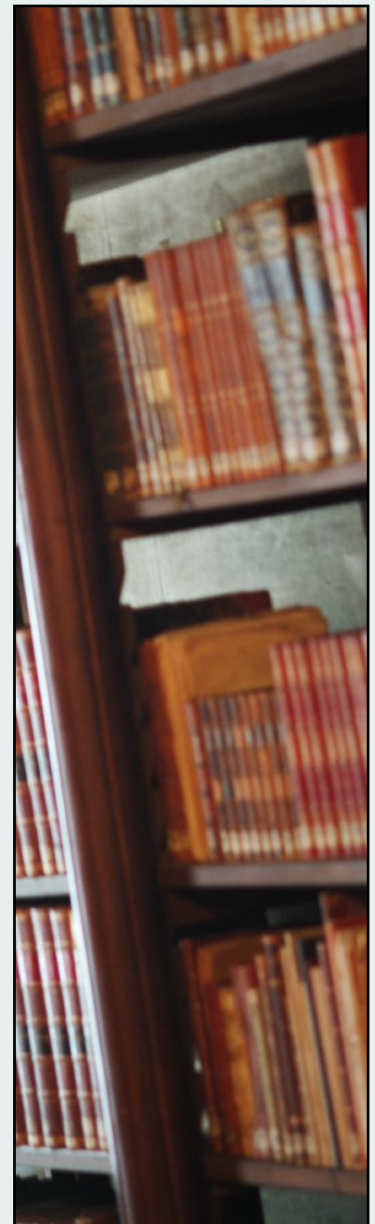




HCCC
ESL Program

DIVERSITY

Fall 2015



SUMMER—THE BEST SEASON

MY FAVORITE PLACE



XIOMARA GONZALEZ, L 0

PROF. L. STEPHENSON

My favorite place is the beach. It is big and beautiful. There are people and animals there. The beach is relaxing for me because I can think about my life, the college, my family, and other things.

The summer is very enjoyable because the beach is open. People go to the beach with their family, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, or alone. I go to the beach with my family, but I prefer to go alone because I need to think and relax. I sometimes like to go to the beach with my dog. I like to see his footprints in the sand.

My dream is to sail on the ocean. For me it is interesting and mysterious. I want to see the animals that live in the ocean. I love dolphins. They are beautiful.

At the beach, there are children playing in the sea, jumping and running. Music is playing, too, and people are talking. The sun gives me strength. The beach is wonderful. It is my favorite place.

THE BEST SEASON EVER

TRIZA ABOELYAMEN , L 1

PROF. M. SCHIRTA

My favorite season is summer. It has a lot of activities you do. For me summer is very special because I go to my country to see my family in Egypt.

Every year I travel to Egypt to spend the whole summer with my old friends and my family. I go to Egypt in June and come back to the U.S.A. in September. I have a lot of fun there. I go to the beach almost every day with my children and my family. The beach is not far from our house, so we walk about just ten minutes to be at the beach. We go to the beach every morning, and then we go to different places every night. Sometimes we go to the movie theater or to watch a play. Other times we go shopping at the mall. I am always busy every day.

Sometimes I leave my city Alexandria to go to other cities because Alexandria is always crowded in the summer. Usually I travel with my friends to Hurgada and stay there about two weeks. We have a lot of fun over there, because we dive under the sea or go on a safari in the morning and in the evening we go to club to dance. Every night we sleep just three hours.

My children like summer too because the weather in Egypt is different than here. Summer is wonderful there. Every time when we leave Egypt, my older child Joly cries a lot. She doesn't want to come back here. Joly makes a lot of friends in Egypt. The first time when we went to Egypt was hard for her to communicate with them because at that time she didn't speak Arabic, but they taught her how to speak Arabic well.

My little son has fun too because he was always with my mother and he loves her so much. When she goes anywhere, she takes him with her. She takes care of him. That is better for me, so I can take some time for myself to feel free.

As you can see, summer is the best season for me. I spend a lot of money every summer, but this is nothing if I can see my children happy.



MY FAVORITE PLACE

YERLY DOMINGUEZ, L 1

PROF. M. SCHIRTA

My favorite country to go and spend my vacation is the Dominican Republic. There are many places that I like. It is always nice and hot. When I am there, I like to go to the beach every Sunday. I like to go there and relax myself. I always go to my family. It is beautiful and peaceful to spend time with my family at the beach.

I prefer the beach as my favorite place because I can sit down and hear the wind. I can imagine things that I want to happen. I can create a story just in my mind. It is a nice and quiet place. I can also see my niece play around with the water. I can sit down and watch what everybody does and think how beautiful my family is.

I like when I put my foot into the waves. I like to put my foot into the water because I can feel how cold the water is. I like to swim under the water. When it is 4 o'clock, all my family goes into the water together. They like to have a swimming competition. Every time that I lose I go out and watch who is going to win. It is funny and fun. I can watch and laugh at the same time.

My brother always says to my mother. "Mom, tell everybody who won." My mother just smiles and says, "I can't say that because I love you all." When we hear that, we hug her. That's my favorite part. On those moments we can feel, how important the family is.

When I am in the Dominican Republic, we keep the tradition to go every Sunday to the beach together. I can feel how much they miss me, how much they love me, and how important I am for them.

All in all, I go to the beach every Sunday when I am in The Dominican Republic. It is a tradition for me. Every time I go there, I can see all my family together. That's why the Dominican Republic is my favorite country to spend my vacation. I feel peaceful, and I can have fun with my family.

CHANGE IN MY ROUTINE

MARIAM YAKUB, L 0

PROF. K. MAZZARELLA

Church is the source of peace and quiet for me. I like to go to my church when I want some peace. I go to my church every week. I pray, speak with God, and listen to the priest's words about Jesus Christ and the love of God for me. I listen to words about love, peace, and joy. All those words make me quiet. I spend a long time at church. My church is on the same street where I live. My church is on 20 Street in Bayonne.

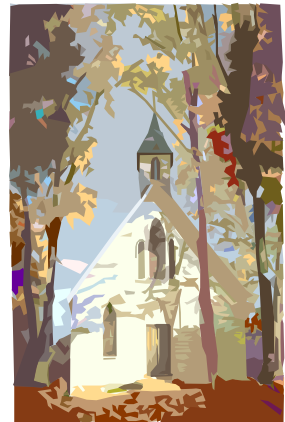
When I want some activity, my husband, daughters, and I visit my uncle. My uncle lives in Nutley, N.J. with his daughter, her husband, and his grandson and granddaughter. We spend a long time during the day at their house. My children, Rozan and Mirna, are 11 and 10 years old. They like playing with children of the same ages.

My cousin Salwa came to America 15 years ago. She studied and graduated from the Faculty of Science. She works as a scientist. I love her, and we have a good time together. We have breakfast together and lunch. The children swim in the pool at their home. They play and watch TV together. My children speak Arabic, and my cousin's children talk in English. Everyone speaks together and learns the other one's language. Then, we have dinner, and finally, we go home.

We have an excellent time. I love my uncle, aunt, and cousin very much. That day is a wonderful day.

Summer is the annual permission slip to be lazy. To do nothing and have it count for something. To lie in the grass and count the stars. To sit on a branch and study the clouds.

Regina Brett



MY RECENT VACATION

GRETER TORRES, L 1

PROF. S. ARMANIOUS

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

John Lubbock

My recent vacation was last June. My husband and I decided to go to Cuba. We went there to visit my family for two weeks. The trip took three hours.

We arrived at noon and my parents met us at the airport. We kissed and hugged. Then, my cousin picked us up to go home by car. When I got home, I felt so very happy to see all my family there. We talked and joked all the afternoon and had a lovely Cuban dinner together that evening.

The best part was when my parents and I went to Varadero Beach. We stayed at the International Hotel. The place was cozy and clean. It had many trees and flowers around. My mother was relaxed

because she usually enjoys nature. My father spent all the time by the pool with his favorite drink. My husband and I enjoyed the beautiful beaches and excursions. In addition, we visited the Josone Park. We saw interesting animals there. Furthermore, the hotel was full of customers and, we met nice people there. The service was excellent. The workers were helpful and friendly. Finally, we had wonderful days all together.

In conclusion, my husband and I returned to the United States after two weeks. We were sad to leave my family. We said good bye many times. We had an amazing vacation in Cuba, but it was good to be home.

THE BEACH TRIP

MIDLANNY FRIAS, L 1

PROF. R. SKLAR

On my last vacation my family and I were in the Dominican Republic for my grandmother's birthday. Two weeks before we came back home, we were planning for a day at the beach for the following Sunday.

On Saturday, we woke up early in the morning. I made breakfast for everyone. Then my sister cleaned up the kitchen. After that, we went to the supermarket to buy food and other things for a trip at the beach. In the evening, we went to the movie theater. The movie was interesting because it was about dance and I love to dance. At night my grandmother made hot chocolate for everyone. While it was raining, we told funny stories and jokes.

On Sunday, we woke up later in the morning, and it was raining with thunder. It was bad weather. I was so angry because the weather canceled our plans. My mother made lunch. She made lasagna, and I helped her. Then, we ate and watched the news program to learn about the weather. The storm became a hurricane. Two hours later, the electricity went off about one hour. In the evening, we played monopoly and cards. We enjoyed it. My grandmother told us about the time when she met her husband. It was interesting, but that day we went to bed later because she told a very long story! We know why she loves our grandfather.

In spite of the weather, I enjoyed that day and spent a wonderful and amazing day with my family. All in all, we went to the beach the next Sunday. I learned that it doesn't matter where you are if you are with the people who you love.



MY FAVORITE ACTIVITY

SERGIO DOMINGUEZ, L 1

PROF. S. ARMANIOUS

My favorite activity is reading. I feel comfortable when I read a good book. I like a lot of books. I can do a lot of things at home, but I prefer reading. I love reading at home when I'm alone. Sometimes I want to read, but I don't have time.

