

ELI STUDENT VOICES

WINNING PIECES

First Place

“The Older Sister and Younger Brother” by Leonardo Casas

Second Place

“Harry Potter and His Wife Hermione” by Alejandra Briceno

The Older Sister and Younger Brother

Leonardo Casas | RW42 | First Place

I have always been close to my older and only sister Doris. She has a special personality because she’s strong and sensitive at the same time; also, she’s independent due to the fact that she is the first of three siblings. My sister and I have similarities, such as we are both worried about our mother, and we like the same cultural programs on television. However, our differences stand out more. Our main differences can be seen in our personality traits, our lifestyles, and our hobbies.

The first main difference between Doris and me is our personality traits. My sister Doris is extroverted and usually talks a lot. For instance, she is capable of talking with a client for around two or three hours—sometimes about business, personal stories, jokes, and more, all in the same conversation. Also, Doris is not an organized person; she puts her things in many places, and most the time, she mixes them up. For instance, she’s still looking for a debit card that I loaned her six months ago. In contrast, I have a very different personality. I am introverted and reserved. Unlike Doris, usually my conversation is short and concrete, and no more than 30 minutes long. My last long conversation was with my best friend by phone for about 25 minutes, after two months of not talking. Also, I feel uncomfortable when my stuff is in the wrong place. I need to know that everything is in order and is set up properly. Personality traits are

undoubtedly the main difference between Doris and me.

Another noticeable difference between us is our lifestyles. Without working out or exercising, Doris is a physically strong woman, but she gets tired quickly if she should walk in a shopping center. In addition, lately she has been turning into a vegetarian; every day for breakfast and for dinner she eats a big plate of fruit without meat. In contrast, I like to walk a lot, especially in the mornings on my favorite route where the distance there and back is more than five miles. Also, I enjoy eating vegetables and fruit, but my favorite meal has to have meat in it. For me, nothing is better than a delicious steak. Clearly Doris and I have different lifestyles when it comes to exercise and diet.

The last big difference between my sister and me is our hobbies. Doris enjoys watching movies and shows, especially since she got access to Netflix. Now she is able to watch two or three movies the same day, or four or five episodes of her favorite show. Also, she loves to garden in her yard. She can spend three or more hours mowing the lawn and planting and pruning the bushes. However, those aren’t my hobbies at all. Unlike Doris, I don’t watch very much television, and I prefer to watch a movie in the cinema. Instead, ever since records and cassettes

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("Older Sister and Younger Brother" continued)

became popular, I have loved to listen to music. And now, with the new technology, I have apps to listen to my favorite music while I am studying, cooking, cleaning or relaxing. Also, I hate to do gardening, and I don't know how to cut a flower, and I can't stand the weather and all the bugs that you find working outside. Overall, our hobbies are really very

dissimilar.

In summary, personality traits, lifestyles, and our hobby preferences are the three main differences between my sister Doris and me. We both have interesting sides of ourselves, but if you need a good conversation and gardening advice, you should get to know Doris. If you like to take long walks or listen to music, however, don't hesitate to call me.

Harry Potter and His Wife Hermione

Alejandra Briceno | GW | Second Place

During the war Harry Potter fight with Voldemort. At the same time Ron Weasley and Hermione were trying to kill the snake since it was the last Horcrux.

At this time, both were in front of the snake Ron and Hermione looked each other and Hermione understood that Ron wanted to kill the snake, but something wrong happen. The snake was stronger and faster than the want of Ron. Ron used the spell of Avada Kedavra and kill the snake, but at the same time the snake attacks him.

Hermione: "Please Ron don't die! We would find somebody who can help you"

Ron: "Hermione, we both know that no one can help me"

Hermione: "I don't want you to die. ...ehh ah I have to tell you something"

Ron: what?

Hermione: "I love you. I will always love you."

Ron: "I love you too! I hope we have more time to spend together. Please tell Harry that I glad to have him as a friend and he should be sad about me"

Hermione: "Please no!! I'm not going to tell him that because you will be fine"

Ron died!

A huge silence could be heard after the death of Ron.

Then, when Harry kill Voldemort he came back inside of the castle to see the damages and who was with injures.

Immediately he saw Hermione and how sad she was.

Harry: "Hermione what's wrong? Why are you crying?"

Hermione: "Harry, Ron died! It was my fault. I was with him and I couldn't do anything to save him"

Harry: "Hermione isn't your fault! You could have done everything to save him, but it was too late because all the venom of the snake was in him"

Hermione: "What we going to do now without him?"

Potter: "We should help the other people and we will remember him as the funniest guy with great spirit and a lot of occurrences. We will never forget him. He will be our best friend forever"

10 years later we look Harry Potter and Hermione together and they are in the train station taking their children on board on Hogwarts Express.

The loss of Ron made them stronger and more united and they notice that they were perfect to each other and they get married.

