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## Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival at Washington College

by GuoTai Feng

In many people's eyes, a university is a university. I have been to many American universities; most of them are the same, except the size. However, Washington College is different—at least in my eyes. Each country and region has their own customs, their own holidays, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, which are very important festivals in Western countries.

In Asia, there is a festival called the Mid-



Students & Staff Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in Foster House

Autumn Festival, which is celebrated just like Thanksgiving in the United States.

This is a special holiday for international stu-

dents, especially Asian students. The college is celebrating the holidays of its international students and the events are open to all students who

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Historic Reid Hall

Reid Hall is named for Dr. Charles Wesley Reid, President of

## Living in Historical Reid Hall

by Chihiro Osawa

Washington College from 1889 to 1903. During his presidency, coeducation was adopted at Washington College. With the addition of female students to campus in 1891, housing became an issue. After several years of allowing

women to rent rooms off-campus, Dr. Reid supported the construction of a building specifically for female students. According to Harwood, Thompson, and Landskroener (2000),

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## Mid-Autumn Festival (Cont'd)



Girija Ganeshan, Yisi Liu, & Hiet T Vu enjoyed the Foster House Mid-Autumn Festival party

(Continued from page 1)

**“Moon cakes are important gifts for friends to bond with each other during the Mid-Autumn Festival.”**

are interested in Chinese culture. The most important thing is that all of the events are free for students.

The Global Education Office held a Mid-Autumn Festival party in Foster House. At the party, students interested in international rela-

tions and studies attended the party. Many students were interested in Chinese culture. This was a good chance for freshmen to meet new friends. The main attraction of the party was the traditional Moon Cake, which is a special kind of food eaten to celebrate the holiday. In the Mid-Autumn Festival, people combine the mooncakes with an appreciation of the moon.

They meet to celebrate a family reunion and remember their ancestors.

Moon cakes are also important gifts for friends to bond with each other during the festival.

Eating the Moon Cake was so popular that it disappeared very quickly! When I went to the party, there was no more Moon Cakes left. Of course, there were other Asian snacks at the party, such as rice cakes and stick biscuits. There were also several Asian

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Traditional Moon Cakes

## Residence Hall (Cont'd)



Class of 1895: Miss May Matthews was the first woman to complete the academic course at Washington College (Dumschott, 1980)

(Continued from page 1)

Reid “strongly recommended that steps be taken to erect a dormitory for ladies, stating that, during his canvas of the Eastern Shore, he was assured by prospective female students that they would attend college if suitable accommodations were available on the

campus” (p. 76). Recognizing the positive effect of having women on campus, he explained at a board meeting, “It will increase the friends of the College,” and, “It will be the greatest help in improving the moral tone of the college” (Dumschott, 1980, p. 115). First known as “Normal Hall,”

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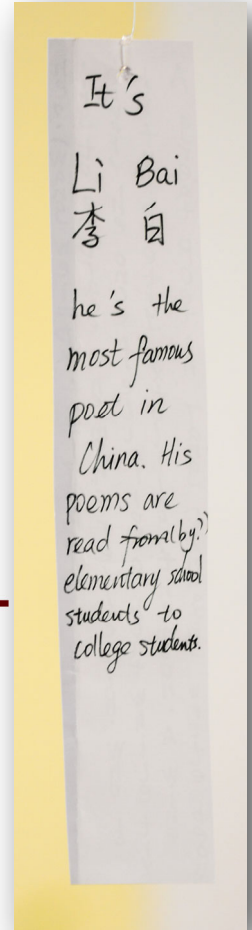
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## Festival (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 2)*

teas. Students also played traditional Asian games at the party, such as guessing lantern riddles. Lantern riddles are a kind of riddles hung under lanterns. There were toys in other areas, including the very popular Jenga, which looked like a lot of wood bars that made up a tall tower. Each student took turns pulling a bar out one at a time until the tower collapsed.

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One of the Many Lantern Riddles

## Residence Hall (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 2)*

construction of the building housing both the education program and its female students was completed in 1897. And over one hundred years later, Reid Hall is still a residence hall only for women.

