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Introduction

Often we tend to simplify things in order to get through the challenges of everyday life. We look for shortcuts. We want the easy way out. Life is complex. In fact, it is so complex that it is hard to compartmentalize everything. Nevertheless, this is what we end up attempting to do anyway. When life becomes challenging, we look the other way and ignore the fact that we are unable to stand up to the complexities of life. Sometimes we brand the things that defy our categories as abnormalities, one-time occurrences or imperfections. However, the question is, are they really abnormalities?

This is exactly what we had to go through during our English Composition II course. There was no easy path between Fundamentals of English and English Composition II. Writing is an art. It doesn't need shortcuts! The class was our family. Ms. Tee was like our mother. She was always supportive and encouraging. She was there when we could not produce a sentence. She was there when we didn't know what to think about transition signals. She was there when we needed help with our research writing. There were no shortcuts! All tasks were completed one step at a time. To produce good results, you don't need shortcuts.

Bravo to the Class of Fall 2014!

Written by:
Yousuf Haji Alghazali and Salome Kissa Sanga
A Note to Section 1937

How time flies! It was in the Fundamentals of English class in the fall of 2013 that we met. I vividly remember that day at CAM 204 and OLD SCI 100. You stated that you were from Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Bangladesh, and Oman. It was your very first day at SWOSU as international students. It was my very first day as an ESL instructor at SWOSU. We had one thing in common that day; we had a lot of things to figure out during our very first day on campus. You were impressed when I welcomed you in Arabic and Mandarin. At first, you were quiet. That did not last too long. Soon you started sharing your hopes, your ambitions, and your dreams with me. Even though you were struggling to write complete sentences in English, you shared your strong desire to be fluent in the language. On Day 1 of the International Conversation Hour, we started off with only five of you. “We are shy, Ms. Tee”, one of you claimed. Nevertheless, you took the opportunity to reminisce about family, friends, and especially food. You were apprehensive about the local culture and the cafeteria food. You politely opined that Weatherford was a little too “quiet”. You wished SWOSU was located in New York City. You even wondered why the Oklahoma skies were unusually colorful and why the winds were unpredicatably strong. You were amused that the local students wore shorts all year round. As time went by, you weren't shy anymore. You suggested we have debates. You played shark tank. You were ready for PowerPoint presentations. “Learning idiomatic phrases is fun”, you chuckled. “I’ve had it up to here,” you commented about fast food. By the end of the semester, fifty-six of you turned up for the International Conversation Hour. It turned out to be a conversation hour without borders.

And here we are today. As your ESL instructor for three consecutive semesters, my life has been personally and professionally enriched in a million different ways by each and every one of you. Not only did you successfully complete your Composition II course last fall, you also successfully completed a class magazine. I commend your hard work and collaboration. I thank all of you for all your interesting contributions. To the editorial staff led by Yousuf Alghazali (Oman), I am very proud of you! Know that I consider this magazine to be your special gift to Ms. Tee. To all my twenty-nine students, I wish you happiness, good health, and success. You and your “loud” Section 1937 will be forever missed but never forgotten.

“Everything you want is out there waiting for you to ask. Everything you want also wants you. But you have to take action to get it.”– Jack Canfield
This course is the third and the final part of the Composition courses we have taken. Every semester that we’ve been through, we noticed the differences in course content and the progress of our knowledge. We are so proud to be a part of this class. What we have learned this semester has taken our knowledge to a new level that we will share with others. We spent this semester working on different kinds of activities and assignments. It has improved our listening, speaking, reading, thinking, and writing abilities. All that we have done would not have been possible without such an informative instructor as Ms. Tee. Since we were in the Fundamentals of English class in the Fall of 2013, she has taught us how to be successful students. After working hard for the last three semesters with Ms. Tee, here we are today. We have come very far; we have more to go. We all have our plans, dreams, and ambitions. Joshua J. Marine aptly quoted, “Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.” What is your path to success?

