



HAGGERTY  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
PATHWAY  
PROGRAM



Interview: CQUE  
Professors  
PAGE 1-2



Halloween Party /  
Thanksgiving  
PAGE 4



Narrative Essay:  
Special Vacation  
PAGE 7

# THE ESL TIMES



(Left to Right: Yanli Lang, Li Qiong Jiang, XiaoYang Wang)

## Interview: Chongqing University of Education (Professors: Yanli Lang, Li Qiong Jiang, XiaoYang Wang)

*Interview conducted by Alphonse Pierre (English) and Yaping Chen (Mandarin Chinese)*

**China**

**ALPHONSE:** How would you describe SUNY New Paltz campus and its students?

**XIAOYANG:** I think the campus is very beautiful and peaceful. I feel safe here [...] Students here, I think, are very friendly and work hard. I usually see them stay in the library until midnight.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**LI QIONG:** I think New Paltz campus is very beautiful. There are so many fun things here.

**YANLI:** I think SUNY New Paltz is in a perfect location. It is very convenient to live here. I think SUNY New Paltz offers many facilities for students. You can go to the library [...], [t]here is a lot of equipment -- you can do a lot of research. As for the students, I have a very good impression of [them]. I think [New Paltz] students work very hard at this university.

**ALPHONSE:** What do you think of the classes and the instructors in the Haggerty English program?

**LI QIONG:** I think all of the teachers are very professional [...], very friendly. So, most of the students love their teachers. And our class -- students with different proficiency levels have different classes. For example, the level four students' class is geared towards academics, so they must learn how to read and write academic articles. It is very useful.

**XIAYONG:** I think the ESL program is very necessary for students to further their academic studies here. Also, I really appreciate the professors here. They have knowledge and have good teaching methods, so I learn much from them.

**YANLI:** I think all of the ESL professors are very good. My English has improved a lot in the past three months. [...] Professors have very different teaching skills, and it includes in-class questions, watching some videos in our class, etc. I think all of those different teaching methods can make the student feel excited and not bored with their lessons.

**ALPHONSE:** Which experience stands out for you?

**LI QIONG:** The most interesting thing is every week, the International [Student Programs] office arranges some activities for international students, such as American culture related activities. I think it is very useful for international students.

**YANLI:** This semester I joined some trips organized by the International [Student Programs] department. [...] I think these trips are very nice. Not only because it gives us a chance to go to many different places to learn about American culture, but also supplies opportunities to communicate with other international students and make us close with each other.

**XIAYONG:** I appreciate that students here manage themselves. They manage the dormitories, the student union, and student organizations. They have many different activities here [also].

**ALPHONSE:** Is there anything else you would like to say before we end this interview?

**XIAYONG:** First, I appreciate all the faculty and staff here and I hope we can continue our cooperation [between Chongqing University of Education and SUNY New Paltz].

*(Continued on next page.)*

**LI QIONG:** Sorry, I haven't thought about this!

**YANLI:** I want to say thanks! Because this is really a good opportunity for me to come here. [...] You can stay here, join a class, and talk deeply with a professor. I think it is the best way to know a university. It's also a good way to learn many different teaching methods. I also wish in the future we can have many good professors go on exchange with each other.

## American Dream

by Gyu-in Han

South Korea

It can be a difficult and exciting experience for students to study for a long time in a foreign country. When I got on the airplane, I felt a kind of responsibility, because, in fact, I feel it's too late for me to take ESL courses. In my country, most of my friends already finished their academic courses and have jobs now. Nevertheless, I chose it because I needed a rest before my next step. Thus, it is natural for me to sometimes feel nervous and worry about my future. However, through the ESL courses at SUNY New Paltz, I have learned a lot of academic skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar.

What I really want to talk about is the lessons we learn outside of our classes though. In this program, I have met many friends who have been with me since I arrived. We come from different countries, but it doesn't matter. Even though we don't talk with our native languages, we can laugh, sympathize, and share our thoughts. Every day, we sit down together, and do many things such as studying, playing games, and eating together. In addition to experiences in school, our experiences out of school, for example the New York City trip, the Boston trip, and my personal trip to Niagara Falls, make me excited and feel fulfilled. We saw the same view, walked through the same street, and learned from each other. In short, we share the same memories. That is what I really wanted to get when I decided to come here. All of these experiences and my precious friends will help to make my life even better and make me wiser.

