



FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

2021

OUR INSPIRATIONS



BY

FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

STUDENTS

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings!

Our Inspirations is a collection of works produced by students of Flagler Technical College's GED Preparation and English as a Second Language (ESL/ESOL) programs. Students have an opportunity each year to contribute to this collection as a way to tell their story... what motivates them, what drives them, what inspires them.

These submissions are presented with minimal editing to help reflect that you can have an opportunity to inspire others no matter what your current level of English writing skill. Students have a great deal of flexibility to express themselves however they see fit... through pictures, poetry, essays, short stories, and more.

Our hope is that you, our reader, will find inspiration in the pages of this collection, and that it might move you to action in pursuing your goals and dreams. These works are proof that you can do whatever you put your heart and mind to, that great things can be achieved by anyone, at any time, and it's happening right here in our community at Flagler Technical College.

Warmest Regards,

Travis J Thomas - FTC Adult Education Program Facilitator

ABOUT FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Flagler Technical College (FTC), is a part of Flagler County Schools, and is the community's local resource for career and community education. FTC offers a wide array of programs and services that are designed to empower students to be educationally prepared and economically self-sufficient in an ever-changing global economy. FTC has something to offer for anyone in our local community, and has been serving Flagler County for over 30 years.

Students can explore adult basic and general education including General Education Diploma (GED) Preparation and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL/ESOL). They can also pursue a wide range of Career & Technical Education in high-demand fields such as Health, Transportation & Logistics, Construction, Natural Resources, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Education, and more through vocational programs and apprenticeships. Career dual enrollment opportunities are also available for our area high school students as well as partially-integrated learning plans for students working on GED or ESL and learning new trade skills simultaneously. Flagler Technical College offers various other community services as well including Community Education classes, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Extended Day, Step-Up, and more.

FTC also plays a major role in hosting the Flagler Home & Lifestyle Show every year to help raise money for the FTC Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund helps many local adult students get the education and training they need to be valuable members of our community and fuel our local economy. Donations to the fund are always appreciated and can be made by inquiring with the FTC Campus Director.

Additional information about Flagler Technical College including program offerings, financial aid assistance options, and more can be found www.FlaglerTech.edu or by calling (386) 447-4345.



FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE



GET CAREER-READY TODAY!

GED Preparation
\$50/Semester - \$32/GED Sub-Test

These courses are designed to prepare adults to successfully pass the complete battery of the GED subject area tests. After successfully passing all four subtests, the student earns a **Florida High School Diploma**.

FTC offers Virtual Classroom and Independent Online Learning opportunities as well as In-Person Classroom Learning experiences.

GED preparation courses are designed to assist students with preparing for each of the four subtest subjects: Reasoning through Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematical Reasoning.

NOTE: AGE REQUIREMENTS: Students 18 years or older may take the GED exam without pretest requirements. Students 16/17 years of age - According to the rules of the local school board, persons who are at least 16 years of age may be permitted to take the tests under extraordinary circumstances, Section 1003.435(4), F.S. However, 16/17 year old students (permitted to take the tests), must register at a qualified GED prep program, take and pass the online GED Practice Tests in order to schedule the GED exam.

How To Get Started: Simply contact Flagler Technical College via phone for more information or stop by our main campus during normal business hours to speak with a member of our admissions team. FTC Scholarship funding may be available for those who qualify.





FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE



GET CAREER-READY TODAY!

English For Speakers Of Other Languages (ESOL) \$50/Semester

Improve English skills to prepare for employment and/or advanced academic training. This program is available for adults (age 16+ and not enrolled in high school) whose **first language is not English**. Students develop skills in reading, writing, and speaking. Topics include work-preparedness, general conversation, civics, and academic application.

Classes are offered at **Beginner**, **Intermediate**, **Advanced**, and **Academic** levels. Progressive levels of grammar structure, reading, writing, listening, and life skills are taught to help the non-English speaker to adjust to American life and prepare the student to enter the job market or explore continuing education.

How To Get Started: Simply contact Flagler Technical College via phone for more information or stop by our main campus during normal business hours to speak with a member of our admissions team. FTC Scholarship funding may be available for those who qualify.

Spanish: aprender ingles | Portugese: aprender inglês | Hatian Creole: aprann lang anglè

French: apprendre la langue anglaise | Ukranian: вивчити англійську мову | Chinese: 学习英语

Japanese: 英語を学ぶ | Vietnamese: học tiếng anh | Russian: изучать английский язык

German: Englisch lernen | Hungarian: angol nyelvet tanulni | Arabic: تعلم اللغة الانجليزية

WORKING TOGETHER, BUILDING THE FUTURE...

By Adriana Gantiva

If two years ago they would have asked me, what would you be doing today? The answer would be very different, than the life I'm living today.

God gave us the opportunity to build our family in the USA.

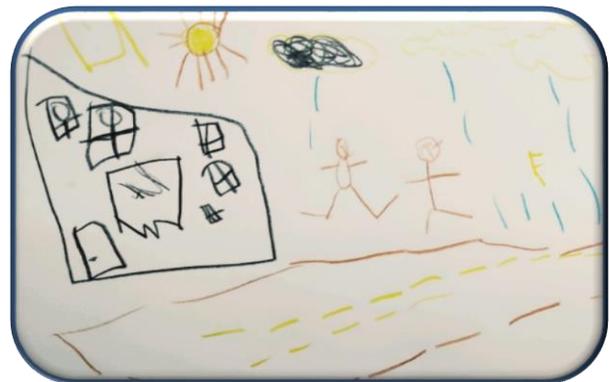
It was not easy to make this decision. My husband traveled from Colombia to live in USA months before the pandemic. My family had difficult times and a lot of uncertainty during the times we were apart.



