

NORTH  
AMERICAN  
COLLEGE

# SENTINEL

Issue 2 April 26, 2013



STUDENT CLUBS, AS WELL  
AS MENTORING THEM TO  
ACHIEVE THEIR ACADEMIC  
GOALS ARE ESSENTIAL IN  
ENSURING OUR STUDENTS'  
SUCCESS



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## THE COVER



The 21st Century is calling for young minds who can go deep into the roots of the most complex problems and create novel solutions by pulling diverse resources together in an environment that requires working with others. This challenging task can only

be accomplished when an individual recognizes their potential to influence what is happening or what will happen. Here at North American College, students from 40 different countries extend and apply their knowledge to achieve their goals while helping one another learn and improve their lifelong skills.

**Can DOGAN, Ph.D.**

Vice President for Administrative Affairs

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# Dear North American Family

Welcome to the Spring 2013 Semester here at North American College! We have experienced many changes, welcomed new additions, and hosted several fun activities here on campus so far this year. One of our most exciting projects is the construction of the new Welcome Center that will open for the Fall 2013 semester. The new building will be the home to a new dining facility, ESL classrooms, Admissions, Registration, Financial Aid, and other offices. We are dedicated to creating the best environment for our students and look forward to continued growth in our Staff and Faculty. In the past few months, we have welcomed six new staff members to the Academic Student Affairs Office, the Registrar's Office, and to Admissions. I am very glad to see the ongoing work on the establishment of a new Student Government Association. We look forward to working with our Student Government Association Officers ensure our students have a nurturing, safe learning environment and a vibrant campus life. Another exciting addition to our campus is the Presidential Lecture Series. In this series we will continue to welcome nationally recognized speakers and scholars on a monthly basis. I encourage all our students, faculty, and staff members to attend these presentations to learn as much as possible from these brilliant and influential minds.


We are very excited to celebrate our very first North American College Graduation Ceremony this Spring! We welcome all North American students, faculty, and staff, as well as their family members to attend this milestone occasion that is to be held at the White Oak Conference Center on Friday, May 10, 2013. With our first graduating class and the application of new master's degree programs in next few months, we will be eligible to apply to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and ACICS rename our school as North American University. This accomplishment will be the next important milestone for NAC in 2013.



All of these momentous steps of progressing would not be happening without the hard work and dedicated efforts of the NAC family. I expect all our students, both at GLS Intensive English Program and academic degree programs at NAC, to give higher priority to their academic work.

I am impressed with the passion of our faculty members and especially appreciate their dedication to teaching and service. Encouraging students in extracurricular activities, student clubs, as well as mentoring them to achieve their academic goals are essential in ensuring our students' success. Our staff members play a significant role at North American College and their hard work and smiling faces help create a positive atmosphere for our current and prospective students.

When I arrived on campus in July 2012, I began learning everything I could about the College and have enjoyed getting to know our student body. I am encouraged and thankful for what we have accomplished here at North American College and am very hopeful for the ongoing and future growth plan of this wonderful institution. My office is always open to all North American students, faculty, and staff members, so please do not hesitate to share your unique ideas and concerns with me. Please keep up the great work and let's continue striving for educational excellence together!

*Very best wishes*  
  
Reg Pecan,  
President





# GKI EXHIBIT APRIL 8 - 19

A LEGACY OF BUILDING PEACE

## *Gandhi, King, Ikeda:* A Legacy Of Building Peace Exhibit

*by Muleyke Fidan*

Love and tolerance towards humanity – regardless of their race, belief and identity – is what gives us peace. That was what made Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Daisaku Ikeda legends amongst men. They devoted their lives for human dignity, freedom, and harmony for all. Even today, it is obvious that they are still alive with the contributions they have made to human history and the beliefs they stood up for. As a North American College student, I felt honored that our school hosted Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace exhibit. It was on display for two weeks, from April 9th until April 19th and was open to the public as well as for all students, faculty and staff.

The Gandhi, King, Ikeda (GKI) exhibit Opening Ceremony was emceed by Ms. Wendee Lee Curtis, a Women's Division member of the Soka Gakkai International - USA. The opening words of the ceremony were delivered by Dr. Reg Pecan, President of North American College. After the president's greetings, Sam Dike, a representative from the Office of Houston City Council Member Jerry Davis, presented a proclamation from the City of Houston. A State Resolution from the office of State Representative Sylvester Turner was also presented. Both documents recognized April 8, 2013 as Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace Day. A short video dedicated to the lives and great works of Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Daisaku Ikeda was presented, followed by key note remarks from Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, the Dean of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at the Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Carter gave an inspiring and wonderful speech about the never ending goal for peace among all people, regardless of their race, nationality, age, or faith. Dr. Carter then introduced Mrs. Cherry Steinwender, the Executive Director of the Center for Healing Racism in Houston.





