



Hailey and Hannah sporting their new towels



Chandler on the Li River in Yangshuo



Some students introducing themselves



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TEACHING

LOCATIONS





TEACHERS & THEIR LOCATIONS

Hannah Teichert
Hefei, Anhui

Hailey Busath
Hefei, Anhui

Kevin Turnmire
Hefei, Anhui

Harmoni Wallace
Tongcheng, Anhui

Harmoni Wallace
Tongcheng, Anhui

Heidi Wadsworth
Baoding, Hebei

Aubrey Stibling
Baoding, Hebei

Adam Pitt
Hengshui, Hebei

Karla Pitt
Hengshui, Hebei

Michael Corrigan
Luoyang, Henan

Skyla Corrigan
Luoyang, Henan

Brett Merrill
Changsha, Hunan

Angela Efros
Changsha, Hunan

Cambria Brandenburg
Daoxian, Hunan

Chandler Burrows
Daoxian, Hunan

Michael Squire
Hengyang, Hunan

Athena Galgiani
Hengyang, Hunan

Amber Neil
Linyi, Shandong

Christopher Neil
Linyi, Shandong

Curtis Philipp
Linyi, Shandong

Heidi Lambert
Linyi, Shandong

Amber Duncan
Linyi, Shandong

Jamison Jones
Zibo, Shandong

Shane Gagnon
Zibo, Shandong

Adriane Stoia
Hengyang, Hunan

Ashley Dykstra
Jishou, Hunan

Tessa Jensen
Jishou, Hunan

Lara Smith
Lingling, Hunan

Jessica Davis
Lingling, Hunan

Holly Johnson
Longhui, Hunan

Jerica Tafiti
Longhui, Hunan

Leah Walters
Ningyuan, Hunan

Whitney Swenson
Ningyuan, Hunan

Grant Fawson
Ningyuan, Hunan

Ryan Snow
Ningyuan, Hunan

Kevin Kempisty
Zhangjiajie, Hunan

Katherine Hubner
Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Rachel Jones
Changyi, Shandong

Sara Ackerman
Changyi, Shandong



My New Home

HARMONY WALACE

Axton and Harmoni Wallace



The first 24 hours in my city started at 1:00 in the morning. We had to carry our bags up 5 flights of stairs, in the dark, with no assistance from our caring, but tiny, principle. We were glad to finally open the door of our room after our long journey and went to sleep almost right away. The next morning we were awoken by a sound I could only describe as the building collapsing down around us. But the principle described it as “fireworks, for good luck.” Firecrackers, right outside our door, at six in the morning, is hardly good luck. But that’s China. Our apartments, as we found out after realizing we were not under attack, and after a goodnight’s sleep on our “beds” (or rather, wood planks covered by a sheet) was rather large compared to most, with wood floors, a fridge, microwave, TV, an air conditioner that didn’t work, no water and 2 toilettes that were broken. With a growing list of things I needed to do, or wanted to have for the apartment, I found myself wondering “Could I be happy here?” Not giving myself too much



time to ponder the question I got to work. I mopped all the floors of the layers of dust and the bathroom and kitchen too. Hung up some wedding pictures and pretty pieces of fabric I lugged with me from America. Nothing makes you feel better than making something dirty and lonely, clean and homey. Actively changing my environment made me feel loads better, but I realized there were things I could not change. Like the dirty cracked walls, and the fact my bed is just a hard piece of wood, or I can hear the honking from the cars on the road just as well as if they were inside my house. But I realized “This is China!” Sure, I can do small things to make my new home here more comfy. I can learn to love those students I’ll soon meet, so I won’t feel lonely. But, there were definitely things I could not change. I couldn’t change that I looked like an alien in this small town. And I could not change that it would take weeks to get our toilet fixed. And I could not change the fact that firecrackers would wake us up at 6 in the morning. Because this is China. And I’d have to learn to love those too, just as much as I was learning to love my cracked walls. “Yes!” I thought. “I can be happy here.”



What have you learned about teaching?

No matter how you're feeling you have to teach with enthusiasm! Being positive and loving the kids is key to having success with teaching. I love seeing them grow and learn!

-Leah Walters



The first day was nerve-racking, but all my fears were soon put to ease! I received a standing ovation from my students as I entered the room!

They chanted and cheered! I truly felt like a celebrity! I showed them pictures of my life in America and had them draw prison photos!

-Whitney Swenson



Teaching is easy when you love your students. Getting up in front of them every day isn't so hard when you see their encouraging smiles looking back at you.

-Cambria Brandenburg



CHINESE CORNER

HAND NUMBERS

Counting fingers in China is a extremely common. Using the correct hand sign along with saying the number can be very helpful.



