

# Voices

Fall 2006



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## Director's Message

By Joy Tesh

On November 2, I attended the Women's Global Leadership Conference in Energy and Technology. The conference took place in the heart of downtown Houston, not far from our campus. I was there to seek future sponsorship and collaboration with leaders in the field of energy and technology and to represent the Language and Culture Center as a partner in the process of transferring technology to students through the understanding of language and culture.

The conference was very exciting. I listened to an amazing address made by the Angolan Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Josefina Pitra Diakite, and I thought about former and current LCC students from Angola and other African countries. I listened intently to Ms. Hiba Dialdin, a young petroleum engineer from Saudi Arabia, who spoke with eloquence and excitement about her very important work in her company, and I thought about the former and current students from Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries. I heard Ms. Sandra Lima de Oliveira, Downstream General Manager for Petrobras in Brazil, and I thought of students we have had from Brazil and from many other South American countries. I thought of students we have had from these and many other countries around the world, and I thought of you, the students who are with us now. I left the conference very encouraged about the possibilities for all of us in the future. We are alive together at a very interesting and exciting time.



On the NAFSA: Association of International Educators' website ([www.nafas.org](http://www.nafas.org)), you might read: "Since early civilization, students and scholars have traveled to other lands to join scholarly communities outside their own home countries." The site goes on to quote former presidents of the United States on the importance of receiving an international education. In 1977, former president Jimmy Carter wrote: "Only by knowing and understanding each other's experiences can we find common ground on which we can examine and resolve our differences.... As the world becomes more and more interdependent, such mutual understanding becomes increasingly vital."

Students who are willing to study outside their home countries give us hope. Thank you for choosing the Language and Culture Center and the University of Houston. Thank you for helping us work toward mutual understanding. We have spent a beautiful fall together at this university. There is much to recommend on our campus and in our city at this time of year. Do your homework and study for your tests, but don't forget to take the time to look around and realize that you are in an extraordinary place at an extraordinary time. This fall you are studying language and sharing culture with students from 38 different countries. You are learning far more than English, and you will always benefit from this experience. I wish you the best as you complete Fall 2006 at the Language and Culture Center, and I hope to see many of you again in January as we begin Spring 2007.

## **Stephane Doukanda Woto, Ricardo Andrés Castelo, Cristina Bolaños Vivero, and Habeeb Falih Mahir Receive LCC Scholarships**

Sandy Hartmann, Associate Director

The Language and Culture Center is pleased to announce that it now awards four scholarships each term instead of three per term, as had been done over the past years. The scholarships are awarded to returning students who best combine academic excellence and leadership with international awareness and cross-cultural understanding. Traditionally, a full scholarship honors Joyce Merrill Valdes, the founder and first director of the Language and Culture Center. Now, a second full scholarship honors Joseph O. Davidson, who served as director of the LCC for 22 years before retiring last February. These two scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, and medical insurance for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. In addition to the Valdes and Davidson scholarships, the LCC awards merit scholarships of \$1500 each for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. At the summer graduation ceremony on Thursday, August 10, 2006, the LCC awarded the Valdes scholarship to **Stephane Doukanda Woto**, the Davidson scholarship to **Ricardo Andrés Castelo**, and the two merit scholarships to **Cristina Bolaños Vivero**, and **Habeeb Falih Mahir**.



**Stephane Doukanda Woto** was awarded the Valdes scholarship. Stephane is from Gabon and his native language is French. He has been a student at the LCC for two terms. He began his studies in level three and skipped to level five. After he completes his study of English, he plans to major in computer engineering at the University of Houston. Stephane says that he was thrilled and satisfied to receive the scholarship. He adds, "Such an honor shows me that hard work is always rewarded."



**Ricardo Andrés Castelo** was awarded the Davidson scholarship. Ricardo, or “Andy” as he is called, hails from Argentina and his native language is Spanish. He is currently studying in level six and intends to study at a community college before pursuing a major in international business. Upon receiving the scholarship, Andy remarked, “It was one of the happiest moments in my whole life! I consider that this award is not only for me but also for all the Argentinians that dream and work hard for a better future.”

**Cristina Bolaños Vivero** was a recipient of a merit scholarship. Cristina is from Ecuador and her native language is Spanish. She is currently studying in level six and intends to pursue a master’s degree in accounting. When she was awarded the scholarship, Cristina said, “Hard work, effort, and the friendliness of the LCC were the keys to getting the LCC scholarship, which motivated me a lot. I know that we can get everything if we really want it and if we have goals for which we must work persistently.”



**Habeeb Falih Mahir** was also a recipient of a merit scholarship. Habeeb is from Iraq and his native language is Arabic. When he received the scholarship, he was in level four and subsequently skipped to level six. His intended major is computer systems engineering and he plans to begin a master’s degree in fall 2007 after completing three prerequisite courses this spring. Habeeb commented, “I think that the LCC scholarships are very important because they encourage the students to work hard in order to get one.”



We congratulate **Stephane Doukanda Woto, Ricardo Andrés Castelo, Cristina Bolaños Vivero, and Habeeb Falih Mahir** 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. These students tell us that they were totally surprised to receive the scholarships and now encourage their classmates to apply. We all look forward to learning who will be the next LCC scholarship recipients at the fall graduation ceremony, to be held on Thursday, December 14, 2006.



STUDENTS ENJOY  
BILLIARDS, TABLE  
TENNIS AND BOWLING



## Four Wonderful Semesters

Luis A. Quiroz García, 6B



AT THE LCC SPORTS  
TOURNAMENT



Four semesters have passed; there are a lot of stories to talk about and a lot of memories in our minds and our hearts. The LCC is like a full coffer of intercultural surprises which we have never thought about before. Actually, thanks a lot to all those people who let me show them something from my culture and who showed me something from theirs.

Some people just come to learn English, others to prepare themselves to get into an American university, and some other people, like me, come with an original plan, but it changes because it has been written so. But what all of us

have in common is that the LCC experience has been more than learning a new language. It has been a great opportunity to discover how wonderful other cultures are, and to meet extraordinary people who come from the entire world.

I could not leave the LCC without thanking all those teachers who day by day tried patiently to teach me; without their lessons, these lines that you read would just be impossible. I have finished level 6, so I may not see you again, at least not in a long time. I know that I will always have something new to learn about English, like

everything in life. With these lines I just want to say thank you for all your effort.

For sure I also have to say thanks a lot to God, family, and friends, but especially to all those very important new people in my life: my new brothers and sisters. I am totally thankful to God because he is part of the new chapter in my life's story. All of you are actually the instrument used by God for me to start writing it. Without you, this great experience that the LCC has been would never have been the same. Always, thank you very much.