When my Husband arrived in this country, he started our life project, he found a job where he could grow and show all his skills and knowledge.

One year and six months later we managed to travel and have our family together again to work towards our dreams and goals.

My son has been a great teacher in this process. His ability to adapt to all these changes, without getting frustrated and giving it his all to get ahead, have led me to start the process of learning the English language without fear, and I am thinking of developing an entrepreneurship project. My son is my greatest pride.



NEW DAY, NEW ME

By Oleksandr Dolhov

I love everything new, I love to search and find something new. I recently moved to a new country for me, America, and this is a very good event in my life. I am glad every new day, because it gives me new emotions, acquaintances and places.

In this country I have a new life: a new job, a new house, a car and many new friends, and this is very inspiring for me.

I also love to learn a new things - this is a good experience and development for me. I am especially impressed by our world, it develops and progresses very quickly, and I try to keep up.

My motto and advice for everyone is to strive and go forward to the new and not look back into the past.



MY LIFE IS IN HIS HANDS

By Alona Dolhova

What inspires me most and gives me confidence is that my Creator is God Himself. I am so glad that He gave me life and I want to live it in joy and gratitude, and not wasting it on unnecessary things.

God gave me a wonderful family: a loving and caring husband and a wonderful daughter. And I am happy to live for them, because this is the greatest meaning of my life.

I love my family and I like to spend time with my family and friends, as well as the church is important to me, where I find energy and inspiration for every day.

My advice to those who will read my story is notice everything and everyone who surrounds you and gives you love and joy. Be positive and grateful and then life will smile back at you.



US CITIZENSHIP

By Anna Mirijanyan

It all started when I won the green card and came to the country of my dreams. I came to this country mostly for my kids Samvel and Spartak, for them to have a great life I would do anything! Adrenaline rushing in me as I step foot into this new country not knowing what to expect. It was really hard to begin from the start. My husband and I worked shifts, but it was all worth it because now we have a house of our dreams. The only thing left to do is become a legal citizen of America.

It's a year later from getting our dream home and my kids are almost at their last steps of high school so I knew my next goal was to take the U.S. Citizenship test. I wanted to become a legal citizen of America. The day of me taking the U.S. Citizenship test was getting closer and closer. I was really nervous but I didn't let the stress get to me. I faithfully studied day after day, hour after hour and so I found myself standing in front of the big doors ready to take the U.S. Citizenship test. It was time for me to put my studying to the test.

At the end, I walked out of that room proud! Everything paid off, all that studying and hard work and for that I want to thank my teacher Mrs. Denise and my classmates for taking time with me and helping me study. Thank you all! Reading together and everything we have done together has helped me the most. So I want to say to anyone in this world that is going to take that test don't be stressed or nervous. Study and do your best. Believe in yourself like I believe in you because I know that you will do great!

WHAT IS MY GREAT INSPIRATION?

By Auramaria Gonzalez

The engine that drives me now is my daughter and her children, my four beloved grandchildren.

I lived alone in my apartment for about 9 years after my husband died.

One day, I received a call from my daughter who I had not heard from for about 11 years.

It was a surprise for me. She tells me help me mom, and she starts crying telling me about the suffering she was going through. She tells me that she lives in Ecuador, that the father of her three youngest children has taken them for 10 days and that she cannot find them. At that time, the baby was 3 years old, the girl 7, and the other 9 years old. They could be in Peru, Chile, Brazil, countries that they traveled previously and she tells me a little about what she has endured. I at that time had a trip to New York planned with my best friend. Of course I couldn't go through with my plans.

I met my daughter in Ecuador and I took care of Brayan, my eldest grandson, who by then was going to be 15 years old. Then we went looking for the children everywhere where she thought they would be. I knew many parts of Ecuador, we looked in Peru. We arrived in Chile by bus, and for each country we passed, we left photos and went to the Colombian embassy of each country, but no one gave us a reason. We spent about three months on that journey looking everywhere, but we did not find a trace of them.

In Colombia, we informed the authorities. After a year, the authorities found them, the government took the children for another year, the whole family was suffering and helping, the father of the children was in prison.

Now, they are very judicious, they are studying and my greatest wish is for them to be great professionally. I help them as much as I can.

I did not know them! On June 25 of this year, I traveled to Colombia and I was welcomed by three beautiful little people! My grandchildren! What emotion, what joy!

Now I am inspired by them, they are the engine that moves me in this life to move forward and set a good example.



WHAT IS AN ESOL STUDENT?

By Carolina Galeano

E ducation to

S upport

O ther

L atin

S tudents

T o

U nderstand and

D evelop

E nglish

N urturing us

T o our future



NOW, HERE I COME!

By Chary Dornoy

I have 20 years living in the USA, my first language is Spanish. I work hard with my basic English. I moved to Florida from New York and I feel I need to speak and learn more English, so I decided to sign up for school. I went to Daytona College then transferred to Flagler Technical College ESOL Program.

In my first two months at the school, I think the dynamic of the teacher is interesting. The environment is very nice and quiet and good for learning and to be focused. The teacher is very patient with us. I love when we ask questions and he makes a face expression before he answers.

