

May 2018

# CELAC STUDENT VOICE

Issue III

*CELAC's Monthly Student  
Publication*

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Interested in submitting  
your writing or art to the  
CELAC Student Voice?

Email Natalie Kubasek:  
[nkubasek@unm.edu](mailto:nkubasek@unm.edu)

The Staff would like to  
thank Augusto, Dolly,  
Gap, and  
Jessica for submitting  
their academic  
writing!



photo: <https://meowwolf.com/santa-fe/>

## CELAC Field Trip to Meow Wolf

by Maria Cardenas Garcia and Catalina Rodriguez Guerra

On April 13th CELAC visited Meow Wolf, a gallery house located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was an interesting experience because it has different environments. However, it is a difficult place to describe because it has many weird things. This place is visited by a diverse group of people who may enjoy it.

Meow Wolf is appropriate for people who value art. The gallery has different designs such as a recycled environment, a futuristic site, and abstract and creative halls. We saw a hall which illustrated China town, where the walls are decorated by amazing pictures. The pictures are interesting because they are made of cereal boxes and the path is arranged with small, colorful houses and with music from China. Furthermore, several doors are attractive because they are illustrated in part of the house. For instance, the refrigerator, the washing machine and the closets have entrances to other parts of the house. You feel like you are in another world. It is fantastic!

Finally, without a doubt we recommend this place because it is a wonderful experience. Personally, it allowed us to learn about different types of art and we saw the creativity and perspectives of many artists in a same site.



photo: <https://meowwolf.com/santa-fe/>

Location:

1352 Rufina Cir  
Santa Fe, NM  
87507

Time: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sun  
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Fri, Sat  
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Website:

<https://meowwolf.com/santa-fe/>



photo: <https://meowwolf.com/santa-fe/>

# MY FAVORITE FESTIVALS

by Gap Tharawatcharasart (Intermediate Writing)



*Celebrators of Songkran splash each other with water for good luck.*

In Thailand, we have lots of wonderful festivals and some of these festivals are important. In fact, they take a role in the community and in our relationships. We have had festivals for a long time which help us get to know each other and help us with socializing. My favorite festivals are Songkran, New Years, and Loy Kratong.

First, my most favorite is the Songkran festival. Songkran is a Thai traditional New Year which begins on April 13 every year. April 13 is Maha Songkran day, or the day to mark the end of the old year, April 14 is Wan Nao which is the day after, and April 15 is Wan Thaloeng Sok, on which the New Year begins. This holiday is also called the Water Festival because Thai people believe that water will wash away bad luck. So, we splash water on each other for fun and Thai people believe that it is a cleaning of bad things. We also give respect to our elders by pouring scented water onto our parents and grandparents hands and the elders, in return, wish the youngsters good luck and prosperity.

My second favorite is New Years. It is a long holiday and that is why I like it. I spend time with my family, do some fun activities such as party, Karaoke singing, or traveling. As we know, parties must have food, so we have special food. It is a Thai BBQ buffet. In addition, I always travel with my family. Sometimes we go to the island or to the waterfall. We are so happy to spend time with each other.

Finally, my third favorite is Lot Kratong. It is an important day of Thailand because we want to thank someone who helped us to have water a long time ago. We use floating lotus-shaped vessels in the water. They are made from banana leaves or colorful paper. It is so fun because there are many games to play on this day, for example, dart toss. You have to pay for the ticket and you can have 6 darts. If you toss the darts and hit 5 balloons, you can get a small prize. If you hit 6 balloons, you can get a big prize. I think this holiday is a wonderful day to do something cool.

To summarize, every country has different festivals which have their reasons. No matter what, festivals still are important things for friendships. Thus, in my opinion, we should enjoy them and pass their traditions down to the next generation.



*Floating lotus flowers to celebrate Lot Kratong*

# The Idea of a True Leader

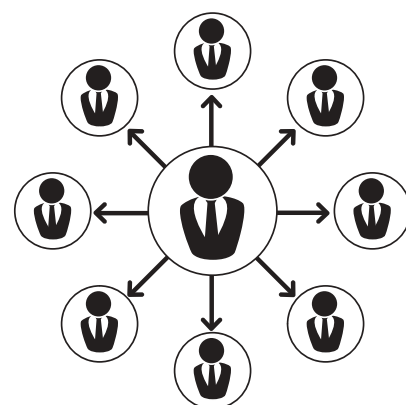
by Augusto G. Terrazas Canedo (*Academic Bridge Writing*)

Speaking of leadership in our society can be somewhat confusing, and sometimes difficult to define and understand because of the concept's different meanings or interpretations. It is very common to see or define a good leader as one who has triumphed, especially at a political or social level; either as a politician who gains the position through a “democratic” process, or because of his/her personal traits as a leader, who was able to get some kind of leadership position during a brief period of time.

