

# UWC EAST AFRICA

## STUDENT MAGAZINE

January 28th, Issue #1



**Back to School  
2020**

*UWCEA: The adventure continues!*



What did **UWCEA Moshi** students do  
during the holidays?

Featuring articles from Vietnam, The Netherlands, Chile, and more

# In This Issue

January 28th - Issue #1

---

- + **Fien van den Hondel, The Netherlands** - 3
- + **Virág Németh, Hungary** - 6
- + **Hai Nam, Vietnam** - 9
- + **Bárbara González, Chile** - 10
- + **Nina Hunn, Germany** - 14
- + **Ken Baeza, Guatemala** - 15
- + **Tess Aman, United States** - 20
- + **Gerald Magashi, Tanzania** - 21
- + **The Photography Corner** - 24

Editor: Ken Baeza

Creative & Design Director: Ken Baeza

Photos: Courtesy of the contributors

# Fien van den Hondel

## Dutch - The Hague, The Netherlands

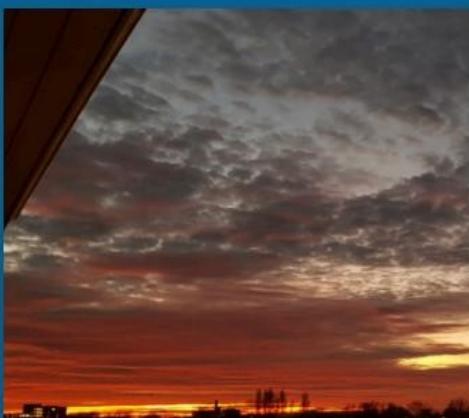
### English

New Year was probably the last time we could enjoy fireworks, since the Dutch government is planning to abolish it (who wants to adopt me for New Year 2021?). We reluctantly fulfilled the Dutch tradition on the 1st of January; a dive in the North Sea. The entire van Zwetselaar-family was also there, so around two o'clock we counted down and ran towards the cold. Coming felt like playing a tourist in my own country. Embarrassed taking pictures of the skyline of The Hague and being surprised how affected and built up the Dutch landscape actually is. It felt surreal to be back again, as if life in The Netherlands had been frozen and with my return put on 'play' again.



Source: Fien van den Hondel

Finally, the time had come, the long-awaited Christmas holiday started (and is therefore over when you read this)! Perseveringly, Caya and I tried to deny the prevailing cold in The Netherlands until the last minute. We got off the plane at Schiphol with our shorts on, when we realized that there is a substantial difference in temperature between The Netherlands and Tanzania. Those three shorts I had packed never saw the Dutch light (well, at least we'd tried).



Source: Fien van den Hondel

It was a pleasure to see everyone again, and amusing to see them struggle with what to ask me. It often came down to "How was it in Tanzania?". In the first few weeks, I started with full courage a story that lasted more than 45 minutes to fully explain every aspect of the Tanzanian life. This changed quickly, however, in the last weeks the answer became shorter and shorter, until it dropped to

“nice”. A summary of my vacation is simple and consist mainly of useless activities; lying on the couch, cycling, lying on the couch, seeing friends, lying on the couch, sleeping, lying on the couch, eating (and no, I don’t feel guilty for it!). However, I have also been active in sports and have climbed the highest mountain in the Netherlands (equal to level 5). It was the Vaalsberg, which is 322 meters high (!). It were 5 exhausting minutes of climbing that I managed to get through.

When it comes to shopping, I seem to be much more talented than I expected, so the weight of my suitcase has become shockingly high. They are packed with food that I know will be out long before the “..” day will take place (long live the XXL shirts that hide my constantly expanding belly!). Now, I am on the plane, on my way to my new home. I cannot wait to start again, as well as having vacation again.

## Dutch

Nieuwjaar was waarschijnlijk de laatste keer dat we konden genieten van vuurwerk, aangezien de Nederlandse regering het wil gaan afschaffen (wie wil mij adopteren voor nieuwjaar 2021?). Op 1 januari dan de Nederlandse traditie met tegenzin vervullen; een duik in de Noordzee. De hele familie van Zwetselaar kwam ook nog even gezellig langs, dus stonden we rond twee uur trillend af te tellen en renden we met een aanzienlijke groep de kou (en verkoudheid) tegemoet. Verder heb ik vooral toerist in eigen land gespeeld. Beschaamd foto’s maken van de skyline van Den Haag en mij verbazen hoe aangetast en bebouwd het Nederlandse landschap eigenlijk is. Het voelde surrealistisch om weer terug te zijn, alsof het leven in Nederland bevroren is geweest en met mijn terugkeer weer op ‘play’ is gezet.

Source: Fien van den Hondel



Eindelijk was het dan zo ver, de langverwachte kerstvakantie kon van start (en is dus allang weer voorbij als je dit leest)! Volhardend hebben Caya en ik geprobeerd tot het laatste moment de overheersende kou in Nederland te ontkennen. Zo stapten we met onze

korte broeken het vliegtuig uit op Schiphol, toen we ons realiseerde dat er toch écht een wezenlijk verschil is in temperatuur tussen Nederland en Tanzania. Die drie korte broeken die ik had ingepakt hebben het Nederlandse licht nooit gezien (ach, toch goed geprobeerd). Het was een genot om iedereen weer te zien, en amuserend om ze te zien worstelen met wat ze mij moeten vragen. Vaak komt het dan neer op ‘Hoe was het in Tanzania?’ In de eerste weken begon ik dan met volle moed een verhaal dat ruim drie kwartier duurde, om ieder aspect van het Tanzaniaanse leven voluit toe te lichten. Dit veranderde al snel, de laatste weken werden de antwoorden steeds korter, totdat het afzakte naar ‘gaaf’.

