

Hudson County Community College

Spring 2016

# Diversity



*The **ESL Department** proudly presents a magazine of ESL student writing and artwork. The Publishers of Diversity would like to thank all of the professors who have submitted their students' work, and the students who have contributed their artwork and writing to the publication.*

*Multiple Intelligences*

Artist: Felipe Kaled Braga Franca

## Christmas Day

Bosaina Ayou , L0



My favorite holiday is Christmas day. I like to celebrate it because it makes me happy. My siblings and I go shopping in the San Stefano Mall. We go from store to store to buy new clothes,

and we listen to Christmas music. Also, we go to the shoe section to buy new shoes. I feel happy when I celebrate with my siblings and my parents. I left my parents and siblings in Egypt. My husband and I came to the USA.

The Christmas celebration is different in the USA because I do not have my siblings and my parents. I go shopping with my children, and my husband comes with us. Then, we buy new clothes for my children. Also, I buy a new dress for myself. My husband buys new pants and a sweater. On Christmas day, I always cook delicious food.

## My Mom's Wedding: A Special Day

Genesis Mejia , L0

I loved this day. It was wonderful and special for my family and me because on this day my mom was happy. We organized a ceremony with many important details. We planned the place, foods, drinks, and the guest list. My mother chose the beach to celebrate that special day. Before the event, to get ready my mom and I made a plan for the event. We made a list of guests, bought things for decorations, and also bought food and drinks. My aunts helped my mom to choose the color of her dress, and my grandmother chose the colors for flowers. My uncle Paul got a mariachi band. My mom looked at every detail of the event, and she was very moved.

When everything was ready, the ceremony began. My mom walked into the room accompanied by my grandfather. She looked very beautiful. My grandfather left my mom with her boyfriend and the ceremony began. Everybody listened to the ceremony carefully. When the priest gave the blessing, my mom and her husband kissed and everybody applauded.

Later began the party "after party". Everybody drank and ate. They drank juice, soda, and wine, and they also ate rice, chicken, salad, sea food, and dessert. The special tradition for my family on this occasion is that my mother dances with her father. At the end of the event, my grandfather danced to one slow song with my mom, and other people danced around them. In the middle of the song, my grandfather passed my mom to her husband.

I will never forget this special day.

## Professor N. Kutubuddin

I cook lasagna. I bake potatoes for my children. They love it. Also, I cook fried chicken and spaghetti. Then, I make a chocolate cake and cheesecake. My husband likes cheesecake. When I finish cooking, I get dressed to go to church to celebrate Christmas. My children get dressed in their new clothes. My husband, my children, and I go to church to pray and celebrate. We see all my friends in the church, and everyone says, "Merry Christmas to you." And we say, "Merry Christmas to you, too." After that, we go home at midnight. We take off clothes. We get dressed in our new pajamas. Then, I go to prepare the dinner and I set the dining table. Sometimes my husband helps me prepare the food because he is hungry. My children do not help me. Then, we eat together, and we enjoy our delicious food.

I like to celebrate Christmas in the USA because I have my children and my husband. I enjoy this day.

## Professor K. Mazzarella



## WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS

### My Family's Daily Routine

Marian Betancourt, LO

Prof. I. DelRosso

My name is Marian Betancourt. I live with my grandma, Caridad, and my sister, Elizabeth. We live in Jersey City located in New Jersey. During the week, we wake up early. Usually, my sister and I go to school and my grandma takes care of the babies.

After I wake up, the first thing I do is take a shower and brush my teeth. Then I get dressed and make breakfast. We never make our beds in the morning. Usually my sister and I take turns and make the bed after school. My sister is always late. When she wakes up, she takes a shower and brushes her teeth, just like me. The difference is after that she puts on make up and she wastes a lot of time. She rarely eats breakfast because she is always running late to school.

When my grandma wakes up, she has many things to do like us. She makes lunch and washes the dishes during the day. My sister and I have the responsibility to keep the house clean. At night, my sister and I wash the dishes and take out the trash. Then, we watch novellas together in the living room. My family always spends time praying and giving God thanks for everything.

Finally, we are ready to go to sleep but we always fight. Everyone wants to go to the bathroom and we just have one bathroom. Then we organize everything for the next day. I think we have to be ready for each new challenge our daily routine may bring.

### West Hudson Park

Janette Adames, LO

Prof. R. Sezer

My family and I like to go to West Hudson Park. We like to spend time together. It is on Wilson Avenue near our home.

It is a big park. There is a soccer field and tennis court. Today men and women are playing together. It is a good game. There is a small lake. The people like to see the ducks in the lake. The lake has a little water fountain in the middle. Some people are sitting in front of the water fountain. Some girls are doing exercises. The children are jumping and running. The old people are sitting to take fresh air. In the Hudson Park there is an area for picnics. A family is eating and talking. Some girls are taking photos.

We feel very good. It is a beautiful place to spend time with family.

“The time to relax is when you don't have time for it.”

Sydney J. Harris

“We will be more successful in all our endeavors if we can let go of the habit of running all the time, and take little pauses to relax and re-center ourselves. And we'll also have a lot more joy in living.”

Thich Nhat Hanh

## My Daughter's Daily Routine

Emily Morales , L0

My daughter Ansley goes to Ferris High School. Every morning, she wakes up at 6:30 am. She fixes her bed and organizes her books. Ansley takes a shower around 7:00 am. After that, she combs her hair and puts on her clothes and shoes. Sometimes, she eats breakfast at 7:40 am. Before she goes to school, she tells me, "I love you mom, have a good day. "

She also gives me a hug, a kiss and her beautiful smile. She leaves the house at 8:00 am. The school is near home, so she walks there.

Ansley has class from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. She likes her school because all her friends and cousins go there. She's a good student. That's why she is on the honor



roll almost all the time. She is very friendly and funny. After school, she plays softball. She has practice three times a week. Her team plays two times a week against other school teams and cities. She gets home at 9:00 or 10:00 pm. When she arrives, she smells very bad! She takes a shower and washes her softball clothes. She does her homework and sometimes falls asleep with the books on the bed. On Saturdays, she sleeps all morning. She plays softball Saturday at night. She hardly ever practices or plays on Sundays. On Sundays, she sleeps, does her hair, cleans, listens to music and goes out with her friends.

Prof. J. Palmer

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## Laudry Room

Samia Abdalla , L0

My name is Samia. I am a student and I am a mother, so I have many things to do. I have to study, cook, clean our house, wash our clothes and take care of my son. I live in an apartment building at 127 Jewet Jersey City, New Jersey. There is a laundry room in the building, so I usually wash our clothes there. It is easy for me.

I always wash our clothes one time a week. Every Sunday I go to the laundry room. The laundry room is a big room. There are ten washing machines and ten dryers. There are a few chairs. There is one old sofa. There is no picture. I spend a lot of time in the laundry room. My son sometimes wants to go with me. I do not want that because he does not like the laundry detergent smell and the noise the washing machines make. He is not patient, so he brings some toys with him. First, I wash small items such as sweat shirts, pants, shirts and socks. After that, I wash big items such as curtains, sheets, blankets, pillow and bed spread. Finally, I wash jeans.

The laundry room is convenient and pleasant. It is a big room. It is usually crowded, but I feel comfortable. I see my neighbors in the laundry room, and I see Mona. Mona is my best friend. She is a student and a mother, too. She usually washes her clothes every Sunday. I feel happy when I see her. We spend time together. We talk about many things. We talk about our country. She is from Egypt, too. We talk about the school, teacher and subjects. I spend interesting time in laundry room because I see my friend and my neighbors.

Prof. N. Kuttubuddin



## Where I Live

Valya Ivanovna, L0

Prof. K. Mazzarella

I live in Jersey City at One Congress Street. This is a very nice place. My neighborhood is safe. Near my house there is a big store.

My apartment has two rooms. My apartment is small but comfortable. I have red roses at home. I buy them in the store. My kitchen is very pretty. I like to cook. I am vegetarian. In my kitchen on the table there are a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables. In my living room I have pictures on the wall. I like art. My windows are not big, but they are always open. I like my apartment. It does not have an elevator, but the building only has three floors. My neighbors are very good people.

The bus stop for my school is nearby. I like this area. I walk for ten minutes to the shops. I'm very happy in my home. When she has time, my friend Albena comes to visit me. We drink coffee and eat biscuits and talk about art. She is a fashion master. Her husband is an artist too. She is very busy also. I have very good memories in my lovely apartment. I see the sun in the afternoon from my windows. This is a very beautiful picture.

