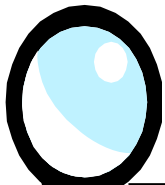


# VOICES



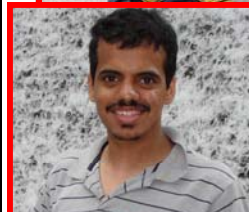
**SUMMER 2012**

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTER**

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*The Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games took place in London on July 27, 2012. Many of us were watching. I left the LCC office late that evening, but managed to get home in time to see the Parade of Nations, as very happy and proud athletes from all over the world entered the Olympic Stadium, walking behind the flags of their countries. I enjoyed the excitement, the color, and the pageantry of the opening ceremony, and I realized that we, in the LCC, experience that kind of excitement as we open every new term and welcome our new and continuing students to our program, our university, and our city. I never grow tired of "opening ceremonies" at the LCC. We will celebrate again in the fall. I love my job!*

*On the NAFSA: Association of International Educators' website ([www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)), you might read: "An international education does much more than open eyes and broaden perspectives. In an increasingly interdependent world, it is essential to fostering global and cross-cultural knowledge and understanding." On the same website, there is a quote from former U. S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell: "The more we know about each other, the more we learn about each other, the more we engage on differences that we have between our societies and between our social systems and between our political points of view, the better off we are. The more dialogue we have at every level, and especially at the academic level, where opinion-makers are located... the better off we are."*

*As the summer term of 2012 closes, we believe we are all "better off" for having spent this summer together. We, who have worked with you in the Intensive English Program, wish you a safe and productive academic break. Summer classes will end on graduation day, August 9, and we will observe "closing ceremonies." We will say good-bye, but be assured that the LCC office will remain open through August and September as we work with any continuing students who need us and with new students who will be arriving for the fall term.*

*If you are leaving our program for any reason, we encourage you to stay in touch with us through email or through our web site <http://lcc.uh.edu>. We are eager to hear from students who continue their studies at the University of Houston or at another school in the United States or who return to their countries to continue their journey. We invite you to join a great network of former LCC students, now living all over the world.*

*We congratulate you on completing your term of study in the Language and Culture Center. You have been an important part of a dynamic Intensive English Program with an excellent history and tradition of service to students. You have also been an important part of a dynamic university, which celebrates and welcomes international students.*

*This summer, we have been delighted to have 388 students from 39 countries in our vibrant and growing program. We are working hard to make sure we give you the best program possible. LCC teachers, counselors, administrators, support staff, and I hope you have had great experiences in our classes and on the University of Houston campus. We wish you the best as you complete the summer term, and we look forward to seeing many of you again as you return in September for the fall term of 2012 in the Language and Culture Center.*

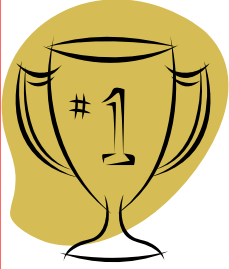


Joy Tesh

Director of the Language and Culture Center



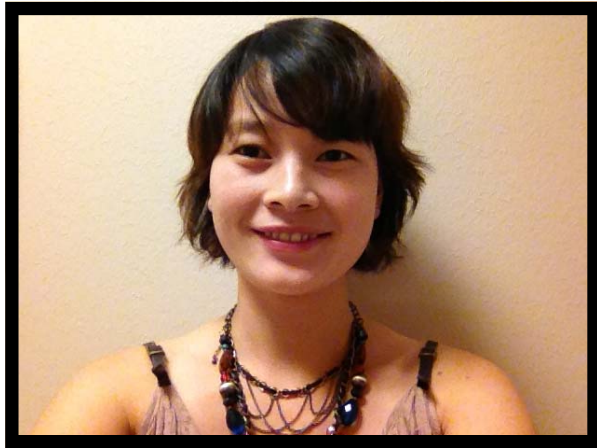
# Scholarship Winners



## Xuemin Zhao, Diem Phan, Debora Faustino, and Talha Kabasaskal Receive LCC Scholarships



The Language and Culture Center awards four scholarships each term to returning students who best combine academic excellence and leadership with international awareness and cross-cultural understanding. Traditionally, one full scholarship honors Joyce Merrill Valdes, the founder and first director of the LCC. A second full scholarship honors Joseph O. Davidson, who served as director of the LCC for 22 years before retiring in 2006. These two full scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, and medical insurance for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. In addition, the LCC awards merit scholarships of \$1500 each for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. At the spring graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 26, 2012, the LCC awarded the Valdes scholarship to **Xuemin Zhao**, the Davidson scholarship to **Diem Phan**, and the two merit scholarships to **Debora Faustino** and **Talha Kabasaskal**.



**Xuemin Zhao** was awarded the Valdes scholarship. **Ms. Zhao** is from China and is studying in level four. This is her second term at the LCC. After she completes her study of English, she plans to pursue a degree in international business and will enroll in the University of Houston. **Ms. Zhao** said that she enjoys studying English here and she felt so lucky to receive the scholarship. "After getting the scholarship, I called my father in the middle of the night. He was so excited and proud of me."



**Diem Phan** was awarded the Davidson scholarship. **Ms. Phan** is from Vietnam. She is studying in level five and this is her second term at the LCC. After completing the intensive English program, she will start a career in nursing school. In regard to receiving the scholarship, **Ms. Phan** remarked "Last semester, I was honored to receive the scholarship. That was amazing. I didn't know what to say. I'd like to thank the teachers at the LCC for giving me that honor."







**Debora Faustino** was a recipient of a merit scholarship. **Ms. Faustino** is from Brazil and is currently studying in level four. She has been a student at the LCC for two terms. She plans to study for a bachelor's degree in music after graduation. **Ms. Faustino** remarked that she was grateful to receive the scholarship. She added, "I have had an awesome semester again in the LCC and I have learned a lot more English which is going to help me make my dream come true – to do my master's in music in the USA."



**Talha Kabasaskal** was also a recipient of a merit scholarship. **Mr. Kabasaskal** is from Turkey. He is currently studying in level five. This is his third term of study at the LCC. He plans to apply for a degree in Industrial Design in the Department of Architecture at the University of Houston. **Mr. Kabasaskal** remarked, "It was really an unexpected surprise for me. I learned that I got the scholarship after I came back to the LCC the following term which shocked me."



*Sandra Woodson*  
*Associate Director*

We congratulate Xuemin Zhao, Diem Phan, Debora Faustino, and Talha Kabasaskal on their outstanding records in the Intensive English Program at the Language and Culture Center, and we wish them great success as they continue to study in the United States. We all look forward to learning who will be the next LCC scholarship recipients at the summer graduation ceremony.

# Welcome to Houston !!!





## My Grandfather

### Awad Alqahtani - 2B

I had a great person in my life. He was my grandfather. He was born in 1909. He lived in a small village in southern Saudi Arabia. He was a farmer. He had two wives, and one of them is still living. He had one daughter and three sons; one of them is my father. On his farm, my grandfather had many sheep, a few cows and a lot of chickens. When I went to his farm, he gave me one chicken and some eggs. I got to watch him when he milked the camel. He always played with me and my cousins. When he was eighty, my grandfather left his farm and his home. He sold his animals because he was too old to take care of them. He came to our home, and he lived with us and our uncle until he died. He used to stay three days with us and then go to my uncle's house for three days. I know that was hard for him, but he said that he wanted to be fair to both my father and my uncle. In 1998, he died. I loved my grandfather very much, and I wish he were still alive and living with us.



## King Abdullah

### Abdulrahman Alzahrani 2A

A person I admire is the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. He's a normal man and he has many admirable traits. First, he always takes care of poor people. Second, he doesn't like to see anyone unhappy. He's very helpful. All of the people in Saudi Arabia love him so much because he has a very good heart. I also admire King Abdullah because he always does a lot of good work outside of Saudi Arabia. He helps people in many countries. That is something that makes us proud of him and proud of our country. Finally, he always takes care of the holy sites in Saudi Arabia and all over the world. I hope King Abdullah lives a long life and becomes the king of all humanitarians.