Een samenvatting van mijn vakantie is simpel en bestaat voornamelijk uit nutteloze bezigheden; op de bank liggen, fietsen, op de bank liggen, vrienden zien, op de bank liggen, slapen, op de bank liggen, eten (en nee, ik voel mij niet schuldig!). Ik ben echter ook sportief bezig geweest en heb de hoogste berg van Nederland beklimmen (dat staat dus gelijk aan level 5). Het was de Vaalsberg, die een hoogte van 322 meter bereikt. Het waren 5 zware, koude minuten waar ik mij uiteindelijk met succes doorheen geslagen heb.



Source: Fien van den Hondel

# Virág Németh

Hungarian - Zalaegerszeg, Hungary

## English

Finally, it was December break. It's so incredible how fast this semester has passed. A lot has happened during these 5 months, but I was looking forward to going home and seeing my family, friends, and everyone else I hadn't seen in a while. When I got on the plane, I couldn't believe I was finally going home and spending a full month at home. I was incredibly happy when I landed and saw my mom waiting for me at the airport. As a Christmas present, I was able to surprise my best friend by arriving a few days earlier. One of the best moments of my life was seeing her running and jumping to my neck.



Source: Virág Németh

I arrived just a few days before Christmas, so I still had the opportunity to take part in the Christmas preparations. Christmas is one of the most important holidays in Hungary because this is the time everyone has time for each other and the whole family gets together. For me, Christmas is not only about my family, but also about my friends, which is why we baked gingerbread with them and made decorations for the holiday. I spent Christmas dinner with all my family members and enjoyed the opportunity to eat typical Hungarian dishes with a great company.

It was a weird feeling to be home again. It felt like time had stopped there while I was living on a different continent. We keep going as if it's been just a moment since I left. After the holidays, I spent most of my days with my friends and tried to make up for the past 5 months with more or less success, but the intention was there. We went back to the places where we spent most of our time before I came to Africa. Most of the time we went to the ice ring, where we laughed at each other in a mix of ice skating and falls as we

grabbed hold of each other.



Source: Virág Németh

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to visit Budapest several times during the break, which is one of my favorite places in Hungary. With one of my friends, we walked to the Buda Castle, which was the only place in the city where we could see snow, so luckily I did not only go home for the cold, frosty winter but also I got to see some snow. On top of that, shopping couldn't be missed. We went through a couple of malls and tried to refuel myself with

the feeling of shopping and getting new things. It was a strange feeling to walk again in the light-flooded shopping-centres and streets, where masses of people were swarming.

All in all, I enjoyed the break, I was glad that I could spend some time with all my friends and family. Although, the break was really short as it seemed time was passing really fast.

## Hungarian

Végre decemberi szünet. Nagyon hihetetlen mennyire gyorsan eltelt ez a szemeszter. Rengeteg minden történt ezalatt az 5 hónap alatt, de már alig várta, hogy hazamehessek, és újra láthassam a családtagjaimat, barátaimat és mindenki mást, akit nem találkoztam az elmúlt időszak alatt. Mikor felszálltam a gépre, el sem hittem, hogy végre tényleg megyek haza, és egy teljes hónapot otthon tudok tölteni. Elképesztően boldog voltam, amikor leszálltam, és megláttam anyukámat, ahogy rám vár a reptéren. Karácsony ajándékként sikerült nagy meglepetést okoznom a legjobb barátnőmnek is meglátott azzal, hogy pár nappal hamarabb érkeztem. Életem egyik legjobb pillanata volt, mikor és futva a nyakamba ugrott.

Épp csak pár nappal karácsony előtt érkeztem meg, így még volt lehetőségem egy kicsit részt venni a karácsonyi készülődésben. Magyarországon karácsony az egyik legfontosabb ünnep, mivel ilyenkor van az embereknek ideje egymásra, és ilyenkor az egész család összegyűl. Számomra a karácsony nem csak a családról, de a barátaimról is szól, ebből

kifolyólag velük együtt sütöttünk mézeskalácsot és dekorációkat csináltunk az ünnephez. Karácsonyi vacsorát együtt töltöttem valamennyi csalátagommal és élveztem a lehetőséget, hogy tudok tipikus magyar ételeket enni egy nagyszerű társaságban. Furcsa érzés volt, újra otthon lenni. Olyan érzés volt, mintha csak megállt volna ott az idő addig amíg, én egy másik kontinensen éltem a minden napjaimat. Mindent úgy folytatunk mintha csak egy pillanat telt volna el azóta, mióta elmentem.

Az ünnepek után a napjaim nagy részét a barátaimmal töltöttem, és megpróbáltuk az elmúlt 5 hónap elmaradásait bepótolni, kisebb nagyobb sikerekkel, de a szándék minden képpen megvolt. Visszamentünk azokra a helyekre, ahol a legtöbb időnket töltöttünk, még mielőtt eljöttem Afrikába. Legtöbbet a jégsarnokba menünk, ahol korcsolyázás és az esések vegyesváltójában nevettünk egymáson, miközben fogócskáztunk.

