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# THE ESL TIMES



*Pictured: 1 HanQi Chen, Joao Victor Estevam Santos, Georgii Samkharadzg, Zhouyang Lyu, and Ting-Hsin Wang with American students.*

## Volunteering

By Joao Victor Estevam Santos

**Brazil**

On Saturday, April 14th, 10 American students from New Paltz and five from ESL Community Interactions class (Victor, Georgii, Kayla, Dean, and Hanqi) went to Chiz's Heart Street in Kingston for volunteering. We took two public buses to go there, one from New Paltz, and the second from Kingston. We just

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paid \$3 to go and come back because the first was free. The only problem was waiting for the bus because sometimes the bus is late. There we walked 5 minutes and went in one big house where we stayed to help.

The American students already went there many times. It was easy to notice just by seeing how they communicated with everybody. This was good because it showed everybody the place is good and friendly. In the house we saw many adults, ages 30 -60, but everybody there has some mental or physical problems or has schizophrenia. I think every ESL student felt it was a little strange at first, particularly when these people talked with us. We felt surprised and maybe a little fear just because of the way they talk or move. However, that was just the first moment.

After this we started to help in some places they need. Dean, Kayla and another two went in the kitchen to make the breakfast and prepared lunch. This day it was chicken, rice and dessert. They helped serve and cook. Another job was helping clear space in the garage, rearrange some items or furniture, build the floor and one activity was to talk with some people there. You can talk about your histories or they talk about some of their history. It is one big moment because everyone there has some kind of story interesting or funny.

There we met new people and the woman who takes care of the place and takes care of everybody asked which country we were from because she said some people who live there are from different countries, and she wanted us to meet these people. One person there is from Russia (Georgii went there and started talking with her). Other people were from Brazil too and I went there and talked with them.

This day was fun and was good work. We helped to make the place better for people who live there and made it easier for the people who “work” there. I think everyone should go there to make the day or life better. Maybe just 5 hours is not enough, but I think it is helpful for everyone in life to help some people, just to make their life better.

## Going Back in History

By Yuka Katoku

Japan

On April 24, I visited Mohonk Mountain with my classmates and my professor. It was a part of our Reading & Writing class to learn how native people lived in New Paltz. We saw a longhouse that was reproduced to educate about history. It was very realistic so I felt I went back to a past time when the Esopus (who are the native people of New Paltz) lived there. In addition, we found that some food was hanging in the longhouse and we guessed why the Esopus did that. That was very interesting and I thought such a building as this is useful to learn about history.

Learning history makes us miserable sometimes because of the bad deeds of

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people from the past, but we have to recognize and understand what happened in the past and we must examine ourselves again in order to have a great future.

### Diary of West Point

By Fan Xia

China

On April 7, there was sunshine. I took the bus organized by the school to West Point. The first stop was the West Point Museum. We met our tour guide. She took us in and we walked around the exhibition hall with her commenting about American military history. Then we went downstairs to the weapon exhibition. There were many meaningful collections. I saw some collections of cannons and missiles.

Then we took the bus again to enter the campus. Those old buildings are full of stories! They reminded me of the Hogwarts School in Harry Potter, and the guide said: “Yes, that is based on here.”

Across the campus, there is a good attraction. We enjoyed the scenery of Hudson River between the mountains. Nice pictures can be taken from there. The only regrettable thing is that we could not walk into The Cadet Chapel. Many American friends told me how beautiful it is inside the chapel. I think I will come again to make it up to myself.

The guide explained the process of getting permit to visit West Point. It is complicated for foreigners especially, so going on a trip organized by the school is the best way. I hope you guys will enjoy this trip next time!



### Washington D.C.

By Ruoxin Xu

China

The trip to Washington D. C. was very good. I met many good people on the trip and I made friends. We went to visit museums, the White House, the Capitol Building and the Lincoln Memorial. I like the Lincoln Memorial the most, not only because the Lincoln Memorial is very famous but also because Lincoln is a great person.

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*Pictured: 2 Ruoxin Xu (second from right) and Izabella Silva do Nascimento (third from right) with other international students in Washington D.C.*

Lincoln, as well as other very important figures like Martin Luther King, ultimately laid down their lives in the service of perfecting an imperfect union. My friends and I also went to taste many good foods.

Three days' time wasn't enough to see all the sightseeing spots, but it was a very important memory for me. After I go back to China, I will miss these days and miss my friends in America.

### Washington D.C.

By Izabella Silva do Nascimento

**Brazil**

The trip to Washington DC was amazing. I met different international students and we became friends during the trip. I went to different kinds of restaurants and I tasted various types of food. I learned about American history through museums and tourist spots. I really had fun on this trip. The most important thing is that I made lifelong friends and now I'm not afraid to travel around America.



### American Cookies: A Process Essay

By Mariko Kai

**Japan**

Usually, when we cook new meals that we have never made, we learn them from our parents, our grandmother or perhaps by a TV cooking show or books. If the taste is good, you may cook them on a regular basis, and also, if the recipe has exciting or happy memories attached to it, it will also become a special recipe for you. I found my special recipe from my American friend in the US: American cookies. They are soft and fluffy. They also have a sweet and pleasant smell. The recipe has some special techniques regarding collecting ingredients, mixing them, and baking.

To begin with, collect ingredients. It needs 3/4 cup of butter, 3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar, 1/4 cup of granulated sugar, an large egg, 2 cups of flour, 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract, 2 teaspoons of cornstarch, 1 teaspoons of baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon of salt and the amount of chocolate chips. It is really important to use an exact amount of ingredients.

