

# ELI STUDENT VOICES

## Winners:

First Place:

“Touncing the Muslim Stereotype”  
by Pascal Valbrune

Second Place:

“Between the Sky and the Ground”  
by Saif Alsulimmani

### Touncing the Muslim Stereotype

Pascal Valbrune  
RW 60

Being an international student requires a lot of patience, courage and perseverance. It also provides a lot of opportunities such as to discover a new environment, and diversity. As an international student myself, this experience has proven to be one of the most wonderful experiences in my life so far. It has allowed me to discover new aspects of myself and of the world around me. I have built friendships, learned to respect others points of view, which helped me understand the true meaning of diversity. I knew the transition was not going to be an easy task and so I was perplexed about moving to the U.S. to pursue my studies even though I worked hard to be one of the 5 recipients among 250 applicants for one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world. All types of question arose: would I be accepted? Welcomed? Will my accent be subject of entertainment? And furthermore. However, despite all the stereotypes I put my fears aside and decided to face the challenges that I thought I might not overcome. Now after 7 months in the U.S. there is not a day I have felt I was not home. I've met people here that I now call brother or sister. I feel like home even miles away from home. Because I looked beyond stereotypes, I am now living a dream that I cherished since my youngest age. Stereotypes are harmful and anyone who chooses to live up to stereotypes, are missing the wonderful opportunity to learn about the diversity this world has to offer.

Study aboard, can be extremely challenging for many reasons: missing the motherland, family, friends, food; having to adapt to a new culture and environment; learning and pursuing a career in a new language. Imagine what an international student has

to go through during the timeframe of his/her study. Besides the academic and cultural challenges, a group of international students live with the fear of been attacked, discriminated against, and rejected because of their background and religious beliefs. Muslims around the globe are labeled and every day they are victims of suspicious looks, and offensive names. It is clear that it takes a lot of courage and wisdom for a Muslim to leave their motherland and settle in another country to pursue their studies, being totally aware what most of people think about them. They are trying to overcome the stereotypes but it seems like they are screaming in a desert and nobody else can hear their voices. And as the years pass by it feels like their voices might never be heard for who they truly are but instead what the media chooses to promote. According to the Pew Research Center (2015), Muslims made up 1% of the U.S. population with 3.3 Millions Muslims of all ages living in the United States. This growing population of Muslims in the U.S. is expected to double by 2050. However, one question remains crucial: will they ever feel comfortable in a country where they will be called names such as “terrorist” or “bomber” by people who are unfortunately blinded by stereotypes.

It's been seven months since I've lived in the United States, and basically my life has changed. My life has changed from the diversity of my ELI classroom, my routine, the struggles, but most importantly some of my ignorance has washed away. I have become a better person because I stepped out my comfort zone and didn't allow differences to be a barrier from accepting others. To cite this famous quote “Ignorance is a poison that kills love, friendship, and all the good feelings”. Prior to my ELI experience my opinion about Muslims was not very different from what most people think about the Islamic religion. Up to this day, I have met and become good

friend with many Muslims. I have discovered a culture that is unique; delightful that has strong values and rituals. I am mad at myself for having judged to quickly when I didn't even know what their life was about. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity that allowed me to learn about a religion that teaches unity to its people, help, respect and to love others regardless their religion and beliefs. A religion that fast for a whole month every year as a reminder of those who are less fortunate and an occasion to show gratitude and thanksgiving is worthy of our respect.

No human being is perfect and will never be; however, this world can be a better and perfect place by embracing differences, love and tolerance. It is essential to remember that our differences are what make this world a sublime community. Nobody should be threatened, murdered or tortured for their beliefs and or lifestyle. As the Muslims would say "Insha'Allah" one day the world will unite and accept others regardless their background, religion, and lifestyle. Thus, it shall be a peaceful and inclusive world.

## Between the Sky and the Ground

Saif Alsulimmani  
RW61

Have you ever experienced that feeling when you really want to do something, but you cannot because your fears prevent you? I used to be a soccer player in my hometown. Personally, I have experienced a lot of stories that have positively impacted my life, and the most amazing story started in Austria in the middle of 2015; some of our players and I were selected for the usual training camping in Grossglockner as we do annually. Briefly, Grossglockner is a town that surrounded by Alps mountain. I decided to make a new challenge in my life, which is jumping from the peak of Austrian Alps in Grossglockner using only a wingsuit and parachute. In fact, that might be the craziest challenge I had ever done in my entire life. Also, jumping without safety equipment is another fact I liked about this dangerous challenge. Nevertheless, this is what I dreamed of when I had seen Alps Mountains for the first time. This experience was not a journey to have fun, or a trip to spend a relaxing time far away camping, but precisely

the opposite, it was a lot more. In a sense, that useful experience has taught me lessons that changed my life such as breaking limits, bravery and responsibility.

The best way to learn is to break limits and get out of your usual zone. Breaking limits does not mean a person should come up with something new; rather, it means that a person should break his or her fears to succeed because without breaking fears, success is close to being fake, and failure will be a reality. Fears could be losing someone's relationship, losing a job, or even a position. Therefore, a person who has the ability to break limits is the one who is most likely to be successful and satisfied in life. Personally, it was super hard for me to break my fears and make that crazy decision of jumping from that 12,461 feet hazardous summit above Alps Mountains. That step showed me how strong I am to break all fears. As a result, today, I have the ability to do everything I want and nothing can judge me in life because such a life decision taught me that sometimes a person should go out his or her actual zone, and try different experiences to understand life carefully. People should realize how substantial breaking limits are.

Bravery is the behavior that some people claim that they have, but some experiences tell us they do not at all because it is so hard to be brave. The main reason that makes bravery a hard character to obtain is the weakness instinct of humans that prevents them making that kind of decisions. A human who has the strength to control his or her weakness instinct is the one who is able to be brave. However, "It always seems impossible, it's done" Nelson Mandela said, it was impossible to jump while I thought that there is a possibility that I may hit a huge rock, and my life will be finished there. Even though, I stand above that peak and I remember that quote, then I jumped. I realized that it is not like what I thought and imagined, definitely the opposite. Also, realistically, I had never realized that I am real brave guy until I jumped. I did that crazy jump because I had controlled my weakness instinct, which is Acrophobia, defined medically as the fear of heights. The air was touching my face; I was resisting the rough air, and challenging the laws of physics of balance and flying. Nowadays, I am so proud of myself because I am totally confident that I am a brave man who does not fear anything. Death is not my greatest fear.