“In the moment of our trial and our triumph,  
let me declare my faith. I believe in loving my  
enemies. “

*Mohandas K. Gandhi*

“People fail to get along because they fear  
each other; they fear each other because they  
don’t know each other; they don’t know each  
other because they have not communicated  
with each other.”

*Martin Luther King Jr*

“A great human revolution in just a single  
individual will help achieve a change in the  
destiny of a society, and further, will enable a  
change in the destiny of all humankind”

*Daisaku Ikeda*

He presented Mrs. Steinwender with the prestigious GKI Community Builds Prize award and several books written by Gandhi, King, and Ikeda for her continued efforts to help people in the Houston community and across the world who have been affected by the negative influence of racism. Dr. Carter also presented Dr. Pecen and NAC Librarian Ms. Stacey Johnson a special book donation for the College Library.

Musical performances were also presented to recognize the cultural backgrounds of Gandhi, King, and Ikeda. The performance of “Raghupathi Raghava”, a popular Bhajan (Hindu devotional song) which was a favorite of Gandhi’s and sung during his non-violent protests, was performed by the youth of SGI-USA Houston Region. Another stunning performance was given by Ms. Monae Carter, a local singer/songwriter and a member of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. She sang “Take My Hand, Precious Lord” which Dr. King had listened many times during his great challenges. Lastly, the Japanese drumming ensemble Kofu Daiko, led by SGI-USA Houston youth, performed “Matsujo”, which means the “heartbeat of Japan”. These performances colored the night by giving a sneak peek into the lives of these legendary men.

Special thanks must go to our Administrative Assistant, Miss. Britany Lovett, who coordinated the opening and viewing of the GKI Exhibit for providing the NAC students, faculty, and staff with an opportunity to learn about individual leadership, the difference that one person can make in promoting peace through non-violent action, and the chance to become acquainted with these world renown and well respected peace giants: Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Daisaku Ikeda.





## Celebration of Civic Responsibility

*by Brittnye Shaffer*

On November 1, 2012, North American College participated in an important and historic rite of passage for every new university: the flag raising ceremony. The Nimitz High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and former Navy Staff Sargent and NAC student, Aisha Price, stood at attention in respect for the auspicious ritual. Students from across campus gathered with hands over hearts as our nation's symbol of fortitude, valor, and strength was lifted slowly skyward to stand proud and broad in the growing sunshine.

On this significant day veterans, community members, local organizations, faculty, students, and staff united with State Representative Sylvester Turner to learn about ways to promote community involvement in service related activities. Dr. Reg Pecan, president of NAC stated, "As one of the traditional, non-profit, private and non-denominational American institutions of higher education in Houston, North American College promotes citizenship and community responsibility by engaging our very diverse student body and community members through education and awareness. We feel honored and privileged to not only work with Representative Turner, but are also excited to begin weaving ourselves in to the cultural and educational fabric of the Houston community."



# Breast Cancer Awareness

*by Busra Berika Yucel /  
Imesheka Dixon*



October is the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to detect the disease in its early stages. Almost two out of three women with breast cancer now survive their disease beyond 20 years, and hopefully that number will increase. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is very important to North American College (NAC) students, faculty and staff. We try to show that we really support those who affected by this disease as well. We believe that our support gives more strength and confidence to people who have the disease and to their families who help them along the way.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a great time to educate and empower yourself and to make sure you have best breast health. For the entire month of October, it is possible to see pink ribbons on just about anything. You can see them on the items in the grocery stores – such as soup cans -, t-shirts, label pins, coffee cups, cars, etc. But how does all that pink relate to breast health and breast cancer? Pink communicates youth, peace, femininity, and health. The pink ribbons remind us of our risks, responsibilities, and that we must raise breast cancer awareness.

This year at NAC we participated in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To show our appreciation and support students, staff and faculty members wore pink. We also had a unique way of fundraising for the breast cancer treatment and research organizations. With Professors Involving and Encouraging Students (P.I.E.S) event, we were able to raise hundreds of dollars by purchasing items related to breast cancer. Students could place money under the name of the professor/staff member who we would like to see to get cream pie on the face! This event provided an exciting way of raising awareness about the important issue of breast cancer. Another event we had to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness at the campus was the bake sale, which turned out to be very successful.

NAC supports breast cancer patients and survivors not just during the month of October, but all year long. As NAC, we set examples for men, women and children affected in some way by this disease, help the patients and show them that they can be strong and beat it.