Written by:
Haitham Aldarbi and Abdulrahman Almasfer
The First Saudi at SWOSU

My name is Talal Alharbi, I am from Saudi Arabia, and I was born in the southern region of the country in 1972. I belong to a large family that consists of ten brothers and sisters. Being the youngest of the family, my oldest brother bought me an Atari video game to play with to enhance my capability with electronic games. At that time, I was very fortunate to have this support from my family in the area that I was living in where most people were not even able to have a TV in their homes. I graduated from high school in 1990 and proceeded to the college of technology. I obtained my diploma in 1993 majoring in technology engineering. I got married in the year of 1995, and thank God, I had my first son, Khalid. In 2000, I had my second son, Waleed, and three years later, I was blessed to have my first daughter, Remmah.

In August 2010, I decided to pursue my further education in the United States of America. I arrived in Oklahoma City Will Rogers Airport and proceeded to the English language program in Stillwater. While I was studying English proficiency, I decided to take the IELTS test hoping to obtain the necessary grade to enroll into the university. Shortly after, I was so happy that I got the minimum grade of 5.5 that was enough for me to continue my higher education. At that moment, I had to choose one of the three universities which offered my major in technology engineering and those universities were OSU, OU, and SWOSU. After spending time researching, I decided to join SWOSU for a lot of reasons.

• It is one of the most recognized universities in the state of Oklahoma.
• It is located in a small and lovable community.
• I would be the first Saudi Arabian student to join this famous university.
• I would be able to further help my friends and students from my own country to study at SWOSU.

After being admitted to SWOSU, I decided to recruit more students from my own country and have gained the support of the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to do so. To conclude this message, I am so pleased that there are many students from my country and other international students joining this prestigious university, and I wish all them the best of luck.

Written by:
Sufuq Barghash Alshammari

From Left to Right: Remma, Talal, and Waleed
Cameroon

Cameroon is the beautiful triangle in central Africa. It is surrounded by Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Central African Republic. This national population was 22.25 million in 2013. The country is bilingual, English, and French are the official languages. The people are very welcoming, and many tourists have been attracted by the beautiful beaches. Cameroon lies on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Apart from its beautiful tourist sites, Cameroon offers many of the tastiest dishes in Africa. Some famous dishes include poulet DG and ndole, which come from the native tribes on the coastal regions. The world is full of other amazing and beautiful places, but Cameroon to me, is the best place to be.

Written by:
Sinthia Youmbi

Cameroon Nature

Poulet DG (Poulet Directeur Général)
Saudi-American Educational and Cultural Initiative Grants

Saudi-American Educational and Cultural Initiative Grants support innovative forms of collaboration between Saudi and U.S. non-governmental and community organizations, universities, entrepreneurs, cultural organizations and qualified individuals. This is to expand the diversity of activities in the U.S.-Saudi partnership and to develop the next generation of leaders, especially among youth, young professionals and women, to promote mutual understanding and respect through long-term partnership and cooperation between our two countries.

President Obama and King Abdullah

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is now accepting proposals from Saudi and U.S. non-governmental and community organizations, universities, entrepreneurs, cultural organizations or qualified individuals who propose to work together to develop or expand educational, professional and cultural exchange activities and promote dialogue and partnership between the people of the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The embassy is especially interested in identifying and supporting U.S-Saudi partnerships that include a focus on the development of exchanges, projects, and partnerships between U.S. and Saudi youth or women. It also involves the development of professional linkages in business, healthcare, or social media. The goal is to modernize and build a knowledge-based economy, expand Saudi-U.S. educational partnerships and involve alumni of exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. or Saudi governments.

Written by:
Mohammed Abdulaziz Aldusaymani, Abdulaziz Almotairi, and Yazeed Alalhareth
U.S.-Oman Relations

The United States and Oman concluded a treaty of friendship and navigation in 1833. It was replaced in 1958 by the Treaty of Amity Economic Relations and Consular Rights. Diplomatic relations were established in 1972. Since 1980, Oman and the United States have been parties to a military cooperation agreement, which was revised and renewed in 2010.