Szerencsére volt alkalmam ellátogatni többször is a szünet alatt a fővárosba, Budapestre, ami az egyik kedvenc helyem. Magyarországon. Barátnőmmel, elsétáltunk a Budai várba, ami az egyetlen hely volt a városban, ahol havat lehetett látni. Így szerencsére az sem maradt el, hamár



Source: Virág Németh

hazamentem a hideg, fagyos téle. Emelett nyilván nem maradhatott el a vásárlás sem. Sikeresen végig jártunk egy pár bevásárlóközpontot, és igyekeztem magamat előre feltankolni a vásárlás és az új darabok szerzésének érzésével. Egészen különös érzés volt újra a fényárban úszó plázákban, utcákon járni, ahol csak így hömpölyögtek az ember tömegek.

Összességében nagyon élveztem a szünetet, és nagyon örülttem annak, hogy tudtam egy kis időt tölteni a barátaimmal és a családommal. Ennek ellenére is, azért nagyon rövid volt és ez a rövid idő nagyon gyorsan elrepült.

# Hai Nam

Vietnamese - Vietnam

## English

This winter break, though transient like a blink of the eye, has afforded me an opportunity to have a rest, to reconnect with my loved ones back home and left me sufficient space to

reflect upon what I did last year as well as the resolutions I am striving to accomplish for this new year. There seems to be a sense of cultural inclusiveness embedded in food and drink that embraces us all with a feeling of pleasure and security that language may fail to fully express and this time of returning home seemed to help me further reaffirm this personal acknowledgment. Every day went by and my mental life overflowed with bliss and happiness when I had different types of noodles, spring rolls, hot pots, bubble tea, coffee and thanks to this, I felt more than revitalized to embark on the new journey this year to achieve my aims. In the upcoming time, I intend to establish the Botany Club

Source: Hai Nam



where I can nurture my predilection for plants and gardening. This is also a platform for me to share such an interest with some like-minded people and I am excited to see what the future holds!

## Vietnamese

Kỳ nghỉ đông vừa qua là cơ hội để mình được nghỉ ngơi sau học kỳ đầu tiên, được kết nối lại với những người mình yêu thương và nhìn lại những thành tựu mình đã đạt được trong năm vừa qua, đồng thời cũng là những thành tựu mà mình hướng đến trong thời gian sắp tới. Quay trở về, điều mình càng nhận thấy rõ là cảm giác thuộc về trong từng món ăn, thức uống, cái cảm giác mang đến cho mình cảm giác thảnh thơi và an yên. Ngày qua ngày mình được trở về với hương vị phở thân thương, tô mì quảng, nồi lẩu cá hay một cốc trà sữa và ly cà phê thần thuộc. Mình cảm thấy tràn đầy nhựa sống cũng nhờ thứ cảm giác ấy. Sắp tới đây, câu lạc bộ thực vật học của mình sẽ ra đời và mình rất phấn khích về chuyến hành trình này cùng những người bạn chung đam mê và chí hướng!

# Bárbara González

Chilean - Chillán, Chile

## English

*"Traveler, your footsteps are the road*

*And nothing more.*

*Traveler, there is no path.*

*The path is made by walking. "*

- Fragment of Cantares, Antonio Machado

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to return to my country after 5 months away from the place where I was born. Walking down the streets that I knew like the palm of my hand and noticing from small transformations to substantial changes that have been generated due to Chile's Awakening. Observing walls that speak through its writings, expressing what thousands of Chileans do not dare to say out loud for fear of repression and the desire for freedom.

At times I felt like a tourist walking around my city, feeling that it is no longer the same, perhaps because I have changed too. However, I am truly grateful I could visit such must-see places, such as the municipal market in Chillán, which fills me with a unique energy every time I go. All the colors and smells of fruits and vegetables and people visiting "El Arca de Noe" the oldest bookstore in town. Others walking around the handicrafts, seeing people working hard from very early morning and people who greet you with a smile even if you don't know them; are the things that form the very essence of the real Chile, the memories I miss the most.

I also enjoyed the afternoons I shared with my granny and mother who to receive me, were waiting for me with freshly baked bread and freshly picked cherries and figs. Afterward, I used to enjoy the rest of the afternoon in the garden with my dogs, feeling the smells of the orchard.



Source: Bárbara González

I remember that one day, as we were driving through the highway, I could observe large hectares of monocultures. Mainly pines and eucalyptus that dry the land, but that are located there due to the big industries that "legally steal" the water from our country because they own it. It reminded me that Chile is the only country in the world with a privatized water system. Thereafter, to keep going we had to go through the most expensive toll in Chile USD 5.56 for a length of 81 kilometers. I started thinking of how illogical it was to have allowed a basic resource such as water, and the roads that connect different cities, have become for-profit and for big companies' interests.

Some harsh realities were present throughout my trip, however, I am deeply grateful I spent the end of year celebrations with my family. On New Year's Eve, we took over old Chilean traditions that would give us "good luck" for the coming year. We had to eat 12 grapes that represent each month of the year, drink champagne with pineapple ice cream, as well as going out for a walk in the street with a suitcase to have a year in which to travel.