## My Father

### Faisal Alharbi - 2B

My father was the second son in his family. He was born around 1939. He grew up in Qassim. During that time, his life was very difficult. However, he studied until middle school. Then he got a job. He joined the military in Jordan. He transferred to the Saudi military during the King Faisal era. Shortly after that, he married my mother, and they lived in different cities in Saudi Arabia. Now, my father is retired from the military. The special thing about him is his patience. He is so patient in his life. Also, he has worked hard to give his family a good life. He does a lot of things for me, so I don't know how to thank him. I'm grateful to have him in my life.

## My Father

### Abdulkarim Alhamami 2B

My dear father is a person I admire. First of all, he is a good businessman. He opened his own company when he was only 22 years old. He loves cars, so now he has a car and truck dealership. My father encouraged me to come to the U.S. to learn English. After this, I hope to become an engineer but also a dealer like my father. My father is the person I admire the most, and I want to be like him in the future.

## My Great Uncle

### Faleh Aldossary - 2B

Have you ever heard of an old person who is 122 years old? That is the age of my father's uncle. His name is Fahed. He was born in 1890. Although, he never married, he once loved a pretty girl. Once she passed away, he decided to never get married. That was a hard decision for him.

Great Uncle Fahed has always lived in the desert because he has a lot of animals. He has camels and horses, and he rarely leaves them, even to go to the nearby town. I know that's hard to believe, but it's true. Uncle Fahed likes to sit next to his camels and take care of them. Even though he is very old, he is in good health because he takes care of himself. He walks at least ten kilometers a day. He's really an amazing person.

# Healthy Writings

## Good Health

### Diep Nguyen Hoang - 3B

It's very important to have good health. If your health is good, you will work easily and energetically. I'm always interested in my health. It has changed a lot since I came to the U.S.

First of all, while I'm studying at the LCC, I have a routine to study and exercise. After studying, I exercise three hours a day in the gym at UH. My favorite sport is tennis. I didn't play it when I was in my country because I didn't have time. Now, I often play tennis with my friends who have

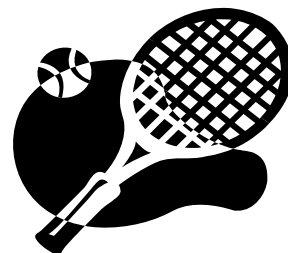
come to UH to do research for their doctorate degree.

Second, I didn't have a regular schedule to exercise when I worked in my hometown. However, in Houston, I don't work and I only go to school, so I have time to exercise more frequently. Therefore, I feel much more energetic.

Lastly, I usually eat food that has enough calories and I eat on time. For example, I often have dinner at 8 o'clock after I walk around a park near my apartment and take a shower. I usually choose healthy food to cook at home

such as curry chicken and tofu with meat. I rarely go out to eat fast food. In the past, I seldom cooked since I spent all my time working and commuting.

To sum up, my health has changed for the better since I study and exercise on a regular schedule. I feel better than in my country. I will continue to work hard in the future to have good health.



## My Health

### Hassan Al Abushaheen - 3B

My health has changed since I came to the U.S. Before I lived in the U.S, my exercise was swimming at a pool on our farm every night in Saudi Arabia. Now, my exercise is walking around my apartment complex two hours every morning to lose weight. In my country, I used to eat three meals a day: breakfast, lunch and

dinner. These days, I just eat two meals, breakfast and dinner, because I live alone and I can't cook well. As a result, I have lost some weight. When I was in my country, I slept eight hours daily. At this time, I only sleep five hours every day because I have a lot of things to do during the day hours, for instance, wash my clothes, clean the apartment, cook food and do my home-

work. I didn't have to do those things in my country because my mother did that. I think after I came to the U.S my lifestyle has changed completely, and I have become healthier than in my country. However, I still need to increase the number of hours I sleep because I still feel tired in class some days.



## Comparing U.S. and Saudi Arabia Hospitals

### Turki Omar - 2D

Everybody needs hospitals. Hospitals are very important for the people that need medical care. Hospitals are different in the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. First, the U.S. hospitals have medical specialists such as internists, oncologists, and obstetricians. My country does not have any oncologists, but it has obstetricians for women. Second, in the U.S., there are volunteers to push wheel-

chairs, but there aren't any volunteers in K.S.A. hospitals. Finally, the doctors in K.S.A. don't give explanations or information to patients like they do in the United States.

I love the hospitals in the U.S., but I don't love the ones in my country. I want to work in a hospital in the U.S. In conclusion, it is a very important place to help people.





## My First Day at a New School

**Nai-Chen Lee - 2B**

When I was ten years old, I applied to study at a special elementary school for the arts. First I had to take a painting test. 130 students competed to be admitted and become "little artists". A few weeks later, I received a letter saying I had been accepted! I was so lucky and felt so happy about that. My parents were very proud of me. All my family members celebrated my admission to the art school over a special dinner. This little artist would be starting her career.

The first day of school, all the students were so nervous. Many students went to the wrong classroom. Sadly, I was among those students. Later, a teacher said, "If you are a boy, please raise your hand." I was so nervous that I raised my hand quickly! All the other students laughed loudly, but I still didn't know what was going on. However, I soon settled into my new school, and many good things happened in my elementary school life. These memories will always stay in my mind.



## Our Trip to the Museum

**Hamad Al Qutub - 2A**

We went with our class to the Museum of Natural Science. It was amazing. We saw many things there: dinosaurs, mammoths and shark teeth. We had our teachers with us. If I needed an answer to a question, I asked them. I also saw many other students in the museum. After looking at some of the exhibits, we had lunch together. On that day, we really had fun. I will go there again. Now I know what the world was like eight million years ago. The museum is very useful to many people.



## A Great Day in My Life

**Yosef Alenazi - 2A**



When I was five years old, I started school. The name of my first school was Othman Bin Madaon School, and it was not far from my house. The first day of school was very exciting. My father took me there. Many kids were crying. When I saw them, I looked at my father. He smiled at me and asked, "Are you afraid?" I answered very fast, "No. You can go if you want." Some teachers were very nice. I remember the best of them were Khalid, Faheed, and Abdullatif. They brought candy for us all the time and they didn't hit us! Many other teachers hit us all the time. At the end of the first day, my father took me to a toy store and bought me a lot of toys. I will never forget this great day in my life.

## Our Trip to the Museum

**Abdulaziz Alothman - 2A**

Our class went to the Museum of Natural Science last week. It was beautiful and useful. We visited many sections. First, we went to the new Hall of Paleontology and learned about the dinosaurs. I liked the anthropomorphic dinosaurs. We learned that the dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago because they couldn't find anything to eat. Second, I also visited the Energy Hall. I read about the petroleum history in Saudi Arabia; there was a video about it. Finally, I went to the Hall of Gems and Minerals. I learned how to tell the difference between real gold and fake gold. On that trip, I learned a lot of information about dinosaurs and other things.

# Cultural Connection

## Summer Cultural Connection Classes Dr. Carol Archer

The Language and Culture Center (LCC) continued its partnership with Dr. Veronique Tran's Office for UH Quality Enhancement Plan which provided logistical support and candidates from Tier One Scholars in offering the classes for Cultural Connection. These classes were facilitated by the American scholars who were hired as cultural guides for international students from levels four, five and six at the LCC.

(See <http://www.uh.edu/class/english/lcc/index.php> )

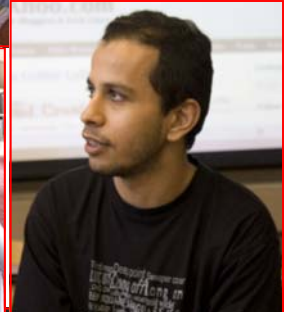
Five Cultural Connection classes were first offered during the Spring semester with great success. This semester, there were nine classes offered from 12:30 to 1:30 and again from 5:30 to 6:30. Nine scholars were trained in the Culture Bump Approach to dealing with differences and guided the international students in learning basic information about perceptions, culture bumps, communication styles and emotional intelligence.

However, the classes and "walkabouts" where students and guides roamed the University of Houston campus together, led to conversations about friendship, life and other nuances of life in the USA that are not covered in textbooks!

