

# SJSU International House

Presents: newsletter Spring 2014



# Table of Contents

- 1) Friendship - Yeri Lee
- 2) People - Hiroki Morimoto
- 3) Man: The (Social) Animal - Arianna Vazquez Fernandez
- 4) People in the United States - Salman Alanazi
- 5) The Germans! - Sharvary Bhrushundi
- 6) Make the Effort, it Might be Worth it - Misha Agarwal
- 7) Working as Vice President - Xincheng Yuan
- 8) The List - Rosie Funder
- 9) Beloved - Serena Organ
- 10) Why Different When Same? - Patrick Brown
- 11) The Meaning of People - Enrique Padilla
- 12) Stay Connected - Leann Cherkasky Makhni





## Friendship by Yeri

I always hoped I could have a friend who I could go and ask for a cup of tea without hesitation after supper. Also, I hoped I could have friend whom I could visit in slippers on a rainy afternoon or on a snowy night and whom I could feel free to open my heart to till late at night.

In our lives, we need a true friend to help each other to dream something eternal even though it doesn't exist. For me, gender, age, nationality do not matter to me. The people who have a calm and courteous personality like a deep and clear river and who can give me a piece of advice of life can be my friends. I am so fortunate that I met friends who always encourage me and give me the piece of advice without hesitation. Although they are from different countries, languages and distances are not an obstacle between us. All of them are good partners of me.

## People

By Hiroki Morimoto

“Hito toiu ji wa hito to hito toga sasaeatte dekite imasu.” - Kimpachi Sensei

The shape of the Japanese character for the word “people” shows two people are supporting each other.



Researches on the origins of Chinese characters have proved it wrong (the character was actually formed from a person standing with his hand hanging forward). Nevertheless, this expression by Kimpachi Sensei has long been appreciated and taught as a lesson by Japanese people.

Before I came to the US, I heard that US culture values in individualism and independence. I was a little afraid that it might be hard to work cooperatively with American people. It wasn't the case at all. They value highly in teamwork, with individual responsibility. I have learned how to work as a team, respecting each individual's perspective and values. It's not easy, but it's so much fun at the same time. Thankfully, I have good people in the US; a good team, and a good family in the I-House.

Kimpachi Sensei, you are right. Now I can happily tell you that people are supporting each other even on the other side of the ocean.

A photograph of two wolves in a forest. One wolf is on the left, looking towards the right. The other wolf is on the right, looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest of trees.

# People

## Man: The (Social) Animal

Arianna Vazquez Fernandez

Man is a wolf to man' Hobbes said. The newscasts are full of stories that make us think about the essence of human beings. Robberies, betrayals and corruption are part of our daily routine. Was Hobbes a pessimistic or just a realistic? As a genuine Law student, I believe that things are not black or white. All depends on the eye of the beholder. Even the kindest people hide some malicious thoughts or selfishness inside themselves. Even the most evil ones have something they care about and are willing to fight for. Everyone has something good to find out but we just need to learn how to look. Meeting someone for the first time is like receiving a gift still wrapped. Inside you will find thousands of dreams, emotions and fears. What make them smile, what make them angry or what make them cry. And this discovery will make you grow up as a person because you will also learn things about yourself that you had never realized. Each person in your path will have something to teach you if you give them the opportunity to do so. I still remember the first day that I arrived in the International House. I had 70 gifts to be unwrapped and a whole year ahead to do it slowly. That large amount of people and that mess of identities have become an authentic family made just by memories. After 10 months, I can proudly say I have met a lot of people who have made a difference in my life. The interaction of so many cultures freed us from the ethnocentrism we are used to live in. The heart-breaking goodbyes have already started and we are helpless against the expected tears that come to our eyes. I will miss to hear a knock on my door constantly, the chats downstairs, the scary movies, the nights out. I will miss every single corner of this house because each of you have contributed to make this year the best experience of my life. Believe me when I say that you have become a main part of me and I will never forget you. Man is a social animal and who you are now is determined by the people you have known before.



## People in the United States

Salman Alanazi

When I came to the US everything was strange for me, because I never been in the US before, and I came from a really different culture. As the days went by, I made new friends that help me adjust to the American culture. They help me with academic and social issues . For example, they help me with my English and also told me the places to see during my stay here in San Jose. I can always count on them to help me out. The International House is the place where I live in, and it is amazing. The people there are mostly from different places around the world, so I know I'm not the only one in my kind of situation. If there is one thing that I would take away from my experience here in the United States, it is the friendships I have made.

