

Spring Break 2016

By Zhang Peng

I was so excited for spring break this semester! I decided to go to Los Angeles and visit my friends. I booked the flight for the afternoon on March 12th. I already prepared my baggage on Friday and was ready to enjoy my trip. The only thing that was very distressing was the flight time. It was 6 hours. I think it was too long for me, so I used the Wi-Fi on the plane and I felt less bored during the trip.

I arrived at LAX at 9pm; I really wanted to sleep because of the jet lag. My friends already waited at the baggage claim area. We have not seen each other for one year after we graduated from high school. After I picked up my baggage, my friends took me to their



Leo at the Broad Museum

apartment to drop my baggage first, then we went to the Santa Monica pier. It is

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Philadelphia Tour

By Xu Jing

This spring break, we went to Philadelphia, not only the fifth largest city in the U.S but also one of the oldest city in the U.S. It took us one and a half hours to arrive in Philadelphia. My first sight of Philadelphia was flourishing streets and orderly high buildings which really impressed me.

Our hotel was near Chinatown, we had meals there, Chinatown is crowded, I was so

glad that I can eat the food from my country in the U.S.

I had a haircut in Chinatown and the barber was Chinese. It is wonderful that I can describe the haircut I want in Chinese. But to be honest, my new haircut is unsatisfactory.

The second day in Philadelphia was Saint Patrick's Day, walking



St. Patrick's Day in Philadelphia

in the streets is like walking into green, it is really a green parade!

everyone was wearing green

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Spring Break 2016

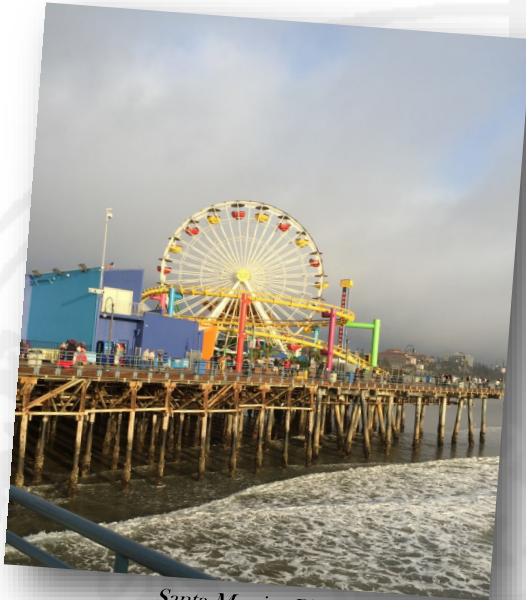
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very close to the place where my friends live.

There is a small amusement park at the pier. Even though it was already closed, the lights were still on and it was so beautiful. When we walked to the end of the pier, there were still some people fishing and sitting there.

It was so amazing for me to stand in the middle of the sea. We also went to the famous store called the CoCo to grab a boba mike tea. The next



Santa Monica Pier

morning, we went to the Chinese district to have brunch at a Chinese dim sum restaurant; it was really delicious. Then we went to the museum called The Broad. This is the newest museum in LA and it is so popular. I made the reservation two months ago. Its architecture is very special and the surface look is very layered. Because it was Sunday, there were lots

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Philadelphia Tour (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

clothes, children had green balloons, and some actors play the part of soldiers with firelock. An old lady told me the origin of Saint Patrick's Day. It is from Ireland, now it became an American festival; Irish immigrant in New York city and Philadelphia began to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day from eighteenth century.

I did not have green clothes, so I did not join the parade, I went back to the room



City Hall Entrance

which is at twenty-second floor. The view of the block is grand, people dyed this city in green.

The next day, we visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I was surprised that I found a Painting called *Premonition of Civil War* by Salvador Dali. In this painting, a dismembered body is full of the picture, but the background is a blue sky and white clouds. Dali expressed that the war is cruel by this painting. In my opinion, I think this painting is really vivid. And I saw another very famous painting called *Sunflowers* by

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By Yuanhui Cheng

April Fool's Day, also called as All Fools' Day, became popular in the 19th century, but the day still is not a public holiday in any country.

What do people do on April Fool's Day? "On April 1st, people can play any kind of joke on others. But the jokes can only be played before twelve o'clock, after twelve o'clock if you still try to play jokes, you will be laughed at by others until next year" (Wang Dao).