Mei says, "I like this class because I can practice speaking and we can share opinions and learn things I didn't know."

"We learn different things about different cultures and I got close to my classmates. This class helps us be close to each other" says Hilal.

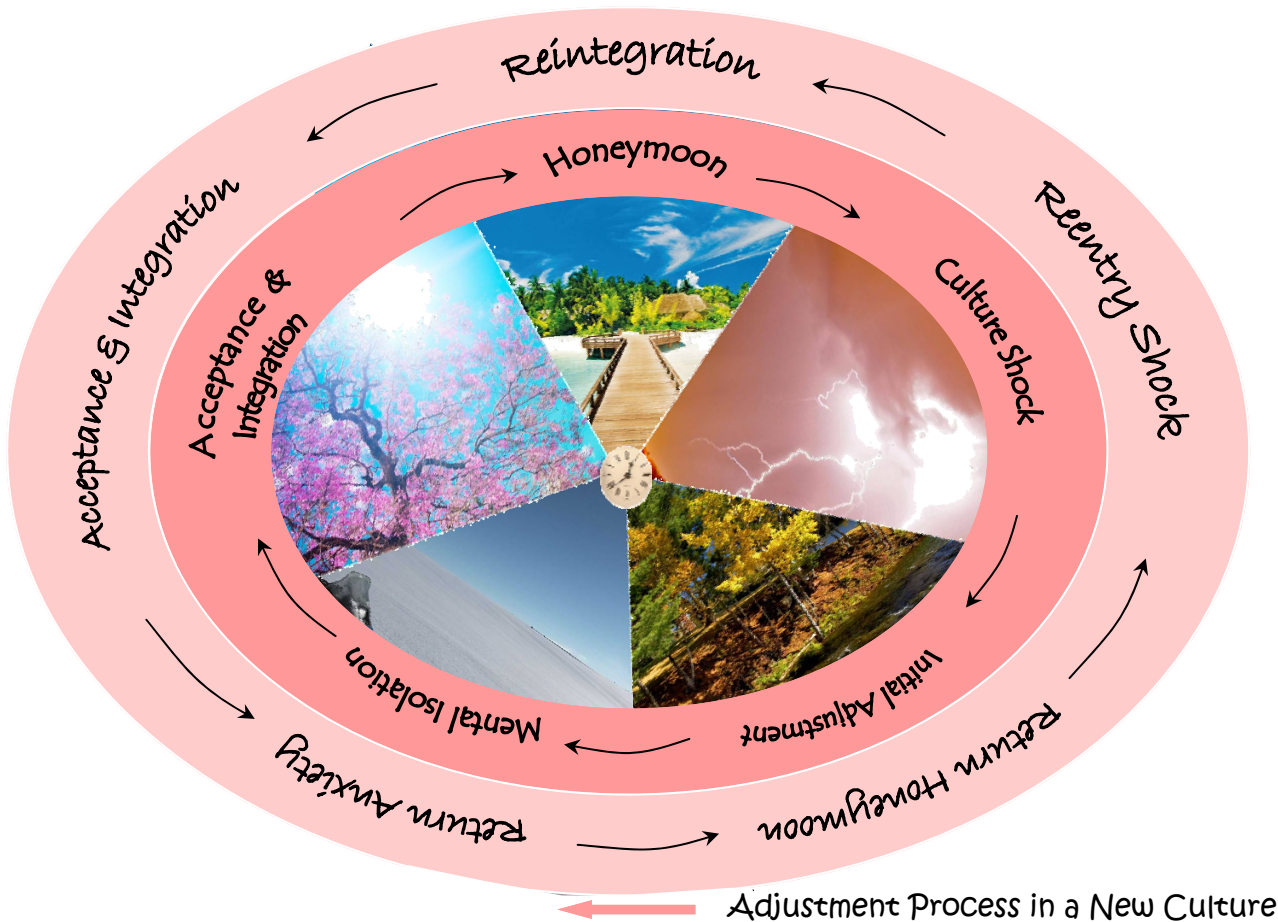
But it perhaps best expressed by Abdulkarim who says, " Come with us, we have Americans!"





# The Cultural Adjustment Cycle

Veronica Romero - 5D



**Some Characteristics of Each Stage**

**HONEYMOON**

- Feelings of a dream come true
- Everything is new and exciting

**CULTURE SHOCK**

- Physical
  - Stomach & bowel upset
  - Tiredness
  - Change in sleep patterns
  - Change in eating habits
- Psychological
  - Extreme homesickness
  - Fear of being able to succeed
  - Living with a foot in each culture

**INITIAL ADJUSTMENT**

- Feeling of hopefulness
- Recognition that one has a role
- Still missing back home
- Feelings of relief

**MENTAL ISOLATION**

- Feelings of disdain and anger
- Feelings of self-doubt and worry that people back are passing one by
- Disappointment in one-self and/or the host culture
- Resentment over loss of status

**ACCEPTANCE & INTEGRATION**

- Stop trying to change host culture
- Develop strategies for living

**RETURN ANXIETY**

- Sadness at leaving friends
- Fear of ability to "fit back in"

**REENTRY SHOCK**

- Feeling of alienation

**REINTEGRATION**

- Occur when one has found a way to validate overseas experience

# Interesting Writings



## Road Trip

### Ahmed Alanazi - 3A

This summer me and my two friends wanted to spend just four, but unforgettable, vacation days together. We thought about a place where we could spend our time in an interesting way, have fun and sightsee. So, we decided to go to one of the most beautiful places in USA, Miami.

Since we had never traveled by car before, we decided to do it. It took us 18 hours to get to Miami. We wanted to visit the Miami Zoo, one of the best zoos in nation. It keeps a variety of animals from Asia, Australia and Africa. We also wanted to swim with the dolphins and take a windsurf lesson. Unfortunately when we arrived, a tornado came through Miami. So, we had to leave.

We then traveled to Orlando, the fifth largest city in Florida, as it is nicknamed "The Beautiful City". We stayed there for two days. We visited Walt Disney World. It was great fun with all of these characters: Goofy, Donald Duck and Mickey. I was back in my childhood. I liked it so much.

The next day we went to the Orlando Museum of Art and attended the Living in Style, African Art of Everyday Life exhibition. They presented cultural ideas as they introduced functional objects from traditional African societies as a work of art. In the evening, we enjoyed the beauty of Orlando while walking.

These two days passed very quickly. It was time to return to Houston. It was very exciting to travel by car, and we enjoyed the trip. I hope next time we can go to Miami again, or another beautiful place.

## The News that Shocked the Hearts of Chinese

### Janet Yao - 3C

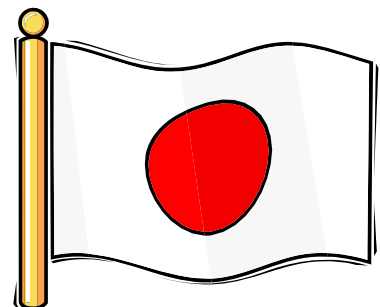
Every day, I read the news online. It helps me know many things about my country and even the world. Until today, there is one story that left a deep impression on me that I will never forget.

As you know Wenchuan Country (汶川) in China had a very severe earthquake in 2008. Nearly 70,000 people died and more than 500,000 people were hurt. All of the people in Wenchuan lost their homes. Many countries sent their rescue teams there to help. After several days, I saw a news story with photos. The Japanese rescue team found a man who had been trapped under building floors for several days. After a few hours, the Japanese rescue team helped the man out. The rescuers felt so excited! Unfortunately, he soon died. The Japanese rescue team members stood around the man quietly and a person covered the body with a sheet. The members took off their hats and cried. They felt so sad he died and sorry that they couldn't save him.

This news was known in China as soon as it happened. It shocked the hearts of Chinese since the rescuers were Japanese. During the Second World War, Japan aggressed China. Chinese citizens don't like the people of Japan. At this hard moment, the Japanese came to China to help us. They respected the people, and even a body.