When I went to Boston, the Uber driver said to me. "In America, if you want something and try [for] it, you will be able to get it". Yes, it was true, and it will be.



## Coming to the United States

by Chang Shu

China

When I first came to the United States, what kind of feelings did I have? I'm not sure. Excited, nervous, agitated? Maybe all of them. The only thing on my mind was that it was going to be so nice for me to have a chance to study in a foreign country.

After coming here, I have broadened my horizons and met friends from various countries and cultures. I'm very grateful to be here while I am young, my memory is strong, and my energy is high. Last semester, the speech contest had the largest impression on me.

As a non-native speaker, in the beginning, I also felt very nervous and anxious. Now, with these negative emotions behind me, I feel more about passionate and confident in English.



**Halloween Party**  
 by Yuka Katoku  
*Japan*

I joined the Halloween party which was held by the ESL department at the end of October and I had a wonderful time. I had never been to a Halloween party before in Japan, so I was looking forward to it.

I dressed as a black cat for my Halloween costume. At first, I was ashamed to wear my costume but my feeling changed gradually. Then, I ate Halloween snacks, took many pictures and watched students carve Jack O’Lanterns. All of these things were a first experience for me so everything was new. Eventually I was very delighted to join the party and take part in some new experiences. I am thankful to the staff who worked to make it such a wonderful time.



**Thanksgiving**  
 by Peihua Shan  
*China*

Whenever I think of Thanksgiving, turkey and pumpkin come to mind. Luckily, there was a Thanksgiving party on campus. It was too good to miss! At the party, there were many traditional thanksgiving dishes on the table. My classmates and I were very excited. We couldn’t believe we were having a real Thanksgiving dinner as we had only seen it in the movies before.

While we enjoyed the feast, the professors gave speeches and offered congratulations to us. Then, we wrote down some things that we were thankful for. We all felt thankful that we were together here.

*(Continued on next page.)*



One of the interesting things we did in the party was learn how to say “thank you” in different languages from other international students who come from all over the world. The most exciting moment was when I won a prize - movie tickets and a chocolate bar - while playing Bingo. By the end of the party, we had made new friends and took some big group pictures. I will always treasure these wonderful pictures and happy memories.



**Table Tennis Tournament**

by Zepeng Wang

**China**

*On November 21st, a Table Tennis Tournament was held for ESL students. The participants included: Zepeng “Steven” Wang (China), Yi Chieh “Jerry” Chen (Taiwan), Joao Victor Estevam Santos (Brazil), HanQi Chen (China), Yifei “Lisa” Kong (China), Yaping Chen (China), Jingwen Huang (China), Hyeonwoo “Ben” Hwang (S. Korea), and Zhaotian “Mars” Lyu (China).*

On Thursday, November 17th I took part in the table tennis competition in the VH Annex gym. As many of us may know, Chinese people are good at table tennis. I had confidence to win this competition because when I was a middle school student, I won the championship game in our middle school. However, I haven't played table tennis in two years. I felt nervous because I was afraid of losing the competition. Although I was nervous about foreigners, I wanted to prove the strength of Chinese table tennis.

In the end, I defeated my opponent and won the championship. In the final game, I thought my last opponent, Yi Chieh (“Jerry”), who comes from Taiwan was a powerful opponent, but I used his weakness to defeat him. I enjoyed the competition. Friendship first, competition second.



**Conversation Partner**

by Ayano Yoshida

*Japan*

**5**t this university, especially within the ESL department, there are a lot of opportunities to improve my English proficiency and the most useful way for me is that they gave me chance to converse with native English-speakers. Once a week, at least for a hour, I meet my conversation partner and we discuss various topics such as food, culture, or lifestyle. Through our interactions, I discovered many differences between Japan and America, which made it easier to live here. Also, sometimes, she listened to my stories about my troubles or helped me with my homework. Thanks to this program, I could interact with an American and get to know more about America.