As students, we play jokes on friends a lot one time I just arrived classroom, one of my friend came talk to me, said my Math teacher wants to meet me right now. I asked why, he said he did not know, but he can tell the anger on teacher's face. After I heard that, I was so nervous, I put my bag on my seat and ran out toward teacher's office. On the way to the office, I thought through all the things which may make my teacher mad. "I did my homework, I brought the book, I did well on the test..." I kept wondering outside teacher's office and I was afraid to go in. After I exhorted myself, "Whatever how mad she was, she cannot eat me." I went in the office, and asked her, "Did you call me to come to your office?"

She turned to me with a blank face, and asked me what I was talking about. I was both surprised and delighted. Once I told her what happened, she smiled at me and told me that was a joke my friend played on me. And she was right; when I went back to classroom, my friend was laughing so hard.

Although I do not know what people will think if their birthdays were on April 1st, my friend once told me he had a friend named Jason Gu. His birthday was on April first, and they played jokes on him every year to celebrate his birthday. This year they opened the door just little bit and put a birthday

(Continued on page 12)

Symbols of Easter

By Kong Lingzi

Easter is a very important Christian holiday. According to legend, on the third day after Jesus was crucified on the cross, he was resurrected from death; hence the name "Easter". But today I'm going to focus on the traditions of Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny.

Colorful Easter eggs are meant to make people happy; but they also represent the aspirations of people, and a symbol of new life. The Easter bunny is also a symbol of new life, meaning the spring season will bring many new baby rabbits.

Last year, I lived in the United States with my host family. My host family told me about their Easter games. I understand that they played a total of four games. The first game is called an Egg Roll. This game is the most common, it is a race to see who can roll the egg farther on the board. The second game is an egg hunt. The rules are to put eggs around the house, and let the children look for the eggs for a small gift. The third game is to hit the egg; this is a person holding an egg, then to see who can hit it but not break it. My landlord told me that he once took a stone and painted it red; the result was no one beat him. The fourth is an egg relay race. The family is usually divided into two groups, running with the egg on a small wooden spoon and pass it your partners.

These games are suitable for all ages; both children and adults can participate. I think it will be very interesting. If the next time I have a chance, I will attend Easter eggs game.

Why is the symbol of Easter a rabbit? The reproductive capacity of the animals is seen as a symbol of the spring. And so like Easter eggs, rabbits are a symbol of new life. At the same time some people would describe rabbits laying eggs. It symbolizes the rich reproduction, but bunnies laying eggs is just a legend for children. On this day, you will see a lot of rabbit dolls or toys.

There are many stories about Easter eggs and rabbits. If you have next opportunity to participate in an Easter party, you will have a fun experience.

Rock Creek Park Horse Center

By Wang Shufan

I went to Rock Creek Park Horse Center last year with my friends. Actually it was my first time to ride a horse. I was so excited and felt a little nervous.

The horse center is located in Washington, D.C. There are many flowers and plants around the horse center. If you go there, you will feel comfortable and be attracted by the environment.

Before I went to this horse center, all my memories about riding a horse were just on TV. Even though I thought the horses may be different from the horses I had seen on TV, but I was still surprised when I saw the horses.

They were so big!

I had to step on the wood box in order to ride my horse. To be honest, I was afraid of it, not only was it the first time I rode a horse, but also it was too strong, too big, too good.

At the beginning, the trainer told us, "Firstly, you cannot hit horse. If you do that, the horse may become angry and as a result, you will fall. Next, you cannot feed them. If they want to eat plants, stop them. They don't know how much they eat, so just stop them from anything they would eat." After the trainer told us these matters needed attention, she began to teach us how to control a horse. "You can use your foot to kick horse's tummy lightly, remember don't kick with too much energy."

We started off after we finished all the rules. At the beginning, I still felt nervous, even

though I had heard trainer's instructions about riding a horse. I could feel the horse I was riding was a mettle horse, I didn't think it would listen to my commands. When I tried to stop it, it always bellowed. I knew it just tried to be the leader of the horses, but I must tame this horse.