## Central Park

Carolina Yugcha, L0

Prof. R. Sezer

My favorite place in my country is Central Park. On Saturday afternoons, my husband, my mother and I like to go to Central Park. It is far away from home, but we love it.

Central Park is a large and beautiful park. It is in New York. There are huge trees. The trees are tall and give a lot of shade. Now that we are in autumn, the leaves fall from the trees. This park is special and famous because many movies have been made in it. This park is visited by people from around the world. Also I met my husband in this park.

Today some people are sitting on benches and talking to their friends. My husband and I have run already 45 minutes, and my mother is exercising. This park has different areas, and a beautiful landscape. You can see all kinds of people. Some look happy and some look sad. Some are young and some are old. Also, many children are in the playground. I feel happy because we enjoy family time. Also we do exercises.

Finally, when we leave we feel relaxed and happy. Why? We enjoy this day. Central Park is a wonderful place to spend time on the weekend.



“I can't wait for summer in the city! I love all the free activities in the parks that become available to us New Yorkers. Yoga and movie screenings in Bryant Park, concerts in Central Park - there's so much more available to the New York community in the summer! And everyone just seems to smile more.”

Kara Lindsey

## My Favorite Activities

### Mariam Nasralla, L0

I have many favorite activities, I like to cook, knit, woodwork, listen to music, and walk.



I cook Egyptian food. My mother taught me how to make different kinds of food. I cook delicious dishes. My husband and my son like them. I cook every day, but on weekends we eat in an Italian restaurant.

My mother also taught me to knit. I knit in my free time. I can make scarves, gloves, hats, and sweaters with nice colors. It's a great feeling when you wear something made by your own hands. Knitting teaches me to be patient.



Woodworking is a very interesting activity. I really like it. It's not easy to work in wood, but my brother teaches me. My father and my brother have their own factory,

so they always have wood and tools. I can make a



## Prof. K. Mazzarella

wood frame, a small jewelry box, a wood cross, and many other things. Now I don't do woodworking because in the U. S. I don't know how to find wood and tools. I also don't know places for woodworking.

I like to listen to Arabic music. I listen to old singers like Om Kalthom. She is a very famous singer in Egypt. My husband likes to listen with me. When I cook, I listen to Om Karthom's songs.



I like to walk for a long time. Sometimes my son and I walk in our neighborhood. It's a safe and quiet place to walk. We walk for 30 minutes. My son is young, so he can't walk more. On the weekend we go to the park. He plays on the swings, and my husband takes care of him. I walk in the park for two hours. That is in the summer, but in the winter it's hard to walk two hours.

Activities are very important in our lives. They help us to relax and to do something we like. We can learn more things in life when we are active.

## My Routine

### Mohamed El Mousaoukkit, L0

Life is a big routine. Every day we repeat the same activities. These activities are called routines. Everyone has their own routine. What is my routine?



In the morning, I usually do the same things. I wake up at 7AM every morning. I press the snooze button six times, before I turn off the alarm and get up. I always take a shower and then I brush my teeth. When I finish, I drive to Dunkin Donuts. I buy a cup of coffee and two Boston Kreme donuts, and I go to work.

At night, after I finish work, I return home to cook dinner. At home, I usually make dinner, but sometimes I buy pizza. Then I watch TV for one hour and I do my homework. I have dinner at eight o'clock and I go to bed at half past nine.



## Prof. I. DelRosso

## Union City Park

Mirtha Rosales, L0

Prof. R. Sezer

Union City Park is my family's favorite place. It's near my home. It's on Palisade Ave. Union City Park has many different areas for different activities. It's a good place for all families. We often like to go there in summer time. Sometimes we go with friends too.

Today we are in the park. There are children jumping on the green grass. The babies are always with some adult, because they need care. My daughter is riding her bicycle. My son is playing soccer with his friends. My husband is reading some news or books, and I am taking care of my baby.

I like Union City Park because we always find some friends. I talk a lot. We usually bring a lot of water, juice and some snacks for my children. My family and I enjoy it when my baby is dancing there. It is a wonderful place to spend a day.

When we return home, my husband orders food or pizza for us. Everyone enjoys this moment. At home everyone watches TV and relaxes together.

## My Favorite Activities

Paula Carbaca, L0

Prof. K. Mazarella

My favorite activity is playing volleyball with my friends. In my high school, I played with my friends in the courtyard. We didn't have a net. We played with rope and a ball in the courtyard of my high school. My high school's name was La Providencia. La Providencia is in Azogues, Ecuador. In that high school, I played with my best friends, classmates, and teachers. I was not alone. In this school, I played catch the ball and throw the ball in the courtyard of my school. I like this sport because I can do exercise and enjoy playing with my friends in the breaks. I love to play volleyball, but now I can't play because my friends aren't here.

The other activity that I like is reading books. In my free time, I read books. I read in my bedroom, in the garden, in the park, on the train, and other places. I always read alone. I like this activity because I learn new things about medicine, the world, life, death, etc. I read the trilogy *50 Shades of Grey* in Spanish because I don't know English very well, but that isn't important. I read *Brida* by Paulo Coella and Juyungo. It is an Ecuadorian book. The writer's name is Adalberto Ortiz. He was born in Esmeraldas, Ecuador. His book speaks of the life of Ecuador. I like reading these books.



## About Maria

### Abdelsalam Hassan, L1

Maria is my classmate. She is from Mexico and lives in Bayonne. She is 28 years old, but she doesn't look like it.

Maria is a tall and skinny girl. She has a long face with long dark hair. She has beautiful brown eyes, and she looks incredible.

Maria is a good and helpful person. She also is a very sensitive person. We went to a movie, and it was a sad story. Suddenly, she started crying. I was surprised because she likes to make jokes, so I wasn't expecting that she could be a sensitive person.

Maria is a good student. She usually gets great grades. She also told me that she was an A student in college. She comes to class regularly, is always on time, and does her homework. She loves to learn a lot. She reads books, newspapers, and she even watches the news on T.V. Maria knows a lot of information about

## Central Park

### Paola Holguin , L0

My family and I sometimes go to Central Park. It is in New York, and it is a beautiful park. There is a large lake. There is a zoo. It has amazing animals. There are many trees and many kinds of flowers.

Today in the park, my son and my husband are playing soccer. Young people are playing baseball. Some people are sitting on the field. Some teenagers are running around the lake. The children are eating ice cream. Some people are walking in the park. Some people look very happy, others look tired and others look calm.

Central Park is our favorite place for meeting as a family. It is a wonderful place. We feel happy and relaxed.

**“Joy comes from places you least expect. It's usually the simple things, like watching my son play basketball or going through Central Park when the blossoms are blooming.”**

**Dave Gahan**

## Prof. L. Drew

all over the world.

She asks a lot of questions in class. She sometimes likes to have fun in class, but she doesn't abuse it. She wants to share her ideas with everybody. Sometimes she goes to the board for some exercise. She isn't scared to talk in public. She speaks clearly like a teacher.

In conclusion, all this kind of information makes her a great person as a student. She is one of the best people that I met. She has courage to learn. Being this way will help her build a good future.

**“Friends are the siblings God never gave us. “** **Mencius**

## Prof. R. Sezer

## IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

### Colors

Mary Sanchez, L1

Prof. S. Armanious

Colors in general are beautiful and interesting. They can also be inspiring. The rainbow has so many colors, and I like the blue and black colors, but my favorite color is yellow. I love almost everything in that color.

For example, I love the sunflower, because it has different shades of yellow. The yellow color makes me feel excited and very happy. When I look at it, I can recall beautiful memories in my mind. First, I remember the decoration of my wedding. It was with sunflowers that have different shades. Everywhere, in the Hall was decorated with different sizes of sunflowers. The center of the Hall, had a fountain, and it was surrounded with sunflowers petals. Furthermore, when the invited guests saw the decoration, they were impressed about it. And when my boyfriend saw it he said to me, "I love all the decoration with your favorite color". In addition, in my house I have almost everything decorated in the yellow color. For instance, the curtains in my bedroom have a light pretty shade of yellow. Even the jars in my kitchen have yellow stripes.

In conclusion, the yellow color is my favorite, and it symbolizes for me quiet, peace, and brings to me good and happy memories of the past. I am trying to combine it with my other colors blue and black for a perfect satisfaction for me. I definitely love it.

