Dear Friends:

We welcome you to Eugene, to CSSA (Chinese Student and Scholar Association) and to the first look at the first journal.

From the very beginning of the organization of CSSA, we had few members. By now, more and more students have arrived to the UO and our team has grown to be much stronger. Also with the development of CSSA, we are obtaining more support from other organizations, such as the ASUO and the China embassy. I hope that with the efforts of all, CSSA can develop more and more in the following years to come.

In the past, CSSA of UO was thought as a graduate association for Chinese students; however, the situation is changing now. We are glad that more undergraduate students have joined CSSA this year. In the future, we will have more activities for both graduates and undergraduates. Currently, the CSSA sponsors the Chinese club, the outdoor program, the CSSA journal as well as other activities. You are welcome to join us. Oregon is indeed the place to have a great time!

We are welcoming more Chinese students to join us, as well as those who are interested in China and its Chinese culture. CSSA is not only for Chinese students, but is also open to students of all ethnicity. We hope that CSSA will have the continuous opportunity of teaching others about our culture and our tradition.

Let’s work together and make CSSA a harmonious family. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Enjoy your study and life in Eugene!!!

Sincerely,

Haiying Gao
CSSA President
China Breeze

The Head of the Committee

Haiying Gao - CSSA President
My major is Geophysics for Ph. D study. I came here in 2005.
I like hiking, camping, chatting, reading novels, and so on.
Enjoy your time in Eugene, not only your study but also your life.

Fan Jiang - Vice President
I am a sophomore in Psychology major. I arrived in Eugene in Winter 07. At the moment I got off the plane, I knew that I was going to love this place—it was just like a fairy tale. I am predominately in charge of the undergraduate affairs. Please, however, feel free to ask me if you need any help.
Hope you guys enjoy the life here and happy every day. Don’t forget to bring an umbrella before going out.

Xinjun He – Vice President
Biology major in the Institute of Neuroscience Ph.D. degree program.
In Eugene, both local people and the Chinese community are so friendly that when I first came to US, I rarely felt homesick. Recently, I forced myself to make a plan to get back for a little while. I am surprised that I have such a strong ability to fit in any niche when I came into a totally different environment.
I like to travel around although I did not travel very much till I got a car. Recently I also started hiking every other week. Let me know if you are also into traveling.

Xiucai Zheng – Chinese Club Director
East Asian Language and Literature Department
arrived at Eugene on September 11, 2006
Eugene is nice place to dwell in. People here are nice. The weather is moderate. A lot of places for fun in the downtown.
Wish all the newcomers be accustomed with the life here smoothly.

Xianghui Luo – Event Coordinator
Major: physics, Ph.D. Arrived in Eugene on Sep, 07 2006
Eugene is a great place. The people are nice and friendly and the environment is pleasant. UO is a small yet good university. There is everything in UO we want to learn and try.
Things I like: movies, trips, basketball, roller skating and the thing I major in — physics.
I wish Chinese students here happy, lucky days and success.

Yibo Wang – Web master
Major: Computer Science, Master Degree
Arrived in Eugene on Sep 7, 2006
I think people are hospitable; air is fresh; water is clear; plants are lovely; views are beautiful; but study is like fighting...
hobby: sleep, eat and have fun with friends
Suggestion for new Chinese students: open yourself to explore the new environment.
Far and away the most important holiday in China is Spring Festival, also known as the Chinese New Year. To the Chinese people it is as important as Christmas to people in the West. The dates for this annual celebration are determined by the lunar calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar, so the timing of the holiday varies from late January to early February.

To the ordinary Chinese, the festival actually begins on the eve of the lunar New Year’s Day and ends on the fifth day of the first month of the lunar calendar. But the 15th of the first month, which normally is called the Lantern Festival, means the official end of the Spring Festival in many parts of the country.

Preparations for the New Year begin the last few days of the last moon, when houses are thoroughly cleaned, debts repaid, hair cut and new clothes purchased. Houses are festooned with paper scrolls bearing auspicious antithetical couplet (as show on both side of the page) and in many homes, people burn incense at home and in the temples to pay respects to ancestors and ask the gods for good health in the coming months.

"Guo Nian," meaning "passing the year," is the common term among the Chinese people for celebrating the Spring Festival. It actually means greeting the new year. At midnight at the turn of the old and new year, people used to let off fire-crackers which serve to drive away the evil spirits and to greet the arrival of the new year. In an instant the whole city would be engulfed in the deafening noise of the firecrackers.
春节期间传统菜肴
Traditional Chinese New Year Dish

炒年糕
Fried Rice Cake

做法 Recipe:
扁豆焯水后切段
Boil green beans till cooked, cut into 1 inch sections

鸡蛋摊成蛋饼后切丝
Beat up 2-3 eggs, spread it in the pan into a thin pancake, then cut it into thin rectangular pieces.