I like many writers like Isabel Allende, Juan Bosh, Paulo Cohelo, but my favorite writer is Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He was the most interesting writer in the world. I can read his books all day. In addition, I buy books on the internet. I don't like to spend much money on books. I have a lot of books in my bedroom. I need more space.

I also like to read because I can be with other people or visit other countries. Reading is like magic. If you read, you can learn about different things. When you read, you learn to speak and write.

I like books in Spanish. I can understand everything in Spanish. It is my first language. I should read more books in English when I learn more English.

In conclusion, reading makes me happy. When I read I think more, and I like that. I love spending time reading new books. Everyone should read.

MY FAVORITE STORY

NAWAL RAFLA, L1

PROF. M. SCHIRTA

I like to read in my free time. Therefore, I read many books, and I learned many things from them. This semester, I read many stories, but my favorite one is "Young Man Axelbrod".

This story is about Knute Axelbrod who was born in Scandinavia. He had a very hard life. He had a small family: his wife, his sons, and his daughter. He worked all day and studied at night, so he did not have time for himself. Also, he did not read the books he liked.

After his wife died and his children grew up, he felt alone. Then, he gave his farm to his daughter and he built a house for himself. He lived with his cat. Knute always talked with his cat as if she were human. He decided to achieve his dream. He wanted to be a student again. Therefore, he started to study. He ordered some books online. After that, he applied to Yale University, and he passed the exam. When he told his daughter, she tried to stop him, but he was determined to go.

Then, Knute went to college. He was enthusiastic to learn. In spite of the fact that he was an old man, nothing could frustrate him. For example, in college some students laughed at him, and others thought he was a strange man. Then, he felt alone again, and he missed his old life. He did not have a friend at that time. In contrast, he finally found a freshman called Gil. He had a wonderful adventure with him. They went to a concert, and they spent the whole night outside. Also, they walked for a long time, and Gill read some poems. Knute listened to him. He enjoyed spending time with Gill. In the morning, he felt exhausted. When he came back to his room, he decided to return to his home. He felt happy that he achieved his dream.

I like this story because an old man tried to live every minute of his life. He challenged everything to reach his dream, but I don't like that he stopped at that time. I wish he would continue his path.

The best advice I ever got was that knowledge is power and to keep reading.

David Bailey



Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Joseph Addison



MY FAVORITE ACTIVITY

NESY CUEVAS, L 0

PROF. J. KARNICKA



My favorite activity is watching movies. It is interesting for me. I enjoy doing it on the weekends.

I often make a plan related to my weekend activities. I usually start on Friday. First, I think about which movie theatre I am going to go. Then, I have to know which movies are on, and what actor is acting in the movie. I often call my friend, Carlos, for help. He is good at that. He knows a lot about movies. He has watched all Spiderman and Batman series because he likes action movies. He is also a good companion. He enjoys every film that

we watch. This weekend, we are planning to watch “Focus.” Carlos says that this is a good movie because Will Smith is acting there. He is an excellent actor. We have nothing to do on the weekends. That’s why we spend time at the movie theatre. I learn a lot from Carlos. He researches everything about a movie or an actor. We love to meet and share time together.

I like to do this activity. I get to know about actors and actresses. My friendship with Carlos also grows every weekend because we spend time together.

MY FAVORITE MOVIE

ROGERD AUSTIN, L 1

PROF. M. SCHIRTA



My favorite movie is “Fast and Furious”. I always watch it. It has seven parts and many different actors. The last part is now in the movie theaters.

This movie is in memory of the famous actor Paul Walker before he died. It has good action. For example, in the first part Paul Walker and Vin Diesel were enemies, and they always had problem. Paul Walker became Vin's sister's boyfriend, and that was a problem for the family.

Paul Walker worked for the City Police Department, and Vin and his friends were thieves. After that, they decided to make a family together. The family name is Toreto, and they always say, “Family first and together for life.”

I like this movie because it is an action movie and it is very interesting. I always watch different parts. My brother always tells me, “You are crazy because you always watch the same movie”, and I answer, “I am sorry, but this is my favorite movie.” I love this movie and I identify with it because for me family comes first just like in this movie. “Fast and Furious” is my life.



GOOD AND BAD MEMORIES

MY FIRST TRIP

DAILENA RODRIGUEZ, L O

I took my first trip when my family and I came to the United States. We flew on a big airplane. My boys were afraid the whole time. My husband calmed them down, and I told them that we didn't have anything to fear.

We arrived at the Miami airport on April 16, 2014, about a year ago. We were so excited because this was one of the happiest days of our lives. When we were at the airport, we ate delicious sandwiches with jam and cheese, and we drank many different kinds of soda. My husband and I enjoyed looking around this wonderful place. Our next stop was the Immigration Office. Our

PROF. L. STEPHENSON

destination was New Jersey.

At night we flew on another big airplane again. Finally we arrived in New Jersey where my mother and her husband waited for us.

Now, in New Jersey, I have a house and a job. I also study at Hudson County Community College because I need to learn English. My children go to school, too, and my husband has a job every day.

We felt very well about this trip because finally we were together. I miss my family in Cuba, but one day, I will return. Now we are happy in this new country.



A PRECIOUS GIFT THAT I RECEIVED

MILAGROS CASTILLO, L 1

Everyday people give and receive gifts. Some gifts are better than others. I have many special gifts in my life that I can still vividly remember. The most special and favorite gift that I have received was a necklace. It is not an expensive necklace, but it is special. It is like a treasure for me.

I graduated in my country sixteen years ago. The day of my graduation was very exciting and emotional for me and my family. I was the first member of my family to receive a university degree. This day my father gave me a beautiful necklace as a gift for my graduation. He was very happy and proud of me. I was very happy too. It was a collar with a brilliant cross. The color of the cross is green.

I take care of my necklace as a most precious and valuable gift that I ever received. I usually send it to the jewelry store to clean. My necklace is special for me, because it was a gift from my father. He passed away three months later after giving me the necklace. I always remember the expression on my father's face when he gave it to me. This necklace has a sentimental value for me. Also, I am still using my necklace for special occasions. I don't want to lose it.

Finally, I received many gifts in my life. But, the most beautiful and invaluable for me is my father's gift. It is not because it an expensive gift, but it is the gift that always reminds me of one happy, emotional and special day that I spent with my father before he left forever.

PROF. S. ARMANIOUS

You take away all the other luxuries in life, and if you can make someone smile and laugh, you have given the most special gift: happiness.

Brad Garrett

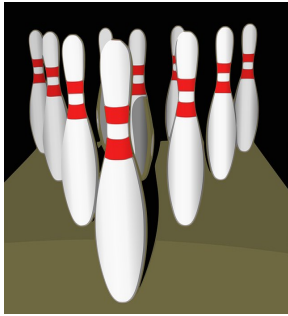
MY BAD DAY

GLENDIA DIAZ, L 1

Last Saturday wasn't a typical day for us. It was extremely long and boring because we couldn't go out. We were thinking about going bowling, but the bad weather changed our plans. It was raining all day and it was very windy so we had to cancel our plans.

At 10 o'clock my phone started to ring, and we woke up. My friend was calling me to cancel our plans because it was raining hard. I was so angry because I was so excited to go bowling, so we decided to stay at home. Then, I got up from my bed and took a shower, brushed my teeth and got dressed. After that, I went to the kitchen to drink milk and make some coffee for Leo. Next, we started our bad day caused by the weather.

Around 1 p.m. I was extremely bored and I decided to clean my house while Leo was



PROF. R. SKLAR

making a crust for the pizza. He loves to cook, and I hate it. At noon, I finished cleaning, and I laid down on the sofa to relax and wait for the pizza. At 1 pm. Leo called me to go eat. The pizza was delicious. He made a Hawaiian pizza.

The rest of the day passed as usual. After we ate, we turned on the T.V. and found a movie on Netflix. I was scared because Leo chose a movie about zombies. Its name was "The Walking Dead." I ate some popcorn and drank some soda. In the afternoon we played some video games. At night we took our shower and went to sleep.

I don't like when I have to change my plans because of the weather, but we spent time together at home. We are thinking about going bowling next Sunday. I hope we don't have bad weather that day again!

MY TERRIBLE DAY

CECIBELL RIOS, L 1

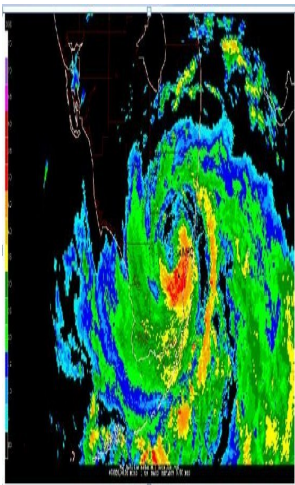
I live with my son. We planned to go on vacation last year to Miami. We planned to go on the first day of spring. We made reservations three months before that day for the hotel. We bought the tickets to fly. Everything was ready to go. We were happy waiting for that day!

We were happy to prepare for the trip. I bought two suitcases, one for me and one for my son. I bought so many things because our plans were to stay two weeks in Miami. I bought a beautiful yellow swim suit and a new pair of sunglasses. I bought a lot of clothes. I bought eight shorts with blouses in different colors and designs and t-shirts too. Also, I bought three beautiful dresses.

My son did the same. He bought a lot of clothes too. He likes to wear nice clothes. He bought two beautiful pairs of sneakers. Also, he bought a new camera. We were so excited waiting for that day.

It was the first day in spring. We woke up early that day. I listen to the news every day, and then I heard on the news about a hurricane that was on the coast of Miami. I was so scared! I couldn't believe what I heard. My son was upset. He told me we couldn't go on bad weather. We had to cancel the trip. He also said that it was dangerous to go.

Finally, we decided to cancel the trip. Also, we had to change everything for the summer time. I hope the weather will be better. I told my son we had to pray next time for better weather.