One of the difficult situations that people could face in their lives is being lonely; psychologists always

encourage people to find a partner that they can share their lives moment with. Sometimes, life forces us to be lonely. Those moments could be the most valuable for us; therefore, we may feel sad, anxious, and depressed. However, we are supposed to confront loneliness by living the moment, and taking responsibilities seriously because being responsible is such a good way to beat loneliness. For me, I can remember that when I was alone flying in the sky, I was just living the moment. Also, I was pretty sure if something bad happened, I would be the only one who is responsible for my decision. Once I had covered about 3 miles of flying, I opened my parachute preparing for landing, and I was so happy because I achieved something that many people do not have the ability to achieve which is facing loneliness with strong faiths and beliefs that I am responsible for what I did, and I believe that what I did was a completely useful opportunity to learn about our life.

In conclusion, my wingsuit flying experience has affected my life positively, especially now that I have learned a variety of lessons that are significant to live a perfect life without sadness. Breaking fears and the enough strength to be brave and responsible are the most important. In fact, a person should be persistent to gain what he or she dreams of. Being brave and strong are inescapable ways that make a person happy whomever he or she lives with, or wherever he or she is. A person should never let any obstacle dull his or her sparkle.

### Studying at the ELI

Almuthana Alharbi  
RW42

In the recent centuries, English language has been very important to learn. It is considered as the medium of instructions in all fields of life. As a result so many institutes in English native countries appeared to help people who need to study English. ELI is one of these institutes that has a lot of experience in teaching people English. To pinpoint we need to focus on the really reasons of why they choose to study at the ELI instead of other institutes. There are three causes to study at the ELI: to learn English, prepare for IELTS and TOEFL, and because of its location.

First, the basic and the most important reason to come to ELI is to learn English. A Student who graduated from the ELI has given me a good impression about learning there. He told us that he learned well, and speaks well. When he came, he couldn't speak English but after a year he found himself the opposite. ELI has a lot of activities, which is a good technique to get English by fun. It has a good experience in teaching English and I can tell because I feel like I'm learning a lot everyday.

A second reason for choosing the ELI is to prepare for IELTS and TOEFL. Not all English institutes give classes for IELTS and TOEFL. Since most of students come to USA to go to the university, they have to pass TOEFL or IELTS exams. During there education at the ELI they are free to choose both classes, one, or none.

Finally, the ELI location is another reason for students to study there. It's located in Gainesville, which is a small city in the middle of Florida State. It has everything that students need. For most student a quiet and environment is required to have a good learning and studying. As it is small it is also near to Orlando, which is much bigger and has much fun so that students can study hard during the weak and then they can go to Orlando and have fun during the weekend.

To sum up, it is important to learn English recently but it is also important to choose the perfect institute for your needs. ELI has good features that were mentioned above and they are good enough for your learning. I'm here for one semester and I hope that after I finish the course, I meet my expectations in my new language.

### Traffic Accidents and Age

Abdulmajjid Alrashidy  
RW62

Recently, the number of traffic accidents has increased in many countries. Accidents are as any other problems; they have solution. However the solution are different from country to country and from society to society. Some people believe that the main reason of accidents is age of drivers, while others said this is not true. I disagree with the statement and

I will explain why in the following paragraphs.

First of all, the current age for driving is perfect because if we compared the number of traffic accidents with people who drive, we will notice there is a significant difference; accidents number is much fewer than drivers number. For example, I have seen many young and elderly people drive in the highway streets and I have not faced many accidents; this is just an observation. Also, traffic accidents could be of other reasons such as errors in the roads, technical problems and driver's health problems.

Second of all, the government should carry out periodic test for every driver to insure that this driver is capable of driving and can drive safely. Some people will fail in this test regardless their age and many people will pass even if they are young or elderly. The best way to reduce accidents is giving courses and making a clear rules and punishments for people who break these rules. Not only academic courses, they need practical training. If the authorities apply these suggestions the number of traffic accidents will decrease.

In conclusion, people should look at both sides of each problem and make accurate analysis to obtain real results. The government should solve each problem fairly for each member of society because some families need whether youth or elder people to do their needs. Age could be one of accidents reasons, but not the main reason.

## The Impacts of Social Media

Ahmed Makharesh  
RW61

Everything has two sides: pros and cons. In order to take advantage of anything, we have to look for the positive side, and strengthen it as much as possible. Social media can be both good and bad. Although some people are cautious about the negatives of social media, some people believe that social media can lead to positive effects. There are many positive effects of social media, such as it provides communication, helps students' study, and has contributed to the overthrowing of rejected regimes.

Communication with others is one of the

greatest benefits of social media. Because of social media, the world has become a global village. In addition, anyone can follow what others are doing, share and update his personal information, and keep in touch with friends by social media. Furthermore, social media may be the easiest way of contacting leaders, colleges, and officials. Social media can also be used for media ads. For example, there are many hard-working families that market and sell their products by using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These families have changed their lives because they produce and sell their products from their homes, and have become productive members of society. Social media can make people's lives better than they have ever expected.

Students are the greatest beneficiaries of social media because it provides a lot of information that students may need. Students' lives become easier with social media because they can find everything they are searching for easily. Students can also communicate with their teachers by social media as well as contact other colleges in different countries. Furthermore, students share their projects on social media, which will improve their academic skills. They can also sell their projects on social media because some companies around the world look for student ideas and projects, so this could lead to business opportunities. These days, social media allow information to flow clearly and quickly.

Standing against many rejected governments is the biggest impact that social media have had in recent years. A few years ago, many governments were rejected by the users of social media in Middle East countries. Many years ago, people in poor countries were afraid of fighting regimes, but nowadays, these revolutionaries use social media to share their opinions with loud voices. Social media became their weapon. Social media have changed the roadmap of many countries like Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria, and Yemen. Many regimes never imagined that social media could have ended them one day. Access to media has raised the level of freedom between nations and governments.

In conclusion, social media can be seen as a double-edge sword. Even though social media can lead to wasting our time, it can also lead to a better life if we focus on the advantages. It can help us to share all we need with others, and it can make student life easier, and it can also stand against dictatorships.

Hopefully, social media sites will be used effectively to achieve the main goals in our lives.