# Spring Festival 2013

*by Duygu Pelitli*

After all their diligence and hard work, the students experienced a fun and enjoyable spring festival that took place March 4th-8th. This event occurred before North American College's (NAC) spring break. NAC's Administrative Assistant Ms. Britany Lovett planned all of this week's events and activities. The Spring Festival created an opportunity for students to have fun and to celebrate the upcoming week long holiday. The festival also promoted the interaction between students and to improve student life through engaging activities.

The first day of the spring festival, which was the "Sports tournament", had various sport activities, including tournaments in pool, ping pong, darts and soccer. These events were available at different times of the day. Every student was encouraged to join one of the sport tournaments. The second day of the festival was the Big Chili Cook-Off. Several teams completed in making their own special chili. The admission was \$2 for anyone who wanted to participate. The third day was a day for students to hang-out and relax. With coffee, tea and Local R'n'B artist Leelonn, the night was an enchanting and cozy get-together. The fourth day was a field day in which student clubs got together and performed various activities. There were prizes given at the end of each activity. The afternoon consisted of a soccer game in which the winning team from the first day of the festival and a team with faculty members played against each other. The winners were the glorious students! Last but not least, the fifth day included the trip to the famous Houston Rodeo festival. The cost for that event was \$20. Students enjoyed the carnival, exhibits, and competitions.

Ultimately, the spring festival offered something for everyone. It was an opportunity for the NAC family to be a part of great activities and interact with all their students. It was a worthwhile event for everyone who wanted to have fun!





## Cultural Day

**We Have Fun  
Together,  
We Laugh  
Together,  
We Learn  
Together!**

*by Cande Baranda Vargas*

Culture is the common denominator that makes the actions of the individuals understandable to a particular group. That is, the system of shared values, beliefs, behaviors, and artifacts making up a society's way of life. The diversity of language, food, and religion can influence the culture of societies as a whole.

North American College is a unique school in that it has many students from over 30 countries including Canada, Albania, Madagascar, Senegal, Cambodia, Japan, Indonesia, Moldova and Turkey. Many domestic students are from out of state such as California, New York, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Illinois. North American College hosts an event every semester that lets all the students from the school show their pride for their culture. This event is called "The Cultural Day." During this day, volunteer students take present other students a small glimpse of their native countries. They show their way of living, eating, clothing, singing, dancing and languages. Although, Cultural Day has a way of showing that despite our differences, we all have striking similarities. It is a day where we all are one united country. We laugh together, we have fun together, and we learn together.



# Trip to Austin

*by Aisse Traor*



Just after I moved to Houston, I went on a field trip to Austin, Texas with my classmates. I had never gone on a trip with them before but I was very excited, curious and full of anticipation. I was almost reluctant to go on that trip because I was wondering what we were going to do there or how we were going to have fun.

That day, I woke up early and grabbed all my possessions. When I went downstairs, everybody was already in the van. It was a small, long and white van with four rows of seats in the back plus two seats in the front. The interior was really nice and cool which was really good because the weather was really hot. The van could fit about 15 people and when I came, the 14 seats were already taken. I got in the van and took the last seat and then the driver - Beyza - asked with an excited voice "Are you ready?" We all replied "Yes." She then turned on the engine and we headed to Austin. To be honest, I can't make any comment about the road because I was just sleeping. From time to time, I opened my eyes and looked at the countryside for a few minutes and would see some trees or some vast and desert surfaces with some small houses but I fell back asleep. Around 12pm we finally arrived in Austin; they waked me up and I started to read a book and ate some snacks. My first impression of the place was that their environment was really clean and there were no empty place like in Houston. When we went across downtown and were all amazed. Personally I was shaking because of the beauty of that place. The buildings were so high and so nice, the roads were narrow and everyone was out and walking in different directions. The place is more dynamic than where we live in Houston and I started to taking pictures of every single thing. Then the van pointed on the direction of a river and I thought we were going onto the beach.

After a couple of minutes the van stopped and everybody got out. At that time I could smell the freshness and the cleanness of the place. It was a different kind of beach with some chairs and a small bridge that linked the beach to the river. After taking a couple of photos, I marched in the direction of the river and was stunned. The river was calm and peaceful; some birds were flying around and some small boats were floating without making any noise. Beyza walked to a cabin and talked with a woman there. She came back and told us that we were going to do some canoeing. I was extremely happy at that moment because it was my first time to practice this kind of activity and I was in the first group to start. My partner, Nalan, and I put on some security gilets and then we got in a boat, took one oar each and started rowing. At first we didn't know how to do it but after a couple of minutes we grew accustomed to it. I remember, when I was rowing, I would shout and tell the others who were on the bridge, "Take a picture! Take a picture!" And they would laugh. After everybody finished canoeing, we got in the van and went in an ancient park which was on the side of the Colorado River.