### Sham El Nessim

Marina Farag, L1



clothes with my friends, and my mother buys some specific food for this holiday, such as bread, fish eggs, and fish. Egyptians eat fish on that day.

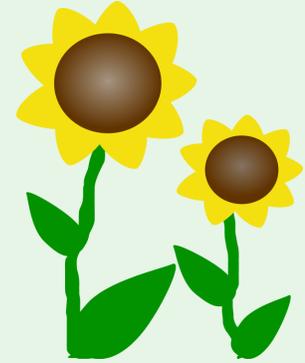
There are a lot of places I go to on that day. I go to parks, and I also go to visit my family and have lunch with them. I play games with my friends, and I also meet my cousins and spend the rest of the day with them.

I celebrate Sham El Nessim because it is a tradition in my country for a long time. I grew up watching my family celebrate it. It's a day full of enjoyment and happiness. It comes once a year, but it is the best day of the year. All people wait for it to come because it gives us power to continue for the rest of the year.

Prof. S. Yagoubi

Sham El Nessim is an Egyptian holiday. All Egyptians celebrate this holiday. It always comes after Easter. Sham El Nessim comes during the best season of the year. It comes in the spring when the weather is warm.

I always prepare for this holiday before it comes. I go to buy some new



In modern days, **Sham El Nessim** is the Monday following the Egyptian Easter indicated by the Coptic Orthodox Church. However, the festival is not religious and is celebrated by all Egyptians regardless of their faith. **Sham el Nessim** is a national holiday in Egypt and is more of a family holiday.

## My Memorable Day

Mayra Bermeo, L1

My memorable day was when I went to Montanita. Montanita is a large city with an astonishing beach. It is on the coast in Ecuador. It is three hours from my city. I went there with my two best friends. They are Monica and Paty; they are the best. The trip was a few days after we graduated from school.

The night before, Monica and I went to sleep at Paty's house. Her house is close to the bus station. At 2:30 am we woke up. We took a shower, and then, we took our backpacks and went to the bus station. We took a bus at 3 am. While we were traveling, we listened to music and talked about how good our last year in high school was. The time passed very fast. We arrived at Montanita at 6am as we planned. Then, we looked for a hotel. We found one, but it was too expensive. Finally, we found an affordable hotel. It was close to the beach.

The weather was fresh. I was looking forward to seeing the sunrise on the beach. In the morning, we went to eat breakfast. We ate seafood. I thought the food would be delicious, but it wasn't. Well I was really worried about that. Then, we came back to the hotel and got dressed. My friends put on bikinis. I would rather put on a top and shorts. Finally, we were walking on the sand. While we were walking, we talked about our experiences in school. We swam and played a lot. I drank a lot of water.

Prof. B. O'Cansey



At 1pm, we went to get lunch. The food in the morning didn't have a good taste. I only drank juice and my friends ate a fruit salad. Then I got a fake tattoo. I felt like a rebel! Monica decided to do one, too.

The day passed by very fast. Later, we went to the hotel to dress up. We planned to go to the disco. We went to a fabulous disco. We met new friends and danced with them. We drank and ate and had fun. At midnight, we went to walk on the sand with two new friends. I liked to feel the breeze. Finally, we went to the hotel. We went to sleep at around 3 or 4 am! I don't remember. The next day we woke up at 12:00 pm. We came back to our city.

I wanted the day to last forever. It had been the best day in my life. I enjoyed it a lot. I will never forget it.

**“Infuse your life with action.  
Don't wait for it to happen.  
Make it happen.**

**Make your own future.  
Make your own hope.”  
Bradley Whitford**

## PLACES AND PEOPLE WE LEFT BEHIND

### Bejaia

Rami Fethallah, L1

Prof. L. Drew

There are a lot of beautiful places in my country Algeria. Today, I will write about my favorite place. I wish to be there, and I feel so happy and excited thinking about it.

Bejaia is a big city in Algeria. Bejaia is located in Northern Algeria near the Mediterranean Sea. It has many beautiful beaches and mountains. Bejaia has a lot of trees and big mountains. For this reason, people named it the green city. It also has two big waterfalls. They look amazing in the summer. Monkeys swim and play there. I drive almost four hours to get there.

Usually, I visit Bejaia in the summer. The weather over there in the summer is very nice because it is always sunny and rarely rains. In the winter there is a lot of rain as I heard. It rarely snows. It is usually cold in the winter time.

If you visit Bejaia, there are a lot of activities you can do. Therefore, you should visit Bejaia to swim in the Mediterranean Sea. There are the best beaches because the water is pure and they are super clean. You should also visit to try many kinds of fish. Bejaia has a lot of fish restaurants. People visit Bejaia to enjoy watching waterfalls, and take pictures with lovely monkeys. Really, you will have fun if you watch them. They're friendly and funny.

For me, Bejaia is the best place I have ever seen in my life because it has a great location and great weather with a lot of fun. Welcome to Bejaia.



### My Old House

Ivan Veras, L1

Prof. S. Yagoubi

The house that I grew up in, when I was still in my home country, is my favorite place. It's located in the best spot in the town. When I'm there, I can see its beautiful yard and its garden. Also, I'm comfortable when I'm there.

My old house is in the Dominican Republic, Santiago. It's between the church and the police station of the city. The best part about my old house location is that it's the only house that does not have other houses close to it. However, the police station makes a lot of noise.

My house has the most beautiful garden in town. It has flowers of all kinds of colors, and green grass covers every single corner of the garden. The yard is where my family has all their domestic animals. We have rabbits, chickens, that we often eat, and pigs.

Because I grew up there, I feel more comfortable there than any other place on the planet. It may be because I'm too emotionally attached to it, or because I have wonderful memories of the past that I like.

All in all, my old house will always have a special place in my heart. I still remember its beautiful garden where I used to play and had all the wonderful memories I made with my loved ones.



## My House in My Home Country

### Arletis Ramirez-Gomez, L1

Before coming to the US, I lived in a house in Cuba. It was located in a neighborhood called 'Siboney' on 10 Street, in Bayamo, Cuba. It was on the second floor. It was not a big house. It only had two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a living room. I lived there with my parents and two siblings.

The outside of the house was not so beautiful. It had some spaces without any color. The walls of the house were yellow. It had big white windows and two doors. One door was in the front of the house, and the other door was on the side. It was the main entrance. The doors were also painted yellow. The house had windows in the front, on the sides, and in the back.

When we come into the house, we have to climb up a long flight of stairs from the main entrance. The first thing we see when we enter is the kitchen. It is the biggest room in the house. On the right hand, next to

the kitchen is the living room. There are three couches, a TV, and a small table in the center. On the left hand, next to the kitchen is the bathroom. In there, we have the shower, the toilet, and the sink.

Next to the bathroom there was my bedroom. There was only a bed and a desk in this room. My sister and I slept together in one bed. Next to my bedroom there was my parents' bedroom. There was a small bed there for my little sister, and a large bed for my parents. There was also a big dresser. My mother had her make up and other things on it.

My favorite place in the house was my parents' room because it was bigger than my room. My twin sister and I played there and we were happy. I liked to live there because I grew up there with my family and friends. It was not a beautiful castle, but I thank God that I had a roof to be safe with my family.



## The Yellow Lake

### Javier Lopez , L1

Prof. L. Drew

The Yellow Lake is a place located 100 kilometers away from my home town Pereira. It is in the central system of mountains of Colombia. It is one of the highest lakes in South America. It is elevated to 3,500 meters over the level of the sea. To get there it is necessary to use two ways of transportation. The first way is a regular car. The second way of transportation is riding a donkey. The trip can be done in 3 hours each way.

Although the water is clear, it looks like yellow because the deep of the lake is covered with sulfur stones. The view is spectacular, but it smells bad because of the sulfur. There is green vegetation around the lake that makes a wonderful color contrast. The place is peaceful and quiet; you can only hear the birds.

The lake is located in the Equatorial Zone where seasons do not exist. The temperature is as cold as in the mountains, but not under zero degrees Celsius. The sky is clear and blue, and sometimes it is windy. It never snows, but it sometimes rains. In general, it is a comfortable place to be.

If you go there, you can fish in a lake near the Yellow Lake. This lake is full of rainbow trout that you can catch and bring home to prepare delicious recipes. Also, you can take pictures of many different kinds of birds or simply walk.

This is a rare, but wonderful place to visit. It is not too far from the city. The travel can be done in one day and it has a particular attraction that is riding a donkey that is funny. I personally recommend visiting the Yellow Lake.