## My Africa

Djeneba Toure  
RW 42

When you hear Africa what do you see? A jungle? Lions? Elephants? A country? Many people who don't know Africa will see all of these things. In my personal experience, one day I was with one of my friends at the ELI and she said to me that she thought Africa was a jungle like the movie *The Jungle Book* and I was really shocked because this is not Africa - it is a stereotype. I told her that Africa is many things, but not a jungle: Africa is one the most beautiful continents in the world. Africa has many countries with so many different local languages which is great, but the problem is that those languages are not internationally known. Africa is a really rich continent, but Africans don't know how to exploit their richness that's why other continents exploit Africa and then we are poor. We have our beautiful cultures in Africa. We are also poor in money but rich in happiness. Moreover, people used to say that in the past in Africa we did not have government but that's not true because in West Africa in Mali in the time of the Emperor Soundiata Keita there was a constitution and they were organized as a real government. What is really sad is that even on the internet there is no good image of Africa. They show villages with sick children, desert, all of the bad things in the world. They do not show cities. However, we have many beautiful buildings as well. In Africa we know how to say good morning to people who we don't know, but when I came here it was really different because if you don't know people here, you don't even look at that person. In Africa you can go to the house of anybody you know without invitation. For any celebration you can go eat whenever you want without any invitation. Africa for me is Gold, Diamond, even Treasure.

Although Africa is poor, for me it's the best place in the world. There are lot of things about Africa, but one thing is sure: I want people to know more about Africa before judging it.

## Funding on Scientific Discoveries from the Korean Government

Manhee Lee  
RW4

When untapped Methane Hydrates substituting natural gas were found under the East Sea in Korea, the general public started to pay attention to new discoveries. Korean Times reported in 2007 that the Methane Hydrates would generate an estimated \$100 billion, so it seemed that people who disagreed with the government funding space and underwater exploration admitted their mistakes. In this environment, the Korean government should sponsor more money on scientific discoveries in terms of economy, science, and law.

To begin with, a new discovery will contribute to economic development for Korea. If unknown things like untapped natural resources are uncovered with the government's support, they will be sold to other countries that natural resources are needed. For example, in 2005, the Russian government executed massive investigation in domestic territory to find natural resources. And then, tons of gas reserves estimated \$940 billion were found near Sochi. To earn foreign currency, the government started to export the gas to nearby Europe like Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland via gas pipes. With the success of the discovery, Russia's economy rose up to seven percent of development. This could be a great example for economy in Korea where a rate of economic growth is near one percent and also all of natural resources like petroleum, gas, and steel are imported. By digging the Methane Hydrates in the East Sea, the amounts of import for gas in Korea will be lowered and the rest of them could be sold to foreign countries. As a result, this will lead to current account surplus.

Also, scientific spheres like space and deep-sea are not easy for companies to discover by themselves. That is, to make a progress of discovering in mysterious space and deep-sea, astronomical amounts of money are needed, but they might hesitate funding all of the money on space that might be uncertain. Therefore, the government fund enables scientists to concentrate on discovery. To be specific, no companies in Korea wanted to start a business on space exploration in 1981. In this situation, the Korean government installed KARI, which is a public institute for scientists to research space and make spaceships.

With the help from the government and endeavor from the institute, they have launched three satellites making it possible to observe the Earth's environment. If Korean government had not built the institution, the space research might have remained as a mysterious field in Korea.

Finally, there are extensive competitions among countries to get and preempt discoveries for unknown discoveries. As the saying goes, "First comes, first served," a first pioneer gets a privilege to have a first. Under this rule, countries insist that they are the countries that occupied the place earlier. According to CNN.com reported by Ben Westcott and Kathy Quiano, China and Philippines struggle with each other for dealing with China Sea, where it is believed that many natural resources like manganese and gold are conserved. Even though the territory is included in Philippines, China doesn't accept the ruling that the sea is in the side of Philippines because they can't give up unknown values under the sea. These similar examples can be found between Korea and Japan arguing Dok-do island is theirs. Therefore, by funding discoveries from the government, the scientific research will be justified and strengthen the field in a legal way.

To sum up, the government funding of science discovery will increase economic development, lead to progress in difficult discoveries that companies can't handle funding alone, and strengthen acquisitions in discoveries against competitions legally. In this regard, the Korean government should help fund discoveries in science.

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## Why I Selected My Major

Seri Kang  
RW 42

There are many jobs all over the world. Numerous undergrads hope to work in the fields they are interested in. Therefore, students struggle to find a major that suits them. In my scenario, I had a very difficult time when deciding on my major when I was a high school student. After contemplating for several years and thinking about my strengths, I realized there was only one major that could satisfy my ambitions: fashion design. Once I had decided to pursue an education and fashion design, a question arose to me: Why did I select fashion design?

To start, I chose my major simply because I love apparels. Even window shopping, helps me relieve stress. Whether it be with a large group of friends or by myself, looking at clothes and accessories always seems to put me in a good mood. Also, the fashion magazines I have been reading every month since I was fifteen years old have prepared me for a career in fashion. In addition, I am excited to wear new clothes or mix and match the ones I have. These reasons helped me chose my field. I strongly believe that if you enjoy something, you will become good at it.

Furthermore, my grandmother and mother were an inspiration for me when it came to fashion. When I was little, my grandmother made me a pajama, modernized "han-bok" (a traditional Korean dress), and many other types of clothes. She was always making me something to wear when I visited her. I grew up watching her make clothes. Moreover, my mother gave me many very nice-looking clothes to me when I was a kid. Her fashion sense has caused me to become interested in fashion.

In addition, I want to work in marketing. However, I also want to work in fashion. While looking for possible majors, fashion design popped out because the education path includes fashion marketing classes. Since going to university, I have been taking fashion marketing classes every semester. These classes give me an advantage when finding a job at a top fashion company such as Chanel. I want to join a prestigious fashion company after I graduate. If you want to pick a right major, combining two passions will lead to good results.

In conclusion, tiny little behaviors, inspirational people, and a combination of my interests are the reasons why I carefully chose fashion design as my major. Picking a major might be one of the most important events in anyone's life. Therefore, you should be careful when you select your major. Find your hobbies and someone who motivates you. These elements will give you the tools to decide on a major more easily.

## Korean Scientists Need the Government

Kim Minsung  
RW4

Have you ever heard about the company name of Samsung? It is almost two top of the smart phone corporations all over the world. Also, Samsung is the biggest company in the Republic of Korea. As you see the example of the Samsung, applied sciences and technologies are well-developed already, but basic sciences go unnoted in Korea. In my country, there aren't any winners of Nobel Prize who contribute to develop the basic science and expand the mankind knowledge except for the part of peace. Why these dilemmas happen?