## Advice for New Students



### **Thidarat Thatchayapong, 2A**

If you want to be successful in a new culture, you will need to know some things before you come, what to do to feel okay, and what to do when you feel alone or lost. Before you come, you should search for information about weather, clothes, food, culture, neighborhoods, and other matters because this new culture is different from your culture. You may have problems if you aren't prepared. You should get maps and bring favorite foods and pictures of family and friends. When you feel uncomfortable, you should make friends, cook your special foods for yourself, and do some things for fun. Whenever you feel alone, don't call home because that will make you feel worse. You should send emails to family or friends or make a party. You shouldn't stay alone in your room. Go out, and please come to see me. I can help you to have nice times.

### **Thu Huong Nguyen, 3B**

Hello! Are you a new student at the LCC? I'm also a new student at the University of Houston – LCC, but I have studied here for more than one month. I want to share some experiences with you if you are a new student. I know your English is rather poor, but you have to converse with somebody, listen to the radio, and watch TV. You can borrow English books from the library. Don't be timid. In class, if you don't understand the lesson or the teacher's explanation, you can ask the teacher or your friends. They will explain it to you. You can also use the computer and print documents to practice grammar, vocabulary, and reading. You can apply for a part-time job on campus, where you will have an opportunity to practice English with everybody and know the customs and culture of the United States. If you have good results, you can apply for

a scholarship for your next semester. Good luck, Newcomer!

### **Claudio Miguel, 3B**

As a student at the UH-LCC, I would give three pieces of advice to a new student at our school, according to my experience from being here. First of all, I would tell this person to live on campus if possible because there are a lot of advantages in living on campus. For example, you won't spend a lot of time going to school. After that, I would tell him or her to choose friends carefully because in my opinion part of our success depends on our friends. If we choose good friends, we will probably have good grades. The last advice is to tell this person to get an American girlfriend or boyfriend because it will surely help him or her to improve his or her English.

## **Abdulaziz Almaghlooth, 2B**

Here in America it is not easy to succeed, but you need to plan. First, do what you should do, work hard, and don't break rules for any reason. I will tell you what you need to know before you come. The good thing is people in America are very friendly and they have a mixed culture. The bad thing is about religion. They respect your religion, but they don't do what we do in our country. Next, you can do many things to feel comfortable. First, don't call your family or friends every day because if you do this, you will feel homesick. Try to make friends from America or another culture. This is hard but you should try. The most important thing you should do is plan for your time in another country. If you have a goal or job, this will give you power to feel comfortable.

## **Abdulaziz Alsukayrin, 2B**

To be successful in the United States you should know the law in the U.S.A. For example, in my country, if you get a ticket, you should go to the police station. In the U.S. you should go to a court. It is different from our country. You should speak only a little Arabic because if you don't talk English most of the time, you will have a big problem. For example, if you see Arabic friends and talk with them all day, you won't have communication in English. Finally, if you feel homesick, you should not be thinking about your family all the time, but you should go out to a movie, to the

mall, or anywhere. I hope you will do well.

## **Kung Hung-Yin, 2B**

We have to learn a little English before we come to the U.S. It is very important because we must let persons know what we mean. We will have a hard time if we don't understand a little English. For instance, if we need some services or support, but we don't know how to express ourselves, this will be a big problem.

You should make lots of friends after coming to the U.S. They could answer any questions if you didn't know what something was or what to do. You could also have fun with them even though you have poor English skills. In addition, you could go out to see how Americans live, such as their religion, buildings, and scenery. These things are different from your country. Some things are very interesting. For example, you could eat delicious food and sightsee beautiful places in the U.S.A. Then, you could also join an association of students in school. You are able to practice language with them. This could improve your speaking very much.

If you are alone or sad, you have to look for interesting things to solve these questions, such as exercise, going shopping, and going to the zoo. One day I went to the zoo and had a

picnic with friends. I felt so good all day because the atmosphere was pleasant with animals and scenery. You should not say home all day because it is boring. You should also connect with your parents so that you are not alone.

Remember. It is very important that you learn a little English before coming here. It can help you to learn about American culture more easily.



Artwork by  
Piet-The, 5

**Rami Nassar, 2B**

Dear friend, you know how much I love you, and you know how I will be happy if I see you here with me. But because of this, I should give you some advice to be successful in a new culture without any problems. First of all, you must know that you will miss your family, your friends, and your country. To avoid this, you should be a strong man who knows the reason for coming here, and you should work hard to make your dreams come true. My friend, at first you will be sad and lonely, and maybe you will think about how you can return back quickly to your family. Your dreams will be far from true. You must know that you're coming to a different culture, different country, and different people. You will feel surprised by the differences. I hope that you will bring yourself good and study hard. You must be friendly and love to make friends. Finally, I hope that you will be here with me, and be sure that I will help you. Try to be a strong man because life needs this.



**Phennapha (Pennie) Nakapakorn, 3B**

I am studying and living in the United States. I am a student at the LCC. I came here almost six months ago. One night when I was sleeping, I dreamed about my mom. In my dream I was just back from school. When I got home, my mom told me to go take a shower and come to have dinner. After I took a shower, I was still watching T.V. in my bedroom. My mom came to my room and complained to me. She said, "Everyone is waiting for you. Why are you still watching T.V.? Why do you make everybody wait for you?" In my dream I thought about why my mom always complained to me about everything every day. I went to the dinner table, and I saw everybody in my family waiting for me. When I looked at the table, I saw that my mom had cooked many foods that I like. She said, "Sit down." I looked at her face and then I woke up in my bedroom at my aunt's house in the U.S. Now my mom cannot complain to me anymore, but I don't understand why I am not happy. I miss her so much, and I need to hear her voice all the time even though it is complaining.

**Andrew Wu, 3B**

To most Chinese arriving to the USA, the first impression is the smile. Most Americans smile easily at people when they meet. People use smiles to make others

feel welcome. We smile to include new people in a group. We smile to show we are pleased.

A smile is a reward. Teachers put little "smiling face" stickers on young students' good papers. People put smiling faces in their letters to show friendly feelings. Smiling face posters are popular. If you own a store, or if you want to sell things to Americans, learn to smile easily. It's good for business.

But, what a surprise! Smiles are not the same in every culture. A smile can cause misunderstandings. People from some areas in China smile only at people they know. People from that area may think that a smiling person wants to become friends. They are confused when an American smiles but does not become friendlier.

Japanese people smile for the same reasons as Americans do. But they also smile when they are embarrassed. They may smile when they are in pain. Chinese may not understand this at all.

Smiling is also good for your health! You don't have to wait until you are happy to smile. Smile and you'll soon be happy. The muscles that make you smile also control glands in your cheeks. These glands produce a natural chemical that makes you feel good.

Enjoy smiling. Enjoy other people's smiles. But remember that an American smile may not mean the same thing it means in your culture.