We walked in the grove for a long time. When the horse crossed a tree or small plant, it always stretched out its neck in order to eat food. For me, I just pulled the rope to stop the horse eating. It looked very dispirited because it can never eat any food; it just bellowed. There were many times I thought, "Maybe I should let it eat food." But there was a voice in my mind told me, "Yu shouldn't let it eat because it didn't know how much it can eat."

So during the whole walk in the wood, I didn't allow it to eat anything. After we finished all the walking, the trainer said, "Now you can allow the horse to eat grass." I fell down from the horse, and led the horse to the

grass ground. I saw the horse eat grass quickly, so that I considered maybe I should give some water to the horse.

After the horse finished eating grass, I touched its head. To my surprise, it didn't bellow, it was really kind. So I didn't feel nervous any more. I knew the horse will listen to me and be kind to me as long as I treat it with a sincere heart.



Selfie with Horse

The Spring Festival in America

By Wu Hongjun



Celebrating Spring Festival at Washington College

At Washington College, the Chinese Student Union and the Global Education Office hosted a party to celebrate the Spring Festival in the Hadley Union Building, better known to students as the "HUB". While students, faculty, and administrators were enjoying delicious food as well as fun games and activities, a television broadcast celebrating the New Year was presented.

With the increasing number of Chinese people in the United States, i.e. the cultural melting pot, and enhanced status of China in the world, more and more Americans have become interested in Chinese culture, especially the Spring Festival. After the State of New York set the Chinese New Year as a public holiday a few years ago, Sacramento, the capital of the state of California, and Washington, D.C., are preparing to designate it as a local public holiday as well. The Spring Festival has become the first legal holiday for Chinese people in those places.

Since many Americans like to watch parades and fireworks, they will naturally not miss this good opportunity in the Chinese New Year. Most Americans who want to celebrate the Spring Festival are interested in Chinese culture and keen to find an opportunity to enjoy delicious Chinese food.

The Kennedy Center, located in Washington, D.C., organized the first "Chinese New Year Family Day" to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This activity attracted about

6500 local people. To experience the Chinese culture, many children learned cutting paper, making lanterns, and playing Chinese musical instruments. Differently from the usual solemn atmosphere, the Kennedy Center was decorated in "China Red" to create a happy environment. Chinese knots and red lanterns could be seen everywhere. Roth, the president of the Kennedy Center, said that the Kennedy Center, as the cultural center of the nation, often introduces outstanding cultures from other countries, and she had always wanted to hold a Chinese New Year event. She expressed that she was "very happy" to see so many people showing interest in the Chinese New Year that day after 18 months of preparations, and the Kennedy Center would continue to organize "China New Year Family Day" activities in the future.

As New York City has set the Spring Festival as a public holiday, the public schools there had a day off to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Monkey for the first time on February 8, 2016. For the Spring Festival, the Empire State Building will get some changes. The "flag" style lights will be in Chinese people's favorite color to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

New York is the second city that announced the right of U.S. public schools to have the Spring Festival holiday, following San Francisco. Many Chinese parents are delighted that they can enjoy the Spring Festival with their children. In addition, many Chinese people also are glad that students will not have to worry about the school courses in Chinese New Year. This unique celebration has been held yearly since 2000, and this year will be a shining "Golden Monkey" year.

The Spring Festival is the most important festival for the entire Chinese nation, including the countless Chinese people both at home and abroad, to express patriotic sentiment and show the love for homeland. With the deepening of China's foreign cultural exchanges, Chinese culture has been spreading out, and gaining recognition and participation gradually. As the China-USA exchanges are being increasingly strengthened, more and more Americans have begun to celebrate the Chinese New Year. I hope that both Chinese and Americans can enjoy the New Year and attain happiness.

Student Experiences



The Broad Art Museum in Los Angeles



Chinese Hot Pot in Philadelphia's China-



Angela, Alex & Raquel



Traditional Chinese Food at WC campus Spring Festival



Night view in LA

Student Experiences



March Snow!



Students making Chinese lanterns at Spring Festival



Urban Lights at LACMA Museum



Naihui and Dr. Oros



Spring Festival Selfie!



Calligraphy Lesson

My Church Experience

By Li Jiahao

Chestertown Baptist Church is located at Morgnec Road in Chestertown, Maryland. The Chestertown Christian Academy was found in 1979 as a ministry of Chestertown Baptist Church.