## A Bad Time in My Life

### Fiorella Legua, L1

Prof. M. Schirta

A bad time in my life was when my aunt died the same day of my birthday. My cousin and I are born in the same month, so our mothers decided to make a party for us on the day of my birthday, but nobody knew that my aunt died that day. This was in Peru in the 2011 before I came to the USA. My aunt died of cancer. We all knew that she had cancer, but we never thought that she could pass away so fast. Definitely, this day did not have a happy ending. I learned that you can't know when a special person to you can pass away, and how important it is to say "I love you" to the person that means everything to you.

This happened in Peru in 2011. Everything was ready for the party, but we had to cancel everything. That day I was so sad, and I felt my heart broken. At least, she died in her house with all people that loved her.

I don't remember the exact cause of her death. I know that it was because of cancer, but I don't remember what exactly happened. The cancer that she had was advanced.

I think that it was a happy ending for her. My aunt died on the day of my birthday and it was the saddest day of my life. I know she died without suffering much. At least, I know that she is happy because she didn't suffer so much. I wish that all this was just was a bad dream.

I learned that I can't wait until someone dies to make that person know how much I love her. When my aunt was alive, I did not tell her how special she was to me. Right now every time I can, I tell my mother and others how much I love them.



## My Cousins

Helen Matta Giraldo, L1

Prof. R. Sklar

I have two cousins. They are Carlos Giraldo and Irving Calixto. I used to live with them in Peru. Physically, they are different. Also, their personalities are different. I love them so much. They are like my brothers.

Carlos and Irving are physically different. Carlos is very tall and Irving is short. Carlos has brown curly hair, but Irving's hair is straight and black. Irving has dark brown eyes. In contrast, Carlos has bright brown eyes. Irving is thin, even though he likes to eat a lot. On the other hand Carlos is a little fat even though he exercises because he wants to be in shape. For me, they are both very handsome.

Their personalities are really different. Carlos is serious, but when you know him, he's fun. Irving is very, very sociable and friendly. Carlos doesn't like parties; he prefers to be at home watching TV or playing video games. On the other hand, Irving loves to go to parties. They are different ages. Carlos is 17 years old and Irving is 26 years old. Carlos is single, while Irving is married. Also, he has two beautiful daughters. My cousins also have something in common. For example, they are sensible, and they love to be with family. In addition, they like to play soccer on the beach. For me, they're very funny.

Carlos and Irving's future plans aren't definite. Carlos will study engineering. Then, he will study English because he will live her with his mother. Irving will study Culinary Arts, and he will have his own restaurant. I hope so. After that, I don't know. They are my cousins and my friends. I only hope the best for them. I love them.

"The family is one of nature's masterpieces. "

George Santayana

## My City

Hala Badawi, L1

The United States is a wonderful country. All over the world people know the U.S. is the best. I believe my city is the best for me or for any Arabic person.

My city, Bayonne, is a quiet city. Most of the people usually use the light rail or buses or their own cars to go to work outside the city because they will get a higher salary than working inside the city. We have a street named Broadway. It is the main street in our city. We can walk to this street to go shopping. There are many restaurants and stores, too.

My city is not a crowded city. Everyone follows the rules there. We can cross the street easily because when the traffic lights starts to become yellow, all the cars stop. The policemen are friendly. We can talk with them and ask them how they feel and they answer us, but at the same time they are strict.

People are friendly. They usually smile to us while we walk on the street, and help us when we need to

Prof. M. Martinez

find an address. They understand English is not our first language because there are a lot of Arabic people in the city.

In Bayonne, there are Arabic restaurants, and Arabic stores. You can buy special food from them.

Public schools are free. There are a lot of Arabic students in our school. If any Arabic students have difficulty in English, there are classes for them, and these classes are free, too.

There is health insurance for children until they become 18 years old, which is one of the things that I like the most in the U.S., but what I really don't like here is that the adults don't have health insurance. Adults will get it after five years. As a result, I suffer here because if I get sick, I have to pay from my own money, and it is costly.

Although living in the U.S. is costly, and I have to work hard to get money, I like my life here. It's a dream for everyone.

## Lincoln Park

Daumec Pierre , L1

On Friday noon, I go to Lincoln Park with my friend Monia. Lincoln Park is not near my home. It is on Westside Avenue. It is next to a Catholic Church on Westside Avenue. There are many trees in Lincoln Park. Some trees are tall, and some are small. It is a big place.

Lincoln Park has many attractions. It has a jungle gym for children. There are slides, swings, a football field, and basketball courts. It also has many places for people to take a break. When I go to the park with my friend, it is always sunny. There are many people in the park. Some people do exercise or play soccer. There are many children riding bicycles. Whenever I go there with my friend Monia, we spend a wonderful time and speak about many things because she doesn't have the time to speak with me during the week. She is very busy.

I go there with her. We do exercise together. We run, play soccer, and ride our bicycles. We spend at least four hours in the park.

Finally, Lincoln Park is a very good place. It is great to spend time with my friend there. She doesn't usually have time do that with me. She is very happy that we spend a beautiful time in the park. It is a perfect place for us to go. There, we think freely, and we can clear our minds breathing fresh air. Sometimes it is quiet there, which helps us relax after a long day.

Prof. G. Abdel-Halim

# My Neighbor

Laila Elwihrani, L1

Prof. D. Ramirez

Throughout my life, it has been hard for me to admire someone, but the only person I can admire is my neighbor. My neighbor's name is Alejandra. She is from Argentina. She is 53 years old. She is married and has three children. She is a translator for the United Nations.

Alejandra has a unique and beautiful appearance. She has a pleasant smile and a friendly look. Her hair short and straight. Her eyes are light brown. She has long eyelashes and well defined eyebrows. She has a round face. Alejandra is thin and petite, but she has an average weight. She is a likeable person.

Alejandra has a strong personality. She is very organized. For example, she is a busy woman, but she gives enough time for her family and friends. Also, she is a caring woman. For example. she is a good mother, because



she takes care of her three children and her husband. She has a happy family.

My neighbor likes to read and collect books, but she also donates books to schools. She likes to watch TV, especially the news, historical documentaries, and sports. She also likes to travel around the world.

I have many reasons why I admire this woman. First, she is very helpful. She helps me when I need her help. She also helps my daughter with homework. In addition, she always finds ways to help others. For example, she organized a coat drive to donate old coats for the homeless, and she also works at a homeless shelter as a volunteer. The second reasons is that, she is a strong lady. I believe that her job is stressful. Sometimes she comes very late when she has long meetings at work. She has to cook for her family and organize her home when she comes back from work. The last reason is that this lady is very educated. She speaks four languages: Spanish as her native language, French, Arabic, and English. At work, she deals with different people. She knows all about my culture. When I'm with her, I feel very comfortable.

In conclusion, my neighbor is a good person and a true friend. She always thinks about others and is an organized person. Even if her job is stressful, she loves it. She is a successful mother. I learn a lot from her. She is a good role model. I wish her all the best.

“A hero is somebody who is selfless, who is generous in spirit, who just tries to give back as much as possible and help people. A hero to me is someone who saves people and who really deeply cares.”

Debi Mazar

## My New Neighbor Eulogio Lopez, L1

One day I was outside of my house playing soccer, and I saw a truck that stopped in front of my house. Right away the person driving the truck gave me his hand and said, "My name is George. I am your new neighbor."

George is not tall. He is 5' 2". He has brown eyes, short and black hair, and his skin is a little brown. His mouth is big, and his nose is round and small.

My neighbor looks friendly and he is helpful. We have been friends for three months. We are both from Mexico. George often talks about his family in his country, Mexico, and tells me how much they miss

## Prof. M. Schirta

him. Hopefully one day he will go back to be together with his family.

We like to spend time together. Sometimes we play soccer in the park and practice with the ball. We work in different places, but sometimes after work George invites me to go to his house to watch soccer on TV.

In conclusion, I like to spend time with my neighbor George because he is cool, funny, and friendly with me and everybody around.

# Friends

## My Close Friend Mary Karla Gomez , L1

## Prof. S. Armanious

I have a special friend. His name is Daniel. He is a very kind person, and he helps a lot of people. He is also an honest and a confident person. Daniel is a very hardworking person. He is very special.

Daniel is tall. He has green eyes, and he is blond. I met my friend in Cuba when we were little kids. Now, we moved to Union City, N. J., and we continue with our friendship. Daniel graduated from the Music Conservatory, and he is a very talented musician. He plays percussion, and he works in a famous salsa band.

