
COMMUNITY CENTRAL

Stories, Essays, Poetry and News from the BTSD Tutoring Program

Issue 1

Winter 2015

Newsletter Update

Ann Luetzow

We are very excited to present our first newsletter, a way for students to share their stories and for us to share other information relevant to students and tutors. We hope that the newsletter will offer students an opportunity to do more personal and creative writing. We also hope that by providing space to share students' experiences, we will create a greater sense of community among students, volunteers, the Basic and Transitional Studies Division and the College. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, and thank you for reading!

If you have any ideas for the newsletter or want to submit to the next issue please talk to Peter or Ann in room 3124 or email BasicStudiesTutoring@gmail.com.



I Am Motivated to Learn

Chang-Mei Kuo Fan

In Taiwan I was a teacher. I taught sixth grade math for 30 years. I retired 19 years ago. I was 53 years old. I took care of my 2 grandchildren and I was very busy. For the past 19 years I never read any books. Last year, my grandchildren went to high school and to university at the U.W. I was alone in my home. It was boring. I thought I must be motivated to learn English, so I can connect with my neighbors. Then, on September 4, 2014 I went to Seattle Central College to study English. On the first day I saw all my classmates were young. I felt shy because I am 72 years old. I study hard. I am very hard working, but I forget things easily. When I take the bus, I read notecards every morning. In level 3, I came to class every day. I got 90% or 100% on all my quizzes. I was never absent from class, so I learned with confidence.

Now, I am in level 4A. My body is weak. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I have hospital appointments, so I am always absent from class. I study slowly and I am confused, but I have patience and continue to strive.



English Is Important for Us

Fartaun Mohamed



When I first came to the U.S.A, I found out the importance of knowing English. Whenever I went to the market to buy food, to the post office to mail a letter, or take a bus to the bank, I had to communicate in English or things wouldn't go smoothly.

But, the most important reasons for learning English for us are to be able to go through the interview process to get a job and to be able to read English to know what's going on in the world.

Some ways to improve English are reading books, watching TV, talking to your classmates in English, and talking to other people outside of class. Give your English more time. Sacrifice doing fun things to study English, but not always.

Lastly, but not least, I want to encourage you to manage your time because you have the best time to learn whatever you want. You have school, and you don't pay

much, and you have inspiring teachers like Jamie, Queen, and Karen.

Also, you have tutors who are ready to help you, and they give their time for you like Ann, the head of the tutors, and my helpful tutor Shawn. There are lots of tutors. I can't count their names here.

In conclusion, try to improve your English. It will help you in your life.

A Learner's Reflection

Anonymous

I'm from Mexico City. I moved to Tennessee about ten years ago. I stay in Tennessee for seven months and I moved to Seattle. My two friends and I drove to Seattle. I moved here because my country the life is really hard. If you're trying to look for a job, it's hard to find a job.

I working in two restaurants: one is Italian, one is French. And work 65 hours a week. At night, I come to Seattle Central College from Monday to Thursday to take ESL classes. Because if you're here, you need to speak the language and understand the rules from the country you're living.

I have a lot of goals and dreams. One of those is speak well English language because in the future maybe I'll work in translation and maybe help people to understand the language. Or maybe I can find a better job in my country. If I speak really good English, I want to make my own business. I love cook Mexican breakfast.

A Volunteer's Reflection

Ximena Arbelaez



Hi, my name is Ximena Arbelaez. I'm a Spanish and English teacher originally from Colombia. I first came to Seattle as an exchange Spanish teacher at St. Alphonsus elementary school in Ballard for the 2010-11 school year, and then moved here permanently in 2012.

Since the fall of 2013 I have been both a student and a teaching assistant at Seattle Central. As a student, I have been taking a series of English reading and writing proficiency courses. At the same time, I have been supporting the Basic and Transitional Studies Tutoring program.

Specifically, I have been assisting with the C.A.L.L. (Computer Assisted Language Learning) class. I support the students who are working hard to improve both their English and their computer skills. This experience has given me the opportunity to work with a wide variety of adult immigrants from all over the world, coming from many different cultures and nationalities.