Chestertown Baptist Church has a wonderful children's ministry. Newborn to three-year olds have beautiful, well supervised nurseries and Sunday School classes with trained, loving teachers. Four-year olds to 6th graders have separate Sunday School classes as well as a special church service just for them. They are taught about the Lord in a fun and nurturing environment while still committing scripture and Bible stories to heart.

The goal of the Youth 180 at Chestertown Baptist Church is to assist the home in influencing, instructing, equipping, and preparing teens. They hope that each teen will seek out God's will for his life. The greatest years of a person's life are the teenage years and they are the most critical times of influence in the life of an individual. Misa and Darlene Oliveira lead the youth group at Chestertown Baptist Church. They love young people and they have a great desire to see the teens grow in Christ.

"The men's ministry at CBC is a ministry for every man, in every walk of life. Whether you're young, old, fast paced, or enjoy a slower walk of life you'll enjoy the fellowship of the men's min-



Chestertown Baptist Church

istry," said Preacher Mel Brindley. The Men's Prayer Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM. This is a time for the men of the church to come together for breakfast and fellowship but most importantly to pray for each other and the needs of the church family.

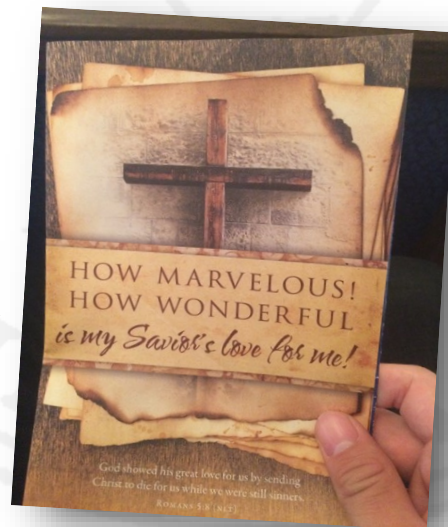
"The Women's ministry at CBC strives to encourage and equip the women

of our church to be the best women, mothers, and wives that they can be for the glory of God!" said Preacher Brindley.

"The music ministry at Chestertown Baptist Church is a very exciting one. We understand that whether old or young, the talents the Lord gives us should be used for His glory. Worship is a vital role in our church services because it sets the spirit and prepares the heart to be moved by God. There are so many facets to the worship ministry that almost anyone can be involved no matter the various abilities," said Mike Cimba, Worship Leader and Choir Director.

The adult choir is for anyone who likes to sing. They lead in worship every Sunday morning, and also perform for other special services the church might have.

Preacher Brindley said, "At Chestertown Baptist Church we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth, took the form of a man and gave His life so that one day we could be in Heaven to spend eternity with Him." Being Christian from another country, I was so happy to find a church in Chestertown that welcomed me.



Church Program

(Some information taken from church website <http://www.chestertownbaptistchurch.org/>)

Video Games: Form of Art or Only Relaxation?

By Hu Ruitu

In the history of arts, video games are a controversial topic to talk about. Gamers tend to think of them as a form of art, but some critics believe that the games are just a tool of relaxing. There are eight different art forms in history. The eight arts are painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, dance, drama and movies. We do not know the source of this classifying way, but there are some obvious factors on classifying art. For example, the invention of photography gave great help to science, art, media and commerce in the future, and the way people view the world.

There are many different devices to play games, for example, computer and TV. There are generally eight generations for games and game consoles to develop, and we are now at the 8th generation. Although the development history for the video game was relatively short, it had been through a catastrophic damage too, it totally ends the 2th generation of the game, and caused all companies and enterprises to lose hope on video games. It was known as the “Video Game Crash of 1983.” Atari (a corporation created in 1972, mainly to sell video games and game consoles) brought the copyright of the movie *E.T.*, and tried to create a game about *E.T.* and save the company from the economic crisis. But the game was horrible, and it became the reason for Atari to crash, lose money, and give up on the video game industry.

The 8th generation, where we are at right now, thinks to the advanced technology system and clever computer engineers. The games now are entertaining, high graphic and good performance, and people’s interest towards games and consoles has increase rapidly. The famous household game console PS4, designed by Sony, had sell out about 35,9 million copies by January 1, 2016. There are also many different games that sell over millions, for example, Super Mario, one of the most famous video game designed by Nintendo, it has sold more than 500 million copies, and make it the best selling video game franchise in the video game history.