## The Germans!

Sharvary Bhrushundi

If you are a tall-blond German (no matter boy or a girl), you have me. After my experience in Berlin, I feel they get a lot of bad media. What I found out about them was, Germans are good people. They have a fabulous sense of Military grace. I love the way they dress up, their behavior, and their wicked sense of humor. I have had many encounters with Germans and one of my best experiences with them, for example, the day I arrived in Berlin, my friend was supposed to pick me up but he slept through. Instead, another German friend of mine who had come to my university for a semester, she was there to pick me up. That moment was so overwhelming and kind of her.

Second thing I like about Germans is they are straight forward. They wouldn't beat around the bush but talk exactly what they feel. Also, they are punctual and prompt. I'd like to quote another instance. First day in the Berlin School was supposed to start at 9 am. Since everyone was pretty jetlagged, we all decided to go a little late. We happened to reach there at 9:45 am. I'd like to give a little pre-requisite here. We were 20 of us who were late and the strength was 5. Surprisingly, they did not wait for us. They started it off. I find this an amazing trait.

Thirdly, the way they do things. It's pretty simple. When at work, they do nothing but work. They are a perfect blend of sophistication and fun. When at party, they party completely. They don't brag about their English Speaking Skills or their accent. Nor do they whine about losing in something. Additionally, they are super friendly people. I remember I lost my map and took a wrong bus. All I knew was my address. I didn't have a number because it happened in my early days in Berlin. I was afraid and didn't know what to do. The driver tried to explain me the route but I couldn't get it. Then, he asked me sit down in the bus for a while and he promised to take me home once he was done with his driving duty. I was afraid of him taking me into a wrong place but I was wrong. After he was done with the duty, he fulfilled his promise. He took me home safely and on the way helped me with the directions. It was so nice of the man.

It is hard to share all my experiences in one article and I would truly love to visit all of them once again because they are worth meeting in life. I feel lucky to have encountered such people in life!

# SJSU International House Newsletter Spring 2014

Make the Effort,  
it Might be Worth it.

By Misha Agarwal

I'm sure that when growing up in your home country you had some preconceptions about people who lived in different countries. I will share some of mine with you. For example, In England the general stereotype of Americans are that they are too loud and love to socialize; and the stereotype for people who come from Asian countries are that they are shy and social but are more hard-working. Mainly, that people from other countries are different than us. So before living in the International House I thought I had a good idea about people. However, I realized that this was not the case at all. Americans may be loud, but they are also among one of the friendliest people I have met; and the stereotype for Asian people is too generalize, from my experience they love to have just as much fun as anyone else.

Part of what makes a person who they are, comes from where they grew up. Although it doesn't define the person, it helps to shape them. So living with people from different countries from all over the world pushes you to demolish stereotypes and become fascinated and educated with knowledge about different cultures which helps you to understand different types of people.

I have learnt that to be able to communicate with people, you often do not need words. People assume that language or culture can be a barrier to stop you from getting close to them, when in fact it is used as an excuse when people are hesitant to try. It is an amazing feeling to sit with people from different cultures and all laugh at the same joke.

After living with so many different people for 10 months, it made me realize possibly the most important lesson I could learn in life: we are all the same.



# People

## Working as Vice President

Xincheng Yuan

This Spring semester at I-house has been special for me. For the first time in my life I ran for the position requires leadership--- student council vice president.

In my 20 years of life before, whenever I saw the word “President”, “Manager” and so on that contains the meaning of leadership my attitude would definitely be “ignore it”. Leadership, in my mind, would never be my cup of tea. In other words, it means simply “nothing to do with me.”

However in my fourth semester at I-house, when I saw the sign-up sheets for student council positions, I felt the impulse of trying them. I planned to be spokes person at first, but Adam might be a better candidate than me in speaking. I felt ready to try something more exciting. After taking part in student councils for 3 semesters, I am already familiar with what’s going on. Then this semester I felt I should try vice president to practice my leadership skill.

Now the semester quickly came to an end. My experience working as vice presidents in summary is actually “working for people”. In the 3 months, we 6 student council members meet every Monday. We listen to resident’s proposals. We were always all ears for their good advices to make the house better.

Throughout this semester, we serve people by making their proposals work; we connect people by encouraging them to take part in committees; we talk to people to make everybody’s idea shines. The vice president experience was unforgettable for me, and it would always be a bright memory in my life. This experience was meaningful as made my semester really full, besides, it gave me more chance to talk in front of people. I remember several times when the president was absent, so that I had to do all the work, from considering what to cover in the meeting and who should we pick to present the proposal during student council.

Making slides for student council every week was also a valuable experience. I tried to make the slides precise and clear. In this reason I put the agenda as pictures on the left every time to let people know clearly what we will cover in the meeting, as well as trying to use different colors and pictures to not make the slides not dull. I’m glad that the content and pictures I used were not offensive to any cultures. I would save those slides on my laptop so that every time I open them in the future I could remember this amazing experience.

