Stepping Foot in America -- Two Perspectives

By ALICE HU ’17 AND TIFFANY WANG ’17

On September 1st, a day I don’t think I’ll ever forget, I became a member of my sweet host family. I used to worry about the differences between Chinese and American culture, but in fact, all I see is the spark of Chinese culture here.

Part of my new experience here has included all of the sports. I have tennis and golf, sports I never learned when I was in China. I started to understand how to play field hockey, and I watched a couple of their games, which were very exciting for me. I also really admire the people who do cross country when I see them running around the campus every day. I am doing my best to make sports and exercise a part of my life, which can be challenging sometimes but also interesting and fun.

The Mid-autumn Festival, or Moon Cake festival, fell on September 8th this year. On that day, the moon is always very round and bright, just like the moon cake. The most important thing on this holiday’s to get together with your family, just like Thanksgiving. This year, to my surprise, my host family taught me how to make an American moon cake with strawberry jam inside. I was so excited to make mooncakes in America for the first time! They tasted like sweet cakes but still had the traditional Chinese pattern on the top. I felt so warm and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.

I don’t feel lonely or homesick at all. I cherish and appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.

The Mid-autumn Festival, or Moon Cake festival, fell on September 8th this year. On that day, the moon is always very round and bright, just like the moon cake. The most important thing on this holiday’s to get together with your family, just like Thanksgiving. This year, to my surprise, my host family taught me how to make an American moon cake with strawberry jam inside. I was so excited to make mooncakes in America for the first time! They tasted like sweet cakes but still had the traditional Chinese pattern on the top. I felt so warm and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.

The Mid-autumn Festival, or Moon Cake festival, fell on September 8th this year. On that day, the moon is always very round and bright, just like the moon cake. The most important thing on this holiday’s to get together with your family, just like Thanksgiving. This year, to my surprise, my host family taught me how to make an American moon cake with strawberry jam inside. I was so excited to make mooncakes in America for the first time! They tasted like sweet cakes but still had the traditional Chinese pattern on the top. I felt so warm and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.

The Mid-autumn Festival, or Moon Cake festival, fell on September 8th this year. On that day, the moon is always very round and bright, just like the moon cake. The most important thing on this holiday’s to get together with your family, just like Thanksgiving. This year, to my surprise, my host family taught me how to make an American moon cake with strawberry jam inside. I was so excited to make mooncakes in America for the first time! They tasted like sweet cakes but still had the traditional Chinese pattern on the top. I felt so warm and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.

The Mid-autumn Festival, or Moon Cake festival, fell on September 8th this year. On that day, the moon is always very round and bright, just like the moon cake. The most important thing on this holiday’s to get together with your family, just like Thanksgiving. This year, to my surprise, my host family taught me how to make an American moon cake with strawberry jam inside. I was so excited to make mooncakes in America for the first time! They tasted like sweet cakes but still had the traditional Chinese pattern on the top. I felt so warm and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well and a kind of family attachment. I really appreciate that the people here welcome me so well.
FCS in Action: Natasha Guy

I have been volunteering at the Philadelphia Zoo since 9th grade, and while I enjoy it, it wasn’t always something I looked forward to. Some weekends I just wanted to hang out with friends, not shovel poop and be asked by as many guests, “Where are the elephants?” which have been gone since 2006. Nowadays, I can’t imagine not going to the zoo! I love having my routine of buying my lunch at Wawa, seeing familiar faces of other volunteers, and staff members, getting my schedule for the day, and even having conversations with other workers at the zoo.

Is the Name of the Game Offensive?

Names are how we define people individually. They are how we address each other and are how we identify ourselves. Names are how we define who we are and how we define a community that focuses more by who I was, than what are my preferences and interests than in my community, and society at large.

Messages of sexuality have been woven into the fabric of our society—through violence, toxic masculinity, and有名讳 that often admonish girls are innocent, and boys are animals. Gay men are often described as effeminate, and配件 that make my hair with a luscious texture. However, I have not always had this freedom. It wasn’t until much later in life that I was able to express myself freely.

Although rooted in how we view ourselves, sexuality and our identity is not fixed. It grows and changes as we gain exposure and experience.

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.

Just Say No (To the War on Drugs)

By STEPHAN SULYAN ’15

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.

Just Say No (To the War on Drugs)

By STEPHAN SULYAN ’15

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.

Just Say No (To the War on Drugs)

By STEPHAN SULYAN ’15

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.

Just Say No (To the War on Drugs)

By STEPHAN SULYAN ’15

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.

Just Say No (To the War on Drugs)

By STEPHAN SULYAN ’15

What country boasts the most prison employees in the world? In fact, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States has over 10 million prison employees. This is staggering, as the United States has only 4% of the world’s population. This is a clear example of how wealth and privilege can impact the criminal justice system.
Phoenix in the Phast Lane: Saiorse Hahn and Hannah Kaminsky
By ZE'EB GINSBERG '17

On the Varsity girls’ tennis team this year, first doubles partners Hannah Kaminsky and Saiorse Hahn have dominated. Saiorse and Hannah are not only inspiring captains, but best friends. They have been on the Varsity team together since freshman year, so both girls know the ins and outs of the team. As Saiorse says, “The reason being friends off the court helps our game is that in high pressure situations, we know how to read each other and how to move forward. Most partners don’t have that.” As captains, both girls have influenced their teammates greatly; their excitement in practice and during matches brings the whole team together. Hannah says, “We love the tennis team and are always excited for the season to come. There is no one else I’d have as my co-captain other than my best friend and partner in crime. We work well together and always have a blast doing so.” Hannah and Saiorse have been playing side by side since 6th grade, and now that they are seniors they can’t help but think about how quickly time has flown by. When I asked Saiorse how it felt to play with her best friend this season she said, “It’s such an amazing experience to get to play a sport I love with someone I love and have so much fun with. I couldn’t imagine a better way to finish off my tennis career at PCC.”