If Koreans want to be recognized in the scientific and technical parts or win the Nobel Prize, they have to know the full picture of science development. The scientists who discover something need the help from government. Korea government should support the researchers in many ways.

First, the government has to make a better environment to research for scientists by changing the perspective about the research and considering the process as being more important than the result. The government shouldn't press them to finish their works fast. For example, Dr. Hwang woosuk is a very famous and competent veterinarian and researcher in South Korea who was firstly succeed in cloning the dog, Snuppy. Few years ago, Dr. Hwang wanted more stem cell for the research but it took a long time, so he got human eggs from their female students immorally. He did illegal extraction of eggs to the study quickly and he also orchestrated some results. For him, the only important thing is the result not the process. He might be received a Nobel Prize then if his works was succeed without cheating. Something which is wrong ways he did prevent him to be a winner of Nobel Prize. Scientists need a motivation through process of

experiments such as curiosity and creativity to discover something new. The Government should focus on the basic foundation of science by giving enough time to study even more than 10 years. Then who do you know a Korean can get the Nobel Prize in next time?

In addition, the government should support scientists financially. According to the Korea JoongAng daily news, Korea ranked fifth all over the world in scientific part. It was very great growth in comparison with ranking 17 in 2004. Korea also ranked third in the amount of money it invests from its GNP in the world about research department, but it only \$37.9 billion dollars compared to \$169 billion from Japan which ranked seventh. There are 20 winners of Nobel Prize in Japan already. Compared to Japan, there is the lack of not only funds for study but also laboratory facilities even the Seoul National University which is the oldest and best laboratory in Korea. These situations make hard for scientists to find significant discoveries. When the researchers receive much stress from the finance, it might make they deter their own discovery. That's why government had better spend the more money in science department.

Moreover, it is also important that the government have to prevent leakage of experts to go abroad. Eight years ago, Dr. Lee Soyeon could be a first Korean astronaut. She was sent to the space for 11 days. An abc news journalist, Alyssa Newcomb reports Dr. Lee had ample qualification and was chosen as a representative of Korea through a 36,000 to 1 competition. After the space traveling she had worked at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute only for two years. But she decided to go America to get a MBA degree and she married with American. Anybody can't bother her decisions but it is sure to huge loss to the country. The government spent 2.6 billion won (about \$20 million) only for this project. The same mistakes don't need to happen again. The government shouldn't let the talented scientists go out.

The way to win the Nobel Prize as a Korean looks very hard now. It might take long period to switch the perception of studying concentrate on the process and financial support. Korea started support basic science since 2000. It didn't enough time to discover something. But the Korean government has to do sustainable efforts. It doesn't have to let professionals go oversee by offering good condition to study their

major continuously. Finally Korea can be evaluated as the next world power in the field of science and some Korean get the Nobel Prize someday. As I am also a scientist in the future, I really hope my government will offer good condition to research.

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## Does Money Buy Happiness?

Noura Bin Dabil  
RW 61

Happiness is a choice. Everyone knows how to find happiness. Happy people are happy because of what they are, and unhappy people are not happy for what they want to be. Some people link their happiness with some material conditions, so they will not be happy until they have these conditions. On the other hand, happy people try to be happy with simple procedures such as being with family and friends. In my opinion, I strongly agree that money does not buy happiness for many reasons.

Having money does not buy happiness because it cannot stop the extreme pain for people who are feeling sick. Every desire we can buy except our health. For example, my uncle was wealthy and had many financial resources. Money meant a lot to him, and usually he was talking about how money is important to own. A while ago, he got cancer and he was suffering it for some months. When he knew that he had a cancer, he did not pay attention for his money as before. He just wanted to feel his body without pain. Real happiness is to have great health in your body and brain. In addition, money cannot reduce pain. For instance, people are the same when they have an illness and their situations are painful and sad. As a result, it does not matter if they have money because their happiness rate will be decreased. Money does not link with happiness because money

cannot bring happiness to patients.

Wealth is not a signal to measure the happiness rate. Many poor people feel happy in their lives. Conversely, rich people are less happy. According to Greenberg, (2012), researchers asked people who have an income of \$25,000 how much happier they would be when they own \$55,000. Most people answered their happiness will be increased. Researchers compare their answers with the people who really own the same amount of money and they did not find huge difference. Therefore, there is no proof that people who live in a wealthy country will be the happiest people. Greenberg (2012) explains that although the United States is the wealthiest country in the world, it is not the happiest country, and it takes 11th place in happiness according to the Gallup Organization. This proves that money does not buy happiness for people even though they are wealthy.

Some people claim that people will not feel happy if they do not own what they want or obtain expensive objects. This is not true. Happiness is emotions and feelings not materials. People can believe that they can make their happiness if they want to be happy without money. We are all happy if we decide that. People are what they think, not what they own. Our mental system can affect our happiness positively only if we think we should be happy because whatever it can be our positions. In Dan Gilbert's fascinating experiment, it is clear that the people with amnesia were creating a happy imagine inside their brains, and they were happy even they did not own what they want. So this imagine creates what it is called "Synthetic Happiness" (Christensen, 2014). Synthetic happiness depends on what you feel inside your mind and try to translate this imagines to be real. By looking at all this evidence, we should not link our happiness with money.

All in all, people can decide in what they want to feel, and each person has different thoughts about how they can be happy. We are as happy as we want to be. There are a lot of reasons to prove that money cannot buy happiness: just look at sick people who don't have a solution to relieve the pain, and look at the poor people who do not have money but they still having happy lives. Obviously, you will lose your happiness if you think about which way can help you to achieve happiness.



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## (Untitled)

Fang Wu  
RW4

Nowadays, many countries have invested a lot of money for scientists to discovery new things. China has many scientists who need government fund continue discovery new thing. However, many people think it wastes of money, on the other side, people think discovery can find many useful things. I think Chinese government should continue help fund new discoveries in science because scientists can find many helpful and valuable things.

Firstly, new discoveries can confirm history of people or find a way to protect the valuable things. The CCTV reported that Chinese scientists found the oldest fossil of the East Asia modern people in Hunan province in October fifteenth, 2015. The teeth they found are familiar with modern and this discovery fills the blank of the time modern Asia appeared. So people can know when we occur and how people evaluation. According to the essay "A Tribe Is Discovered", people can find a way to protect when discovery them. Also there are many ghouls who people who steal things from the old grave in China, because in the old grave such as Qin Shi Huang's tomb, there are abundant valuable antiques. When scientists find the hiding grave which under the ground, the Chinese government or organization can find a way to protect them because all the things in grave can show the life in the ancient time. Therefore, new discoveries can help the government to find the things they want to protect and let Chinese people know who we are.