It was an old cite of a French colony. The site was just above the Victoria River. It was a nice place with a lot of trees around. There were old columns separating the site from the river. That day there were a lot of people visiting and some were playing some sports. We took a lot of pictures and then we left. After that, my only concern was eating; I was starved. Fortunately, we went to an international restaurant. When we arrived there, the smell of the food welcomed us. It was a large restaurant with a lot of tables which were almost all occupied. There was a large buffet with a lot of Turkish food. I was really in a hurry because I wanted to try some different kinds of food from my country. We enjoyed our meal all together, which was really delicious.

After dinner, at around 6:30PM, we went to The State of Texas Capitol building. In it was a beautiful museum. The interior was really vast and lighted; there were three stages and in each stage there were conference rooms. There were statues everywhere and the walls were filled of artwork and with the names of the past presidents or governors from Texas. The museum was filled with visitors who were either taking pictures or visiting the different rooms. We stayed there for almost two hours – visiting every conference room and taking photos every two seconds. Around 7pm, we left that place and headed back to Houston.

In the van, I lifted my eyes, resting my head against the window, and looked at the stars that shined in the dark blue sky. I started to think about all the events that happened during the day. I was really happy and extremely anxious to show all the pictures to my friends and my parents. Then I started listening to music and watched other cars' headlights which shined through our van window. We finally arrived in Houston around 10 PM and everybody was so tired that we all went directly to bed. It was one of my favorite trips I made in Texas; the trip to Austin was really fun.





# One Out Of One Opportunity...

*by Cande Baranda Vargas*

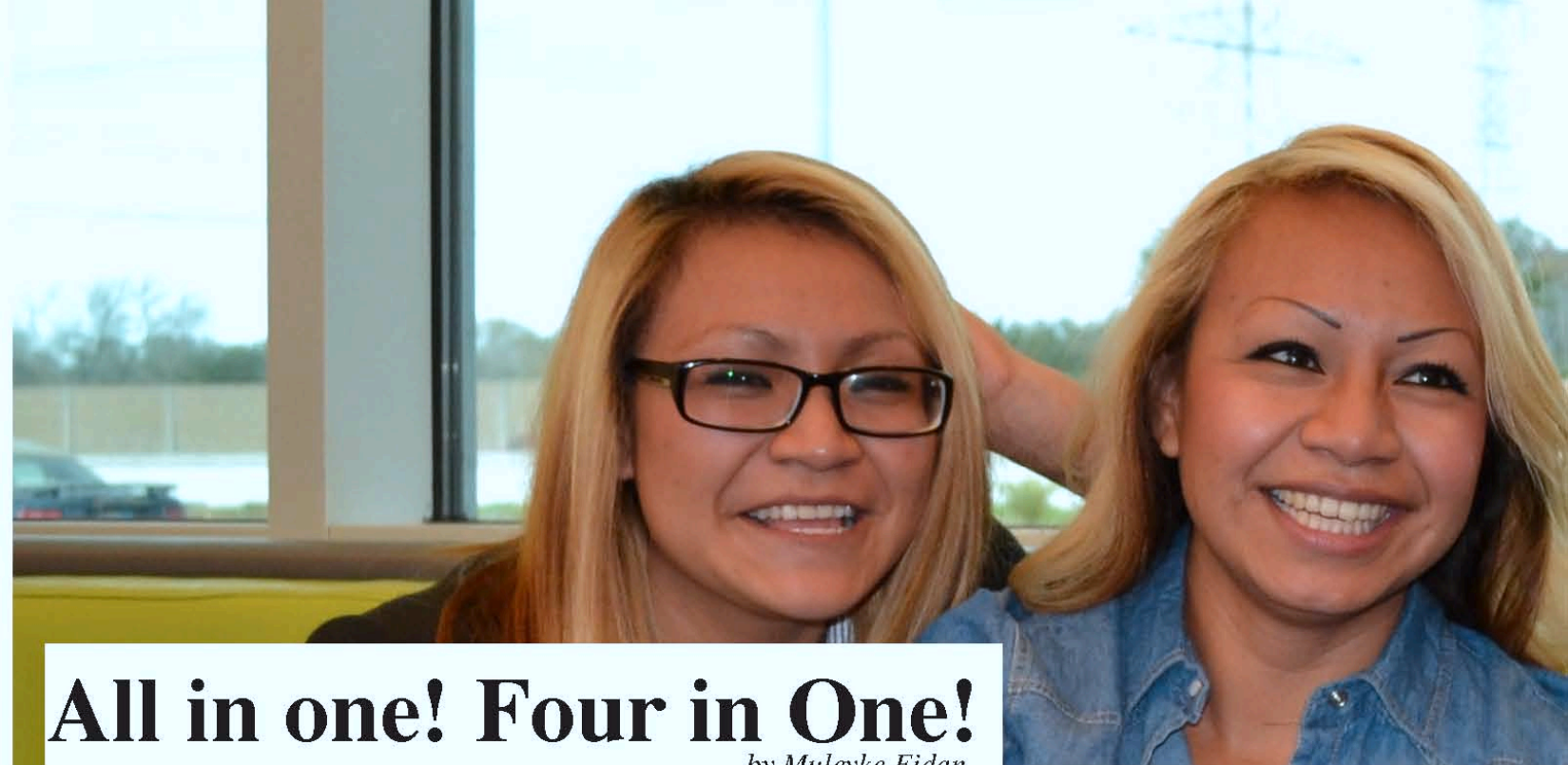
On April 6th, the Spring Social event took place. It was during a Saturday morning when North American College opened its door to high school juniors, seniors and college transfer students. Students had the opportunity to look around our institution and gain information on it. The main purpose of this event was to attract prospective students, familiarize them (and their parents) with our facilities, and allow new students to meet current teachers and students. They were invited to tour the college, learn more about our different areas of studies, tuition, and the life here at NAC. Students from different cities' high schools were here, including Chicago, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, and Wisconsin, among others.