PROF. R. SKLAR

WORK AND STUDY

GERO'S JOB

SAMUEL G. DOMINGUEZ, L O

My friend Gero is twenty-one years old. He lives here in North Bergen. He has an interesting job. He works at a computer center. His job is to repair computers, and to talk with the people that need help with them.

He works forty hours a week, but he loves his job. Sometimes he is angry because some people are not happy with his work, but he tries to make all his customers happy. That is good

LIBRARY

MAHBA BADROUS, L O

I prefer to study in the library because it is quiet and no one makes noise or speaks on the phone. I sit at a desk to write my homework. I do Quizlet on the computer because I don't have internet at home. I like to study words in a dictionary. I go to the library

every Friday after my children go to school. I prefer to go in the morning. I write my book report in the library. The library is very clean and large. I can find a lot of quiet places in the library. I sit alone on the second floor, and I do a quiz. Before I return home, I finish all my homework. I like to study in the library because at home I do homework with my children, and I don't find time to study alone.

The library is a good place for everyone to study. The people who work in the library also help me with everything I need. When I look for the dictionary to find definitions and for a story, I find a person who helps me. There are a lot of people in the library, but no one speaks or makes noise.

The second place I study and do my homework is in my bedroom because this room is special for me. There is a table and chair in my bedroom to read and study. After I finish everything at home, I go to my bedroom alone to do my homework. Every day from Monday to Thursday, I do my homework at home because I don't have time to go to the library. I go to school from 9:00 to 12:00, and after that, I return home to prepare lunch for my children. Next I go to school at 3 o'clock to pick up my children from school. In the afternoon my children do their homework, and I clean my apartment and wash clothes and dishes. At night when I finish everything, I go to study and do my homework in the bedroom from 8:00 to 10:00. I like the bedroom because I sit alone when my children watch cartoons on TV. The bedroom is quiet. I sit at the table or on the bed to read and study in the bedroom.

PROF. L. STEPHENSON

for his company.

He went to college because it was very important for his job. Now he is ready for everything about computers and technology. He likes technology. That is why he only works with that.

This job is very interesting to me because I love computers, too. I like everything about computers.

Technology is my life!



Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.

Confucius



Everything you need for better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.

Henri Frederic Amiel

MY LOVELY SON

JIMARIS BODON, L 1

I never knew how much I could love someone before he was born. At the moment that my lovely son came to this world I got no doubt that I would love him forever. His name is Jean Carlo Santiago, and he is the most important person in my life.

My beautiful baby is now 12 years old. He is very tall for his age even taller than me. Physically he looks a lot like his father, in his eyes, nose, even in his eyebrows.

When I talk about his personality I have to say that he got it from me. Jean got a really bad temper especially now in his teen years. He gets mad for everything. He could be very funny and playful when he wants to be. He is very intelligent, but sometimes he gets a little lazy when he has to do homework.

Every morning when I try to wake him up for school, he says "Mom, 5 more minutes please". It

PROF. M. SCHIRTA

is not that he does not like school. It is just that he loves to sleep more before going to school. That is how his morning begins complaining like he does every day. Then, he runs fast to take a shower, and the thing that he loves more is eating breakfast because he loves to eat pancakes. After he does all of that, he is ready to go to school and think all day.

When Jean comes from school, I already have dinner ready. After eating he does his homework and when he finishes, he plays Xbox for a few hours. Sometimes having a daily routine with him could be painful, because my son says that teachers give him too much work to do at home.

I enjoy any moment that I can with him, and I want to be in his life for as long as God gives me health. He is the most important person in the world for me, and I cannot live without him in my life.

My son's the most precious thing to me; he's changed me from being selfish to selfless.

Ricardo Antonio Chavira

MAJDOLINA AND MERYEM

LATIFA HIDARA, L 1

PROF. D. RAMIREZ

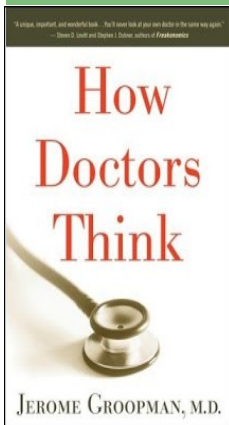
Majdolina and Meryem are my cousins. They are also unusual siblings. They are twin sisters. Most people think that twins are similar, but Majdolina and Meryem are completely different in many ways.

The twin sisters are different in appearance. There is a huge difference between them. They are non identical twins. Majdolina is tall and slim, but Meryem is short and overweight. Majdolina has a round face and a Roman nose while Meryem has an oval face and a Greek nose. Both sisters have beautiful eyes. Majdolina has hazel eyes with thick and light brown eyelashes. In contrast, Meryem has brown eyes with thin, long, and dark brown eyelashes. Also, Majdolina has a small and narrow mouth, but Meryem has a big and wide one. In addition, Majdolina has long and straight hair while Meryem has short and wavy hair.

My cousins have different personalities. Majdolina is a sociable person. She is easy going. She is very cool, so she has many friends. In contrast, Meryem is unsociable. She does not like to be with people. She is reserved and shy. As a result, she does not have many friends. Moreover, Majdolina is a hilarious person. She is funny. She likes jokes, but Meryem is a strict person. She is always serious. She does not like jokes. She is also nervous and disorganized while Majdolina is calm, patient and well organized.

Majdolina and Meryem have similar goals. However, they are different in their appearances and their personalities. They share the same goals. Both of them are good students. They will finish their studies in France. They hope to be doctors in the future. Also, they dream to get married with twin brothers.

Majdolina and Meryem are different. They love and help each other. I like this contrast between them. Both of them are close to me. I love them so much, and I wish the best for them.



MY FATHER

KRISTIAN FERDINAND ZAPANTA , L 2

PROF. L. J. MILLER

My father made a difference in my life. My father only finished high school in my native country, the Philippines. I did not have a perfect family. My parents were separated when I was a child. Their relationship did not work. I have five siblings. My father took me into the city, while my siblings stayed with my mom. I am the only one who grew up with my dad. When I was growing up, I saw his sacrifice just to provide for my needs. I saw him struggling in life and having troubles finding a job. He worked in different kinds of jobs like company driver, mechanic and jitney driver. A jitney is the most popular public transportation in the Philippines. These are just some of the jobs that a person gets if he only finishes high school. My dad was in the Philippines. My mom and my siblings were here in the United States.

My dad taught me to be a competitive person. In my elementary years, I was always in the math quiz bee. I never won, but he was proud of me to be a part of the



competition!! In my high school days, he always told me to finish my studies and get my diploma. He said education is the only thing that no one could take away from you. I am an athletic person, too. I loved all sports, especially basketball. My dad encouraged me.

My dad also made me a better person.

When I was child, I used to hang out with my friends. I was always outside playing with my friends, and asking for money to spend. I was lazy, playing computer games, video games and spending money on stupid things. Now, I have my own job. I'm helping my siblings to buy some groceries, pay bills and most importantly, I send money to my dad! At least in a small ways, I am paying him back for his sacrifices and making him proud of me. He also taught me to have a faith in God. When I was a kid, I never went to church. I always said it was boring inside, and it was too quiet, but I was really wrong because I did not understand how important God's words are. Every day, I pray for the safety of my siblings and my family back home.

My dad made me a faithful, competitive and a better person to face all the challenges in life. I'm so happy and proud of myself because his sacrifice and dedication is paying off. Today, I'm doing what I've learned and those special abilities helped me to face the challenges here in the United States. I love my dad and I have nothing else to wish for!!

Dads

The most important influence in my childhood was my father.

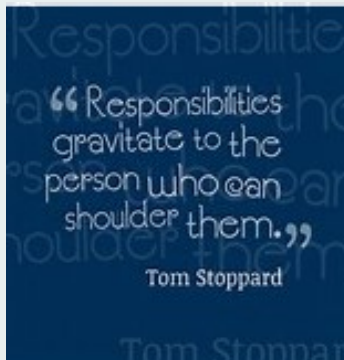
—DeForest Kelley



My father was my teacher. But most importantly he was a great dad.

—Beau Bridges

“A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child.”
—Sophia Loren



MY MOTHER AND I

LYNDA LOULI, L2

PROF. C. LOBO

In life, people have many responsibilities. These responsibilities are different over generations. I am twenty seven years old. My responsibilities and my mother’s responsibilities when she was twenty seven years old are different in many ways including: education, work, and parenting.

When my mother was twenty seven years old, she had many responsibilities. She was living with my father and his family. She was responsible in the big family. She didn’t finish her school because she needed to help her mother at home to take care of her brothers, but she did many things to educate herself at home.

At that age, my mother had five kids, and she stayed at home to take care of them. She never had a job to feed us, that was my father’s responsibility. These are the responsibilities of my mother when she was twenty seven years old.



In contrast, my responsibilities now are different for my mother’s responsibilities concerning: education, work, and parenting. I live only with my small family “my husband”, and I don’t have the responsibility of taking care of a big family. I started my education in Algeria, and I want to finish it in the United States of America to have a better life. I work full time, and I try to complete all my responsibilities at home and at work. I don’t have kids yet, but if I do, I’ll still work to feed my kids, and help them to have a good life also good future. These are my responsibilities in my daily life concerning education, work, and parenting.



MY ANNOYING MOTHER-IN-LAW

RYMA HAMZI, L 2

PROF. L. AMELINE

Some people are very annoying. They do things that make others angry and really uncomfortable. My husband’s mother is an annoying person for three reasons.

First, my mother-in-law always complains about the way that my husband and I bring up our daughter. She is never happy when we buy things for her, such as toys or candy. She thinks that we are spoiling her. For example, yesterday my husband bought a new Barbie Doll for our daughter. My mother-in-law became so very angry, and called him a spendthrift. However, my husband just smiled, and told her, “It’s ok! She is our daughter.”

