

Summer Is Hopeful as Spring Returns to Classrooms



Maria enjoys the beauty of a day at Botanic Gardens on a recent field trip.

The Next Cycle

Once there was darkness,
Once there was chill,
I was pushed into dirt
I sat very still
And, buried, I felt a tug of despair
Will I ever feel sunshine?
Will I ever breathe air?
And as I was sitting,
I could feel a slight stir
Could it be I was growing
Even buried in earth?
The darkness it stretched me
I set my roots there
But set my sights upward
As I strained for the air.
One morning I burst through
Out into the light
I can't even explain
What a glorious sight.
And the buds that I'm setting
Will bloom too in time
And seed the next cycle
And feed the next rhyme.

by Jessie Sonoda
SILC Instructor

Is Change Possible in Today's World?

I wonder if there is hope for change in this world? How should I respond to the problems of the world? The world has existed through many revolutionary situations, which generates many questions: What is my view of this negative reality that is passing in front of me every day? Or, what should be done to change this toxic reality? Definitely, the world needs a global structural change, and my mind and behavior need a change as well. I know, for many decades the world has been getting sick, and I have gotten sick with it because I have had a passive response that always waits for the decision of the other people. However, this is not good behavior because the world needs my participation in constructing a beneficial society where everyone can be happy.

At this moment, I think that I have a lot of capabilities, both physical and intellectual, which might be of great help to my city. This is especially true in my environmental work where I can build schools for teaching construction workers to write and read. This can bring them the opportunity of having new knowledge in other areas. As their boss, I have the possibility of generating beneficial spaces for them where they can believe in themselves and feel that they are important for society. I can do my part to bring the hope of change to the world around me. **Ana Carolina Alvarez Palacio – Colombia**

Living in a World without Violence

Recently, a black man named George Floyd was killed by the police. As a result, many people began to resist the police and government. In this example, we can see conflict with each other. This conflict leads to violence. Violence is not a way to solve a problem. This only hurts our body and mind. Before we use violence, we need to think about each other. If we analyze the problems and try to understand each other, we can hope to someday live in a world without violence. **Hyun Cheol Shin - South Korea**

Appreciating People Who Are Different

Racism is a problem that occurred a long time ago, and unfortunately no one has been able to solve this problem. I hope the whole world will live in peace and stop expressing negative opinions about black people because the events that happened a short time ago sadden me. What will we gain if people dig deeper into acts of racism? First the world will be in chaos. Second, deaths will increase. The causes of this problem are lack of respect for others and the feeling of insecurity, so we have to figure out how to appreciate people who are different. **Ahmed Alansari - Saudi Arabia**



Hope Keeps Us Alive

Hope is what makes us alive! Yes, I believe in this saying. Human beings need motivation to keep living in this tough life; otherwise they will get depressed and exhausted. Hope was the very beginning for all of the great peoples' stories. I have the same reasonable amount of hope as every ordinary person does on many issues, such as self-improvement and the ability to change life for the better. **Sultan Aljohani - Saudi Arabia**

Hope Requires Action

When I came to America, I saw before my eyes a huge and modern country. I was very surprised about the economy and technology here. They have a lot of knowledge. The US gave me a big goal, and I hope I can accomplish it. My target was becoming a billion dollar man and taking my business to the world. After that, I would help the poor and the disabled. I wanted to create jobs for them. I wanted to make everyone happy. This was my dream.

However I want it to be real in the future. In order to do that, I need to try in the moment. I always try to plan for my goals in the future. I think if you hope, but don't have action it won't be real. Also, if you don't practice, you can't have results. Finally, "Hope and Action" is a good topic because it reminds me "Don't forget your goal." I want to make something good for people, and I wish I can inspire everyone with my life. Remember HOPE and ACTION! **Hung Nguyen, Vietnam**

First Days in the United States

When I was 18 years old, I came to the U.S. to study English. Before I came to the U.S., I had mixed feelings. I felt happy and nervous. First, I took a plane with my father. We flew around 14 hours from Riyadh to New York City to Denver, Colorado. We slept perhaps around five hours in the plane. It was terrible because I was in there maybe nine hours, and my legs hurt me. Also, it was annoying because babies were screaming the air was not good in the plane. Flying for about 14 hours was too hard. Actually, it was not fun.

When I arrived in Denver, Colorado, I felt excited about my new life. I decided to study in an English language school because I want to go to a university. I was nervous on the first day in my school, but I was happy about my new school, so I liked it. Also, I bought my books and notebooks. The next day I went with my father to a furniture store, and we bought some furniture. After that, we bought a car. Next, we went to the mountains and went hiking. Finally, when we came back to Denver, we went to a restaurant and ordered our food. We were happy because it was snowing and it was the first time for me. It was an amazing time and so beautiful. In conclusion, I like being here, so I am happy about that! **Ahmed Ahrby, Saudi Arabia**



My Best Friend

My best friend is Phuong, and she is a wonderful person. She is 43 years old, and she is from Vietnam. She is the chairman of the board at Yakyo Company in Vietnam, and she is also a director of a vegetarian restaurant. She has wavy, blond hair and brown eyes. She is medium height, and she is extremely smart. She is a friendly person and kind and helpful. Everyone loves her because she often helps employees in her company. She shares her work experience with them, so they can learn how to be successful. She gave many poor people money, so a few persons became better in their lives. Besides, she also helped some new students find good jobs. In her free time, she loves to read a lot of kinds of books because it helps her develop her company. In conclusion, I really admire and respect her, and I love her so much. **Thu Nguyen, Vietnam**

Enjoying social distancing and the beauty of the Botanic Gardens are Suledma and Maria.