**Artwork by Loriana Alvarez, 6A**

# Culture Bumps



## Andres Paez, 5B

In the beginning, I thought the definition of a “culture bump” was a sort of bad experience when you meet a person of some other culture and their habits, customs, or even appearance makes you uncomfortable, disturbs you, or in some cases, annoys you. People then get a bad impression not just of the person him or herself, but of the whole culture as well. However, now I know that a culture bump is a difference that a person may notice between his or her way to do things and another person’s way to do the same things, which can cause any type of reaction (good or bad). I’m going to tell you about my personal experience having a culture bump, how I reacted and dealt with it, and why.

I remember that one of my culture bumps came to me when I saw the girls from Saudi Arabia wearing scarves around their heads. Although I had seen on television Middle Eastern people wearing such clothing, I had never had the opportunity in my country to meet or see face to face people wearing that kind of clothes. Therefore, it caught my attention and my first reaction was one of curiosity. I remember asking my-

self, “Why do they dress like that? Does it have a special meaning? What does it represent?” Later, when I knew everyone better, I asked a Saudi girl my questions, and she told me that they just do that because it is part of their religion. Even though that was not the answer I was expecting, it made me realize that many people of all cultures and religions do some things not knowing exactly what the roots of it are. I’m not saying that some customs do not have a good reason to be, just that many people do them simply because they are used to doing so. Furthermore, this thought made me think that in that particular way, despite our culture or our religion, we all tend to acknowledge habits or customs without knowing why.

From my experience I have concluded that the reason I reacted the way I did is because of the way my parents raised me. My parents always told me that before I made any conclusion about someone, I had to know his or her point of view first and then make my opinion.

## Puthik Tep, 5B

All countries around the world have their own ways. They have

distinct languages, traditions and cultures. The most important thing, though, is social rules. This is what people need to know in order to perform well in public places. Lacking this will lead to social isolation. I will explain by giving you an example of a culture bump I experienced.

It happened two years ago, when I was twenty years old. One day, I went to a small market in a gasoline station. I wanted to buy an ice cream, but there were maybe five people in line waiting to pay. Actually, in my country we don’t have the saying, “First come, first served.” Therefore, after I got my ice cream I went to the front of the line to pay for my ice cream. At that time, I didn’t care about the others who had been in the line for a long time. They all looked at me, but I still didn’t know what was wrong. My father came in and asked whether we were ready to go. I said, “Yes.” I asked my father why everyone was still looking at me. He estimated that I must have done something wrong, so he asked how I paid for the ice cream so quickly with lots of people in line. I told him it was easy because I sent to the front row since I saw space where I could go. He was very astonished and said,



“My daughter, how could you do this? You are twenty years old, but you don’t know that people in developed countries take turns to do things?” After my dad explained this to me, I knew what was wrong. I felt so embarrassed. You see, sometimes going to school doesn’t necessarily mean that you can be a socialized person. We need to enlarge our knowledge to understand more about culture bumps and how to deal with them. The people in line must have thought that I was an uneducated person. In contrast, I thought they were strange for looking at me with a disgusted attitude.

Overall, social behavior is very important for us to understand. It helps us become sociable people. In my situation, I needed to know that you have to wait in line and not rush to the front. Otherwise, it is embarrassing! We can learn a lot from our culture bumps. Be careful and learn how to behave among other people from different countries.

### **Chang Woo (Chris) Kim, 5A**

There are many different types of cultures in the world. Thus, people from different cultures misunderstand each other. Since I started studying in America, I have faced many culture bumps. I haven’t really had troubles with culture bumps yet. Some people have had a lot. The culture bump which was the most difficult to understand happened the very first month of my American life. One friend of mine is from

Panama, and she is very friendly and a nice person. The day was my birthday, and everyone said “Happy Birthday”. Suddenly, she came to hug me and I was really surprised. I just pushed her and she fell down. I said that I was sorry, yet she was still shocked. I told her that hugging between different sexes was very unusual in my country unless they were very close friends. That was the biggest culture bump I ever had.

### **Angie Liu, 2B**

Hi. My name is Angie. I am from Taiwan and I have been in Houston for one month. When I moved to my apartment on campus, I met three roommates. They’re from Texas. One day, after dinner, I gave them my little gift that I brought from my country, and they were very happy. Suddenly, they gave me a big hug. They said this is an American hug. It surprised me, and I felt embarrassed. It’s very different from my country. We never say “love” or “like”

to our family and friends. Now, I feel sweet and warm when I am in the American hug.

### **Ousseni Boussim, 2B**

Since I came to the United States, I felt the difference between my culture and Americans’ culture. First, when I went to apply for my driver’s license, I realized that the people are patient and polite because men and women respect the lines. I didn’t feel the difference between the poor men and the rich men. It is not the same in my country, Burkina Faso. Also, I had a good reaction. In my country, people don’t respect directives, especially the rich people. There is a difference. Now, I have behavior like American people. I will respect all directives in the services and offices.



*Cultural Practices  
Around the World*



**Lu Lu Sun, 5B**

In my country, China, there are many examples of social situations in which English speakers may not know how to behave. For example, when you go to a dinner and the host invites you to drink wine, you must toast each other. Also, you have to put your glass lower than the host's glass. It shows respect. Secondly, if you go to a dinner where there are elderly people or higher-level persons, you have to wait for them to start to eat before you can eat. If you have elderly there, you are not supposed to talk about death or illness. Anyway, we need to respect every culture when we go to different countries.

**Urmat Usenov, 5A**

It's very hard to understand the traditions of different cultures and nations and to conform to them. I want to give you an example of what can occur in my country if tourists don't know how to behave in certain situations. If they have guests, Kyrgyz people will offer them tea with milk to drink, sweets to eat, and sometimes tra-

ditional dishes to taste. First, guests should refuse the offer, but on the second or third offer, say yes. Secondly, they must eat something because it will be most impolite behavior toward hosts if tourists don't eat anything. It's very important for guests to behave well and show respect to hosts because the Kyrgyz make their decisions about a person the first time, and it's very hard to change their opinion about a new person. Finally, everybody should respect traditions and customs of all nations to avoid misunderstanding.

**Xinran (Kevin) Wang, 5B**

On the mainland, most Chinese call foreigners "loowai". In one way, it's just a reference point, like "look at that loowai." Literally, it means "old outsider". All foreigners hate this term, mostly because they are called it so much. They can never just be a person. They always have to be a foreigner.

I have a Canadian friend who was born in Beijing. He went to Chinese school, exactly the same as any other Beijinger. He is always called "loowai". I asked him if it

irritates him. He said "of course. I am as Chinese as anyone else in this country. But I am always looked on as an outsider."

We call foreigners "loowai" as a tradition. It just means you are foreign friends. Chinese people are the friendliest people in the world. We may make some mistakes in language, but we respect everyone from foreign countries.