Oman plays an important role in helping the United States realize its regional stability goals. Oman is strategically located on a key naval chokepoint through which passes 40% of the world’s exported oil shipments. The Government of Oman relies heavily on foreign assistance capacity-building that allows it to keep this critical sea-lane open to naval vessels and commercial traffic.

Oman also faces its own security challenges, which include combating piracy, weapons smuggling, narcotics trafficking, and monitoring and controlling Oman's borders. The Omani security establishment has had to deploy assets to address increased insecurity along Oman’s land and sea border with Yemen due to the instability in Yemen and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula activities. This has created critical gaps in other areas. Internally, Oman faced some protests in 2011 resulting in moderate political and economic reforms including the creation of 50,000 additional jobs in the public sector.

U.S. Assistance to Oman

U.S. assistance helps fund anti-piracy efforts, strengthens Oman's capability to monitor and control its borders, and improves interoperability of the Omani military with U.S. forces. Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation signed in 2006 alongside the free trade agreement, the Department of State’s trade-related environmental cooperation programs focus on protecting the environment while promoting sustainable development. Military cooperation, financial assistance, and direct military sales help to address a number of Oman’s security challenges. FY 2014 military aid in the form of International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) from the United States to Oman is approximately $11 million in line with figures from the past several years.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States and Oman have a free trade agreement which has been in force since 2009. In 2013, Oman's exports to the U.S. totaled $1 billion while U.S. exports to Oman accounted for more than $1.5 billion, 11.7% decrease from 2012. U.S. exports to Oman include machinery, vehicles, aircraft, agricultural products, and optic and medical instruments. U.S. imports from Oman include crude oil, jewelry, plastics, fertilizers, iron, and steel products.

(Continued on page 8)
U.S. firms face a small and highly competitive market dominated by trade with Japan, China, and re-exports from the United Arab Emirates. The sale of U.S. products is also hampered by higher transportation costs and the lack of familiarity with Oman on the part of U.S. exporters. However, the traditional U.S. market in Oman, with all its oil field supplies and services, should grow as fields and wells expand.

Membership in International Organizations

Oman and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. Although a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, Oman is not a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Written by:
Mohammed Hassan Alsubaihi and Yousuf Haji Alghazali

Picture shows Salman Mohammad Alsalman (left) and Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Alsubaihi (right) hard at work on the magazine.
Camels

Introduction
The camel is a very tall and heavy animal. It is found in countries where there are deserts. It is the most useful animal in the hottest parts of Asia and Africa.

Description and Appearance
The camel is about nine feet tall. It has a very long neck. Its legs are long and thin. However, its feet are flat. There are pads under its feet that do not let the feet sink in the sand. Its hump is really helpful; it contains mounds of fat which helps prevent the loss of water during long journeys.

Types of Camels
There are two kinds of camels: the Arabian and the Bactrian. An Arabian camel is found in Saudi Arabia or India. It has short fur and a hump on its back. On the other hand, the Bactrian camel has two humps, and its whole body is covered with long fur. It is smaller than the Arabian camel in size, and it differs in the length and the thickness of the legs.

Characteristics
The camel can walk nearly 116 miles a day. Heat has little effect on it. It is rightly called ‘Ship of the Desert’. It can travel through desert for a week or so without taking a drop of water. When a storm comes, it lies down. The camel eats leaves and branches of certain trees.

Usefulness
The camel is very useful. It helps people travel through deserts for long periods of time. In the past, a trader would use the camel to carry his products on its back. It is useful even after its death. Its skin is turned into leather. Fine and costly carpets are made from its fur. The fur is used to make fine clothes. Arabs eat camel meat and drink the animal’s milk. They make tents from its fur too. Its milk is richer and more nutrient-dense than any other animal’s milk.

