CHINESE LANGUAGE
FLAGSHIP
FEBRUARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NANJING CENTER
February is a lull in the Flagship Office as Fall students embark on their vacation destinations and the Spring cohort has yet to arrive. Spring Festival/Lunar New Year this year began on February 15th, with the annual “greatest human migration” passage starting a week or two before then and many of our students getting caught along the flow.

In this issue, we bring to you snippets from the Fall cohort’s vacation photos across the world as the Nanjing Center awaits the arrival of the Spring cohort! Some traversed the mainland with their parents and friends, some went home to the US to visit their loved ones and still others traveled to Southeast Asia, Japan and South Korea, just hours from Nanjing. Hope you all enjoy their pictures and stories as much as we did here in the cold of winter in Nanjing :)

[photo credit: Cody Connell (UM)] The annual lantern decorations prepared for the Lunar New Year celebrations here in Nanjing at the Confucius Temple

Students Amy Cheng (HC), Mia Porter (UHM), Jocelyn Kwong (ASU), Omar Albert (HC), and Lena Suponya (HC) in Seoul, South Korea atop Namseon Tower overlooking the city center

Dave O’Connor (HC) with his roommate Zhichong Wu in his hometown of Yugan, Jiangxi Province spending the Chinese New Years together with his family

UM student Cody Connell enjoying the Mickey Mouse themed lanterns strung up in recognition of the Chinese New Years celebrations
“During winter break, Ben and I were thinking of taking a trip together, Taiwan and Harbin were the top two choices. Due to the ice and snow attractions, we choose Harbin over Taiwan.

The most memorial part of our trip was the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival. It's the largest ice and snow festival in the world currently. We were amazed how people can carve ice into arts, and the multicolored lights are also used to give colors to ice, creating variations on sculptured spectacles when lit up at night.

It was -30 degrees when we were in Harbin, it definitely was the coldest place I've ever been. The MaDieer (Modern Hotel) is the best Ice Cream maker in Harbin, Ben and I went there every night when we were in Harbin, it's cheap and yummy, just the treat when it's -30 degrees Celsius outside.

We had so many memorable stories in Harbin, they will stay in my memory forever. As always, my deepest thanks to my buddy Ben Song for taking the trip with me, his accompany made my year study-abroad more colorful and enjoyable. Thanks, buddy!”

Liz spent her Spring Festival climbing Mt Huang in Anhui Province for her 23rd birthday and traveling the mainland with her parents.

Word has it that her Instagram post had this photo captioned with the following delightful text:

23(000) steps and 1(000) to go on
(editor's note: may or may not have been pressured to input this).

With her parents visiting, Liz took them to Beijing and the Ba Da Ling section of the Great Wall:

And of course, like the filial daughter we all know her to be, took her Disney-phile parents to the Shanghai Disneyland, snapping a selfie in delight together on the bus headed over to their destination:
Madeleine Achgill (UM) and Dad eating locally-famous Harbin ice cream bars in Harbin in the dead of winter over the Spring Festival holidays.

Madeleine Achgill (UM) making dumplings by hand with her supervisor’s daughter + classmates over the Spring Festival holiday in their hometown.

Sarah Nicholas (BYU) went home for the holidays and got engaged in a flurry of snow and happiness! We are all so happy and excited for her!

Lena Suponya (HC), Omar Albert (HC), Mia Porter (UHM), Jocelyn Kwong (ASU), and Amy Cheng (HC) over the Spring Festival Break in Seoul, South Korea.

Omar Albert (HC) snacking on the locally-famous lamb skewers from the Uighur food stalls after Friday prayers at the Huxi Mosque in Shanghai.

Luoyi Farestrand (UO) and Dad eating locally-famous Harbin ice cream bars in Harbin in the dead of winter over the Spring Festival holidays.

Mia Porter (UHM) with the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics mascot in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Mia Porter (UO) sitting on the corner of a building remaining in Seoul’s Gyeongbuk Goong, in South Korea.

Madeleine Achgill (UM) — second from the left — with her supervisor’s daughter and classmates over the Spring Festival holiday season.

Luoyi Farestrand (UO) and Dad at the world-famous ice festival in Harbin, China. Here, all the buildings and attractions are made of ice.