一 (Yī) 1



二 (Èr) 2



三 (Sān) 3



四 (Sì) 4



五 (Wǔ) 5



六 (Liù) 6



七 (Qī) 7



八 (Bā) 8



九 (Jiǔ) 9



十 (Shí) 10



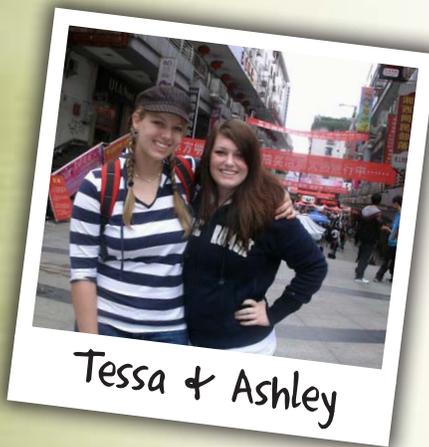
What's the most surprising part of China to you?



Ryan Snow

I am surprised with the happiness of the people here. Living in America, we have many luxuries that we take for granted. We have so many options as to what we can do, or what we can eat. Here in China, they hardly have options. They're routine is somewhat monotonous yet they are always so happy to be here. They treat each day as a gift. Something I have come to truly admire. Never do I hear a student complain about being in school for 14 hours a day! The Chinese people set such a great example to me of what Optimism really is.

-Ryan Snow



Tessa & Ashley

The most surprising part of China for me has been the food. It is hard to go from salad, McDonalds, pizza, and home cooked meals to pig skin, cow tongue, chicken blood, duck, and goat. Although I am used to it now, and some of it I love, it was a hard transformation!

-Ashley Dykstra



Jamison meditating

Chinese food, as popular culture explains, is the furthest thing away from the food of my area. It seems more like a mixture of Italian, Mexican, and a Exotic Plant Store. At my first meal in Zibo, I didn't really know what I was eating, and the only thing that looked Chinese was the Chopsticks!

-Jamison Jones



TEACHER spotlights



Leah Walters

From **Salem, UT**
Living in **Ningyuan, Hunan**

Why did I want to come to China? Well, I wanted to come to China because I wanted to have some kind of service adventure. I figured teaching as a volunteer everyday was a great service to give! It has always been a desire of mine to do something like this. It's crazy to think I am actually doing it!



Aubrey Stribling

From **Kellogg, ID**
Living in **Baoding, Hebei**

When Heidi asked me to go to China, it just clicked with me. Why not? It's not like I could get farther away from anything I've ever been familiar with :)



Whitney Swenson

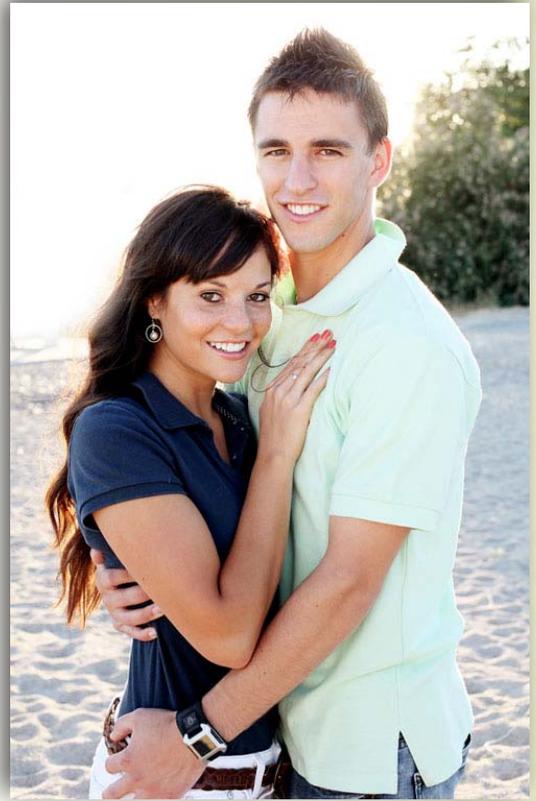
From **Salem, UT**
Living in **Ningyuan, Hunan**

I came to China because I have lived in Utah my entire life, and I go to school at UVU which is about 30 minutes away from my home in Salem. Quite frankly, I wanted to get out! I wanted to see a different part of the world and be able to volunteer and give service while I did it.



