

今馬年十二月十三日的十一時  
我與家人從 South Padres Island 開出租車  
中午十二時到了 Brownsville 的 (註一)  
德州大學在 Brownsville  
(University of Texas at Brownsville: UTB) (註二)  
但見父母親友喜樂地忙著  
與 2014 冬季畢業生在校園照家庭相片  
說是巧合最好  
去年十二月末我與家人離開 Brownsville 之前一天  
這大學忙著準備 2013 冬季畢業典禮  
今天中午我與家人第二次來 Brownsville  
巧遇到該大學剛剛結束 2014 冬季畢業典禮 (註三)

去年十二月末第一次來 Brownsville  
在 UTB 走馬看花  
覺得該大學有特別美麗動人的校園

十二月十四日早上九時  
我特別再次到該校散步  
經過工程學院大門前  
忽然見到一隻白色  
長頸長腳的 Snowy Egret (白鷺)  
白鷺往東徘徊觀望  
又往西的方向慢行  
我也在它旁邊徘徊觀望它  
不知道這隻飛鳥迷路  
還是在尋找食物?

校園不是很大  
但花草樹林美如仙境  
我經過該校一座長橋  
水上許多 Mallard Duck (野鴨)

忙著在水上尋找食物  
該校校長就住在圖書館旁邊  
離開學校的一條小徑美如天堂  
小徑兩邊高大棕櫚樹，清秀竹子園  
風吹草動和那十八座電燈柱  
讓我在想當年我年輕氣盛時期  
是否應該在這大學研究所  
做出一篇碩士論文  
空閒時間在校園呼吸新鮮空氣  
常常散步享受大自然的美景.....  
午前十一時卅分離開 UTB 時  
仰望眼前就是我們下住的  
Fort Brown Resort

十二月十五日星期一早上十時  
我第三次到該校走  
該校職員非常友善  
讓我和工程與計算科學學院的  
Dr. J. I. (Professor & Chair) 交流半小時  
我說我只對機械工程方面有興趣  
J. I. 博士說該校 Engineering Physics Programs  
共有四種項目  
其中之一就是機械工程  
機械工程方面有很多研究與發展主題  
我說該校研究的  
< Aquatic Bicycle floats on the water >  
是我最喜歡的主題  
我提議如果該校能夠成功地完成  
下一個研究發展項目可否是  
< Full Size Bicycle can be put into a travel suitcase >  
J. I. 博士點頭微笑  
我們彼此高興地說再見了.....

[ 註一：參考資料

(A). AAA TourBook GUIDE Texas Page 127:

" Brownsville is historically and economically intertwined with Matamoros, its sister city on the Mexican site of the border. As a major seaport and railhead, Brownsville exports the agricultural products of the Rio Grande Valley as well as a large percentage of Mexican commerce. Locally, both cities are often thought of one. Brownsville is a bilingual city with strong Spanish cultural ties, and residents frequently cross the three international bridges to shop, visit and work. "

(B). Wikipedia:

" Brownsville is the sixteenth most populous city in the state of Texas with a population of 181,860. It is located on the southernmost tip of Texas, United States on the northern bank of the Rio Grande, directly north and across the border from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The 2013 U.S. Census Bureau estimate places the Brownsville-Harlingen metropolitan area population at 417,276 allotting it the eighth most populous metropolitan area in the state of Texas." ]

(註二：參考資料 Wikipedia:

"The University of Texas at Brownsville (abbreviated as UTB and formerly known as the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College [UTB/TSC]) is an educational institution located in Brownsville, Texas. The university is on the land once occupied by Fort Brown. It is a member of the University of Texas System. The institution was formed from a partnership between Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas-Pan American at Brownsville. From 1991 to 2011, the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College became a substantial presence in South Texas education, providing unique opportunities for more than 17,000 students from Texas, as well as from Mexico and elsewhere. The partnership ended in 2011 as UTB became a standalone University of Texas institution, and Texas Southmost College returned to being an independent community college. UTB itself offers baccalaureate and an increasing number of graduate degrees in liberal arts, sciences, education, business, and professional programs designed to meet regional, national, and international needs.