For myself, I felt ashamed. I am Chinese. Why didn't I go to help? I thought it might be really hard to do for most people. The Japanese, who were our enemy in the past, did. I really appreciated their help and I think every Chinese person will never forget that. So, this news that happened 4 years ago, is vivid in my mind, and I will remember it forever.

Thank you, Japan.





## Future Plans

### Margaux Jacobson - 3B

I live in Paris where I'm studying psychology. However, I've been at the LCC for seven weeks, studying English. During this time I have met different people, acquired new experiences and made many observations about the American way of life. These have changed my plans for the future. I was supposed to study psychology for five years in Paris-Descartes University, but my time at the LCC turned my eyes in another direction.

The first reason is because I've met different people. Some of them are from Houston, New York, and San Diego, and others are from all over the world: Angola, Korea, and Saudi Arabia. This mix of population makes me feel good because they are so different from French people, so open-minded. I like to meet different people and speak different languages. It makes me happy and gives me joy.

I've also had new experiences such as trying some new foods such as Tex-Mex and Iranian. But my best new experience is living the American life style because it is so different from France. People here are very nice to each other and very respectful. For example, they aren't as concerned about everyone's business as perhaps the French are. Additionally, the weather here is very pleasant, warm, and sunny, so I really love it.

All this makes me think about my future plans. I plan to come back to the LCC to further improve my English until I reach level 6, and then I will apply to a university and become a psychologist.

## A Wedding in My Country

### Miguel Mandela - 2A



When I was ten or eleven years old, I attended my aunt's wedding. It was an amazing day, which started at the church. The bride and the groom went to the church in a white limousine. When the limousine arrived, a photographer took a lot of pictures while all the people watched. After that, my cousins and I got into the limousine to take pictures with the bride. That was a very emotional moment. My aunt's bridal gown was different from most wedding dresses. It was pink, not white. It also had a very long train. My aunt was very beautiful on her wedding day. After the ceremony at the church, everyone went to a large salon for a party. The cake had more than three layers, and it was pink also. Everyone was happy on my aunt's wedding day.

## A Special Trip

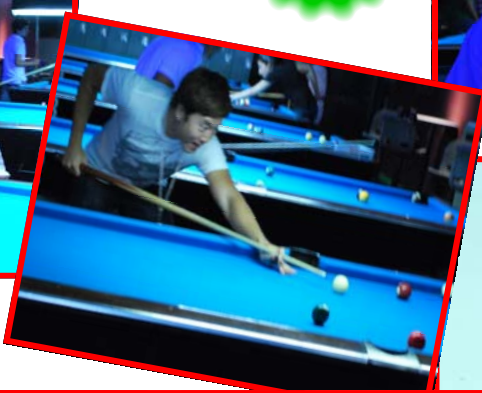
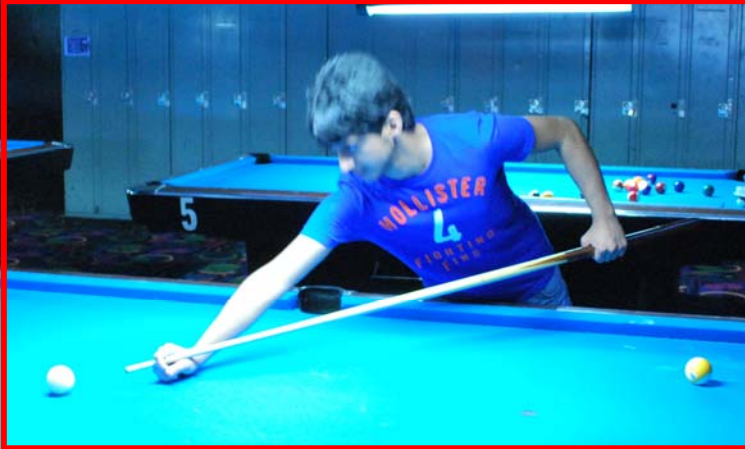
### Radhia Al Radhi - 2A



In 2008, my husband and I decided to visit the Maldives, which is a group of more than 1,000 islands in the Indian Ocean. Male is the capital. We visited Kuda Houra Island. It is surrounded by ocean water which is so clear you can see fish through it. The weather was sunny – perfect for people who like to play in the water. We spent seven nights there, enjoying the tropical fruit and the grilled seafood on the beach. We went to their beautiful spa with its beach view and enjoyed a romantic dinner cruise under a sky filled with stars. This trip with my husband was the most amazing one in my life.



# Sports Tournament





# Sports Tournament



# Life Changes

## Ziyad Alamri - 6A

Here is where I am. My first year of being far away from my country has passed.

On this date ...  
I left my dad, mom, siblings, family, friends, and all the people I love.

On this date ...  
I left my own kingdom, my own world, and my own property.

I left them all behind.

On this date ...  
I felt lonely.  
I felt depressed.  
I was upset.  
I was disappointed.  
I was confused.

I asked myself many questions ...  
Can I survive here?  
Can I find the love of my mother here?  
Can I feel the security of my father here?  
Am I able to find siblings to talk with sometimes and fight with at other times?

Many questions were flying in my head.

On this date ...  
I took my first step on the path of my future to achieve my goals.

Today ...  
I have my own kingdom here.  
Family and friends.

I can say proudly and bravely that I have achieved in this year more than what I could have imagined.  
And I am glad. :)

Being abroad is a tough time, but it is beneficial!!

## Haijin Kwag - 3B



I had a big event in 2011 which changed my life dramatically. I came to Houston from Korea. It is easy to say, but the impact was huge.

One reason is that my role in life changed. In Korea, I had a decent job and I was a senior project manager dealing with many people. Now I am a housewife taking care of two family members.

Another reason is that I have spent more time with family. In Korea, I barely had time to spend with family because my job made me work late almost every day. I used to stay late in my office and I was too tired when I got back home. Now, at least my husband and I get together at the dinner table and talk a lot about what we are doing every day.

Moreover, now I am studying English. I didn't use English back in Korea. My job didn't require English and I didn't have any foreign friends either. When I first came here, I was so afraid of speaking English. I still can't speak English well but I feel more confident in talking with my friends in my LCC class. In addition, I am learning about other cultures and customs from my friends here.

In conclusion, I will continue to develop my family relationships and improve my English. When my family and I find a common interest, we will share it. When I put more effort in cooking, my family will feel much happier during meal time. Also, after studying hard, I can reach level 6 and graduate from the LCC with pride. I have made good friends at the LCC. I will continue to make new friends and try to keep good relationships.





## Robert Odoutan - 3B

Back in 1993, I was really surprised when my parents gave me a soccer ball for my seventeenth birthday. This was the age in which children liked the Play Station game more than anything else. At first I was not happy with my parents. I couldn't imagine how important the ball would become in my life.

The next vacation, I decided to spend it with my cousins in the southern part of my country. My parents took me there and I took my ball with me. From my cousins, I learned how to play soccer, and then I noticed that everybody was interested in my ability to play it well. After coming back home with my parents, I played the same game with my friends in my area and we formed a team called "Young Players of Cotonou" because Cotonou is the name of our area. I was the captain.

Because I was good player, I was known by everyone in my area and school. In 1999, my school's team won the Youth Cup and earned some money from it. My parents were very proud because I was also a good student in school.

In summer of 2000, my team won the Independence Cup. Afterwards, I started to play with some clubs which paid me every month. In 2007, I decided to train children in some schools and I became a soccer coach. I used to train them for any activity which concerned soccer.

Obviously, I'm truly thankful for my parent's foresight because they connected me with the world of soccer, and I have achieved so many things because of it. I hope to continue playing soccer during the time I will be in the USA.

## Abdullah Ahmed

### Albaloushi - 3A

My life has changed since I came to Houston. I came here for one purpose which is to graduate from a university in the U.S. This decision has made a big change in my life.

First of all, it changed my routine because, before I came here, I used to play a lot and I didn't organize my time. However, after I arrived in Houston, I had to organize my time although I still play and I can do what I want.

