

COMMUNITY CENTRAL

A Newsletter of Student Writing from Basic and Transitional Studies

Issue 17

Spring 2019

I Missed Chinese Lunar New Year

Danna Huang // ESL 5A



The Lunar New Year is a traditional festival of the Chinese nation. The most grand festival of our Chinese people.

During these days, we watch the New Year party show, have reunion dinner, collect red envelopes

with lucky money, and we will set off fireworks. It is indeed a great pleasure.

During the Lunar New Year days, the supermarkets are so busy, one by one with lots of packing bags selling to people.

A person is busy, no matter which kind of commodity price is high.

They don't know how many people had come to shop. In the New Year's Eve we have a traditional habit of eating dumplings. In the

afternoon we started making dumplings. When I grew up, I had never made dumplings once. My



mother let me try to make dumplings. Because of my hurry and impatience, some dumplings that I made were filled with lots of stuffing and the oil came out. My mom looked at the dumplings that I made and laughed.

In the New Year days, some companies take two or three weeks off. On

the vacation people get together to enjoy delicious food. Classmates and co-workers get together and we have a lot of fun. Some families travel to famous places to play. We really enjoy the lunar New Year days.

I really missed Chinese Lunar New Year



A Mother's Gift

Mother is a gift from God; she is special since the day she bears us in her womb; she cares and shows us love. She is my every thing! Below are some writings about Mothers from the UW's ESL Levels 1 and 2 Class.

Timketu Nafie // ESL 1 & 2

I love mom. She took care of all the family.
My mom was a very kind person.
She prayed everyday.
My mom passed away. I remember her everyday!
I miss her and I love her.
My mother doesn't know about Mother's Day.

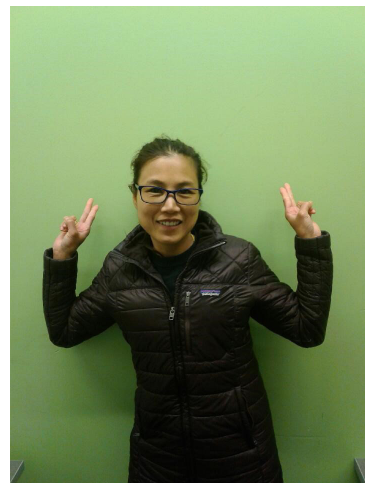
Tedros Bahta // ESL 1 & 2

My mom is a single mom.
She worked with the royal family for twenty-five years.
She is a very hard worker, and she took care of us all the family.
My mom is a very generous person. She helps a lot of families;
She gives them money, clothes and food.
My mom is my hero.



Thongnee Foosong // ESL 1 & 2

My mother is a very sweet mom.
She loves us a lot.
She is an amazing mom.
I miss her so much.
I hope she is with us.



Saba Zewdie // ESL 1 & 2

My mother is my best friend.
My mother is a good mom.
My mom is nice and beautiful.
Thanks to all the mothers.

Mouang Saelee // ESL 1 & 2

My grandmother was a super lady.
She was a very lovely woman.
She was not just my grandmother,
but she was my best friend;
she was always there for me when I need her.

Hyekyong Park // ESL 1 & 2

My mother is my best friend.

She loves family.

She is a beautiful mom and a strong mom. Last year, she passed away.

I miss my mom.



Keo Bouddy // ESL 1 & 2

I love my mom, and I miss her so much.

She is my hero. When she is not here,

I think about her every time!

She is my hero.

She died 30 years ago.



Yirgaelem Teklu // ESL 1 & 2

My mom is the best. She helps me.

It is thanks to her that I'm here.

My mom helps me learn what I know now.

I love my mom.

She is the world to me.

If she did not give a birth to me,
I will not see what I have seen and
the beautiful things I have seen.

I will do anything for her.

I will do anything to her happy.

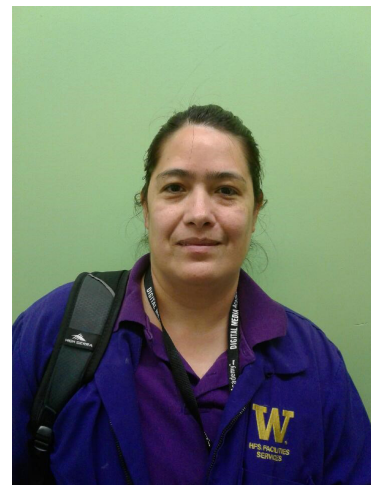
I LOVE MY MOM.

Maricela Olivares // ESL 1 & 2

My mother is perfect.

She is good to me.

She is a cute mom.



Eun Hee Han // ESL 1 & 2



My mother is my
role model.
She has worked
very hard.
She is a wonderful
cook.
She always saves
money
even though
she doesn't have
enough money.
She is a green
thumb.