In 2015, the UT–Brownsville, originally an extension of then-Pan-American University at Texas Southmost College, will merge with the current UT–Pan American , a new medical school will be added, and the resulting institution will be named the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley.")

(註三：參考資料 The COLLEGIAN Volume 67, Issue 14 December 1, 2014. The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville:

" ..... Of the 831 graduates, 659 will receive a bachelor' degree, 170 will receive a master's and two will receive doctorates of education.")

(寫於美國德州最南端的城市 12/17/2014: 旅遊 Brownsville 三篇文章之一)

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## 我極喜歡的度假村

22 屆 楊與沙

退休後我與家人多次旅遊住宿 RCI 安排的度假村, 有的住在遊船上, 有的住在海邊, 有的住在湖邊, 有的住在鬧市商業區, 我最喜歡的是 Fort Brown Condo Shares in Brownsville, Texas:

" Fort Brown Condoshares is located amid historic Fort Brown in Brownsville, Texas and offering a vast array of attractions for your South Texas vacation. Enjoy the semi tropics of southern Texas at this laid back resort, which is located just a short distance from the Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley. Soak up some sunshine beside the pool with a cold drink or unwind in the whirlpool."

(參考資料: Yahoo search or Google search by typing key words: Fort Brown Condoshares )

我們下住的 Fort Brown Condoshares 是二臥室的公寓，住宅一開前門就見到多種熱帶樹，美麗花園，外室溫水游泳池，外室熱水池。游泳池旁邊有一座橋通到一小島，小島上只有十棵大樹，綠色青草，和那數不完的飛鳥群與飛鴨群。飛鳥群有三類：白鷺 (Snowy Egret), 鸛鶴 (Stork crane), 鷓鴣 (Cormorant). 飛鴨群也有三類：純棕頭田野鴨 ( plain brown head Mallard Hen), 綠頭公野鴨 ( green head Mallard Drake), 呼嘯鴨 ( Whistling-Duck). 它們各群同類聚在一起，不同類彼此之間沒有友誼，見面就是打架或口咬對方..... 它們同類聚在一起飛，一起在湖上游，一起在湖上尋找食物.....

我之喜歡 Fort Brown Condoshares 乃是在該處可以見到大自然熱帶植物園區的美景並且可以看到飛鳥與飛鴨的本性. 在別處我曾住過的度假村從來沒有看到上列所提及的大自然熱帶植物園.....另外以下是 Fort Brown Condoshares (簡寫 FBCs) 的特點: 從 FBCs 到墨西哥餐館 (在美國地界) 開車吃早餐只要五分鐘，早餐只付三美元 (Taxes included with meal of one any type egg, beans, two pieces bacon, french fries , 5 pieces tortilla & un-limited refill coffee) 與三位女招待人服務。從 FBCs 到美國/墨西哥邊界鐵圍牆開車只要三分鐘。從 FBCs 到美國/墨西哥其中之一的國際橋 (International Bridge) 開車只要三分鐘. 在 FBCs 後院往南方走 15 步就是美麗校園的 University of Texas at Brownsville.



(寫於美國德州最南端的城市 12/17/2014: 旅遊 Brownsville 三篇文章之二)

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## 我極感興趣的一年制學院 (Praxedis Orive Jr. Technical Training Center) 22 屆 楊與沙

" 104,000 square foot project for the Southmost College in Brownsville, TX. Facility design was to promote trade skills in the field of construction, electrical, computer and refrigeration repair as an alternative to traditional higher education advancement." (Reference: Yahoo search or Google search by typing key words: Praxedis Orive Jr. Technical Training Center or access to www.tsc.edu ).



