

UHM CHINESE FLAGSHIP SNAPSHOT BULLETIN



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TAIWAN - WEEK 4

Military Dependents Village Museum & Black Bat Squadron Museum

Friday, July 7, 2023



Group photo at the back of the Hsinchu Museum of Military Dependents Village

We visited the Hsinchu Museum of Military Dependents Village to learn more about the history and culture of the military families who settled in Hsinchu, Taiwan, after the Chinese Civil War. The museum is located in a former military village that has been preserved and renovated. The exhibits showcase the daily life, education, religion, art, and entertainment of the villagers, as well as their struggles and contributions to Taiwan's society and democracy.

Another museum we visited was about the Taiwanese Black Bat Squadron, a top-secret unit of CIA-backed pilots and crew who flew dangerous reconnaissance missions over China at night. It was interesting to learn that their black bat logo was chosen by the Black Bat Squadron to symbolize how their radar electronic detection was similar to a bat's echolocation. The squadron was established in 1953 and operated until 1972, losing 15 aircraft and 148 lives in the process. The museum displayed photos, documents, medals, uniforms, and personal belongings of the Black Bats, as well as a replica of their aircraft, a modified P2V-7U Neptune. Learning about the history and culture of Taiwan's military, I felt moved by their courage and sacrifice, as well as their role in defending Taiwan's sovereignty and freedom. (Alisa Ardt, SFSU)

We visited the Military Dependents Village Museum and Black Bat Squadron Museum. Before coming here I read a Chinese article about the military dependents village and I thought that it would be interesting to learn more about it. Inside the museum there was a model street, the houses were so close to another that you could probably hear your neighbors. The museum had a range of historical artifacts like everyday items, uniforms and etc. I thought the model street was very interesting because there are many details, like the recording of the boss selling things, which I thought were funny.



Group photo at the entry of the Hsinchu Museum of Military Dependents Village (Photo Credit: Alisa)

After we went to the Black Bat Squadron Museum it was cool to look at the model planes and hear of the missions that they accomplished. I thought the museum was a good way to honor their sacrifice and let their legacy live on. (Iwalani Campbell, UHM)



Alisa and Anne standing beside the military uniforms of Army, Navy, and Air Force in Taiwan (Photo Credit: Alisa)



Teaching Assistant Wen Hsin Chen taking a selfie with the cohort (Photo Credit: Alisa)

Yamai Tribe Hsinchu Hunter School

Saturday, July 8, 2023

One day during the two-month trip, we had the opportunity to visit the Hunter School to learn firsthand about the Yamai Indigenous Tribe. We were quickly welcomed with open arms and quickly got to learning how to greet each other in their language, as well as dancing together as one. The funniest part of the entire trip was in the beginning, under the bright golden sun, most of the group had to hold hands in a group and cohesively dance together, and let's just say we didn't see it coming; however, because it was so unexpected, it made it even funnier looking back on it. Throughout the day, we participated in many activities, from arts and crafts, archery to even grilling our own food using ancient methods. When it came to cooking our own food, I was very thankful a teacher was there to help me because my eyes were so sensitive, because no matter what, I kept crying due to how intense the heat was from the flame; but nonetheless it was an unforgettable experience. Towards the end, we were able to have the chance to buy ice cream and enjoy it on the hot day before the long journey back to the dorms. (Maysa Segovia, UHM)

Today we went to visit the Atayal tribe and spend the day learning about their culture and history. First thing we did was we boarded a bus to Wufeng Township which is about an hour away. The view was amazing so I didn't mind the long bus ride. So many trees, mountains, and greenery. When we got there our guides for the day gave us a warm welcome and introduced themselves. After their quick introduction they taught us a few of the Atayal tribe dances. It was really energizing and fun!

Afterward, they led us up to a viewing deck to offer a drink to the spirits and ancestors. They gave us all a cup of their homemade alcoholic yogurt drink which was fairly refreshing and pretty good. Then, we went down to a wide space where they taught us how to wrap their zongzi. Their zongzi is different from others in that theirs is made with the tribe's special yellow rice and wrapped in a fragrant flower leaf. The way you wrap it is similar to how you would wrap a burrito but instead with a long leaf.

After we finished wrapping, we went on a short hike up the

mountain to learn about their traps. I thought their traps were simple but effective. They were all made from rope and some type of tripping system. After hiking down, we tried our hand in archery. While I did not score the best, I still had a great time.

At this point everyone was a little tired and hungry, so we went down to eat and try some authentic Atayal tribe dishes. There was steamed fish, mochi rice, grilled meats, and so much more. There was also a tea made from peppers and honey which was the perfect pairing for all the rich food. Since everyone was so full after the food we did a laid-back DIY activity to help us settle and digest. We made macramé bottle holders out of cord.