The Causes of Water Pollution

Ibrahim Alkhaibari | RW51

Imagine that every day you must walk around 4 miles to get clean water. Although over two-thirds of Earth's surface is covered by water, the number of people who cannot access clean water around the world has increased since a few years ago because of water pollution. According to West, "it accounts for the deaths of more than 14,000 people daily (West 2006). An estimated 580 people in India die of water pollution related illnesses every day (CHNRI 2010). About 90 percent of the water in the cities of China is polluted. As of 2007, half a billion Chinese had no access to safe drinking water" (Chinadaily.com.cn 2005). In fact, we are facing a real issue that threatens animals, human beings, and the environment. Unfortunately, there are several causes of water pollution such as sewage and radioactive waste.

One of the causes of water pollution is sewage. Sewage contains a lot of bacteria that leads to many diseases. Many governments deal with this issue by using traditional methods such as discharge in waves and rivers. As a result, after a long-time sewage appears in the underground water which people drink. For example, Egypt has struggled with this because of the mixing of clean water and sewage. Therefore, there are many countries that have begun boycotting Egyptian agricultural products. This was the first cause of water pollution.

The second major cause of water pollution is radioactive waste. "Radioactive waste is typically a by-product of nuclear power generation and other applications of nuclear fission or nuclear technology, such as research and medicine" (Wikipedia 2017). Deliberately, industrialized countries eliminate waste by burying it in the ground. Consequently, radioactive waste is absorbed until waste reaches underground water. After that they are mixed together. As a result, illnesses such as cancer spreads. Furthermore, most of these countries do not bury waste in their own land, but they are renting lands from other countries. In fact, radioactive waste is considered the most dangerous effect on the environment. This was the second reason of water pollution.

As can be seen, these are the most important negative impacts that lead to water pollution. However, I believe that we can prevent water pollution by educating a new generation about the risks of water pollution and creating stronger laws against companies and business enterprise that do not follow laws. All of these things help protect the environment, human, and animals.

Where are you from?

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW40

I am from a gorgeous land, where its people always have a smile throughout bad moments, where mothers miss their little kids when they grow up, where father work hard to be the best model for their children, where grandparents smell like hope, where a foreigner can be our sibling, where our faith makes us powerful. I am from a charming place where people that want to do good things surround us. I am from planet Earth. I am a citizen of this beautiful word. Does not matter from which place of this enormous planet you are from, or which language you speak because, a tear, a kiss, a hug, have the same meaning. The beat of our hearts unites us.

Dedicated to English Language Institute.

Tom Higgins' Case

Michelle Buena vida | RW40

Statistics show 80% of the restaurants that are original and have a good location are successful, but still many restaurants have failed. Take the case of Tom Higgins, who opened a restaurant called "Undergrad Grill" for students. After 3 months, he closed down the restaurant. Also, you can say that various problems came when the restaurant started to be affected by the lack of clients and financial resources. The problems that the owner had are the competitiveness between the restaurants, the lack of originality, the absence of publicity, and the high prices in the menu.

The first problem that this restaurant had was the competition among restaurants nearby and the lack of originality by the owner. As you may know, the restaurant was located on "Restaurant Row", where all restaurants offered international food to meet costumers' demands such as Chinese, Hindu, Italian, Latin, Mediterranean, French, Japanese and Korean Food. In such a condition, this restaurant cannot be there because its food does not represent any specific culture or country. In addition, you can see the lack of originality in the menu in that all of the foods are very similar to the other restaurants that surround the "Undergrad Grill". For example, the menu has "Beef and Chicken Fajita", and this is a food from a Latin Restaurant called "Los Amigos". Another example is "Spaghetti & Meatballs", and this is

copied from "Gianni's", an Italian Restaurant close to "Undergrad Grill".

The second big problem that the owner suffered was the absence of publicity. He did not create a website which shows pictures of the menu and promotions. Also, he did not spread pamphlets to make people aware of the existence of the restaurant, and he did not use any of the mass media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, among others, to advertise his business. Although the owner thought that spending money on publicity was a waste, he found out that a marketing plan and publicity are elements to success.

The third problem was the high prices on the menu. As you may know, the target is students, and the owner cannot set these prices because the students do not have a lot of money and they need to save money for their expenses. For example, the Shrimp Tempura cost \$11.95, the Lemonade cost \$4, the Chicken & Hummus \$9.95, and all these prices are very expensive for a student's budget.

To conclude, opening a restaurant is something really difficult, and in the process, you have a lot of problems that you need to fix. Also, it is very important to think of a good marketing plan to be successful in your restaurant in order to be able to have earnings.

Response to "Childhood obesity" by Pulgarón

Abdulkarim Alfaez | GW

The article details the childhood obesity which has the ability to increase serious risks in both physical and psychological consequences. It discussed the relationship between the childhood obesity and several different diseases. This article reviews the research has been conducted in two medical website which is PubMed and Psych INFO. Research has been conducted so widely under specific terminology "obesity comorbidities". AS a result, there were more than 5000 articles about childhood and adolescent obesity. Researchers narrowed down their research under specific articles and years which over the period of time ranged from 2002 to 2012. Also, there were some exception to include some articles in their research such as age range because articles

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("Response" continued)

have different range of age as childhood. Age has different range from article to another which some articles considered 22 years old as a child. Overall, this article was published to summarize all the researches that have been chosen from a lot of researches about obesity and comorbidities.

