

TLC-South Bend Chronicles

New Teachers at TLC-South Bend

Stephanie Mirza

Stephanie Mirza began her university studies at Valparaiso University, in Valparaiso, Indiana, which is also where she met her future husband. After their marriage, she and her husband moved to Connecticut, where she completed a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. After completing a Bachelor's degree, she returned to school to work toward a Masters Degree in Liberal Studies, which she obtained at Wesleyan University.

"I wrote a thesis on immigrant Muslim-American literature," said Stephanie. "As I wrote it," she explained, "I realized that it was about identity."

In addition to living in Indiana and Connecticut, Stephanie has lived in the Seattle, Washington, area, where she grew up, and in her husband's native Pakistan, where she learned to speak Urdu.

"I'm happy to be here, teaching at TLC-South Bend," she said. "The students are great."

Stephanie has three sons, aged 12, 9, and 7.



Virginia Olson

Though she is a new face to most people at TLC-South Bend, Virginia Olson taught at the center in 2003. Since that time, she has taught English, Spanish, and communications classes at Indiana University (IU) South Bend, and at St. Mary's College.

Virginia earned both a Bachelor's degree in General Studies and a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from IU South Bend. Her interests, however, extend beyond academics: She is also a certified massage specialist.

"I studied at the Kalamazoo Center for the Healing Arts," she said, "because the program is holistic in nature. They talk about the many areas in which massage can affect your life."

With such a busy work schedule she has little time to travel to other parts of the world—at least for the present.

"Last summer I worked in a bed and breakfast in Utah," said Virginia, "where I had an opportunity to meet people traveling from all over the world. Teaching at TLC-South Bend," she concludes, "is a great way to have the world come to me."

Jennifer Kang

Jennifer Kang, who grew up in New Jersey and Illinois, has lived in several places and has done many interesting things. A graduate of Yale University, where she earned a Bachelor of English degree, she also earned a Masters Degree in Social Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

After completing her studies at Johns Hopkins University, she remained in Baltimore, Maryland, where she worked at the prestigious *Baltimore Sun* newspaper.

"I worked as a copy editor," she said. "The technology was still somewhat old-fashioned," she explained. "It was fun to watch them set the newspaper with movable type."

After her stint with the *Baltimore Sun*, Jennifer worked as a missionary before pursuing studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and then at Notre Dame University.

Jennifer said that she finds inspiration in the words of American actress and acting teacher Stella Adler, who said: "Life crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one."

The TLC Staff and Students would like to congratulate the Session 2 Student of the Session: **Khalid Albattah**

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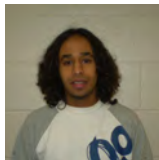
Student of the Session 1

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Congratulations Level 9 Graduates



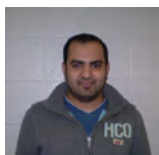
Esam Alhazmi
Saudi Arabia

Though my name is Esam, my nickname is Al3iss and today is the best day of my life because I will achieve the first step of my goal. I give thanks to my God, Allah.

I have had an enjoyable time at TLC-South Bend. I made many good friends who are from my country and other countries. I have had many great learning experiences at TLC-South Bend and I changed a lot. TLC-South Bend is a really helpful place for learning English.

I would like to thank all of my teachers, the Curriculum Team, and the administrative team, Jessica, Joel, and Michael. I also would like to thank my Saudi friends and my friends from other countries. I would especially like to thank the two people who pushed and supported me to keep studying, Nouf and Hend.

After I graduate from TLC-South Bend, I will continue my goal by studying at IU South Bend.



Abdulaziz (Aziz) Alqoryshi
Saudi Arabia

I arrived in the United States seven months ago. I began studies at TLC-South Bend in Level 3. I was bored with speaking and writing, but now I can write any letter!

First, thanks to Allah. After that, I want to thank my wife who supported me to go to the United States to continue my studies. Finally, I want to thank all the teachers and friends who helped me improve my language. Next, I am going to study dental hygiene.