Through a simple analysis of our current and past leaders, it seems that in our society there are fewer true leaders that personify leadership than there are leaders who shine due to brief popularity. However, after a few years or after death, these leaders leave nothing but a herd in search of a new successor. This simple idea gives me some basis to argue that while many of these leaders are able to create and form a good base of followers, they are not able to create new leaders; this statement is made without detracting from everything these persons may or may not have contributed to our society. I found an interesting quote which can support this idea; it says that “True leaders do not create followers, they create more leaders.” Applying this simple phrase to our society, it seems that it is not very easy to find true leaders who have achieved this goal, and I think that the ten fingers of our hands would be more than enough to count them.

Furthermore, while checking some articles about leadership, something that drew my attention was the concept of the 5 levels of leadership which can be defined as an individual that combines extreme personal humility with intense professional will. Leaders who have this interesting combination of traits are able to transform a good company into a great company. The 5 levels of leadership can be explained within the following hierarchy: Level 1: someone who is simply viewed as a highly capable individual that makes productive contributions through talent, knowledge, skills and good work habits. Level 2: a leader who contributes individual capabilities to the achievement of the group objective and works effectively with others in a group setting. Level 3 is defined as a competent manager who organizes people and resources toward the effective and efficient pursuit of predetermined objectives. Level 4 is an effective leader who is able to create commitment he/she vigorously pursues to achieve a clear and compelling vision for the company. Finally, the executive level 5 is someone who can be understood as a person who builds endurance and greatness through an interesting combination of personal humility and professional will.

To summarize, I believe that it is essential for us as citizens or as future leaders to understand that true leadership is a process that we all can begin at some time or level. If we seek to be successful leaders who can generate real impact on society, first it is necessary to develop ourselves holistically. This can be achieved through constant self-learning and taking action. In simple words, we can develop and educate ourselves fully to achieve the almost unattainable duality of Level 5, which surely many of us did not know existed.



# Sandia Mountain Hikes

By Vanessa Escobar



Photo: <http://sandiapeak.com>

This entire trail from Tramway to the south foothills past Copper is the "356 trail." Most people will do the entire trail mainly on mountain bike.

Another very popular trail, but very difficult trail, is La Luz Trail. This trail starts at the bottom of the tram or at the top of the Sandia Mountains where the tram meets the crest. This is a very difficult and possibly dangerous trail. People need to be in very good conditions to be able to hike this safely. It is recommended to have good hiking experience, plenty of water, food, and if possible, hike with other people and not alone. The trail has high desert scenery towards the bottom of the trail and greener trees higher up the trail. This hiking trail is not very family friendly. You need to be well prepared to hike this difficult but popular trail.

Sandia Mountains have a lot of trails for every type of person. You don't need to be an expert at hiking; just go out there and enjoy the trails.

Here in New Mexico we have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. We can do many activities such as hiking, skiing, mountain biking, horse back riding and river rafting. Because we have a lot of sunlight, many people spend their time outdoors. One of my favorite things to do is to go hiking here at the Sandia Mountains. There are many hiking trails at the Sandia Mountains. I have only been to a few but I would like to continue going to more in the future.

The trails that I have mainly been to are the Sandia foothills open space here near Albuquerque. One trail that I really like is Copper Trailhead. This trail opens up on Copper Rd near Tramway. This is a very popular family friendly spot for families with young children. You see a lot of people out here because it's a nice and easy hike and not very tiring. This trail also connects to Indian School Trailhead, Menaul Trailhead and all the way up north until it reaches the tram.



Photo: <http://sandiapeak.com>

# Students Write About Students

*The students of Academic-Bridge Writing interviewed and wrote profiles of their fellow classmates. In the next two essays, Jessica Flores and Dolly Lai share their profiles of each other.*

## Not Fragile At All

*By Jessica Flores (Academic Writing)*

When you leave your comfort zone is when great things start to happen. For Dolly, a woman who has left her country to develop herself personally and follow her passions, experiencing new things is part of her life. "Most of the people think that I like to talk, when I do not like it. That's the real me, but I'm trying to do different things, here."

For Dolly, to leave her country has not been easy. Although it is not the first time she is away from home, lately she feels that she has lost important facts in her family. Seven years ago, back in 2011, she was living and working in Japan, thanks to a program called work holiday visa; however, she had never felt so far away from home, as up until now. "I miss my family, because we are really close. I have two older sisters and when I was 20, we used to sleep in the same bed. So, we grow up really close. After my twenties, my middle sister married an American boy. So, she moved out. But we used to keep in touch and do Skype every day, or something, even if we have a different time zone, like 24 hours. Right now, I live here in Albuquerque like my sister, so I can see her more often.

But my oldest sister is alone in China and she misses us so much and me too, I want to go back with my mom and my dad."

However, this has not been an impediment for her to feel motivated to pursue her best, since she has the support of her boyfriend and his family. Dolly's major is Management in Industrial Engineering. Even though she has worked for ten years in the industry, she does not feel passionate about her career. As a matter of fact, she would like to study something different. "I would like to study Art, because I like the design. My boyfriend supports me; he said that if I want to study, he can help with the expenses of my studies. But I keep looking at what is my interest; right now I would like to blow glass, like make art, start from the beginning, because I can use my abilities to give gifts to my friends and family, for example on birthdays. Or I would like to try food too."