This article depicts several aspects from childhood obesity. To begin with, one third of the children are overweight around the world. That means 43 million children suffer from obesity, and this number has increased each year from 2002 to 2012. Medical issues are the most important part of childhood obesity because it will lead to serious health problems that might cause death. Also, the problem might affect child social life. Several health problems have strong relation with obesity such as type 2 diabetes (T2D), cardiovascular system disorder, respiratory dysfunction, and mortality. There is a major relationship between asthma that respiratory tract narrow, swell, and excrete huge amount of mucous and obesity in children. As a result, children will suffer from short of breath, coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath. There is a strong relationship between T2D and obesity which the fat distribution in human body could be a trigger to have T2D especially the fat concentrate on the upper and middle part of children body. Cardiovascular disorder includes many diseases such as hypertension, coronary heart disease, and left ventricular mass which are all these diseases related to the high BMI or obesity. AS a result, lipid will accumulate on the wall of arteries which block the blood flow.

Furthermore, dental health issue is one of the most medical problem related to childhood obesity. Recently, a lot of research have been conducted about how childhood obesity affects oral health specially two years old children. Beside the medical problem, there are several psychological issues that accompany the childhood obesity such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and internal and externalizing disorder, and sleep disorder. Research detailed the metabolic disorder and clarify it with evidence. However, there is disagreement between articles about many diseases like asthma and dental issues. For instance, dental problem might be related to dietary behavior and age more than the obesity itself. The psychological problem is not accurate as medical issues because some of the researches depends on self- reported diagnosis which is not accurate as other clinician-administered structured interview.

There are many issues about the articles from which this article retrieved their information such as age range, sex, and socioeconomic level. For instance, in this article reviewed on of the article and the age range was from 0 to 22 years. As a result, this article has weakness point to include article like this. Also, it included from national and international articles or studies, but it would not help to assess these issues because children behavior and body mass might affect the measure of childhood obesity. Usually, obesity has been determined by body mass index (BMI) which differ from country to another. This article could have been improved by choosing specific nationality, diet behavior, and ranged.

Pulgarón, E. R. (2013). Childhood obesity: A review of increased risk for physical and psychological comorbidities. *Clinical Therapeutics*, 35(1), A32. doi: 10.1016/j.clinthera.2012.12.014

My Hometown in Colombia Vs Gainesville

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW40

Your life can change dramatically when you move to another place after living in your hometown for a long time. Now it is more difficult when you change the country to another where people don't speak your language. That is my case. I moved from La Cumbre - Valle in Colombia to Gainesville Florida in USA on September 2016. That was the moment when I could know the differences between my hometown in Colombia and my new home in Gainesville.

Although I miss my hometown. I have learned about my new hometown. Some differences between La Cumbre and Gainesville are the geography, traditions and education. But all these reasons make both places special.

In terms of geography, La Cumbre is a place surrounded by mountains; it has hills near the streets where you can see the cows eating grazing grass. You can also find fruit trees near the houses and walk along narrow paths surrounded by nature and usually the temperature is not more than 68 °F (20 °C). On the other hand, Gainesville is a city which has large and flat roads surrounded by houses, bigger trees and lakes where you can see alligators. The temperature changes according to the season, for this reason the weather in Gainesville is crazy. Somebody told me "the weather in Florida is like a woman, it never knows what she wants".

Another interesting topic about my town is the traditions; for example, 80% of its citizens are Catholics and many days are celebrated in honor of

the saint. The favorite foods in my town are those you can prepare in your house like arepas, chicken soup (sancocho), tamales, aborrados, embueitos etc. Also, during certain festivals, you can dance on the street, listen live music and meet new friends. In contrast, Gainesville doesn't have many own traditions, this is because here live people from different countries and they have other beliefs. The holidays are celebrated in honor of important people in the history of USA. A large percentage of people in Gainesville eat fast food like burgers, French fries, hot dogs, because they have a fast lifestyle, and another percentage of people eat food from their own culture. The mix of cultures are in Gainesville is very interesting

The next difference between La Cumbre and Gainesville is education. This is because in my old hometown we have only small schools for children and two high schools for teenagers. Universities are in the city, two hours far by car. Whereas Gainesville has many schools and a big University. The University of Florida has a lot of students from different cities and countries, in this place you can meet interesting people, learn about other cultures and languages. Actually, I am student of English Language Institute (ELI) and believe me this experience is amazing.

In summary, although my hometown in Colombia and Gainesville have many differences like environment, weather, food, holidays and education, in my opinion, both have charming people and wonderful places to live in.

Mythical Creatures

Diego Barbosa | GW

Through all times, reality, beliefs, sciences and mysteries have been part of our culture and interest. Even now, people might be attracted to the study of mysterious animals and researchers have been convinced that Cryptobiologists have been found certain species previously to have disappeared. Cryptobiologists have definitely played an important role trying to discover unknown animals, plant species and natural world.