My dear friend, Daniel, likes to help people, especially the children that like music like him. One of Daniel's goals is to have his own school of music. What he dislikes, is people that waste time and don't have goals in life. We usually spend a lot of time together. We walk in the mall and drink some coffee. We talk about life, and sometimes we go out with all of our friends to the theater or just sit in the park together.

I'm very proud of my friend Daniel. He is one of the most important people in my life. I think that the way I describe him shows how happy I feel about him because he is full of good values. I consider Daniel like the brother that I have never had in my life. Daniel is a special and close friend.

## Jazmin and Jissel

Yerlin Santana, L1

Prof. A. Addy

Jazmín and Jissel are my sisters. They are different in many ways, and they look different.

First, they look different. Jazmin is taller than Jissel. Jazmin has black hair and brown eyes, but Jissel has brown hair and blue eyes. Jazmín looks beautiful, and she has a fantastic smile, but Jissel is not happy. I don't know why.

In addition, their personalities are different, too. Jazmin likes listening to music and singing in the shower, but Jissel does not like that. Jazmin always goes to the gym and stays in shape. Jazmin is not shy, and she likes talking with everyone. In contrast, Jissel is not friendly, but Jazmin is.

Although they are different, they learned to understand each other. After all, they are family. They are good sisters. I think that they are the best sisters in the world. I love my sisters.

## Scarlet and Mia

Rudybel M. Torres, L1

Prof. A. Addy

Scarlet and Mia have different personalities, and they look different, too. They are sisters and roommates. They are my best friends.

Scarlet is short and has black hair, but Mia is skinny and has brown hair. Mia has blue eyes and curly hair. She thinks she is cute, while Scarlet thinks that she is not attractive.

Mia is different from Scarlet in many ways. Scarlet usually likes to go partying and shopping, but Mia often reads and watches movies. When they go out, they act differently. Mia is very friendly when she is with her friends. On the other hand, Scarlet has few friends because she is very shy.

They always have problems because Scarlet is organized. Mia doesn't like to clean the room. They are roommates, and Scarlet always cleans the room. They share everything. Scarlet and Mia have problems, but they love each other.

I am happy when I am with them because they are my good friends. They always say that they love me, and I love them.

“The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.”

Charles Kuralt

A family's  
Love<sup>™</sup>  
is forever

## Declined Credit Card Transaction

### Kahina Hamlat L 2

In my life, I have made some mistakes, but most were forgivable. However, one was not forgivable. I made this mistake in July 2011. At that time, I was working as a cashier in a Men's Wear Outlet store in Jersey Garden Mall. I worked with my manager, assistant manager, salesmen, tailor, and stock boys.

First of all, the manager liked my job a lot. I tried the best to satisfy everyone in the store. My job was limited. It was to take care of the register and to be nice to customers. Because I don't like to be a lazy person, I usually found something to do in my free time and when the business slowed down. For example, I made a beautiful display case behind the register. I matched shirts with ties. I did nice mannequins. When customers came to the store, they asked to buy the same combination that I created. Moreover, when the store was busy, I helped customers to select their items. In addition, I helped stock boys to arrange clothes in order. I did my job with love. Every one appreciated my efforts.

One day, the store was very busy. The customers made a big line. I did the transactions. The manager helped me to put things in bags. Some customers paid cash, and other customers

### Prof. L. Miller

used their debit or credit cards. If a customer wanted alterations on their suits, we did them in the store for a cheap price. Everything worked fine. Suddenly, I tried to swipe a debit card for one customer. Then I found a receipt on the debit machine. The receipt showed decline. Oh my God. That meant a customer took merchandise for free. Many ideas came to my mind. I dislike such a situation. I called the manager. I told him about the receipt. He said, "Kahina, I hope it will be a small amount". I asked him to open and check the register. Maybe the customer was still in the store, but the manager refused.

After that, I continued to receive customers while I was thinking about the declined receipt. A few hours later, a customer came to the store to pick up his suits from the tailor. I took out the copy of the receipt from his suits. I put each suit in its bag. The customer left the store. Before I put the copy in the drawer, I checked the amount. I saw an amount of three hundred and eighty-five dollars. I immediately recognized that it was the declined receipt. I showed the manager the receipt. He was shocked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

## A Dangerous Job

Vivian Turcios, L2

Prof. L. Ameline

Statistics show that most immigrants who come to the United States are hardworking persons. Juan is one of them. He is also one of thousands of immigrants who have dangerous jobs. He is a window cleaner. From the outside, it looks like he might have an easy job as a “window cleaner.” The fact is, however, that Juan cleans windows on the high rise buildings and skyscrapers of Manhattan.

Juan is from Bolivia. He is my brother. He is a happy person, positive, lighthearted and good humored. He works for the ABM Cleaning Company. He has been working there every day since 2010, not only because he is a hard worker, but also because he wants a good life for his family. The danger is not in what he does, it is in how he does it. He has to climb in a little basket hanging by ropes and supports, and if the ropes and supports do not offer him security and support, he can fall from the highest floors down to the ground and die.

Last month, for example, he had a frightening moment, when the rope almost broke. That day, his partner's experience solved the problem, and they are alive to tell the story and be thankful for their good luck. As many immigrants like him, however, Juan has to do that kind of work, which sometimes is even more dangerous than cleaning windows on skyscrapers, but he is looking for a better life for himself and his family.

Juan is happy with his job, and the company pays very well. He has asked to have his weekends off in order to enjoy them with his family. After all, his children are in school, and they are citizens of this country. Hopefully, they will have a better future, and Juan will be happy when he achieves the American dream for his children.

In summary, Juan's job is dangerous because he might fall off the side or the face of a skyscraper. God, hopefully, will not allow this to happen. Juan is a good hard working person—the best that I know. Most importantly, however, he is a good father, an excellent brother, and a wonderful husband.

*~"They are  
alive to tell  
the story and  
be thankful  
for their good  
luck. "*



## Declined Credit Card Transaction

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

His face changed color. It was a big amount. He asked me to follow the customer. The mall is big with many exits. Which way I will take? Quickly, I went around in the mall to all the exits and the parking lots, but I didn't see him. I went back to the store feeling sad. I didn't say anything, and the manager didn't either. I was sure that I will lose my job. Everything was darkness in my eyes. During my break, I was thinking about what to do. I decided to quit the job and tell the manager to keep my last check. When I returned to the store, the manager was taking his break. I spoke to the assistant manager about my decision. He said, "a mistake is human, it might happen to anyone". My co-workers decided to make a collection to raise the amount missing from the register.

A few minutes later, the manager came back. He called me to his office. He said that it was a big amount, but then he talked about my sincerity, my punctuality and my hard work. He had never seen anything bad from me. I did my job properly. I always smiled at everyone. He appreciated my work a lot. He told me to forget about my mistake, and he will try to find how to fix it.

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***My heart was beating hard. I had tears in my eyes. I was ready for any decision.***

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A week later, I was working on the register. I saw a customer come into the store. I couldn't believe it was the same customer. Fate brought him again. The manager told him the story. The customer called the bank to make sure that the transaction didn't post. While the customer was talking with his bank, the manager took out the receipt. The customer was very kind and understanding. Once he confirmed with the bank, he paid the missing amount again. I was very pleased.

To conclude, this experience gave me opportunities to learn a lot of things. I learned that the world is small. I learned how important it is to be nice and honest on your job. I also learned to pay more attention to what I do, to take the necessary time to do my work correctly. My sincerity and punctuality let my manager and co-workers appreciate me and forgive my mistake.



## A Dangerous Job Flor Martinez , L2

Prof. Liliana Ameline

Being a firefighter is one of the most dangerous jobs nowadays. My neighbor John is a firefighter. I was surprised when I met him for the first time because I had never met a firefighter before. I had a lot of questions for him. Why did he choose this job? He needed to be a wonderful person to do this. The risk, the preparation and the vocation are some of the aspects of why being a firefighter is a difficult job.

John risks his life every day. He works at one of the five firefighter stations of Bayonne. His life is in danger every time he goes inside a place on fire, and brings out all the people. Many firefighters give their lives for others. One example of this during the 9/11 tragedy, when 343 firefighters (including a chaplain, two paramedics, and a fire marshal) of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) died trying to save people. They were real heroes.

It is not enough just to want to be a firefighter. Firefighters need to have the knowledge and the ethic to save others. Also, there are regulations that govern their service. For example, they need to meet the uniform requirements for training and personal protective equipment of fire service organizations, including the respiratory protections standard. These can vary depending on state regulations. John told me that it is not as easy it looks. He said that training was hard for him.