In addition, I used to live in a house with my family. They always helped me find any solution for any problem that I had. However, when I got this opportunity to live and study in the U.S., I started to address my problems by myself. Since I came to Houston, I have become more responsible than I had been. For example, when I was in my country, I didn't pay all the bills and manage my money, but now I can take care of all my responsibilities. Moreover, I started cooking in Houston and it's amazing that I learned to cook dishes such as *kabsa*, pasta and burgers. Finally, I started to reflect on my studies more than I did in my country. After I saw that I'm almost ready to attend university, I made my studies an important part of my life because I will be in the university in one year.

As a result, since I came here, I started to organize my time and be more responsible. Finally, I have started to focus on my goals more seriously.



## Dame Diop - 3B

Life in my country is really different than in Houston. First of all, in my country you can see your friends any time when you don't have class. Our favorite activity is to be on the streets talking about the news, playing soccer or drinking tea. On Friday nights, we could stay outside until 5 a.m. drinking tea without any problem because we had nothing to do the next day. Sometimes, on Saturdays we went to a party until 5 a.m. After that, everyone went to their house. Here, we can't do any of these things.

Another difference is, in my country, I did nothing except go to school and my parents would take care of the rest. I never cooked, washed clothes, cleaned or anything like that. In our culture, these are women's tasks. So, when I first came here, I didn't know how to use the washer or clean up my room and bed. In my country, when I woke up, I took my bath and went to school without doing anything. Then, when I came back, I saw my room neat and clean every day. My mother said to me, "When you go to study, no one will do that for you."

In sum, my life has changed because here in Houston I have to make my own goals, take care of myself and manage my time and my money by myself. I'm lucky to understand that early. That's why I heard President Obama say in a speech, "Here in American, you have to make your own destiny."

# Schulenburg



On Friday, June 22, nine international students from countries as diverse as Saudi Arabia and China traveled to the small town of Schulenburg, Texas to meet with AmeriCorps volunteers. The AmeriCorp volunteers had a wonderful home-cooked lunch waiting at the end of the two hour drive. As the two groups ate lunch together, they began to get to know one another. This process deepened throughout the day as they visited and went bowling together.

At the end of the day, they had created five virtual, multinational teams. This initial meeting was designed to begin formation of the relationships so necessary to such multinational teams. (See <http://ezinearticles.com/?Multinational-Team-Building&id=1914472> )

Together, they will complete certain tasks from the *Toolkit for Culture and Communication*. The final meeting will be at the University of Houston, where the internationals study at the Language and Culture Center for a cultural festival. (See <http://www.uh.edu/class/english/lcc/index.php> )





**Abulaziz Alanazi**

You must work hard.  
You should be friendly with the students.  
You should like your job.

**Musaab Alsayali**  
A good teacher should have discipline and strength of character.

# ZE

**Mustafa Al Tuhaifa**

You have to be good with students and know them.  
You have to know what happens to students in and out of class.

**Sultan Alshalawi**

When students feel homesick, teachers should help them.

**Saud Alanazi**

Take care of your students and have a smile on your face.

**Abdulrahman Alshaya**

You must know how to deal with students.

**Kwand Ju Sung**

Good English teachers help weak students.

**Christiana Rimi**

To be a good English teacher, one has to master the skills of teaching.

The teacher's role is not only of communicating knowledge to the students, but also acts as a guide, an organizer and a role-player.

**Salman Alhajri**

You must not give students homework.

You should help your students and make your class comfortable.

# Acts of Kindness

## Fatumata Ya Traore - 3A

Something that I'm very proud of was when I helped a little boy find an adoptive family. On February 2, 2000, when I was young and living in my country, Mali, I had an innate feeling to help people. The person whom I helped was a six-year-old boy. His parents died because they had HIV. He didn't have anybody to help him. His uncle rejected him because he also had HIV. I met him when I attended a concert of my favorite singer. He was at the theater's door begging for some money. He said to me, "Please, can you give me some money to buy food? I haven't eaten all day." He couldn't stand up correctly and when he asked me, he cried. My heart felt so sad that I couldn't speak. I just stood there and looked at him. I began to think to myself, "Oh my God! Why do you give money to some people and nothing to others?" I asked myself many other questions, too. I had one biscuit in my bag. Although I



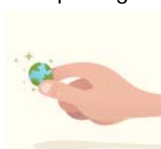
was hungry, I gave him my biscuit. I asked him to tell me why he was there. I was so shocked that I couldn't believe him. Then, I asked him "What do you want now?", he just looked at me in my eyes and said, "I just want a family, to play like a child and to go to school." I called my father and told him the story of this boy. He advised me to wait for him at the theater. When he came, he took us to an organization called S.O.S. It's an organization that helps children. My father told them the boy's problem. Then I asked him his name. He said "Mohamed." I began to cry because my little brother's name is Mohamed. The S.O.S. people helped him go to school and found a family for him. Now he's a good man. He visits me from time to time.

Everybody needs help. If you don't want to help, just think if the person who needs help was a member in your family, then you would help.

## Miguel Uzcategui - 3A

There are different ways that people feel good about themselves. There are people who like to do sports, others like to read books and others like to do acts of kindness. There are several reasons why people help others.

First of all, many people need help. That is probably the most common reason to help others. There are people that need help to cross from one street to another, such as older people; to hold a ladder while the other person is putting one picture on the wall, or to carry bags at the grocery store.



Also, I find it very interesting to help people when they have internal conflicts, such as making decisions about what they want to study at the university. I find this kind of help very interesting because it is very important when you make a decision that is going to affect the rest of your life.

Finally, when they are injured, people need practical help. I have been taught by my parents to help people in trouble. I remember when my best friend fell down and broke his ankle, I ran to get help.

As you can see there are infinite reasons and ways that you can help others. I feel great when I help others because I know I did something useful.

## Juan Pablo Obiang Bikie 3A

All over the world, there are many people in need, so even though you are selfish, watching the images on TV showing how poorly some people live may change your thinking, and force you to do an act of kindness. In my case I've done two acts of kindness recently.

**\$** First of all, on July 16, 2012, I donated \$5 to a charity. Its name is Houston Children's Charity. I have a supermarket close to my apartment, and whenever I buy an item there, the cashier will ask me if I would you like to donate something for children in need. When they asked me that question, I felt that I should do something advantageous for them, and that is what I did. Even though \$5 is not a lot, it was a huge sacrifice for me because I'm living abroad, and with that money I could buy something I need, such as milk or juice. The most important aspect was not the \$5 but how clear the person who was attending me explained how they were going to improve the quality of the life of these children with the money I gave.

Also, on July 18, 2012, I prepared a lot of food in my apartment, and I invited some people from my country, Equatorial Guinea, who are studying here in Houston. I know that they are students and life for them is very hard. So, I prepared our traditional dishes, such as peanut soup, and paella rice. We had a very enjoyable time. Seeing them so happy that night and how grateful they were made me feel proud of myself and confirmed that I did something very positive for them. In conclusion, doing some acts of kindness is one of the best things I have done, because helping others makes me also feel happier.





## Emily Fu - 3A

In 2001, I was eager to own a dog that could keep me company when I was alone because my parents were always busy with their work. Surprisingly, my parents brought me a cute puppy with black and white fur when they came back home from work on Chinese New Year's Eve that year. He was named "YY".

YY and I were inseparable. We always relied on each other. When I came home after school, YY used to wag his tail and jump on me. Also, he used to lie beside me on my bed every night and wake me up with his licks in the morning. Sometimes, when I was eating my meal, I fed him pieces of meat as well because he always looked at my food eagerly. Sometimes, we were scolded by my mother because we played and messed up the house. I played with him as if he was my younger brother.



Ever since I got YY, I have noticed more news and information about dogs. I can't stand some people who abuse animals and I can't bear to see so many stray dogs euthanatized. So, in 2006 I adopted a stray dog that was about to be euthanatized. His name was "Dai Dai" and he was all black, with short fur and no tail. I found him from an animal foundation website that offered information about many stray dogs, their pictures and the date when they would be euthanatized. Thus, I decided to save a helpless life and bring him to join our family. He immediately became a close member of our family, and it caused YY to be jealous, but I love them both the same.



In addition to adopting, I donate money to the Help-Save-A-Pet Fund in Taiwan. Although I have come to the U.S., I still make online donations by credit card because I think it's a very worthwhile cause.