As somebody who is also an immigrant and has worked to develop her English proficiency and integration into American culture, I feel like I owe it to others to help them with their efforts to follow the same or similar path; it's my community responsibility and it gives me a real feeling of contribution and happiness to be able to do this.

At the same time, I've continued to grow through this experience, both personally and professionally. My personal ambition is to become a full-time teacher, so the C.A.L.L. Class has given me more professional experience, as I work with each individual student, adapt to their needs and learning process. I think that I learn as much from them in this way as they learn from me!

I feel very fortunate to be part of this community at Seattle Central and look forward to more involvement and opportunities in the future. Thank you, to my teachers, the staff at Seattle Central, and to my fellow students!

Two People, Two Fortunes

Thuc Le

This story is about a homeless person, and my life. It's difficult to predict someone's future and talk about a person's childhood. I asked him about his childhood years. He smiled and answered my questions.

He was born in the countryside in Vietnam. Only his grandmother, mother and sister lived in their small house. His father was still in the hospital because of illness. For these reasons, his grandmother and mother took him to many other cities to

beg for money on the streets when he was three, four years old. When he was too young to understand why. When he didn't have any shoes to wear. There were some people who became angry and upset when he asked for money.

This story touched my heart. It made me cry. Then he told me his dad was operated on many times while he was far away. That made me more emotional, and my tears continued. He told me the story didn't stop there, his grandmother was in the hospital when he failed an entrance exam for university. He was the hope for his grandmother, but she died without seeing her grandson study at that famous university. Then, he crossed the ocean to America. I asked for his favorite part of childhood. He started crying.

I want to tell you about my life and neighborhood where I grew up. I have a little sadness when I think about people in my family and friends from that time. I've been homesick and I miss them.

I had a lovely house of which there are special memories. There were many close friends, and we usually liked playing together. There were many houses and streams. There were twisty paths and green grass where children were always playing. I was often flying kites all day in large fields on hot summers. My town is in the countryside, surrounded by mountains and the sea. The Truoi River is close, and I liked best. During the summer, the weather were too hot, so we swam from one shore to the other of the Truoi River. I've been living in America. I have to face and endure many difficulties now.

One morning, I was walking to the school SCC, and I saw him smiling while sleeping next to the store. Perhaps Binh was dreaming about his better future. Yes, Binh was also like other people. He was rolling in his wet rug, but other people were sleeping in warm blankets and fine cushions. Although my life in America isn't full of money, I had a happy childhood. About Binh, he had a difficult time as a child. His life is still a struggle. When I've talked with him and looked into his eyes, I've seen a friendly and gentle person. He seems to be asking for my help. I wonder if he has ever had any assistance in this country.

Was life more than a storm!



A Learner's Reflection

Anonymous

I'm 72 and I came to the U.S. in March 1995 from Vietnam. I was in the Vietnamese Army before 1975. I was a social worker in the army and I helped the family of the soldier who is die. I help everything if they need something because my service is to help the family because no more father, no more husband.

In 1995, the government of the U.S. give me the permit to come to the U.S. My friend have a relation with World Relief and she sponsor me to come here. We were in communist prison together for seven years. I live in Seattle from 1995 until now.

When I came here the government gave me money every month to go to school one year but only three months I went to work because I need money to help my family and my mom in Vietnam. If I take money from the government only about \$800 and I pay for rent, for

the bus and everything and I use for food so I need more so I go to work.

I'm retired so I come back to school. When I go to work I don't have time to go to school. I work a job as a caregiver 15 years. And after that I retired. I come back to school to learn English and computer.

I have a lot of dreams and goals. I want to learn more until I can. I want to go to the UW, the college. I'm too old and I still want to go to school until