Vocation is the most important aspect. This job requires a special vocation and moral values. John is an excellent person with a vocation, necessary personal qualities and values. He has a true humanitarian spirit. Sometimes, I can't believe how noble this dangerous job is. John caught my attention with his labors.

In conclusion, being a firefighter is a job for heroes. I will always remember my good friend John and his virtuous labors. I hope God protects him.

*It is not  
enough just to  
want to be a  
firefighter.  
Firefighters  
need to have  
the knowledge  
and the ethic  
to save others.*

~~~~~

*Everyone is  
the hero of  
his own life  
story.*

~~~~~

*~John Barth*

## High School Life and College Life

Kesha Gandhi, L2

Prof. L. Ameline

*I made new friends,  
and then I liked going  
to school every day.*

For many students, high school and college life are among the best experiences of growing up. They teach us many important lessons of life. It is here that we acquire essential knowledge, have fun with friends, learn to face difficulties and challenges, study together and solve many life problems.

I had two high school experiences in my life, because I am a "Generation 1.5" student. I started high school in India, and I completed it in the United States. I learned many things in my high schools, and I had many different experiences. If I compare high school to college life, it's quite similar, but there are some differences, too.

I studied in an Indian high school up to the 11th grade. Then I came to the United States, where I completed 12th grade at the William L. Dickinson High School here in Jersey City.

I was scared on my first day of school. I went to school by myself, and I had no friends to guide me. The school was far from my house, so I

had to ask my uncle for bus fare or other transportation. But on my first day, I found some speakers of my own native language in the school, so I got help from them to find my classes. I made new friends, and then I liked going to school every day. After a difficult time in the beginning, I got adjusted to an American high school.

My teachers were very nice. They always helped me, and did not let me feel that I was a new student and a stranger. They became familiar and friendly. What helped was that I was an excellent student in high school, which made both them and me happy. My GPA was 3.2—3.3 during that one year.

I studied at Dickinson High School without any stress, and after the first day, I didn't see any difficulties. I joined the math club and also became part of my own cultural group.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Here I learned many things and also met with other students. I learned how to give a presentation, do projects, and many other things. We also went on a field trip to watch a play in New York City. These kinds of experiences made me more active, and I finished my senior year easily.

*The college offers free tutoring, so I go to the Tutoring Center.*

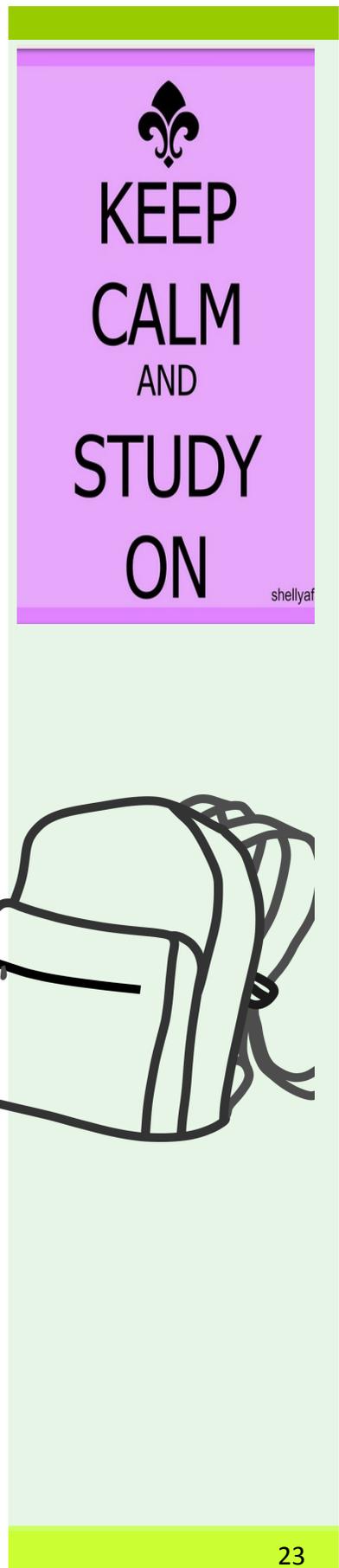
College life at HCCC is going on in a good way. All my professors are good, and always encourage me in my studies. Now, I have more time to study at home because I am in college classes from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. In these three hours of study, I am learn-

ing much better, and I can concentrate on any one subject for three hours.

I put extra effort into studying the rest of my time. I am happy that my college life is not that difficult. College gives me opportunities to broaden my learning experience, and provides many facilities where I can seek help.

For instance, the college offers free tutoring, so I go to the tutoring center to help solve difficulties in my studies. I always go to the library to study. There is also a computer lab, so I can finish my computer work there, too. This is how I get more from college than just by going to class.

These types of different experiences make me well-informed. At the same time, I am also improving my English, too. I am glad that I have an opportunity to study in the United States. Today, I have a lot of friends and many wonderful professors, who guide me as I learn. This is why I can say that my college life and high school life are in some way comparable, and some way different. Together, they have helped and are still helping me to grow and to mature.



## When I Was a Child

Kevin Ocampo, L2

Prof. N. Atienza

I learned some value lessons when I lived with my mother's friend, Sonia. She helped me when I was growing up. She took care of me like a mother.

Perhaps, I was eight or nine years old when my Mom, my sister, and I lived in a room at Sonia's house. At this time, my mother was working all the time in a mall in Cali (Colombia). My sister was then studying in a school near our house. There were times I felt lonely being because Mom worked all day and my sister was at school. Sonia would come and play with me.

Sonia lived with her mother, her older sister and her sister's son. When I came to her house, she gave me lunch and even helped me with my homework. I was happy when she would teach me with

*“She has taught me values that, even today, are shaping me as a person.”*

school lessons or help me do something. However, I hated her sister because she usually yelled at me. I remember a day when she even tried to hit me with a belt, and Sonia protected me. That was the first valuable lesson I learned from her, “When someone needs help, you have to help him or her.”

Another lesson Sonia taught me was to respect my mother because at that time, I was becoming disrespectful to her. I recall one incident. It was my birthday. She, my mother, and my sister approached me and they started covering me with flour and eggs. Surprised, I was mad, and almost crying, I shouted angrily. But, Sonia told me, “When people close to you bother you for fun, smile, and consider it as a joke.” Since then, I started to enjoy jokes or when something bad happened, I did not have to be afraid.

These lessons have helped me through my younger years. I felt happy that I had a person like Sonia. She has taught me values that, even today, are shaping me as a person. I am lucky.

*I am*

*lucky.*



## Exciting Event

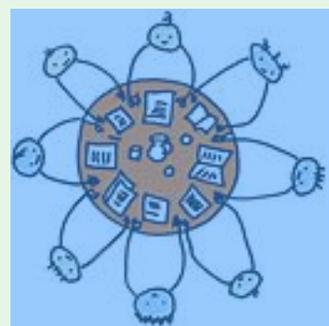
Daicy Sarmiento, L3 (CSS)

Prof. L. Drew

I attended the Hispanic Heritage Month Educational Roundtable event. This event was hosted by Yeurys Pujols, the Executive Director of the North Hudson Higher Education Center. Mr. Pujols talked about the history and evolution of Hispanics and how they have contributed in the society. It was very interesting to know that the Hispanic ethnicity has been in this country longer than anyone besides Native Americans. There are different mixtures of races and the number of Hispanics has grown, and it will continue growing according to the Census Bureau. He also talked about his personal experience as an immigrant and how difficult it was to adjust to a new culture, food customs, traditions and beliefs.

Moreover, attendees shared their own experiences, including myself. We all agreed that keeping our own culture and our language helps us come together. We also discussed political topics including the controversy of Mr. Donald Trump's campaign. Attending this event was a great experience because I learned that being Hispanic makes me proud and stronger in spite of all the difficulties that I have been through. Hispanics make America a better country.

*“I learned that being Hispanic makes me proud and stronger in spite of all the difficulties that I have been through.”*



## My Castles

TATYANA SYDORENKO L2

Prof. N. Atienza

Some people say “My home is my castle.” It is true. Everyone loves to have a home. It is a place where you live with the dearest people in your life: family. There, you can go after a tiring day and relax. You can invite your friends to talk about happy times as well as problems over a cup of coffee or tea. You can even organize parties at home. You can do what want! I have two castles. One was the house I left in Ukraine, and the second was the one I found here, in the USA.