Although I have gotten many gifts in my childhood, the one that influenced me the most was YY. He made me feel less lonely and more concerned about animals. I began to do acts of kindness towards dogs in particular, but most importantly, he has become indispensable to my family. Although he isn't here with me, I miss him when I look at his photos. I'm looking forward to seeing both of my dogs again.

## Zhenwen Xiong - 3A

Our teacher gave us a special homework assignment about doing acts of kindness. At first, I really didn't know how to find people who need help in the U.S. because I am not American. It is not easy for me to speak English very well, but I found out that if I want to do it, there is nothing impossible.

The first act of kindness I did was offer my apartment to a stranger for three days. On the internet, someone was looking for a place to stay in Houston while he took a test. My roommate thought I was taking a risk. But I said, "Do you remember Qin? When we first came to Houston, what she did after she knew we needed help? I can't believe someone will do something bad to the people who are helping him, unless he is a crazy man. If I find out he is a crazy guy, we won't let him come." Finally, my roommate allowed it. It was not easy although he is a kind guy. But, anyway, we will help the stranger when he comes in the fall semester.

Another act of kindness was much easier. I just logged into my QQ (same as MSN) last Monday night after I came back to my apartment. I saw a person from the LCC who was chatting about problems with his car. After I talked with him, I tried to make him feel better. I thought I could do more, such as pick him up for school. Fortunately, he lives on Holly Hall and I live on Alameda, so it is not too far away.

Finally, the last small act of kindness I did was throw my neighbor's trash bag into the garbage dumpster. Although we have a maintenance man who picks up everyone's trash, it was not his work time. After I came home, I saw the trash bag in front of my neighbor's door, next to mine. I thought it might stay there for a whole night, so why shouldn't I just take it to the dumpster for him?

To sum up, there are a lot of things you can do to help others. Also, when you try to help them, you may feel happier just like me.



# Culture





# Festival





# ... More Acts of Kindness

## Ludiolma Oliveira - 3B

Last Monday our teacher gave us a homework assignment: to do three acts of kindness. I quickly started looking for something to do. As a result, I felt extremely happy and I learnt a lot of things.

I was able to do two acts of kindness for my homework. The first one was on Wednesday morning when I went in a bookstore to buy Microsoft Office for my computer. They didn't have it and a lady who works there showed me where to go. When I was walking home, I remembered that I didn't pay for the pencil box that I had picked up at the bookstore while I was there.

I returned to pay for it and the young woman looked at me with big, surprised eyes and said, "If you hadn't returned, I would have had to pay for it, so thank you. It's unusual."

After I paid for the box, I also gave her cash as a gift because I understood what would have happened if I hadn't returned. Also, I wanted to do an act of kindness. She looked at me and only said, "Thank you". I felt very pleased.

My other moment was one morning when I got up. I decided to walk around my apartment complex. I found myself looking at two men working, picking up the garbage. They looked tired. I went home and prepared a breakfast of sandwich, milk, tea, coffee, water, fruit and yogurt. I put it in a bag and I went outside again. I stopped near the men and said "Good morning, would you like to eat with me?" At first they didn't answer, but I asked again, "What do you prefer?" One of them answered quickly, "No, lady. Thank you".

But the other one accepted some food. We sat quietly and ate. When we finished, they thanked me, even the man who didn't eat.

Basically, I haven't ever done this, and that day my neighbors looked at me like I was crazy, but it didn't matter. I was happy and proud of myself. I enjoyed the time that I spent with this man.

I liked this experience so much that I'm thinking of doing acts of kindness more often. Although some people don't react very well when someone tries to help them, I will always try to help.



## Ismar Paredes - 3B

Four days ago, our teacher gave us a great homework assignment: to do three small acts of kindness from Monday until Thursday. Personally, I like to help and cooperate with people because I usually helped people in my country. I used to do some acts of kindness, such as donate clothing, give food and raise money for donations. So when I got this assignment, I really felt good.

One day I was at home cooking when my friend called me because he didn't have food at home. He asked me to eat out, but I was cooking, so I decided to invite him over to eat. I cooked some Venezuelan food, *arepa* which is a flat, round, bread made of cornmeal flour. My friend was very thankful and I felt very happy because I did an act of kindness.



That same day I didn't know what I would do with the food because I cooked a lot of food for dinner. Then, I heard my neighbor outside and I opened the door and offered her some food. She shyly accepted. I was in shock because I did two small acts of kindness the same day.

Finally, at night when I was sitting on my sofa watching TV, I was thinking about the small acts. I felt so satisfied and grateful with life because every day, with each act, I am growing as a person.



**Suddan Narathipat -3A**

This term, I was assigned by my teacher to do three small acts of kindness. This was a good opportunity for me to help others. When I came to Houston, I saw many people who needed help but I did not know how to help them because my speaking skill was poor. I thought about how I could help them and I figured out that there were several ways, such as: I could give a small amount of money, some clothes, or time to help them.

My first act of kindness took place at the Downtown Transit Center. While I was refilling my Metro card, a guy who wore black T-shirt, red shorts, and black Nike shoes came to me and tried to tell me his story but I did not pay attention. Suddenly, he showed me a few coins in his hand while saying that he could not ride the bus to his home. He said his wallet was stolen and he did not have enough money. After he finished his story, I decided to give him one dollar because I was putting cash into the Metro Card machine. When he got my money, he bowed to me with a big smile. After that, I asked him to sign my homework paper and we took a few pictures together. It seemed unusual to do that but we did it because both of us were extremely happy. I was happy because I was giving and he was also happy because he was receiving. That is the best answer to explain the question of why people help each other.

After the first act was done, I tried to find another way and I found that there were many homeless people living near the Wheeler Metro Station. I started

to look for some old shirts in my closet but I did not have any. So, I asked my brother and he gave me a few used shirts, pants, and shoes. After putting them in my book bag, I prepared what I would say because this was my first time to give some used items face to face to strangers. In my hometown, Thailand, donating used items was simple because there are several organizations that connect donors and recipients, so I just put them into boxes. When the train dropped me at Wheeler station one evening, I was a little bit excited and nervous, but I went straight to the group of homeless people. I told them that I had a few used items and asked if anyone wanted them. Surprisingly, everyone wanted them but there was not enough. Thus, I promised them that I was going to bring more things when I had time.

Not only can we help others with giving money or items, we can also spend a

little of our time to help them. In Houston, there are a number of homeless and disabled people. Everyday, when I ride the bus or rail train from my apartment to school, I usually find a few disabled people who sit in their wheelchairs and ride the public transportation, too. My last act of kindness took place at the HCC Metro Station. While I was walking to the station, I saw a disabled man trying to pick something up from the ground. Even though I was hurrying to class, I helped him without hesitation. When I approached him, I saw a Metro card lying on the road. I picked it up and handed it to him. Though this act just took a few minutes, I felt proud of myself for a long time.

To sum up, nowadays, there are many extremely poor people around the world who are waiting for some help from us. Giving used items, money, or time are just three examples of ways to help them. We are living in the same world, so why don't we help each other? Isn't that the point of kindness?



# What I Learned This Semester...

## Mohammad Alsubaie 2C

This summer I learned a lot of things in grammar, speaking and writing skills. During last semester, I didn't understand some of the grammar rules, but this summer, I asked the teacher to explain some of them. For example, she explained the difference between "who is" and "whose", and I understood it. In level 1, I was not speaking English fast, but now I speak it faster. I really like writing, but sometimes I have problems with spelling. This summer I learned more words with correct spelling from writing practice in class and at home. I learned about writing an essay. I didn't learn it exactly, but I tried. I realized that I can't learn everything at the same time, but "step by step". In conclusion, that was everything I learned this summer, and I hope to learn more things next semester.