**Community Ambassador Program: My Special Experience**

by Mariko Kai

*Japan*

**I** have had great experiences with Jason and Linda, who are my Community Ambassador Program partners. They invited me to a Halloween movie night at his house!

We watched famous American Halloween movies while eating typical American party foods and talked about Halloween. I felt like I was really experiencing America because I got to enjoy an authentic Halloween evening with local people. Everything was new to me and I have never had such an experience in Japan, so I was excited and it was a special day for me.



## Special Vacation with My Lovely Family

by Roberta Carlini

**Brazil**

When we are young, we don't realize how the family is important to our life. Today when I think about my life I remember how my parents showed me the importance staying next to each other and enjoying the company. Some important event can show us how important our family is.

The story happened in 1990 when my parents decided to rent one house at the beach to enjoy the Christmas holiday. At first, my brother and I did not like it because we wanted to enjoy this week to play with our cousins who would be on vacation, but we had no choice: we had to go. Firstly, my Father wanted to make some plans to organize everything we needed to stay for a week, then we took everything in the car and drove to the beach. When my father was driving, we saw beautiful mountains, the desert beach, and we were lucky because did not have significant traffic. After five hours we arrived, and the views were fantastic. At that time we were happy because the weather was great and the beach was beautiful, empty, surrounded by mountains. The sand was white and as bright as diamonds, and the water had a bright green hue, it was so clear that I could see my toes. My brother and I ran near the warm water and began to splash water on each other. The house looked beautiful and comfortable. My parents went into the room and organized while we played there. Finally, at night, my mother prepared a delicious dinner like a chef. The food smelled good and there was a lot of food that we liked. After dinner, we talked about our day, we played cards, and we made some plans to enjoy everything that week.

When we woke up, we prepared a huge breakfast together. Then we went to the sand to have fun. We used to play ball, we ran from the waves, and I liked to build castles in the sand with my Mother, but the most thing I loved is the swimming lessons that my Father taught. My Dad is a very calm person, straightforward and determined. He spent hours with all patience teaching how to swim. On the other hand, I remember my Mother who is always like as a lioness to protect her child, She stayed on the shore worrying about us because she did not know how to swim. In fact, it was hard when we started because I swallowed water. I choked but my Dad did not lose hope of teaching and always encouraged me to keep going. By the end of the week, we already knew how to float in the water. The days passed quickly, and our family started to enjoy our time together.

Finally, Christmas Day arrived, we enjoyed every moment together, we prayed for everyone we knew, we had breakfast, lunch, and dinner always together. At the time we were back again connected to each other without the intervention of telephones, friends or television.

Consequently, today I am a far away from my family and I miss them a lot. When we were at home we did not spend much time together as a family, we spent more time playing with our cousins and friends. Today, I am thankful for that trip, and I understood how important our family was. We had a lot of fun that great week, we learned how to swim, and the most important was we shared some fantastic family time. Christmas has never been the same after that particular year, but I will always remember my valuable lesson. My hope is that one day I can show my children how important it is to spend special moments with the family.





## The ESL Times

The Haggerty English Language Pathway Program delivers high quality English language instruction to speakers of other languages. Our student-centered curriculum is designed to educate international students both linguistically and culturally to be successful in an American university. By promoting cross-cultural encounters, outreach, and participation, we contribute to the diverse multicultural character of the campus and community.

## Write for the Times

The ESL Times is almost exclusively comprised of articles written by students of the Haggerty English Language Pathway Program.

We welcome submissions of any kind be it academic, creative, or artistic.

If you would like to contribute to a future issue, please send an email to:

[esl@newpaltz.edu](mailto:esl@newpaltz.edu)

## Upcoming Dates

**Dec 8**

**End-of-Semester Ceremony**

**Dec 11**

**Last Day of Classes**

**Dec 13**

**TOEFL Exam**

**Dec 14**

**Accuplacer Exam**