Ignacio Padilla // ESL 1 & 2

My mother is the best.
She does things for her family.
She adores her husband.
She cooks good food.

About My Mom

Hanna Eyasu // ESL 1 & 2

My mom is a very nice person.
My mom is the best friend to me.
My mom is very nice and cool to our family and
our friends.

Hyesook Bae // ESL 1 & 2

My mom is in Korea.
She loves kids.
She has ugly hands because
she worked very hard before.
I miss my mom.
She is very nice.



A Shout Out to BTS Instructors



*The Community Central team would like to thank all
the instructors who encouraged students to submit their
writing for this newsletter. Your dedication to creating
engaging ways for students to express themselves is
apparent and much appreciated. Thank you!*

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Jimena Diaz Verbel // ESL 5A

When I graduated from high school, I wanted to get a professional degree in business administration. My hometown did not have a business school so I had to go to another city called Medellin.

Medellin is located far away from my hometown, so



I needed to find a place to live while I was studying there. A friend gave my mom a reference about a family home that could offer me a room, but my mom and I made a mistake. We never asked

for the family for pictures of the place. When I arrived to the family home, I was so disappointed. My room was a mess. It was too dirty and smelled really bad. The whole place was chaos. Also the family was cold and rude.

I was seventeen, and it was the first time that I was away from my mom, so I felt sad, anxious, and a little bit angry, so I took my phone and I called my mom. I told her about the situation I was living and she told me: "Well, I understand why you feel angry and frustrated, and I appreciate you trusting me to talk about it. What I believe is that the time has come for you to begin making your own decisions. You are a strong and smart woman. I trust you."

Those were the best words I could have heard.

Next day I went to my college's counselor office and got a list of places to live. I visited a few of them that day and found a good and comfortable room.

Two days later I was enjoying my new life as a college girl in a new beautiful city.

Spring

To work on pronunciation, the ESL Pronunciation students created their own Haiku poems. Haiku is a short Japanese poem made of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.

Jing Yi // ESL Pronunciation

Spring brings us new lives
Cherries decorate campus
Add a touch of pink

Rui Wang // ESL Pronunciation

Brown, green yellow pink
The bird stands on the young tree
Sunshine on my face

Sofia Bacelle // ESL Pronunciation

Nice colors outside
Strange feelings inside your heart
Be happy and sad

Thi Nguyen // ESL Pronunciation

The spring is so nice
Birds singing, flowers leaves grow
Bly sky, white cloud nice

Mount Huangshan

Hongbin Liu // ESL 081



In 2014, it was my first year in college. I had already completed the art class in high school when I took the design class in college, so I knew that I had to take an art trip to some place drawing the landscape. Mount Huangshan scenery appears in most Chinese paintings, and it is very famous, so I chose to go to Mount Huangshan.

Mount Huangshan is located in Huangshan City Southwest of China. It is very spectacular, and a lot of foreign tourists visit there every year. Ancient Chinese artists were no exception, painting and writing poems on Mount Huangshan, and many Chinese paintings about Mount Huangshan are still alive today.

I will never forget that it took me 7 hours to get to the top. It seems I was standing on the clouds when I got on the top of Mount Huangshan. I took out my drawing board and sat down on the boulder. I looked at the landscape in front of me and forgot to paint because it was so beautiful. The wind stopped, and I looked away in the quiet air. It was like standing on a beach and looking at the sea. The trees and stones were like the

beach and the clouds were like the sea. Then I saw an “island” in the distance. It was a big stone which was called flying stone. Why is it called flying stone? It stands on the edge of a cliff, it weighs about 440000 pounds, but it only touches the ground a little bit. It doesn’t matter how the wind blows or rains, and it doesn’t move at all, so it seems to be flying from the sky. I reveled in its beauty for almost an hour. I started painting and I made a big circle because the sun was too close to me. At that moment, I knew why so many ancient Chinese artists and modern foreign tourists chose this place.

Although my painting level was not high at that time, the scenery of Mount Huangshan can make my painting more beautiful. Each tree on the mountain was so natural and magnificent, and the clouds and the sun cooperated with them. They make Mount Huangshan more attractive.

I chose this place for myself because I wanted to understand why it became a famous scenic spot in China and why ancient artists painted here. When I picked up the brush on the top of Mount Huangshan, I understood.

The Aofeng Park

Sam Hu // ESL 081

In my home city, Enping, China, the only place which I would often visit was the Aofeng Park, a park near my home, and it is the most beautiful and memorable place for me in my home city.

There are charming landscapes in the park. The park includes a square and a hill named Aofeng Mount with roads for tourists to walk. After dinner, I would go for a walk with my parents on the road through the forests. The trees were so tall and strong that the sunshine could hardly pass through bunches of leaves. We could also smell fragrance from the flowers growing along the both sides of the road, with many kinds of colors like white, yellow, purple, and diversities of kinds such as chrysanthemum, orchid and peach blossom.