Unlike in the past, there are no longer rules such as curfews and a prohibition of visits from men in the residence hall. I was surprised; however, I feel relaxed in my room. In fact, student residents follow social norms. I believe that it is a good practice to make a communal life.

Today in Reid Hall, there are six single rooms

and 29 double rooms. My classmate ZhiYi lives in a single room. I think her room is convenient because there is a vacuum cleaner and a refrigerator in her room.

Double rooms are for two students. These rooms have furniture that can be repositioned in several ways, including bunk beds. My friends Sala and Mariama share a double room. Good friends now, Sala and Mariama have known each other since they entered WAC. Some other students living in Reid Hall were friends before entering WAC and chose to share a double room. One of the good points in sharing a room is that roommates can make good relationships—like

being in a family. If there is a roommate, becoming homesick might be reduced.

Each floor has a communal bathroom. In each bathroom, there are four showers and four toilets. I appreciate that Washington College

*(Continued on page 8)*



ZhiYi Zhang studying in her single room



# My Return to Chicago

by JunYu Yao



Millennium Park & "The Bean" in Downtown Chicago

Before starting at Washington College, I went to high school in Chicago, Illinois. I went back to Chicago the weekend before Fall Break to see my host family and pick my stuff that I left there this summer. I took the school shuttle to the Annapolis Mall at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Then I took a taxi to the Baltimore airport.

At 7:00 p.m., I got my boarding pass, and then I found out that my flight was a tiny airplane. Not surprisingly, with my 6' 4" feet height, I huddled in my seat. It was only a two-hour fight, but it was a terrible flight experience, even worse than the 16 hours flight back to China.

About 10:00 p.m., I arrived at O'Hare airport. As soon as I landed Chicago, I felt like I was going back to China. It was a feeling that I was going back home because everything around me was so familiar as home. The feeling of being in Chicago was entirely different from when I came to Washington, D.C., this past August. I was so nervous to come to Washington College this summer because I was unfamiliar with Washington,

D.C., with Chestertown, and with college life. When I was on the way to the hotel, I saw all the buildings in downtown Chicago, and it felt like Chicago was my second hometown. After a long day, finally I arrived at my hotel at midnight.

The next morning, I left my hotel room around 9:00 a.m. I bought a hot chocolate and walked down Michigan Avenue, which is the most famous shopping street in Chicago. I used to go there with my friends on weekends. When I was walking along the street, the whole city made me so comfortable even if the weather was really cold. It reminded me of my high school life.

In the afternoon, I

*(Continued on page 5)*

**"I saw all the buildings in downtown Chicago, and it felt like Chicago was my second hometown."**



JunYu with Mike, Maggie and their dog, Tonny



## Festival (Cont'd)



*Students and Staff Enjoy the Mid-Autumn Festival Party*

*(Continued from page 3)*

I asked Vietnamese students at Washington College how they celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival in Vietnam. One student, Hiet T Vu, told me there were different customs in Vietnam, where the holiday is more a children's festi-

val, with most of the activities shared by parents and children. In the evening, Vietnamese carry lanterns shaped like carp around the streets, and most families gather after dinner to watch TV shows, usually comedies. Another activity they enjoy is the Lion Dance, where

performers dress up as lions. Each lion has two performers, one in the head and one in the tail. The lion costumes are made of colored cloth. Accompanied by music, they dance various forms of lion movements.

Of course, not everyone international student came to the Mid-Autumn Festival party and many students chose to travel with friends or visit family. Some students stayed on campus and cooked by themselves or ate hot pot in the residence halls. This was a good activity because getting together enhances friendship, which is also the meaning of Mid-Autumn Festival.