I love traveling and meeting new people. English gives you access to multiple cultures as the global language and you can open doors for businesses.

One of the books we are using is so funny! The name of the book is "Speak English like an American". It is based on idioms. I have new words in my vocabulary.

NEVER GIVE UP!

By Colton Wright

Thirteen years ago, I was trying to get my GED, but my immature mind and life put it on the back burner. When I was in class, I was not even trying. I just didn't care. I always thought school wasn't for me, but that was the immature, fixed mindset, "I thought I knew it all", young kid. I even got in trouble for fishing in the pond next to the school on my lunch break. I took my GED test and passed everything, but math - "crazy right!"

Soon after that, life hit me like a ton of bricks. My mom, sister and a friend were driving back from the grocery store. The roads were wet, and they lost control of the vehicle. All three passed away. I had to grow up pretty quick.

So, I started working and never looked back. I've done concrete, asphalt, framing and any other trade I could learn. I did pretty well, but I was struggling. Depression and bad habits held me back a bit, and by the grace of God I had no more depression, and I dropped the bad habits. My confidence is now at an all-time high. I have a chance to change my life around. I have a chance to be the best version of myself. I want to thank God, my dad, and my friends that were there through the hard times and last, but not least, Miss Mariann, my teacher.

Be strong and never give up!

SOUVENIR

By Fares Senexie

I remember 13 years ago, I worked for an international organization called MINUSTAH with people who came from different continents.

It was really good work for this organization. There we all respected each other whatever their nationality.

We were all full-fledged workers. In spite of their origins or their cultures they had their ideas in matters of decision.

It was for me a very enriching experience which allowed me to acquire a lot of things.



MY MUSIC INSPIRATION – THE LYRICS TO BULLET TRAIN AS PREFORMED BY ANA VILELA

By Fernanda Campos

It isn't about having everyone in the world for oneself

It's about knowing that someone somewhere watches over you

It's about singing and being able to listen to more than one's own voice

It's about dancing in the rain of life that falls on us

It's knowing how to feel infinite

In an universe so vast and beautiful, and to know how to dream

So make each verse of that poem

worthwhile, about believing

It is not about getting to the top of the world and knowing you won

It's about climbing and feeling that the journey made you stronger

It's knowing how to give warmth and also have shelter in other hearts

And in that way to have friends with you in every situation

We can't have everything

What would be the charm of the world if it were so

For that reason I prefer smiles and the gifts

That life brought near to me

It is not about all that your money is able to buy

But it is about each moment

A smile for sharing

Also, it isn't about running against time so as to always have more

Because when you least expect it, life has already gone by

Hold your child in your arms

Smile and hug your parents while they are here

Because life is a bullet train, buddy

And we are just passengers about to leave

Hold your child in your arms

Smile and hug your parents while they are here

Because life is a bullet train, buddy

And we are just passengers about to leave.



HOW IS ESOL HELPING ME TO REACH MY GOALS?

By Haydée Torres-Pagán

ESOL is my new beginning in the United States and a personal challenge. As part of my new life as a retiree, I moved to Palm Coast, Florida a year ago. There are many new things to do and to know, especially to improve my English language. It is a good time to leave fear behind and do my best out of my home-country.

To be capable to communicate with English-speaking people, I decided to apply in ESOL Program offered by Florida Technical College. One of the requirements as an ESOL student is to take CASAS test. This test determines the level of comprehension in English language, and to assign me it to the correct group. I was scored in Level 6 and was oriented about the curriculum in advance group. I was scared because I thought that this level will be difficult in that moment, but I accepted my new Senior challenge!!!

Then, after seven weeks in the program, I feel comfortable with the manner that the class going on. ESOL Program has allowed me to learn idioms that frequently used by American people during their informal conversation. Also, my teacher encourages me to speak English with the correct pronunciation, answers my questions or doubts with examples, and motivates me to increase my vocabulary. All lessons and exercises in advance course guide me during my process to learn English as American people do. This program helps me to communicate effectively and properly in my normal or regular activities. That is my goal.

ESOL Program is one of the best opportunities for people of foreign countries with different languages, and it is a great bridge to find any professional job or work as a volunteer in any community organization.



ESOL

By Jenny Urrego

English language is challenging me.

Staying focused, motivated, and self-confident has been my strategy.

One day at time, step by step, I'm reaching my goal to improve my English skills.

Look on the bright side is my motto; big opportunities are waiting for me, and **FTC** is helping me to achieve them!



MY INSPIRATION, MY SON

By Yaritza Noriega

I am greatly inspired by my young son, John.

John is only 10-years-old, but he has shown me that age is no barrier to setting goals and obtaining them.

Our family visited the United States back when John was around 7-years-old. Our families were outside on the patio next to the pool, and his Aunt Vickie was attempting to use Spanish to communicate with John—but that wasn't going so well, as her Spanish was not very good. John was flustered, and got out of the pool and walked over to Aunt Vickie, and announced, "I speak English!"



We could all tell that John was embarrassed because he was the only child there whose main language was Spanish. But he was determined to use only English to talk with Aunt Vickie and all the children. He did the best he could, but he was obviously uncomfortable.

When we returned to Panama, I watched in wonder as John basically self-taught himself English. He searched YouTube channels and found videos of children his own age playing with toys. He paid attention to the way they expressed themselves, and then practiced his new vocabulary with his father. John devoted himself to learning English by immersing himself in conversations without any Spanish content.