In addition, some unique sites there make the park more attractive. There are several kinds of paths for tourists to go to different sites, such

as the gate of park, the soldier monument, the Buddhism temple. I liked the monument best because I had to overcome a flight of stair with almost 300 stone steps before I got there, which was a good exercise for me. The monument is tall and huge with some words on it with the memory of the dead soldiers in my home city.

Last but not least, it is important for tourists to enjoy their time in the park. Sometimes we played badminton on the square and many other tourists did exercises, too. We could always hear the laughter from children, the hawking from vendors and the cheer from small games. I think it is nice scenery combining human with nature.

There is so much wonderful memory related to my life, and that is why the Aofeng Park is the most beautiful place in my mind.

My Country

Keidy Florido // ESL 5A

My home country is Colombia--a country full of joy, enthusiasm, solidarity and good attitude. Colombia is well known for its coffee, its music, its food, pretty women, soccer players, and very hard working people.

Despite having many difficulties of money, insecurity, inequity, like a lot of Latin American countries, Colombia is still a magic country. We always try to go ahead.

Its flora and fauna are gorgeous. The friendliness of the people is incomparable.

If you are walking in a town, and someone greets you, don't be scared. In Colombia we are all neighbors. Just smile and say hello!

The food is delicious, from the coffee with bread or arepa in the morning, to the meat or soup in the afternoons and nights.

In Colombia we try to share what we have, if I have bread, and you don't anything, don't worry, now we have half a bread.

You are always going to happy people. Even if we have a lot of problems, we will try to smile :).

As the saying goes "bad times, good faces".

For that and a thousand of other reasons, I miss and love my family and my home country.

Beautiful Place

Ana Cepeda // ESL 081

The beautiful place cherished in my heart is the village Singerei Noi, where I grew up. It is a small village in Republic of Moldova and is very significant for me because there are three things that I really love: my parents' house, landscapes and the lake in the middle of village.

My parents' house is the most important thing because it made me feel like I am living in a corner of heaven. My parents taught us to be nice to each other, so my life was very peaceful, full of love and understanding. Being kids, we were playing on the street after school, but in evenings, my mom used to read us stories from different types of books. Living with my parents as an adult, was amazing in a different way. I had my brothers or sisters coming to visit us with their families. The reunion with my siblings at the same place where we grew up together felt so great. We enjoyed every minute spent together, eating delicious food, talking and watching our nephews playing. Is so awesome to have all these great memories. My parents' house is like a comfortable nest that pulls me back to it every time I think of it.

The lands from my village are also very significant, but mostly in spring, summer and autumn. The summer time was my favorite. The beautifully shaped hills were so green and full of vegetation. I loved farm trees that were grouped in perfect lines that were extending till far away on different hills.

The peach trees were so special.

When they were blooming the land looked like fluffy pink cookies, but when the peaches were ready to eat, the land had a strong smell of sweet juicy peaches. The other special thing about the land was picking up different kinds of flowers for tea. For example, in June the thyme was blooming, and it was incredibly nice to smell that air full of fragrance which smelled like sweet lemons with a floral note. It felt so great to be all day on the lands, I felt like in a dream where I don't have worries, nor problems, just feeling the nice summer breeze with silence and birds singing.

Lakes are beautiful in general, but the one near my parents' house has something more special than it's beauty. It connects me to my childhood every time



I look at it. When I was a kid, my brothers used to take me with them to fish. Now when I remember about it, I think it was so sweet. I usually took a blanket and snacks to make a combination of picnic and fishing. I remember one time we took our little two puppies; they were so funny wagging their little tails so happily that we took them too and barking around our caught fish.

Spending twenty-six years of my life in Singerei Noi village made me the person I am today because I learned to see the beauty of life through small things; I learned how to appreciate simple things, and today more than ever I can say that those simple things I had in my country were definitely the sweetest moments till now. They built my character and the way I look at life. It is a part of me, and I will always cherish this beautiful place in my heart.

Superstitions

Xuexia Yu // ESL 5A

I was born in China. I know something about superstitions. My mother-in-law has learned a lot of superstitions from her parents.

She told me that you can't wash your hair too late in the evening. That will make your parents' family poor. She also told me that you can't wear shoes with white soles because that will make you unlucky. And she told me that the young ladies can't cut their hair in January of the traditional Chinese calendar. If the young ladies do that, then they can't get married.

I hate all of these superstitions because they're not true and they have no scientific basis. People who have not received very much education will often believe in superstitions.

I have never told my daughters about these superstitions because I want them to be proud of their Chinese culture. I hope all kinds of these unsubstantiated superstitions will disappear in China.

Kira-Kira

by Alicia Garcia // 5A



This reminds of me of a bad situation with a hotel in Las Vegas. It was last February 2018. Well, my husband planned a trip for my birthday. My children had winter break at that time, and he decided to have fun with his family.