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(Mythical Creatures" continued)

Cryptobiologists are committed to search more rare species that are undocumented and have an important value to identify Lazarus species for academic purpose. According to the scientist article: The call of the weird: In praise of Cryptobiologists, Laurence, W. (2011, June 2002) "Grover Krantz a physical anthropologist at Washington State University, invested around \$50,000 for a light aircraft, infrared heat detector and other expensive gear search for bigfoot in the Pacific Northwest". This modern technology clearly shows encouragement to find new undiscovered species or having been presumed extinct with credibility and academic know-how to fill out the taxonomy animal system.

Even more, Cryptobiologists have analyzed our cultural trace back based on belief and ancestral speculations. When native ancestor had believed in amazing unusual beast, they discovered and exotic natural place. For example, Igoopogo was allegedly creature who had been described by the earliest Europeans to settle in North America as having a neck resemble and multiple dorsal fins. The only truth is that eyesight and rumors were made with sense by aboriginals who have contributed deeply in our folklore creating funny stories and legendary background.

Finally, Cryptobiologists have led the study of mysterious animals such as Igoopogo and Tasmanian tiger, which have created well known myths and encouraged the understanding of ancestor background that allow to enhance the undocumented and undiscovered mystic natural world.

A Poem to Inspire My Colleagues

Juliana Bogossian | GW

Seeking to inspire my colleagues, international students of the ELI, who are bravely surviving in this land of giants as I am, to persevere in their goals and their dreams and for that, I paraphrased a beautiful poem by Braúlio Bessa, a Brazilian poet, and I would tell them:

Our paths are not very different since we all face thorns, stones and holes on it. However, we cannot feel discouraged since even a stumble takes us forward.

When life hits us hard and it makes us bleed and the weight of the world crushes us; it's time to bounce back and start fighting again.

When we walk in the dark and everything seems uncertain, and we even doubt ourselves; it's time to focus and start believing again.

When the road is long, and our body goes tired; when there is no right path or no place to reach; it's time to recalculate our route and continue to walk.

When the heart is empty, and the hug is missing; it's time to start over and look for someone to love.

When you fall, and no one lifts you up; it's time to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and get over it.

And when the lack of hope decides to flagellate you, and the reality is tough to bear; it's time to start over and start dreaming again.

The same way we should fall to get up, we need a "the end" so we can restart.

Please don't forget! Driving your car in reverse doesn't always means going back!

My suggestion is to restart, remake your plans, remember what was good, rebuild every dream, rediscover some gift, re learn with your mistakes.

And if one day in the future your life goes backward, you must recover your faith and restart once again.

Effect of Technology

Fawaz Ahmed | RW50

With the development shows up the world has changed numerous and some jobs and equipment appear and disappear in homes, companies and cities. We do not need to use the animal to travel after the car and plane. Also, we do not have to write letter and send it to the post office just to say hi to friends or member of the family who live outside of home town. In other word, Internet with technology have made the life much convenient than the past. However, there are other negative effects of technology which makes us think twice, such as weakness in social life, health problems and wasting of our time.

To begin with, people have independence to use technology to connect with each other, even between close members of the family. This is creating difficulties for the new generation to make new friends or negotiate their ideas face to face. For instance, students in the class prefer using their phone other than talking with the classmates. This phenomenon result in new apps such as Snap Chat and others program seems for some people making him closer, but if we look more closely we can see that this it is not totally correct. I remember my professor when he posted in the Facebook his problem with the phones between him and his sons. He said "I commanded every one put off the phones and lets talking with each other for one hour", then guess who is the first one got his phone: It was him! We need to reduce our using in the technology and connect with each other face to face specifically with close members of the family.

Another issue of the technology is making lazy children. Kids In the past played outside and usually their parents tried to have a back yard to make some space for them to play. Now with intermedia technology such as X-box and PlayStation, children consider using this and refusing to go outside. This behavior makes problems in the long term such as eyes problem and obesity. The consequences for these problems grow up with children and maybe it will be the main reason to have some chronic disease like diabetes. Parents should be aware about using the technology for a long time and make limited time for their children.

Finally, time always seems shorter with technology. We use our phone every hour and there are some cannot go outside with just the phone their need to have power banc. During the day without making attention about how many time using the technology there are a lot of waste of time. Which makes some companies to decide preventing using the phone in work time and there is penalty for who breaks the rule. To explain, when we want to check in some program about some specific subject for just five minutes, always there are some events show up and the five minutes extension to 30 minutes or more. Then, in the end of the day we do not realizing where is the time have gone.

To sum up, although technology dominates our life, we need to reduce frequency of using it. We should carefully use the new inventions with social life, our health care and notice how our time run with it. Also, we need to enhance our knowledge to know what is the right way to use this technology.

What is an accident?

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW40

An accident is when somebody can not control a particular situation and falling. One situation have biggest effects in people's life. Somebody fell and you my lovely friend were the accident. Maybe you do not know! you have been the best accident in my life you fell over me and you made me happy, but now you gone. Ho yeah! Accidents happened all the time.