In Ukraine, I lived in a building. My flat was on the second floor. It had three bedrooms. It was very clean and cozy. My designer-cousin decorated it. We had expensive furniture, attractive curtains, and big carpets. It was in a good neighborhood accessible to several supermarkets, a hos-

pital, a school, and a park. I was lucky to see its beautiful view when I was by the window of my room. I remember looking at the green trees in the spring and summer, white snow in the winter, and yellow nature in autumn. My neighbors were friendly and helpful. Many of them had children who went to work in Italy. They stayed home with their grandchildren, send them to school and did homework with them. Furthermore, they had hobbies, most especially cooking and embroidering. My family had an interesting life in Ukraine.

A year ago, we moved here and we found a new place in Bayonne. Now, I am living in an apartment on the third floor. It is not big, but it has enough space for every member of my family.



*Where we love is home —  
Home that our feet may leave, but not our  
hearts.*

*—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.*

*“My ‘castle’  
in Ukraine is  
my past...”*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30**

We have two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. We have beautiful curtains and big carpets. On the wall in the living room is a big television. I love flowers. I have them in pots, and my children take care of them. Our house is situated near supermarkets. Rite Aid, ShopRite and a park are close to us. I have many neighbors because the building has six units. However, it is a pity that I do not know them because all of them are always at work.

I prefer my flat in the Ukraine. It was bigger, and we owned it. Our neighbors were friendly and helpful. We always organized parties and invited people to our apartment. But now, I am living here. I have to think about our future.

To sum up, my “castle” in Ukraine is my past. Now, both my daughter and son are studying here. My husband is working here. I, myself, am working and studying here. Our home in Bayonne is our present and future. It is our castle.



*Our home in  
Bayonne is  
our  
present and  
future. It is  
our castle.”*

# Internet News and Traditional Newspapers

Thanh Minh Pham, L3

Prof. J. van Gendt

Nowadays, searching for the information or knowing everything which happens around daily life is very easy. Besides traditional newspapers, news from the Internet is not unusual for everyone in modern life. People can find every piece of information from both of these sources easily, such as, CNN.com, abcnews.com, NJ.com, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. However, there are some differences between news from the Internet and traditional newspapers, such as, the convenience of finding the information, saving resources, and the effect on human's eyes.

Firstly, the convenience of finding the information is the main point of difference between news from the Internet and traditional newspapers. People can find every piece of information from the Internet's news easily because Internet is a "huge space", which can keep a lot of information for a long time. Hence, finding the news or information from twenty or thirty years ago is very easy and convenient. People, moreover, can find every piece of information which they need from the Inter-

net's newspapers quickly and precisely. For example, with college students, finding information to support for their work and their projects is very important, so news from the Internet is a "best friend" for them. This is because it will take them a lot of time if they look up the information book by book, or traditional newspaper by newspaper. In contrast, with Internet's news, they just need to type what they want to find, it will give the information for them exactly and some information which relates to their information.

Furthermore, the Internet's news can be read anywhere and anytime because people just use their phones or their laptops which connect to the Internet to read the news. Otherwise, it is hard for people, especially students to find the information from the traditional newspapers.

For example, when students want to find an event which happened twenty years ago, they have to search in a lot of newspapers, as well as traditional magazines. It can take them many hours, even many days to find the information.



Besides, when people want to read a newspaper or magazine, they have to bring it with them.

As a result, that will make their baggage become heavier. Therefore, using Internet's news is more convenient to find the information than traditional newspapers.

Another difference between news from the Internet and traditional newspapers is saving resources. Using news from the Internet does not require any books or folders to keep the information. Users just need to use their phone or their computer to go to the Internet and read their news. Moreover, when they don't need this news or this information anymore, they can delete it with a simple step. In contrast, traditional newspapers require the use of lots of papers to keep the information, words. When users don't want this information, they have to throw their books, their newspapers, and their magazines away. People have to put them in a recycling bin to re-use them, and people have to pay the money for this recycling. In addition, users have to spend a lot of money on buying newspapers and books while the news from the Internet is free. With students, books are one of the reasons that make them have to pay a lot. In Vietnam, everyone has to pay more than "500.000 VND" for daily newspapers every month. The price of books for student is very high, especially the books from other countries. Therefore, buying books for children to go to school always makes parents spend a lot of money. Moreover, keeping books, magazines, and newspapers requires humans to keep a space to keep them. That will be inconvenient for any house which has a narrow space. In contrast, the Internet's news doesn't need too much space to keep them because people just need a small microchip or an USB to keep them. News from the Internet helps humans save a lot of space, money, and resources while traditional newspapers occupy a lot of space and are expensive.

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***The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It allows people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn't think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential.***

***—Steve Ballmer***

## Newspapers (cont.)

The final difference between news from the Internet and traditional newspapers is the effect on humans' eyes. Using the news from the Internet will make humans' eyes work too hard, and they have to look at the screen for a long time. That will damage and bring a lot of negative effects to their eyes, as well as their health. However, when people read traditional books with the distance from their eyes to the book are acceptable, that will not cause any damage to their eyes or their health.

For example, in Vietnam, there are a lot of children in the city who have problems with their eyes because they often use the Internet, online books, and Internet's news. In contrast, the countryside does not have many computers, as well as Internet machines, so the children who have problems with their eyes are fewer than children in the city. They have to study with traditional books, and do not have too many chances to read books or news from the Internet. Compared to Internet's news, traditional newspaper creates less damage to human's eyes.

To sum it up, although there are a lot of differences between news from the Internet and traditional newspapers, both of them provide the information for humans and make their lives become more convenient and better. Internet's news is more convenient for people, and helps them save a lot of money or space, but that is not good for humans' eyes. Although Internet's news has become more popular in today's life, there are a lot of people who are likely to use traditional newspapers. In my opinion, Internet's news is very useful for humans, especially students, but everyone should control their usage to avoid negative effects to their eyes.

## Smartphones (cont. )

Finally, smartphones are the useful devices that permit people to be socialized in the society. To illustrate, when people are busy all the week with their work, they don't have time to meet with their friends. Smartphones are technical devices to email or call to communicate and have a long discussion. This use of smartphones will be similar to meeting each other. Moreover, people who want to save their time to participate in some social activities,

they cannot see their relatives or friends, so smartphones will replace that case by connecting on Twitter or Facebook at the end of the day to talk and have some free time. Smartphones are the real way to get people connected.

In conclusion, smartphones are the smart and best devices that will make people connected to each other because this technology helps people to communicate rapidly, correspond easily, and be socialized in the society.

Do you think that technology is making us more connected to each other or more alone? Some people argue that technology has affected people's lives. People don't connect all the time with their friends or family members. Other people argue that technology has benefitted them in the way that gives individuals the opportunity to communicate easily. However, technology is the technique that lets people in the whole world to be more connected than before. Today, smartphones are the best invention that helps people to communicate rapidly, connect easily, and socialize in the society.

First of all, the smartphone is the best device that helps an individual gets news from other people who are friends or family members. For example, when people live far away from their native country, smartphones help them to hear news about their relatives rapidly. Also, if one of their relatives is sick, smartphones can facilitate the communication to make it rapid and know the situation of the person who is suffering from disease or illness. Smartphones are the best way to communicate rapidly between people.

Secondly, smartphones give the opportunity to connect people easily from different places in the world. For instance, for people who don't have friends because of the place they live in, smartphones are the smart devices that will make the correspondence easy between new friends. In addition, people can text each other in order to share personal information. A smartphone can help to build a relationship between people who live far from the city. Smartphones are the best devices that offer the easy way to communicate and make new friends.

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*“Smartphones give the opportunity to connect to people easily.”*



## College versus High School

Btissam Razouki, L3 CSS

Prof. L. Drew

Education is the most important task in people's lives. In order for them to become educated people and earn a degree, they should go through many and major stages in their educational paths. Two of these stages are the most critical ones, high school and college. For this reason, they are different than other stages in the educational path. Despite this similarity, they have many differences: the courses' and the books' costs, the schedule and the responsibility.

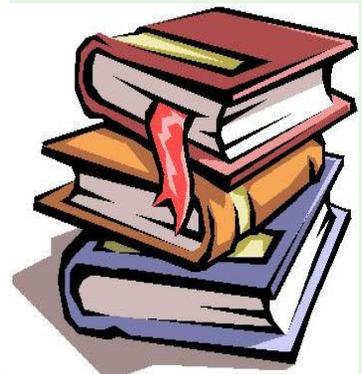
First, high school is mandatory and free, which means students pay no tuition at all. Every resident qualifies for free education as far as high school, but college is not free. All students should pay their tuition to continue their education. Yet we see some high school students who decide not to continue after they get their high school diploma because of the high cost of the college tuition.