**Cheick M.S. Junior Djire, 2B**

In Mali, it's acceptable to date a person from a different culture, but sometimes you cannot see a lot of different people in my country. Mali is based on freedom of choice like America. However, it depends because some people in Mali can disagree. The principal idea in Mali is "people are people." Are people who are opposed to this idea selfish or are they racist? I think everyone has his own point of view. My idea is that mixture in the world will lead to a world without war and with equality.

**Omar Alshammeri, 2B**

Nowadays dating is very usual and known all around the world. In some countries dating is more

accepted than in other countries. For example, people in America date more openly than in Japan. However, in Saudi Arabia the idea of dating is not accepted by people for different reasons.

Saudi Arabia is ruled by three main rules. The first is "Islam rules." In Islam dating is prohibited unless a person is ready to marry. So he or she cannot date in order to keep themselves away from doing what is considered sin in Islam.

The second reason is culture and traditions. Saudi Arabia is full of traditions and culture. People in Saudi Arabia always follow traditions which prohibit the idea of dating, because the girl cannot go on a date with a guy until they are sure that they will get married, to keep the generation safe from getting lost. These ideas were before Islam, and when Islam came, it supported the same ideas.

The third reason is the government. The government of Saudi Arabia supports the rule of Islam and traditions. We have made laws for people who do not follow the rules of Islam. For example, if they catch a person dating someone, then they will face the law.

Finally, most people in Saudi Arabia see the dating situation as a serious problem. As a result of that, there is no such thing called "dating." However, there are people who date, but they are under risk.

## Djeneba Sorgho, 2B

In Burkina Faso, it is acceptable to date a person from a different culture. However, it depends on different families. Most families accept it because they like integration. They don't make a distinction between religions, countries, or race. However, some families don't accept it. The main reasons are different religions, countries, or color of skin. There are also the differences of financial background of the girl's family or the boy's family. They think that a poor boy or girl cannot date with a rich one.

## Eiichi Segawa, 2B

One of our celebrations is Respect for the Aged Day. This day is to respect and admire the elderly and wish them a long, happy life. That went into effect in 1996. Respect for the Aged Day is for

elderly men and women. This day is most people's holiday. Some people take a family trip. Most families go to the spa because it is good for the body to take a relaxation. For elderly people it is gentle, too. However, today this holiday has lost meaning in Japan because a Japanese family is separated from the grandparents. This society needs to become a close family.



## Cultural Practices

### Myunghwa (May) Kang, 4A (Korea)

#### 1. Making a promise.

When I promise to meet friends in front of the theater at 9:30, I arrive there at 9:20.

Koreans arrive at the appointed place before the appointed time (about 10 minutes).

#### 2. Having a meal

When my family has dinner together, we eat the food after the oldest person starts eating.

In this case, when there was an extended family system a long time ago, most families did like this. These days, most families don't keep that way.

#### 3. Meeting people.

When I meet an older person that I know on my way home in the street, I bow as an expression of "hello" and say "hello" as well. And we ask each other these questions: "Where are you going now?" and "Did you have a meal?"

Koreans think of these expressions as care or concern, not officious interference.

#### 4. In the case of calling an older person.

When I address the teacher in Korea, I can't call him by his name, like "Mr. Jones." I should call him "Teacher." That is, when I want to address the older person, I should call him by his title even if he is just one year older than I am. For example, I should call him "Brother" as a title although he doesn't have a blood relation with me.

Koreans think of using the name of the older person as a sign of an impolite and uneducated person.

#### 5. Eating with people other than the family.

- When I as a student go to a restaurant with an older person or friends that earn money, they make all the payment, not I, after finishing the meal because they earn money and I don't.

Most Koreans don't go Dutch and don't like that.

- When I want to eat a snack in class, if there's a friend next to me, I always ask, "Let's eat this together" or "Do you want to eat this together?"

Koreans think of sharing something with someone and treating someone as a virtue and a matter of course, not a burden.

### Elvia Rojas, 4A (Colombia)

One admirable thing within the Hispanic culture is how time is spent with family and the joy that it brings. The term "family" is a very profound term, used not only for parents and children, but also for their extended family. Some Hispanic cultures have a moral need to help members of the family experiencing financial problems, illnesses, and unemployment. They take on that responsibility without it being any burden.

### Hassan Al Shaer, 4A(Saudi Arabia)

Our country, Saudi Arabia, is well known for its hospitality. One example is that when we invite someone from a place that is far away, we let him stay with us for three days. During those three days, we serve him and bring food to him, and we don't let him to do anything such as help himself. Even if he wants to drink water, we bring the water to him. In addition, when we invite someone or give someone money, we don't expect him to return what we do for him.

### Faisal Alzahrani, 4A (Saudi Arabia)

In the Saudi Arabian culture, guests are very important. When someone visits us in our homes, we always offer to our guest the best we have. This is a millenarian custom that has been practiced since the time in which the tribes started to immigrate to the

desert until these days, and it has survived because it is also part of our religion, Islam.

There are a lot of stories that relate how our ancestors treated their guests. One of the most popular religious stories is the one which narrates that an unexpected visitor came to the Prophet Muhammad's home at dinnertime. The food was just enough for the Prophet's children. The Prophet Muhammad said to his wife to take the children to sleep so they might forget about eating and the food could be given to the guest. Another time that a person came by surprise to the Prophet Muhammad's home and the food was not enough, the Prophet decided to blow out the candles. In the darkness the guest could not see that the Prophet and his wife were not eating so that the guest could be satisfied with the food. Those stories show how important it has been since the beginning of the Saudi society to be an excellent host. These days it has not changed despite the different evolutions that all the society has passed through. When someone comes to our home to visit us, especially a foreigner, we give to him the best we have, and we do whatever makes that person feel comfortable during his stay in our home. We do all this with the unique purpose of making our guest feel that our home is his home



### **The Time I Enjoyed the Most Musaad Al-Subhi, 3B**

There are many kinds of tasty food, but my favorite is Brazilian food. In the middle of October last year, I went with my brothers to a Brazilian restaurant in Milan, Italy late at night, and it was extremely cold and rainy. The restaurant was located in a dark alley. However, once we entered, there was nice, soft Brazilian music played by a Brazilian band, and the lights were very colorful. In the middle of the restaurant there was a beautiful garden. Once we were inside and seated, we felt the warmth of the place. There was great excitement felt by everyone. After a while, the waiter brought us some very delicious Brazilian juice. After a few minutes, the waiters started bringing all kinds of meat, such as beef rib eye, chicken, lamb, and duck. After we had a big meat dinner, they brought us a very tasty grilled pineapple. I would like to say that time was one of the nicest I had with my brothers in Italy.

### **Szu-Ching (Ginger) Wang, 4A (Taiwan)**

In my country, it is really important to respect seniors. We cannot call old people by their names. We have to call them by appellations to show respect. We cannot say "you" to elderly people. We have to honor them with their titles. When we have meals with elderly people, we have to let them be seated first. If elderly people have not started to eat, we cannot start first. We respect not only elderly people, but also older family members. We always treat our older family members with respect. We always let the older ones be first and make the younger ones be last.