Second, my husband’s mother usually complains about the dishes that I cook. She doesn’t like my cooking, but she never cooks for us. She also doesn’t enjoy restaurant food. Sometimes, when I cook something different, such as pasta, or soup, she immediately complains and asks, “Why don’t you cook something else?” Last week, I cooked soup, but that did not make her happy. She told me that my husband doesn’t like soup, so I shouldn’t cook soup.

Finally, my husband’s mother sometimes buys the same things that I buy. She says that she doesn’t like my furniture and my clothes. But then she always buys the same furniture and clothes that I buy. For instance, I am planning to buy a new sofa for my living room. Since she heard that piece of news from my husband, she began to think that she also needs a new sofa.

To conclude, annoying people make your life very difficult. However, sometimes we should be patient, especially if they are part of our family. Even though my mother -in-law is an annoying person, I know she loves us. That makes all the difference for me.

MY ANNOYING NEIGHBOR

SAMIA DJELLALI, L 2

PROF. L. AMELINE

My neighbors are generally very nice and helpful, but one of them is especially annoying to me because he is very noisy and disturbing. He makes me feel angry almost every day.

My neighbor’s name is Ryan. He lives in the apartment just next to my apartment. He is twenty years old, and lives with his best friend Michael, who is a very shy and calm person.

Ryan is a student at Columbia University, where he studies mathematics. He is a very smart person, but what is wrong with him is the fact that he is very noisy and irritable. For example, every evening he listens to very loud rock n’ roll music until 11:00 p.m. Not only does he listen to loud music, but he sings loudly, too. Also, even when he doesn’t listen to music or sing, his television is very loud. Since I live just next to him, I hear everything he does. I feel like he is always with me, in the same room. Sometimes, I knock on his door to ask him to reduce the sound, and he usually tells me, “Ok, I am very sorry,” and he reduces the sound for ten minutes, or so. After that, the sound becomes as loud as before.

Ryan is also very disturbing as a person. For instance, he regularly forgets to do his shopping, and as he is not a shy person, he always borrows something from me, such as sugar, coffee or salt. One day, he asked me if I had cooked enough dinner, and if I could give him some because he didn’t have time to cook. Sometimes, however, I find him just funny because he is a loud-mouth. However, when his behavior becomes exasperating, I lose my patience, and I feel angry. Unfortunately, I can’t tell him what I really think of him.

Continued on next page....

“I told my mother-in-law that my house was her house, and she said, 'Get off my property.'”



—Joan Rivers



*“Good
Fences
Make
Good
Neighbors”*

*—Robert
Frost*



MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

ANLY GARCIA, L2 PROF. S. M. CARUANA/ PROF. K. MAZZARELLA

I live in a small building where all the people get along with each other. Like everywhere, there are some exceptions. My next door neighbor is a very annoying human being. He has an incredible loud voice, bad smoking habits and extremely rude manners that make it impossible to like him at all.

My neighbor’s voice tone is so high that when he speaks, it is very difficult to hear someone else. Every morning at 6am, he turns on his radio and sings along with the music, waking up the whole building. On several occasions, the police have to come to stop his personal music concerts in order to maintain the peace in our building.

Another terrible issue is his smoking habits. Sometimes we can hear the smoke detector alarm going crazy because of his addiction. There are signs all over the building prohibiting this habit, but he seems to ignore them. Once, the fire department came to the property because he left one of his cigarettes on the sofa and burned half of his living room. Despite that experience, he refuses to quit smoking, and, instead, he continues to affect all of the people who live in the same floor.

His rude manners are getting worse with time. In his vocabulary there is not a “good morning” or a simple “thank you”. On my block, we have a limited amount of parking spots due to the crowded area. This fact is a huge inconvenience for all of us who return very late at night from work. Every day, he takes the biggest place and parks his car in the middle, so nobody else can share with him. My neighbor is a special person, but not in a good way.

MY ANNOYING NEIGHBOR CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

(from Samia Djellali)...

In short, we can’t choose our neighbors. As chance would have it, we can have nice neighbors who are well-behaved, and who do their best not to annoy their neighbors. Chance can also give us neighbors that are not respectful, and we have to live with them and adjust our lives as best as we can.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

“EID EL FETER”

WAFAA ABOUSAMRA, L 2

PROF. C. LOBO

Eid El feter is one of the biggest religious holidays for Muslims. Eid El Feter comes after Ramadan. During Ramadan, people fast from sunrise to sunset every day for a whole month. On Eid El Feter, they stop fasting and celebrate. Eid El Feter lasts three days.

People prepare many things for Eid El Feter. They buy new clothes for their children, and some young people buy new clothes, too. Mothers make many kinds of cookies and biscuits. A lot of people clean and decorate their homes to look nice on Eid.

People have many things to do on Eid. The first day, people go to pray early in the morning. They pray outside in the parks or in a stadium. After they pray, they go to celebrate with their families. They visit their parents or their relatives and they have breakfast together. Some of the people visit other countries to celebrate and have a good time. At night, they go to theaters to watch a new movie or a play.

Children also have many things to do on Eid. Children wear new clothes and go to pray with their families. After praying, children go with their parents to buy toys and balloons. They go to their grandparents, uncles, and aunts. Relatives usually give children brand new bills to buy toys or to save. Some children go to the parks to play or go to entertainment places to play and have fun. They buy happy meals from famous restaurants.

Eid I Feter has many wonderful things. It is a prize for every Muslim who fasts and prays. Everyone has fun on Eid El Feter. All relatives visit each other. They eat, celebrate and laugh together.

A MEMORABLE TRIP

ENAS ELSHIKH L 2

PROF. B. WANG

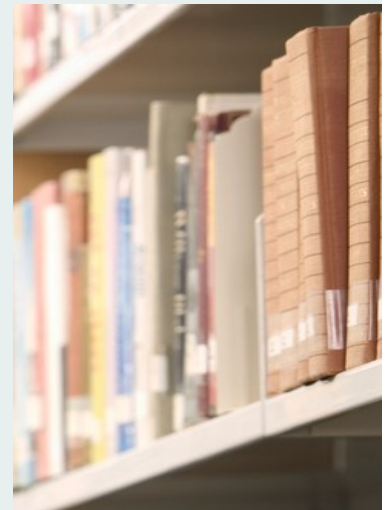
I had a wonderful trip when I was ten years old. My uncle invited my family to visit him on his little farm in the countryside. I remember we spent joyful time and did many interesting activities. I will never forget that fantastic trip.

Early morning on Sunday, my brother Ali and I got up at five. Although we were very sleepy, we were very excited about the trip. After we quickly ate our breakfast, we got dressed up to be ready. My mother, Ali, and I rode in my father's car. Ali and I were looking at the view outside the car window, singing and chatting on our way. It took us three hours before we arrived there at 10 a.m. As soon as we stopped, my father honked the horn to announce our arrival. My uncle, my aunt, and their children Rose and Tom were waiting there, and they ran up to greet us. We hugged, kissed, and greeted each other with warm words.

Our afternoon was full of happy time. After we took a rest, my aunt prepared a delicious lunch for us, and we ate together. I remember how amazing it was! After lunch, Ali and I had a tour on our uncle's farm.

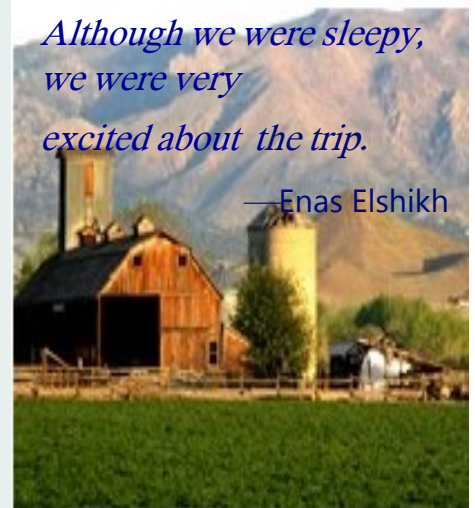
*“On Eid El Feter,
they stop fasting
and celebrate.”*

*—Wafaa
Abousamra*



*Although we were sleepy,
we were very
excited about the trip.*

—Enas Elshikh



Continued on page 18 . . .

BASIC SKILLS FOR MY FAVORITE SPORT

WINSLOW PAUL, L 2

PROF. C. LOBO

“We are minor in everything, but our passions”

—Elizabeth Bowen



Soccer is one of the most popular sports in Europe and the Americas. It is said that early growth of modern soccer started in England. From there on, it spread to other countries in Europe. Nowadays, national teams all over the planet compete to take part in the World Cup, which takes place every four years. There are also professional and/or amateur leagues in each country. In addition, because of the benefits of playing soccer, schools everywhere encourage playing it. The most important rule in soccer is not to touch the ball, except in some cases. There are also other rules to follow, many of which are specific to soccer.

Soccer is a game that is played by two competitive teams. A match is comprised of ninety minutes, with extra time added for any time wasted during the game. Each team is allowed to have a goalkeeper defending its goal. In some cases, most of the times a goalkeeper is allowed to touch the ball and throw it back at his team. If the ball has been thrown out of bounds, the opposite team has the advantage to take the ball and play. And it is against the rules for the ball to touch your hands or your arms. If it does, it can cause the referee to give you a red card or a yellow card. The referee is the authority on the field, and his word is the law. After a team scores, the ball goes to the middle field so then the match continues.

There are many methods to learn how to play soccer. To play soccer one must be in top physical form. One should be able to run, observe the ball movement, keep up with his adversary, and work with the other players as a team. Every day, from morning to evening, in the nearest park, many people practice. Soccer is not an easy game, to be good

at it, one must not only attend the coach’s practice sessions, but also work on his or her own.

There are many ways someone can benefit from playing soccer. Playing soccer can be difficult at first. By playing, a person can accomplish many things. Through soccer, one develops fitness and creates positive fitness habits. He or she learns what it takes to be in shape. Soccer players tend to become lean and muscular. They develop endurance from constantly running, and muscles from work-outs. Nutrition is also important. They want to play to their full potential so they avoid drugs and unhealthy food.

