

CELAC *Student Voice*

Spring 2022 Issue 1

The Student Voice publishes creative work in a variety of multimedia made by and for other CELAC students. Welcome to our first Spring 2022 issue!

Fresh Works



Andrea Queiroz de Souza

Hailing from the Brazilian beach town of Fortaleza, Andrea writes about the cold shock of the New Mexican winter and other noticeable differences.

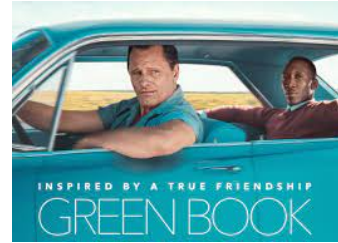
Scroll down to read the full article.



Italo Da Guia Duharte

Just another morning routine in front of the mirror...Or is it? Italo explores the limits of our reality in this delightful short story.

Scroll down to read the full story.



Changxin Su

America was founded and built on racism. Changxin gives us his informative review of and reaction to the 2019 Academy Award-winning movie, The Green Book.

Scroll down to read the full review.

Fresh Sounds



CELAC student Axel Retif is a contemporary classical composer, producer, and music festival manager, whose music has been played in various Mexican and international festivals. Take a listen and join his fans:

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Living Abroad: A New Experience

By Andrea Queiroz de Souza

Living in another country has the advantage of a new look, a new perspective and new experiences. When I left my country, Brazil, on January 25th of 2021, with the objective of learning English, I knew I would have new adventures such as different weather,

That Being In The Mirror

By Italo de Guia Duharte

Every day, when I wake up, the first thing I do is rub my eyes. That's a little mania that I have. I stretch still laying in bed, while I yawn. I sit for a little bit, like trying to catch the strength I need to face the day ahead of me.

tasting new food flavors and living in a new culture. But I didn't imagine it would all be so intense and interesting as it has been.

With so many interesting facts and so many differences; living abroad was even more exciting and intriguing than I could have imagined.

The biggest difference for me was the weather. Fortaleza, my hometown, which is in the Northeast of Brazil, is a beach town; sunny all year, with always warm temperatures and a breeze that soothes the soul. The city has wonderful sunsets by the sea of green and warm waters. Our winters are not cold – just rainy. So, when I arrived in Albuquerque in the winter with snow on the ground, this was a big difference for me indeed. It was my first experience with winter, and it was very new. First, the freezing wind hitting my face, breaking through my flesh, penetrating my bones, making me feel parts of my body that I didn't even know existed. It was so cold! As much as I put on clothes, it seemed that it was not enough to keep me warm.

Two times each day were the most difficult to get used to in winter. The first was getting out of bed in the morning and leaving that comfortable, warm bed with a blanket and facing the cold. Second, taking a shower (no matter how hot the water was), turning off the shower was always torture because the

When I'm done with that daily ritual, I stand up and go to my mirror. It's very big. It allows me to see my entire body and a huge part of my room. I can see my bed, the books in the shelves and some others spread through the floor. I can also see that desk where I sit to do precise activities, like reading and writing, illuminated by a lamp that shines with a bright yellow light that I use when it's getting dark.

To be honest, what calls my attention is that being that stands in front of me in the mirror. It's identical to me. It has the same messy black hair. Gray eyes like mine. It's 6 foot tall and weights around 200 pounds. I know because it's height and wideness are at first sight the same as my dimensions. The clothes it wears are the same I pick every day. Each single hair, spot, wound, scar, and characteristic of my own body is repeated through this artifact that tries to mimic my own world.

If I move to the right, it does the same. If I jump, it does. When I speak, it tries to mimic the same words I pronounce by moving its lips, but it conceives no sound at all. Just the movement. Every face and movement I do its replicated by this being living in this artifact. We are like 2 drops of water.

I feel very happy to have this mirror because I'm not alone. I feel accompanied by this being. Unfortunately, it can't stay the whole day. It has things to do. And when it turns around to leave, I stand there just watching it. Leaning on the mirror. In this room that has no exit. Where my only distraction is that being, that leaves me with an empty

cold air and all the suffering came together. Finally, I understood the meaning of a cold winter!