While getting to know NAC Houston's newest four year college, future students also had the opportunity to entertain themselves by dancing, playing games, eating great food, meeting current NAC students, and by looking at the different clubs we have to offer.

Indeed, the Spring Social event was a success. North American College was well prepared to meet future students and their parents for the first time. I was one of the tour guides and, as a student from my group stated, "Events like this one can make a huge difference in how well the rest of the year goes."







# All in one! Four in One!

by Muleyke Fidan

*Yes, all four Hernandez sisters; Nancy, Yvonne, Anahi and Angie are attending North American College (NAC) to become tomorrow's dedicated and beneficial teachers. It all started with just an academic letter Ms. Anahi Hernandez had received one day. Later, attending to NAC became the future for the other sisters as well. The reason they chose NAC is to build a better future, open more opportunities and become successful individuals. Surprisingly, these four sisters also share the same interest of career –becoming Math teachers. The Sentinel magazine interviewed the sisters individually regarding NAC, their career goals, and life.*

## Questions and Answers (Q&A)

### **Q: To Anahi- What is best about NAC?**

A: Anahi: Since the size of the classroom are small, teachers know when the student is struggling which leads them to pay closer attention, in order for students success.

### **Q: To Nancy - Years from now, what will you remember most about NAC?**

A: Nancy: The people. It is a close family. I guess what bounds us together is the great communication we have among us since there is only few of us.

### **Q: To Angie - Do you participate in any of the clubs or organizations?**

A: Angie- I am in the Girls Volleyball, Girls Soccer and Green Clubs

### **Q: Tell us about the any great professors that inspired or challenged you at NAC.**

A: Yvonne: "Dr. Blerina"

Anahi: "Dr. Bulent Dogan, Dr. Elife Dogan and Dr. Blerina"

Nancy: "Dr. Elife Dogan"

Angie: "Dr.Elife Dogan"

### **Q: What's your favorite place on campus and why?**

A: Yvonne: "Library"

Anahi: "Library"

Nancy: "Cafeteria"

Angie: "Cafeteria"

*They were also asked to complete the following sentences and let's see what their responses were to the following.*

### **Q: The classes I most enjoyed here were....**

A: Nancy: math courses

Yvonne: education classes

Anahi: Math

Angie: Dr. Baethe's classes

### **Q: When I have free time, I like to.....**

A: Nancy: read, dance and listen music

Yvonne: listen to music.

Anahi: sleep

Angie: watch movies.

### **Q: I chose to pursue a career in education because...**

A: Nancy: We need to be a good role model for the future generation.

Yvonne: love Math and teaching.

Anahi: I like Math

Angie: for better life.

### **Q: Best professor in NAC is....**

A: Nancy: Elife Dogan

Yvonne: Elife Dogan

Anahi: I can't pick one; Bulent Dogan and Elife Dogan

Angie: Baethe





*Here comes the most fun part. They were supposed to tell me the first person that came to their mind when I said...*

**Q: NAC?**

A: Nancy: Muleyke [Fidan]  
Anahi: Tammy [Mize]  
Angie: Dr. Elife Dogan  
Yvonne: Muleyke [Fidan]

**Q: Cafeteria?**

A: Anahi: Angie & Nancy  
Angie: Miguel  
Yvonne: Angie & Nancy  
Nancy: Students by the pool table

**Q: Nice?**

A: Anahi: Muleyke  
Angie: Josh  
Yvonne: Hacer Sari  
Nancy: Everyone I met so far is a nice person

**Q: Cool?**

A: Anahi: Nick  
Angie: Josh  
Yvonne: I can't think of anyone right now  
Nancy: Most people

**Q: Boring?**

A: Nancy: Anahi  
Anahi: Myself  
Angie: Jose Vela  
Yvonne: I can't think of anyone for this one too

**Q: Nerd?**

A: Nancy: Josh  
Anahi: Myself  
Angie: Anahi  
Yvonne: Anahi

**Q: A talent you have always wanted...**

A: Nancy: Good Memory  
Angie: Play piano  
Yvonne: Drawing  
Anahi: Talent to draw

**Q: The most embarrassing moment in the school or in your educational career?**

Nancy: Sleeping in class  
Angie: Falling down from the stairs in front of others  
Yvonne: Not being able to speak in front of a class  
Anahi: Falling asleep in class.