He didn't know anything about Las Vegas, and he reserved the hotel in downtown.

We were very excited, but when we arrived at the hotel it was in an unpleasant location. The hotel looked very old, and we thought well maybe the room will be nice, but it wasn't. The room smelled like cigarrets. We tried to be in a good mood. We just took a shower and went outside to walk, but as soon as my little son saw people smoking, he felt disappointed and wanted to go back to the hotel.

We went back to the hotel and we felt annoyed, but he told me "Mom, it's your birthday. Go outside, have fun and get drunk if you want" I had a loud laugh, and I told him, "What did you say? You know I never drink." And he said, "Well I don't know." He was right. The hotel was unpleasant and noisy. The next day we moved to a better hotel. We were ok for the next couple of days, but my little son said he will never bring his children to Las Vegas.

Studying English

More Haiku from the ESL Pronunciation students.

Jing Yi // ESL Pronunciation

Studying English
Torture to me everyday
Appreciatively



Rui Wang // ESL Pronunciation

Studying English
Sometimes difficult, boring
But I can do it

Thi Nguyen // ESL Pronunciation

Studying English
Easy, difficult, happy
I feel wonderful

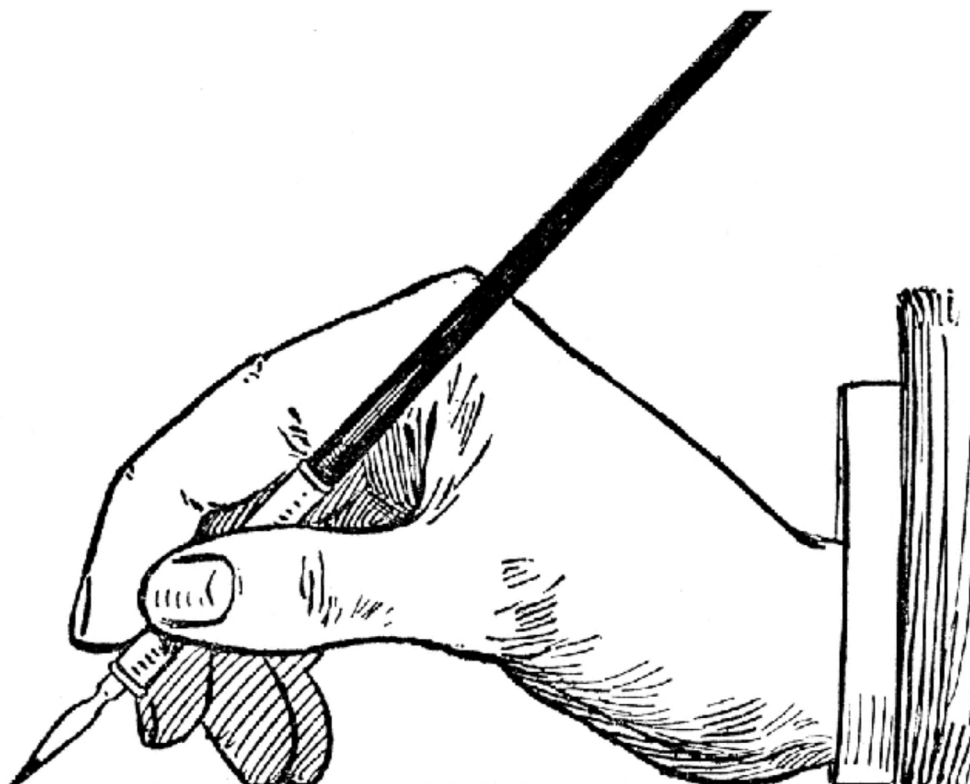


Sofia Bacelle // ESL Pronunciation

Studying English
Actually could be hard
but very useful

Medhanit Belay // ESL 3

Medhi
Happy Funny
Working Studying Listening
Homecare School Home Gym
Smiling Working hard Relaxing at the Park
Persistent Patient
Belay



Share your writing in Community Central.

Stories, Essays, Poetry and News from the BTSD Tutoring Program

What is Community Central?

Community Central is a newsletter for the Basic and Transitional Studies Division Tutoring Program. We want to share your stories, poems, or essays about your experience with education, your motivation to learn or teach, your hopes and goals or issues in society that affect you.

How do I submit my writing?

Please e-mail your work to Megan.Court@seattlecolleges.edu. Submissions should be less than 500 words.

Questions? Talk to Megan in the tutoring office, room 3124.

BASIC STUDIES TUTORING PROGRAM
SUMMER 2019

SMALL TALK & WRITING TUTORIALS

Small group sessions led by our excellent tutors!

**In the Tutoring Center (Rm 3122)
at 11 AM and 5 PM**

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