By the time we moved to the United States in December of 2019, John's English was almost as good as the children who were born here. After living here for a little more than a year and a half, no one would imagine that John is bilingual and that he grew up speaking Spanish.

I am highly motivated by my young son, who has shown me that determination makes all things possible. I continue to watch as John continues to improve his skills, and it motivates me to work harder to develop my own ability to communicate in English.

Whenever I feel myself getting frustrated with my progress, I am reminded of how my son John was able to learn a foreign language. He learned the English language almost entirely by himself! This helps me to maintain a positive mental attitude of my own, and to push on with my own English studies. As John is so fond of saying, "Never give up!"

Keep Going, Never Stop

By Yanping Wang "Isabella"

If you are not satisfied with where you are and you want to change, figure out what you want in your life and set a goal to change. The next step is to see if you are disciplined enough. To get what you want, keep going, never stop.

When I retired at 55, I moved to Palm Coast from Beijing. It was a big change in my life. Strange environment, strange city, strange people, different culture, different languages, all of this was a huge challenge for me. How to adapt to the new life? How to make the rest of my life colorful? There's only one pathway to get I want. Continue to study hard and strive to improve myself aspects, just keep going, never stop.

Learning English

Learning English is the most important thing for me. Two months after I came United States, in order to integrate into the local life as soon as possible, I enrolled at Flagler Technical College and became an ESL student. I started with level 3. The school has provided excellent teachers, flexible and diverse teaching methods has adopted face to face and online schedules. With the patient help of the teachers and my own efforts, my reading listening speaking and writing skill have progressed. In addition, during this year, we participated in some social activities with classmates and teachers, benefit by forming friendships. Although my English is still limited, as long as I keep going, never stop, I am sure I will speak English fluently one day.

Build good neighbor relationships

My neighbors are very warm and greet each other. I started small talk with them when I have a little English foundation. We have shared fun things, happy things and homemade good food. I took care of the neighbor's cat, dogs and garden while they traveled and the neighbor took care of my garden when I went on trip. One of my neighbors is good at handwork and she taught me how to make Christmas decorations. That was my first real Christmas. Another

neighbor likes taking out the boat and kayak, they invite me enjoy good times with them together. There are two neighbors who like fishing, and the first time I went to fishing with them, I caught more than 20 fishes.

Make a beautiful garden

I've always dreamed of having a beautiful garden of my own. A year ago, the front garden was full of stones except for two small trees. I moved all of the stones and planted a lot of flowers. I also planted two rear gardens with vegetables. This is the first time in my life that I grew flowers and vegetables. I learned from YouTube, my neighbor, Lowe's salesperson and a friend who has experience planting. I learned what season should plant what kind flowers in Florida, what kind fertilizer suits what kind of flower and when to fertilize the flower. Although gardening is hard work, taking out weeds, watering, trimming and enduring mosquito bites. But when you see the colorful flowers all over the garden, there was a bumper crop of vegetables, people passing by the garden say it's beautiful, all of it makes the mood very happy. If you want your garden to look good all the time, keep going, never stop.

Exercise, for good healthy, for good life

Someone who can stick to one sport in their life, day after day, year after year, rain or shine, tends to have stronger willpower and self-discipline than normal people.

I like running in the morning. I like walking in the forest. I like walking on the beach. I like hiking on the nature trail. I like doing exercise at gym. Sports make me happy and healthy.

If you want to be healthy and good shape, start moving from now, move, you will get fun!

I believe to make changes in life and achieve goals, keep going, never stop, you'll make a better version of yourself.

MY FRIEND HAS INSPIRED ME WITH HER GARDEN

By Jessie Brucculeri

I came from China and I was born in the city. When I was growing up I didn't go to the farm and country. I didn't know how vegetables and flowers grew. When I moved to Palm Coast we had a backyard so I started learning from my friend how to plant vegetables and flowers.

First, you have to understand what kind of vegetables you want to plant. Some vegetables should be planted in the spring, and some vegetables should be planted in the autumn. Second, you have to know what kind of vegetables need more sun and which vegetables do not need too much sun. When you start to plant you need to make sure to use good garden soil or organic soil. You also need to apply fertilizer and water on time. Finally, you need to build a framework to let vegetables grow, for some vegetables it is not needed. You should check them every day. When you find vegetables that have bugs you need to immediately spray organic pesticides on them.

I am so happy I have nice garden and I am a good gardener. Working in the garden is good exercise, you can eat fresh vegetables and you save time and money because there is no need to go to the supermarket. You hit two birds with one stone. Eating your own organic vegetables is good for your health. I will continue to have a garden.





A LONG TRAVEL!

By Joel

The first time that I knew something about this country I was maybe 7 years old, Mr. Bruce Pearson gave me a Road Map from The United States. That big piece of paper seemed like a circulatory system, at that moment I couldn't imagine that one day I could be there in a little part of that complex system.

One day I understood that the earth is too big to be in one place and life passes in front of my eyes very fast, I just have one chance to know other places, other people. I didn't want to waste that opportunity, so I made a small bag with the blessing of my family and some memories of all of them. But thanks to technology we can be closer. I hope to feel a real hug soon.



We are all travelers on different roads, with different baggage, but now we're sharing the same station, enjoy the ride, only live once.