*Yue Sun at the Mid-Autumn Festival party in Foster House*



*Chicago Skyline from Lake Michigan*

## Chicago (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 4)*

went back to visit my host family. When I walked to the front door of the house, I felt like I just got off the school bus with a heavy backpack, returning home to have dinner. I talked with my

host parents, Mike and Maggie Hedges, about my summer. I told them that my family was doing well, and I went bungee jumping this summer. We talked about college life as well. I told them college life was much better than I thought it would be. They also were so proud that I was going to class every day, because sometimes I

*(Continued on page 11)*



# FUN TIME SOCCER CLUB

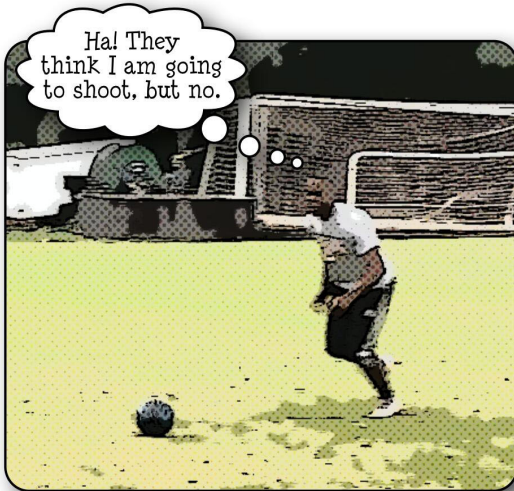
By: Jiahao Li



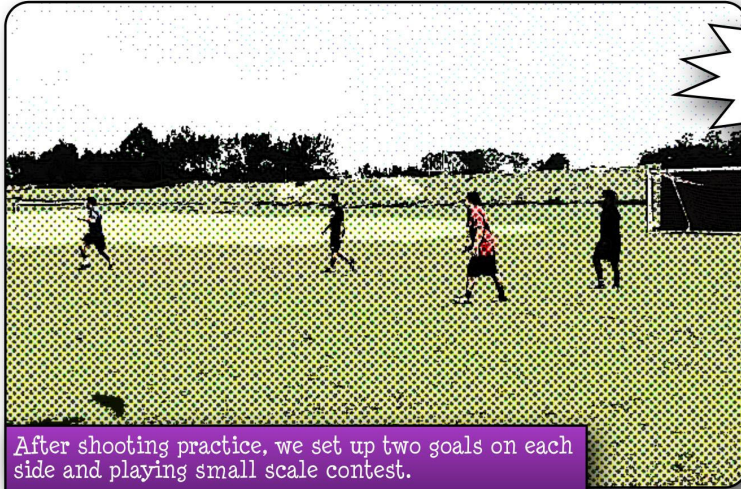
Club Soccer is open to anyone interested in soccer regardless of skill level.



The team are co-ed, meaning that males and females play together on the same teams.







After shooting practice, we set up two goals on each side and playing small scale contest.

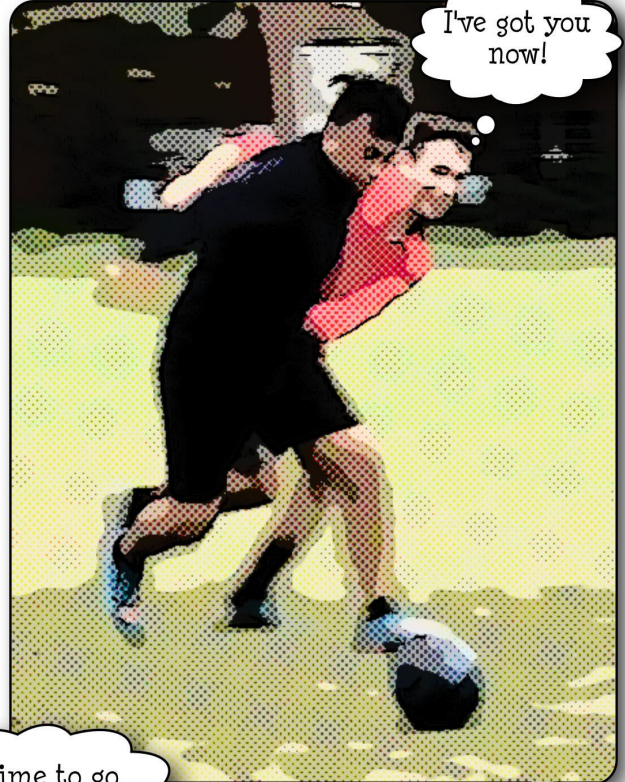
Nice Shot!



