

# SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

July 19, 2013



*Happy Spring International campers enjoyed the Black Canyon of the Gunnison in June.*

## **Grand Prize Winner: Summer Writing Contest**

### ***My Turning Point...by Shiho Takei, Japan, Level Two***

When I was a child, I wanted to be a nurse. Now I am an adult and I want to be a nurse who can speak English because a nurse changed my mind and my life. I had a medical problem with my foot when I was eleven years old. My mother and I went to the local hospital. We thought it wasn't too bad, and I would be better soon. After examination, the doctor said, "You might have cancer, so you should go to Sekijuji hospital and have more examination." Sekijuji hospital is the biggest hospital in my home town.

One week later, I was in the biggest hospital with my mother. I was waiting in the lobby for my examination when I saw a foreign patient, who looked afraid, on the other side of the room. Then a nurse came to the patient and talked to him. I couldn't understand their conversation because they probably spoke English. They weren't close to me, so I wasn't sure, but I guessed that. After the conversation, he looked a little better.

I was thinking about the happening that I saw while I had my examination. If I go to a foreign restaurant and I can't speak the foreign language, probably I will get the wrong food. But it is OK because I can eat. However, if I do this in the hospital in the same situation, a doctor or a nurse will make a mistake, and I may die. And going to a foreign hospital is scary and stressful. I decided that being able to translate in the hospital was very important, and this nurse did a great job. Examination results, I had cancer but was a good cancer, so now I'm fine.

Because of this nurse, I wanted to speak English, so now I'm in the USA to study English. I thought I didn't need English until I saw her. She changed my mind and my life. I want to communicate with foreign patients as a nurse in a hospital.

***THE SUMMER WRITING CONTEST chooses the best essays in each level to receive recognition and prizes. From those best essays, one is chosen as the most outstanding writing for its level. Three instructors judge the essay, and the awards are given at the graduation and end-of-term party on the last day of the term.***

## **Winning Essays from Levels 1-6**

### **The Color of Nature: Green....by Samia Amar, Level One, Libya**



My favorite color is green because it's one of the essential colors of nature. Green color makes me feel warm and alive. The land is green and the trees are green. Also, many fruits are green, like kiwi and limes. In the spring time, it makes you feel like everything is new. For example, I can remember when I was a child, I ran on the green land, and my mom gave me a green apple. Green is my life's color. I love green.

### **Uniqueness and Individuality of Belarus...by Alena Lapautsina, Level Three**

Belarus is a small country in the heart of Europe. Its history as an independent nation of Belarus starts with the year 1991. Belarus was often the background for warring neighbors when millions of people were dying, and an alien culture, language, faith were imposed. But the country was revived and slowly continued on its way to freedom and independence. My country has retained its identity with the unique culture and traditions of history. In my opinion, the most important value of my culture is its uniqueness and individuality.

First of all, we know that Belarus has unusual society. Since the 90's, power is concentrated in the hands of one man, President Alexander Lukashenko. He is an ambiguous and original personality, and his method of government and the course of development of the people will support it, which suggests that Belarus has an individual style of government and development. Second, originality is expressed in the celebration of major religious holidays. The main Christian holidays, Christmas and Easter, are celebrated twice: orthodox and catholic religious calendars. People like the opportunity to spend time with family because preparing for these holidays takes a lot of time. The Belarusians celebrate solemnly observing a lot of traditions and rituals. I think another interesting and unusual detail which characterizes Belarus is the currency. The currency of my country is Belarusian ruble, but Belarusians still save the U.S. dollar or the Euro. In conclusion, Belarus has a unique political regime, great holidays, with traditions and peculiar currency, which people respect and accept.

Secondly, Belarus has individual architecture, beautiful sights, and special wildlife. Many tourists wonder about the individuality of Belarus in the center of Europe. An individual architecture is reflected in ancient castles, churches, and palaces. Nezvizhski castle is a World Heritage Site. The main architect was Italian Bernardoni. But the foundation was established by Radzivil Sirotko. Not only the ground surface attracts tourist but also the great number of cellars and crypts, which show unusualness of subterranean. Another example of individuality is the beautiful sights. The largest trace of an ancient forest in Europe is the Bialowieza Forest. This forest was cut down, but it is still the largest area of intact forest located in the territory of Belarus and Poland. It is also included in the UNESCO World Heritage list and many people visit it every year. Belarus is also different from other countries of unusual wildlife,. Only in Belarus has preserved a large number of swamps, lakes and rivers. And only the Bialowieza Forest contains a large number of bison, which are recorded on The Red List of the Republic of Belarus. Everybody likes to see the wildlife so near. So, Belarus is an individual country with attractive architecture, unusual sights and specific wildlife, and none of the other countries or even continents has the same individuality.