"The first time that I came to United States was with my little son Jeremy, now I hope that one day his dreams come true too."

BELIEVE AGAIN

By Josefa Ramirez de Vergara

In order to resolve those situations that we face in life, we all need to believe again, to believe in ourselves and in that wonderful God who solves everything.

The world is as it is.

It is not what we have, the most beautiful thing is what we give to others, and the simplest thing is what is worth more.

Look inside yourself, rescue your hope, your essence, and your existence.

Surrender to feel, to live, get on the wheel of life and believe again.

Believing in yourself is essential to achieve what you have ahead of you.



MIGRATION

By Johanne Guercin

In every place on the planet

Nations fight each other they betray

They kill generation after generation

In all parts of the world wars

We didn't understand cries of pain

That we do not hear miseries

That we have invented

From the thrones cries of abuse

And punishment are heard

Migrating is a way to keep dreaming

We are all migrants from some lost dream

They divided the earth into irreparable fragments

They took advantage of them

Then they migrated to other suns looking

For gold they sowed division

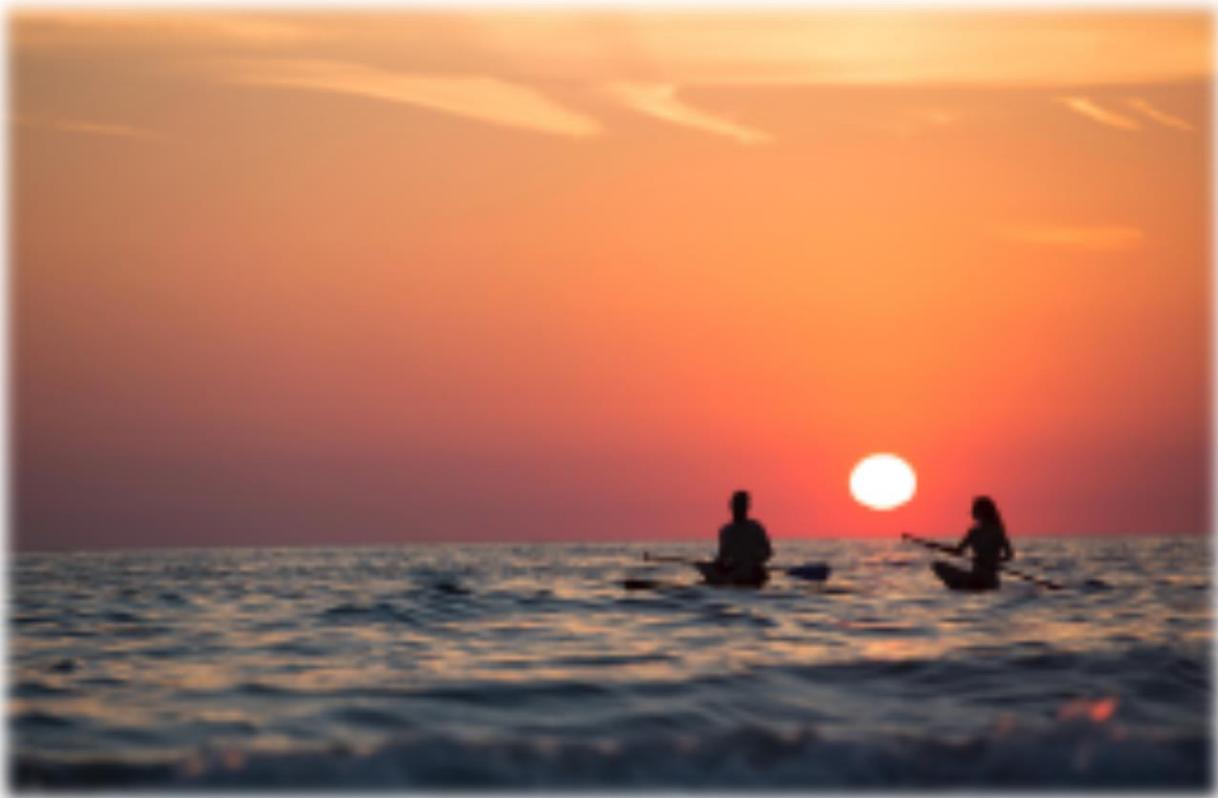
Heartbreak, Intolerance

Now, they forget that all are migrants from some horizon

I belong to all the earth

I belong to all the sun

I belong to the whole sea



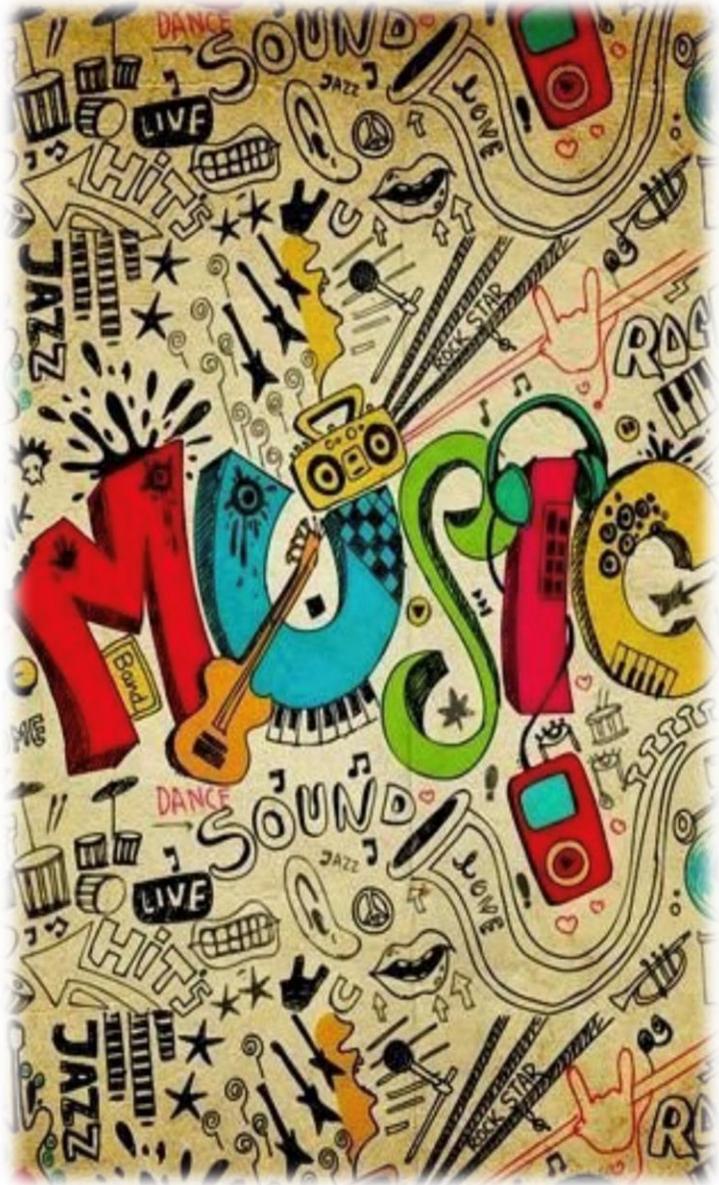
MUSIC, MY INSPIRATION

By Lojain Habbabeh

I love music. It is my best friend. Music is with me always. Music is with me in sadness, joy, happiness, and success. Every beautiful feeling that I feel is caused by music. With every step I take, only music stands by me, understands me, and pushes me forward.

Also, I derive my strength from it because it gives me the inner feeling of motivation to strive in order to achieve my goals and reach my dreams. Just your father and mother when they're hard on you. They embrace you with their tenderness and push you towards your future. This is what music does for me. It takes you when you are desperate and sad into a beautiful space. It helps you think about your future, your dreams, and who you aspire to be.

Music, it's my oxygen.



ESOL INSPIRATION

By Marcio Pires

Hi there! If you are here in the USA, a great thing you can do for yourself is: Learning English!

Put it as a very important goal in your life, it will help you for all the time you are here.

In an ESOL class, you will have a really good experience learning English and have a good time with the teachers and the other classmates who are also learning English. Make your life better with English.

My name is Marcio, I am from Brazil. I want to speak about my experiences since I started an ESOL class. I started ESOL classes about 3 years ago in the Basic English class. Now I am in the Advanced class. It's been a long journey but every mile I walked learning English makes a big difference in my life. Now I have a better position at my job and I can speak with other people without being afraid of mispronouncing words.