Perfect shooting!



Louis and Koy are having a competition.



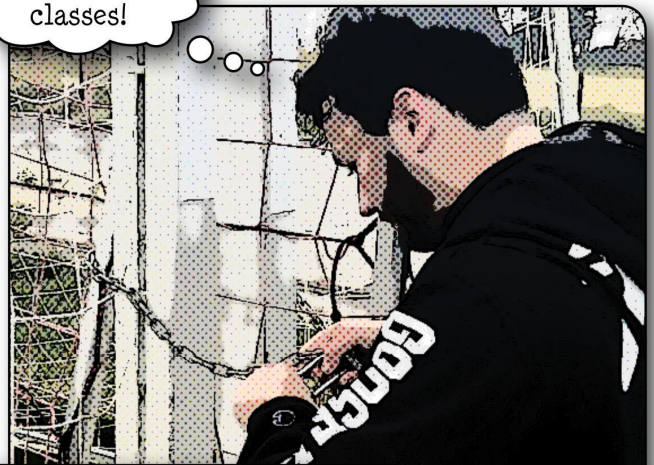
I've got you now!

Time to go study for classes!



C'mon, man!

They are trying to nutmeg each other, Nutmegging is when someone kicks the ball through both of your legs.



Although the matches are informal, we still have to lock up the goal when practice is over.

**THE END**



## Residence Hall (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

employs housekeepers to clean the showers and toilets every day.

In the basement, there is a laundry room, a kitchen, and a common room. We have five washers and two dryers. It is important for students to make good use of our spare time; I always do my laundry in a breathing spell. In the kitchen, there are three microwave ovens.

We can cook anytime and anything. In the common room, there are vending machines, TVs and a billiard table. We can enjoy playing games and watching movies. Sometimes, I do my homework in the common room because the chairs in the common room are comfortable.

I imagined that the life in the residence halls was cramped and uncomfortable, but we can

enjoy our lives in Reid Hall. It has such an amazing history and today, this history and tradition are inherited. I am proud of staying in such a historical residence hall.

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## Interview with Dr. Ben Tilghman

by HuiLing Hu

*Q. Where did you go to college?*

A. I went to Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. It was a small school just like Washington College.

*Q. What was your major?*

A. I majored in art history.

*Q. How did you decide to choose this major?*

A. I went to college wanting to study a lot of different things; so I was interested in history, religion, literature, and anthropology. In my first year, I took art history class mostly because my mother encouraged me to and she liked art. When I was growing up, we

always went to museums. I realized taking that class was a way for me to study all those different things—like history and economics and all these different kinds of things that I was interested in all came together in art history and a single work of art. It was a way to major in everything.

*Q. What specific things attracted you to become a professor at Washington College?*

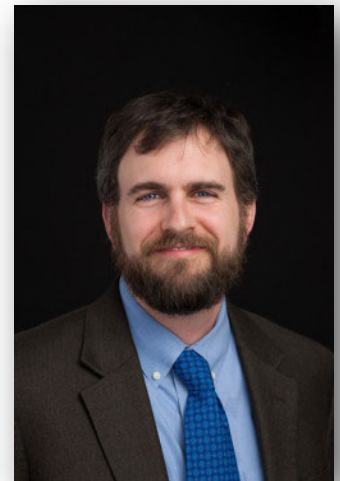
A. I always wanted to be a teacher in a small school because I like small classes and getting to know students. But, Washington College specifically was

exciting for me because my parents already lived here in Maryland. And actually, my father lives on a farm that has been in my family for many generations. It's about half an hour drive from here, and that place is really special to me. The chance to live so close to it is really exciting. I want to be in Maryland, and I want to be on the eastern shore of Maryland.