As a result, I think Belarus is an individual country with unrepeatable architecture, amazing sights and beautiful wildlife which attracts tourists from many countries. It is an amazing place to visit.

### **Studying in the United States...by Kholoud AlRewathi, Level Four, Saudi Arabia**

Studying in the United States is like studying in a global society because of the multiplicity of ethnicities and religions. Many students want to study in the U.S. because it has the biggest and best universities in the world, according to the *New York Times* Higher Education. The U.S. has many benefits in education that will help me reach my goal.

My ambition to achieve my goal is a passion I had as a child. My mother did and still does support me to reach my goal, which is to get a master's degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages). Of course, there were some priorities I had before I came here. One priority was to build my self-confidence. Always look at the glass as half full not half empty. Be optimistic to endure all the difficulties you may face. No doubt that positive results require more efforts. The hardest step I ever had to take was the moment when I left my two-month-old daughter to come to the U.S. This reason gave me the power to do the best I can to succeed and make her proud of me. My insistence to achieve my dream has required a lot of me, and I will never give up. (Continued on p. 3)

## **Studying in the United States** (Cont. from p. 2)

More than 30 per cent of the students who study abroad are in the U.S. (*Times* survey) because it has many benefits. First, the United States is at the forefront of the world in technology. It has the largest number of institutes of higher education. An important aspect is the quality of the universities, such as Harvard, which I'm interested in. In addition, universities in America give professional accreditation recognized by various governmental bodies. Also, American universities increase the efficiency of students. Furthermore, master's and doctoral candidates have the opportunity to work and learn together with the best researchers in the world. As a result, certificates from American universities are internationally recognized. Another feature is that students can determine the dates of study and completion of study hours according to their own circumstances, and the time appropriate to them within a specified period. Also, schools help foreign students by offering remedial programs as well as assistance in academic writing and curriculum vita writing to students who will graduate soon. Likewise, experiences and friendships that we gain on the campus are just as important as education. Coexistence with people from all over the world is invaluable. Education in America is sufficient for the needs of each student.

Thus, studying in the U.S. gives me many educational benefits that I cannot find anywhere else, and it offers me the chance to learn about other cultures. As a result, I have come to the U.S. to complete my studies and earn an international degree from one of the best universities.

### **Dream, Challenge, Thank!**

**by Hyunja Choi, Level Five, South Korea**

When I was young, I thought the world was full of something uncompleted and mysterious. Even when I met my husband, at first I didn't know if I would get married to him, and when I was preparing for my job, I wasn't sure if I could get a job or not. However, now that I'm almost in my forties, marriage or getting a job doesn't matter to me anymore. Now I'm thinking about my future after retirement, my children's future, and the future of my society. I'm still dreaming of what I want to do after my retirement. I don't remember what influenced my life the most, but I think the main character in *Mitte Des Lebens* (in the middle of life) written by Luise Rinser, a German female writer, and Dale Carnegie's book encouraged me to live a challenging life. I'd like to talk about three things I've learned until now: Dream, challenge, and thank!

First, always dream and pray! If you really crave something, your dream will come true. There is an attractive phrase in *The Alchemist*, written by Paulo Coelho: "When you really want something to happen so that the whole universe conspires, your wish will come true." I absolutely agree with that phrase. As soon as I got a job, I got married, a little bit earlier than my friends. Some of my friends traveled to other countries every vacation and studied abroad because they were single at that time. I was envious of them. When my children were growing up, my dream also was growing. I thought I would study abroad with my children when they could handle their lives. I talked to my husband about my dream. At last I came to America, and I'm studying English. My goal is to study until the end of my life and to dream for a better future. If I dream a positive and constructive dream, I'm sure everyone around me will support and help me.