I just have one thing to say: "Don't give up your dreams."

MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY

By Maria Serrato

In 1973, I decided to leave Mexico and the rest of my family and move to Chicago, IL. USA. I brought with me my daughter Gloria Isela, who was 5 years old at the time and my sister Grace who was 10 years old. I had adopted Grace as my daughter after my mother died.

When I got to Chicago a friend's family gave me support while I was getting a job. After just one week, I was working in a little sewing factory. I worked there 2 years; then I got married and had a baby boy.

A friend recommended me to work in an office and I learned to fill out forms for Immigration, after 3 years my boss decided to sale the business. My friend and I formed a partnership between us and started our own business but it did not work out, and after one year we decided to work independently.

I worked very hard and in the year 1992, I managed to buy a house in Palm Coast, Florida. I rented the house for many years. Finally, after 37 years, I left my business for my retirement to live in my house in Palm Coast, Florida. This country has been the best for me and my family; we have been blessed by Jehovah God.



MY EXPERIENCES AT FLAGLER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

By Larissa Torel

My experience in learning the English has been challenging. When I arrived in the United States I thought it would be easier. I looked for ESOL classes because my goal is to be a fluent person in the English language, and this program has helped a lot of people!

My name is Larissa Torel. I am 37 years old. 3 ½ years ago I moved from Brazil to Palm Coast with my family... my husband and 4 children.

When I arrived in the United States, I thought it would be easier to learn English. I was wrong! I looked for ESOL classes in Flagler Technical College (FTC) because my goal was to be fluent in the English Language.

This program has helped a lot of people and it has helped me a lot, also. Words are not enough to express the experience I'm having... It's been fantastic.

If you want to know more or like this, please join us. No matter your age, it's never too late to learn something new.

Words are not enough to express what it is, in fact, to be immersed in a different culture, communicating in another language, and meeting people from all over the world.

It has been a fantastic experience!

MY EXPERIENCE

By Regina Docile

I am from Haiti.

When I first came to the United States it was not easy for me to communicate with people because I couldn't speak English yet. Everywhere I used to go people could not understand my accent. I used to have someone with me to help translate for me. Every work place I went to, they always were looking for someone who was already speaking English fluently.

It was really hard for me to do everything because I couldn't understand well. That's the reason I decided to come to FTC to learn and improve my English skills.