Voices ~ Fall 2006



Students and teachers enjoy dancing and sharing dishes from around the world at the LCC Culture Festival.



## PROVERBS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



### **Clara Dallos, 6A**

In Colombia we use the following expression: "Weeds never die." When someone says that one is feeling a little sick or one has a mild food poisoning, the other person answers, "Weeds never die," trying to say, "It is not that important, or you are not going to die for that." It expresses sarcasm.

### **Mari Skavhaug, 6B**

In Norway we have the saying "During an emergency a naked woman will learn how to weave." This means that if you don't have the equipment or are in lack of something to solve the problem, you will find a solution (often creative) to the problem.

### **Seyma Ozdemir, 6B**

"What goes around, comes around." We use this proverb in Turkey to mean that a person who laughs at other people's misfortunes may one day meet (suffer) the same fate. We can also translate it as: "Don't laugh at your neighbor; you may also get into hot water" or "He who makes fun of his neighbor will be



made fun of." It basically, warns us not to laugh at others' misery.

### **Rena Suzuki, 6B**

In Japan, we say, "Sit on a rock for three years." Its direct meaning is that even a cold rock will become warm if you sit on it for three years. The true meaning of this proverb is that even though it's hard and painful, if you continue working on what you are doing, you'll be successful. For example, writing papers is hard (and maybe painful) for students, but there will be success and achievement if the students continue working.

### **Chingiz Makashev, 6B**

In Kazakhstan people usually speak two languages! They are Kazakh and Russian. So we have a lot of similar proverbs. One of

them says, "Wait until cancer whistles on the mountain." It means that you can wait for something that will never happen! We use it when we want to tell somebody that the moment they are waiting for will never happen!

### **Loriana Alvarez, 6A**

There is a very famous proverb in Venezuela that says: "There is nothing hidden between Heaven and Earth." We usually use it when we comment about someone's bad behavior or if we are trying to console or show some support to someone that has experienced something cruel done by another person. For example, if you are telling a friend that your boyfriend or girlfriend has cheated on you, your friend would probably say, "There is nothing hidden between Heaven and Earth." That means that no matter how hard the cheater tried to hide the truth, sooner or later the truth will come out.

### **EimanNasser, 6A**

"The carpenter's door is broken" is an Arabic proverb used when we talk about a person who helps



others to make anything in their life better when he cannot do the same to himself. For example, one takes care of his friends' problem and solves it for them while he is suffering his own problems and cannot help himself.

**James Park, 6A**

In Korea, there is a proverb saying, "Come empty, return empty." This is deeply influenced by Buddhism. It means that people start their life with nothing, so they die with nothing. It teaches us to discard all the greed for material things like money because those things will be nothing to us when we are buried under the ground. Since the proverb is affected by Buddhist principles, I don't think there is anything similar here in America.

**Samira Alsomali, 6B**

"How tight life can be without the space of hope." I think it is self-explanatory now that I have translated it into English. This Arabic proverb is from a classical poem, but it is widely used in all Arabic countries.

**Nancy Le, 6B**

"Young bamboo trees are easy to bend." The bamboo tree is symbolic of Vietnamese strength and resistance. It's hard and solid especially when it's old. The connotation here is that young people should be trained when they are growing up. This is because when they are mature, the older they are, the harder it is to teach them, or we can say, the harder it is for them to learn anything. Is it right?

**Shasha Zhang, 6B**

"Failure is the mother of success." I think everybody knows this proverb. When I was a kid in China, my teachers and my parents often said it to me. This means you shouldn't be afraid of failure; if you can make more effort, you will succeed some day.

**Ibrahim Alsagor, 6A**

We have thousands of proverbs in Arabic language. One of the most frequently used proverbs is "If

speaking is silver, silence is gold." This proverb is used when someone talks too much and to encourage people to be quiet.

Level five  
students  
visited the  
Renaissance  
Festival.



**ARGENTINA: THE BEST PLACE FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION**  
**Andrés Castelo, 6A**

Argentina is not only a big but also a beautiful country located in the south of Latin America. It has a population of 38 million people, most of them concentrated around the capital city, Buenos Aires. The country can be divided in five regions: North, Mesopotamia, Cuyo, Center and Patagonia. All these areas have amazing landscapes and buildings. Really, if you visit this country, you will discover that it has some of the most beautiful sights you will ever see.

Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, is old and modern at the same time. If you love historic buildings and antiques, San Telmo is going to fascinate you. It is an old neighborhood with plenty of gorgeous constructions such as San Pedro Telmo Church, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, or Manzana de las Luces, a block with amazing buildings that was the cultural center of the city. Then you have La Boca. There you



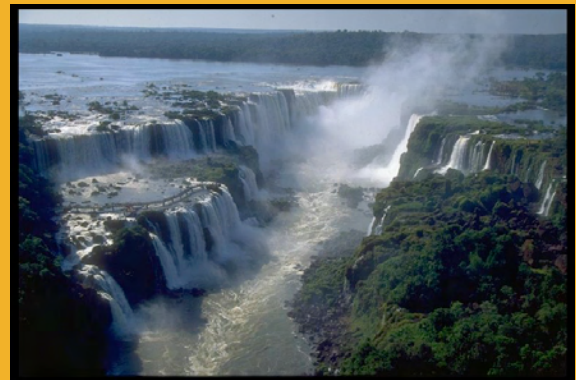
can see colorful houses and admire the hottest dance, the Tango. And if you like art, Recoleta Cemetery is like a small city built by the most popular European artists of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Finally if you want a modern cosmopolitan area, you have Palermo Hollywood, with exclusive restaurants and fashion design shops.

The North is a land of deserts and valleys with little towns lost in the middle of nowhere. The variety of colors of the landscapes is something great. A good



example is Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley); it is like a huge desert on the Moon. Besides this, Tren de las Nubes (Train of Clouds) is a train that shows you excellent views of the mountains at an altitude of more than 4,200 meters.

Mesopotamia is a region full of rivers, wild flora and fauna. The most amazing landscape is probably Cata-



ratas del Iguazú (Iguazú Falls). It is a huge jungle with butterflies, birds and exotic animals. The best experience is to travel by boat near the falls. You can feel the fresh water, and really, words cannot describe this. Finally, you have San Ignacio Ruins, a group of old buildings used years ago by the Jesuits to teach religion and arts to the natives.

Cuyo is an area with mountains and excellent wines. The most attractive city is Mendoza. There you can climb beautiful and high mountains, part of the Andes, and feel nature very close to you. Besides this, the city has a lot of wine cellars with the best wines in



the world.