*It was a pleasure interviewing them and seeing through the eyes of four successful, intelligent sisters. As a friend of them who has been acquainted with these four sisters I know they are a pleasure to have in the school, which is determined on reaching the goal they have.*





# Interview with Miss Temple

*by Muleyke Fidan*

A great Mediterranean, Cuban and American cook, an animal lover, a huge Michael Jackson fan, and last but not least loves the lyrics to “Let your Love Flow” by Bellamy Brothers. These are just a few stand-points of Mrs. Nicole Temple. Who is Mrs. Temple? She is usually the one running around with papers from one meeting to another; or could also be called the lady that is in charge of the Gulf Language School (GLS). On behalf of the school’s magazine The Sentinel, I interviewed Mrs. Temple to get to know more about her and asked her questions regarding North American College (NAC). Nicole Temple completed her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Speech Communication from the University of Houston. Later, in 1999, she attained a M.Ed. in Educational Psychology from Arizona State University. She has been in the Education profession for more than twenty years and, to her, it is more of a passion than a task.

## **Nicole Temple Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

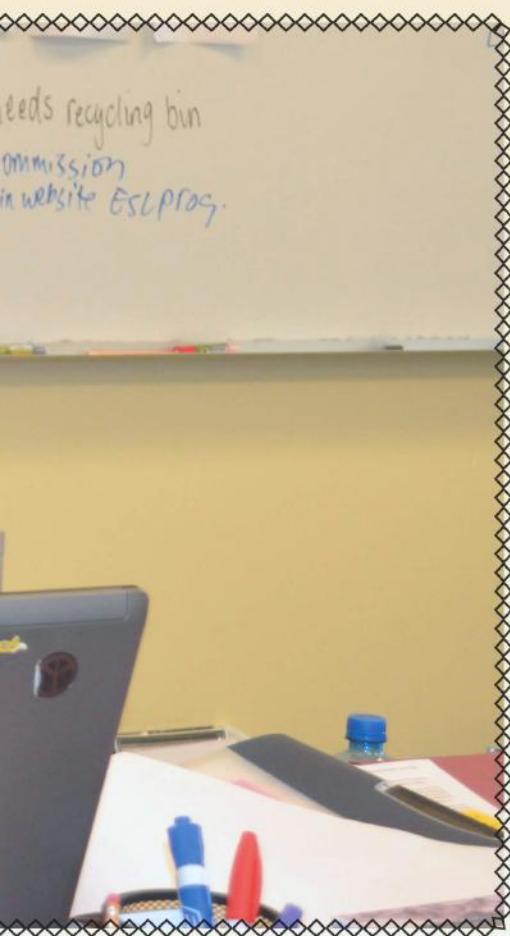
***Q: Could you describe NAC in a few words please?***

**A:** NAC is an extraordinary, young college with many opportunities.

***Q: You have been a part of NAC for so long; what makes you so attached to this school?***

**A:** Well, I was here even before NAC started when there was only GLS. I started at the old building in August of 2009. When I was looking for a job, GLS caught my eye and I fell in love with the students. I just enjoy watching my students learn and succeed.





***Q: Which of these do you think is more important: Planning, discipline, methods or evaluation?***

A: I would definitely say discipline is number one. If you're not disciplined, you cannot plan, therefore you cannot and will not create methods; so then you have nothing to evaluate. The list makes the plan, your priorities, and the methods you incorporate into how you are going to challenge each task evaluation, such as what worked and what didn't.

***Q: Tell me, what do you find most rewarding about this job? What makes it worthwhile?***

A: I definitely think it's the students. The first graduating class of NAC is in May. Whether they are my students or not, I will cry when I see them. It is such a happy experience. Everyone has their struggles and obstacles to overcome. I think being (like) a cheerleader for students, and encouraging them and seeing them really stick out and accomplish their dreams is the biggest reward.

***Q: Where did you grow up? If you moved, how did the move affect you?***

A: I grew up in Houston. I am from Houston. I lived all over Houston. I've lived in West Houston, the Downtown area, the Museum District, and North Houston. Previously I lived in Arizona for my M.Ed. degree. The move affected me, absolutely, but in good ways. I met nice people and had many experiences in life, college, and work.

