



The Dual Diploma Times

Sixth Edition

May 2017

“Live the Learning”
with Mawi Asgedom



By Sara Varljen

On January 31st, 2017, Mrs. Kristine Smythers held a “Live the learning” meeting with Mawi Asgedom, educator, leadership trainer, and author of “Of Beetles and Angels”. Mawi was born in Ethiopia, but had to flee the country with his family because of war. They arrived to Sudan as refugees and, when he was six years old, they were given the opportunity to go to the United States thanks to an organization. They moved to Chicago with just their intelligence and their hearts, leaving harsh living conditions behind, as well as meaningful friendships. As his mother once told him, “sweetness passed before we called it sweet”, which means they did not realize the importance of all the people they met in the refugee camp until they left. In America, Mawi’s father advised him to study because “if you have education, you have everything”, so he went on to finish high school and then graduate from Harvard with a scholarship. After university, he founded “Mawi Learning”, an organization devoted to inspiring and empowering the others through the development of their leadership.

He has experienced a variety of events that have led him to learn the importance of challenging himself and trying to do his best. For example, he spent four months studying in an exchange program in the University of Madrid. This forced him to push the boundaries of his knowledge of Spanish language: he learned more from four months of trying to speak and write in a foreign language, than from six years of repeating the same conjugations over and over at school. As he pointed out, “you learn just by making mistakes”, therefore there is no need to be afraid of having a go at doing something new. He was also inspired by people around him, especially by his older brother Tewolde, who passed away before finishing high school. This great model taught action, not complaining, and

When asked what was his own Mawi said it was like love, with tions. In his opinion, it can be people get from how they think has control of their own up to the individuals to make accomplish their dreams. Mawi compared this type of empowerment to a turbo button in one’s heart that can be pushed to pursue one’s goals. He reported he likes to tell his sons that “you can’t control what others do, but you can control your actions, so hit your turbo button and find the solution”. He also pointed out that by thinking just about the problem they are faced with, people will never use their own mix of talent, ability, intelligence and creativity at its full potential.



before finishing high him a lot about taking being his own leader. explanation of leadership, a lot of different defini- described as the power and act. Since everyone thoughts and actions, it’s decisions in order to

He applied these strategies to his writing too, developing his skills from making plans to creating his books. In high school, in fact, he used to write a daily journal about what he did and how it connected to his list of goals for the semester. Besides being a good practice, this habit helped him develop as a person and gain confidence. Writing a book was not that different. He scribbled down a couple of pages a day in order to get to the rough draft. Then it was all about editing and improving the original text more and more. He thought of it as writing a draft and then modifying it, rather than as writing an entire book at once, which is an unrealistic objective.

This is how he wrote “Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy’s Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard”. The title of this autobiography comes from an Ethiopian legend. According to this myth, God sometimes sends angels among people, but they look like “beetles”, or miserable individuals, so the majority of people can’t recognize their true nature. Mawi’s book is a story about feeling like a beetle and sometimes being seen as an angel, or, more broadly speaking, about how people see each other.

Newspaper Club

Members

- Aitana Ramos
- Anna Berenguer
- Benedetta Rigotti
- Borja Medina de las Heras
- Claudia Mateo Diaz
- Gaia Ugolini
- Jaime de Andres Lerma
- Maria Fernandez
- Maria Hornero Vasquez
- Maria Morant
- Pilar Folque
- Sara Varljen
- Sonia Monfort
- Tanja Paulmichl

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Live the Learning – “Hospitality and Tourism”

HOW TO BE A PERFECT AMUSEMENT PARK MANAGER WITH JIM CAMPBELL

By Gaia Ugolini



In the Live the Learning Session of Hospitality and Tourism course the students had the occasion to meet Jim Campbell, the Proprietor of Food and Beverage and Merchandise at Disney's Port Orleans Riverside Resort and a Cast Member with Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts. It sounds pretty cool, doesn't it? Obviously, it was a very interesting opportunity.

But how did Jim Campbell become the person is now? Of course, he has a lot of experience in every field of the Hospitality world. He started as an ice cream vendor in the Disney World Parks and ended up having a job in almost every area of the park. The best experience for him during this period was working in the Cinderella World Table in the Magic Kingdom. He was also involved in the entertainment night club business.