Written by:
Nader Abdulkareem Alghamdi and Mohammed Abdulmohsen Almarri
IMLeague is a website where all students in the United States manage a tournament for themselves without a sponsorship. Almost all of the Oklahoma State University students who like soccer have an account with IMLeague. It is basically a community for soccer players where they practice their skills, and share tips, and exchange strategies. It is also a website where everyone gets to know one another. In addition, a lot is being learned through it, such as cooperation, respect, and of course a lot of soccer techniques.

Every semester, students assign a tournament between in-state universities. For example, Oklahoma State has the indoor field that is located in Oklahoma City; it is one of the most wonderful indoor fields in the U.S. Interested students have to drive all the way there in order to play. A tournament lasts for four months, and it is filled with thrills and competitions.

One of the referees commented on her experience. “I have some difficulties in ruling matches in soccer because I just began doing this,” said Amanda. It can be a bit confusing for first-time referees to make the right decision. I have to control matches as much as I can, not even with the rules or decision I make, but also keeping everyone calm and safe.” Soccer is a really a competitive sport, but that does not mean that there is no physical danger. It teaches players how to accept defeat and respect the opponent. IMLeague is a really good place to relieve stress. Most importantly, it helps students to be in a good shape physically and mentally.

Written by:
Saeed Ahmed Alkhremy, Abdulrahman Abdulkhaleq Alshareef, and Mansour Abdulaziz A. Alkhalifa
Delicious Saudi Kabsa

Have you ever tasted Saudi Arabian food? Saudi Kabsa is a memorable food for any occasion. This recipe calls for chicken, but you may also use beef, fish, or shrimp. Here is a recipe for a delicious Saudi kabsa.

Ingredients:
5 cups (or 1250 ml) of water  3 lbs lamb, or beef, cut into cubes.
3 tablespoons of vegetable oil 2 medium sized onions (or 300 g), cut into thin slices
2 medium tomatoes (or 300 g), peeled and chopped
1 green chili pepper, chopped
2 teaspoons of ground cumin
4 whole cardamom pods
¾ teaspoon of ground black pepper
1 cinnamon stick
1 tablespoon of tomato paste
2½ cups of basmati rice (or 500 grams)
2 cubes of MAGGI® Chicken Bouillon

Preparation

1. Place water and meat cubes in a large pot. Bring the water to boil and skim the froth as it appears. Cover and simmer over low heat for 1 hour or until meat is tender.
2. In a medium size pot, heat vegetable oil and sauté onions over medium heat for 5-6 minutes. Add tomatoes, chili pepper, cumin powder, cardamom powder, black pepper, cinnamon stick, tomato paste and MAGGI® Chicken Bouillon cubes. Cook with constant stirring for 3-4 minutes.
3. Next, add the cooked meat to the stock. The stock should be around 3 cups or 750ml. Add more water if needed.
4. Add the rice, bring the pot to boil. Lower the heat. Cook covered over low heat for 20 minutes or until the rice is cooked.
5. When the rice is cooked, serve the dish on a large serving platter. Garnish with fried peeled almonds, golden, raisins, and pine nuts.

Enjoy!

This recipe was provided by:
Chef Fahd Alamri, Chef Rami Ahmad Alshammari, and Chef Abdullah Ali Alqahtani

![Image of Saudi Kabsa]
Look Up!

Many times I see people walking around the school looking at their cell phones. I do not think that this is a good thing. These people are using Facebook or Twitter, or playing a game; they are not connecting with other people. As humans, we need to interact with other people. We rely on other people for many things. Now social media makes us think that we have so many “friends”, when in reality we do not care about most of those people at all.

I believe that it is important for us to have real friends that we see in person. These friends are there to help you. My friends provide many things that are necessary to keep me happy. Some of those things include cheering me up when I am sad, making me laugh at myself so that I am not stressed out, letting me talk to them about what is bothering me in my life, and helping to fix problems that I have. If I did not walk around the school with my head up, looking around and saying “good morning” to people, I would not have met many of the people that I know now.