Finally, our last activity of the day was grilling mushrooms and meats. They gave us long bamboo poles which we poked into logs by the campfire and as the food cooked we sat around and enjoyed good company. There was even an ice cream man that came by, so we got some dessert too. Overall, this was a super busy but satisfying experience. I would 100% recommend this to anyone visiting Taiwan who wants to learn more about Indigenous culture. (Jane Kwan, UHM)



Maysa helping Kimberly tie on a Yamai traditional kerchief



Group photo at the Yamai Tribe Hsinchu Hunting School



Anne trying on traditional ptasan at the Hsinchu Hunting School



Students making the traditional zongzi of the Yamai Tribe



Students experiencing the joy of shooting a traditional recurve bow and posing for a group photo in front of the school gate

TAIWAN - WEEK 5

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) Museum of Innovation

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Another excursion that we went on was a visit to the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Innovation Museum. I was excited to go because my major is computer science. When we arrived at TSMC Innovation museum there were 3 main exhibition halls. One of them had a VR exhibition that was extremely interactive.

The VR exhibition was fun, there were two types, a workday and a fun day mode. I choose the fun day. It started off with my character waking up and grabbing breakfast from a futuristic fridge. I then rode my bike through the city seeing the many interesting sights. As my in game character rode on its bike, in real life I could feel every bump and jolt. My character also rode a hover taxi, my real life body felt like I was flying. I thought the VR exhibition was the most fun, but I did feel some motion sickness.

The only problems I had was that the tour guide didn't use the chips and semiconductors interchangeably. All in all I would recommend people stop by if they have the chance to experience and learn about technology. (Iwalani Campbell, UHM)



The cohort trying out the VR experience at TSMC



Group photo of the cohort in front of the TSMC Museum of Innovation



Jane, Noelle, and Kaylee gathering together for a photo while they wait to try out the VR (Photo Credit: Jane)

Two-Day Trip to Sun Moon Lake

Saturday - Sunday, July 15 - 16, 2023

I went on a two-day trip over the weekend where I got to stay in a beautiful hotel with an amazing lake view from my balcony. Around 6pm me and my classmates had a traditional Chinese dinner with our teachers. We had fish, vegetables, and other stuff I don't know the name of. During this two-day trip we went to many different places like a paper making place where we got to make our own paper and then decorate it with cute designs and then turn it into a hand held fan. We went to a native village where we got to see how this native tribe lives even today. We also got to see a performance that only the ladies of this tribe could perform. It was really hot that day, but the performance was nice. My favorite place to visit was the mansion of gong bao

di that used to house the Lin family of over 80 people I think. They had 3 courthouses with one of them being a theater for performances. It was a big house and we only saw not even half of the residence. And the butterfly garden where we got to dig up snails as a competition for ice cream and drink a good drink that they gave us made out of the seeds of the flowers we plucked. It was a fun trip. (Precious Mitchell, ASU)

One of the most memorable excursions we took during the 8-week period of studying in Taiwan was our overnight trip to Sun Moon Lake. Firstly, we visited the house and garden of Wufeng Lin. The property consisted of low-rise buildings with traditional Chinese architecture as well as a well-kept

garden. Traditional paintings, calligraphy, and carvings covered the entrances, doors, and walls, and it was amazing to see how intricate and well-preserved they were.

Secondly, we visited the Guang Xing Paper Mill. Here, we learned about the process of making paper, as well as the history of paper-making in Taiwan. We also got the unique opportunity to make paper ourselves. Using the technique of draining cotton pulp, pressing out the water, then drying it on a hot surface, we were able to make our own paper. We then stamped a design on it and turned it into a paper fan. I thought that the entire process was truly interesting and fun to do. Paper is something that I use so often that I rarely ever think about where it comes from, and this experience reminded me that nothing is ever so inconsequential. Staying at a hotel overnight was also a wonderful experience because of the view of Sun Moon Lake. It was one of my favorite parts of the two-day trip because seeing the landscape of the quiet lake through the window was very peaceful.

During the second day, we were introduced to traditional folklore of the Thao indigenous tribe, and even watched a cultural dance performance that consisted of percussion instruments and singing in their native language.

The last activity of the trip was to visit the Paper Dome in a scenic park. It is a building with huge columns and benches inside, and surprisingly the entire structure is made out of paper materials. Though the building is essentially paper, it is well-supported and standing strong, making it a truly impressive feat of architecture.

Overall, I enjoyed my time at Sun Moon Lake. I learned a lot about the history, the people, and their livelihoods. In addition, experiencing everything and making memories at Sun Moon Lake with the friends I've made on this trip is something I'm truly grateful for. (Jane Kwan, UHM)



Group photo at the Guang Xing Paper Mill



Students making their own paper fans from scratch by learning the process of pulp filtering, paper pressing, drying, and ink printing

TAIWAN - WEEK 7

Hsinchu Old Town

Friday, July 21, 2023

My journey to Hsinchu City was an unforgettable experience that exposed me to this enchanting destination's rich history and vibrant culture. My first stop was at Dongmen City, where the majestic Yingxi Gate stood tall, encapsulating the city's historic essence. The ancient architecture and the serene atmosphere left me in awe of the city's profound past.

Next, I explored the Hsinchu State Office, which served as a window into the region's administrative history. The well-preserved artifacts and exhibits offered an insightful glimpse into the governance of the past, leaving me with a deeper appreciation for the city's heritage.