The Center is the land of the “gauchos” (Argentinian cowboys), the “pampas” (long extensions of land with grass only), religion and

culture. You have a lot of cows and horses, some living in “estancias” (big country houses with big portions of land). The most important city is Córdoba, which used to be the cultural and religious center of Argentina. Its historic downtown was built by the Jesuits 300 years ago. Around Córdoba are small towns that feel like Germany. A good example of these is Cumbrecita, with its amazing views. Finally, you have Luján and its Basilica. This building, an example of Neo-gothic style, has the most important image of an Argentinian Catholic saint, la Virgen de Luján, visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

Patagonia is the coldest area, with amazing lakes, mountains and winter centers. Bariloche, a famous snow center, is located near a lake with old trees and unforgettable landscapes. Besides this, you have towns founded by Welsh settlers, such as my hometown Trelew; these have great teahouses and reserves for penguins and whales. Another interesting point is Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, with an incredible lighthouse. Finally, you have Glaciar Perito Moreno, a place with amazing glaciers and icebergs. Listening when part of a glacier is falling is a unique experience!



Because of all these aspects, you can now realize that Argentina has everything. You even have all the climates as well. Do you need anything else? So, why don't you choose Argentina for your next vacation?!!!

### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT COLOMBIA? Alejandro Muñoz Guerra, 3B**

Colombia is my country. It's the only one that has two seas: the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. In agriculture, Colombia has coffee and bananas, which are exported to many countries around the world. In Colombia the main language is Spanish.

Politically, Colombia is a republic. It has a national anthem and a national symbol. Its national anthem was the first one in the world and was written by Rafael Nuñez. At present, the national anthem is played every day at 6:00 pm on all the radio stations and national television; that is a government law.

Colombia has produced important people like Gabriel García Marquez (writer), Rafael Escalona (composer), Shakira, Juanes and Carlos Vives (singers), and Manuel Elkin Patarrollo (scientist who discovered the cure for Malaria).

Now you can say you know more about Colombia!!!

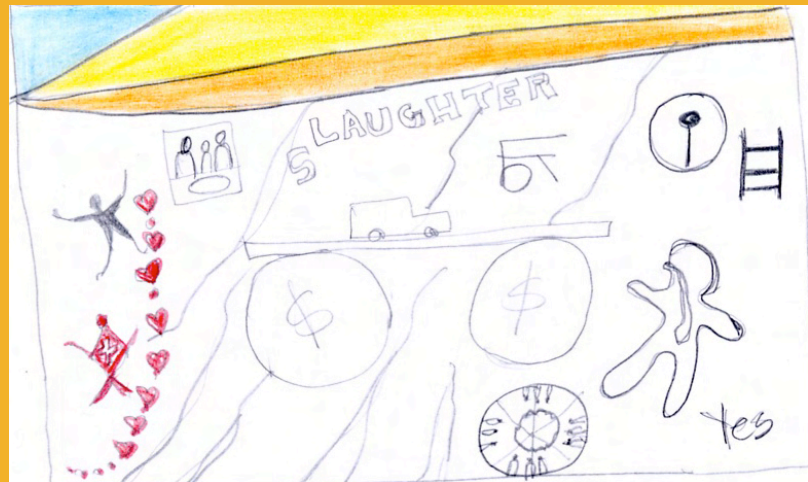
## Student Experiences at the LCC

### Comments on *A Fiction of Authenticity*

Students in 4A and 4B visited the Blaffer Gallery on the University of Houston campus and saw an exhibit of works by African artists living abroad. Yelka Ruiz created a montage of images from the exhibit. Raina Shin expresses her overall impression.

#### Yun Kyoung (Raina) Shin, 4B

I did not find the African art that I expected in the gallery. Before I went to the gallery, I had imagined the African art that I usually see and have studied, such as wood sculptures, brightly colored drawings on canvas, and geometric shapes. But this exhibition was not about the original art of Africa. This exhibition wanted to tell us about African life, culture, and relationships in another country. I think the purpose of the exhibition was to show that despite different cultures, lives, and views, we can communicate with each other if we avoid being narrow-minded.



#### Response to *October Sky* Meng-Tian (Mandy) Wu, 4B

There are many different themes in the movie *October Sky*, such as love/hate relationships, understanding others, and self-discovery. The theme of love/hate relationships is strong between Homer and his father. In the film, we see that Homer loves his father, but it is his father's attitude toward him that questions their relationship. The second theme, understanding others, is strongly displayed between Homer and his father. Homer's father wishes his son to be like him, a tough coal-miner. However, he doesn't understand that Homer has other plans, bigger than coal mining itself. The third theme is self-discovery. Throughout the film, we see Homer debating with himself, deciding whether to work the mines, or to continue building his rockets. Inevitably, Homer will eventually have to make a choice, a choice that could possibly alter his life in its entirety. *October Sky* is a great film that reveals how dreams can be accomplished with perseverance. It also can inspire children to work hard to fulfill their dreams.

Anyone who wants to give up on their dreams should watch this movie. I certainly will not give up on my dreams. I have my whole life ahead of me, and I am going to make my dreams come true.

5A and 5B students share their cultures with fifth graders.



**Lindsay Yang, 5A**

My class had a presentation for elementary students at the University of Houston Charter School on Tuesday. My classmates prepared to present their cultures. Before I went to the school where we were going to make our presentations, I wondered what elementary schools in the U.S. looked like. When I walked into the school, I got a culture bump because the school was totally different from a school in Korea.

There were two teachers and twenty-two students in one classroom. Six students were using one table. In Korea, there were fifty students in a class about ten years ago. Today, however, there are thirty-five students in a class. Students in Korea sit in a row. Each student has a partner, and everyone faces the teacher, who always teaches in front of a blackboard.

Here, unlike elementary school in Korea, I could see some pets in the classroom. The students have several pets in their class: gerbils, turtles, frogs, tadpoles, and fish. Bringing pets to school is considered really rude in Korea. It is really unusual.

When I went into the classroom, it was really noisy. The teacher didn't discipline students, and students were doing whatever they wanted to do. For example, one of the students was measuring the volume of a box because she learned it that day. Another student was testing with a test tube. They did activities freely. In contrast, Korean elementary school students just listen to lectures and concentrate on what their teacher is teaching. If they make a noise, sleep, or do other things during a class, the teacher punishes them. It is very restrictive in elementary school in Korea.

There are more differences between elementary school in the U.S. and in Korea: subjects, computers, and construction of the class. It was a good experience for me to get to know about an elementary school in the U.S. and suffer a culture bump.