The only way to make friends is to talk and connect with people. If you are constantly connected to your headphones or your cell phones, then you will lose many opportunities to interact with people. It has been proven that just smiling at a person makes both you and the other person happier. When you are looking down at your cell phone as you walk, you are losing this opportunity to increase your daily happiness.

Written by:
Yousuf Al Ghazali
Unity in Diversity

India is a vast peninsula with a total land area of about 20.5 square mile. This country has a population exceeding 1 billion. Because of its area and population, India is generally referred to as a sub-continent. It provides almost every type of climate from extreme heat to extreme cold all year round. The hilly regions in the North are very cold. Certain areas in the South are the hottest in the world. Indian civilization, stretching over five thousand years, provides the most distinctive feature in the coexistence of unity in diversity.

Taj Mahal

India is said to be a combination of diverse social and cultural elements. It is a grand country of cultures, religions, and languages of the people belonging to different castes and communities. National unity and integrity have been maintained even though sharp economic and social inequalities that have obstructed the equality and social relations. India is, in fact, a panorama of its own types without a parallel in other continents. Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, and Christianity are the major religions. There are twenty-two constitutionally recognized languages and several hundred dialects. Plus, there is diversity not only in regard to racial compositions, religious, and linguistic distinctions, but also in patterns of living, life styles, occupational pursuits, and practices and rites related to birth, marriage, death, etc.

The idea of unity of India is inherent in all its historical and socio-cultural facts as well as in its cultural heritage. India has one constitution providing guarantees for people belonging to diverse religions, cultures and languages. India possesses varieties of social, economic, and geographical conditions. In India, there is unity in apparent diversities of race, religion, language, and customs, making it one great sub-continent.

Written by:
Varun Reddy Nagireddy and Prabhjyot Singh Saluja
What is Your Favorite Word in English?

Some of the international students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University were asked about their favorite word in English. The answers were very funny. Everyone had a story to tell. Let me share some of these words with you. One of the students said that his favorite word is “right.” He said that because one of his professors says that word in class all the time, and now this word is stuck in his head.

Another student’s favorite word is “moist.” He likes this word just because of the way it sounds. Also, one of them said he always thinks about the word “swoon”. He learned that word when he fell in love with his girlfriend! Another student told me that he likes the word “debonair,” but when I asked him about the reason, he said the word speaks for itself!

In conclusion, I asked a girl what her favorite word is, and she told me about the word “ceremony.” She liked it because of the soft sound it has and the happiness that follows this word. The word “controversy” was a favorite word also, because one of the students always likes to argue with the others. The last word is “accumulate”. My roommate who procrastinates likes this word. He claims that for some “unknown reason”, his homework keeps accumulating. What is my favorite word? “Judge” is my favorite word. People nowadays judge others by their names, clothes, religion, color, and even by their faces! Sad but true. So what is your favorite word in English?

Written by:
Hassan Alfaris and Fatimah Jaffar Alzaki
My Experience at the International Conversation Hour

My name is Maryanne Dantzler-Kyer, and I am a senior majoring in Biology here at SWOSU. Oklahoma is my home; I grew up in Altus, a small town in the southwest corner of the state. I chose to attend SWOSU because I appreciate small class sizes, and I really like getting to know my professors and many other students. While taking a peer-tutoring course at the Writing Center under Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer, I learned about a group of international students that get together to practice their English skills by having conversations about everyday life topics, like food and family. After attending one meeting, I became a regular attendee of the International Conversation Hour in the Fall 2014 semester. I was asked to be a part of this magazine after it was written. The students of Ms. Tee’s English Composition class and fellow International Conversation Hour members approached me to edit their completed project. Thankful for the opportunity to help, I helped polished this work.

Written by:
Maryanne Dantzler-Kyer
An Interview with Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer

My name is Ayyadah Al Baiji. Here is my interview with Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer from the Language and Literature department in SWOSU. I started my interview with:

Ayyadah: What is your official title?
Dr. Denise Landrum: My official title is Assistant Professor of English and Writing Center Coordinator (technically, I have two job titles).