## Dheya Alqallaf - 2D

Ramadan is a month of worship, compassion, and fasting. I have learned that Ramadan in Houston is very exhausting in the summer. Everything during Ramadan is hard here. The time is very different. Here, we don't have enough time at night. During the night, the time is short because we begin to eat at 8:55 p.m., and we don't have time to finish reading the Al-Quran because we need to sleep. In my country, the time to fast is easy for people. We eat a lot of food during the night. We have time to finish reading the Al-Quran. We work for a little bit, and then we sleep. We don't study during Ramadan, so we can sleep during the day. Here in the U.S., we can't eat a lot because we have to sleep so that we can go to school the next day. Also, in my country, I am with my family, and here I am only with friends. In conclusion, Ramadan is very different from other months in my country. Most people like the month of Ramadan, but here it is difficult.

## Abdullah Alalyani 2C

I learned many things in the U.S. and especially in Houston. First, I learned English. I studied at the LCC, and it helped me very much. I practiced English with lots of people because people here are friendly. Second, I learned many things about American culture. For example, I learned that weddings here don't have to be expensive and big. I also learned about many American holidays like New Year's, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Finally, I learned about my responsibility. I can do things by myself. In conclusion, the more someone learns, the more experiences he can have.



## Rosa Martins - 2C

I learned some new things this summer in Houston. First, I learned to speak English. I went to school to study English. In the LCC lab I learned to do my homework online, practice listening/speaking, reading and writing. I also learned by watching movies on TV, going to the movie theater, and listening to American music. Second, I learned to take a bus from my house to other places. I learned how to use the bus card, and I learned not to get on the bus with food. Third, I learned to swim. I went to swim school. Finally, I learned to be more responsible. I learned not to leave my documents anywhere alone. In conclusion, I really like living and learning in Houston.



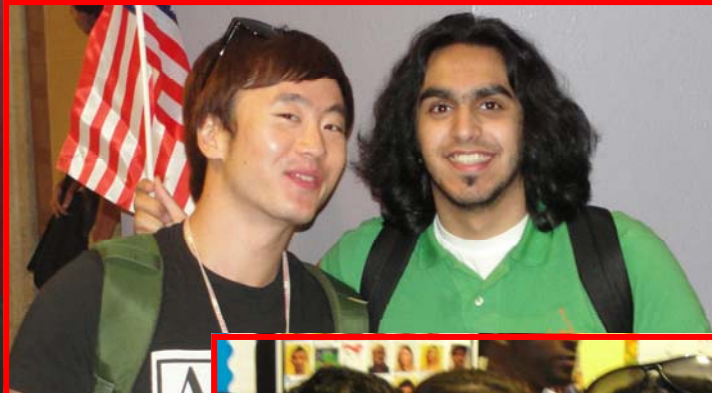


# A Nice Trip





# Happy 4th of July





## Faisal Alsowayeh - 3B

### Fahad Almutairi - 3A

Ramadan is a special month for Muslims in the whole world. It is a month that Muslims fast from sunrise until sunset. Fasting in my country is easier than in Houston for these reasons:

First of all, everyone in my country is fasting, so I don't see any one drink or eat from sunrise until sunset. Also, I do not have school during Ramadan. Also, there are a lot of mosques that are close to my house for praying. In my country, I live with my family and my mother makes breakfast.

As soon as I came to Houston, everything changed. It is hard to fast. The time of fasting is longer than in my country and I have school. I learned how to cook and make breakfast by myself. I can cook rice, pasta, and soup. This is the evening meal but we call it breakfast during Ramadan. Sometimes I eat by myself or eat with my friends.

In conclusion, Ramadan is important for the Muslims because it brings them closer to each other by fasting, eating and praying together.

Ramadan is the holy month for Muslims and the most important month of all. My family and I care about the food that we eat in Ramadan because, when we fast, we don't eat or drink anything during the day. We are able to eat or drink when the sun goes down. We're not allowed to eat or drink when the sun is up. So we have two big meals every day during Ramadan. The first meal after sunset is called breakfast. We



start with some water and dates and we drink Arabic coffee, too. Then we usually make soup and another healthy dish. The second meal is called Sohor which we usually have from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m., and this meal is bigger than breakfast. During Ramadan, Muslims also prefer to go to Mecca which is regarded as the holiest city in Islam, so people go there to pray. We also have many activities to do in Ramadan. For example, my family and I always go camping, and we also travel to a nearby place like Bahrain or Qatar for fun.

But here in America, observing Ramadan is a little harder for me, like most Saudi Arabian students, because I don't eat as well as I do in my hometown. For breakfast, I usually make soup that I bought from the supermarket. For Sohor, sometimes I call my mother to help me make a healthy dish such as *kabsa*. Sometimes I eat alone, and sometimes I eat with my friends. However, the biggest difference is that I am away from my family. I call them twice a week, but it's not the same as being home during Ramadan. I don't feel too lonely or too sad, but I really miss the Arabic food that I used to eat during Ramadan with my family.



# Living in America

## Living Away from My Family Faris Alhazmi - 2D

I left my old life and my family in my country because I wanted to try another life and change everything. I needed a change in my old life to make a new life. The first thing I did was move away from my family and my country. It was hard for me because it was the first time, but when I thought about it, I felt better. The second thing I did was learn a new language. That was difficult because my native language is Arabic and my family doesn't speak English. It was difficult for me to learn another language. The third thing I did was look for adventure. I don't have that in my country, so I'm searching for it here in the U.S. I believe that one day I'll find it. Finally, I like life here because I have met a lot of people, and they are so nice to me. But, there is one thing about searching for change that hurts my heart now. Do you know what it is? I miss my family very much.

## Reasons to Appreciate the U.S.A. Fernanda (Carolina) Parra 2D

America truly is a place of opportunity. The people are happy, smart, creative and peaceful. Americans have an innate spirit that is contagious. They are not shy to show their national pride. They cheer, wear red, white, and blue and show flags in homes, colleges, hospitals, and on the streets. I heard about this country and the chance to learn English because my sister, cousins, and parents had the same opportunity to study here. There are people from all over the world in America. I enjoy studying in this country. I hope to catch even more of the enthusiastic American spirit.

## Living in Houston Abdullah Altalhi - 2D

Houston has many amazing things. There are a lot of interesting things about the community and the weather. First, the UH community is very friendly to new students at the recreation center. They like to play baseball and basketball and ask the new students to play. Second, the weather is very amazing. Sometime it rains for a long time, and it is very hot in the summer. Third, there are many interesting and beautiful places to go around Houston. There is a beach, a zoo and many parks. In conclusion, I like staying in Houston. It is fun and I enjoy it. I'll have it in my memory forever.

## The Weather in Houston Mohammed Alajmi 2D

I have spent 6 months in Houston. It is the best city to live and study in, but I think Houston has the worst weather in the world. I hate the weather here because it is difficult to understand. If I come to school without an umbrella, I may get wet clothes. Storms in Houston can be destructive, and I don't know when they are coming. Sometimes I think that it will not rain, and suddenly it's raining, and I don't have my shoes or umbrella. Sometimes the weather is so hot, I feel miserable. I feel sad and angry at the same time. So, I love Houston but not the weather.



## My Life in America Turki Alyousef - 2D

I'm living in Houston, Texas. I'm here because I want to learn to speak and write English. Learning English is necessary for my education. I am also learning about America. I have learned about the people, hospitals, and the weather. First, I think all the people here are friendly. This is so nice because I can make friends here. Second, America has big hospitals. A lot of people come from around the world because of the hospitals. For example, my friend's sister came from Dubai because she has cancer. Last, America has different weather all the time. For example, some people like sunshine and some people like the rain. You can find different weather throughout America. In conclusion, people come from many countries to study English, but there are other things to learn too.



## What I Learned this Summer

I have been in the U.S.A. for over 2 months, and I have learned a lot. I live in Houston, Texas, and I have learned about its education system, the weather, and the lifestyle. I get confused sometimes because there are many differences between Korea and Houston, but I understand and enjoy the differences.

First, I have learned about studying English in the U.S. education system. Since I study English at the LCC, I am learning various skills such as reading, listening, speaking and writing. My English is improving because I always speak and listen to English in class. I can't use Korean because I respect the teacher, and besides, I am the only Korean in the class. This is very helpful.