***Q: There are moments in life that probably would make you want to give up, but you have a lot of responsibility that will not let you. How do you handle those times?***

A: Well, I definitely believe in never giving up. There is always a light at the end of every tunnel, so I just focus on the light. My husband is very supportive, even when I am in a grumpy mood; he always does something to make me laugh. I try to really spend as much time as I can with my family, my husband and my animals, whom I love a lot.

***Q: What makes you stay calm and keep your temper when it is provoked?***


A: Well, I learned a long time ago that I cannot control others' behavior, but I can control my reaction to their behavior. For instance, getting stressed in traffic, or with a student or whatever the situation is, I try to remind myself that controlling my reaction to other's behavior is the solution.

***Q: What kind of music are you into and which song gets stuck in your head the most?***

A: I love music. My husband is a musician. He is Cuban so he plays mostly Salsa music, but he can play anything. If he hears it, he plays it. He is a percussionist, so he plays conga drums, bongo drums, any drums, or any other kind of percussion instrument. I like, "Let your love flow" by the Bellamy Brothers. I am a big Michael Jackson fan; I love Michael Jackson. I grew up with most of his songs. Most of his songs are about love, or the lack thereof, and the need of love in the world.

*Through this interview we can clearly see that Mrs. Temple's students must be extremely lucky and thrilled to have such a positive director. I can say that the people we meet in life always contribute to our experiences in many ways. Mrs. Temple is an educator who is passionate about helping others. Obviously, she makes a tremendous effort to educate her students, no matter their backgrounds. She not only helps them learn the English language, she increases their awareness of American culture.*





The passion for the king of sports, Soccer, is present in North American College (NAC) this Spring of 2013. With only about two years after its founding, North American College already aspires to have a soccer team that will represent the college not only in Houston but also in the entire state of Texas. For many, this aspiration seemed like a very far away possibility due to the lack of organizers. For me, the objective to develop a soccer team for North American College was very real. Since the spring semester of 2012, I had a mind to help develop the soccer team for this institution. Now this objective has become a goal and a target that I believe we can reach.

I cannot deny my immense passion for soccer but there are other reasons why I chose to help develop the soccer team for NAC. After three semesters of studying at this beautiful and diverse campus, I noticed that the majority of students have an immense passion for soccer as I do. I infer that this is because most of the students come from countries where soccer is the most popular and well loved sport. Another reason why I chose to help develop a soccer team is because there are fantastic opportunities to begin a professional career as soccer player in Houston. Many of the professional soccer teams within Major League Soccer get its players from the soccer teams of universities and colleges. If we build a strong and competitive soccer team, I believe that the Houston Dynamos, the professional team of Houston, will look toward North American College for potential talented players. I believe that creating the soccer team can potentially open windows for great opportunities for students in the amazing world of soccer.

I knew that the first step to reach this objective was to get organized. Now, the effort and dedication of some responsible and talented students has paid off. We, the members of the NAC soccer club, are glad to announce that the future NAC soccer team is underway. Right now, we are having practice each week on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm and Fridays at 9:00 am. Our current goal is to develop the structure of the soccer team so we can schedule some friendly competitive games. Of course, this will take time but with the support of the students and faculty, we can make this goal reality.

# NAC Future Soccer Team Under a Fast Development

*by Aldair Baranda*



# Bump, Set and Spike!

by Yadira Deleon



Why is Volleyball so much fun? Volleyball gets you pumped! Just the idea of smacking the ball at the other team (even when they look at you weird) makes you feel awesome. It's like no other sport. You don't have to run as much (for those who don't like running) and winning is never just up to you, it's up to the team.

North American College (NAC) is pleased to announce that their off-season is going well. With the returning and incoming players training three days a week, we're proud to say that it's going to be a successful season. The players must be in great shape and practice control even before volleyball practice season begins in August. The student athletes are responsible for staying in shape during the off-season as well.

During this first year, it has been about bonding and getting along with our teammates. Since volleyball started on NAC campus, it has been amazing to see the bonds shared amongst people who would have normally just passed each other in a class or hallway. Basically, the better you bond with your teammates, the better you play with your teammates. We have created such lasting friendships.

Here are some of what our teammates have had to say about volleyball:


"My experience in volleyball is one I can't forget. Not only have I met great people, I'm also taking care of my body at the same time. I recommend that anyone should join."

—Bianca Laserna

"My experience is great. I love and enjoy playing volleyball. It's a stress reliever and fun. I don't like that we have three days (four hours and thirty minutes a week). I wish we had more time and days to improve our skills and talents" —Nancy Hernandez

It's true. They don't have enough hours and days during the week, but something is better than nothing. Little by little, the school is opening up and creating tiny organizations one by one.