In the history of games, producers and engineers now are trying their best to make the games “real”. Game consoles have been divided into many difference types. Most game players today mainly use PCs, household consoles, and mobile phones to play games. Other than consoles, games can be divided into different types, too. The following words are the names for games: action game, fighting game, adventure game, action adventure, role playing game, action role playing game, strategy role-playing game, simulation role-playing game, massively multiplayer online role-playing game, simulation game, flight simulator, space combat simulator, train simulator, business simulation game, turn-based strategy game, real-time strategy game, shooting game, aircraft shooting game, light-gun shooting game, first person shooter game, third-person shooter game, racing game, sport game, rhythm game, puzzle game and sandbox game.

In the history of mankind, play has always been considered as an important activity; it can be relaxing, and also help people gain strength and become more productive and have imagination. I believe video games are just another way for modern people to play and learn. For me, video games are one of the most important ways to relax and reduce stress, and I can learn lots of information and knowledge from playing games. When I am playing a game, it can relax me and distract me from all forms of stress. About the goal of playing games, I never think about the price or why the games were created, all I want to achieve is relief from stress, and put my entire mind into the story and forget the troubles.

And for the final part, I will introduce a famous game to you, the First Person Shooter (FPS) type of game. The game I personally like most is “Call of Duty”. It is one of the most famous and hot selling FPS games, and it includes several stories with different characters and different places.

Although some critics still believe that games cannot be called art, but sometimes the fun and joy given by games are even more than formal art, so I believe that games can be called as an informal art, too.

(Information in the article comes from Wikipedia)

Interview with Dr. Oros

By Naihui Wang



Dr. Andrew Oros

Q: How long have you been a professor at Washington College?

A: This year is my thirteenth year.

Q: Have you taught at other colleges or universities before coming to Washington College?

A: Yes, but just part-time. I taught one course at American University in Washington DC and one course at George Washington University. Last spring I taught a course at Columbia University, so I went to New York one day a week to teach the one course, but mostly I teach in here.

Q: As a professor, what do you think are the three most important characteristics of being a good teacher?

A: I think one is being a good listener, hearing what things your students are interested in and what their

concerns are, so that you can respond to them. I think another is to care about the kinds of challenges the different students face such as a difficult family situation or a struggle with English language or a struggle with a concept, so I think it is important to realize everyone is different. I think the third is the ability to explain things clearly.

Q: What do you enjoy about being in the classroom with your students?

A: I like hearing about the concerns and interests of the new generation. Politics are always changing, so I like to hear different opinions.

Q: What do you hope students learn from your classes?

A: Because I teach world politics, the awareness of diversity is the number one thing that I try to communicate in all of my classes. People in different places in the world have different goals, different approaches, and different priorities. If we are all going to get along with each other, we need to start by understanding that everyone is different, and so what we think is the best solution might not be what other people think.

Q: How does having international students in your classes change the experience for you and the other students?

A: Having international students helps communicate the diversity that I am trying to combine. It really enriches my classes in international politics by having people from different perspectives. All of my classes have international students. I am really happy about that.

Q: What do you like to do in your personal time?

A: I play tennis every week and I like to kayak on the river. I own four kayaks, so I often have friends visited and we all go kayaking on the river together. I also like to travel.

Q: What is your favorite cuisine, and why?

A: I grew up in Los Angeles in California so we had a lot of Mexican food. I had Mexican food several times a week. I miss Mexican food because it is not so popular here. I am always looking for good Mexican food.

Q: Among the many cities you have visited, which one left the deepest impression on you, and why?

(Continued on page 11)

Oros (Cont'd)

A: Beijing in China. I went to the Forbidden City in Beijing for the first time when I was in college in 1988 and I was impressed by how big it was. In 1988 there were many few Chinese tourists in the Forbidden City. I went back last year to see and what really made me happy was that the whole area was totally full of Chinese tourists. China has developed so much that everyday Chinese people are going and seeing this part of history, so that is one place that really stuck in my mind, leaving an impression.

Q: If you could travel back to a certain period of time in your life, which time period would that be, and why?

A: When I was a college student, I studied abroad for two years and I learned so much. It was so exciting that I would love to go back to that time and maybe go to a different place.