Being back in Tanzania, I can say that I do miss the 3 weeks that I was able to reconnect with Chile again. However, I feel truly grateful to be studying here and I know that my family feels the same way. I was able to realize how much they mean to me due to all the support they have given me, as well as learning to appreciate small details way more, such as a welcome hug. Without any doubt, it was a different and new sort of break for me, in which I could reflect on several of the experiences I had here and the fact that I came back to my homeland some months after Chile's Awakening. I feel that I needed to come back because it was a unique opportunity to realize what matters to me, besides recharging energies for the second semester.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, I started my trip to Santiago International Airport to return to Tanzania. I tried to pay attention to every detail for the last time and look out the window of the plane to say goodbye to Chile in gratitude for the memorable re-encounters. Not as a goodbye, but as a see you soon.



Source: Bárbara González

## Spanish

“Caminante, son tus huellas

El camino y nada más

Caminante, no hay camino

Se hace camino al andar”.

- Fragmento de Cantares, Antonio Machado

Hace unas semanas tuve la oportunidad de volver a mi país luego de 5 meses lejos de la ciudad que me vio nacer. Recorrer las calles que conocía como la palma de mi mano y notar desde sutiles transformaciones hasta cambios sustanciales que se han generado con el masivo despertar de Chile. Observar paredes que hablan a través de sus escritos, expresando lo que muchos chilenos no se atreven a decir en voz alta por miedo a la represión y por anhelo de libertad.



Source: Bárbara González

A ratos me sentía como una turista caminando por mi ciudad sintiendo que ya no es la misma, quizá porque yo también he cambiado. Sin embargo, agradezco haber podido visitar lugares infaltables como el mercado municipal de Chillín, que me llena de una energía única cada vez que voy. Todos los colores y aromas de las frutas y verduras, personas visitando El arca de Noé, la librería más antigua de la ciudad. Otras recorriendo las artesanías, ver a gente esforzada trabajando desde muy temprano, personas que te saludan con una sonrisa aún si no las conoces, forman la esencia misma del verdadero Chile y uno de los recuerdos que más añoro.

Asimismo, disfruté enormemente de las tardes que compartí junto a mi abuelita y mi mamá, que me esperaban con pan amasado recién salido del horno y cerezas e higos recién sacados de la mata. Después, disfrutar el resto de la tarde en el jardín junto a mis perros, sintiendo los aromas de la huerta.

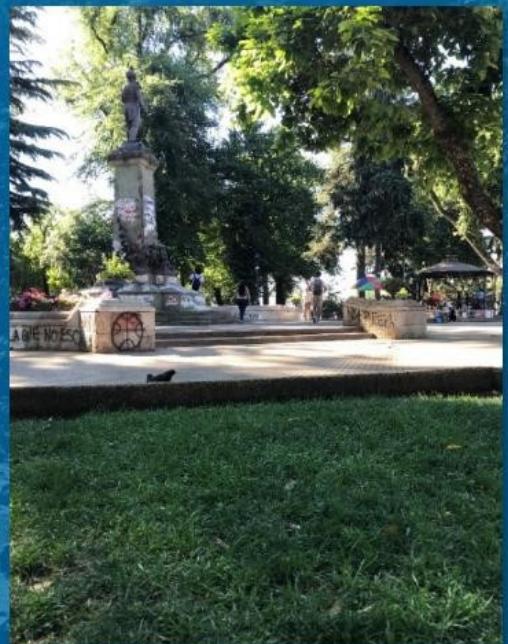
Recuerdo que un día, al ir atravesando la carretera pude observar largas hectáreas de monocultivos. Sobre todo de pinos y eucaliptos que secan la tierra, pero que están ahí debido a las grandes industrias que “roban legalmente” el agua de nuestro país, porque

son dueñas de ella. Me hizo recordar que Chile es el único país del mundo con un sistema de agua privatizado. Luego, seguir avanzando y tener que pasar por el peaje más caro de Chile 5,56 USD por un tramo de 81 kilómetros. Pensaba en lo trágico que fue llegar a permitir que un recurso básico como el agua, y que los tramos que permiten conectar diferentes ciudades, se volvieran en favor del lucro y de los intereses de las grandes empresas.

Algunas duras realidades se hicieron presentes a lo largo de mi viaje, sin embargo, agradezco haber compartido las celebraciones de fin de año junto a mi familia. En víspera de año nuevo, repetimos tradiciones chilenas de siempre que nos darían “buena suerte” para el año próximo. Comer 12 uvas que representan cada mes del año, beber champaña con helado de piña, además de salir a dar una vuelta por la calle con una maleta para así tener un año en el que se pueda viajar.

Estando nuevamente en Tanzania, puedo decir que extraño las 3 semanas en que pude reencontrarme con Chile. Sin embargo, me siento agradecida de estar estudiando aquí y sé que mi familia también lo está. Pude darme cuenta de lo mucho que ellos significan para mí por todo el apoyo que me han entregado, además de aprender a valorar pequeños detalles como un abrazo de bienvenida. Sin duda fueron unas vacaciones distintas, reflexionando acerca de varias de las experiencias vividas acá y el haberme reencontrado con un Chile que despertó. Siento que necesitaba volver porque fue una oportunidad única para darme cuenta de lo que verdaderamente importa, además de recargar energías para el segundo semestre.

El 11 de enero emprendí el viaje hacia el aeropuerto Internacional de Santiago para regresar a Tanzania. Observar por última vez cada detalle y mirar a través de la ventana del avión para despedirme de Chile agradecida por los hermosos reencuentros. No como un adiós, sino como un hasta pronto.



Source: Bárbara González

# Nina Hunn

German - Freiburg, Germany

## English

My vacation at home was very nice and I really enjoyed spending time with my friends and family ...