*Q. How long have you been teaching?*

A. I have been teaching about ten

**"I want to be in Maryland, and I want to be on the Eastern Shore!"**



Dr. Benjamin Tilghman

(Continued on page 9)



# Interview with Wendi Yu

by ZhiYi Zhang



ZhiYi Zhang & Wendi Yu in Hodson Hall

*Q. Where do you come from in China?*

*A. I come from Qu Zhou, which is in the southern part of China, near Shanghai.*

*Q. When did you come to America?*

*A. I came when I was in the eighth grade.*

*Q. Why did you come to America?*

*A. I am not sure, my parents decided for me. But I am glad they made this decision for me.*

*Q. What was your first challenge when you come to America?*

*A. I think my first challenge was the language. I did not know how to talk with people and I was afraid of it. When I went out for dinner, I did not know how to order foods, which was embarrassing.*

*Q. What are the differences between high school and college?*

*A. In high school, students did not have too much time after classes, and there were people telling them what they have to do. In college, we get more free time and less homework, but we need start to learn how to manage our free time to make it more useful.*

*Q. Why were you interested in WAC? Why did you choose this college?*

*A. Because I am used to small groups and small classes. I think in small classes my professors can pay more attention to me and I can learn better. Besides, I have more*

*opportunities to talk with my professors.*

*Q. What were your expectations of college life before you come?*

*A. I expected to make more friends from different places and learn all kinds of cultures. I also wanted to learn*

*(Continued on page 12)*



Dr. Benjamin Tilghman & HuiLing Hu

## Tilghman (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 8)*

*years. I started teaching when I was in graduate school, and then I taught at a couple different places before coming to teach here.*

*Q. What do you like best about teaching at Washington College?*

*A. Definitely the small classes! And you can*

*really get to know your students and work with them based on what they are interested in. I can help them by teaching that way, and I never want to be part of a giant factory school.*

*Q. What courses have you taught in the past 3 years?*

*A. I have taught art history*

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Tilghman (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

courses, but then I've also really enjoyed teaching freshmen seminar courses like first-year students reading and discussion.

*Q. Why do you choose to study trees this year as a first-year seminar class?*

A. I knew I would be teaching the first-year seminar and the most important thing to me

was I wanted to teach a class that was about a liberal arts approach to the world. I see the liberal arts as coming to the idea that there are mutable ways to get into any topic that you might be interested in. If you want to understand something, you can't limit yourself just in one way. I also wanted to do something that had to do with the environment, and I wanted something that fits with the Eastern Shore and we're at Washington College. One day I was walking home, and I noticed the wonderful trees we have

in this town. I thought, "We can do everything with trees!" So, I was looking for a topic that you could approach from a lot of different angles.

*Q. Did you pay attention to trees before you decide to teach this course?*

A. I always liked trees, but this is the most I ever thought about trees. I like getting the chance to explore something new for myself.

*Q. Do you prefer to have discussions or tests in your classes? Why?*

A. I much prefer discussion, essays, and writing. I do not prefer tests. The reason is that tests can only tell me what a student doesn't know, but writing and discussion will help me to see what they do know and what they're interested in. In the meantime, you might learn a whole bunch of other things. When students discuss and write, I can hear more in and what they're thinking about.

*Q. Do you prefer to let your students do group work together rather than work alone? Why?*

A. I generally like to have my students work on alone, although a little bit of group work is okay. However, I found that sometimes when

you assign group work, some students would not work together.

*Q. How important you think reading is in your courses?*

A. It's very important and mostly reading.

*Q. What is the best way to study for your classes?*

A. The best way to study for my classes is to read and take notes, and at the end to ask yourself, "What do I think is the most important thing from what I just learned about or I read?"

*Q. What are your teaching methods and style?*

A. Most of my methods are to create an opportunity for students to explore ideas and things on their own and develop their own thoughts. They have to do their own thinking rather than just memorizing information. The foundation of my teaching style is empathy. I try to remember what is like to be a student and what is like to be struggling with something. I use a lot of humor and I try to be a laidback teacher because I want the class to feel more like a conversation.