For some reason, I decided to move out next semester. However as I said in the last student council meeting, if I would stay in I-House next semester, I would work for student council again with no regret.

## The List

Rosie Funder

I've got this list. Unlike most lists, it wasn't conceived to restore daily order to my life. This list is part of a far greater exercise in futility: the quest to arrive at a personality. This list is not confined to ink or paper; it exists as a swarm of bullet points inside my head, each idea pulsing dimly in my periphery. I didn't compile it in twenty minutes; I slowly witnessed it into existence over twenty-two years. It's the product of a life-long process of elimination; a document of the least-desirable qualities I have observed in others. The left-over qualities – those not irritating enough to make the list – I should try to claim as my own.

Share-housing with five other people makes this process easier. With a junkyard of quirks and defects to sort through, you can quickly compile an exhaustive list of things never to say or do. It starts off with the small things, like being told how to pronounce sauna correctly. 'It's sow-na. You guys know it's Finnish, right?'

At this point, endowing foreign words with flourish goes straight on the list. Singing along to any Sigur Ros song earns a spot as well. You cannot be that person. You will never speak Hopelandic.

A recent visit to my hometown reminded me of an earlier item on the list of things not to become: downtown hoon. These hoons chucked 'phat laps' on Mondays and could spit without opening their mouths. I feared their condition as though it were contagious. My ten-year-old self would imagine the inevitable diagnosis: the doctor, removing his glasses, tells me that it's acute delinquency. I've developed a nasty mullet. It's inoperable.

When I left Warwick, I could finally add hoon to the list of things I was not. This accomplishment was quickly dwarfed by the prospect of sifting through the smorgasbord of qualities observable in the 'big smoke'. A catalyst for this process came in the form of a trip to New Zealand, mostly because the bearded explorer who lured me there wanted to be with the mountains. I spent the trip looking out the window at the peaks that weren't being conquered and at the trails that weren't being tramped. I had grown up with a camping family and hoped that one day I would have it in me to make other people feel mildly guilty for binge-watching TV. I wanted to talk about fresh air as though I knew its benefits. After that holiday, outdoorsy was dutifully added to the list, and I inched another bullet point closer to sculpting some semblance of character. Usually, I chipped away at my personality trait by trait but spending extended time with my mum carved gargantuan chunks out of its emerging form. The more homeopathic pills she planted in my pockets, the more I relied on pain-killers. When she prattled heedlessly at waitresses about the prana of the food, I ordered a double-ristretto long black. I could not let myself grow kooky the way she had. It was in the middle of watching Gravity when Mum nudged me and held out what I thought, in the dark of the cinema, was part of her Violet Crumble bar. I accepted, realising too late that I was holding three chunks of damp, tooth-pocked honeycomb that she'd sucked the chocolate coating from. She had offered me the spongy remains as if I were her wide-mouthed baby chick eager for her seconds. Mum doesn't realise that her confused social etiquette – these exchanges of ours – go straight on my list.

If we share a few moments in the bathroom, I will invariably end up with a pair of tweezers in my hand and Mum pointing to a rogue hair on her chin. I'll stoop to get a good look at the silvery strand as it quivers under her breath. Then I'll isolate the hair by planting two fingers either side of it, smoothing her crumpled skin like a sheet of crêpe paper I'm hoping to get one more use from. I note how her face looks like the map of an obsessive cartographer. I wish I could add to my list don't grow chin hair or remember to be less saggy. The hair keeps shimmering under the fluorescent light and at certain angles I can't even see it. 'Don't worry about it, Rose,' Mum will say, 'It's only one hair.' Horrified at her indifference, I lunge again at the wispy strand, hoping to uproot it once and for all. But I miss again and feel slightly foolish for having attacked the thin air with such vigour.

# People

## Beloved

By Serena Organ

The way you speak to me, the warmth behind your words searing me open and leaving me hollow even as my cheeks heat up.

The way you say you want to put us aside until you can romance me the way you feel I deserve.

The way I'll wait until you decide whether you're coming or going and love you all the way there.

The way I'll love you however you present yourself; as friend, as lover, as what you were born and what you are.

The way we can be close as ever when we're half the world apart but not close enough to be as together as we feel.

The way we miss each other without really having had each other.

The way we're letting the dust settle and seeing where we'll be standing when that's done.

The way your ring will never leave my finger until you tell it to.

The way my heart will never let go of you until you tell it to stop.

The way our romance is stored away to either go sour or age like fine wine.

I'll write our names on the barrel and wait for you, love.