My memories of Christmas are, without a doubt, the ones that I treasure the most. For us Germans, Christmas is the most important holiday of the year because it's the time when the whole family comes together to celebrate.

We had a very nice dinner together. Then, we went into the living room, and sang Christmas carols, recited poems and read Christmas stories. Shortly afterwards, the most special and long-awaited moment of the evening came: the gift-giving.

I was extremely excited for this moment, particularly because I bought a lot of Tanzanian gifts for my family. I had been waiting for a long time to see their reactions.

After sitting together for a while after the gift-giving, I met with a few friends and we ended the wonderful evening hanging out at the city.

Since winter in Germany is at this time of year , I was able to spend a few days in the snow. My friends and I went sledding together, did a snow hike and had a lot of fun!

I also went to cafes with my friends and my parents to drink hot chocolate or tea to warm up from the cold temperature outside.

I also spent a lot of time in the car during the holidays because I got my driver's license !! Overall, if I look back now, I really had a wonderful time at home!!



Source: Nina Hunn

## German

### Meine Ferien zurück in Deutschland

Meine Ferien zu Hause waren super schön und ich habe die Zeit mit meinen Freunden und meiner Familie sehr genossen...

Am liebsten erinnere ich mich an Weihnachten zurück!!

Für uns Deutsche ist Weihnachten das wichtigste Fest des Jahres an dem die ganze Familie zusammenkommt und feiert.



Source: Nina Hunn

Zuerst wird zusammen gegessen und danach geht es ab ins Wohnzimmer indem wir Weihnachtslieder singen, Gedichte vortragen und eine Weihnachtsgeschichte vorlesen. Kurz darauf steht dann schon das Highlight des Abends vor der Tür, die Bescherung. Ich hatte viele Geschenke in Tanzania für meine Familie gekauft und war wirklich sehr aufgeregt sie ihnen zu überreichen! Nach längerem zusammen sitzen nach der Bescherung habe ich mich danach noch mit ein paar Freunden getroffen und wir haben den wunderschönen Abend in der Stadt ausklingen lassen!

Da es um diese Jahreszeit (Dezember und Januar) in Deutschland Winter ist habe ich auch ein paar Tage im Schnee verbringen können. Meine Freunde und ich sind zusammen Schlitten gefahren, haben eine Schneewanderung gemacht und hatten an allem sehr viel Spaß!

Auch habe ich mich mit meinen Freunden, und ebenso mit meinen Eltern, Cafés besucht um einen warmen Tee oder eine heiße Schokolade zu trinken, um sich von den kalten Temperaturen draußen aufzuwärmen.

Ebenfalls habe ich in den Ferien auch viel Zeit im Auto verbracht da ich meinen Führerschein absolviert habe!!

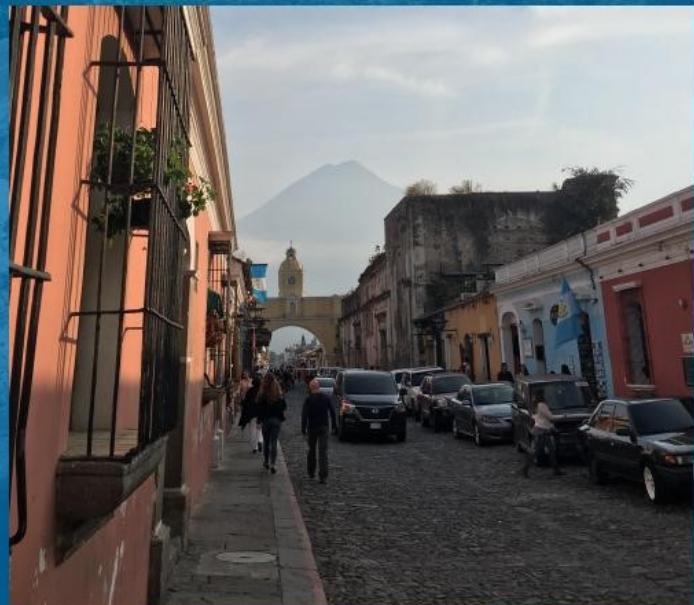
# Ken Baeza

Guatemalan/Japanese - Mixco, Guatemala

## English

When people ask me how was my break, my first answer is very brief (but accurate): it was short. I had really been looking forward to go back to Guatemala. Guatemala didn't disappoint. I was able to meet all the people I missed. I was able to eat the food I love: enchiladas, tacos, white atol, tostadas, chiles rellenos, etc. I also enjoyed the weather of Guatemala, the country of the eternal spring: sunny days with a fresh brisk, where the soft and blue tones of the sky can be appreciated every second of the day.

For New Year's eve, we went to Antigua Guatemala, one of the main touristic sites of the country. Being named as part of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Antigua Guatemala is a city that reflects the attractions of colonial architecture and the incomparable orography of the country. I could appreciate the beauty of the cobbled streets, the vibrant colors of the typical attires, the delicious smell of the food, and the majestic view of the Agua Volcano.



Source: Ken Baeza

I spent the following days on the beach, in El Puerto de San José. Being there, I remembered the good (and not so good... perhaps even traumatic) moments of the Water OP Trip. The ocean is, without a doubt, one of my favorite places: listening to the sound of the waves, feeling the smell of the salty water, appreciating the endless horizon, and enjoying the wind blowing on my face are sensations that fill my soul with peace and joy.