In honor to Isabel Munoz, Jun 15 2017

Bree and the Creatures

Juliana Bogossian | GW

More than quickly, Bree paused and leaned her purse on a picnic table beside her, took the spray, the handkerchief, and carefully wiped her glasses; she could not believe what she was seeing! As a child, the fact that he saw creatures on a different plane of existence was kept in secret by her, always frightened by being branded as crazy by others. With the certainty that the lenses of her glasses were properly cleaned, Bree worn them on and put the spray back into the purse, and then removed it from the picnic table. With it on her shoulders, she took a deep breath and captured all the courage in her body, proceeded till close enough, and carefully approached the painter's back to make sure that the figure was indeed the creature she thought she had seen. But to her surprise, when the artist turned to talk with her, Bree realized that he was painting his self-portrait; "OMG! This creature is alive!" Bree thought. With the shock, Bree jumped back and stepped on the foot of another person who was standing just behind her.

Very ashamed of her reaction, she turned to apologize; with her heart still beating fast, she looked at the person trying to apologize for the tread, and once again Bree also recognized that other person's face as another creature, she had seen on a different plane since her childhood. Terrified and confused,

Bree ran as fast as she could, through the park's green lawn, trying to find a place to hide. Until she stumbled over another person lying on the grass and fell, with the fall, her glasses left her face, and her purse flew too far, spreading all her belongings across the field.

When Bree finally recovered from the fall, she stood up; While she still cleaning the last leaves of her trousers, Bree noticed the shadow of some people approaching her and carrying the belongings to return to her. The first thing she took promptly was her glasses. Otherwise, Bree could not see the others, she wore them again on her face and looked directly at the person to thank the favor and once again she also recognized that face.

Trembling from head to toe, Bree took courage and decided to look around at each of those who have surrounded her with her belongings in her hands, at this moment Bree realized that she recognized all of them and she was now living with them in that different plane of existence. Now she can perfectly understand the meaning of that moment, Bree had finally freed herself from the coma in which she had been since her first year of life and arrived in that paradise.

Father and Son

Ashir Aitkaliyev | RW42

It's a great happiness when you have parents. It is doubly important to any man if there is a father. And throughout the world, fathers and sons are always different. This also applies to my father Kairzhan and me. Even though we are father and son, we have many differences, but three in particular stand out: our characters, our outlooks on life, and our preferences.

To begin with, my dad and I have almost opposite characters. My dad is very emotional and irascible. He can react very violently to anything, but also quickly calm down. Unlike him, I am very restrained by emotion, but when I respond to something, it lasts longer. This difference is due to the fact that he grew up in a large family. I grew up only with my sister in the large city. Thus, we have differences in character that lead to different outlooks on life.

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("Father and Son" continued)

Another noticeable difference between my dad and me is our outlooks on life. "Outlook on life" means a vision of your own development in past and future times. For this difference, we have some reasons. My dad is 68 years old and he was born in a small Soviet village, on the west side of Kazakhstan. When he finished high school, he earned a zootechnical degree and he started to work on a farm. Then, after 15 years, he went to the south side of Kazakhstan and worked at the Agricultural State Department. In contrast, I was born in a large city, and after high school, I went to another country to study. When I finished my university degree, I opened my own business. This difference is the main reason for our dissimilar outlooks on life. My dad had a Soviet Union life experience, but I have another with market economy and capitalism.

The last difference between my dad and me is our preferences. My dad likes a peaceful atmosphere and long conversations with family members. He doesn't like traveling, and he likes to stay home. For instance, when my dad is staying at home, he usually drinks hot black tea and watches TV. In contrast, I don't like to stay at home, and when I have the opportunity, I almost always choose a trip for adventure. I feel uncomfortable when I stay at home for a long time. As these examples show, if you have different conditions of upbringing and development, you will probably have dissimilar preferences between yourself and someone else.

To sum up, the three major differences between my dad and me are our characters, our outlooks on life, and our personal preferences. But regardless of this, please do not go looking for more differences between us; I will always go to him for support and advice. As the Russian writer Lev Gumilev said, "No man can be a good father until he learns to understand his father," and I almost agree with him. Thank God for having my father, and I'm really happy.

The Treasure

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW40

Once upon a time in a small town surrounded by big mountains, lived a gorgeous kid, his name was Maurice, he was 8 year old, and was the youngest of 10 siblings, his house was located far away from the town. His funny story began one day of heavy rain when small stones were falling from the sky like precious crystals. Maurice was inside their house when his eyes could not believe what they were seeing, then he ran fast outside and took from the garden several of they little stones. He immediately found a wood box, and he stored his treasure, now he needed a secret, secure place for his extraordinary discovery. It was, in this moment when he decided to climb an old orange tree and he hid the box on top of the tree. This night Maurice was thinking about all the things which he could buy, for example: a big bottle of grape juice, an enormous army of plastic soldiers, or even better the biggest paper kite ever seen in the history of kites. The next day the lucky, little boy woke up very early, but he faced the worst of situations when he opened the box and his treasure was gone. Maurice wept inconsolably, somebody had stolen his treasure. His older brother who was near saw this peculiar situation and asked him the reason why he was crying. While he was telling his story, a big smile grew on his brother's face. His brother hugged him lovingly. He told Maurice that his wonderful treasure was tears of angels that fell on the ground when people are unhappy, and they return to the sky when people smile again. After that Maurice was always happy when it rained. However, year later he discovered the truth; these small stones were not tears of angels, in fact were only hail, but at the same time he discovered that the love of his brother will always be his invaluable treasure.