My First Day of Class HEIDI PHILLIPP

My first day of teaching my students at LinYi Normal University was wonderful. My first day of teaching the classes I will have for the remainder of the semester was September 26. When I walked into the classroom on that Sunday morning everyone in the classroom went silent. They just kept staring at me. It is so humorous to me how fascinated they are with American teachers. We focused on introductions and I gave them an assignment to choose their own English names. Some of the names were great... I have a "Rabbit" and a "Jingle" in my classes. After giving an introduction of myself and my background each student introduced him or herself and then had a chance to ask me a question. There was at least one Chinese boy in each of my classes who would ask, "What do you think of Chinese boy?" or "Do you like Chinese boy?" For students who did not have questions for me they would usually say, "I have no question for you teacher, but I think you are very beautiful." or "I have no question, but I hope you will stay in China forever. We all like you." Because of these comments and many like these I have told my friends and family back home that if you ever need a confidence boost just come teach in China for a day :). After introductions I explained the structure of the class; including class format, class goals, course instruction, and class expectations. I had each student write down what they



Curtis and Heidi Philipp

expect to learn from College English Speaking as well as a goal they have for the course. I liked the responses I was able to get and it made me even more excited to teach. My students are eager to learn English, which makes it so much easier to teach them. I loved my first day of teaching and I am happy to have this experience here in China.



What did you do your 1st day at your school?

When we arrived our school took us out to KFC for lunch, because you can't get any more American than that. They had told us to make a list of everything we needed for the apartment and they took us shopping and bought it all for us! They were extremely kind.

-Hailey Busath



Hailey & Hannah

Upon arrival our liaison took us to the school and introduced us to the other teachers. The only thing he said about the children is that they were naughty. Oh joy!

-Hannah Teichert



Hannah!

We went to the fanciest restaurant in Hengyang, toasted to government and school officials and you know, ate scorpions, swan stomach, intestines, and duck brains as a welcome to "the land where we eat everything that moves.

-Athena Galgiani



Athena in Hengyang



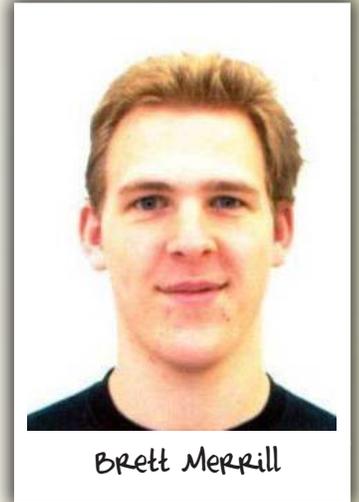
What was your 1st impression of your city & school



Adriane & her students

Reality hit me once I walked into my first class and all the students started clapping and screaming for me. There was so much excitement in the room that my body literally started shaking.

-Adriane Stoia



Brett Merrill

My first impression of Changsha was absolute AWE! From the first person I talked to, to the first meal I ate, this city hasn't ceased to amaze and delight my senses for even an instant.

-Brett Merrill



Katherine @ Temple of Heaven

I live in a castle. It seems very popular around here to make schools look like castles so now I live at my kindergarten which is designed to look like a castle!

-Katherine Hubner

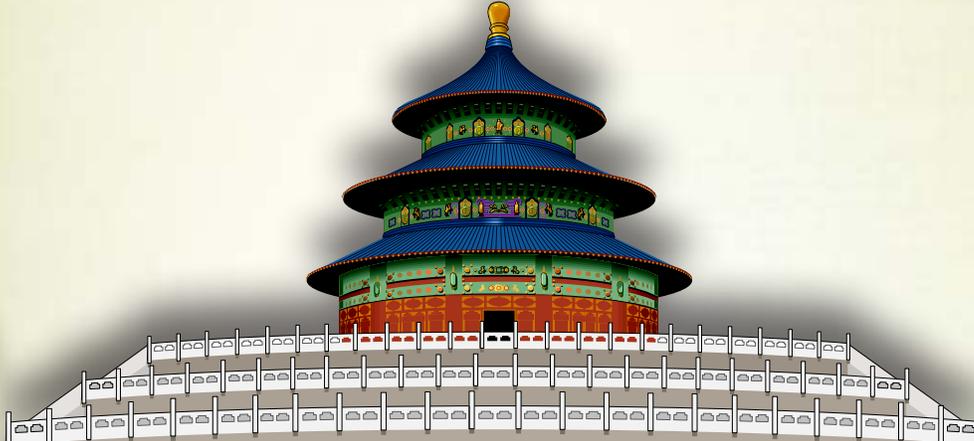
When I first arrived into Hengyang, I thought it was a lot like Taiwan, just dirtier and less concerned with health. The concrete slabs people live in remind me of Taiwan, complete with the maze of wiring and piping. The squatter in my dorm was expected, but still unsettled me. But overall it felt like a second home to me with the grime and smell of fish & stinky tofu I grew up with while visiting family in Taiwan.