Second, the college schedule is more flexible than the high school schedule. This means that it is easy for college students to choose the time that works for each of them. Not only that, the students are allowed to take online classes, and also night classes are available as well, which is very helpful for students who work during the day. Therefore college is easier to attend than high school, which has only one type of schedule. Neither night classes nor online courses are available. That makes high school more difficult than college at this point.

Next, attending college is the most critical and serious stage in the individual's life. Students will show others and themselves how responsible they are by being on time, finishing the assignments, working hard on tests, and also making the right decisions at the right time. All these values are college student's values and responsibilities. On the other hand, high school students have less responsibilities than college students. High school students are not on top of their work without their parents and their teachers supervising them. Learning how to be responsible is the most important duty for high school students in this stage of life.

In conclusion, college and high school are very important in our lives. These two stages of education are the most important tasks in order to have a better education level. Both high school and college make a big improvement in our education, and add more value to our existence.

“Education  
is the most  
powerful  
weapon  
which you  
can use to  
change the  
world.”  
—Nelson  
Mandela



# What are Multiple Intelligences?

Felipe Kaled Braga Franca, L3 CSS

Prof. L. Drew

The human ability to learn and to understand the outside and inside universe is based on their own intelligences. However, Humans are not limited by only one type of intelligence. Some people may even have more than two types. Since the learning process is based on people's intelligences, it became extremely necessary to discover what type of intelligence they may have. Therefore, knowing which intelligences you have is one of the most effective ways to improve your own ability of learning. Below there are three types of intelligences self-discovered by this author using the MIS (Multiple Intelligences Survey) on page 174, in the book *CornerStones*, Second Edition, by Sherfield Moody. My intelligences according to the MIS are *Interpersonal intelligence*, *Intrapersonal intelligence* and *Visual/Spatial intelligence*.

## **Author's Intelligences Score Results Based on MIS:**

**Interpersonal: 15**  
**Intrapersonal: 14**  
**Visual/spatial: 12**

## **Interpersonal intelligence: The best recommendation for interpersonal**

**intelligence is to find or create groups of people to communicate and exchange ideas with.** Debates can be very helpful in the learning process of a person who has interpersonal intelligence. In my case, I feel extremely comfortable when I am interacting with large groups. For instance, when I study something, I'm able to come up with a variety of ideas. However, after a debate with more people, I can realize perspectives which I was not aware of when studying only by myself.

**Teaching what I learned is the most powerful interpersonal skill I have.** Once I learn anything that I feel is interesting, important or helpful, I have an almost uncontrollable feeling that forces me to explain it in an easier way to other people, and this definitely not only helps the person who is learning from my explanation, but I also learn even more from myself.

**Intrapersonal intelligence: Before you start studying, stop and meditate.** For people who have intrapersonal intelligence, it's easier to learn from his or her own personal study. This is one reason that I found doing meditation to be extremely helpful before studying. In this way, I can achieve a more reflective state of mind, which increases my chances of learning and understanding new information. I also become calmer and my anxiety or pressure of what has to be studied decreases.

**The place must be isolated.** Places that have minimal noises are perfect to study and amplify people's concentration. In my personal case, I love to isolate myself for hours because I find focusing easier and also when it is combined with a previous meditation, the learning process is twice as good.

**Visual/Spatial intelligence: If you have visual intelligence you may want to draw images to express the main idea of a text.** I have the ability to draw, and this can be a helpful tool in order to save time. Instead of *re-reading* every paragraph, I just need to look at the picture and I will be able to retrieve most of the information within the paragraph.

**Creating mental pictures increases the chances of understanding any kind of information.** When those who have visual intelligence create images in their minds whether in class or even in a normal conversation, it may increase the understanding and comprehension of ideas. In my personal case, I have tried to do this a couple of times and I felt it extremely useful, even if the subject is more objective than subjective. For instance, when I am in class and the professor starts to explain a subject, I create pictures in my mind following the explanation, which makes it easier to remember the information or at least how it would look.

## Monsters of Sexting

### Mariela Carrera L4

According to a survey made by the Psychology and Science magazine in the USA in 2013, between eight and ten percent of older teens send a nude photo or video of themselves, while older age groups tend to be involved in sexting at higher percentages. Since the Internet and global communication allow information to be widespread, this content might be dangerous. Sexting could lead to three major consequences such as causing social stigma, generating legal penalties, and producing psychological issues.

For one thing, because the information can remain online, people involved in sexting may deal with social prejudices. First, when a company wants to hire a new employee, it makes a research online. People's records can appear, even if the material was published a long time ago. Obviously, the company would not consider candidates with nude images, and they may have troubles to find a job. Second, due to the material with sexual content can spread and be viewed by anyone, people run the risk of losing scholarships, jobs, and being kicked out from sports teams. As a real-life example, the politician Anthony Weiner was involved in sexting scandals and had to resign his seat in Congress. Finally, social prejudices of sexting entail judgment. Indeed, family and friends may have a misconception and move away from people implicated. In short, social stigma that sexting brings is hard to face.

For another thing, sexting is a dangerous decision because of legal consequences. In fact, sexual photos, videos, and messages even when these are sent between minors, can be classified as child pornography. All who are involved, both the picture taker and the image recipient as anyone who disseminates the content, possibly will be accused and must confront legal penalties. Moreover, depending on the legal environment of each country, extra penalties can be a violation of reputation and privacy. For example, in 2012 in Spain, a man was accused and found guilty of

## Professor Persaud

spreading images of a naked woman that he had gotten by accessing her webcam. Lastly, people can be charged with extortion and harassment. It is the case of a blackmailer who threatens to disseminate private images. Consequently, to distribute explicit sexual info can result in severe criminal consequences even jail.

Equal importantly, sexting causes psychological injury. First of all, once the information has been published, oppression and intimidation starts. People become a victim of bullying and suffer low self-esteem. In addition, other issues as depression and humiliation are inevitable. Certainly, knowing the private photos can be seen and shared by any people including family members, friends, neighborhoods, and teachers could be devastating. For example, a thirteen-year-old girl named Hope Wetzel in California could not bear the shame when her nude photos were shared by her classmates, so she committed suicide. This tragic story shows how serious the psychological consequences of sexting could be.

Although some people try to justify sexting considering it as the ultimate form of safe sex, this is a life-threatening practice for all these critical effects. Society must do more to raise awareness of the dangers of sexting. Parents and teachers should speak with teenagers to alert them how harmful it could be, and adults should not jeopardize their status because of sexting.



There has been a tremendous rise about swearing in public. People are using profane language in many places without paying attention to the people around. It is not a question of anger, threat or self-expression any more. Profanity has become a daily routine. Profane language is a serious issue that destroys the community by disturbing the public life, affecting the business places and, leading to violence.

No doubt, profane language affects the public life. People are experiencing a new lifestyle these days. They have to deal with problems and situations that were unexpected. For instance, parents are afraid to walk with their children in downtown areas because they hear inappropriate language and it will remain in their mind for the rest of their lives. Another example is when people try to relax at the park, and they get more stressed out because of the people who sit on the bench and yell back and forth to each other with the foulest language.

Another dark side of profane language is destroying and affecting business places. Malls are invaded by teens and the business places are suffering. The United States, as one of the most attractive countries for tourists, needs to find a solution for profanity in public. Swearing is the last thing that the tourists or even residents want to hear. As a result, people will try to find other places

to shop which will affect the business owners by reducing their benefits or maybe worse shutting down.

Perhaps, swearing in public can lead to some cases of violence. With all the stress that a regular person experiences in one day, people can be easily provoked. Some people may take profanity as a disrespectful behavior. As a result, if they try to stand up to a group of teens swearing in public, they risk being involved in cases of violence. For example, if a father tries to stand to a group of teens swearing in public, his life may be in danger because those teens may be under the influence of drugs and they can commit a crime without realizing that.

In summary, profane language is a real danger invading our lives more and more. It destroys social life, the businesses, and provokes violence in different directions. It is very important to note that profanity in public is not a teen's problem because all categories are involved. Thus, new measures need to be taken in order to keep the society free from such a disease.

***No doubt, profane language affects the public life.***



***Artist: Winslow Paul***