年糕过油炒到微黄盛出备用
Cut rice cake into thin pieces, fry them till they turn slightly brown, dish up

另起锅，油热后放入胡萝卜片煸炒
Reheat the pan, stir fry some chopped carrot

倒入扁豆、黑木耳、黄酒翻炒
Add the green beans, wood ear and Chinese cooking wine, keep stirring

放入年糕、大蒜一起翻炒出香味后，倒入清水煮到年糕变软，汤汁收干，放入辣酱，盐调味
Add in rice cake, garlic and keep stirring. Then add in water and wait for the rice cake to completely absorb the juice. Add spicy sauce and salt for flavour
Inspired by nature, the architect created a shell structure to provide the audience and athletics an open shelter from bad weather. The exterior of the stadium looks like a bird's nest made of tree branches. Each interior space in the stadium is a separate unit, which made natural ventilation possible. With its excellent design concept and modern technology, the National Stadium made it one of the world's largest sustainable stadium.
The National Aquatics Center, which employed many sustainable design strategies, is also called “the water cube”. The swimming pool will be heated by solar energy. The pool water as well as rain water will be collected and processed through grey water recycling facilities. The complex structural design of the aquatics center is formed by many bubble-like structural modules, which makes the building able to survive in any earthquake.
The Mascot

Beibei (贝贝)
Gender: Female; Olympic Ring: Blue; Design: Fish; Element: Water; Personality: gentle pure; Represented ideal: prosperity; Represented sport: aquatic sports; Cultural inspiration: Traditional Chinese New Year decorative picture of lotus and fish; fish design from Neolithic artifacts.

In traditional Chinese culture, the fish represents prosperity, as the character for fish (鱼) sounds the same as that for surplus (余). The "carp leaping over the dragon gate" is a traditional allegory of following one's dreams and achieving them. The patterns from Beibei's headgear comes from artifacts unearthed at Banpo, site of a Neolithic village of the Yangshao culture.

Jingjing (晶晶)
Gender: Male; Olympic Ring: Black; Design: Giant panda; Element: Wood; Personality: honest, optimistic; Represented ideal: happiness; Represented sport: weightlifting, judo, etc.; Cultural inspiration: Giant panda, Song Dynasty lotus-shaped porcelain. As an endangered species, the panda is both a national symbol of China and an international symbol of environmentalism. Jingjing's forest origins also symbolize the harmonious coexistence of human-kind and nature.

Huanhuan (欢欢)
Gender: Male; Olympic Ring: Red; Design: Olympic Flame; Personality: extrovert, enthusiastic; Represented ideal: passion; Represented sport: ball sports; Cultural inspiration: fire design from the Mogao Grottoes.

Huanhuan represents the passion of sports, the Olympic spirit of "faster, higher, stronger", and the passion of the Beijing Olympics. Huanhuan's headgear comes from a fire design in the Mogao Caves, the best known of the Chinese Buddhist grottoes.
Gender: Male; Olympic Ring: Yellow; Element Water: Earth; Design: Tibetan antelope
Personality: lively, vivacious; Represented ideal: health; Represented sport: track and field; Cultural inspiration: Tibetan antelope, Tibetan and Xinjiang ethnic costumes.
The Tibetan antelope is an endangered species native to the Tibetan Plateau, known for its swiftness. Yingying's headgear incorporates elements of Tibetan and Xinjiang ethnic costumes.

Gender: Female; Olympic Ring: Green; Element: Sky; Design: Swallow; Personality: innocent, joyous; Represented ideal: good fortune; Represented sport: gymnastics; Cultural inspiration: The swallow, Beijing's shayan kites.
The swallow is a messenger of spring and happiness in Chinese culture, and is seen as a symbol of good fortune. The Chinese character for swallow (燕) is also used in Yanjing (燕京), an old name for Beijing; thus the swallow alludes to Beijing. Nini's headgear uses the design of Beijing's shayan kites, which are colourful cross-shaped kites modeled after swallows.
My Green Card

“I want to say that it might matter a lot to get a green card in this country. But the ‘green card’ to heaven is most important to us.”

I came to Eugene in August of 1991 to study in the college of Exercise and Movement Science (EMS) at the University of Oregon. After graduating from the University of Oregon, I found a job at the after school program. I had believed from there I could get my green card. I graduated in June 1994 after I earned two master’s degrees. My job at the time did not pay me so well so I also work at a restaurant as a waiter. By the way, I was a lousy waiter who always made mistakes and gave customer A’s food to customer B!