Secondly, new discovery can change people's life. In 2015, Antoine Louveau, the neuroscientist of University of Virginia, found that a series of channels surround blood vessels within the brains of mice. The discovery may be involved in neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's

disease. This discovery may help a lot of people get far away from the disease. Also TB vaccines, smallpox vaccine were developed on the basis of discovery. Right now many Chinese scientists are trying to find the way to overcome the unsolved disease. If Chinese government can still fund them, they will move on and maybe someday they can find the way to solve this problem.

Finally, many discoveries such as vaccine or bioresearch may last for a long time and many projects may lack of money. In China's situation, the entire professors except business professor are not that rich to fund themselves to the discoveries. The discovery such as archaeology may last several years. If the professors have to find the fund by themselves, it may be very hard because most of the company do not need this kind of discovery and waste a lot of time. On the other hand, if the government can fund the professor, the professor can focus on the discovery and do not need to worry about other things such as what can I do if the fund runs out.

Discoveries can find some worthy things which show the history or help change people's life such as antiques, ancient people's bone or some medications. The Chinese government can support those scientists who focus on discovering new things so that they can focus on the discoveries and find more useful things in China.

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## His Name Was Smelly

Raid Alrashidi  
RW62

It was a dark and stormy night, and no one was outside. There was a person named SMELLY hanging around outside and dancing under the heavy, rainy weather. That day, he decided to hijack a group of tourists who were visiting the town where Smelly used to live. He really hated that town, so he started to move toward the tourists, and he went to commit his crime. He stole the tourists' socks!! Suddenly, the women started screaming and they ran after him. Smelly was not so smart, so he turned back and ran to chase the women, but he fell down. When he fell down, everybody jumped on him and they started to hit and step on him because now they hated this guy. After that, he shouted at them, and his teeth were very scary and black, so the women got scared and ran away. He was left happy with his 3 new pairs of ladies socks. In the end, he said "Even if you are ugly, stupid and most people are against you, be brave and do not give up!" His wisdom was well said.

## Driving a Porsche on Your Way to Discovery

Ju han Lee  
RW4

These days, the number of population who possess diabetes and obesity has been dramatically increasing. According to National Medical Research in Korea, the number of people who suffer from diabetes proportionate more than 50% of total population. At the same time, the majority of seniors have shown to be susceptible to health problems such as obesity and diabetes. Thus, the government approaches to health issue in a long-term perspective by discovering new substance and developing new medication. As government helps fund for research and studies, it enables us to resolve the problems and prevent the potential danger in health care issue.

First, research for new discoveries and invention usually needs huge amount of money that personal companies and organization can't easily cope with. With the government's financially help, it is believed that great facilities such as machine and experts make the research easy to be initiated. For example,

government department of pharmaceutical safety has invested in obesity medication named "Reductil" that is extracted from natural substance. It is known for inhibiting superfluous appetite and lessening the level of blood sugar. Government has invested steadily in patent and development collaborative with international companies. According to pharmaceutical safety government officer, Mr.Kwak, who was in charge of project noted, the role of governmental fund was imperative when it comes to research cost. In other words, government's fund makes the research and development plausible in terms of financial affordance.

Second, as government helps fund new discoveries, the research accomplishes high quality of achievements. That is because governmental fund makes institute and state cooperate proactively. For instance, most research institutes have difficulty to have enough diverse cohorts in terms of age, gender, and living environments. Specifically, there was a research of cancer patients in Korea that identified which factors influence cancer patients' psychological outcome by location, which focused on Jeolla-do district. This research needed more than 100 in-depth interviews from more than 5 different states. Precedent literature just had shed the light of one state cohort, whilst, government's fund helped to elaborate the research more multi-dimensionally. Eventually, it revealed that living environment has an important role for patients' psychological process by certain dietary, local food and air quality. Beyond this study, the governments played the important role by encouraging financially states to join this research.

Third, governmental fund put strong credibility on research. That is because people are more likely to cooperate with the research, in other words, governmental sponsor increases people's perceptions of trustworthy. In reality, it proves that cohorts perceive the higher level of credibility and authority when government sponsors the studies. Furthermore, cohorts recognize research as more stable and safe, hence, cohorts participate in research fearlessly and actively. For example, there was an exercise program by personal training company with the government sponsor. It was for senior exercise prescription project and broadcasted in the TV show "Mystery of the body" by KBS, which is credible Korean National Broadcast. In the perspective that the number of people, who averagely aged 70's, are willing to participate in, the exercise program by the

government showed much more skyrocketed number than the program by personal training company alone. Thus, it is considered that government fund increase the credibility and reliability drastically.

In sum, governmental funds make scientific research and studies easier to approach and outperform at their outcome. In other words, the performance of studies has been more clear and elaborated with governmental funds. Some people describe doing research for discovery as driving a car to pursue the certain goal. If you ride a luxurious sport car with puissant engine, it is expected to approach the goal easier than walking or riding a bicycle. Governmental funds can be a puissant engine and comfortable seat for a researcher to discover plausible things that can change the world in a positive way. At this point, it is imperative that governments help fund new discoveries in science.

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## High School for Finding an Aptitude

Minseon Kim  
RW4

Do you know what you want to do and should do in future now? If you do, I really want to say that I'm very envious you because I don't. Even though I'm in the final year at my university, my career to work in the real world is somewhat ambiguous. A chilly February is a graduation season from most universities in Korea. However, many graduates feel

anxious than happy because of getting a job. Also, lots of students don't even know what they want to do like me, which is a big problem to get a job. Above all, most Korean high school students have to study Korean SAT hard for over 15 hours in school, so students can't anticipate experiencing something new. There are only boring questions of the fixed patterns to solve. For this inflexible curriculum stressed on studying only, many Korean high school students often enter a university without knowing what they want to learn and to do. Hence, many graduates feel pressure about the transition from a student to a career to work as Mina also said in her journal. To solve this problem, Korea high schools should change their curriculums for students to find their aptitude.

First, to change most fixed high school curriculum in Korea, the government should support vocational high schools which are designed for students who do not want a conventional education. According to writer and editor Joseph Lew, usually school experiences are fairly predictable, while the working world is pretty unclear. This is true for Korean high school. However, students in vocational high schools can get a particular skill that may be used in a job in which they want to work

Second, school should organize many teamwork activities such as discussion and group presentations. Mina Alonso said, "Many recent graduates say that one of the biggest difficulties they face is adjusting to teamwork on the job" in her essay. Korean high schools usually don't have many team projects. Normally students work independently and they don't regularly interact with others. This may cause a problem to teamwork or an unsuccessful result because of lack of cooperative spirit.