1995 和 1999 年我先後在 Schenectady, New York 的 Schenectady Community College 與 Annandale, Virginia 的 Fairfax County Community College 各選一門課。這二門課程的內容都對我當時在 General Electric, General Dynamics, 和 Bechtel Power Corporation 工作崗位上很大幫助，也讓我知道二年制學院與大學之不同。二年制學院學費很便宜，雖然講師不是名牌大學教授，我選擇的課題是關於 Auto CAD &

Essay/Report Writing 的實用知識，在大學裏這兩門課學費既貴又是理論。當時我兩次在二年制學院修課是很聰明之選擇。許多讀者都知道二年制大學的好處，筆者在此也不多言了。筆者在本文

的重點在於比二年學制更快的一年受訓持技受訓中心。

今年十二月初我與家人旅遊 South Padre Island 一周，十二月中旬到了 Brownsville, 參觀了 University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB), 筆者已在另外一文《我極喜歡的大學美麗校園》提及我極喜歡 UTB 的校園, 在此不再重複。我對二年制學院也有一點興趣, 在十二月十五日走馬看花地在二年制學院的 Texas Southmost College (TSC) 看了幾座 TSC 的建築物（只是從外面層看，沒有入內仔細觀察）。

我特別對一年制技術學院大感興趣，有些學生無力到二年制學院, 只好到一年制技術學院，在一年內就取得持技執照，便到大公司做事並領取比中學畢業生高多的薪水。十二月十七日與十九日我和家人參觀 Praxedis Orive Jr. Technical Training Center (POJTTC). POJTTC 是 TSC 的一個學院。該學院（中心）的兩位職員 Mr. T. M. 和 Mr. E. R. 歡迎我們, 給我們很快的介紹該中心的資料：POJTTC 有五門特技課程：(1) Auto Body Repair (註一), (2) Auto Mechanical Technology, (3) Commercial and Residential Electrician, (4) Construction Technology, (5) Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Cooling (HVAC) (筆者只是在 Auto Body Repair 寫註一。其他四項有興趣者可上網站 [www.tsc.com](http://www.tsc.com) 參考詢查)。雖然課程只有一年，但是入學資格條件比入二年制學院更嚴（註二）。

十二月十九日 Mr. E. R. 還特別安排我們到講師與學員一起用手具和設備器（tools and equipment）造成的真實房子：some houses are scaled down with roofing, trusses, HVAC, windows, doors, aluminum siding, and electrical wiring, one full size house of roofing, trusses, beams, windows, doors and electrical wiring, two full size commercial building of industrial approved steel trusses, and steel beams (A full sized steel framed structure commercial building that was approved by the commercial building code).

(註一：參考資料：[www.tsc.edu](http://www.tsc.edu))

" The Auto Body Repair Certificate is a one-year program that offers the student the opportunity to acquire typical industry auto body repair skills. The program provides students with lab and classroom projects typical to the industry. Laboratory tools and equipment are state-of-the-art, and instructors are highly experienced in the auto body industry. The program provides the student with the work attitudes, skills and knowledge needed for successful employment in the industry." )

[註二：參考資料：[www.tsc.edu](http://www.tsc.edu)]

" Due to the specialized nature of working in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) fields, admission requirements are more rigid than for entrance into the general programs offered by TSC. Requirements for admission to the Career and Technical Education programs are as follows: 有興趣者可上網站 [www.tsc.com](http://www.tsc.com) 詳細查資訊並獲得申請表" ].

[ 後記：筆者知道在美國的專業訓練特校，一般來說只有一，二，三，或四門特技課程。Praxedis Orive Jr. Technical Training Center (POJTTC). 該中心共有五門特技課程，可以想像德州特別給年輕高中畢業生有求職拿到高薪的工作機會.]

（寫於美國德州最南端的城市 12/20/2014 子夜後二時。旅遊 Brownsville 三篇文章之三）

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