One day I called a lawyer from a different city to ask about how to obtain a green card. He asked for my boss’ information, and it turned out the work I did made me ineligible to apply for the card. Later that day, I went to the restaurant for work. To my surprise, the boss said he had thought I had quit and wasn’t coming back. Turned out he was firing me. I thought to myself, what do I do now? I took this time to meet with the lawyer. He agreed to meet up briefly while he had another lunch meeting with a different client. We had the chance to talk for a bit and he explained to me what the situation was. My work company could not support me to get a work visa. He then asked about my background and got some more personal information. He suggested that I apply as “extraordinaire work”, which means I did not need an employer at all. At the moment he thought I satisfied at least three or more out of the ten requirements for outstanding worker. Yes, I am an outstanding worker. I never dreamed that I was. So it’ll only take half a year to get approved or denied! But it still took me quite a few months to finish the application process. Finally, around the end of April of 1995, I filed the last of my application. I gathered all of my documents and supporting material except for the one document that proves I had published an article internationally. It then hit me that I had sent a copy to the college of EMS when I applied to the University of Oregon years ago. I contacted the secretary of the college and she was able to locate it in my file.

My OPT (OPT is the practical training after you graduation for one year during which you can find a job and apply for H-1 visa) was approaching its expiration date at September 20, 1995. The lawyer suggested that I should have a legal status in the USA while my green card application was still processing. So around August of 1995 I applied for a B-1 visa as a tourist. Our thinking was that the B-1 visa would give us a couple of months’ leeway for my green card application to go through. But there was a little problem, or I guess you could say, a risk. When applying for tourist status, there is a line that asks you whether or not you’re applying for a green card. If you answer yes, then your application will be rejected because it shows you have intentions of immigrating. But if you were to answer no, then it would be lying. INS will be able to track down whether or not you are applying for a green card. I was thereby forced to answer “yes” on that line. There was no other option.

Around mid-September, we got a letter from the INS, and needless to say, my application for B-1 was denied and I am to deport by October 15, 1995. Meanwhile, I got a letter from the INS requesting me to supply more information for my green card application. I did our best and submit it as soon as possible. I sent in the supplement information to the lawyer on September 15, 1995 and the lawyer sent it out to the INS the next day.

On the night of October 9th, 1995, my wife and I, all of sudden, realized that we had not checked the INS automatic phone message for a while. So we dialed the INS number with the case code. I could not believe what it was saying: “your case has been approved”. I asked my wife to hear it. I didn’t hear wrong. We were still shocked and doubtful about the phone call so we gave my lawyer a call to tell him about the phone message. I asked him to double check it for me and sure enough, he called back saying, “Yes, your case has been approved”.

I always ask myself:
What if that day I had to work in the restaurant as a waiter and I missed the lawyer?
What if I could not find the proof that I had an international publication?
What if I just got a job and applied for H-1 visa and started from there?
What if...

I want to say that it might matter a lot to get a green card in this country. But the ‘green card’ to heaven is most important to us.
The Tones of Mandarin Chinese

"Chinese is a tonal language."

This sentence has confounded millions of you, no doubt. To clarify, we don't mean that pronouncing the same word, or character, in different tones affects its meaning.

Instead, we mean that the tone for each Chinese character is, for lack of a better word, assigned.

Mandarin has four tones—five if you count the "neutral" tone—and as you'll see below, pronouncing the tone just right is very important.

Written characters don't reveal their initials and finals, nor do they indicate which tones they are to be pronounced in.

Tones also have nothing to do with parts of speech or any other variable. Each character's "assigned" tone is simply learned when you study or "acquire" Chinese.

The four tones are usually depicted graphically with the accompanying chart, to show "where" each one occurs in tonal space.

The following table illustrates tone markings above the sound ma and describes how each tone is vocalized:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
<td>High and level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Starts medium in tone, then rises to the top.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Starts low, dips to the bottom, then rises toward the top.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Starts at the top, then falls sharp and strong to the bottom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neutral</td>
<td>Flat, with no emphasis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tone chart

EXAMPLE

Everyone seems to know this one: Yes, just by saying "ma" in different tones, you can ask, "Did mother scold the horse?"

妈 麻 马 骂？
(mā má mā mà?)

These misunderstandings are possible because some terms with unrelated meanings may have the same initial and final combinations, but different tones. For instance, Gong Li, with third and fourth tones, is the name of the star of "Raise the Red Lantern" and other contemporary Chinese films. gong li, however, with first and third tones, means kilometer.

If you were to mix up the tones of these two items, native speakers would likely figure out what you mean, but no doubt be amused to hear you say, "My favorite Chinese actress is kilometer."