After that, put butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar in a large bowl. The following steps are to mix them on medium speed with a mixing machine until they are fluffy and a light brown color. After you do that, mix in an egg and vanilla extract. A main point is to use two kinds of sugar and softened butter.

Next, prepare another large bowl and combine and mix flour, cornstarch, baking soda and salt. After that, put the ingredients into the first bowl's ingredients and mix on slower speed. Lastly, add in the chocolate chips on slower speed until distributed evenly. The important point of this process is to add cornstarch.



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It is not popular way, but it makes cookies softer and puffier. In addition, the amount of chocolate chips depends on your favorite. It is possible to mix extra chocolate chips.

Finally, roll ingredients to golf ball size. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 degrees. After that, bake them for 11 minutes. An important point is to make them into golf ball shapes, not thin because they will be puffier, softer and thicker. In addition, chocolate chips are mixed in enough, so they do not melt.

In conclusion, if you collect ingredients exactly as mentioned, mix them carefully, and bake them into golf ball sizes, you can make puffier, softer and amazing tasting American cookies. Especially pay attention to following the main points to use two kinds of sugar, softened butter and cornstarch. As for me, it also has a memory of baking American cookies with my friend on Christmas day. Therefore, they are the best cookies in the U.S. for me. A recipe is not only for making meals but also sometimes reminding us of feelings such as exciting memories.

## What Changed Sad into Warm

By Ayano Yoshida

Japan

I was five years old when I learned the English alphabet. Even now, I recall that my school's fresh smell of paint and shiny floor gave me good motivation to learn English. My teacher entered the classroom and started to introduce herself by writing "Emily" on the whiteboard. She was skinny and small, and she had a strong Australian accent. Besides, because her hair was blond and her eyes were blue, whenever I was with her, I felt like as if I were in a foreign country. After the class, I went back to my home and I told my mother I wanted to keep going there. Emily knew a good way of teaching English to Japanese even though she had just opened her own English school near my house.



Almost 15 years have passed since I moved to the city I call home. My hometown is located in the northern part of Japan and it snows a lot every year. In front of my house, there are huge rice fields and around October we can get a large amount of rice. Also, if I drive for 1 hour, I can see the beautiful ocean where many types of fresh fish are caught. However, this fantastic place was destroyed in only a day. One day in winter when I was in my house, I heard the windows rattle. I thought it was because of strong wind, however, the sound was getting louder and at the same time I started to feel the earth move under my feet. All the books and dishes were coming off the shelves and the floor was a jumbled pile. In addition, all utilities were stopped so we could not drink water or take a shower for a while. However, it was not the worst thing. As soon as the earthquake happened, a huge tsunami occurred and it stole away with everything in the area near the ocean, such as houses, cars, nature and even people. They lost a lot of important things in one day and they needed help to take back their lives. Meanwhile, even though small earthquakes still happened, a large number of people from all over the world went there to help them.

Emily was one of them. She lived in my hometown so she was affected by the earthquake as well. However, she went there and did a lot of things for them. Some houses got washed away or messed by the tsunami. She went to those kinds of houses and helped to clean. Also, she gave a lot of stuff to them, for example, food, blankets, card games and hand cream. The reason why she went to places where it wasn't safe was just because she wanted to help a lot of people, even though her family worried about her so much and they wanted her to come back their home.

Two months later, school resumed. At the time, a new friend, Rina, moved to my school because she lived near the beach and her house was gone. She told me her sad and terrible experiences. On the other hand, she said she could feel warm because many people came to help her and encourage her. I thought Emily's great act led to make people happy. After I heard Rina's story face to face, I decided to go there and see what I could do in order to contribute to reconstruction. As soon as I determined to visit there, I came up with one person who could accompany with me: my brave teacher, Emily.

### 3-D Printing Lab

By Tamara Raupp Zanatta (Brazil), Izabelle Silva do Nascimento (Brazil), and Ruoxin Xu (China)

**TAMARA:** 3-D Printing is a new technology that helps people create different objects. Most of these objects can be useful and necessary to improve the lives of many people, like prosthetics, houses, furniture and parts for everything you can imagine. There are many students who are learning about 3-D printing and putting their skills into practice to help a new generation.



**IZABELLE:** This project was very interesting for me. I could learn about 3-D printing. Also I could learn about the lab at SUNY New Paltz and now I

want to use this service more. I have a lot of things that I want to print. In my opinion, the 3-D printing lab is a facility for students to learn about new technology useful for their future career.

**RUOXIN:** After this visit, I really gained a lot of knowledge about 3-D printing. It's useful and cheap, and I think with the development of science and technology, 3-D printing will help people more. For me, I learned a lot of about 3-D printing; I know how it works and what materials it uses to make things. So, for me this visit was a special experience, it was interesting and enriched my knowledge.







## The ESL Times

The Haggerty English Language Program delivers high-quality English language instruction to speakers of other languages. Our student-centered curriculum is designed to educate international students and other non-native English speakers 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 community.

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## Write for the Times

The ESL Times is almost exclusively written by students of the Haggerty English Language 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 e-mail to [esl@newpaltz.edu](mailto:esl@newpaltz.edu).

## Upcoming Dates

- May 4**  
End-of-Semester Ceremony
- May 7**  
Last Day of Classes
- May 9**  
TOEFL Exam
- May 10**  
Accuplacer Exam