## Playing Soccer for the LCC Hussain Alyami, 5B

It is hard to play in a tournament and you don't know who your teammates are. This is what happened to me. My name is Hussain Alyami, and I played soccer for the LCC Eagles this semester. The LCC had two teams, the Eagles and the Falcons. When I signed up, I didn't know who my teammates were. My brother, Ali Alyami, was the goalkeeper. The other players were Kei, Hulays Alyami, Bryant, Cameron, Nick, and Baker. We played our first game, which was also the first game in the tournament, and I'm sorry to say that we beat the other team with the heaviest score in the whole tournament, which was fifteen to zero. We kept beating all the teams that we faced until we played against our friends, the LCC Falcons. We started hard because we bet my oldest brother that we were going to beat them, and unfortunately he accepted the bet. As soon as we started the game, they suddenly scored the first goal, and I then recognized that we were playing against one of the best teams in the tournament. Therefore, I played so hard. A couple of minutes later, I scored the first goal for our team. Then the game became harder and tougher for both teams, but as usual we beat them and we won both the game and the bet. Finally, we were in the crucial game because it was the final. We were tired since we had played the last game the day before the final. Moreover, the team we were playing against has been playing together as a team for almost four or five years. We scored the first goal and thought that we were winning that game, but then, unexpectedly, the score changed in their favor. They were winning with a very big lead in the score; however, we didn't get depressed that day, and we kept playing as soldiers in a war, but that wasn't enough. To make a long story short, the other team won the game and the tournament. Nowadays, I'm feeling proud of myself because I scored

seven or eight goals with a defense position, and I'm thinking about winning the next competition with my teammates and some other friends.



## 3A's Halloween Celebration at Dr. Carol Archer's House

### Vanessa Ishikawa, 3A

This Halloween was very special; my classmates and I went to Dr. Carol's house to do something different. In my country, we have Halloween's Day too, but it isn't like here; we just take the candies at some houses, and in some places there are parties, but I've never gone there. So, for me, this day was very nice, and I enjoyed very much doing some special things to celebrate this funny day. Besides, we took a lot of pictures to record this day; we looked photo-crazy. It was a good class because we could see a different celebration in American culture and we had a lot of fun with people from each country.

### Seyni Timbo, 3A

In Dr Carol's class on Halloween day, I enjoyed several things. First of all, I enjoyed meeting my classmates and teachers in Dr Carol's house. This day was very exciting because it was my first time to meet my classmates in somebody's house. Secondly, I enjoyed eating different food from different countries. Finally, I enjoyed working together to decorate the pumpkins. It was very interesting. In conclusion, I appreciated Dr Carol's because it was pretty good. I hope we have a second party before the end of the semester.

### Seung-Woo (Maverick) Lee, 3A

Before I started this semester, I imagined how the class was going to be. I just thought I should study English such as grammar, read-

ing, writing, and speaking. Actually, my imaginations were different from real situations. I have met two teachers and one of the teachers is Dr. Carol. She always makes an effort not only to teach English to us, but also to make us understand American culture.

One example is that we went to Dr.Carol's house because she wanted to teach about Halloween. That is my first experience to visit a house in the United States. Her house was so far from the University of Houston. It took us 15minutes to go her house. I looked at a normal house in the American movie, but this house is a real house. When I went into her house, it was great. The house has a big yard and garden. And her house seemed comfortable.

Each person prepared traditional food and brought it to her house. After we enjoyed our food, we started to make Jack-O- lanterns. A Jack-O-Lantern is a kind of tradition for protecting ourselves from ghosts. I had seen Jack-O-Lanterns every year on TV when

Americans enjoyed Halloween, but I had never made one myself. It was a good experience. We took pictures with classmates and sang the song "Too ra loo ra loo ra" to Jeanne. That song is an Irish song. And Dr.Carol showed us some toys. When I saw the jacks which Dr.Carol played with, I felt that most toys in the world are the same. The shape is a little different, but how we play is the same. I felt that, sometimes, the culture is too different to understand, but some parts of the culture are the same as my culture. After visiting Dr.Carol's house, I have been able to understand more and more about the culture of Americans and how they live in their houses.

Some cultures are too hard to understand, but we do not ignore other cultures when we cannot understand them. When we cannot understand their cultures, we will make an effort to understand them; after that, we will be able to understand their cultures.



Favorite  
Recipes from  
Level 1 Students

**Iyad's Makloba (Palestine)**

**Ingredients:**

1-2 potatoes  
1 cucumber  
1-2 carrots  
4 tomatoes  
scallions  
oil  
rice  
chicken  
salt  
water

**Preparation:**

Cut up the chicken. Slice the potatoes and carrots. Chop the cucumbers and tomatoes. Put the potatoes in the hot oil. Put the chicken in a pot of water. Boil the chicken. Add the vegetables. Add the rice. Simmer for 30 minutes.

**Bernadette's Nadgi Sauce (Mali)**

**Ingredients:**

five onions  
2 lbs. of meat  
oil  
tomatoes  
¼ cup of canned tomatoes  
2 potatoes  
salt  
1 whole garlic  
3 carrots  
1 eggplant  
½ cup of rice  
1 and 1/2 cups of water

**Preparation:**

Chop or grate the onions. Cut up the meat. Peel and slice the carrots. Peel the potatoes. Cut the potatoes and eggplants in half. Peel the tomatoes and puree. Grate the garlic. Put the oil in the pot. Add meat, pu-

ree of tomatoes, and onion. Fry. Add the water and vegetables. Simmer for 2 hours. Cook rice in boiling water. Simmer for 1 hour. Serve the Nadgi sauce with the white rice.

**Nhu's Fried Eggs (Vietnam)**

**Ingredients:**

6 eggs  
¼ cup of fish sauce  
¼ cup of oil  
1 tsp. of scallions  
a little corn starch

**Preparation:**

Break the eggs. Add ¼ cup of fish sauce. Add ¼ cup of oil. Slice the scallions. Add the scallions to the eggs. Add a little corn starch. Beat well. Heat a little oil in the pan. Pour the eggs into the pan. Cook until done.

**Karelys' Vegetables and Chicken (Venezuela)**

**Ingredients:**

½ onion  
½ red pepper  
8 mushrooms  
1 carrot  
1 can of corn  
2 zucchinis  
1 TBS. of butter  
1 TBS. of olive oil  
¼ cup of soy sauce  
chicken

**Preparation:**

Peel and slice the carrot and zucchinis. Slice onion, red pepper, and the mushrooms. Cut up the chicken. Grease the pan with the oil and butter. First, sauté the onion, the red pepper, and the chicken. Add the carrot, the mushrooms, the zucchinis, and the corn. Mix the ingredients. Pour in the soy sauce. Cook for ten minutes until done. Serve on a plate.

**Ali's Fried Fish (Saudi Arabia)**

**Ingredients:**

salt and pepper  
fish (salmon steak)  
chili peppers oil

flour or breadcrumbs  
4 eggs

**Preparation:**

Break 4 eggs and pour eggs in the pan. Beat the eggs. Chop the chili pepper. Add to eggs. Put salt and pepper on the fish. Add fish to the pan. Add flour or breadcrumbs. Mix the fish with the flour. Put oil in a frying pan. Add fish and fry for 10 minutes.