But my break wouldn't be complete without my chaotic return to Tanzania. My flights from Guatemala to Dallas, Dallas to England (where I originally had a couple of hours to

finally visit 221B Baker Street), and from England to Amsterdam, were replaced for flights from Guatemala to New York, and from New York to Amsterdam. Of course, now I wouldn't be able to visit London, but I had around 12 hours to re-explore Manhattan. I spent my time in New York in the best possible way. I went to Times Square, 368, the iconic Ghostbusters' fire station, the central office of the New York Times, the One World Trade Center, the Empire State Building and the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridge.



Source: Ken Baeza

When I arrived to Amsterdam, I had to immediately ride the train that would take me to France. My day in Paris wasn't what I expected: Paris is, without a doubt, one of the least tourist-friendly places. No one speaks English. The Louvre Museum and the Eiffel tower where the only places I could visit, because I had to go back to Amsterdam before it was dark. In the Louvre, I finally had the chance to see the painting "Liberty Guiding the People" with my own eyes. Since I saw it for the first time, on Coldplay's Viva la Vida album, I had the desire to see it.

The next day, I had to run from one extreme of the Schiphol airport to the other. I was almost late to my flight. Finally, around 9 pm, Ximena Gordillo from Mexico and I arrived to the Kilimanjaro airport.

During my break, I realized that even though there are things that I really miss from Guatemala, my desire to go back to Tanzania was always there. To see once again the face of my friends, to immerse myself in the cultural diversity offered by UWC, and to take once again on the challenges that IB presents every single day are the things that I started to miss during my last couple of days in Guatemala.

My break was indeed short, but it gave me enough power, energy and motivation to come back to UWCEA and to continue the adventure that being here represents.

## Spanish

Cuando la gente me pregunta ¿qué tal estuvo tu break?, la primera respuesta que les doy es bastante breve, pero acertada: mi break estuvo corto. En verdad había estado esperando la llegada de las vacaciones, para finalmente regresar a Guatemala. Sin duda alguna, puedo decir que Guatemala no me decepcionó. Tuve la oportunidad de juntarme con todas las personas a las que había extrañado. Mi llegada a Guatemala fue genial: al salir del aeropuerto, pude ver a las decenas de guatemaltecos que esperaban muy emocionados el retorno de sus seres queridos al país. Realmente disfruté mi estadía en Guatemala, y disfruté particularmente la comida típica: las enchiladas, los tacos, el atol blanco, las tostadas, los chiles rellenos y muchas otras delicias que por meses había anhelado. También disfruté del clima de Guatemala, el país de la eterna primavera: días soleados con una fresca brisa, donde los suaves tonos azules del cielo se pueden apreciar desde el amanecer hasta la puesta del sol.

Para año nuevo fuimos a la Antigua Guatemala, uno de los principales lugares turísticos del país. Catalogado como parte del patrimonio cultural de la humanidad, la Antigua Guatemala es una ciudad que refleja los atractivos de la arquitectura colonial y la incomparable orografía del país. Pude apreciar la belleza de las calles empedradas, junto a los vibrantes colores de los trajes típicos, los deliciosos aromas de la comida, y la majestuosa vista del Volcán de Agua.

Los siguientes días los pasé junto a mi familia en la playa, específicamente en el Puerto de San José. Estando allí, recordé los buenos (y no tan buenos.... Quizá incluso traumáticos) momentos que viví durante el Water OP Trip. El mar es, sin duda alguna, uno de mis lugares favoritos; escuchar el sonido de las olas, sentir el olor del agua salada, contemplar el interminable horizonte y disfrutar del viento soplando en mi rostro son sensaciones que llenan mi alma de paz y gozo.



Source: Ken Baeza

Pero mi break no estaría completo sin el caótico retorno a Tanzania. Mis vuelos de Guatemala para Dallas, Dallas a Inglaterra (finalmente iba a conocer 221B Baker Street), y luego para Ámsterdam fueron reemplazados por vuelos de Guatemala para Nueva York, y de Nueva York para Ámsterdam). Claro, ya no tendría la oportunidad de visitar Londres, pero tendría alrededor de 12 horas para re-explorar Manhattan.



Source: Ken Baeza

Mis horas en Nueva York fueron aprovechadas al máximo; pude visitar Times Square, 368 (el estudio de Casey Neistat), la icónica estación de bomberos de los Cazafantasmas, la oficina central del New York Times, el One World Trade Center, el Empire State, y los puentes Manhattan y Brooklyn. Al llegar a Ámsterdam, inmediatamente tomé el tren que me llevaría a Francia. Mi día en París no fue lo que esperaba; París es, sin duda alguna, uno de los lugares menos amigables para los turistas, pues nadie habla inglés. El Museo de Louvre y la Torre Eiffel fueron los únicos lugares que pude visitar, ya que debía regresar a Ámsterdam antes que anocheciera. En el Louvre, finalmente tuve la oportunidad de ver la pintura “La Libertad Guiando al Pueblo”. Desde que la vi en la portada del álbum Viva la Vida, tenía el deseo de verla.

El siguiente día, tuve que correr desde un extremo del aeropuerto de Schiphol al otro, pues casi llego tarde a mi vuelo. Finalmente, alrededor de las 9 de la noche, acompañado por Ximena Gordillo de México, llegamos al aeropuerto de Kilimanjaro.

