

THE PEOPLE OF NANCHANG

During my three week exchange in Nanchang, China, the first most noticeable point of difference was the selflessness of the people in this beautiful city. My host family included my good friend Angel, her Mother, her Father, and their Golden Retriever. Angel and I had spoken several times before the exchange to China, and we found we had some similar interests. But the connection wasn't really made "real," until we were greeted at the airport in Nanchang (right), embraced and showered with gifts and warm hugs.



My host Father, Tung Lao (bottom right), was a very big personality, which I could perceive even through the language barrier. His big friendly smile, and kind but humorous personality was something that most of the exchange group commented on. It's amazing how someone's personality can still shine through even with the language barrier. My host Father never failed in offering me everything he could, from second helpings to dinner, sharing snacks with Angel and I, and even organising a room for me to stay in. That was the biggest thing that



was truly moving to me personally. My host family literally *moved houses so that I could have my own space.*

My host Mother, Linda (left), was also a great example of the kindness of the people of Nanchang. She mentioned on many, many occasions, that she thought I was just "so beautiful!!" I was completely



overwhelmed by her enthusiasm for beauty and for having me help her daughter with her English. The first night I stayed, we had a meal together that my host Mother had prepared and I was continuously offered more and more and more food, even after stating how full I was.

Everyone we met in Nanchang cared for us, and wanted to make sure that we were never hungry, or cold, or upset. As for the people we met and interacted with outside of our host families - they weren't much different, apart from the few exceptions. Nonetheless, nobody was unkindly towards us. For example, when we attended our individual classes at NFLS, students were very excited to have us in their classes. People on the streets often stopped me to take photos with them too, much to their excitement.

Overall, the people of Nanchang treated us with the utmost respect and were always happy to help us with anything that we needed and they certainly didn't disappoint. I would highly recommend that anyone, who has the opportunity to stay with a host family in China, should take this opportunity up. Having a host family really showed me how the people of Nanchang lived their everyday lives, and I learnt so much more than I would of if we'd of stayed in hotels the whole three weeks. *By Calla Sayers*