Inspired in a real life situation. In memory of Carlos Mauricio Hernandez my husband.

The Feminine Side of “Wonder Woman”

Alejandra Briceno | GW

Days ago, I saw the new movie “Wonder Woman” distributed by Warner Brothers Pictures based on the classic superhero comics. This beautiful story of Diana, Princess of the Amazon is a mix of fight, love and adventure with a touch of evil side. Diana Prince, Princess of Themyscira and daughter of Hippolyta, as a child she wanted to combat but her mother Hippolyta was afraid of the prophecy, in which Diana adopted a civilian identity would be fulfilled. However, she started training how to fight with her aunt being prepared for the future fight against Ares, the god of war. Then, Diana met an American pilot who told her about the conflict in the outside world (World War I). Diana believed on him and she was convinced that Ares was responsible for everything that the humans had suffered. In contradiction of her mother wishes, she decided to go to the outside World to face Ares and save the planet from its destruction. In this adventure, Diana discovered her powerful skill and destiny. While finding her destiny, all women who saw the movie felt identify with Diana and the important role of the woman.

Many people who talked to me about the movie agreed that the movie was great, more than they

thought it would be. Also, the Wonder Woman is better than the other superheroes comic movies like Batman and Captain America. Moreover, I believe that the movie is good because the thematic was well thought for their producers and they specially made the movie attractive for both genders. When I finished watching the movie, I had the same reaction than other girls who were with me. We felt involved, powerful, excited and invincible in every day duty. Women are not only capable of doing many things at the same time, but also we are confident, attractive, intelligent, and leaders. Despite this is a fictional movie, this showed how men are more involved taking jobs positions than woman but day after day woman have taken more participation. We are an important part in this world and we are becoming more independent with power to decide what we like to do. Currently, women do activities and sports at the same level like a man; playing baseball, football or being an engineer, accountant or mechanical. Since 1948, women have been fighting for their equal rights and the same access. Now, the rules and laws have changed and all women have the opportunity to become what they want such as community leader or home superhero.

Television VS Social Media

Yuli Marcella Arias Rodriguez | RW30/40

Currently, we live in a globalized world. Very often important events happen, and it is broadcast to the world through the main media, and you can choose where to watch the news, from your cellphone, or T.V. However, not all information is true; therefore, we must choose the most appropriate and verifiable news media. What news media do you believe? Traditional media like television, or dynamic media like social media? I will focus on TV and social media, and show the differences between them in ways of obtaining, organizing, and presenting the news.

First, on television, the news is obtained through a journalist. They research news, check if it is true or false, then recollect all information about the event and make a report to broadcast on TV. On the other hand, the social media gets news from citizen journalists, who are ordinary people, and report real time news from their social networks like Facebook or Twitter for a great scope of importance. They use hashtags, for example

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("Television VS Social Media" continued)

#ActOnClimate for news about climate changes, and because of digital media, we can be citizen journalists.

Second, the news is organized through the cooperation of different departments because for television, there are many people who fulfill different functions, from filming to presenting the news. They have to work as a team. On the contrary, on social media there is usually one person who searches the information, takes the photos or records a video, then makes and publishes the news on social networks.

Finally, the way to access the news is different because for watching news on TV, you should wait for the schedules to see the news, and you also must have a TV to see the news, but can you search news at any time and from any device in social media because it is faster and affordable. You decide which one to choose.

In summary, the Television and social media publish many news stories, but they get, organize, and show them in different ways. The most important thing when choosing appropriate media is to know that the news is from reliable sources, or a respected citizen journalist or communication media.

The wonderful fast food?

Yixuan Pan | GW

Chick-Fil-A restaurants has a new food, which is called healthy salad to menus, it is provided by the fast food restaurant this week. The entrée salad includes grilled chicken, roasted corn and black beans. We all know that salad is one kind of food of health for physical of people. Fruits, vegetables, grains, and protein are examples of healthy food. Salads are good for health of people, because it is a kind of green food. Recently, a lot of fast food restaurant, like as McDonald, Wendy's and other restaurants wooed customers with relatively healthy salads. Because the fast food restaurants want to make money by providing some health options, like salads and so on, they want to help people to fight their obesity.

However, it is hard to know that the salads from the fast food restaurants really have nutritional ingredient or it can keep a healthy weight for people. If the customers bought a salad first, which is around 350 calories, but if they want to have more delicious food, such as meat, cheese and so on, after they added the food in it, the salad is estimated having more calories than before. Obviously, this salad is only yummy, not healthy at all.

Especially, when someone wants to lose weight for keeping health, and the person believes this kind

of healthy food can help the person to lose weight, the person will not to arrive the goal.