Q: When you were in college, which subjects did you like best, and why?

A: When I was in college, I learned to speak Japanese language. I think learning a foreign language was very exciting to me. Because Japanese language is written with Chinese characters, it is a very different writing system. That was very exciting to me to learn the characters.

Q: If you were to start over and choose a different profession, what would it be, and why?

A: First I would say, I wouldn't choose something different. I am very happy what I am doing. But when I was younger, I thought that I might want to be a diplomat and to represent United States in different countries around the world. I like the idea of meeting people all around the world and explaining American's values and interests in different countries.

Q: For pleasure, which do you prefer, books or films, and why?

A: Films. Because I read a lot of books in my work. When I am relaxing, it is nice to see a film.

Q: What film have you recently watched? Would you recommend it to your students? Why or why not?

A: I just saw *Spot Light*, which won the Academy Award for best picture. The subject is kind of difficult about children being abused, but I think the message is about how important the free press and media are. The film is about the four reporters at the Boston Globe newspaper who really dedicated themselves to this story. They made an amazing difference for all of us; it really helped a lot of people. I think it is a really motivating story and it is a fun movie, too. I absolutely recommend it.

Philadelphia (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

van Gogh, I stare at this bright-colored painting for a long time.

At night, we went shopping and I only bought a pair of shoes. We had chaffy dish for dinner, which is very popular in my hometown. I was homesick when we were having dinner, and to cheer me up, we walked through Philadelphia City Hall. It is very imposing, there is a sign that told us the information of the building. It took thirty years to build, and at that time it was the tallest building in the world. But after eight years, the Singer Building in New York City became the tallest building. On top of Philadelphia City Hall, there is William Penn's statue, who is called the father of Philadelphia, and there are 250 statues around the building. In fact, Philadelphia City Hall has over 600 rooms, the decoration is extraordinary luxurious and delicate. Everyone can visit it for free, but you must spend 6 dollars to visit the top floor.

The gorgeous view in Philadelphia impressed me, and I am looking forward to go to Philadelphia again.



Philadelphia City Hall

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Daylight Saving Time</i>	14 Spring	15	16	17 	18 Break	19
20 <i>1st Day of Spring</i>	21	22	23 Holi	24	25	26
27 Easter	28	29	30	31		

April Fool's (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

cake on the door, so when he came to the room the cake will fall down on his head. We called this is the cake came out of the blue. He thought someone was hiding behind the door, so he was looking intently with his head, which caused the cake to fall right on his head. My friend also changed the words of his birthday

song, the name of the song was happy Fool's day to you. My friend once asked Jason if he liked his birthday on April first. He said, "When I was a kid, I would cry if someone had play jokes on me, but now I am grown up, I think these jokes that my friends play are the proof of our friendship, and jokes cause us to laugh together, make our friendship even better, so I like it."

Los Angeles (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

of people waiting outside. We waited for the line about one hour and we finally got into the museum. The interior of the museum was very artistic feeling. There were many artworks inside and some things I was interested in were some huge desks, chairs and some dishes. Those things were taller than me.

This museum had some stylish artwork. I was most impressed by the "Yayoi Kusama's Infinity Mirrored Room." It was a mirror-lined chamber housing a dazzling and seemingly endless LED light display. You will think you are in the universe with a wonderful feeling. I had a great experience when I

visited this museum.

On the third day, we went to the LACMA museum. This is one of the most famous museums in LA. The difference is the LACMA museum like a big garden with lots of artworks on the outside. I was really interested in the artwork called the "Urban Light." The installation consisted of 202 restored street lamps from the 1920s and 1930s. Most of them once lit the streets of Southern California.

When night falls, the streets become a beautiful landscape. Lots of people and couples like to take photos there. It is a good place to take a nice photo and a selfie post on Instagram. There was a new room just opened last month called the "Rain room." I

was there to experience the real state of the rain but my body did not get wet. It was so interesting.

The last night in LA, my friends recommended a nice restaurant called WP24. This was a roof restaurant and the food was American Chinese cuisine. The Peking duck was so delicious. It was the place where we could see the whole night view of downtown LA. It was really nice to have dinner at that kind of environment.

This time I visited a lot of museums and taste some famous restaurants. The next morning, I took the earliest flight back to school. I am very satisfied with this trip of spring break!