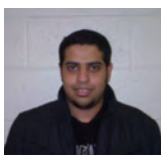
I am very sad because I will leave this school. I will miss all the friends and all the teachers.

Nourah Alshalhoub
Saudi Arabia

Finally, I graduate. I have been here for a year. I started at Pre-Level 1. I had a hard

time studying English, but it was a great experience. I like everything here, especially meeting students from other cultures.

I want to thank my husband for helping and encouraging me, and my country. I also want to thank all of my teachers, especially Chris, Marcia, and Kathy. Finally I want to thank all of my friends, especially Nouf and Hend. We had enjoyable times together.



Abdullah (Jack) Alzighaibi
Saudi Arabia

First, I will thank God for helping me in everything. I learned a lot at TLC-South Bend. The first time I came here I couldn't speak English very well; I only knew two words, yes and no. But now I can speak English very well.

I need to thank my lovely teachers Kathy and Erika. I learned a lot of things from these teachers. Also, I need to thank all of the center's staff, teachers, and students. I will miss all of you, my lovely friends and teachers.

After I finish my studies here, I will go back to my country. Then, I will begin university studies during the second summer session.



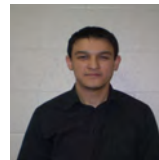
Maan Aqeel
Saudi Arabia

I've been here for five months, and I really have improved my English skills, especially my writing skills. I had a great experience over here: I made new friends and I got to know new cultures.

After I finish my English course, I want to get my Masters degree in engineering management—I will move to Florida to pursue my degree.

I really enjoyed my stay in South Bend. Although it was freezing here, it was a good experience for me.

I want to thank all of my teachers and friends, especially my friend Mahmoud. At the end, I hope everyone will forgive me for any unkind thing I may have done, and I wish for all of you a great life.



Nazeeh Damlakhan
Saudi Arabia

Learning English as a second language is a great job and it can be easy and sufficient if you have chosen the appropriate institute. TLC-South Bend is the right school to learn English and to improve your skills, especially in academic writing. You can make a lot of friendships from different cultures. TLC-South Bend offers many activities that you can enjoy. Finally, I would like to thank everyone for supporting me, which helped me succeed.



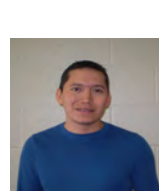
Hyun Dong (Sean) Lee
South Korea

Finally, I am graduating from TLC-South Bend. I've studied here for eight months. When I came to America I only knew, "Hello, my name is Sean and I am from South Korea." Now, I can speak English!

My actual plan was to study only four months, then go back to complete high school. But, I changed my plan and decided to study in America because I found better life choices.

TLC-South Bend has helped me to realize better opportunities. So, I will not be able to forget the center. My reason for staying in America is the friendships I made with the international students through ping-pong.

Thank you so much. I will not forget you.



Santos (Vale) Romero
El Salvador

To all of you, thank you. It is done; however, it was only one approach and a good experience learning English. I will be forever grateful to this institution and my teachers who made this learning process possible, remembering the good times and working hard today to get the best for tomorrow. Bye. Adios.

(Congratulations cont'd on p. 3)

Members of the TLC-South Bend Drama Class Present "Damon and Pythias"

On Tuesday, February 23, during lunch break, members of TLC-South Bend's drama class gave a performance of a play titled "Damon and Pythias."

"It's a play about friendship" said teacher Kathy Connell. "A man," she explained, "is willing to give up his own life in return for his best friend's life."

Based on a Greek myth, the plot of the story revolves around the friendship of two men, Damon and Pythias, who travel together to Syracuse. While in Syracuse, Pythias is accused of plotting against Syracuse's tyrant leader, Dionysius. As a result of the accusation, Pythias is sentenced to death. Before carrying out the death sentence, however, Pythias asks to return home so that he can say good-bye to his loved ones before dying. Sure that he would be a fool to allow this, Dionysius refuses the request. Pythias then asks

Damon to stay in his place until he returns. Dionysius agrees to this condition, adding that should Pythias not return, Damon will be executed in his place.