Fast food causes serious disease, such as heart diseases and stroke. This country has a big problem about fatty disease, affects about one in five adults in the United States, (Ham, 2008). We can easily see that obesity now goes up, arriving on the top of the list of unhealthy things in our life. This problem can be having a huge effect on the people's mental and psychological health. Obesity is a problem in most counties, it comes with consumption of fast food. Even the restaurants provided the health food, such as salads, but we still need to think about the health food, does the food are healthy for our body? Even though we ordered a salad, we still think about how many calories have? Even though we know that salad benefits our health, if they add more ingredients in the salads, the salads can help you gain fat. Some ingredients put into your salads will slow or stop your goal for losing weight, especially, you have already eaten the extra food. We all know about calorie- controlled diet will help people who want to lose weight, if we intake too much food, we cannot lose weight.

Sometimes, when you want to order something diet in the fast restaurant, you need to think a while.

International Student Experience: Culture Shock

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW40

Studying a new language in a foreign country can be one of the most beneficial experiences in your student life. Nevertheless, it can also be one of the biggest challenges that you can face. The concept of integrating into a completely different culture while you do not fully understand this culture, and finding a way to adapt is called culture shock. The complete change of your lifestyle while you misunderstand native language including body languages or being unfamiliar with the new food are typical examples of culture shock; at the same time feeling, such as, sadness, loneliness, frustration, and anxiety can contribute to serious personal, and academic problems. Knowing how to properly face culture shock, is a crucial to reduce the student's period of adaptation to the new environment, and beginning to enjoy the process of learning a new language. Several achievable solutions on how to minimize culture shock are: accepting the new culture, keeping touch with your loved ones, and finding activities outside of the school.

When you first arrive in your new host country, you can quickly find several differences in lifestyles and beliefs. Some of these differences can be minor while others can truly differ against your own strong personal beliefs. For this reason, the best solution to solve this problem is to be patient. You should need to take these differences as an education experience, keep an open mind, and try to view the things from other people's viewpoints. This is an opportunity to discover a new world. Be happy, and do not forget smile.

The new adventure of studying in a foreign country, far away from your family and friends is an inconvenience that hinders your period of adaptation, the solution for this problem is in your hands; it is very important to remember who you are, and to maintain a healthy connection with your loved ones

at home because during your lapse of culture shock, you will have moments in which you can experience loneliness, but if you keep a strong line of communication with your family and friends, this communication will be a powerful support for you. Also, this connection can help you keep focused on making the most out of this great experience. You have many ways to make this possible, for instance, you can use social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc; make, and send funny videos to your loved ones about your daily life. To talk with them in live, and to show good things about your host country. I assure, if your parents see you happy, they will be happy too.

Finally, the best solution to face culture shock is to actively participate in activities and interest outside of school, is a wonderful idea if you attend a gym because when you practice sports, your body produce hormones like endorphins, these endorphins are known like hormones of happiness, so you can kill two birds with one shoot, or even better attend volunteer activities and help out the community while practicing your new language in a real-life environment. Be friendly with your neighbors, you never know when you can need his help. Moreover, all these activities, will help you to understand and enjoy the new culture you are facing.

In conclusion, your experience as international student and the effects of culture shock can decrease dramatically if you do not forget to keep your mind open, also maintain a good communication with your family and find activities outside of school become this experience in the best experience on your life.

Dedicated to my lovely ELI teacher Tate Quiñones, thanks to her I learned to love the mistakes

Creative Writing

Albina Hartner | RW44

The sun instantly rose above the ocean, as if it had emerged from the depths and rushed to catch a fire. It was sprinkled with sparks over the tops of lazy green waves, urging them to the sandy beach of the island of Mur. But the waves were tired of beating against the shore overnight, and they tiredly licked a strip of dense sand, not reaching the dark shaft of algae thrown out by the storm to the pillars of coconut palms.

Sabrina walked slowly on a sand. Sometimes the tongue of the wave, trimmed with foam, touched her foot. Small translucent crabs busily rushed around, and if Sabrina's shadow fell on them, they quickly buried themselves in the sand.

Sabrina wanted to find a rare shell or starfish on the shore. In the morning after a storm, could be found curious finds on the beach. But that morning nothing surprising happened. She walked more than a kilometer and have seen only two empty coconuts, a piece of wood wrapped in waves and several ordinary cowrie shells. The director of the underwater farm, Adrian, told us that last year he found a meter big shell on the shore. Now it lies near the entrance of the building. The sun rose already high, and it became hot. But swimming here was bad - shallow water. While you reach the deepest place, you will beat your feet on fragments of corals a hundred times, which have become overgrown with slippery algae. In the low tide, the wide band that stretches to the reefs seemed like a hide of a huge toad. Sabrina threw a last look at the sea and hurried to the white building, behind which began a deep bay, which is connected with the ocean channel, and goes directly to a coral bottom.

That is when Sabrina saw a bottle.