## Why Different When Same?

Patrick Brown

It floors me how much we divide Cause we are all the same inside Same organs and flesh, biological composition This may be a Freudian omission I think we separated based on fear We will do anything to keep the “other” far, not near We fear language, religion, sex, and creed Yet we are completely fine with greed The seed to hate, war, and so much more Do not fear what is behind the door for once you look Hate, fear, and greed will be no more.

# The Meaning of People

By Enrique Padilla

People. It's amazing how much one word can make your brain spiral out of control, and how your emotions can affect the meaning of such a simple word. If you ever want to figure out what mood you are in, think about people. If you are happy, you'll think of them as sunshine, nurturing you and making you feel good and warm. If you are sad, you think they don't exist or you will believe they have abandoned you. Anger will make you think of people as horrible creatures who are only there to hurt you, while love will make you think that without a person you are not complete. All in all, people are these things and more.

Humans are social creatures with values, virtues and flaws. Those around us mold us to who we are today. In Nicaragua there is a saying "Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres" which translates to: tell me with whom you spend your time with, and I will tell you who you are. We cannot live in isolation, we are meant to be with others, it is our choice with who we spend our time with and get influenced by.

Living at the Ihouse, the definition and meaning of people has been so volatile I don't think it has an absolute form. You can choose to see people as incompatible with you, or you can decide to learn from your differences and grow as a person. I chose the latter, and for that every day I give thanks to the people I have chosen to spend time with and have molded me to the person I am today. I'm not sure what mood I am in, but I think People are opportunity. Opportunity to learn, to grow, and to love.



People



Leann Cherkasky Makhni

People, people who need people,  
Are the luckiest people in the world

This is Barbara Streisand's signature song, "People who need People," and it naturally came to my mind when I heard the Spring 2014 newsletter theme. I hope you will search for it on YouTube and that the music will evoke thoughts of the people in your life. International House is all about People. Every application we receive and read, every program we plan, every facility upgrade we do, every e-mail, phone call, and message we share is all about People.

Please help us stay in touch with you and your I-House friends, all of the people that make up our community. \*Update your contact information at [www.sjsu.edu/alumni](http://www.sjsu.edu/alumni). \*Like the I-House page on Facebook. \*Look for the I-House @ SJSU group on Facebook. \*Join the I-House LinkedIn Group. \*Follow [sjsuihouse](https://twitter.com/sjsuihouse) on Twitter (okay, it's true that we don't post often enough...). \*Support current I-House residents by donating to I-House through the link on our alumni webpage: [www.sjsu.edu/alumni](http://www.sjsu.edu/alumni) You are the "people" that make up I-House. Help us stay connected.



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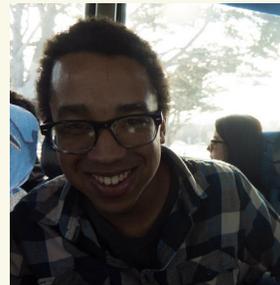
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the 1990s, the number of people who are employed in the service sector has increased in all countries. The increase is most pronounced in the United States, where the service sector has become the dominant sector of the economy. In the Netherlands, the service sector has also become the dominant sector, but the increase is less pronounced than in the United States.

The increase in the service sector has led to a decrease in the number of people who are employed in the manufacturing sector. This is true for all countries. The decrease is most pronounced in the United States, where the manufacturing sector has become the second largest sector of the economy. In the Netherlands, the manufacturing sector has also become the second largest sector, but the decrease is less pronounced than in the United States.

The increase in the service sector and the decrease in the manufacturing sector have led to a change in the composition of the labor force. The labor force is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the service-oriented labor force has become the dominant labor force. In the Netherlands, the service-oriented labor force has also become the dominant labor force, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the composition of the labor force has led to a change in the demand for skills. The demand for skills is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the demand for service-oriented skills has become the dominant demand. In the Netherlands, the demand for service-oriented skills has also become the dominant demand, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the demand for skills has led to a change in the supply of skills. The supply of skills is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the supply of service-oriented skills has become the dominant supply. In the Netherlands, the supply of service-oriented skills has also become the dominant supply, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the supply of skills has led to a change in the wage structure. The wage structure is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the wage structure has become the dominant wage structure. In the Netherlands, the wage structure has also become the dominant wage structure, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the wage structure has led to a change in the income distribution. The income distribution is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the income distribution has become the dominant income distribution. In the Netherlands, the income distribution has also become the dominant income distribution, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the income distribution has led to a change in the social structure. The social structure is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the social structure has become the dominant social structure. In the Netherlands, the social structure has also become the dominant social structure, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.

The change in the social structure has led to a change in the political structure. The political structure is now more service-oriented than in the past. This is true for all countries. The change is most pronounced in the United States, where the political structure has become the dominant political structure. In the Netherlands, the political structure has also become the dominant political structure, but the change is less pronounced than in the United States.