There are many steps to becoming successful at soccer. First, follow the instructions of the coach, be unpredictable, work hard, trust your teammates, play with your heart, and one can be almost sure that victory will be his or hers. One can be victorious also by giving everything you can both on and the field. But victory is not always everything, having fun is equally important.

In short, soccer is most popular sport in the world. It benefits not only the body but also the mind. It is a brilliant sport in many ways, and one can only discover its beauty by playing it. The history of soccer is full of players becoming legends after scoring, or goalkeepers managing to keep their goals intact for months. However, more interestingly, there are more of these legends to be written.



DANCING AND I

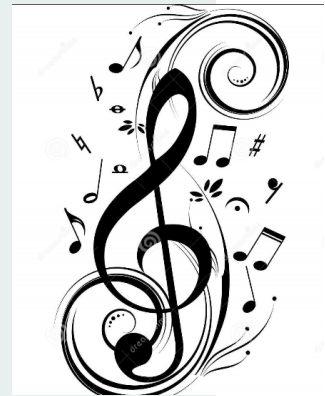
MANUEL RODELES, L 2 PROF. L. AMELINE



Have you ever experienced this — you're listening to a song, and suddenly your body starts moving on its own? I experience this often. When this happens, I realize that I love to dance. Though I have many hobbies, dancing is my favorite.

I became interested in dancing when I was three years old. I remember watching my cousin dancing in front of our house. It made me curious about dancing, and filled my mind with many questions, such as, "How was he able to do that move? Or how did he organize the steps?" After a while, I gave it a try.

As time went by, I fell in love with dancing. I learned how to dance by watching TV shows, dance competitions and practicing with friends. Every time when there's music playing in the background, especially at high volume and plenty of bass, my body starts reacting and creates movement. A type of music known as "dubstep" is one of my favorites — I love hearing this music playing when I am dancing. Dubstep is a style of instrumental electronic music that originated in London and emphasizes bass and drum elements.



There are several styles and genres of dancing, ranging from salsa to hip-hop. The style that I particularly like is hip-hop. The word "hip-hop" refers to street dance styles mostly performed with hip-hop music. It includes different types of movement, mainly breaking, locking, and popping several parts of the body. It was created in the 1970's, and was popularized in the United States by several dance groups. Some examples of hip-hop songs that I usually play and dance to are "Turn Down for What Can't Hold Us," and "Work Hard-Play Hard".

Hip-hop dancing is memorable for me because this was the first genre that I used in my school performance when I was in fourth grade. I remember the song that my team and I chose—it was "Jenny from the Block" by Jennifer Lopez. I was so happy dancing on stage, being watched by so many people. After my performance, I was sweating and out of breath.

I love dancing not only because it's my favorite hobby, but also because it's a way of turning boring exercises into fun activities that both my friends and I can enjoy. Dancing is good for your health, and also helps you meet new people, who may eventually become your friends, or even best friends. Dancing is my passion, and no one can take it away from me.





“Sports do not build character. They reveal it.”

—Heywood Broun



BASIC SKILLS FOR MY FAVORITE SPORT

ESTEFANI GUERE,, L2

PROF. C. LOBO

There are several sports that a person could play. The sport that I played and enjoyed playing is softball. Softball is almost the same as baseball but there are a lot of differences. For example, the most obvious difference between softball and baseball is the pitching technique. The base paths in softball are several feet shorter than those in baseball. A regular softball ball is larger than a regular baseball ball.

Every sports needs dedication. A person who wants to learn how to play softball has to know that it is not easy. First, a person who plays softball has to be responsible and go to practice every day. A person who plays has to play wisely and be focused and skillful. How is it practiced? A person who practices softball has a position. A player have to be focused and be careful with their opponents. When the opponents are batting the other players that are covering have to concen-

trate on their bases or their position. Some players when they are batting usually steal a base and the other team has to be prepared for this to make their best move. Dedication is the key to play softball or any other sport.

Participation in a sport has many benefits. A person who plays softball can be healthier. People who play softball can participate in competition and represent their school. In the school, that person might have the advantage of getting a scholarship and he/she can get the opportunity to play in another country or in another state if he/she is good at the sport. A person who plays softball or any other sports learns teamwork. They are used to working in teams, and they all work together to have a better game. Other benefits include maintaining a healthy weight and improving fitness. A person who plays softball or any other sports are also less likely to smoke or drink. There are a several benefits for a person who plays softball.

“A Memorable Trip.” Continued from page 15 (from Enas Elshikh)

We watched the noisy animals. My uncle went with us and taught us how to feed small chicks and how to milk the cow. Ali was very excited when he saw the young chicks and the ducks eating the corn. I saw the small goats with their mother. Because I never saw that before, I was so joyful and jumped here and there.

In the late afternoon, we still had enjoyable family activities. My cousin Rose and I played checkers while my father and my uncle were sitting on the couch and chatting. The same like my mother and her sister, they sat together and talked about their childhood. We heard they were laughing all the time. On the other hand, my brother Ali and my cousin Tom were outside, and they were playing on the swings in the yard. Everyone had a good time. When it was 6 p.m., we had to leave, and Ali and I felt very sad because we wanted to stay longer. My uncle and my aunt begged us to stay for dinner, but my father had to go to the work the next day. He needed another three hours to drive us home. Before we left, we thanked our uncle's family a lot for that beautiful and pleasant time we enjoyed.

In conclusion, our trip to my uncle's farm was a wonderful and memorable trip. I will remember this sweet day in my childhood forever.

OF PLANS AND GOALS

HANANE OUAKKARI , L 2

PROF. N. ATIENZA

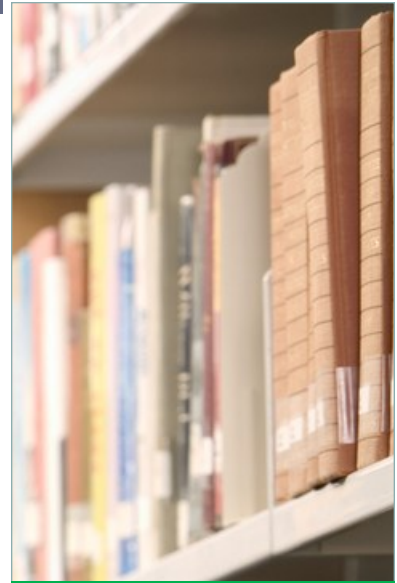
I have two immediate plans nowadays, finishing my ESL studies and building a great family. There will be many problems to accomplish them, but I will work hard to solve them. I will avoid the obstacles around me to have a better life in the future.

My first goal is finishing my ESL courses to start my life here in United States more easily. To do this, I am trying to lessen my difficulties of becoming fluent in English by practicing in school and speaking with friends and classmates. While teachers are making efforts to provide me and our class what we need to learn English better, I will always keep the desire to improve my language skills.

Building a great family is my second goal. From Miss to Mrs. is a beautiful change in my life. Now, I have countless responsibilities for our home: my children, husband, and house. Organizing time between family and school makes me nervous and stressed, but I involve myself in doing some hobbies like sports, reading, and watching movies. My life doesn't need to be boring.

In ten years, I see myself full of love and financially stable. Love is a key for happiness, and it will surely make me excited to go on with my life as a mother and a wife as well as a person. Money is also very important because we need it to survive. It helps us to be creative, making us to do what we want, and what we want to buy for ourselves. I see myself working hard for my family. My husband, my children and I will have a successful life, being happy and stable. Every member in my family will be in the right direction.

My immediate plans are giving me a push to be work hard. Thinking of myself in ten years motivates me to make all the possible efforts to avoid obstacles in my way. They will help achieve my goals.



“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

—Zig Ziglar



“Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn.”
—Benjamin Franklin

ASHAMED OF MY MISTAKE

YAMERLY MARTINEZ, L2

When you make a mistake in life, you should stop and think twice not to make the same error. We are all humans. We all make mistakes, and we should learn from our mistakes. Unfortunately, when you arrive from a different country, in my case the Dominican Republic, family members and friends sometimes teach you a lot of bad words. In 2005, when I came to the United States, I was living in the Bronx, New York. I was in high school, and I was in an ESL class. I was learning English, but my English was not sufficient. My English teacher was a sweet person who also spoke Spanish. Even though she was a white teacher, her Spanish was fluent.

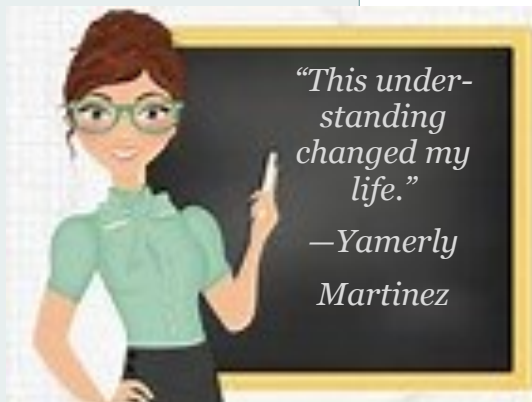
One morning, in school, we were in class and my teacher was teaching something important that day. During that time, I was holding my urine for a long time, and I couldn't hold it any longer. I felt like I was going to explode. I didn't know how to ask for permission to go to the rest room, so I got up

from my chair, and I just left the classroom without consent. When I came back, as soon as I opened the classroom door, the teacher started to lecture me on my actions saying that I should have ASKED.

PROF. L. J. MILLER

I snapped back, “Are you calling me an ass?” Everybody started to laugh and make fun of me. I felt confused. Then my teacher told me in Spanish, “We are going to talk after class”. I was in class, but I was still trying to figure out why people were laughing so hard at what I said. What did I say wrong? What did she tell me? There were a million questions on my mind. I could not understand. When the class finished, everyone left from the classroom except for me. My teacher spoke to me after class and told me that she knew that my English was not good, but I had to learn how to listen and pay more attention to words. I asked her why I had to pay attention if she was the one that called me an ass. She told me “No, I told you that you should have ASKED”, and she explained the difference. I could not believe it. I was so ashamed of myself.

