

MAY WE MEET AGAIN

Blog written by Arianna Denisse Lara Rivera, Farleigh Dickinson University, Fall 2018

I am writing this blog in the same airport where Sara picked us up the first time. It feels like a dream, like China never happened... today the same young students who came with their suitcases full of fears, promises, anxiety, and excitement are leaving. It is amazing to see how we have grown not only personally but culturally along this journey. Certainly, we are not the same ones who came that September 1st. Today, those same young students leave with their suitcase full of dreams, lessons, knowledge, experiences, laughs, tears, and let's not forget also full of taobao stuff haha. I have tried to write this blog without crying but I think it is impossible at this time. We all feel we are leaving a part of our life in China, we all feel it is our home now, too. However, we all knew this moment was going to come, and nobody prepares you for goodbyes. If you told me a year ago I was going to have one of the best experiences of my life and it was going to happen in China, I would not believe it at all. On my last walk through Chengdu, I stopped for a moment to see everything around me and I remember saying "I never thought I was going to be able to say this but I'm going to miss China" and I guess that's how life works, when you do not expect something, it just arrives and changes your life. For me, this experience was life-changing. Living three months in a new culture, submerging yourself in new customs, style of living and learning their language makes you open your eyes to a more real world that you are not taught in a classroom. I am proud of everything I have learned throughout this trip, and I think my classmates and friends feel the same. We have achieved a lot in this time, from the smallest such as do laundry without dryer, to the most complicated like make a bank account, use the high speed train, buy in Alipay, going to dinner with friends and even with all of that, having time for homework. Many of us practiced time management without even realizing it. Now, we have knowledge of a new culture that although different is beautiful and when you start learning about it, you love it.



Nevertheless, this trip would not be a true experience without the people we met. I want to thank everyone, from our teachers to the G-MEO team for changing our lives, for always being there for us and making us feel part of something bigger than ourselves. Also, I want to give special mention to the buddies, our Chinese friends. That group of young people who welcomed us, taught us, fed us and gave us so much love that I will always be grateful for. This experience would not be the same without you guys, a fundamental part of everything we learned from China came from you and that is valuable.

Without a doubt, life will not be the same without having each of you around us, but we leave with the hope that one day we will meet again and that fills my soul. Crystal once told me that you will never forget someone, because they always stay in your mind and in your heart. And that's exactly where I'll always have each one of you... I love you and I am going to miss you a lot.

May we meet again!!



*PDTA: For the new students who will come after us, I promise you there will be no regrets for coming to China. You will learn and enjoy a place that although different from ours is full of history and beautiful people. I already congratulate you for having the courage to travel and choose China. I hope you have the experience of your lives and love these people as much as I love them. Take care of each other as family and take care of the G-MEO team because without them nothing could be possible. Also, careful with Alibaba (taobao) haha it is an addiction!! **Good luck guys!!***

Atte: Arianna Denisse Lara Rivera.



期待再次相聚！

2018 秋季成都美国海外留学中心学生博客翻译

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此时此刻，我正坐在成都双流国际机场，怀着难舍的心情写下这篇博客。三个月前，也是在这里，我第一次见到了G-MEO 成都美国海外留学中心的工作人员Sara，她来机场接我们。回顾这段经历，仿佛像一场梦一般。三个月前我们带着大大小小的行李，怀揣着不安和兴奋来到成都。然而时光匆匆，我们又即将踏上归途。“这是真的吗？”回首一望，不经意间发现我们都已改变，不仅是性格的成长，这次留学中国的经历更给我们烙下了深深的文化印记。行李箱里满载着梦想、知识、回忆、欢笑、泪水、当然还有从淘宝买的许多东西。我们是，但也不再是几个月前的那群年轻人。

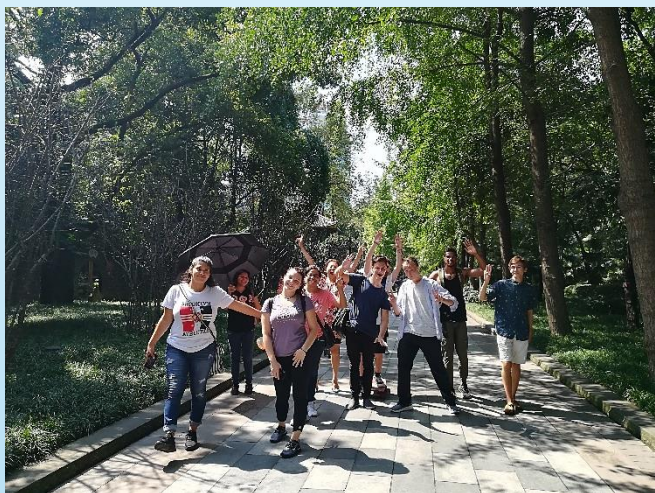
我一直告诉自己不要哭，眼泪却还是情不自禁的流了下来，滴落在键盘上。仿佛我们生命的一部分已经留在了中国，这里已经是我们的家了。遗憾的是，离别总要来临。如果一年前有人告诉我人生最美好的一段经历会发生在中国，我可能会笑着说不相信。可当我最后一次看着成都，不禁心里默默的念道“我会想念这里的。”也许人生就是如此，意料之外的惊喜就这样发生在了我的生命里，改变了我的人生。

在新的文化背景、习俗、生活方式、语言环境中生活三个月使我们更加的了解真实的世界，而这一切在课堂上是无法获得的。从学会使用没有烘干功能的洗衣机，到复杂的银行开户、乘坐高铁、用支付宝购物、与中国朋友一起旅行，我们一步步地适应了这里的生活，也创造了许多美好的回忆。更让人自豪的是，我们在不经意间学会了如何管理时间。



在此，我想特别感谢那些给予过我们帮助与照顾的人：G-MEO 成都美国海外留学中心的工作人员、教授、以及我们在中国的朋友们。感谢你们在我们生病时的悉心照顾，在我们烦恼时的支持陪伴，和一直以来的关爱。如果没有你们，我们的留学生活定将大不相同。相见时难别亦难，我真心希望有一天我们会再次在世界的某一个地方相遇。正如G-MEO 成都美国中心的Crystal 老师说的那样：“离别并不是结束，因为他们将留在你的心里和脑海里。”我想我一定会将你们都放在我的心里，永不要忘记。我爱你们，我会很想念你们的。

期待再次相聚!!



附：下面是我想跟即将来中国成都留学的学弟学妹分享的一些话：

我保证你们一定不会后悔来到中国这个决定。你们会学到很多东西，在这个有拥有几千年历史和热情好客的人们的城市里，拥有一段难忘的回忆。我在此祝贺你们不远万里来到中国的勇气，希望你们能像我一样领略这里美丽的生活，像我一样爱这里的每一个人，尤其是像家人一样照顾我们的G-MEO 团队工作人员。没有他们，我们不会有这样的精彩人生经历。另外，小心淘宝，会上瘾哟！祝大家好运！！

Atte: Arianna Denisse Lara Rivera (爱乐)