Ayyadah: What are your main jobs?
Dr. LG: As an Assistant Professor, my main duty is to teach writing classes (Fundamentals of English, Composition I, Composition II, and other upper-level writing courses). In addition, I meet with students, advise them, and work with them on their writing. As the Writing Center Coordinator, I oversee the day-to-day operations of the writing center, which means I train tutors, create a tutoring schedule each semester, talk to faculty and students about what the writing center does, update the writing center website, and spend 4-5 hours in the writing center each week tutoring students.

Ayyadah: Why do you think there are so many international student at SWOSU?
Dr. LG: That’s an interesting question. I think the administration here at SWOSU recognizes the value in bringing international students to campus and making the student population more diverse, so they have actively gone out and recruited international students. As long as SWOSU can keep up with the support international students need to succeed, I think the population will grow, and that’s a good thing for SWOSU and Weatherford.

Ayyadah: In what ways can the writing center your help students?
Dr. LG: The writing center is a free service that can help international students in particular with writing projects for any class. Tutors can help international students better understand English writing and grammatical conventions, and since it is an informal place, it gives students another chance to practice English speaking skills with friendly people.

Ayyadah: What would you like to say for the international students as advice?
Dr. LG: Ask for help early and often: come to the writing center for help with papers (but be sure to do it early in an assignment, because we do get very busy), be sure to ask your instructors if you don’t understand something in class, go to office hours for your instructors, seek out study partners or groups in your courses. Remember that native English speakers struggle with writing assignments, too, so don’t be embarrassed to say “I need help.” If you don’t understand something in a class, there’s a good chance that at least one other person there has the same question. You are not alone.
An Interview with Dr. Randy Beckloff

As international students, we depend on the International Student Affairs office for many things. I, Salman Mohammad Alsalman, personally visit Dr. Beckloff’s office at least a few times every semester. Many of us, however, do not know very much about the office that does so much for us. This office exists only to help the international students here at SWOSU. By finding out more about this office and the administrator who runs it, we can be more successful students. Here is a transcription of a conversation I had with Dr. Beckloff on December 1, 2014.

Salman: What is your official title?
Dr. Beckloff: My official title is Coordinator of International Affairs.

Salman: What do you do?
Dr. Beckloff: Basically, I do all of the official work needed by international students. It ranges from processing their applications to issuing the admission letters, providing immigration documentation as needed, maintaining current students’ immigration status, and providing assistance to the students.

Salman: Why did you choose this job?
Dr. Beckloff: Because I really do enjoy working with people from other cultures around the world. I feel like it’s a job not everyone can do. It takes some experience across cultures, so I think that’s why.

Salman: Why do you think there are so many international students at SWOSU?
Dr. Beckloff: Well I think it’s a very safe place; it’s really the number one concern. When people come here, they don’t have to worry about being a victim of crime, and I’m not saying crime doesn’t happen, but it’s rare. It’s very safe. I think the classes are very small, so people get to know each other. We say the student is a name, not just a number, and it’s really true. Also, I think that the tuition charges are reasonable compared to other universities in the United States.

Salman: In what ways can your office help students?
Dr. Beckloff: Any help that the students need on campus. And, if they are not sure where to go, they will get help here for any kind of problems and questions. Just please come to the office.

Salman: Finally, what advice would you like to give to the international students?
Dr. Beckloff: Oh my goodness, as advice! You know...just don’t get too lazy. Just keep up your good work, and don’t be too shy to take the steps.

As you can see, Dr. Beckloff is very passionate about his job. His office is a great resource for students. I would like to encourage all of you to take advantage of this great help available. If we use the help of this office responsibly, it can help propel our academic careers and help in the transition into the American culture. Dr. Beckloff’s office is located on the second floor of the Administration Building. He is usually available from 8 A.M. to noon and then again from 1-5 P.M. every weekday. Please feel free to stop by or call him at 580-774-6172 anytime you need help or advice.
An Interview with Bryn, a Native of Oklahoma

Hi! My name is Ali Ibrahim Alkuabiy here is an interview with a native of Oklahoma. Her name is Bryn Hull. She is majoring in communication arts with an emphasis in communication studies.