Hannah and Saiorse are so far undefeated in the Friends Schools League, and the future looks bright as the two girls lead the team into the matches to come. As a member of the team, I can say that both Hannah and Saiorse have created a team spirit that future players will carry on the year to come. Whether it is Saiorse’s famous steam roller speech before each match, or Hannah’s non-stop support and laughter, there is no doubt that the team will be losing two vital leaders and role models. Girls’ Varsity tennis is in good hands with Saiorse and Hannah leading the way.

Artist in the Spotlight: Lior Wolf
by GRACE KAUFFMAN-ROSENGARTEN ’16 AND ANNA SORENSEN ’15

Since early November, senior Lior Wolf has been spending the first weeks of school rehearsing for this year’s fall play -- the now-classic, epic drama, Angels in America by Tony Kushner. Lior is playing Louis, the loving but deserting boyfriend of his partner, Prior, who is dying of AIDS.

Lior has been acting since he was in elementary school. His brother liked to act and Lior wanted to do anything that his brother did, but once he grew out of that phase, he discovered he still liked acting. For him, acting has become “an outlet, but even more, a way to get away from the stress that so many Friends’ Central students feel.” Lior also appreciates the community of the Friends’ Central drama department, calling it “comfortable” and “full of good people.” He thinks that the arts at Friends’ Central are controversial because some people feel that Friends’ Central doesn’t see the arts as important; or at least that athletics are viewed as more important.

Lior doesn’t necessarily agree, but he does sometimes feel that students are more focused on sports. “I could never imagine a better way to see a play of this depth being performed by our Upper School! The cast -- inspired by Ms. Guerin’s leadership -- is a group of truly dedicated actors who have devoted a great deal of time to understand the nature, challenging material of the play and to portray complex characters. Congratulations to the entire cast on a fantastic show!”

Making Your Social Media Footprint a Reflection of You
By TALIA ROSENBERG ’17

As members of an environmentally conscious generation, we’ve all heard the term “carbon footprint.” As students of Mr. Vernacchio, we’ve also heard the term “social footprint.” One thing that we don’t hear at Friends’ Central is the term “social media footprint.” If you have Facebook, Vine, Twitter, Instagram, etc. then you are familiar with today’s social media. Social media allows you to create an image of yourself, and depending on what you post, that image is either good or bad. If you want to get a message out, it’s easy to spread the word through social media. You can raise awareness for something important or maybe even just raise the views for your new song on YouTube. Either way, social media is a great way to be discovered or discover others. On the other hand, disparaging messages or pictures where you do not appear to be in your prime are harmful on the internet; they make it easy for your reputation, on and off the web, to take a turn for the worse.

What kind of social footprint do you want to leave? Every time you put something on the internet or on a social media app, it is important to ask yourself that question. It’s important to make sure that what you’re doing is responsible and doesn’t affect you or anyone else in a harmful way. The internet is both a tool and a harmful weapon in your social life. While it helps you to connect with friends and show them what you’ve been up to, it is dangerous. Even though you may have certain intentions when posting online, something is published, it is out of your control. People who view your content are free to judge it however they choose. In any mediated situation, you and your peers are leaving your social footprints.

The way that you present yourself on social media greatly affects what people think of you. If you aren’t careful, the wrong text or wrong picture can be sent to the wrong person. The fact is, your social footprint, unlike your mark you leave in the dirt, cannot be filled so easily. Once something is on the internet, it’s there to stay. That’s why it’s important that we are always careful with what we put out into the world of social media.

For more news and updates, follow us on Twitter @FCSFocusFeed

FOCUS November 2014

Editors-in-Chief: Jessica Miller ’15
Julia Barr ’15
Layout Editors: Nate Guerra ’16
Arianna Hobbs-Luby ’16
Laura Barr ’17
Graphic Design Editor: Joshua Weinstein ’18
Senior Diversity Editor: Sairse Hahn ’15
Senior Sports Editor: Sophie MacFarlane ’15
Senior Arts & Entertainment Editor: Anna Sorenson ’15
Rose Gendelman ’15
Senior News Editor: Caroline Bartholomew ’15
Hannah Kaminsky ’15
Senior Editorial/Political Editor: Stefan Sultan ’15
Photo Editors: Amelia Orzech-Boscov ’16
Senior Social Media Ed.: Marissa Gratz ’15
Staff Writers: Aidan Fitzsimons ’17
Alice Hu ’17
Tiffany Wang ’17
Josh Benjet ’16
Julia Steinberg ’16
Nataasha Guy ’16
Anthony Candelori-Moraglia ’16
Julia Amsterdam ’16
Elizabeth Raphaely ’16
Zoe Ginsberg ’17
Talia Rosenberg ’17
Paria Rehman ’17
Sam Veith ’17
Grace Kaufman-Rosengarten ’16
Austin Margulis ’16
Marc Woolley ’17
Anahelle Harden ’17
Lindsay Talamal ’16
Leah Harris ’16
 Alec Clothier ’16
Aidan Fitzsimons ’17
Tiffany Wang ’17
Faculty Advisors: Steve Patterson Josh Weisgrau