Durante mis vacaciones, pude darme cuenta que incluso cuando hay cosas que realmente extraño de Guatemala, el deseo de volver a Tanzania siempre estaba presente en mi corazón. Volver a ver el rostro de mis amigos, volver a sumergirme en la diversidad cultural ofrecida por UWC y retomar los retos que el IB presenta cada día son las cosas que comencé a añorar durante los últimos días de mi estadía en Guatemala.

En conclusión, mis vacaciones estuvieron cortas, pero me dieron la fuerza, energía y motivación suficiente para volver a UWC East Africa y continuar con la aventura que representa el estar aquí.

# Tess Aman

American - Jupiter, Florida, United States

## English

My break started in the thralls of Tanzania. No power or hot water. We went on a safari, seeing zebras, warthogs, giraffes, and baboons. After a grueling 37 hour journey I managed to find myself in Jupiter. No, not the planet... My home town. Jupiter, Florida is a tiny town on the East coast of Florida. Each road is lined with residue sand from the nearby beaches. My landing was one met with surprise. I had not told anyone I was coming home. I just showed up. At the airport I was greeted by my friend, who was led there on false precedences. After that the next two days were (anxiously) spent surprising the people of Jupiter. The rest of the trip was smooth sailing. Between bingo nights, beaches and bonfires, I was content. Even before all the surprises, I had one stop to make. I made it my goal to get a Dunkin Donuts Frozen Coffee. I succeeded. After that the time flew by. I spent many nights at Grand View. A very modern place with restaurants and bobba tea, which I have learned I love, there we did bingo. I won a \$10 gift card. Thinking back on how many times I played... I did not win as much as I should have. The beach, too, is where I spent a significant amount of time. My dogs favorite place in the world is the beach and after so much time separated, I just wanted to go as much as I could with her. I managed to *not* get sunburned. If you know me well, actually if you know me at all, you'll know that is an amazing feat. The last week I was in Jupiter I spent at my old high school. A school I had completely undermined when I was there. I sang in both of my old choirs and it gave me a chance to reconnect with the musical side I had abandoned for a while. It was bittersweet. I was happy to be there singing but it reminded me of all I could no longer have. However, it lit a fire under me and now I aim to start a choir here. I will not go another six months without singing. I did, many times, think back to school here in UWCEA with a more open mindset. Now able to see all I had. Being in Jupiter was one of the most beneficial things I could have done for myself. Now I'm hoping this UWCEA Moshi reunion goes a lot smoother.



Source: Tess Aman

# Gerald Magashi

Tanzanian - Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

## English

When my holiday began, on the last day of school, I was thrilled. I needed a break. I really really needed a break. I looked forward to going back home, sleeping on my own bed in a room I could call my own. I couldn't wait to go back home and finally eat some proper chapati and maini, chapati and chicken soup in the morning, chapati and beef, some nice mandazi, some sweet vitumbuas. Even before I left the school campus I was beaming with joy at the prospect of finally going home. I kind of missed Dar weather as well, I particularly missed the intense suffocating humidity and heat. Anyway when I landed I was picked up at the airport by my driver Flenki Fulankolo and my grandmother Bibi Mwana Timo. You can imagine, there was intense traffic. But when I finally got home, I was greeted by my dad and younger sister and he helped me carry my suitcase upstairs. I literally had to carry that heavy thing in my own arms. My mom didn't want me to dent her freshly polished shiny new wooden stairs. It was so heavy. I could have easily tumbled down the stairs. Well not really, I had help from my dad so it wasn't that heavy. Anyway, that night I slept like a baby. The next morning I was still jet lagged so I stayed home and watched shows and movies. I watched YOU season two. It was very entertaining. Two days later, I went to my grandmother's birthday. She turned 86, a very impressive age. Because she was diagnosed with throat cancer, we all wanted to throw her an epic party, to celebrate her whilst she was still living. A few days later, I met up with an old friend. It was fun.

Anyway the next few days were a little boring and not worth talking about. However I will talk about how annoying my cousins are. After Christmas, six of my cousins, none older than ten years old came to sleepover at my house. I thought, okay it's just for one night right? Wrong. Every night I would sleep with the hopes that they would leave the next day only to have my hopes crushed the reckless noises they would make each morning that would wake me up.



Source: Gerald Magashi

When they weren't banging on the piano keys, they were screaming at the top of their lungs. To them our house was fun, so they did not want to go home, and their parents needed a break

from them--and I saw why-- so they were in no rush to pick up their kids. But as a result I suffered. They said they would stay over till the New Year, I thought they were joking--they weren't. During New Year's Eve my family booked a reservation at Cape Town Fish Market because apparently they have a nice view of the fireworks when the year changes. I would not know, because I wanted so desperately to spend New Years at Slipway. Tracey's Uber came to pick me up, I was so frustrated with her because she took so long even though she did not live so far from the restaurant I was at. But when I got in the Uber I understood why. The traffic was enormous. The cars weren't moving and it was clear we weren't going anywhere. Which is why i, sadly, spent New Year's in an Uber with Tracey. I just could not believe my luck. We arrived at slipway and saw Jacob who showed us a video

Source: Gerald Magashi



of fireworks through his phone. I was so jealous i tell you. I ran into a few people from my old school and left with one because my dad came to pick me up only thirty minutes after I arrived. Well I have to cut it there. These are just a few things that I encountered this holiday.