The State Library was a haven for book lovers like me. The extensive collection of literature and historical documents provided a glimpse into the evolution of knowledge in the region.

As I ventured to the Hsinchu Railway Station, I witnessed the perfect blend of modernity and tradition. The bustling hub served as a gateway to the city's contemporary charms and made for a captivating sight.

I headed to 814 Datong Ice Shop, renowned for its delectable frozen treats, to satisfy my taste buds. The scrumptious flavors of their ice cream delighted my senses and offered a delightful respite from the summer heat.

Finally, I paid my respects at the Hsinchu City God Temple, an ethereal place of worship filled with profound spirituality; the intricate architecture and the lingering aroma of incense made for a spiritual journey that impacted my soul.

In conclusion, my time in Hsinchu City was a blend of cultural exploration and unforgettable gastronomic delights. This journey has etched memories in my heart, inspiring me to continue unraveling the wonders of other magnificent destinations. (Fiona Fredell, ASU)

Hsinchu Local Tea Culture

Saturday, July 29, 2023



The front of Hsinchu East Gate (Photo credit: Fiona)

A group photo of the cohort and Prof Jiang (right) in front of the Hsinchu Municipal Government Hall (Photo credit: Fiona)

The cohort making wonderful memories and viewing the Maitreya Buddhist Statue while touring Emei Lake by boat

This trip was my first time visiting Beipu located in Hsinchu County. It was a bright and sunny day, which made a beautiful view from a yacht on Emei Lake, surrounded by

private residences and camping sites. Afterward, I went to the Fuxing Tea Culture Center to try Oriental Beauty Tea, which is only available during the summer. It is a

combination of five different colors: white, green, red, brown, and yellow. The first brew was a golden color with a light floral and honey flavor that was slightly sweet and bitter; the second brew was a deep golden color with the same aroma and bitterness; the third brew was a bright golden color with the jasmine scent wafting through and still maintaining the sweet taste. For lunch, we had traditional Hakka cuisine which was unique and delicious. After lunch,

I participated in making lei cha (ground tea), where we learned that the secret of the careful grinding of the tea is the key to enhancing the tea's pronounced flavor; where the texture of the tea reminded me of sesame paste. Finally, I visited Jin Guang Fu Hall and the small town historic site of Beipu where I learned about the unique history. (Kimberly Batson, UHM)



Students taking a break to taste the unique flavors of the tea egg while drinking in the aromas of the Oriental Beauty Tea at the Fuxing Tea Culture Center



Students and Lead Lecturer Leeming Chen taking turns grinding and making lei cha (ground tea)



A group photo of the cohort at the Fuxing Tea Culture Center



A group photo of the cohort with Prof Hsin (back middle) and Prof Jiang (back left) in front of Jin Guang Fu Hall

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Anne's Birthday Celebration

I had lots of fun on my birthday. I celebrated with the whole program by eating red birthday buns filled with red bean paste. The red color symbolizes that the dessert was not only tasty, but also auspicious. I gave everyone a red bean bun, and they all wished me a happy birthday.

I also went to a cat café. Walking into the cat café, I was instantly greeted by a sense of coziness and calm. Each cat had its unique personality, and some were curious enough to approach visitors for pets. My favorite cat had long hair and the softest fur I had ever felt. The cats were all adorable and it was a great birthday treat.

My birthday was a fun celebration of food, friendship, and fluffy cats. It was my first time celebrating a birthday away from home, and it was a birthday to remember and a memory that will bring a smile to my face whenever I look back on it. (Anne Koontz, UO)



The cohort celebrating Anne's birthday



"Red turtles" for traditional Taiwanese birthday celebrations



Group photo of the cohort posing for a commemorative photo of Anne's birthday celebration



Maysa celebrating her 21st birthday



"Red eggs" for traditional Taiwanese birthday celebrations

Maysa's Birthday Celebration

This is Maysa's second summer in a row participating in the UHM in Taiwan Program, so this is also her second time celebrating her birthday at NTHU!

This year was definitely a different experience from the year before, especially on my birthday where I was actually able to attend class as well as celebrate my birthday with everyone. On the day of my birthday, when I turned 21 years old, I was able to celebrate with everyone by gathering together in the teacher's "lounge;" where this time around the teacher provided red eggs that are a huge part of Chinese culture. Everyone sang me happy birthday, of course in Chinese. The most important part I remember is that if you smash the red egg on your head and it cracks, then it symbolizes that you are smart. Let's just say that no matter what, the egg cracked after I proceeded to pound it against my head.

In addition to the red eggs, the teachers provided us with little candies for me to give everyone, but what I remembered the most was that the teachers overestimated how much candy we needed, and everyone proceeded to eat candy throughout the rest of the day. Nonetheless, I was grateful for everyone who celebrated their birthday with me on that day and wished me a wonderful happy birthday. (Maysa Segovia, UHM)



Maysa and friends raising up sheets of thin tofu skin with the words "Happy Birthday Maysa" written on them