IT'S TIME TO FLY

By Natalia Torres

As a good Colombian, I've never wanted to leave my house, but it's time to fly like my mom told me. With a thousand fears and being seventeen years old, I made the decision to study aviation and start learning English. Interested in an aviation career, I decide to travel away from my family to study and be great in the professional field.

I love my country, but I am very passionate about aviation and I know that filling myself with experiences, with new things, I will be able to achieve it. I want to know English perfectly. It is always difficult to put aside customs and the things you love; but, when it comes to growing as a person and professionally there is only one purpose, to improve the future for future generations.

When my mom told me "It's time to fly" I understood that I was already going from being a child to being a woman with bigger purposes, with new goals and life expectations.



MY LIFE

By Phillosile Evariste

My life is built on three pillars:

Apprenticeship

Learn not to depend on anyone

Success

Where someone fails you can always succeed

Respect

Respect the smallest things

Work every day to be successful

Go to the school because education is the basis of any success

Focus on your studies- this is how I became what I am thankful for today

My advice for you and your children- put markers on your route as points in order to know your starting point and the point of arrival

A thank you to all those who allowed me to cross this road

MY GARDEN MY BEST ALLY

By Xiomara Gaviria

God and my family are my inspiration but I want to share something that also motivates me and it's the love I feel for plants.

Sowing a plant such as a tree or a flower becomes a common project in which the whole family collaborates. We unite our enthusiasm and effort to work with a shared goal. In some way, this plant, tree or flower will become another member of the family that we all will take care of.

A good harvest requires good seed, good compost and constant watering.

With the sowing I learned to not force things to cultivate patience day by day and make an effort in my garden. I am happy sowing and I apply it in my life. I am my own land. If the seed is sown with faith and cared for with perseverance, it will only be a matter of time to collect fruits.

However some days the harvest does not produce good fruits. I reassure myself and understand that nothing lasts forever and that the objectives are achieved persevering and waiting for the right moment.

Planting a tree is much more than a gesture. If each human planted at least one tree; the life of this planet and of it's inhabitants would improve. It would be a way of loving ourselves and the environment and also to be grateful for everything that the Earth gives us.



COMING TO AMERICA

By Senait Teklemariam

If I didn't come to America, then I wouldn't be here. I came to America on July 4th. Coming here was the best decision I made in my life. I am fortunate that I can spend time with my friends and family who also came to America.

We enjoy it here. I appreciate my life, spending time with my kids, going to their sports, and I am glad to be a happy mom.



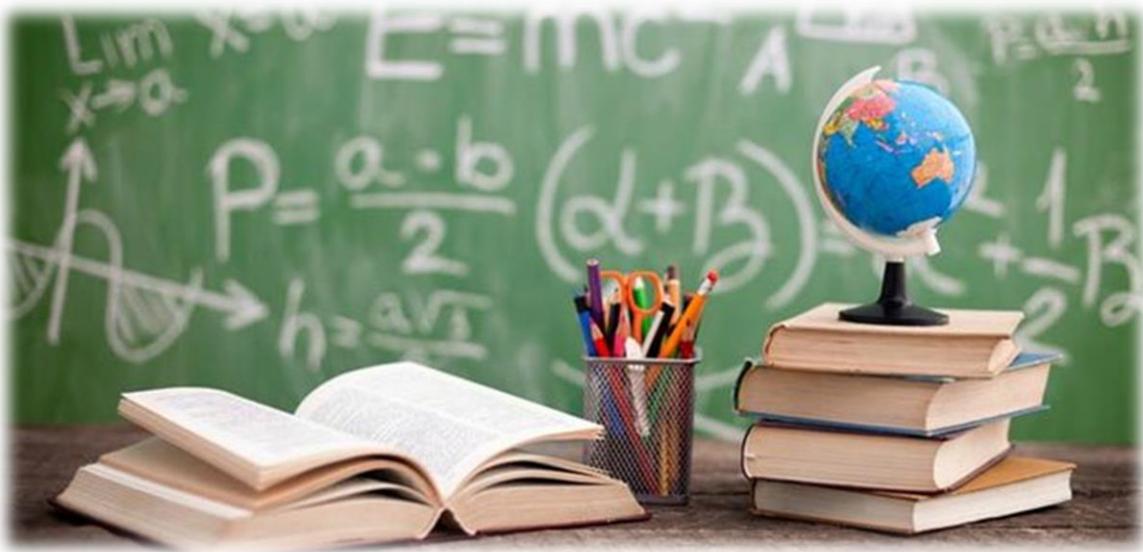
MY INSPIRE STORY

By Teresinha Pinto

I am writing about ESOL because this is very important, that I learn how to read and write because it will prepare me for what the future brings.

I am also very excited to learn more about computers and how to type. I feel that this class will get me ready for my GED.

I do feel that I need a lot more practice with my spelling and with my computer skills, but I am confident that I will do well.



RESPECT

By Soknavanith Shier "Vanny"

From my childhood until now, who made me a better person, who was the one to give advice, education? It is my parents.

My parents always told me one advice word "Respect".

They said Respect is a good routine for my whole life, study, living, and with other people.

This word stayed in my mind and memory. For my study that means to Respect time, for living that is Respect to parents who are older than me, with other people it is Respect the thoughts of others.