### Swahili

Wakati likizo yangu ilianza, siku ya mwisho ya shule, nilifurahiya. Nilihitaji mapumziko. Nilihitaji sana mapumziko. Nilitarajia kurudi nyumbani, nikilala kwenye kitanda changu ndani ya chumba ambacho ningeweza kuita mwenyewe. Sikuweza kusubiri kurudi nyumbani na mwishowe kula chapati sahihi na maini, chapati na supu ya kuku asubuhi, chapati na nyama ya nyama, mandazi kadhaa nzuri, vitumbuas vitamu. Hata kabla sijaacha chuo kikuu cha shule nilikuwa nikipiga kelele kwa shangwe kwa matarajio ya kurudi nyumbani. Nilipenda kukosa hali ya hewa ya dar pia, nilikosa unyevu mwingi wa joto na joto. Kwa vyovoyote wakati nilipofika, nilinaswa kwenye uwanja wa ndege na dereva wangu Flenki Fulankolo na bibi yangu Bibi Mwana Timo. Unaweza kufikiria, kulikuwa na trafiki kali.Lakini wakati nilipofika nyumbani, nilisalimiwa na baba yangu na dada yangu mdogo na alinisaidia kubeba koti langu la ngazi juu. Ililibidi nichukue kitu kizito kwa mikono yangu mwenyewe. Mama yangu hakutaka nitoe ngazi yake mpya iliyochoafuliwa rangi ya rangi mpya. Ilikuwa nzito. Ningeweza kushuka kwa urahisi chini

ya ngazi. Sio kweli, nilikuwa na msaada kutoka kwa baba yangu kwa hivyo haikuwa nzito. Kwa hivyo, usiku huo nililala kama mtoto. Asubuhi iliyofuata bado nilikuwa bado nimejaa mafuta mengi hivyo nilikaa nyumbani na kutazama vipindi na sinema. Nilikuangalia msimu wa pili. Ilikuwa ya burudani sana. Siku mbili baadaye, nienda kwenye siku ya kuzaliwa ya bibi yangu. Aligeuka miaka 86, umri wa kuvutia sana. Kwa sababu aligunduliwa na saratani ya koo, sote tulitaka kumtupa sherehe, ili kumshangilia wakati bado alikuwa akiishi. Siku chache baadaye, nilikutana na rafiki wa zamani. Ilikuwa ya kufurahisha. Kwa hivyo, siku chache zijazo zilikuwa boring na hazistahili kuongea. Walakini nitazungumza juu ya jinsi binamu zangu wanavyowachukiza. Baada ya Krismasi, binamu zangu sita, hakuna mkubwa kuliko miaka kumi aliyejuja kulala nyumbani kwangu. Nilidhani, sawa ni kwa usiku mmoja tu? Mbaya. Kila usiku nililala kwa tumaini kuwa wataondoka siku iliyofuata tu ili tumaini langu lianguke kelele ambazo wanetengeneza kila asubuhi ambazo zingeniamsha. Wakati walikuwa wakizungusha funguo za piano, walikuwa wakipiga kelele juu ya mapafu yao. Kwao nyumba yetu ilikuwa ya kufurahisha, kwa hivyo hawakutaka kwenda nyumbani, na wazazi wao walihitaji mapumziko kutoka kwao - na nikaona kwanini - kwa hivyo hawakuwa na haraka ya kuchukua watoto wao. Lakini kwa sababu ya mimi kuteseka. Walisema watakan hadi Mwaka Mpya, nilidhani walikuwa wanacheza - hawakuwa. Wakati wa Hawa wa Mwaka Mpya familia yangu ilikaa akiba kwenye Soko la Samaki la Cape Town kwa sababu inaonekana kuwa na mtazamo mzuri wa kazi za moto wakati mwaka unabadilika. Singejua, kwa sababu nilitaka sana kutumia Zaka Mpya huko Slipway. Ubace wa Tracey alikuja kunichukua, nilichanganyikiwa sana naye kwa sababu alichukua muda mrefu sana ingawa hakuishi mbali sana na hoteli niliyokuwa. Lakini nilipoingia kwenye uber nilielewa kwanini. Trafiki ilikuwa kubwa. Magari hayakuhamna na ilikuwa wazi hatukuenda popote. Kwa sababu ni kwa nini, kwa kusikitisha, nilitumia Mwaka Mpya kwenye kibarua na tracey. Sikuweza tu kuamini bahati yangu. Tulifika kwa kuingiliana na nikamuona Jacob ambaye alituonyesha video ya maficha ya moto kuitia simu yake. Nilikuwa na wivu sana nakuambia. Nilikimbilia watu wachache kutoka shule yangu ya zamani na kushoto na moja kwa sababu baba yangu alikuja kunichukua dakika thelathini tu baada ya kufika. Naam inabidi nimkate hapo. Kuna tu vitu vichache ambavyo nimekutana na likizo hii.



Source: Gerald Magashi

# The Photography Corner

By Ken Baeza

Featuring some of the best photos of the month...



Source: Virág N.



Source: Nina H.



Source: Lorena F.



Source: Alastair C.



Source: Sofia V.



Source: Anežka C.



*“There exists within everyone  
a grand passion, an  
outlandish thirst for  
adventure, a desire to live  
boldly and vividly through the  
journey of life.”*

- Kurt Hahn

---

Editor: Ken Baeza  
Creative & Design Director: Ken Baeza  
Photos: Courtesy of the contributors  
Submissions to [keno21@uwcea.org](mailto:keno21@uwcea.org)