

THE CELAC STUDENT VOICE

My First Pen Pal

by Yanxu Chen (Apple)

In my life, I don't believe people have a pen pal because in my mind, a pen pal is just a myth. But I met Linda on my way back to Albuquerque. I usually don't like to talk with others when I am alone, but I talked with Linda in the airplane. I think the reason why I talked with her is she looked friendly. We talked a lot about Nashville, because her son is a country music singer, and my aunt and uncle are researchers; all of them are living in Nashville. At the end of the trip, we exchanged our emails and promised to keep in touch. When I returned to my house, I sent her the first email. After that, we kept in touch like we promised.

We usually share our daily lives in emails, the new things and new people I or she we meet. In this semester, I am studying English Grammar, English Writing, History and Physics in UNM, and Linda is working hard at her best, like usual. Although we are so busy on business days, we still send each other emails at least 3 times a day. Thanks to those emails, we find some common hobbies between us: we both like reading and listening to music.

One day, we talked about jobs. She told me she has 3 jobs, and I am so surprised she can do 3 jobs. I never had a friend who has 3 jobs! She becomes a superwoman in my mind due to her 3 jobs. She has one main job and 2 part-time jobs, but she does very well. I hope I can be a superwoman like her. She emphasizes that her main job and one of her part-time jobs are all about children. Her main job is working with families with abused or neglected children. I think she likes children and she is friendly to offer her help to those in need. Also, she wants every child to have healthy growth of body and mind.

She is a super cool person in my life and our friendship will never end. We will find more commonalities and differences between us because we will keep in touch. It is nice to meet my first pen pal; I hope I can meet more pen pals in the future.

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Traveling in New Taipei City

by Ying Nian Chen (Tina)

It has been a while since I came to the U.S. Like I do, International students must miss their home country a lot. I miss Taiwanese food so much! I am going to take you on a one-day journey to one of my favorite places. Ruifang District, a suburban district in eastern New Taipei City, has many worthy places to visit.

Jiufen Old Street has become famous around the world because of the movie, *Spirited Away*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki. This street is one of the most commonly visited spots. You can try traditional snacks, buy gifts and souvenirs there. These famous snacks are taro ball, hakka rice cake and nougat. Taro balls are one of my favorite snacks. They have different flavors such as sweet potato and green tea. You can eat taro balls hot or iced, and there are multiple toppings like red bean, green bean, or peanut that you can add into your bowl. Tea is famous among foreigners who like to visit the Jiufen Teahouse, built in 1912. There, you can drink different kinds of tea and eat special snacks made from tea leaves. Besides food, there is a small art museum that you can visit that exhibits tea sets and presents tea culture to tourists. Anyone who likes tea should go to the Jiufen Teahouse to experience it.

Jinguashih is famous for its Gold Museum and Golden Waterfall. The museum exhibits the mining tools and models, and mining history. You can go into the mining tunnel to experience being in the deep mountain. The mining models show the working circumstances of the past. In addition, Golden Waterfall is a natural phenomenon created by a chemical interaction, making the rocks look like shiny gold. That is why we call this place the Golden Waterfall. There are other gorgeous landscapes you can see like the Remains of the 13 Levels, Ruishuang Road, Teapot Mountain Trail, and Yin and Yang Sea.

Ruifang District is a place I really recommend to foreigners traveling in northern Taiwan.



The City of Portland

By Xinghui Pan (Pam)



I like travelling very much, and I think it helps me to understand every city. There are many beautiful cities in the United States, and my favorite among these cities is Portland. There are three reasons why I like Portland.

First at all, Portland's urban construction is particularly good. Urban land utilization is high; I do not see any open space in the city. Also, Portland has many tall buildings. It makes me enjoy the distant scenery where I live. In addition, residential and commercial areas are clearly separated, but they are very close. Therefore, when I want to go shopping, it is very convenient.

In fact, the shopping experience in Portland is great. The food is rich and selective; I can eat food from all over the world there. For example, Portland has an Eggy Pocket shop in the center of the city. This type of shop is from China. Also, there are many brands of products. I can buy high-end, mid-range, and low-end products in Portland. These products are also cheaper than other states because Portland is a duty-free city, meaning we do not pay taxes at shops.