I apologized to my teacher for my mistake. I learned that I should have paid more attention to my teacher's words, and not responded so quickly without knowing what she said. This experience taught me how to have more patience. It also taught me to think about the question that is asked before I respond. This understanding changed my life.



MY SOCIAL LIFE THEN AND NOW

JAINISHA DESAI, L2

PROF. B. WANG


There were many differences between my social life before I immigrated to the USA and my social life now. On the other hand, there are also some similarities now and before. I like both of my social lives here and there, but I feel my time with my family and friends in India was more meaningful.

There were some differences in my social lives in the past and currently. First, when I was in India, I had many good friends. Whenever I was free, I enjoyed playing games and hanging out with them. However, I don't have any friends in the USA. Therefore, I feel alone and cannot go outside for any fun. Second, in the past, I always went to the movie theater or had lunch and dinner with my family and friends on the weekend, but I haven't seen any movies for two years because here in the United States, no one has time for another person. Lastly, I used to have many family gatherings when we had holiday celebration or festivals. Unlike that time in my life, here we don't celebrate any of our Indian festivals, so there is almost no social life for me.

Although there are some differences between my old and new social lives, there are some similarities I enjoy so much. I used to contact my friends in social media with my computer, so I was in touch with family members in other areas and friends who lived far away from my family. Now, I also use social media, such as Facebook, to reach my family members and friends. Therefore, I am still socially active and in touch with all who live in India. Another similarity is that when I lived in India, I liked to go to a party with my family once a week. Here, I also go to a party with my family but only once a month. In addition, I often met our community people in India because my father was a president of an organization in our community, so he always organized cultural events. In this way, we always had activities with community people and spent meaningful time together. After we immigrated to the USA, we do the same as what we did in India, we meet our community people on weekend. As a result, we started to become involved in events of the community organization and get together once in a while. I feel happy doing this.

Moreover, after I started college study here, I met different classmates who were from other countries. I have communicated with them very often and after some time, I have made new friends whose cultures were so different from ours. Whereas in India, I never knew any different cultures in college. Here, by socializing with my new friends, I have learned many new things such as food, holidays, and lifestyles. The other similarity I like most is I always perform dancing for our community gatherings. I danced so much in the past; likewise, I have dance performances and also teach dance to the children in the community now. My dance skill is one of my best parts of my social life.

To sum up, I enjoyed my social lives both here in the United States and there in India. Even though I had more active social life with family and friends before, now I really like and enjoy my new social life with my family and new friends here.






Now, I also use social media, such as Facebook, to reach my family members and friends. Therefore, I am still socially active and in touch with all who live in India.

—Jainisha Desai,



**good friends
are like stars.**

*you don't always see them,
but you know they're always there.*



A GREAT HERO: DIDINE

ABDELMALIK ZAIDI, L2

PROF. N. ATIENZA

“He rarely came to school, and when he was there, he would fight everybody..”

—Abdelmalik Zaidi

“I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

—Christopher Reeve

A person who was a great influence when I was growing is my best friend Didine. Even though we were teenagers then, I learned many important lessons from him, and he provided me important values that have affected my life through the years.

Didine and I were in the same school but not in the same class. We were not yet friends. He was bad because he was a troublemaker. He rarely came to school, and when he was there, he would fight everybody, even with the teachers. He wore dirty clothes all the time, and I thought that he was a robber. At the end of the semester, he was expelled from our school.

One evening, I was walking down the street when I sensed that someone was following me. I looked behind me and I felt something sharp touching my back. I looked back once again and there was a strange-looking man holding a knife. He asked me to give him all that I had. Suddenly, out from nowhere came another person. It was Didine! He saved me and the bad guy ran away. Didine and I started talking and he advised me to be very careful walking alone. He was right because if it were not for him, nobody would be around to save me from such danger. It was a coincidence that he was just passing by. He also told me to learn how to defend myself and he said, “If you want, I could be your Master.” Would a troublemaker do that? I was wrong about him. He was not bad at all. I had judged him unfairly. It was the first lesson I learned from him: “Never judge a book by its cover.”

Didine taught me how to defend and protect myself. However, he advised me not to use martial arts for bad intentions. He provided me an important lesson: never use our power for bad purposes. We started going to the gym during weekends. Little by little, I saw another Didine. He was not the dirty person who looked like a robber. He was not lazy like he used to be at school. I became curious. Although I was scared, I asked him about his being different when he was at the gym and at school. I was shocked by his answer. He said that he did not have time to be prepared going to school because he had to work. He had to take care of his mother and a young brother.

My best friend had a fight every day. He was fighting to survive. Many times, I offered help, but he refused. One day, he told me that he was traveling to Europe, but he did not have a visa. I asked, “How are you going to do that?” He answered, “I really do not know. But I will do it!” At that time, Algeria had a great number of illegal immigrants in Europe and a high percentage of people dying before getting there. He went on a dangerous trip, and he got his goal. Didine was not only a great fighter in real life, but also he survived a great fight against life, too.

Didine had nothing to win or lose in his life. He had no money and nobody to protect him. He was truly a great fighter. He taught me so many things that have affected my way of life. I can sum them up briefly: wake up, dress up, and never give up.

PARENTS AND CELEBRITIES

HEBA ALI , L3

PROF. J. VAN GENDT

Parents and celebrities have a strong impact one way or another on younger people's lives. Younger people always look for good role models to follow. In fact, celebrities have much more influence than the parents because they are everywhere on TVs, internet and the radio. Therefore, parents and celebrities could influence younger people's lives in positive and negative ways including the way of lifestyle, behavior, and the way of thinking in their future.

The most outstanding difference between parents and celebrities and their impact on younger people's lives in terms of lifestyle. Parents often teach their children values for life. Also, parents show their younger the respectful way to dress. Celebrities with their strong influence come and change all these values. For example, Miley Cyrus is a famous singer, she has a lot of fans especially the younger girls who want to look and dress up like her. As a result, these fans who admire her have the same appearance and attitude. Also, they use inappropriate language like she does.

Another point of difference is the behavior. Parents could impact their youngsters' behavior in many ways. Parents usually teach their younger children how they should behave and teach them good manners. Also, younger children learn their behavior from their parents who also could have positive effects on their behavior. For example, if a parent reacts positively to their children, younger children will learn to react in the same way as the parent. In fact, a younger child is like a sponge that absorbs everything from the parent. Younger people will repeat this behavior in their future relationship. Moreover, if younger people grow up in a good environment, surely, this will have positive influence on their behavior. For example, if stressed-out parents act positively toward any situations and give timeouts, it helps younger to understand that parent's love for them will never change, even when the child's behavior is not acceptable. On the other hand, celebrities have a strong negative impact on their fans especially young people who follow their conduct. Unfortunately, many celebrities misbehave after they become famous and earn a lot of money. They often get addicted to drugs and alcohol. For example, Britney Spears and Selena Gomez are famous singers. Both have become addicted to drugs and spent a long time in rehabilitation. As a result, young people consider some celebrities as role models, so they try to imitate these celebrities and they may fall as a victim to several problems. One of these problems is drug addiction.

Another point of comparison is the way of thinking of the future. Usually parents talk to their young children about the importance of education and future plans. Also, they teach their younger children how to be respectful people in the society. However, celebrities usually do the opposite have a negative influence on the way the younger fans think about their future. Furthermore, when younger people see their favorite movie stars become famous in a short time, they think it could happen to them, too. Young people forget about their education and tend to think about the shortest way to become famous, too. For instance, Kim Kardashian becomes famous because of her sex tapes, so her fans could take her as a role model to follow her and try to imitate her success.

To sum up, parents and celebrities are influential elements in the younger people's lives including lifestyle, behavior, and future plans. This impact could be positive or negative. The love of fame could lead young people to forget life's values, good conduct, and norms which are major problems for parents tried to teach their children every day of their life. Hopefully, young people will choose the right path.

L3 Poetry

A Lady Like the Sun

I fell in love with a lady like the sun. She has the most beautiful eyes that I have seen in this world. If I had the world to give, I would give all to her. Let me hear her again.

For her, I will march to hell and I would build a heaven there only for her. Maybe she will give me the opportunity to be her world. In that way, I would give her the best of myself. I am glad to hug you, and love you every day.

After too much pain, maybe she will appear like an angel with soft wings and change my destiny. My lady, my luck, my happiness, my friend, my love and my perfect day. I would like to give you the best of myself. Let me change those sad eyes and let me cure those tired hands and let me die for you. I am glad that you are my queen of my empire. For you I can conquer the Chinese, Ottoman and Roman Empires, and I'll give all of them to you.

—Jose Tabarquino, L3

Prof. Karen Bookman
Kaplan 23

HOW PARENTS AND CELEBRITIES CAN INFLUENCE CHILDREN'S LIVES

EDILEUZA GIACOMINI, L3

PROF. J. VAN GENDT

*Think twice
before you
speak, because
your words
and influence
will plant the
seed of either
success or
failure in the
mind of
another.*

—[Napoleon Hill](#)

Generally speaking, youth are those people who can be easily influenced, and, nowadays, parents are no longer the only models for their children. Celebrities can have even more influence in children's lives than parents. It is fact that celebrities have always influenced people, especially youth. The problem is that now the media shows celebrities as the best role models to follow, and young people see those characters as gods. Indeed, youth might follow these celebrities and will try to have the same style of live as they have. However, parents and celebrities need to be cautious about their behavior because they can positively or negatively influence young's people lives.