Last, school should execute various club activities such as sports, scientific experiment in a lab, learning other languages, and drawing. Korean high schools don't usually have these activities. So there are no many chances for students to explore what they want to do and what they can do well or not. However, for these kinds of activities mentioned above, more easily students can approach setting up their career.

To sum up, Korea high school should arrange practical activities by changing their fixed curriculum because students need to find their aptitude or an interesting field through those in high school days. High school is just not for learning the contents of

textbook and preparing for SAT. One of the main reasons for being of high school is to help students to plan their dream.

## Prescription Drug Abuse

Maria Antia  
RW52

“An estimate 2.4 million Americans used prescription drugs, for non-medical purposes, for the first time in 2010, according to the national survey on drug use health (NSDUH)...” (Laws, 2015). Prescription drug abuse has been an old issue around the world, and it is getting worst day by day. There are many companies trying to sell prescription drugs. Evidently, these companies have been working on this for many years without consideration of the damage and the possible consequences. There are three main reason of prescription drug abuse such us availability, misconception of their safety and society beliefs about drugs.

The most important cause of prescription drug abuse is the availability. Actually, people get these kinds of drugs easily and in some cases without prescription. The first way to get the drug is getting permission from a doctor. However, this is not the easiest way because sometimes it requires a whole process, go to the doctor, talk to the doctor, make appointments, come back to doctor to talk about the effectiveness of the drug. So, this whole process takes to much time and people do not like to wait too long for an effective result. The easiest way is getting the pills from a friend or relative. “70 percent of 12th graders said that they obtained prescription drugs from a friend or relative according to a 2011 University of Michigan study” (The River Source, 2012). Sometimes teenagers get the pills as a gift from a friend but in other cases they take the pills from their parents. There exist a lot of situations where adults forget the pills in accessible places such as a cabinet or a table. As usual teenagers want to experience new sensations and these accessible drugs give them the opportunity to do it. For this reason the availability of prescription drugs is the most common cause of drug abuse.

Another cause of prescription drug abuse is the society beliefs about drugs. Drugs are not always unsafe it depends of the drug and the dosage. For

example Tylenol recommended dosage is 2 tablets every 4-6 hours while symptoms last; it means that if you take more than this is a big risk in a lot of ways, but there exist more powerful drugs such as OxyContin. Those pills cause different sensations because their strong effectiveness and that is why teenagers take more than one looking for a stronger effect. “For example a teenager may find a prescription for OxyContin in the home, take the pills and buy more in the street. However, these two dosages could vary greatly, leading to accidental overdose” (The River Source, 2012). The most dangerous of taking more than the recommended dosage is die by overdose but also it causes other complications such as blood pressure, chest pain and in some situations it worsen chronic diseases such as asthma. Many people know about the consequences of taking more than the recommended dosage but they are just looking for a quick solution.

Another significant cause of prescription drug abuse is society beliefs about drugs. Nowadays people do not realize that prescription drug abuse is as serious as illegal drug abuse. Society thinks is normal take prescription pills to control and help with some common problems such us sleeping problems, anxiety or depression (The River Source, 2012). People prefer quick and effective results, and a clear explanation of this is that people do not like wait or in some cases they can not wait because their lifestyle do not let them find other kind of solution. A good example of this is Whitney Houston, a famous singer who was found dead in a bathtub with alcohol and prescription drugs in her body; evidently, the artist was suffering several episodes of depression and the best choice was a quick solution that ended her life. There are other solutions to control these problems such us workout, read, meditate and also try to lessen the pressure that usually the work causes, but people do not take this as a solution because the industry sell to convince that the best solution is the quick solution.

To summarize, prescription drugs abuse is a big issue around the world. It had caused a lot of trouble in different aspects. People are getting prescription drugs and using those pills as a habit because they are easy to get, people have misunderstanding of their safety, and our society believes we can solve problems with medication. Society needs to realize the damage that these drugs are causing. As humans we cannot change everyone’s beliefs, but we can improve the issue and prevent more deaths by overdose.

## Some Reasons Behind Falling in Love

Razaz Abdullah  
RW 61

We always heard that someone fall in love with someone else, but we didn't know what is the specific reason can make him/her fall in love? People can fall in love in school, at work, at the gym, on the street, and in many other places. Love has a variety of different emotions. It could break your heart or can make you joyful for the rest of your life.

One of the main reasons that makes people fall in love is our human nature, which is related to our genes. Each gene in our body has a trait that explains a function. Scott (2012) wrote about a study that was established in Italy describing when people have a specific connection with each other, their body might have a certain gene. This gene could be responsible for our relationship. "The types of relationships you forge may be influenced by your genetic makeup (Scott, 2012)." We are tending to the people who are similar to ourselves. We all have different characters, personality, thought, and attitude, even though we may attract in others.

Chemistry also can be one of the reasons that makes people fall in love. Everyone has a different meaning of love. If you know that you feel something inside you then nobody can change that because it's hard to control your feeling when you fall in love. The brain produces three kinds of chemicals, serotonin, oxytocin, and vasopressin, which make people fall in love and increase their happiness. So when you meet someone for the first time and you feel like something inside you will change then you start to think about him/her, this is a result of falling in love. People can fall in love without any preparation or planning for it. According to Neuman (2013), "People can fall in love over time, but most often it is sudden, developing quickly. It is called falling in love because it seems beyond control—a little like falling down or tripping over something" that's mean there is chemistry in our body make us fall in love.

Destiny could be also one of the reasons that make people fall in love. Everything in our life had started by coincidence that plays a big role in our destiny. According to Merton, "Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another". Have you ever asked yourself how does destiny work when it

meets someone? For example, we can see what happened to destiny on The Fault in Our Stars movie. The story was about two teenagers who had different types of cancer. The girl was suffering from blood cancer and her friend had leg cancer. He didn't tell her about his illness, but she discovered that suddenly. She fell in him love after they were just friends. That is short story, which shows us how our destiny has a hand in our emotions and our feelings. Hence, our destiny related to our love.

At the end, love is an attraction between two people that gives them a way to have an extremely happy experiment. But we have to consider the consequences of it whether it was a happy one or not. However, our genes, the reaction that happened inside our body, and how our life go on. Those could be the reasons to make people fall in love and affect their feelings.