My Terrible Day

When I was 17 years old, something bad happened to me. First, I woke up late because my phone alarm was off. Next, I took a shower and made some coffee to take to my car. While I was driving fast, I drank the coffee. After I saw a red light, I stopped quickly, and my coffee spilled all over my clothes. After that, I went back home and put on other clothing quickly. Then I drove to school again and parked the car. After that, I arrived late to class and my teacher marked me late because I was late.

Finally, when I went back to my car, it did not work, so I had to walk home. In conclusion, I learned something from this experience. In the future, I will go to bed early because I do not want to wake up late and have something bad happen to me again. **Faisal Buri, Saudi Arabia**

A History Lesson

It's Spring International's 41st Year and We're Still Here!

More than 1200 Littleton host families have welcomed international students into their homes as an integral part of Spring International Language Center's intensive English as a Second Language program, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019. During those four decades, more than 20,000 international students have traveled to Spring from 108 countries, Angola to Zaire, to prepare for professions or for entrance to university or college in the US before returning to their home lands.

"We're pleased that we could provide a bridge of education and friendship to students who face life-changing experiences in a new country," Pambos Polycarpou, SILC president said. He emphasized the welcoming nature of the Littleton community, which has helped students to adjust to a new culture and a new educational system. Spring International, originally part of Spring Institute for International Studies, began its Arapahoe Community College program in June 1979 at the invitation of the administration of Arapahoe Community College with the goal of encouraging international student enrollment and expanding the services offered to the students. Polycarpou and Connie Shoemaker, director emerita, were co-founders of the Center.

Shoemaker said the host family program has expanded both the American hosts' world view and the students' awareness of US culture. She also lauded the school's teachers, "They are some of the most qualified in the field, helping students to succeed not only in their future college and university careers but also in their lives outside of the classroom."

Miriam Sutton, a host family for more than 25 years, remembers her first student well. He was a 16-year-old Korean ice hockey player, and Sutton attended every game he played. "Since then I've hosted about 150 students in all, including young men and women from the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and Japan." Sutton has kept in contact with many of her students as they graduated from universities in Colorado and other states and returned home or remained in the US as legal residents and citizens.

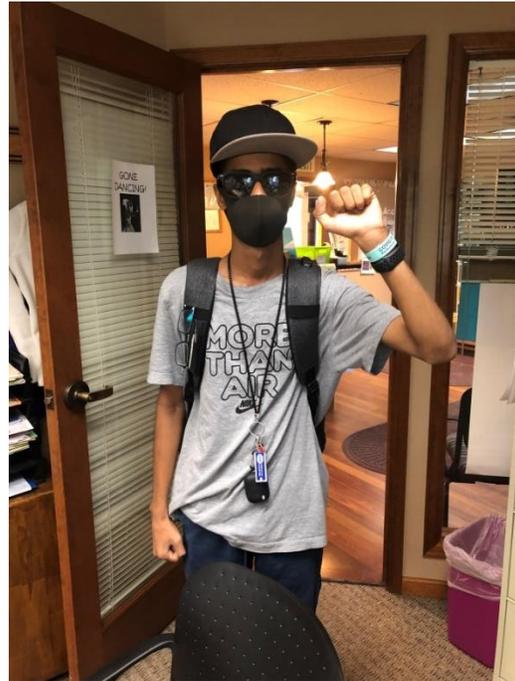
Spring had its beginnings in the fall of 1979 in a small office and three classrooms in ACC's main building. From that point on, enrollment increased rapidly to students placed by the Fundacion Ayacucho in Venezuela, Arab Gulf embassies, international companies, and private students from around the world. In 1985, a sister college relationship was established between Yonezawa Women's Junior College in Fukuoka, Japan, and ACC. Students from the Junior College have visited each year to spend several weeks studying English and living with Littleton families.

Goodbyes Are Part of Spring's Life

We say goodbye to graduating students at the end of each term five times a year. Host families bid farewell to their students when they return home or move on to university. Although many teachers and staff members remain at Spring for many years, we often have to say goodbye to them as they move away or retire. Pictured here are Missy Hull and Christen Breaux bidding a fond farewell to Debby McBride, who is moving to her home state of Idaho.



A GLOBAL PANDEMIC CAN'T KEEP US FROM FUN AND LEARNING



Face Masks, Social Distancing, Plexiglas Shields, and Hand Sanitizers Have Become Part of Every Day, But Learning and Fun Are Still Possible.

Here you see teacher Carol Kok playing music with Hussam and Laura. Faisal sports a cool cap, shades, and a mask, Esam enjoys Denver Botanic Gardens, and Caroline reminds us to "Never Give Up."



SPRING VIEWS ADDENDUM:

What makes a good friend?

A good friend doesn't lie.

A good friend talks to you every day.

A good friend gives you money when you need it.

A good friend helps you with everything.

If my car has a problem, my friend lends me his car.

Most importantly,

A friend is good for my life.

Ziyad Almeqbel
Saudi Arabia

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