Well, at least they were amused when I said that. It gets even more challenging. Many terms with completely unrelated meanings have the same initial sounds, final sounds and assigned tones. In other words, two words that are pronounced the same may have meanings as different as night and day. Or at least, in the case of míng, as different as dark (冥) and bright (明).

If this seems too overwhelming, just remember the difficulties speakers of other languages have early on with the English homonyms to, too, and two. Or there, their, and they’re.

Or First Lady, Senator, and President, as some see it. Luckily, these sorts of stumbling blocks are exceptions, not rules. Your real challenge will come when it’s time to start creating sentences.

At first, you can expect remembering which tone goes with which word as you speak to feel like a verbal roller coaster. People studying Mandarin Chinese as a second language have been seen on occasion to "draw" the proper tones in front of them with their index fingers as they speak, or even represent them with vigorous nods of the chin. Not to worry. These tics pass quickly enough, and over time getting the tones right will become second nature.
Situation 1

How to bargain with a taxi driver.

游客: 司机, 我想去飞机场.
Visitor: Driver, I want to go to the airport.
司机: 好! 70块.
Driver: Ok! Seventy RMB.
游客: 太贵了.
Visitor: Too expensive.
司机: 这个价钱已经很便宜了.
Driver: This is a good deal.

Situation 2

How to bargain with a salesman

Buying something in a store

游客: 这双鞋子多少钱?
Visitor: How much are these pair of shoes?
售货员: 三百块.
Salesman: Three hundred RMB.
游客: 三百块太贵了, 一百二十块!
Visitor: Three hundreds RMB is too expensive. How about one hundred and twenty?
售货员: 不行.
Salesman: No.

Note:

RMB—人民币, is the official currency in the mainland of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

你吃饭了吗?
Have you eaten yet?
你好吗?
How are you?
好久不见.
Long time no see.
The Greatest Chinese Movies in Year 07-08

In the past, a Chinese movie leaves audiences with the impression of ancient costumes, palaces fighting scenes, princes and kings and the empress that sky dances in the air. The end of 2007 to early 2008 marks the start of different themes incorporated with the original Chinese theme of fighting and battling.

**Lust Caution**
Director: Ang Lee
Cast: Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Wei Tang, Lee-Hom Wang
Release Date: 26 October 2007 (China), November 2007 (America)
Writers: Eileen Chang (story) James Schamus (screenplay)
Investment: About $20 million

Lust Caution is a new film from Ang Lee, the Academy Award-winning director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon". The movie also shows us some zilches that are easily overlooked by people but truly exists. For example, wives playing Mahjong all the time, teenage rebels and other roles of people in society are often overlooked. Listening to those zilches' voices, you may have different feeling about this movie. Playing Mahjong is a very important action in the movie, because it is an indispensable pastime and social activity in 1930s Shanghai.

**The Warlords**
Director: Peter Chen
Cast: Jet Li, Andy Lau, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Jinglei Xu
Release Date: 13 December 2007 (Hong Kong)
Investment: About $40 million

It's a heroic tale of three blood brothers and their struggle in the midst of war and political upheaval. It is based on "The Assassination of Ma," a Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) story about the killing of general Ma Xinyi. The story had been shot by martial arts film master Zhang Che several years ago and is widely recognized as his signature movie. When asked about this new version, Peter Chan emphasized it is not a remake of classic. "Actually I don't think it is a remake of director Zhang Che's movie. The story of The Assassination of Ma has several versions. I respect director Zhang Che very much. What I intend to do is to express friendships, betrayal and humanity in the set of that specific backdrop," said Peter Chan.
**The Battle of Red Cliff**

Director: John Woo  
Writers: Khan Chan, Cheng Kuo  
Cast: Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Viky Zhao, Chang Chen, Chi-ling Lin  
Release Date: Early 2008  
Investment: About $80 million

In 208 A.D., in the final days of the Han Dynasty, shrewd Prime Minster Cao Cao convinced the fickle Emperor Han the only way to unite all of China was to declare war on the kingdoms of Xu in the west and East Wu in the south. Thus began a military campaign of unprecedented scale, led by the Prime Minister, himself. Left with no other hope for survival, the kingdoms of Xu and East Wu formed an unlikely alliance. Numerous battles of strength and wit ensued, both on land and on water, eventually culminating in the battle of Red Cliff. During the battle, two thousand ships were burned, and the course of Chinese history was changed forever.

**A Hope (CJ 7)**

Director: Stephen Chow  
Cast: Stephen Chow, Kitty Yuqi Zhang, Jiao Xu, Lam Chi Chung  
Release Date: 31 January 2008 (China)  
Investment: About $20 million

A Hope is a comedy full with warmth and fantasy. The movie took Stephen Chow three years to prepare after the movie, Kung Fu. Stephen is also the writer and producer of the movie.