Finally, Portland's transportation system is excellent. The mass transit system is dominated by light rail and buses. The light rail system connects major areas, such as the city center, airports, residential and employment centers. The bus system adopts an intelligent management method, which displays the vehicle running time in real time and uses smart phones for bus billing. We only need to buy a ticket to take both the light rail and bus. However, my favorite thing is that public transportation has short wait times and fast speeds, even during the holidays.

In conclusion, I like the city buildings, shopping environment, and transportation of Portland. I will go to this charming city again. If you want to travel, I highly recommend the city of Portland. You will have a good time here.

My City

by Huda Safhi

Jizan is one of the coastal border regions located in the far southwest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The city is located on the border with Yemen, and is also located on the coasts of the Red Sea. My city, Jizan, is not just the place of living, but an essential part of my identity.

Everyone has memories of her/ his city, which always remains a part of a person's life. For me, Jizan is a place where I have spent most of my childhood. It is a place that I love and want to live in my entire life.

The city is distinguished from others because of its economy, its relatively large size, its functions, and its special symbolic status. It also has a large percentage of tourists.

Additionally, it is a city characterized by an abundance of mountains and highlands, as well as its famous planting of mango trees. Finally, it has the famous Islands of Farasan , Al Suwaid, Qamah, and Dimsak. Farasan is the largest island.

In short, my city is a good one. I like my city because it has everything I need. It is the place where I lived for many years. When I travel, I miss its land, traditions and food. The weather in my city is so nice. In the winter, it gets so cold, which I enjoy a lot!



Coffee Capital: A City Full of Poetic Romance

By Xiangzhou Yang (Harvey)



Coffee has become an indispensable part of people's daily life. In the afternoon to enjoy a cup of coffee brings mellowness. Imagine being in nature, listening to nature with your eyes closed and holding a cup of coffee; what a pleasant thing this is. It is not only a product of western culture. With the development of the times, it has become popular among the eastern population. A cup of coffee every morning will energize you to face the challenges of the new day. Do you know where the coffee beans come from? I'll introduce the world's largest source of coffee for you.

In China's Yunnan Province, there is an oasis, the unity of nature and mankind. Its name is Pu'er. In Pu'er, you can appreciate the traditional Chinese tea culture as well as the romantic western coffee culture. Integrating modern and traditional elements, romantic and ethnic features, as well as eastern and western cultures, Pu'er, as a city, demonstrates its connotation, leisure, poetry and romance. Pu'er is China's primary coffee producing region and distributing center, with the largest growing area, yield and best quality.

Pu'er is China's first demonstration area for coffee-related famous brands. The coffee produced here is world-renowned for its unique culture and fragrance and has been rated as the first-class product by the International Coffee Organization . In addition, the National Key Coffee Laboratory, Nestle's first coffee center in the world, and the Yunnan Coffee Trading Center are located in Pu'er. Starbucks, a famous coffee brand, also has its own factory in Pu'er. In December 2012, Pu'er was awarded the title of "Coffee Capital of China" by the China Fruit Marketing Association.

Of course, Pu'er is famous for more than just coffee. Pu'er is rich in Pu'er tea. A piece of tea carries the spirit and soul belief of the Pu'er people. It is tea that makes Pu'er prosperous. Tea has become a must in the life of Pu'er people. They combine tea with their dance and singing to create a profound cultural history. In recent years, the region around the "divine, Pu'er tea source world" city brand, adheres to the "ecological city and green development path, to speed up the national green economic experiment [with] efforts to create a livable, appropriate, living urban environment, [through] green energy" and to create a "green food" destination.

Welcome to Pu'er Yunnan province, China.



Apple

My name is Yanxu, you also can call me Apple. Before I became a Lobo, I studied Financial Management in BITZH. My hobby is being a photographer and traveling the world. If you want to know more about taking pictures and you want to be a photographer in the future, or you like taking pictures, please read my essay and have a contact with me.



Harvey

My name is Xiangzhou Yang; you can call me Harvey. I come from the hometown of Pu 'er tea located north in China. I was an international trading company manager before I came to UNM. I am going to apply to the MIS and Finance at UNM. I like to play basketball and take pictures in my leisure time.



Huda

My name is Huda, and I am from Saudi Arabia. I like to take photographs, but I am not a professional. I love to travel alot.



Pam

My name is Pam. I come from China. My hobby is painting.



Tina

I'm from Taiwan. My major was Food Nutrition when I was in the university in my hometown. I like to watch videos, especially Korean dramas.