**Tetsuji's Omelet Rice (Japan)**

**Ingredients:**

two eggs  
½ onion  
mushrooms  
bacon  
salt and pepper  
oil  
green peppers  
ketchup  
cooked rice

**Preparation:**

Chop the onions. Slice the mushrooms, green peppers, and bacon. Heat the pan. Grease the pan. Stir fry the onions, mushrooms, green peppers, and bacon. Add the cooked rice, ketchup, and salt and pepper. Put oil in another pan. Break 2 eggs and beat well. Pour eggs into the pan and make an omelet. Put the rice and vegetable mixture in the center and serve.

**Mambi's Rice and Meat (Mali)**

**Ingredients:**

onion  
carrots  
stalks of celery  
meat  
1 tsp. of salt  
4 cups of water  
oil  
cooked rice

**Preparation**

Cut up the meat. Peel and slice the carrots. Chop the onion and celery. Boil the meat in the water. Add the vegetables and salt. Simmer for 1 hour. Serve





### IMMIGRATION UPDATE

If you are traveling outside of the U.S. over the Christmas break, you should talk to Dave Burns, the LCC student counselor, before you go in order to make sure your I-20 and visa are correct and valid. Remember that to re-enter the U.S., you must have an I-20 for the school you will attend and an unexpired visa. Your I-20 can be either your current I-20 signed on the last page (page 3) by the student advisor or a new I-20.

When students re-enter the U.S. for the spring semester after having gone home for the Christmas break, they should be prepared for questions and an inspection by DHS (the Department of Homeland Security). In addition to their passports, visas, and I-20's, students should have with them copies of their school records such as

their grade reports and proof of their financial resources and sponsorship. Usually the DHS inspector will not ask for these additional documents, but students should have them available in case they are asked for these documents.

Many U.S. embassies and consulates are taking a long time to process visas. Students whose visas have expired may face time delays when trying to renew their visas over the Christmas break. You can check the website of the U.S. embassy in your country to get the latest visa processing information. You may want to change your travel plans if your visa has expired and the U.S. embassy in your country will need too much time to process your visa renewal.

If you have any questions, check with the LCC student counselor now to avoid problems later.

### F-1 STUDENT STATUS

Students need to be very careful and obey the immigration laws. Under the current laws and rules, students who go out-of-status (don't obey the rules) may find that they will be unable to get their status back while in the U.S. This means they may have to return to their country and in some cases get a new visa to return to the U.S. to study. There is a possibility that a new visa will not be granted because of the reason the student got out of status.

Remember the basic immigration rules you must follow. For F-1 students, among the most important rules are: 1) You must be a full-time student during regular semesters, taking vacations only when you are permitted. 2) You cannot work, except on campus, unless you have special permission from Immigration. 3) You

must make sure your I-20 is up to date and issued by the school you are attending. 4) If you transfer to another school, you must get a new I-20 from the new school and have it processed in a timely manner in order to notify Immigration that you changed schools. See the advisor at the new school if you are going to transfer so that you make sure your new I-20 is processed properly and within the time allowed.

Also, remember that the law requires you to report any **change in your address** within ten days of the change. Please bring your address change to the LCC and we will change it in the UH system as well as notify DHS.

Other visa categories such as J-1, B1 or B-2, A-1, L-2, etc., have their own rules, which students in these categories must obey.

Remember -- if you obey the immigration laws, you will not have a problem. If you have any doubts or questions about the rules or about what you must do, see the LCC student counselor, Dave Burns, or his assistant, Sam Long. We are here to help you and we want to make sure you are successful in your studies at the LCC.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT SEMESTER?

Under DHS' SEVIS tracking program for F-1 students, at the beginning of each term we have

to enter the data of what you are doing into the SEVIS system. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know what you will be doing next term so that we can enter the correct information in the SEVIS system. If we do not know and do not update SEVIS, the SEVIS system will automatically terminate you, which means you can lose your student status!

Your teacher will give you an "End of Semester Student Plans" form before you finish your classes this term. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you complete this form and return it to your teacher. If you did not get one, go to the LCC office to complete the form before you leave for the winter break.

If you plan to take a vacation for the spring term, you must fill out a "Vacation Request" form. These forms are in the LCC office.

If you are not sure yet of what you will be doing after the break, then please let us know by the start of spring term so that we can enter the correct information about you in the SEVIS system.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The time has passed quickly this semester! After the orientation trip to the Rothko Chapel, the Menil Collection Museum, and The Galleria, it was only a few weeks until we had the LCC Class Photo followed by the LCC Sports Tournament. Students had

a good time and a break from their studies. Winners in the games were as follows: **Bowling:** 1st – Chun-Hsiu (Hugo) Ting; 2nd – Faisal Aljamil; and 3rd – Son (Kenney) Trinh; **Billiards:** 1st – Taohsin (Darren) Liu and 2nd – Ismael Bakayoko; **Table Tennis:** 1st – Muawya Jbara; 2nd – Yernar Kapanov; and tied for 3d – Alisher Akayev and Khalifa Almulhim.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Culture Festival a big success by bringing all the delicious food. We had a good time tasting the dishes of different cultures and learning about each other by sharing this Thanksgiving lunch together. Thanks also to the students who brought their music, danced for us, and showed us how to do different dances.

On December 13th, we have our final field trip. By the time you read this, you will probably know that we plan to go to San Antonio! It's a great way to end the semester, joining your friends, classmates, and teachers and having a Mexican lunch at Casa Rio on the famous Riverwalk. After lunch is the time for exploring the rest of the Riverwalk, visiting the shops, going through the Alamo, and enjoying San Antonio. I hope everyone sees the Riverwalk after dark when all the Christmas lights are on. It's very beautiful.

## THE LCC SOCCER TEAMS

The LCC was fortunate to have students representing us in the UH intramural indoor soccer games. We had two teams: the LCC Eagles and the LCC Falcons. Both were excellent teams and both were undefeated in the regular season games they played. As a result, both teams went to the play-off tournament. The Eagles and the Falcons both advanced in the tournament to the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, they had to play against each other! This was without a doubt the best game of the season, but also the most difficult. Both teams played very hard and very well, but the Eagles came out the winners. As the final game was the next night, the Eagles went into the game a little tired and with a few injuries from their hard bout with the Falcons. Although they gave it their best, the other team won. Nonetheless, it was a great game and a great season. We are very proud of both teams. Thanks to all the guys who played, and a special thanks to "Nick" from Thailand, who is a former LCC student now in UH and was the captain of the Eagles and organizer for the teams.

## THE LCC STUDENT COUNSELOR'S OFFICE:

The student counselor's office is here to help you with your problems, to help you find information

you need, and to advise you about your concerns, ranging from immigration to academic to personal.

In addition to Dave Burns, there is Sam Long, LCC program assistant, who can help you.

Come see us if you have a question, need information or advice, or just want to talk!



# Voices ~ Fall 2006



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## Voices

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