Ali: What do you think about international students in general?
Bryn: I am really proud of all of them. It is really hard to leave your family for a place you don’t know. They made the decision that education is worth it, and I really admire them for that.

Ali: What do you think are the difficulties they might encounter during the course of their studies here?
Bryn: Cultural issues for sure. The social system here is different. It is hard to figure out all the “rules” for communication. Our education also expects different things from students.

Ali: How do you think you can help improve their study experiences?
Bryn: By helping to explain certain things, maybe the students need one-on-one help. Also, by encouraging them to focus on their school, instead of the social experience.

Ali: What do you think the school can do to improve their study experiences?
Bryn: Honestly, by expecting the same from them as every other student. You came here for an “American Education”, it is not worth the same if it isn’t the same. I think that if more is expected of the students, they will do more.

Ali: What are your views on international students paying double the tuition fee?
Bryn: I think that it is okay, because most of them are on scholarship from their government, company, or home school. Also, the school has to do extra work for these students. I do think; however, that there should be more programs that give students the options to lower their tuition. The CAB program offers in-state tuition rates for a certain number of volunteer hours. This is a good option for students. It lowers their tuition and gets them involved on campus.

Ali: Are international students a threat to American students in terms of grades?
Bryn: I don’t think so, at least not more than an American student would be. Also, the many benefits the international students bring greatly outweigh any risk. Diversity on campus leads to a more creative environment; it allows for more ideas to meet and collaborate. Diversity gives students so many opportunities to become more educated, more sensitive, more socially conscious, and well-rounded individuals. That is after-all the goal of a university, right?
My Reflections on My Visit to the ESL Computer Lab

We attended the first ESL computer lab on November 19, 2014. Here, we were welcomed by the friendly Dr. Cynthia Peña and Dr. Hector Garza. During this interesting session, we practiced note-taking skills. Before we started listening to the lessons, Dr. Garza explained to us the rules and regulations of the computer lab. According to Dr. Garza, food and drinks are not allowed inside the lab. Also, we were told not to put our backpacks on the computer table and to take caution when using the headphones.

Firstly, we listened to how people choose names for their children. We listened to a sociology lecture on what are the most common ways parents choose their child’s name. In many countries, parents choose names based on how it will influence their future. However, in Saudi Arabia, most parents pick their father’s or brother’s names for their children. Some parents believe a particular name will be socially beneficial to their children. In addition, we discovered that there are English names that can work for either gender, such as Taylor, Alex, and so on. Overall, we benefitted from this lesson because we learned something new about names. We really enjoyed attending this session. Thank you, Ms. Tee. This session not only helped us to become better listeners, but it also raised our awareness on paying attention to details.

Written by:
Murtadha Bu Khader
The International Conversation Hour

The International Conversation Hour is a great session where students from various countries interact with one another in a casual setting. Here students make friends and have conversations while munching on delicious treats like cheese pizzas and yummy chocolate chip cookies. Conversation topics include, but are not limited to, issues pertaining to study, culture shock, coping strategies, and so on. The conversation hour can be entertaining and fun, too. Students always seem to leave the session in a happy mood. Why? Some say that it is because they had made new friends. Some claim that they had gained a new idea, skill, or knowledge. Others believe that the sessions have changed the way they think about school, people, life, and the new world around them in a positive way.

Written by:
Mohammed Turki Fahad
A Note of Thanks From the Editor

Which students are successful? Those who know the value of effort. Those who keep on trying – and, in doing so, become better than they were before. - Amiria Robinson

The world is a better place because of you, my friends. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who had contributed to our class magazine.

The editor, Yousuf Haji Alghazali from Oman, at the 2014 Research and Scholarly Activity Fair
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Section 1937, Fall 2014

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