A GIFT FROM GOD

By Veronica Purvis



I want to share with you what my 8 years living in the United States have been. Well, when I managed to arrive in this country, a new stage in my life began for me. Like everything in the beginning, some situations were difficult, how to adapt to a new culture For example: the food, the handling of money, the climate, but especially the language. When I left my native country I knew that I was coming to a new world; but one of my biggest frustrations was not having knowledge of the language.

This has been one of my greatest challenges, learning it is something that has not been easy for me, but I know that I will achieve it with effort and dedication.

It is something of vital importance to be able to communicate on a daily basis. When my daughter began the process to bring me on one of her visits to Colombia, I took two CD-Rs from the Rosetta Stone language program so that she could begin to learn English. The truth perhaps due to my lack of constancy I did not.

When the moment that we all expected came and I received the visa, it was something wonderful, it was a very special moment in my life that I will not forget. Immediately my daughter bought the ticket to come, the truth is we were all very happy, I came to live at my daughter's

house with my son-in-law and my grandchildren. They all speak English, my son-in-law is American, the children were born here and my daughter speaks it perfectly, so I started to get frustrated when they spoke in English and I didn't understand anything.

After two years of living here I met the one who today is my husband. He is American and did not speak any Spanish and I spoke a few words in English. Our communication was totally difficult, we began to communicate through the translators of the phones but it was not easy at all, then when we got married and moved to Palm Coast we started looking for a school to start taking classes.

Luckily for me I found Flagler Technical College, I started taking classes, I have been taking classes in different semesters. This has helped me a lot for what I have learned today, my communication with my husband and other people has improved. After completing five years of having my residence I could apply to obtain my citizenship, it was really another difficult step for me.

As we all know this exam is all in English. My biggest problem is understanding when they speak to me, My daughter and my husband constantly told me that I should start studying to get ready for the exam. Finally, I filled out the form and we sent it along with the required documents.

I began to study everything related to this exam in English. I spent several months studying, listening to a lot of interview videos to try to understand different accents. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everything was delayed, which was good for me, as I had more time to prepare.

The day of my interview finally arrived. This was a very important step for me. I was very nervous about all the civic questions I learned by heart, everything on the form too, but the fear I had was not being able to understand what the immigration officer would ask me.

Well I took the exam and thank God I passed it which was a great achievement for me.

Currently I continue with my learning. I will continue to do it to the fullest so that doors of greater opportunities are opened for me. I am happy to be living in this country where we are

offered opportunities for work, study, benefits, feeling useful at my age for society, power to go out to different places without fear. I admire the fauna, flora, which is valued by the inhabitants, the public order. In short, they are great blessings that I have received from God.

Finally, we can achieve the goals that we propose with effort and dedication.

MEMORIES

By Winblair Shier



This picture reminded me of one of my best memories of studying the English language. I remembered my first time hanging out with my neighbors just to get some snacks and how my life was about to change.

My neighbors and I were paying the bill for snacks when suddenly a lost tourist came into the local market for helps. He came up with a printed maps and asked for a direction to Siem Reap and whether or not we could help him.

At first we were all shocked because we could not understand what he said as we did not learn much about English yet but, we still tried to help him. So I ran in to my brother to ask him to help that tourist. My brother explained to the tourist for like 15 minutes to ensure that he got everything right.

My neighbors and I looked at my brother explaining carefully and clearly to the tourist and I could say that my brother was very comprehensive and informative in that type of situation. After a long talk, the tourist really appreciated our help and thanked my brother and even took a photo with us. Everyone was so happy on the way back home except me. I felt worse. I could not communicate with him by myself, instead asking my brother for help.

I started to feel like English was very vital for me and my everyday uses. Also, I was thinking that it would have a huge impact on my future career path as well. I asked my brother to teach me English for an hour every day and he agreed. I also registered in English Programs class to get new grammar points and worksheets for more practice. I also read newspapers as it helps strengthen my vocabulary skills and I even got to listen to podcasts every night before I sleep. I really loved and enjoyed learning English so much and even practiced speaking in front of a mirror every day.

About a year later, I felt so convinced about my communication skill and I could also speak with brother face to face without hesitation. Studying a foreign language not only improves my communication and memory skills, but it can also increase my cultural knowledge and can help me to feel much more independent.

ESOL HELPS ME TO REACH MY GOALS

By Xiao Dong Yang

It doesn't matter when I started to learn English, but the important thing was that I couldn't understand almost a sentence after entering the United States.

Getting up early and returning home late to run a restaurant for ten years has been exhausting me. It was very time-consuming. In spite of this, I still took the time to learn English as much as I could. Although the progress was slow, but it's good for accumulation, and this accumulation finally broke out after I starting taking ESOL classes at school. I can feel that my listening, speaking, reading, and writing started to improve and I just passed the reading and listening exam exited ESOL level 6. I am so happy that years of hard learning finally got results. As I continue to study English, my skills are continuously improving.

Studying English makes me feel younger, happy, and fulfilled and it builds my self-confidence as well. As long as I live, I will never stop learning English.



MY FAMILY, MY GREATEST INSPIRATION

By Yordanka Cueva

The most important thing I have in my life is my family. I am very fortunate to have them and I really enjoy our time together, without a doubt they are my greatest inspiration and when we are together everything is possible.

I am a mother and a wife. At the moment I am very inspired by a work project with my husband which will be our family business. I am excited about this opportunity and we entrust this new family undertaking to God.

May God always bless my home.





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