The food for her and the people around her is very important. In fact, her mom teaches her everything she knows about cooking. They used to cook together since she was a little girl. Therefore, it's a passion that she has had for a lifetime, passion that she shares not only with her boyfriend, but also with his family. In fact, they have thought of having a food truck together: a mix of Chinese and New Mexican cuisine, to create a new concept of street tacos. "I love food, and I also love to cook. Like my boyfriend and his dad, he had a really stable work but at the same time, he would like to try something new. So, I like cooking and his house has a lot of cooking tools. So, when he met me, he said that he never tried real Chinese food. And also when he saw my skills, he said that it was totally different.

## Cont. from pg. 6

So, I think that we can do something together because, I want to start running a business and he loves New Mexican food, green Chile, red Chile. So we would like to combine Chinese and New Mexican food and put together a food truck, like street tacos."

For Dolly, every day is a new challenge. She is a strong and independent woman, who when does something, does it with passion. Ergo, although her name could be related to a doll, let me tell you she is not like any other. "So first of all, you need to be cute and pretty. But then inside, you do not want to be like other people. And many people think a doll is breakable, made from glass, poetry, and easy to break. So, I do not want to be that way, I'm a tough doll. "

## That Moment She Grew Up

*By Dolly Lai (Academic Writing)*

Dressed stylishly and radiating youth, Jessica Flores is a twenty-four year old Mexican girl. Her confident smile makes her look more mature than her age. I am very curious about where this maturity came from. She says she grew up prematurely because of an accident that happened to her father.

During the interview, I noticed that this exotic girl is the opposite of me. She expresses herself bravely, speaking and laughing out loud. Jessica considers herself to be straightforward and not afraid of losing face. This strength is her greatest charm. However, this special trait of hers is not always accepted by others. When Jessica was an intern at an electronics company two years ago, her supervisor often scolded her for her boldness. Even though Jessica was very upset and unhappy, she did what she was told. This brings up a very important question. Should we change ourselves because of others?

Jessica retorts, "I am what I am. We shouldn't change our personality just because somebody doesn't like it."

After Jessica's parents divorced, she and her older sister lived with their mother. However, she is still very close to her father. "I admire my dad so much", she says with a determined look. I can understand the close connection between Jessica and her father. Many children regard their father as a role model to be learned from. The first time Jessica visited her father's workplace, she discovered new interests. Despite the fact that she was just sitting in his office watching him handling files and repairing machines, everything at the factory was a lot of fun to her. As a result, she chose Industrial Engineering as her major in the college like her father did.

Because of their deep relationship, when her dad had an unfortunate accident, she took on the important task of caring for her dad. This must have been very difficult for a young girl, especially at a time when she was working towards her dream job. The doctor told her that her dad may never walk again. Jessica was devastated. She worried about her dad, but also about her future. However, although she had hesitation, she never gave up. There was only one thought in her heart, "He is my dad. I won't leave him and let him down, no matter what." Eventually, her father recovered. Jessica thinks that this is the bravest thing she has ever done, and that it played a major role in her growing up and becoming an adult.

After going through her father's accident, Jessica now has more courage and has become more independent. The accident was a defining moment in her life. It is also important to note that her newfound maturity didn't just prepare her for more responsibility. It also helped her to appreciate the good in life, making her more charming and confident at the same time.



# Meet the Staff of The CELAC Student Voice



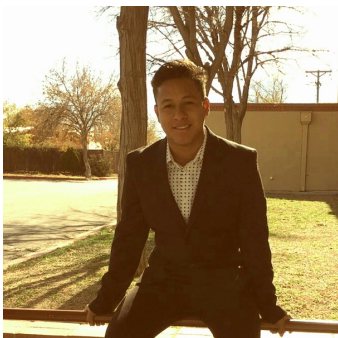
**Maria Cardenas Garcia**

My name is Maria Catalina Cardenas Garcia. I am from Colombia. I was born in Bogota. I studied Finance and Business Administration at the Sergio Arboleda University. I am so happy living in Albuquerque and enjoying this new experience in my life. I prefer outdoors activities, so that I like hiking and playing volleyball. I love comedy movies.



**Vanessa Escobar**

I'm Vanessa Escobar, and I'm from Venezuela. I'm a dentist and I like outdoors, hiking and dance. My favorite food is Italian food.



**Douglas Montano Ferrufino**

My name is Douglas. I am 19 years old and I am from Nicaragua.



**Catalina Rodriguez Guerra**

Hello, my name is Catalina Rodriguez Guerra, and my nickname is "Canelita". I am from Ibague, Colombia. I am currently studying English at CELAC because I want to do a Master's degree in biology at The University of New Mexico. I really like to dance, especially Latin music like Merengue and Salsa. My favorite food is Chop Suey and Colombian arepas.



**Arely Vazquez Perez**

My name is Arely Vazquez. I was born and raised in San Luis Potosi, S.L.P, Mexico. I enjoy outdoor activities; I love to travel and make Mexican crafts, such as Huichol Art. I studied Engineering in Global Commercial Logistics and I am currently studying in the CELAC program. I hope you enjoy my publications, just as I enjoy writing them!

Follow me on Instagram for backpacker travel tips.  
@arely\_vazquez51