SJSU
Phyllis F. Simpkins
International House Newsletter
Spring 2011

I-House residents after Pancake Breakfast
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To Our Leaders

Each semester we have a group of residents we consider the “go to” people. You are the quiet leaders of the House, sometimes with titles or official roles, often not. You are the people we turn to throughout the semester to help us make the events and activities happen; you are the ones who most actively fulfill your commitment to play an active role in the life of residents at I–House and who give a lot of yourself.

As the semester wears on, you become aware of the difference between yourself and others and wonder: “Why me?”, “Why my circle of friends?”, “Why not call on the others?”. You are the person who takes responsibility for making our community a better place for all to live, even while peers take advantage of what is offered but may not take responsibility for themselves, much less others. **You are true leaders – those who make the community a better place for all of us and who may not immediately get back all that you give.** **You are the heart of the I-House.** You make it possible for residents and guests to come together and enjoy and benefit from the great spirit of the I-House.

There are MANY of you who are our leaders, our “go to” people – East and West, exchange/degree/SAL, younger or older residents. I hope you know who you are because you are the ones who take leadership on your own and you are the ones we turn to regularly for help. You are the people who’ve worked consistently “Behind the Scenes” to make the activities and events happen – the Regional Dinners, intramural sports, major trips, parties, Girls’ and Guys’ nights, Newsletter, Admitted Spartan Day, Student Council weekly meetings, Pancake Breakfast/International Quiz/Jazz Concert and more…. Many of you have done so and we thank you very much.

Many of you deserve personal recognition. Yet that is a slippery slope here at I-House. Even for me, for as much as I know and hear from others, and observe directly, there is quiet, behind the scenes leadership as well as very visible, very public leadership, that is occurring regularly and that goes unacknowledged. I count on your leadership – I know that it is what makes our community. It is the foundation of the I-House. **Most of you are about to become alumni of I-House and I know that this I-House experience will stay with you as one of the highlights of your life.** And those who have acted as leaders have gotten the most out of the experience that you could – whether I recognize you or not.

Congratulations to you, our leaders. Our Head Resident and RAs, our Student Council officers and committee leaders, our activity, event, and project organizers, and all of our “go to” people. All of you make it possible for us to come together and enjoy the spirit of I-House.

-Leann Cherkasky Makhni
USA
Director, SJSU International House
Every single stroke or piece in the character can be split and combine with each other and become another character with unique meaning.

Through 4 different pronunciations (漢語拼音), once again the meaning will be different. From the past till now, Chinese characters have been evolving, from the traditional character, a more complex character structure called “繁體字” to simplified character “簡體字”.

**Grapheme**

![Chinese Character](image)

**茶** ( chá )

**Meaning:** Tea

“茶”字最初寫作“荼”，指的是一種苦菜，現在的“茶”字是由“荼”去掉一橫演變而來的。茶的原產地在中國，中國人的飲茶習慣始于公元前一千五百多年。

**Vocabulary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>茶水 [ cháshuǐ ]</td>
<td>Tea water</td>
<td>茶杯 [ chábēi ]</td>
<td>Cup / Mug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>红茶 [ hóngchá ]</td>
<td>Black tea</td>
<td>茶具 [ chájù ]</td>
<td>Tea set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sentence:**

1. 這個茶几怎麼樣？
   Zhègè chájī zěnmeyàng？
   How do you like about this tea table?
2. 我覺得紅茶不錯。
   Wǒ juéde hóngchá búcuò.
   I think black tea is good.
3. 可以送給他一套中國茶具！
   Kěyǐ sòng gěi tā yī tào Zhōngguó chájù！
   We can give him a Chinese tea set as a gift!

Irain Lung
Hong Kong
International Trivia Crossword Puzzle!
Questions compiled by Linzy Branson

Test your knowledge of International Trivia (and relive International Quiz!) with this puzzle!

Across
2. ____ is the world's largest archipelago
4. The currency of Botswana is the ____
7. St. Patrick banished all of the ____ from Ireland
10. If you want to see Mount Rushmore, you would have to visit the U.S. state of ____
14. The currency of Bolivia is the ____
15. ____ composed the “The Marriage of Figaro”
16. Silk was discovered in the country of ____
17. The ____ in Rome was a temple to the Roman Gods until the 7th century and was then converted to a Roman Catholic Church
20. Ghandi is from ____

Down
1. Raku, a ceramics technique that allows artists to create a metallic sheen was created in the country of ____
3. The English author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created popular fiction character ____
5. The October Revolution (October 25th, 1917) took place in the country of ____
6. ____ smoke signals are released when a new Pop is chosen
8. ____ was the artist who painted Starry Night
9. The ____ is the world’s largest food crop and caused the Great Irish Famine after a massive crop failure
11. The ____ is the largest living land animals, found in Asia and Africa
12. ____ is the country Nokia was founded in
13. The Treaty of Paris in 1856 ended the ____ War
18. ____ is the Roman name for the Greek Goddess Hecate (Godness of Crossroads and Magic)
19. The Amazon River and its subsidiaries flow through ____ countries
An English Foodie in America

