

Hello everyone! Or has they say in Mandarin, "MA MA."

Actually, I don't know how one says hello in Mandarin. What "MA MA" actually means, more or less, is "mother horse." It is very important to get the four tones correct, or else you end up saying "mother horse [expletive]." I learned that the hard way.

Our time in Hong Kong has been well spent. Our Thanksgiving feast was a delicious buffet of turkey, sushi, mashed potatoes, and seafood fried rice, among other things. The desserts were delicious; Eric, Mark, and Boely especially enjoyed the cheesecake. Our pod-luck was also a good time. It shouldn't be a surprise that we prepared gourmet food using just a microwave...we ARE college students, after all. But we have had most of our meals out on the town. Nathan is an especially big fan of Fat Angelo's, while others enjoy The Spaghetti House, the Very Good Cafe, the 1/2 pound burgers at Delaney's, or the various canteens on campus. And, of course, McDonald's (except for Eric).

Many of us have ventured out of the city, to places like Macau, Lamma Island, Lantau Island, Aberdeen, and Stanley. Stanley has great shopping. In fact, that was where Lauren "Vileen" W. purchased her afore mentioned rhinestone-bedecked white satin gloves and her white evening gown. She made quite the entrance at "The Nutcracker." Lots and lots of hiking was done on Lamma and Lantau Islands, as was apparent by the condition of the hikers' legs the next day, and the group that went to Macau trekked across the entire island (which was not due so much to wanting to hike, more like we had a crummy map).

In the city, there are numerous diversions. There are Katie's shopping expeditions, happy hours to partake in (Michelle is a big fan), sights to see, and museums to visit. Popular sights were Hong Kong Park, Victoria's Peak (where some of us completed the Challenge Course!), the Bank of China building, the Temple of 10,000 Buddhas, the Night Market, and the waterfront. There is always interesting things to see while just walking around and several students have done just that, with their cameras out. I'm sure there will be great pictures. Many of us have visited the Hong Kong Museum of History. There is currently an exhibit that features pieces from the "Terra Cotta Army," which we learned a great deal about in our art classes, so it was exciting to actually see the figures.

Now, though, we have been scurrying to see the final things on our lists of "Stuff to Do." Our classes, tests, and papers are finished for the time being; now all we have to get done is laundry. We leave tomorrow morning for mainland China and are having a nice farewell dessert party tonight. Sarah Steingas will be buying us all cake, as she has suddenly come into a lot of money...you'll have to ask her about that one.

Cheers this holiday season,

Laura and the Global crew