Another difference I found was tasting new flavors and food. The food sometimes has the same name, but the preparation is completely different. For example, tapioca. Totally different! Tapioca is different in Fortaleza because it is taken from the cassava, and made into flour, then sifted and salted. Meanwhile, the pan is already on the stove over medium heat. When the pan is hot, we place the tapioca flour, spreading it evenly, so that it covers the entire bottom of the pan. After a few minutes, we turn the tapioca, wait 30 seconds, and turn it again. For some people, in this way, tapioca is already ready and known as simple tapioca. I like to add butter and coconut milk and enjoy! On the other hand, here in Albuquerque, the tapioca are small balls served sweet in a pudding; completely different! Also, the food in Albuquerque is very spicy and in Fortaleza the people don't enjoy spicy food as much.

In contrast to the culture of Fortaleza, in Albuquerque, people are very sincere when they say they want to meet you; they mean it. In Fortaleza, it is common to say, "let's see each other" but we won't; we never schedule the meeting. It's just a polite way of saying it was good to see you. I say this

feeling every time it leaves the room and have me waiting for its return.

I'm Italo Da Giau, and I'm from Peru. I'm taking the Advanced level in CELAC. Also, I have a Marketing and commercial management bachelor degree. I started studying English at CELAC because I'm moving to the USA and I wanted to improve my language skills.

Review of "The Green Book"

By Changxin (Leo) Su

The movie that impressed me in recent years is Green Book. I learned from the movie that The Negro Motorist Green Book is a book about all places which African Americans can stay down South. The movie is based on a true story about a famous black musician who hired a white driver to accompany him to the concert tour in the South. I can't believe this story happened only 60 years ago.

The main characters are Dr. Shirley, a great black musician, and Tony Lip, a white driver. Shirley is about to embark on a concert tour, the majority of which will be down South, the deep South. He wants to hire Tony to be his chauffeur and his personal assistant. Tony impressed several people with his innate ability to handle trouble. Tony was promised an expensive salary. Then they start their journey.

because the first time I heard someone say, "let's schedule a dinner", I immediately thought to myself, this dinner will probably never happen. To my surprise, dinner was scheduled for the following weekend. I even thought it might be cancelled. It wasn't and it was wonderful. Big difference in culture.

On the other hand, people from Fortaleza are friendlier, you can talk easily in a supermarket, bus, or everywhere to a stranger. But in Albuquerque people are more reserved, they are friendly after they get to know you. In conclusion, when you live abroad you can easily find differences between the places, in my case, Albuquerque and Fortaleza. It is the differences that make these places unique and particular. The opportunity to be able to experience the differences in weather, no matter how painful they may have been at first, made me discover new seasons. Trying new flavors only increases my gastronomic knowledge. I'm enjoying being able to get to know a new culture up close and broaden my view of the world. As much as at times the fear of living abroad may exist and the uncertainty of the unknown may arise; however, there is a world of new possibilities, with phenomenal new experiences to be explored. I really believe that everyone should have the experience of living abroad. In my experience, it has

In the South, Dr. Shirley must live and eat where the African Americans only were allowed, according to the Green Book. He is invited to play in a very high-class restaurant, but he can't eat there. He is interested in a fancy suit. He is not allowed to try that suit on. He even can't be out at night because it's a sundown town, where all African Americans must be home after sunset. Tony helps him to solve problems with violence, he is not satisfied. He says to Tony, "you never win with violence, Tony, you only win when you maintain your dignity, dignity always prevails." At last, Tony understands why he insists to play in South- "because genius is not enough. It takes courage to change people's hearts." Beside the story, the movie also shows American daily life in the 1960s, with the different old-style cars and dresses, they are all so new to me.

There are very few people with dark skin living in China. I never realized racism around us before. But sometimes there is still some regional discrimination here. In China, people often discriminate against persons from Henan province, where I am from. I always mind people talking about "Henan" until one day five years ago. I visited a well-educated couple in New Mexico, where it is about ten thousand miles away from China. After dinner, they asked

broadened my thinking, my culture, and even the way I take in new information.

Hi, my name is Andrea Queiroz de Souza. I am from Brazil. I own a business called Minds in Fortaleza, Ceará. I have a degree in Hospitality and a Masters in Business Administration. I came here to improve my English and learn about the culture and was happy to find CELAC; where I am currently at the Academic Bridge level.

me a question, “Leo, as a Chinese young person, would you please tell us what is the different between China and North Korea?” In their mind, I am just a Chinese. Then I understand that if you have any discrimination in your mind, that means you still have not traveled far, you still have not had a broader vision. I really hope we can live in a place that has no discrimination, although it’s an impossible dream.

I am Changxin (Leo) Su, and I am a partner in a foreign trade company. I am attending CELAC High Intermediate level program online now, and I plan to continue to achieve a Master's degree at the University of New Mexico.