The first influence in children's lives is their parents. Normally, young people tend to copy others' behaviors, so parents can influence their children positively when they act with responsibility, education, and serenity. They show their children a good example to follow. On the other hand, parents that show bad behavior such as drinking a lot, saying bad words, acting with disrespect, and dishonesty can influence their children to act in the same way, and it can impact negatively their lives.

The second influence on young lives is the celebrities. Currently, with the media and the Internet, celebrities have become a more powerful influence than ever before. They dictate what is beautiful, how to dress, what is the ideal body, how to act, and what is fun. The problem is that, all these things are in most cases false and impossible standards to achieve, and youth, who follow these celebrities, can become frustrated. Indeed, they can even develop some kind of disease. As an example, a girl who developed an eating disorder because she wants to look likes her skinny idol. Conversely, some respectable personalities can positively influence young people, as an example Bill Gates. He shows how through hard work, persistence, and commitment, young people can realize their dreams.

In conclusion, young people are still forming their concept about what is good and bad, so parents and celebrities need to be attentive about their attitudes because they are examples for these people. Certainly, the way that parents and celebrities act can negatively or positively impact children's future.



THE LIVES OF WORKING MOTHERS AND THE LIVES OF MOTHERS WHO STAY AT HOME

ARMIYAWA HAMID , L3

PROF. J. VAN GENDT

The lives of working mothers as compared to the lives of mothers who stay at home are quite different. Both mothers' lives can be demanding depending on their daily routines or work. Their lives are different in terms of how they spend their time, the type of support they give their families and one similarity is the purpose of their lives.

One difference is how they spend their time. Working mothers are very busy as compared to mothers who stay home. They spend most of their time at their workplaces. They leave their houses early in the morning and come back late in the evening. Most working mothers do their shopping online. They don't have much time to cook in their houses. They prefer fast-food rather than home-cooked food due to their hectic lives. They spend less time with their families. However, mothers who stay at home spend all or most of their time in their houses. They do not go outside frequently unless it is necessary. They do their shopping in person in stores. They have much more time to cook in their houses. For that reason, they prefer home-cooked food. They spend a lot of time with their families.

Another difference is the type of support they give to their families and loved ones. Working mothers support their families and loved ones financially. For example, they help their spouses by paying some of house bills. They do shopping for their families with their own money. Most at times they pay for their child day care. They love buying gifts for their children just to gain their trust and love. Compared to the mothers who stay at home, they don't have much money to pay house bills or shopping for their families most of the time, but they help by taking care of the house. For example, they do the house chores, cleaning and cooking to make sure they all live in a healthy life at home. They take care of their children instead of taking them to day care.

One similarity is that working mothers and mothers who stay at home all have one purpose in their lives. They both want the best life for themselves and their families. Working mothers work hard so that they will be able to pay for their children's school fees and textbooks. They work so that they will be able to improve their lives and that of their families and loved ones. On the other hand, mothers who stay at home help their children do their homework and take them to school, so that their husbands will have much time to work and pay for their children's education. Both of them are doing this to make sure they have a good and prosperous life.

Finally, the lives of working mothers and mothers who stay at home might be different in terms of how they spend their lives and how their lives affect those around them. However, they all spend quality time with their families and loved ones. They support their families in their own ways, and they have one purpose or goal, the better future life for themselves and that of those around them.



***“Try not to
become a
man of
success.
Rather be-
come a
man of
value.”***

***— Albert
Einstein***



ADULTHOOD

SILVIA VILLA ,L4

PROF. C. PERSAUD

Apparently, the right age to be considered an adult is still in disagreement. Certainly, some people believe that the appropriate age to be a grown up is at the age of eighteen. However, a person should be considered and adult at age 21 because this individual, in most cases, is already physically and mentally developed, economically independent, and academically prepared for the future.

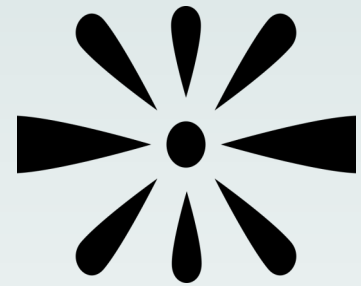
First and foremost, a person is considered an adult at age 21 because there is physical and mental development. Such a person has passed through adolescence, the period of time between the ages of 12 and 18 when the teenager is maturing into an adult. To illustrate, this individual shows many body changes according to gender. Males show the presence of muscles, the appearance of hair on the face, and the change in voice tone. On the other hand, the transformation in female bodies is different. For example the hips will grow wide to give room for a baby, the breasts will develop, and the menstrual cycle continues which means that women are ready to become mothers. All these changes are the first sign of becoming an adult. But not only is the body changing: the mind is developing as well. This person is starting to think with more maturity, willing to take on responsibility, and preparing to make ethical decisions.

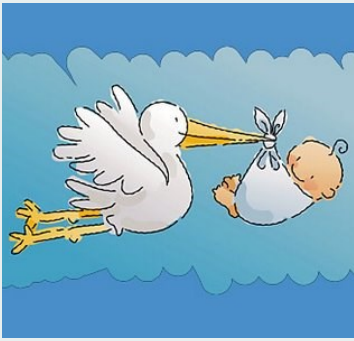
Another reason to consider people as adults at age 21 is that they are economically independent. When grownups leave their parent to take care of themselves and to provide support on their own, they demonstrate that they have autonomy and independence, so they should be considered as adults. The fact that a person is solvent shows that the person is not dependent on the parents for help.

The last point is when people get into college and prepare for a career by age 21, they should be considered as adults. Being prepared academically, gives people an opportunity to find a job with a reasonable salary and perhaps, good benefits. In addition, if people earn enough money, they are able to satisfy their basic needs, such as a decent place

to live, good food and proper clothing. The person is ready to start a family and prepare for a better future.

In conclusion, an adult stage is not simply reaching a certain age, but it is essential to be physically and mentally developed, economically independent, and academically prepared. These are important factors to consider people as adults and these factors are present age 21.





RAMIFICATIONS OF ABSENTEE FATHERS

FRANCISCA MATO, L 4

PROF. C. PERSAUD

Families are important in children's lives. They teach them how to behave and socialize in the community. When the children are raised by both parents they feel loved and appreciated. Unfortunately some are brought up by single mothers and there are some effects of being raised by single mothers. Some of the consequences of absentee fathers include lack of funds, lack of a sense of how to behave with the opposite sex, and lack of opportunities that involve fathers.

One of the consequences of absentee fathers involves lack of funds. Providing for the family is much



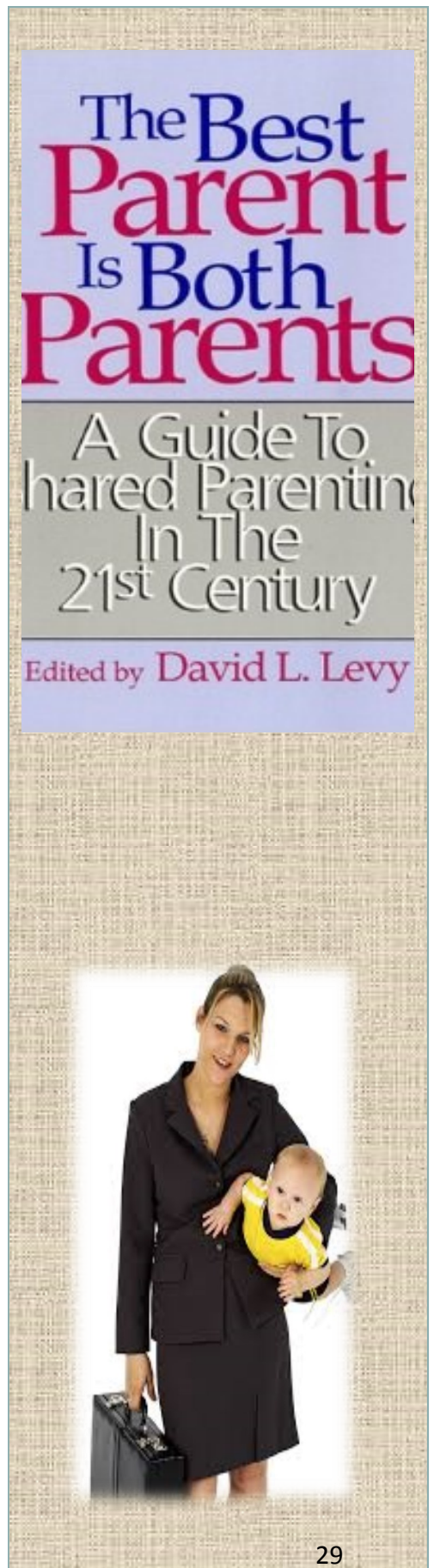
easier with both parents involved. Without a father to support the wife with paying bills, buying food, providing the clothes and insurance, the family may end up in poverty. Mothers alone can spend most of their time working to make ends meet in the process they lose focus on the children. The fatherless children may end up joining gangs in order to help themselves or to help their mother in some expenses.

Another consequence of being raised without a father include lack of a sense on how to behave with the opposite sex. Fathers are role models to

their children, so when absent children lack a role model. Families are meant to teach good values to the children, without a father they do not know how to relate to older men in the society. If a girl grows in a home without a father she may end up with unplanned pregnancy. Boys who grow without a father may end up being irresponsible dads when they grow up.

A final consequence of being raised without a father involves lack of opportunity. There are some activities that involve a father and the children, so the father being absent these children lack that oppor-

Ramifications....continued on the next page...





A man doesn't need to be flawless to be a perfect father, but the commitment to his family is a precious responsibility.

- Paul Young

tunity in their life. This may lead to children being depressed because of the constant talking of other children at school about how they spent time with their fathers. There might be discrimination among the children in the society. When children are playing they talk about how they are treated by both parents and where they went and children without father are left out.

The information above includes some of the consequences of being raised without a father. The effects might be many but the above effects are the main ones. On the other hand, some of the children that are raised without a father get the motivation from the mother and work hard and become successful in life.