The bottle was entirely buried in to the sand. Only the neck, covered with sealing wax, protruded outwards, so at the first glance, it seemed to Sabrina to be the end of a stick. But the wave froze around it, and neck of the bottle shone. She squatted down and raked the wet heavy sand. The bottle was thick, paunchy and dark. While it was sailing on the sea, slippery shallow algae settled on it, covering the bottle like a sheath. She tore off a layer of seaweed from the side and picked up the bottle. She tried to look at it against the sun, to see if there was anything inside.

Inside, was lying something. It looked like a piece of paper. Sabrina tried to scrape off the sealing wax from the neck, but it was like a stone.

She got up and ran to the pier.

My Most Magical Moment

Andrea Ivett Orozco | RW44

Every story has a beginning, and this one starts with a name, and a particular homework. But, you need to know something about the protagonist of this story, and with this I refer to me. I am an English student and the truth is I never studied English before getting into the English program of the university of Florida. My first level in writing and reading; listening and speaking, was level 10; grammar was an exception.

Deborah Sakalla, is teacher in the English program of the university of Florida (ELI), she was my listening and speaking teacher during my first semester in the ELI, and believe me that was perfect because she always was enthusiastic in all classes, her spiritual energy was contagious and she made me feel confident with myself.

Continued on next page...

("My Most Magical Moment" continued)

Sometimes I could not understand what she said, but I knew that she would be able to find the best way to explain it to me. So one day, the listening and speaking homework was writing your own story, the title should be "My most magical moment", and with this homework she opens the door of my mind, my inspiration, and I was able to write this.

"My most magical moment: I think it is not fair to talk about a single magical moment in my life. Actually, I think I have had one thousand magical moments. The first when I was born, the second when I discovered that my town was not everything on the earth. Thinking hard, my most magical moment is when I open my eyes every day because I am alive, I have the opportunity to make of that day something wonderful. At night, I can look at the sky, or close my eyes and say "hello" to the people on other side; mi angels and give thanks to Good for giving me one more day of life."

The teacher Deborah gave me my first magical moment in the ELI, she made me lose the fear to speak English; after that I have had the pleasure to meet excellent ELI teachers who gave me the tools to write this, the teacher Carolina Diaz and Jennifer Schroeder with their sweetness and patience made me love the adventure to learn English, and how could I not talk about my last grammar teacher Tate Quiñones who with their funny facial expressions, beautiful eyes and celebrated phrase "I love mistakes", made me love my grammar English mistakes; now that she is an Arabic student in the Middle East I hope she will have many magical moments in her student life like me in the ELI.

This story does not have an ending yet and I hope to continue collecting magical moments as an ELI student.

Letter to the Editor

Almuthana Alharbi | GW

Burmese pythons has been suspected in the disruption of Southern Florida ecosystem. One evidence behind this was collected in a scientific paper under the title of 'Severe mammal declines coincide with proliferation of invasive Burmese pythons in Everglades National Park' that relied on surveys collected by rangers who worked in Everglades National Park in Florida in addition to a survey conducted by the publishers of that paper. The first surveys were collected from 1993 to 1999, the period when Burmese python had not been introduced to the area yet. The second survey used the same method performed by the rangers and was performed in two phases. The first phase was from 2003-2011 and from 2009-2011 which in both phases they covered different ranges. The technique that both performed in collecting the surveys are by counting the number of animals that cross streets or died trying to make it to the other side. However, this technique is a doubtful because the data collected is not sufficient to make the Burmese python a suspect

in the reduction of the counted animals in the surveys.

Animals have their own intelligence and awareness to danger. They can learn from lessons and know whether doing something benefits them or harm them. Also, they have their own way to convey these lessons to their own kinds either by understanding the situation or by producing genes that convey these lessons to next generations. This can also be applied to lessons taken from crossing streets. For instance, in Saudi Arabia there is a type of bird that build nests on top of buildings or above windows. This bird disrupts inhabitants and caused them to hunt a small number of these birds. As a result of this, these birds never build their nests again on the same building. The period between both surveys is enough even for animals to understand the danger of crossing the street. Also, one of the delicious meals that python love is birds. Birds are difficult to be found dead on streets because they

Continued on next page...

("Letter to the Editor" continued)

simply fly over them. Also, what this paper conveys to the reader is that Burmese python simply eats all the kinds of the species mentioned in the surveys taking away the other theory that those kinds might have flee to other regions.

In conclusion, it is thought that living organisms have been reduced due to the invasive Burmese python that was introduced to the wildlife of Florida. This concept has been supported by many scientific papers and articles which make this animal a criminal. The paper mentioned in this essay supported the same theory about this animal. But due to the lack of the strong evidence in that paper, Burmese python cannot be counted on reducing the animals that were calculated by the number of animals that cross the street. It is simply as the Burmese python could conform to the new environment, other animals can do the same and understand that crossing streets is dangerous.

A Message from the Editor

I hope you enjoy reading this edition. To all of the students who contributed your writing, thank you for sharing your amazing work with us! Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging gift certificates for the winners, to the ELI instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Tiffany Frison, Melina Jimenez, Elia Guldán, Patrick Klager and Raquel Rojas for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

Christine Voigt