# “You Mad Bro? Well, Keep Calm And Play Soccer.”

*by Cande Baranda Vargas*

Is it true that boys can beat girls in sports? Well, the answer is no. We girls are as good as boys are. Therefore, ladies, if you have not yet decided which club to be part of or if what you are looking for is not out there yet, let's get together and construct our Lady's Soccer Club for the Fall of 2013. Let's demonstrate that boys and girls should both have their own teams and each compete at the same level.

Sports can have a great impact on a person's life and can help them grow as an athlete and as a person. Sports not only contribute to students' physical growth but also mentally and emotionally. Playing sports helps you meet many new and different people and experience different cultures. Whenever people play sports, they meet people with the same interests and can develop long lasting friendships. Besides having fun, students (both male and female) can learn to participate as a team member. This skill set is necessary for all of us in our jobs, studies, relationships, and life.

Please join us in the Fall of 2013 and be a part of a totally new and exciting experience.





# North American Stallions Basketball Team

*by Abdulhalim Yusuf  
North American Stallions Basketball Team Captain.*

"Hard work." One phrase that is constantly voiced out every single practice, and one of the most important core values of the North American Stallions Basketball team. Along with diligence, we are based upon the values of sportsmanship, responsibility, excellence and integrity. We hope to build a student athletic department that focuses not only on winning, but creating a tradition that will become part of the roots of this institution. One that provides each student-athlete with an excellent academic, social and athletic personal experience.

We anticipate competing in a league, proudly sporting the royal blue, silver and white colors of the university, playing in front of a full house, behind fans rooting for us in a Stallions home court. Hopefully these will all be accomplished in the near future.

At the moment, improving is at the forefront of our minds.

Our practice sessions, which are scheduled from 5:30pm to 7:30pm every weekday, are competitive but at the same time enjoyable and engaging. We rely on one another to improve our weaknesses as we look forward to becoming a better unit.

I am honored to be given this opportunity to lead this group of dedicated players, and to be a part of this maturing diverse family.

I would like to thank all of my team mates, Jose, Miguel, Jonathan, Sang, Izzet, William, Kendall, Lonnie, David, Dogac, and James, for inspiring and molding me into a better person and player.

Furthermore, on behalf of the guys, I would personally also like to thank Coach Gulhan, Assistant Coach Merve, and the College Administration, for the reason that we simply would not be where we are now without their commitment and guidance.

"Started from the bottom now ... we getting there."



# New Student Center Now Opening

by Yadira Deleon



North American College is proud to announce that its new Student Center will be completed this Fall 2013 semester. The new building will have additional classrooms, a new cafeteria, more offices for Student Services, a new International Student Center, and new offices for the Housing and Financial Aid departments. We are really looking forward to our new building!

Dr. Reg Pecén – president of North American College – is excited about this stage of growth. He says that this building has “been one of the main priorities for our campus development”. As he also states he is “happy to see the progress that has been made and [is] looking forward to opening the new facility in the coming months.”

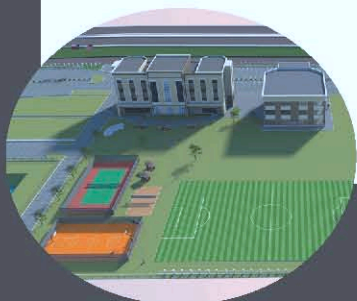
He also described NAC’s plans for the new Student Building’s classrooms: “The additional classrooms would be for our GSL students (Gulf Language School) [so they can] enjoy their spacious learning environment. Considering from their hard work, our learning classrooms must expand. It will also settle in well for the new International Student Center. Step by step, we are slowly getting there to our organization level that we deserve.”

Students are also excited about the new building. “It’s great for students to settle in and it adds another source for the students to interact.” NAC student Angel Roman said. “I look forward to the student body to expand. I can’t wait for more opportunities to open. Hopefully this building provides the necessities that we need.”



From that being said, our new Student Center will also receive a new and improved Cafeteria. Not only are we going to receive a new eating place but also a new student meal plan with amazing menus prepared in a fully staffed kitchen. The new cafeteria will be a great place for our students to meet up and socialize for their own benefit. Our students, such as Patricia Andino, seem to be very eager of this upcoming project. “I’m excited more than anything because of the new equipment we will soon have and also there will be more space provide. We need more space due to the clustering in the cafeteria and game room.”

Not only will this new building be beneficial for our students but for also our faculty and staff. The Student Center will hold more offices for our Admissions, Registration, Financial Aid, and many other departments. More space will create a better working environment for NAC employees. With this new building, students, staff, and faculty can work together to make this university into an even better place.





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