my niece in my house in the afternoon. Also, in this picture I was very happy and proud because I got my diploma of excellent with honors. In addition, at the same time the photo was captured, my mother, my Father, and all my family were very proud and they were happy because I had graduated. Furthermore, this photo is important to me because it helps me to remember when I graduated and got a certificate. In conclusion, this picture is very interesting for me in my life, and I look at it every day because I love it so much.



Moreover, my second favorite picture is the photo of the door to Spring International Language Center. This photo was taken on the first day that I studied at Spring International. This image was taken in the afternoon by me when I went to my apartment. Also, in this picture I was happy and proud because it was the first step to get a new language and science. In addition, at the time of the picture my parents were proud and all my family was proud and happy because I was here. Also, I love this picture because it reminds me of the first day in the United States at Spring International. I've also put this picture on Face Book and Twitter. Also, I put his picture as the background for my cell phone. I think this photo is interesting because it's a picture of me. In conclusion, this picture is the most beautiful picture that I took of myself, and I am very proud. Also, I will keep this picture during my life.

By Ahmed AlQubisi, Saudi Arabia

I LIKE MY SISTER'S PICTURE BECAUSE IT IS BEAUTIFUL AND NICE. It was taken at the beach in Aljouf.



She was five years old. First, my sister wore a white dress and red sandals. Also, she put on lipstick. Second, I brushed her hair. Also, I washed and ironed her dress. Last, she went to the studio with my brother because she was going to take a picture. When she saw her picture she was happy. I think all people will like the picture because it is very beautiful.

I like the party picture because it reminds me of a happy day. My family made a party on Wednesday August 20, 2014 for my sister because she finished her master's degree. First we bought stuff for the party. We bought a cake, drinks and gifts. Second, my mother and I arranged the party. We put the cake and drinks on the table. Last, we surprised my sister. My sister was happy. Also, she enjoyed the party. I always look at the party picture because it makes me happy. **By Mahbah AIDwehi, Saudi Arabia**

THE ARABIAN HORSE REPRESENTS MY LIFE IN MANY ASPECTS because it is strong, athletic, and a successful tool to achieve greatness. First, the Arabian horse is traditionally known as a strong animal. In the past, the Arabian horse was used in agriculture, transportation, and war. This proved that it is a hardworking creature. As a result, this helped me realize how important it is for me to be strong, so that I can be helpful and independent.

Second, I am an athletic person. I work out a lot and do many exercises such as horseback riding. Therefore, I became very competitive and healthy like the Arabian horse. I became an ambitious man. Third, the Arabian horse contributed in improving my personality. I learned from my horse how to be loyal to my family and friends. In general, it reflected positively in my life, so I became successful. Finally, having an Arabian horse in my life has made me successful, strong, and a greater person. **By Mushabbab AlAbbas**



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