



Singapore Spotlight

Tom Benner

毎月第1週掲載



筆者は、シンガポールにある大学の学部長を務める妻と一緒に、大学の敷地内に住んでいる。勉学に励む学生や構内で催されるさまざまなイベントに日々刺激を受けているという。(写真は筆者提供)

9) School's out for summer

大学の敷地内に住んで

■ 学ぶことに意欲的な学生たち

Think of a college campus, and what do you see?

I see students on a green throwing a Frisbee or kicking around a soccer ball.

Somewhere in the distance, on a dormitory balcony, someone is strumming a guitar. From a rehearsal room, a young violinist can be heard practicing toward perfection.

A college is a community of lifelong learners. Take a walk on campus, and you are bound to bump into someone who is exploring something new, discovering some interesting pursuit, or thinking some grand thought.



大学構内の芝生でフリスビーを楽しむ学生たち

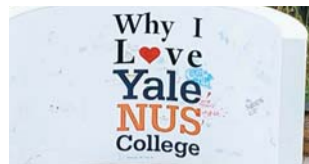
Nearby in the college library, young learners are busy becoming tomorrow's leaders, studying Greek philosophy or the fundamentals of physics, maybe coming up with new ways to end poverty or solve global warming.

I live on a college campus, and our apartment overlooks one of the college greens.

My wife is a dean at Yale-NUS College, which is the first undergraduate liberal arts institution in Singapore. That means it attracts young learners who want a broad-based education. They're open to looking at things in different ways and taking in what life has to offer, before choosing a long-term career path. That explains the intellectual atmosphere on campus and the enthusiasm to learn new things.

■ 夏休みになると途端に静かに

On a typical day, the campus is abuzz with activity. There may be a talk or a debate, a concert or a play. The dining halls — looking like that of Hogwarts



上) 大学構内にあるモニュメント。学生が寄せ書きをしている
下) 学生がいない、がらんとしたキャンパス



学期の終わりに催されたパーティー。皆でサーモンベグルサンドイッチを作っている

with rows of tables and high ceilings — are packed at mealtimes. Our Starbucks is open 24/7.

In typical apartment buildings, elevators are filled with notices about trash pickup. Ours, however, advertises talks by the president of Iceland or the next visiting dignitary.

Things get particularly intense near the end of the semester. There are daily (and nightly) events and celebrations. Students pull all-nighters to prepare for final exams.

Toward the end of this past semester, the college posted a video offering survival tips, with advice like:

“Stay calm and stay focused.”

“Take time out and enjoy yourself, even if it's just for 10 minutes.”

“Remember that pressure turns coal into diamonds, so you are diamonds in the making.”

In May, the semester ends. The

students leave for summer adventures. One is an intern at a newspaper in Delhi. Another is a banker in Hong Kong. One works in diplomacy in Washington, and another in social activism in San Francisco. One is on a cross-country bicycle trip in the U.S. Another works on a lobster farm.

I am filled with wanderlust. Life on campus takes a lonely, bittersweet turn during summer.

It feels like a ghost town. No Frisbees fly on the green, no music floats in the distance. It's like being in a big sports stadium on a day when there is no game. The campus library is empty. All I hear is the quiet hum of the air conditioning system.

I use the word bittersweet for a reason. It is nice that the books are back on the library shelves and that anything I may be looking for will be there. Until some time in August when the students return, the library is all mine.

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in fall 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, Global Post and Nikkei Asian Review.

KEYWORDS

(be) out for summer 夏休みに入る
green 芝生
dormitory 寮、寄宿舎
strum つまびく
(be) bound to ~ きっと～す

るはずである
bump into ~ ~に出会う
pursuit 研究(の対象)
grand 壮大な、野心的な
philosophy 哲学
fundamentals 原理、基礎
physics 物理
dean 学部長

Yale-NUS College 米エール大学とシンガポール国立大学(National University of Singapore, NUS)が共同で設立した大学
undergraduate ... institution 教養を身に着けることを目的とした四年制大学のこと(un-

dergraduate は学部の)
broad-based 包括的な
abuzz 活気にあふれて
Hogwarts 「ハリー・ポッター」シリーズに登場する魔法魔術学校のこと
packed (人で)いっぱい
24/7 年中無休、24時間

dignitary 高官、首脳
pull an all-nighter 徹夜する
tip 助言、秘訣
take time out 休憩する
pressure ... diamonds 圧力は石炭をダイヤモンドに変える
in the making 形成中の
work in diplomacy 外交に携

わる仕事をする
wanderlust 旅をしたいという強い衝動・欲求
take a ~ turn ~なものになる
bittersweet うれしさと悲しさが入り混じった
float 漂う
hum ブーンという音

多読チャレンジ

筆者の住むアパートに貼ってある広告によると、どの国の大統領が講演を行う予定?

[本文 - 519 words]

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毎週掲載



by Tim Young

トランプをしよう!

✗ Let's play trump!

In English, “trump” is not the name of a game. The word refers to the suit (hearts, diamonds, clubs or spades) that is strongest in certain card games, or 「切り札」. (Of course, “Trump” can also be a family name — including that of a current U.S. presidential candidate!)

These traditional cards are simply called “playing cards,” and we use them to “play card games,” or simply “play cards.”

○ Let's play cards!



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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガススタナ大学で英文学学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをしているほか、高校でのALT(外国人英語指導助手)やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でもつぶやき中。

MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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