-Michael Squire



Michael & Athena





CHINA TRIVIA

Leah & some little friends



What exact date was Hong Kong given back to the Peoples Republic of China?



What does “Hong Kong” translate to in English?

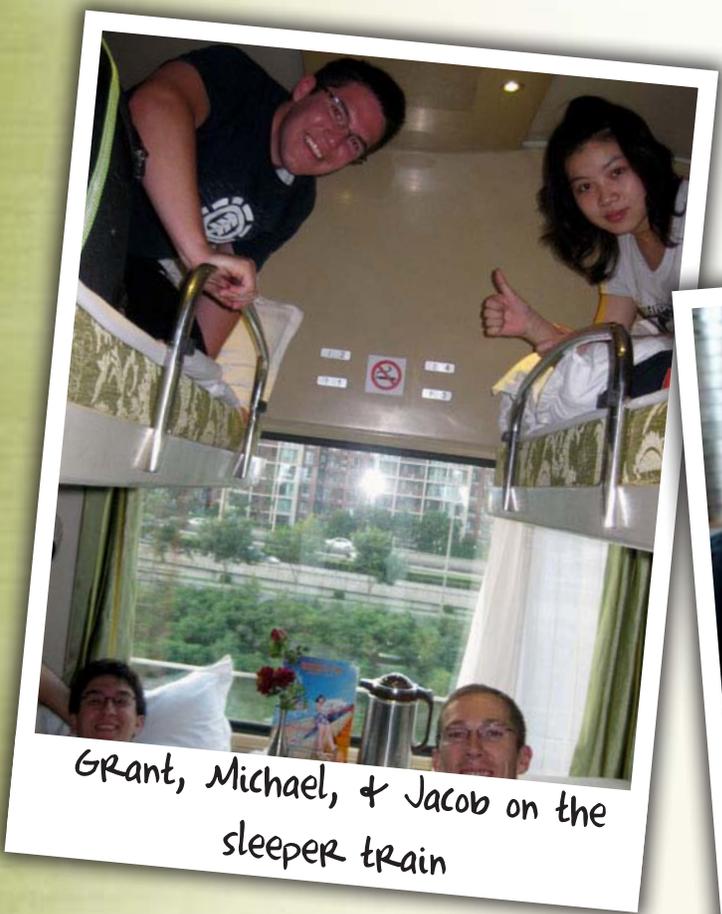
You can check out the answers to the trivia questions and so much more on the [China Horizons Facebook Page](#)



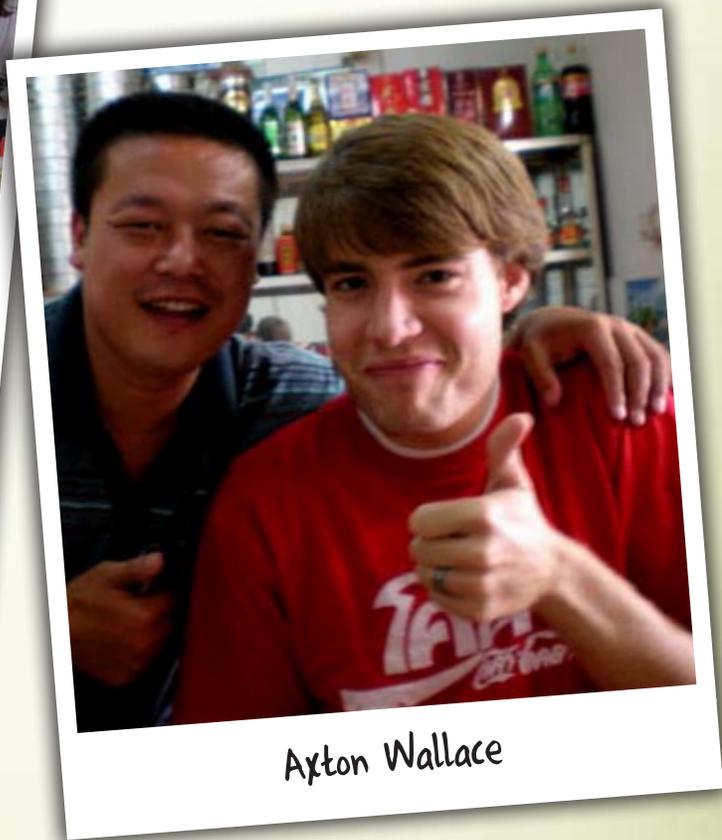


Athena rafting down the Li River

MORE PICTURES FROM CHINA



Grant, Michael, & Jacob on the sleeper train



Axton Wallace