## Should the Korean Government Help Fund New Discoveries in Science?

Jiwon Hwang  
RW4

Nowadays, many developed countries make an effort to discover new scientific Knowledge and it makes a country much stronger because a country that discovers new scientific facts has the exclusive knowledge others do not have. The government in Korea is investing a huge amount of money and human resources into new discoveries; however, the Korean governments' funding into new discoveries in various science fields should be larger than it is. If the Korean government help fund new discoveries in science, it enables Korea to become a leading country in science. Also, informative scientific discoveries would give benefits to people who live not only in Korea but also all over the world. Moreover, results of discoveries could be a connection between the past and the present.

First of all, the Korean governments' funding for new scientific discoveries could lead Korea to be the leading country in science. For example, if the Korean government funds discoveries in science more, Korean scientists could win Nobel Prize because scientists will be encouraged and stimulated to discover interesting scientific facts with the strong support of the Korean government. Scientists who have won Nobel Prize

raise the possibility that Korea will become an outstanding country in science. It is also helpful to motivate other researchers and scientists to focus on discovering new scientific work. However, the international weekly journal of science Nature stated in the article 'Why South Korea is the world's biggest investor in research' that, even though Korea is one of the biggest nations that spend a lot to win Nobel Prize, the government of Korea acts just as an investor not as a good motivator, so the Korean government should encourage and stimulate researchers and scientists in Korea. For instance, the government needs to hold symposiums or debates so that scientists do their research more actively by sharing various thoughts with other scientists. In addition, if the Korean government cares more about scientific discoveries, there would be 'science fever' in Korea, because medias such as the TV news, newspapers, and online news would cover whether the new scientific discoveries are founded or not. As people get some knowledge about discoveries in science from everywhere due to science fever, people would be interested in hearing the news about scientific discoveries. Growing peoples' interests in science would also help Korea become an outstanding country in science.

Second, people get benefits from remarkable scientific facts especially such as discoveries in biology and virology. In 2011, Chungbuk National University in Korea collaborated on the treatment for dementia using stem cell with University of British Columbia (UBC) and they completely cured dementia. This successful result of the research was selected as an outstanding research result by the academic journal neuroscience. Additionally, by getting informative scientific facts, people can prepare to protect the unknown viruses. For example, once scientists find and develop vaccines for the disease that the treatment is not discovered, people do not have to worry about infectious diseases because the vaccines are available to purchase. Korea Herald stated in the article 'Developing cholera vaccine in South Korea', The Korean vaccine producer has been prequalified by the World Health Organization, meaning Euvichol has met acceptable standards of quality, safety and efficacy to be purchased by countries and international agencies such as UNICEF. So, if Korea succeeds in developing this vaccine, people will be able to protect their health even if the disease occurs.

Lastly, scientific discoveries enable past and

future to be connected to each other, because people would learn historical knowledge discoveries that give the information of the past such as cave paintings, ruins, and fossils. Discovering is different from creation, so the next generation will discover new facts based on what the present generation has discovered. 'Complete Tiny Dinosaur Skeleton Discovered In South Korea' from The Huffington Post reported, "fossilized tiny dinosaur was discovered in Goryeong, Gyeongsangnam-do and it's the first complete dinosaur skeleton found in Korea." Despite it is difficult for a small dinosaur to become fossilized, it has discovered. Thus, the writer says that it is worth to do the further research. Additionally, if the government funds more science such as discovering fossils of dinosaurs, people would learn about various facts about dinosaurs even though dinosaurs do not exist in a modern era. Lim Jong-deock, chief curator of the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, told the news agency. "It's uncertain at this stage exactly which type of dinosaur it was, and there is a chance that it is a new type that hasn't been reported to academia as of yet." Lim Jong deock stated that there would be a chance to discover new type of dinosaur that has not been founded out, so people can learn something about the past such as a history of dinosaurs.

In the Twenty first century, many countries try to discover something that can surprise people. The Korean government also funds discoveries in science, so Korea is getting closer to become a leading country in science while trying to discover new noticeable scientific facts such as the treatment for dementia using stem cell. Also people enjoy a better life with some benefits since many scientists have found useful discoveries. Moreover, discoveries play a role as a connection between the past and the present. To sum up, the Korean government should continue to invest in discoveries in science for the citizens' better life.

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## What Makes People Choose ELI to Study?

Carlos Salazar  
RW 42

Nowadays, to learn English is almost a necessity for everybody. It's a requirement in many companies to get a well-paid job. Thus, people are worrying about learning English. For that reason, to teach English has become in a very lucrative business. So, is not surprising that there are a lot of institutes around the world that teach English to those people who want to learn and have the money to pay for classes. But, if there are a lot of institutes, why do people choose ELI to study English?

First of all, the Institute has a very good fame in teaching English. All the classes use very interesting and modern methods to teach. Also, the ELI's curriculum includes daily extra activities for people who want continue improving their English after classes or even in the weekend. So, ELI's students can learn while they have fun.

Secondly, ELI is part of UF that is a recognized university in USA. It has a very nice campus with beauty green areas and modern classrooms to see the classes. Also, the university has a lot of public areas and meeting places. The huge campus allows the ELI to have students for all over the world. For that reason it is so easy and interesting to have many friends and meet a lot of different cultures. It sounds very attracting when somebody choose a place to learn.

Finally, the university is very flexible with the students. They offer some benefits for those who deserve it. For example, there are some scholarships every semester for students with good grades and good conduct. In addition, you can work for the university even when you are a foreign student. Also, you can decide if you want to study in the morning or in the afternoon by changing your schedule. For that reasons, students should feel comfortable to study at the ELI.

As said above, ELI is a good place to learn

English. But that's not all. Also, students can have fun, meet new people, and learn about different cultures while they study. The recreational areas and the comfortable classrooms of the campus make better the experience of learning English at ELI. By last, the university brings to the students a lot of opportunities that should be exploited.

## Swiss Discovery

Aurimar Martinez  
RW4

Discoveries are important things that help the world to grow up scientifically through explorations, innovations, and inventions of new things. Researchers from Sweden developed a significant innovation of a blood test that helps to detect cancer and what type of cancer it is in the early stages. Although discoveries are a good thing, due to the economic situation in my country, Venezuela, the government is unable to spend money investing in new explorations. Because of that, the government of Venezuela should try to innovate something new to the world without proper funding. If I could choose something to improve the medical situation of my country, it would be something related to medicine similar to what researchers from Sweden have done. Cancer is a fatal disease in which abnormal cells divide and destroy the body tissues uncontrollably. The reason why I want the government of Venezuela to develop things related with medicine is because we do not have enough medical resources to take care of people's health.