Always keep an open mind and challenge yourself! Although certain chance is close to you, if you are not ready, you cannot realize your dream. As I was raising my children and working, I put aside my dream for awhile, but I prepared steadily and slowly for the future. One day a chance knocked on the door, and I opened my mind to get the right chance. I'm not sure I've been doing well until now, but I hope to show my students and my children the challenging attitude through my life as a teacher and a mom. I am cheered by the students I have taught, and I'm happy to be an example. I have another dream. While I'm studying English and taking some rest in America, I'm thinking over my dream and looking for the way I can embody my thought. I have more than twenty years to think about my dream. When I can sketch a concrete dream, I'll talk about it and ask people to help me. As long as I prepare and challenge myself, I think another dream of mine will come true again.

Lastly, I am thankful for everything. How happy and grateful I am that someone supports me! I thank my family and both my parents for supporting and trusting me. I appreciate my principal and vice-principal and fellow teachers. I'm thankful for having a peaceful and free time in the U.S. even though I have some trouble living here.

Sometimes I think if I were a person who likes settling down, what a different life I would have. I often think, because of my desire, that I will make everyone around me have troubles. However, I believe my children and my husband support me because we have the same goals. If you really want, prepare and challenge something, you will make it someday. In addition, pray and appreciate everything, and then you will feel this moment is precious.





*River rafting was a first-time experience for Spring International students this summer.*

## **All Our Days Are Twenty-Four Hours** **by Khiria Ali, Level 6, Libya**

"I don't have time" is an excuse we hear almost every day. We hear it from different people. Some of them have jobs. Some others don't work at all. Time management is a significant and useful skill, and it is important for employees, students, and everyone to learn. Clearly, to manage our time well, we need to think about satisfying outcomes, successful people, and the shortness of life.

Thinking about satisfying outcomes of any work we do is an aspect associated with time management. Every beginning has an end, and what we do today is what we will reap tomorrow. I remember my first month in level one. I didn't care about time, and sometimes I brought my homework late. I excused myself many times with not having enough time for doing my homework. I thought I was excused because I am a mother of a little boy and a student at the same time. On the other hand, I noticed that my classmate who is a mother of five little kids always brings her homework even before its due date. She also always gets "A" in all her classes. She put me to shame because she made me think "if she has five kids, she uses her time well. And what can I say about myself who has just one kid and is not able to use my time well." Since then, I have learned a useful lesson from her. I concluded that if I want something, I will find more than one way to get what I want. However, if I don't want it, I will find more than one excuse. Additionally, we can work hard today, stay awake during the night, and double our efforts to wait for someday when we get happy results about our stressful work. As a result, we will forget all our weariness. In fact, it is not important how tired you are today, but more important is what you reap from this tiredness.

Another thing that helps us manage our time well is thinking about successful people. Life is full of successful people. When we think of these people's lives, there are many questions in our heads about the answer. Do they live on another planet that has more hours a day than we do on the earth? Do they live their whole lives spending time in their offices? The definite answer will be, of course, "No, they don't." They live on the same planet and, besides their work, they have families who need some of their time. They also have friends who they hand out with sometimes. Furthermore, they must have a hidden secret because it is not easy for some people to live successfully in both their job and their home. This in turn leads us to guess that these people's secret lies in successful time management. These individuals know how to use their time wisely, and to set specific times for themselves, their work, and their families.

Another thing comes to mind when we think of time: Life passes too fast. Our time on earth is like a battle, and it is your choice to decide whether you are going to be the winner or the loser. By the way, this reminds me of an Arabic saying, "Time is like a sword. If you don't cut it, it will cut you." Many people value their lives more than others. They value each month, day, minute, and even second. Every moment for them is important. Moreover, that is because they believe each day they live will be gone without coming back, and they don't want it to go away without benefiting from it.

Ultimately, managing time well is a brilliant and helpful skill for everyone. To learn how to do it, we need to sit silently without interruption, and think about three things in detail. Firstly, we will forget all the effort we exerted if we achieve satisfying results from our stressful work. Secondly, we need to think about successful people's lives.. Finally, we should keep in our mind the fact that life goes faster than we think, so no day comes back again. People who live in our wide, shared home, the Earth, have the same amount of hours a day, but the smart people use that time wisely.