I have learned about the weather in Houston. Houston's weather is too hot for me because the weather in Seoul is usually around 88<sup>o</sup> to 93<sup>o</sup> degrees, and the sunshine is not so strong. There is a lot of shade from the buildings in Seoul. However, here in Houston, the sun is very strong. There is little shade. Therefore, I learned that walking or playing outdoors is hard work in Houston. Now, I'm waiting for winter because it is cooler than summer.

Finally, I have learned about the lifestyle. Korea and America's lifestyle is a little bit different. For example, Korea's food is usually rich. When we have a meal, we eat soup, a main dish and side dishes. Americans prefer eating bread like hamburgers and pizza. I like American food, but I worry that I will get fat.

In conclusion, I enjoy living in Houston, and I have learned a lot of things about the education system, the weather and the lifestyle in the summer. It is a good adventure for me, and I want to learn a lot more.

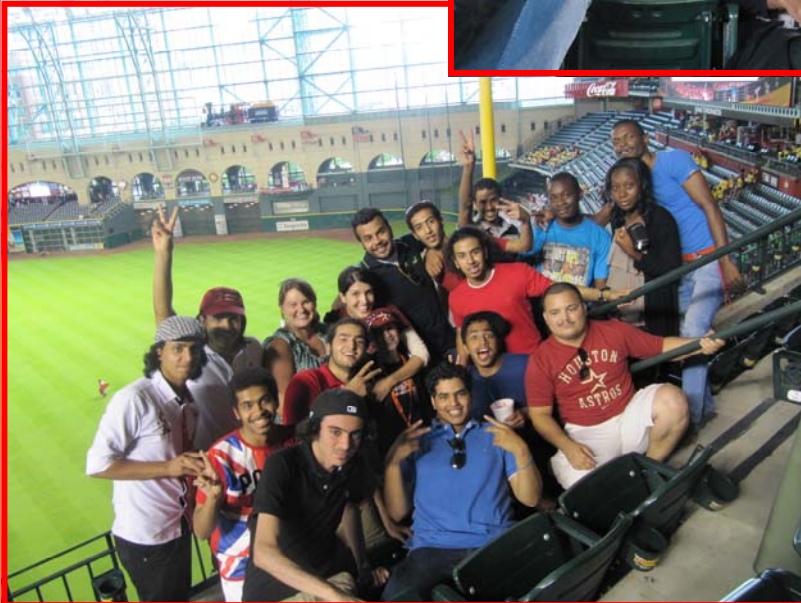


## My Summer in Houston Saesiw Thippanart - 2D

This summer in Houston, I had many experiences and learned about America in and out of the classroom. Back in my country, I used to dream about Houston. Finally, I got here. Many people helped me to get here, and I promised I'd do my best to the extreme! I did that. I met many new friends from other countries, and I heard many languages spoken, such as: Arabic, English, Chinese, and Korean. I talked in English with other people as I studied in my classroom. When I came to Houston, I had to do everything myself, and that taught me to grow up every day. It also taught me the importance of good communication and thinking positively. I lived here for 2 months, but it felt like 2 weeks. Every day here passed by fast. Now, I hear a ringing bell in my heart warning me, "you've only got a little bit of time to stay here." In conclusion, I don't want to waste time, so I practice every minute while I am here. I want to speak English clearly and fluently. This summer in Houston was wonderful. I hope next summer, I'll get a chance to live new experiences and meet new people here again.



# Take Me Out to the Ballgame...







## Advantages and Disadvantages About the Internet Costanza Cancellieri - 3F

Have you ever thought about a world without the Internet? How has the Internet changed our lives in the last ten years? How many people use the Internet nowadays? Nowadays, millions of people use it every day; some of them use it for work, and others only for fun. There are some advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet.

The first advantage is that the Internet is easy to use and I learned how to use it very fast. Second, I can work faster. Last, you'll be able to keep in touch with your friends from different parts of the world all the time.

The most important disadvantage is that I often spend too much time in front of my laptop, and this is a waste of time for my studies and for having a normal life and relationships.

However, I think that in 2012, it is impossible to live without the Internet. In my opinion it is very important to write e-mails, keep in touch with my family, friends, and work on my university's website.



## Pets

### Yosef Alenazi 2A

When I was a child, I loved animals. One day I found a dog on the street. Then I brought it to my family home. My mother said I could keep it, but my father didn't. In the end, I only kept it one month. Then my father took it away. When my father saw me angry, he bought me a couple of beautiful rabbits. After only one year, I had many rabbits, so the house was like a farm! Finally, I sold all of them and bought a special TV.



# Notes From the Student Advisor



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

New students from summer and continuing students from spring went on the first trip of the semester during registration week. This gave us the opportunity to get to know one another and make new friends, as well as seeing some interesting things. We went to the Museum of Fine Arts, a museum that has art from many countries, cultures, and time periods. Next, we went to the Galleria where students and teachers shopped and had lunch. The trip ended with a stop at the Waterwall where we took photos and then home to UH.

In June, we had the LCC sports tournament. We met at the fountains for the photos. Students went to the UC Game room to participate in billiards, table tennis, and bowling. Those who were bowling decided they did not want to compete for a trophy. They preferred to play for fun. The winners of trophies in billiards and table tennis were as follows: **Bowling:** 1st – Mukhlef Alshammari, 2nd – Talha Kabasakal, and 3d – Yosef Alenazi; **Table Tennis:** 1st – Kwangju Sung and 2nd – Moayad Aljahdali

At mid-term we welcomed a large number of new students for the Summer II session. They helped us celebrate the Fourth of July, American Independence day, with ice cream and cookies.

The next event was the LCC Culture Festival. We shared cultures as we tasted dishes from around the world prepared by our own students and staff. We had so much good food. Many students wore clothes from their countries. A variety of music was played and students learned new dances as well as demonstrating and teaching their own dances to others. It was a hot day, but we were inside and had fun. Thanks to everyone for helping make the Culture Festival a big success.

As this is being written, we are getting ready for our final field trip of the term. We are going to San Antonio to Six Flags Fiesta Texas! There are many rides and attractions there as well as

swimming. I hope everyone has a good time.

The day after the trip, the semester comes to an end with the graduation ceremony and a reception. We wish good luck to those students who will be leaving us. For those who will be returning, start planning for the fall and for welcoming the new students who will be joining us. We look forward to seeing you again in fall term.

## LCC FALCONS

The LCC's intramural soccer team is doing great. They have won three games and tied a fourth. We have a really good team and some great players. Servando Hernandez Vargas is both the captain and coach. Eddie Calderon from the LCC office assists in



managing the team. Players include: Servando Hernandez Vargas, Bader Alsuhaibi, Eriberto Calderon, Fahad

Almutairi, Francisco Rivera, Gustavo Valencia, Khalid Alsuhaib, Rashed AlmazyadRiaan Alodini and Jair Reis Pereira Gomes .

## LCC PHOTOS

Photos for the term are (or will be) posted on the LCC web page. You can copy the ones you want. Always check the LCC web page for photo updates. We are still adding photos from spring events. If you have photos of these events, please share them with other LCC students.

## IMMIGRATION

Students in F-1 status need to make sure they maintain their immigration status. If you are planning to take a vacation during the break, be sure and see Dave Burns, Sam Long, or Brad Powell before you leave. If you are travelling outside of the U.S., you will need to have either your current I-20 signed on the back or get a new one.

If you are planning on transferring to a new school for fall semester or on taking a fall vacation, please see one of the counselors to make sure you are following the immigration rules. If you plan to take a vacation for fall term, fill out the form on-line and tell your teacher at your final conference. If you have any doubts or questions about immigration, be sure and ask the counselors. It is very important that you maintain you F-1 status. It is very difficult to get your student status back if you lose it.









# VOICES



**SUMMER 2012**

***Editor: Alida Nakic***

***Thank you for your contributions!***



UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

**University of Houston**

**Tel: 713-743-3030 Language and Culture Center Online: [lcc.uh.edu](http://lcc.uh.edu)**

**Fax: 713-743-3029 Department of English Email: [lcc@uh.edu](mailto:lcc@uh.edu)**

**116 Roy Cullen Building, Houston TX 77024**

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