Hollywood Marathon: More than Just a Race

By YINGYING LAN

At 6 a.m. the sun still hadn’t risen, but under the shadow of night, one part of the city was brilliantly illuminated. Passionate music played and people grew more and more excited, cheering loudly when the DJ shouted the countdown: “Ten! Nine! Eight! Seven! Six!...”

The starting bell pierced the morning air, and I ran forward, pulling ahead of the crowds of people who came to run in the 2015 Hollywood Half Marathon & 5K /10K run on Saturday, April 11.

Because it was my first time attending this type of event in Los Angeles, I decided to run the 10K. The race started in front of the Dolby Theatre, home of the Academy Awards, and then passed through Hollywood and turned back to where we started, at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard.

I couldn’t believe the people I passed. It was like a costume party. I ran beyond “Superwoman,” beyond “Captain America,” and tried to catch up with the “Snow Princess.” Some people wore fancy dresses and some held banners to encourage each other. Both men and women ran, and even children from 3-10 years old were able to attend a half-mile Star Kids Fun Run. Volunteers, runners

Runners of all ages participated in the Marathon.


UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Venice Beach
Saturday, April 25, 2015
10:30AM-3:30PM ($20)

You haven’t seen it all until you’ve been to Venice Beach! There is a sandy three-mile beach with a boardwalk, street entertainment at every intersection, and a lot of shopping. Come visit one of the most iconic places in Los Angeles. $20 includes transportation.

Spring Closing Ceremony
Friday, May 1, 2015
8:30AM-12:30PM (FREE)

Come celebrate the end of Spring session with the USC International Academy! The closing ceremony is a chance for you to be recognized for all of your hard work this semester. Students will receive grade reports and certificates of completion. Breakfast will be provided. We hope to see you there!
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and spectators cheered and applauded the baby heroes. People from different countries and of all different ages ran together. I met many mothers who were pushing prams and running. I met a girl who was running with the help of her guide dog. I met many families who were in step and supported each other. I even met a few people who just recovered from injuries or surgery, who were walking fast and sweating a lot. That really touched me.

This marathon was more than just a race. It was an inspiring experience. With the encouragement of the crowd, I finished my 10K in 1:04 hours. That’s my best 10K score ever!

The Hollywood Half Marathon is an annual event which is held each spring. The event raises funds and awareness for Los Angeles homeless youth shelters. The winner of the half marathon receives $5,000!!!

This is an event everyone should try once. Even if you don’t run, you can cheer on those who do. So plan to go to the 2016 Half Marathon on April 9, 2016.

Dancing! Dancing! Dancing!

By MAI MIYACHI

The music vibrated through Bovard Auditorium as hip-hop dancers moved across the stage in last week’s performance of Down to Funk.

The dancer who held my attention moved to the front, to the back and to the front again. Her whole body moved with every beat and attracted the attention of many International Academy students. That is because she is one of us.

Yumiko Ukai, a USC International Academy student, gave a wonderful performance in USC’s Spring 2015 Dance Showcase on April 14.

A student from Soka University of Japan, Yumiko started dancing when she was a high school student. She attended her senior’s dance and decided to join the dance team at Soka High School.

“I was moved because their dance was full of energy and power, so I wanted to join them,” she said.

Now a member of USC’s dance club Break Through, Yumiko dances many kinds of dance such as hip-hop, Lock, Girls and so on.

“Dance is a tool to express myself,” she explained. “I want to make the audience happy because The audience gave me their time. Dancers have a responsibility to cherish that time.”
TOEFL: I Never Expected This!

By DAVID LI

Sometimes you think you prepared for everything, and then something unexpected happens. You couldn’t predict it or control it. For me, this happened when I was taking the TOEFL test.

I studied for this exam for two weeks. I prepared everything I could think of.

Finally, it was my time to take the test. I went to the computer room, sat down and began to answer the questions. But after 10 minutes, an investigator came in from outside and grabbed a cheater. After a while he came to seize another cheater. And then he came to me and told me to stand up. He searched my body and all my things. Probably because the people who had cheated were Chinese he suspected I might be cheating, too. But I hadn’t done anything.

When he left, I couldn’t continue answering questions. I felt very nervous and upset. I did a few deep breaths to try to calm down. I forced myself to focus on the issues, and in my mind I crazy cursed that man. I know this is not very good, but it did help me to calm down a little. I told myself not to think about it. I finally did really calm down and completed the exam. But I’m pretty sure my grades were not good.

Now I have a choice. I can be angry, give up and accept this score. Or I can accept that something bad happened to me and just try again. I made a lot of effort for this exam and I will not give up. I will try again and, whatever the outcome, at least I will not regret it.

I hope no one will encounter such a bad situation. I hope that every person can take the TOEFL and have a good result. But, if something bad does happen, remember, you can choose how to respond to it.

Computer Connects to Universities

By KAZUNORI KAMAHARA

Many International Academy students dream of taking classes at top-level universities such as Harvard or Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In today’s information age, it is not just a dream. Yes, you can! EdX brings amazing lectures from these universities and others to your computer.

EdX is a website founded by Harvard University and MIT. With a free account, everyone can take many high quality online classes from prestigious universities all around the world, including Caltech, University of Tokyo, and Beijing University.

The process to create your account is very simple. Go to the website, https://www.edx.org/Click on “Register” and just fill in the blanks. After registering, you can browse the courses freely and you can audit any courses you find and like. For each class, you can also find some assignments and review questions with clear explanations. They really help your understanding.

In addition, you can take some of these classes for credit. If you make a payment when you enroll in the classes, you can get a credit for each course that you complete.

There is no reason you should not use EdX and enjoy the lectures of top-level universities. The screen of your computer is the door to wisdom. It is you who opens the door.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CLOSING CEREMONY

Are you picking up someone’s certificate at closing ceremony? Is someone picking up your certificate?

If you are picking up someone’s certificate and grades at closing ceremony or if someone is going to pick up yours, please make sure you come to the front desk of the JEF building and sign the document required to give authorization to the person picking up your certificate. We will not be handing out any certificates and grades that are not yours.

Undefeated Kazakh Boxer to Fight in Los Angeles Area

By NURBEK AIZHARYKOV

“A combination of a heavy hand and technique” is how commentators of HBO boxing channel describe the style of undefeated Kazakh boxer, Gennady Gennadyevich Golovkin.

Golovkin’s next championship title defence will be at the Forum on May 16 in Inglewood, California, just a 20-minute drive from USC. Golovkin will fight the American boxer Willie Monroe.

Golovkin started his career on the Kazakh National Boxing team. Although his wins in championship competitions are mostly in his country, he is a prize winner of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, and he won the gold medal in the Asian Games in Butan in 2002. Statistics show that he has the highest knockout ratio in middleweight championship history, with a percentage of 90.63%. Opponents he has defeated include famous fighters such as Marco Antonio Rubio, Martin Murray, and Curtis Stevens.

In a pre-match interview on www.sherdog.com on March 18, Golovkin stated that he plans to beat everybody in middleweight. Monroe said “I’m gonna shock the world on May 16.” The upcoming fight promises to be interesting.

If you are free and want to see boxing stars, you should visit this match. Tickets start at $40 on www.ticketmaster.com.