After several unexpected delays Pythias re-

"It's a play about friendship. A man is willing to give up his own life in return for his best friend's life."

turns—just before his friend's execution is to take place. He relates to Dionysius the many circumstances that kept him from returning sooner. After hearing the story, Dionysius is moved by such trust and loyalty between the two friends that he releases both of them and retains them as advisors at this court.

"To work together in a team is important," said Miller Romero, who played

Pythias. "You not only speak English," he explained, referring to the process of pulling the play together, "but you make friends. When you do things with happiness," he concluded, "it is so enjoyable."

Carlos Gonzalez, who played the role of Dionysius, also enjoyed the experience of acting in a play.

"After taking this class I know a lot of the terminology for theater," said Carlos. "I also learned about costumes," he added. "Rehearsing was a lot of fun—everyone was focused on the Tuesday performance."

Hassan Alquarni, who portrayed Damon, said, "I watch a lot of movies, so after doing this play I understand the vocabulary that goes with acting. This was my first acting experience," he added.

For this production, the story was placed in Sicily, Italy, instead of Syracuse.



Let the Play Begin!



The Townspeople React Angriily to Dionysius's Dictates



Off With His Head! ... But ... Wait!!!



Damon, Pythias, and Dionysius Pledge Their Friendship

Congratulations Level 9 Graduates (cont'd from p. 2)



**Kuang-Che
(Danny) Tsai
Taiwan**

I finally graduated! Though it was difficult for me to pass every level, I really improved my English skills and knowledge.

First, I want to say thanks to my host family. I'm

so proud to be the first student staying in your home to graduate from Level 9. They really took good care of me. Second, I want to say thanks to all the teachers who taught me so much. Third, I want to say thanks to all of my friends, especially Mario, Sean, Carlos, Francis, Linda, and Ethan. I am

glad that I met all of you.

After I graduate, I will transfer to Boston to keep studying English, and because my sister is there, I will get to spend three months with her. I will apply to IU South Bend in July.

I will remember all of you forever. Go, Taiwan!

Find us on the web at
www.thelanguagecompany.com/southbend/

The Language Company
TLC-South Bend

TLC-South Bend
1720 Ruskin Street
Suite 100
South Bend, IN 46615

Phone: 574-287-3622

Fax: 574-287-4688

E-mail: tlcsouthend@thelanguagecompany.com

Session 3, 2010

Sunday February 28	Monday March 1	Tuesday March 2	Wednesday March 3	Thursday March 4	Friday March 5	Saturday March 6
	FIRST MONDAY Seminar: "The Olympics"	New Student Welcome Party 3:30 pm			Conversation at Starbucks 1-3 pm	Lunch and ice skating 12-6 pm
March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13
	Monday Night at the Movies/ Dinner 5-9 pm			Students' Birthday Celebration 3:30 pm	Officer Garcia: Safety on IU South Bend Campus 3:30-4:45	Day trip to Chicago 9 am-8 pm
March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20
	Conversation at the Chocolate Café 5-7 pm	Trivia! 3:30-4:45 pm	Lori Butchko, Purdue U. 3:30	CLOSED for Spring Break (NO CLASSES)	CLOSED for Spring Break (NO CLASSES)	Studebaker Museum/Oliver Mansion and lunch 12-6 pm
March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27
	A trip to UP Mall 5-9 pm	LAT Testing: Speaking 3:25-4:55 pm Levels 3 and 6	LAT Testing: Speaking 3:25-4:55 pm Level 9	LAT Testing: Writing 3:25-4:55 pm Levels 3, 6, 9	FINAL FRIDAY	Bowling/Lunch 12-6 pm