PATERNITY LEAVE

MADLINE TORRES , L5

PROF. J. VAN GENDT

The maternity leave has become a right in many jobs through the passage of the years. Nowadays, many companies allow 6 months of maternity leave which is enough time to spend with the newborn. However, some companies don't have paternity leave which should be allowed for many reasons including: it would help fathers to learn how to take care of a newborn, it also might contribute to create a team between parents, and finally because there are many single fathers that will need at least 6 months to find someone to help them in this new process of their life.

Having a new baby is a big responsibility for both parents. However, sometimes men believe that this is only the mother's responsibility. Actually, only some companies are allowing paternity leave which is a good option for fathers that want to get involved in the growing process of the newborn. For example, there are many fathers that don't know a simple skill like preparing a newborn's milk. One of the main reasons of this situation is the lack of time. Instead of helping the mother with the newborn care, they have to work. Learning how to take care of a newborn is a process that might take many months. Unfortunately, the majority of companies are not able to help fathers in this beautiful learning process.

The best way of getting involved in a newborn life is creating a good team between parents. If companies could allow paternity leave it will be a help for many parents. Most of the time, the mother is forced to take care of the newborn without any help. If fathers could have paternity leave it could be the perfect time to create a team with the mother. For example, while the mother is showering the newborn, the father could be preparing the milk. Also it is hard for the mother to wake up at the middle of the night every day because the man has to work the next day. Both parents should take turns each day. Having a good team between parents is the key to

Paternity.....continued on the next page...





develop a close relationship with the newborn without avoiding our responsibilities as parents.

Actually, in our society, there are many single fathers who need paternity leave to take care of a newborn. There are many cases of mothers who have died in the labor room. As a result, the father stays with the responsibility by himself. Also some women are not concerned about having a baby so they prefer leaving the newborn with the father. In those cases, the father is forced to take care of the newborn without the mother's help. Companies should consider fathers as a necessary part of a newborn's development. Also they must consider that the paternity leave is a time that a single father needs to find someone who helps him like a baby sister. With this option a single father will be able to work without the concern that nobody is helping him with the newborn.

In conclusion, the paternity leave should be allowed for many reasons such as, it would help fathers to learn how to take care about a newborn, it also might contribute to create a team between parents and finally because there are many single fathers who will need at least 6 months to get involved in the newborn's life and to find someone who help them with the baby.



Fathers

Nasly Cerezo, L 5

Are fathers less important than mothers for babies?

Both, mothers and fathers are important in the lives of children since they are born. That is why employers should offer paternity leave as they do for mothers.

Paternity leave is a good idea because it's a necessity, a right and a responsibility.

Firstly, paternity leave is a good idea because it is a necessity for father and baby. Both have the necessity of spending time together because it's good for the baby. For example, if a baby only spends time with his/her mother, he/she won't have the same affection for his/ her father. Also,

Prof. J. Van Gendt

fathers need to have some time to relax their minds after having a baby. Having a baby is stressful because the life style changes completely. It's a necessity the mother to share the difficulty of taking care a newborn with his/ her husband.

Secondly, paternity leave is a right. Fathers have the same right as mothers do. Fathers have the right to bond with their babies because babies must have this special relationship with their parents. If more fathers had had the right to develop a relationship with their babies since they were born, more children would grow up appreciating the

Fathers.....continued on next page.....

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.





paternal figure. Many fathers leave their babies because the right of being a father was denied since the children were born. Not offering paternity leave is an example of the negation of the right of being fathers.

Some people might believe that fathers don't have the same responsibilities with the new born as mothers do. They can think that a paternity leave is not for fathers because it's the mother who takes care of the new baby. However, parents are responsible for their babies. Their life is changed by the new baby because they have to do things that before they didn't do. For instance, fathers need to wake up night after night to feed the baby, pamper the baby and calm the new baby if he/she cries. During the day, the baby needs so much care and attention. If

only there is maternity leave, all the responsibilities will be for the mother and it isn't fair.

In conclusion, paternity leave is an excellent idea because it's vital for the baby, the mother and the father. It's a right that any father would miss. Also, every father has the responsibility to take care of their baby. Offering paternity leave would let men know how difficult it is to take care of a baby especially in his/ her early months.



A Fair Salary

Patricio Barahona, L5

Prof. J. Van Gendt

Many people have been working 40 hours per week and more in the same company, but they never get a good payment. They just receive the minimum wage, but they have families and bills. Many people have to get a different job if they want to support their families because the minimum wage is not enough. Increasing the minimum has been debated for many years because for many people it is unfair what amount they receive as a payment for their jobs, workers' family will get a better lifestyle and less debts.

As a first point, many jobs are not well paid even when they are really hard to do, so the minimum wage should be increased fairly. For example many factories hire people, and they pay them just the minimum wage, but their workers have to do a lot of things, and in many cases they are exploited. The government should check this situation, and they must create a law to increase the minimum wage as in California. Also, with a fair salary people should work better and the finances of the big companies could rise because their productivity will be better. In conclusion, the minimum wage will be regulated according to the job.

Another important factor, if the minimum wage increases, people will have a better lifestyle. For many people think in vacations, new car and house is a dream because they are not receiving enough money to allow them to do to do their job. Also, increasing the minimum wage many students will be able to go the college or university because their parents have more chances to pay it. In addition, many families do not have financial problems. For example, they can buy everything that they need without limitations. In short, the increase of minimum wage will be a benefit for the whole family.

A Fair Salary continued.....



It is not the employer who pays the wages. Employers only handle the money. It is the customer who pays the wages.

- Henry Ford

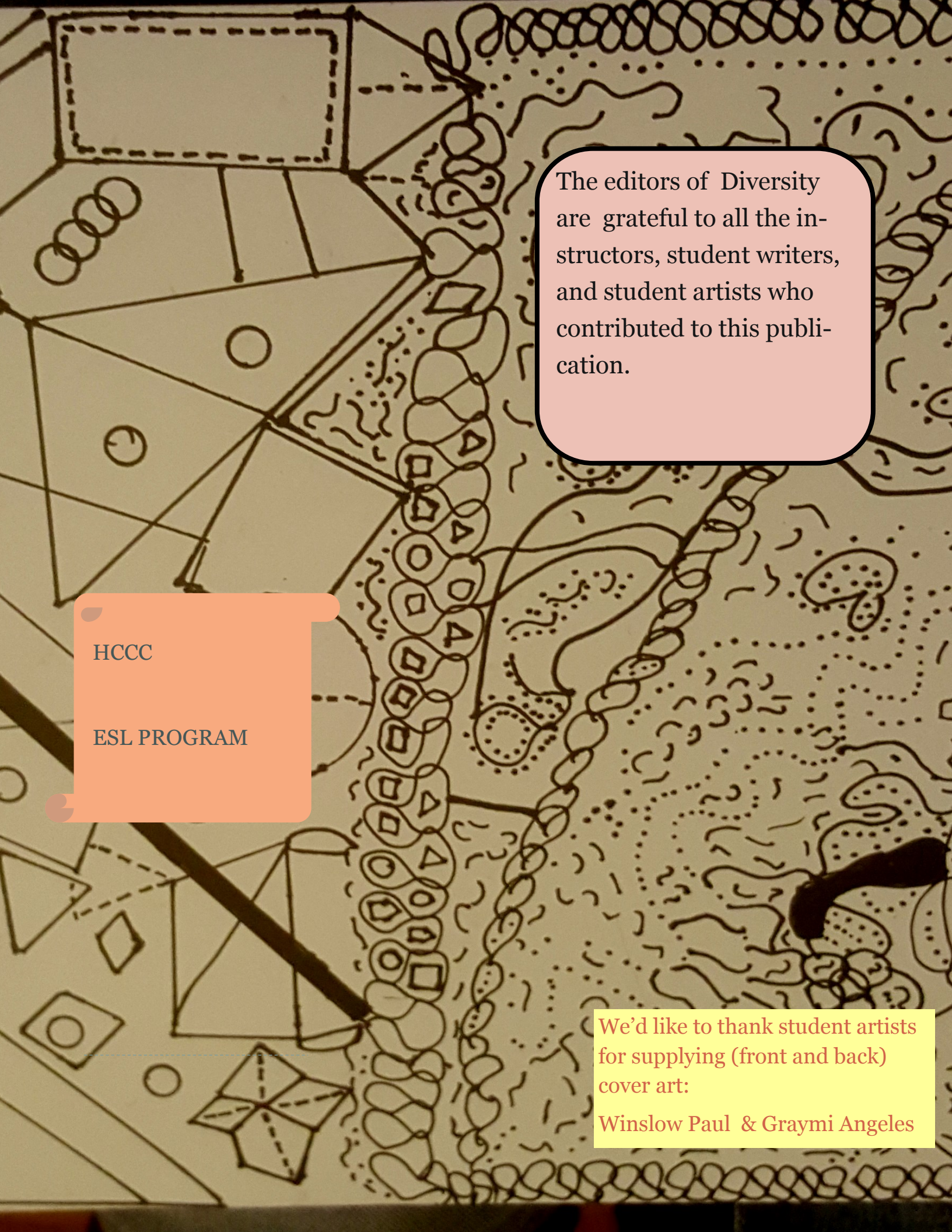




Even if the minimum wage increases, people might still be involved in debts. However, increasing the minimum wage will help to pay people's debts. Also they will not be stressed at the end of every month because their salary will be better. Moreover, debts are good to create a financial record, and in a future they will help to buy a car or a house.

All in all, the president of the United States of America has to regulate the minimum wage according to the cost of living. Increasing the minimum wage will help people with a better life style and fewer debts. Also, it will be fair if companies pay their workers the right amount for their job. Finally, if the minimum wage was increased, the economy of the country would be better because workers will be more efficient and the companies will have better productivity.





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HCCC

ESL PROGRAM

We'd like to thank student artists for supplying (front and back) cover art:

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