Food is a big part of everyone’s life. It gives you routine (in the form of breakfast, lunch and dinner), defines culture around the globe & most important gives us energy and life. I’ve always considered myself a foodie, so I thought coming to America would shine new light on my food palette and help me explore different influences on American cuisine and see how they differed from my European diet. Upon arrival to the States, I was thirsty for a good cup of tea so like any Brit I packed my own teabags in my suitcase – which was hidden away in the dark depths of LAX. So I thought to myself, it can’t be that different than tea back in the U.K. so I ordered a large English breakfast tea in Starbucks, added a dash of milk and went to enjoy my favourite beverage. But, horror struck me when I took my first sip! It was absolutely awful but being me, I couldn’t bear the thought of throwing it away – so I manned up and drank the rest of it and prayed to the tea gods for forgiveness hoping that I wouldn’t have to experience that again!

The fascination with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is something which I grew up with seeing it on my favourite American T.V. shows but I never dared to try the famous concoction at home. By sheer mistake, and ignorance on my part, I ordered a peanut butter bagel (which was interpreted as a PB & J bagel). As I took a bite into the bagel that I had been longing for all day, the mix of salty, smooth peanut butter and sweet, strawberry jelly was strange. At first, I couldn’t decide whether I liked it or not. After a few more bites, I started to enjoy it. But by the time I had finished half my bagel, I felt like I was about to fall into a diabetic coma and had to stop! Left without a decision on whether I enjoyed it or not, I’m still to see whether the PB & J sandwich really is the best thing since sliced bread...

One thing I absolutely love is trying new cuisine and from my experiences with some American classics, I decided to divulge into a little Latino and try my first burrito. When I entered Chipotle with one of my new American friends and her foodie boyfriend, I was overwhelmed with aromas of cilantro, salsa and steak. I ordered a veggie burrito with all the trimmings and then some and proceeded to attack the monstrous burrito that was before my eyes. In my first bite, I could taste black beans, guacamole and cheese and with the next I could taste tomato salsa, sour cream and sweet corn. It was absolute heaven. The flavours, the smells and the sheer size of the burrito were honestly incredible and I have never felt so full (as were my fellow diners, displaying certain traits and characteristics of food intoxication!). Mexican food appears to be a big thing here in the States, especially here in California, and I’m stupidly excited to explore it more before I head back to the U.K.

Although I’ve not enjoyed absolutely everything I’ve tried here in the States, I’ve had some incredible food so far. Of course I miss British food (namely cheese, baked beans and chocolate), but I most certainly will miss what the States has to offer in forms of Mexican dining, fresh bagels (without peanut butter & jelly, obviously!) and Californian vegan restaurants (especially Good Karma in San Jose and Saturn Café in Santa Cruz).

-Natasha Poltorak
England
Photos: See I-House Play!

Clockwise from top right: Yosemite, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Coachella, Pancake Breakfast, Asha Holi
Memories And Impressions.
( a blank verse )

Amidst clouds in the land of angels i stood
Yet something was missing

Crossed lofty peaks that stood majestic
Yet something was missing

On roads smooth and on roads broken i traveled
Yet something was missing

Saw natures wrath and natures beauty
Yet something was missing

Experienced pain and pleasure both
Yet something was missing

Dwelling on this, the answer to me came in a flash

The angels werent there for me, cause i already had mine

Natures beauty didnt awe me, cause it palled in front of the beauty of my love

Natures wrath didnt scare me cause i had experienced the safety of her arms

The roads smooth reminded me of the great times we had

The roads broken reminded me of the difficulties we overcame

So amidst clouds i stood

In the land of angels i stood

And mocked myself for not realizing this sooner

The part that was missing was one that no longer belonged to me, it now belonged to everyone that touched my life

And the only way that i could be whole again, was to keep their memories with me forever.

- Vilok Bhatia, India.
President , Student Council Spring 2011.
A Happy Home

IF YOU’RE HAPPY, I’M ALSO HAPPY. IF YOU’RE NOT HAPPY, LET’S DO SOME FUN TOGETHER! This quote means that we always try to be happy and make everyone happy. We try to be nice to everyone. We love peace! In the I-House Spring 2011, 72 residents came from 28 different countries, having different ages, interests, etc. Such differences do not prohibit us from understanding cultures of each other. The synergy among cultures within the house makes us living together in peace. In the I-House, everyone is nice to each other. We have a lot of fun activities and events that engage the residents. Bravo I-Housers!!

-Dion Jefferson
Indonesia

Residents in San Francisco

I-House Resident Statistics Spring 2011

- Total Residents: 72
- Male: 39
- Female: 33
- Undergraduate: 55
- Graduate: 7
- Studies in American Language: 10
- Countries Represented: 28
- Average Age of Residents: 22

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Residents in San Francisco
Newsletter Staff

Leann Cherkasky-Makhni  
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Writer  
Computer engineering  
India

Linzy Branson  
Coordinator  
Communication Disorders and Sciences  
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