Researchers from UMEA in Sweden developed a blood test that can detect and classify cancer in the body with just a single drop of blood. This is a good innovation that they did to help doctors determine which can be the best course of treatment. Moreover, it detects the disease 96% of the time and also classifies the type of cancer correctly with a 71% according to Stephen Feller. In addition, it helps to find the correct location of the primary tumor in patients, identifying lung, breast, pancreas, brain, liver, and colorectal cancer. "Being able to detect cancer at an early stage is vital," said Johan Nilsson, a researcher at Umea University. Because of this, the government of Venezuela should think about giving funds to try the possibility of a new invent of

medicine. Unfortunately, we do not have basic medication for general discomforts, such as headache, vomit, fever, stomachache, and flu. Because of this shortage, Venezuelans and people from other countries consider this as critical situation.

Another reason why the government of Venezuela should work on new innovations is because there are many people who have died due to the lack of medicine. People who have fatal diseases, such as cancer, leukemia, and diabetes cannot go to the pharmacy and buy their medication because they will not find what they need as they used to do two years ago. According to the Central Bank of Venezuela, at the end of March 2014, drug shortages reached 50% while for August 2015 the pharmaceutical federation estimated at 60%. Drug shortages is a result of delays in the settlement of foreign currency sector by the central government. So the government of Venezuela could innovate a new treatment for those diseases or by another country give to sick people medicines so that they can have a better quality of life.

Finally, the government of Venezuela should create new innovations in medical equipment and their parts. In the past months, public and private hospitals have not been giving their service properly to patients due to the damaged machines that cannot be repaired because we do not have parts for it. Some of the equipment needed is X-rays, anesthesia, tomography, linear accelerator, and magnetic resonance machines. Most people are discouraged by the difficulty of reaching an area like this. Every time people go to receive their treatment, they have to go back home without medical attention with the big dilemma that machines are not working and they should try going after six months to see if the machines are fixed.

In conclusion, discoveries are great things that help each country to be more sophisticated and also give a better quality of life for their citizens, but unfortunately, Venezuela is in such a bad condition that the government cannot spend money in new discoveries. As the Swiss did, Venezuela's government should consider this innovation and start exploring to give a better medical attention through basic medicines, treatments for diseases, and medical equipment for all the people who live there.

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## The Religion of Peace

Saif Alsulimmani  
RW61

Embracing a religion is a way to be connected with god – Allah, in Arabic – in which a person will feel comfortable and tranquil. Truthfully, it is a way to spread peace in the world, which is what every human being needs to survive. It helps to make this world a great place to live in. Every individual has a different opinion when it comes to what religion people should embrace. Every person argues that his or her own religion promotes peace more than any other religion. Indeed, no religion provokes violence and abuse. Personally, when it comes to the most peaceful religion, I think about my religion, Islam, that I was born with. However, some people might disagree with that opinion; it is either as a result of what they see on the media that some, unreal Muslims, portray it wrongly or they just disagree with the fact that it's the most peaceful. Basically, to be a Muslim, an individual has to believe in God, the existence of angels, all prophet and messengers. Oneness is the concept in Islam, which means no one deserves or has the right worship anything but God alone. This gives an individual a sense of tranquility that his, or her, destiny is decided by one God only. Islam is the religion of peace and tranquility.

Because of the stereotypes that they have on Islam, some people might misjudge that Islam is a religion of peace. In fact, I do not blame them directly; however, I blame some news channels that always attack Islam for some politics reasons. Many people violate others under the name of religion. For example, the KKK – Ku Klux Klan – had violently acted under the name of Christianity. There are many who use other religions also to justify what they do. For Islam, some have used it to violate innocent people everywhere in the world. They do not target non-Muslims as they always claim. They also mostly target Muslims. In Kuwait, a radical man bombed himself in a mosque while Muslims were praying. In



Saudi Arabia, many radicals had bombed themselves, but the most grievous incident was when a suicidal radical bombed himself in Medina – the city of Prophet Mohammad – which is considered a holy city, beside Mecca, among Muslims. Islam strongly opposes violence. In the Qur'an, the word "sword" is not mentioned at all. In contrast, many punishments are founded in Qur'an to punish killers. In the Qur'an, Allah says: "Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land – it is as he had slain mankind entirely." – [Almaidah/32]. Therefore, it is unfair that Islam, sometimes, is judged based on acts of unreal Muslims on the media. The real meaning of Islam is to save humanity as any if a man saves a soul, they will be rewarded as saving the whole humanity.

Religiously, a messenger, or a prophet, carries God's message, and the God sends messengers as patterns that people should follow. The prophet of Islam is Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad had done many things that show how peaceful the Islam is. The prophet of Allah – prophet Muhammad – had always treated every individual equally regarding what they believed in. A large number of people embraced Islam because of his stories. Prophet Muhammad was carefully following all principles of Islam that comes from Allah – God. For example, forgiving all people who mistreated him, prophet Muhammad showed how tolerant the Islamic religion is. Many people, especially his tribe, had disrespectfully treated prophet Muhammad, but because Islam is a peaceful religion, he acted back with all respect. Therefore, prophet Muhammad is a great pattern to show how peaceful the Islam is.

Not only messengers represent the religion, in a sense, people who truly embrace that specific religion and correctly understand it. For example, it is

essential to understand the historical background about any religion by looking at events that happened and how true scholars of that religion interpret each event. Radicals misunderstand the basis of a religion, which reflects an extremely ugly picture of that religion. Definitely, that negatively affects that religion as because other people may misjudge it.

In conclusion, for people who believe in God, having a religion is a method to be in touch with God. When embracing a specific religion, a human being feels that he or she is at peace. Every existed religion promotes peace, yet fights violence. Personally, Islam is the most peaceful religion that emphasizes the importance of peace by highly rewarding tolerant people and strongly punishing violent people. Radicals misunderstand Islam; as a result, other people misjudge Islam, creating hatred toward Muslims. Learning from true scholars of Islam is an important, significant way to understand how peaceful the Islam is. Islam is the religion of peace.

### A Message from the Editor

Thank you to all of the students who contributed for sharing your writing. I hope you enjoy reading this edition. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Tiffany Frison, Grazyna Drzazga, Debbie Kellermann, Olga Moody, and Laura Jarvis for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

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