*Q. Have you changed your teaching style?*

A. When I was a younger teacher, I thought it was more important for students to know the

(Continued on page 11)



Dr. Benjamin Tilghman outside Casey Academic Center

**"Students have to do their own thinking rather than just memorizing information."**



## Chicago (Cont'd)



Tourist Boats on the Chicago River

(Continued from page 5)

skipped school when I was in high school. After that, my host family took me to a favorite restaurant that we always enjoyed together.

Saturday night, I met my old friends in Chicago. We like to eat hot pot, so we took a taxi to Chicago Chinatown. We had

dinner in a Chinese hotpot restaurant. After dinner, we went to a tea bar, because I like the Chinese bubble tea, which is milk tea with Tapioca in it.

Sunday morning, I went to the airport, and I took a regular sized airplane back to Baltimore and then the school shuttle back to campus. It was a very tiring trip, but I enjoyed it.

## Tilghman (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

most important works of arts and more specific information. Now I think what's most important is for students to come to my class with skills for how you look at any work of art. It's about skills.

*Q. What skills do you think are most important to be a professor?*

A. Empathy, patience, creativity.

*Q. What has been your biggest challenge during your teaching career?*

A. The biggest challenge was that when I was a younger teacher, I didn't know as much about art history and about what I wanted to teach as I know now. The biggest challenge has always been teaching a subject

that you don't know a lot about. I actually really like it, but it's still a challenge. I enjoy teaching new subjects because I like learning about them.

*Q. What are your other interests besides teaching college?*

A. I like hiking and listening to all kinds of music. Being a dad is kind of a hobby.

*Q. What is your plan for the next five years?*

A. My plan for the next five years is to change the art history courses we have here to be more focused on topics or themes. In the past, art history classes have generally been Italian painting or American art in the 20th century, and they are about a time period. I want to change it to the

art and natural world, or art and god, or religion. It's more about these topics and less about the focus on a specific time period. Another project for the next five years is to get more involved in Chestertown, and what's going on in Chestertown.

*Q. Do you have any advice for all the undergraduate students at Washington College?*

A. My advice is that this is the only time in your life when you'll get four years to learn about things that interest you. Just focus on the things that interest you, and make the most of the opportunity to study what you love.

**“Make the most of the opportunity to study what you love.”**



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**Yu (Cont'd)**

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what we need for the future, not only about academics, but also like communication skills, how to manage time, and so on.

*Q. What was your first challenge when you came to WAC?*

A. I think the first challenge I had was getting used to college life. For example, I had problems to remember my class schedule. I had different classes everyday, which was totally different from high school. Today, I need to make sure I wake up on time, since I live by myself now.

*Q. How did you get through the challenge?*

A. Whenever I have hard time or I almost decide to give up; I keep telling myself I can do it.

*Q. What is the best way to adjust college life for you?*

A. I think the best way is finding my own way. For example, I think it is important to manage my free time since there is a lot of time outside of classes. It is crucial to use the time wisely and efficiently.

*Q. What are your majors?*

A. My majors are business management and art.

*Q. Why did you choose these majors?*

A. My parents wanted to me study busi-

ness, but I am interested in art.

*Q. How do you balance your time since you have a double major?*

A. I make a schedule to see which work I need to spend most of my time and to finish the rest of my homework as soon as possible.

*Q. What is the most difficult subject for you?*

A. I am not good at anything related to math.

*Q. What clubs/organizations are you in and what do you do?*

A. I am in the archery club. We practice twice a week and prepare for upcoming competitions.

*Q. What is your favorite sport?*

A. My favorite sports are running and archery.

*Q. What is your favorite part of WAC?*

A. My favorite part of WAC is that it is a small college. As I mentioned, I am used to small groups, so I feel more comfortable when I study here. What is more, because of that, I can learn WAC culture more deeply, which helps me understand American colleges better.

*Q. What do you do outside of class?*

A. During the weekend, I go to the archery club and get something to eat outside of school.

*Q. What suggestions do you have for new students at WAC?*

A. I suggest that finishing homework as soon as possible and making sure you read the books. Less playing, more reading!