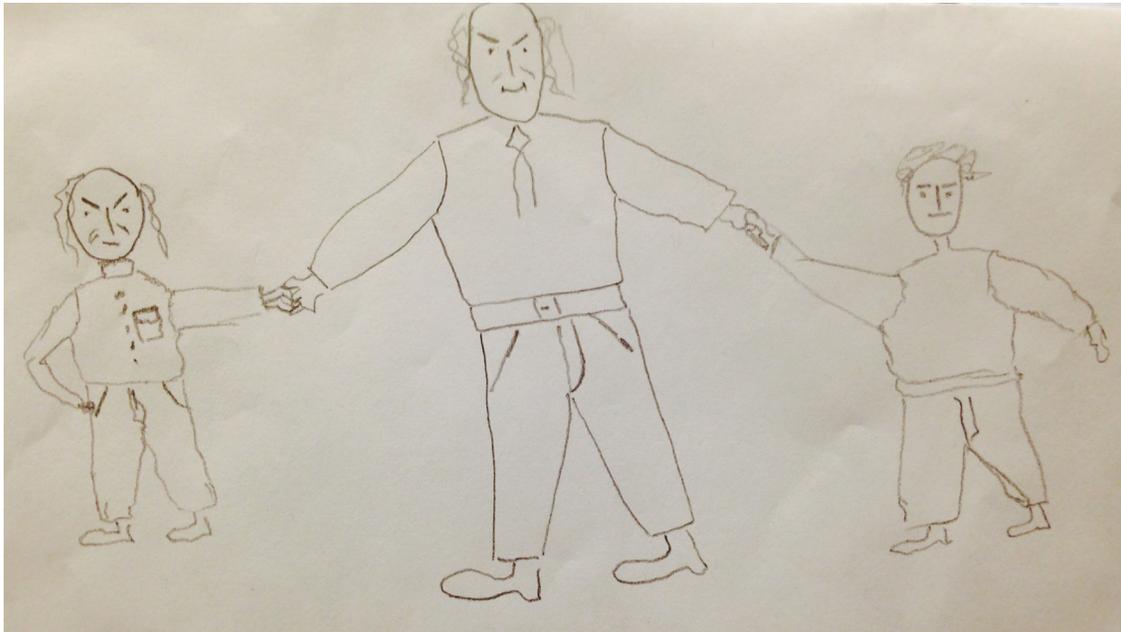
Poem

Sahra Omar

I'm woman who loves a peaceful mind
Green trees and the forest are my favorite in nature
Bird song and summer in Afrika also my favorite too
I can force the nature, am far away in my land
Am this place, I adore too
Am close to nature and mountains around me
It rains more, but I don't mind to walk with coffee on my hand
I'm a woman who loves peaceful mind.

My Family

By Amine Abdelkrim Geno



My name is Geno. This is a photograph of me and my two children. One boy's name is Rashid and the other boy's name is Mohamed. He looks like his mother. Rashid looks like me. He's the oldest. He's married and has a son and Daughter. I'm a grandfather. I have two grandchildren, a boy and girl. They live with my mother in Morocco. I am a single grandfather. I miss my family.

Need some extra help?

The drop in tutor is available to answer questions and provide extra practice to students in the Basic and Transitional Studies Department

***Mondays: 10 am -to noon
Tuesdays: 10 am to noon
Wednesdays: 10 am to noon***

Evening hours will be posted in the begining of the next quarter.

Tips for Tutors!

Homework Help!

One of the main things that students ask tutors to do is help with homework. Though your student may expect you to work on their homework with them, it is important to not provide too much assistance, because:

Their teacher won't know their capabilities, and won't be able to track their improvement. It does not help your student to have a perfect homework assignment if they don't understand the content!

If your student pulls out a homework assignment, here is what you can do instead:

Explain the content(or what is being asked of the student)

If you're not sure, ask if they have class materials on the subject.

Look in the resources cabinet -- is there anything there?

Check the web!

Provide Examples

Pull out a sheet of paper and write examples in the style of the homework.

If it seems appropriate, do a couple of problems or start the assignment with the student, but stop, allowing the student to complete the majority of the homework independently.

Let the student complete the remainder of the assignment on their own!

SHARE YOUR WRITING IN COMMUNITY CENTRAL!

Community Central is a newsletter for the Basic and Transitional Studies Division Tutoring Program. We want to share your stories, poems or essays about your experience with education, your motivation to learn or to teach, your hopes and goals or broader issues in society that affect you.

Who can submit?

Students and tutors in the Basic and Transitional Studies Division

How do I submit my writing?

Please e-mail your work to BasicStudeisTutoring@gmail.com by May 29th. Submission should be less than 500 words.

Questions?

Please stop by room 3124 and talk to Peter or Ann