He happily became a proprietor last year, knowing that becoming owner demands having more skills and responsibilities than any other post. As the leader of the team he must confirm that everything is good, everything is right. He deals also with the future activities and projects of the park and he monitors labor and expenses to make sure financial work is solved. These are some of the challenges he must face. Others include managing his own cast members, conflicts between guests or leaders, crowded days, and the competition between other theme parks. Rivalry is a truth in the business world and because of that you have to convince people that your park, your restaurant, your product is better than that of anyone else. In addition, members who work for you could find other jobs or different opportunities and maintain your team is very difficult.

Jim gave different advice about how to behave with people: first you must "read" a person, meaning that you must completely understand what he wants and how he is in that moment, the guest could be angry, happy, anxious and your behavior can influence his reactions. Furthermore, you should know if your guest is satisfied and for this more there are questionnaires and advices on internet through famous website like Trip Advisor. You should know how to behave: when giving recognition, a big party, maybe they have a contrary, want lots of attention leader of an amusement park some of the skills Jim Campbell a good manager are those that allow him to succeed in changing a bad situation into a good one and providing good service in the park. Versatility, will and dedication are the qualities for a good leader. In his job, there are difficulties and the thing Jim Campbell thinks is the worst is firing someone, from a kitchen employee to his cast members. Even if there are different complications Jim Campbell wouldn't change his job. Maybe when he was younger he could have tried a different job but he has been so much time in the food and beverage field that it's difficult for him to imagine that. He has seen big changes throughout his career: the biggest one is technology. Financial work in the past was done and written on papers, instead now it's all on computers. Guests can book instantly everything via internet, twenty years ago this wasn't even possible. Nowadays hiring is more difficult: there are lots of applicants and the staff and cast members are more selective.



Jim Campbell says "Every day is different. By focusing on various things and projects your day will not be the same of the day before." So, don't be afraid to experience new things, give it a try and focus on your present to build your future. Consider Jim: he's a proprietor within the park where once he was an ice cream vendor, he worked hard to reach his goals and he did it. So, if you believe and really want it you will do it!

LIVE SESSION 6 CONSIDERS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

By Maria Hornero



What if you were told that 13% of the American population was born elsewhere? And what if you knew that meant 43.3 million people are immigrants in a country as big as the United States? That would almost equal the population of Spain!

That is a lot of people; so, why would anyone decide to abandon their own country? According to the BBC, we could classify the reasons in four major blocks: environmental, political, social and economic migration. Also, we can have a distinction between those that choose to migrate (e.g., to enhance their careers); and refugees who are forced to migrate by wars or famine.

We also find two types of factors: push factors (fear, natural disasters, poverty or unemployment) and pull factors (job opportunities, safety, stability and freedom), that could greatly influence someone to flee from their own country to another one.

But what comes to mind when you think about illegal immigrants? For the students of the Dual Diploma Program, thoughts like *outsiders, no permission, people who need help, boats full of people, fear, violate the law, not legal residents, without legal papers, lack of freedom...*; come to mind. But the truth is that illegal immigrants are **people**, just like us, just like every other resident in a country.

Even though there has always been a fear of the unknown and of outsiders or people from other countries, there was a time during the 1800s when America accepted nearly 12 million immigrants per year. Since then, it has been nearly two hundred years, and many families today are descendants from those who were once considered illegal immigrants.

Nowadays, the U.S. allows up to 1 million immigrants to become legal permanent citizens per year; but at the same time, it spends nearly 18 billion dollars to keep immigrants out of the U.S.

So here is when people ask themselves if a path to U.S citizenship for illegal immigrants should be implemented in the United States.

However, as with every political matter, there are many points of view related to this particular issue.

On the one hand, we find those people who believe illegal immigrants greatly affect the wallets of every American, because since they are not legal residents of the U.S; they do not pay taxes but still receive the benefits of people who do.

Also, many business and companies hire illegal immigrants because that avoids them great costs and they can pay way less than the minimum wage to get the same work done. Since the illegal workers would do anything for just a little money, this only benefits the companies because the wages only get lower and lower for the legal working people.

On the other hand, there are also people who believe an open-door policy boosts the economy because immigrants take jobs in agriculture, food, or construction; and so, taxes can be implemented and social security improved.

Also, and especially in the U.S; many famous people who migrated to the United States like Einstein, Tesla or even Serguéi Brin (Google's co-founder); have improved America's prestige throughout the years.

The people who defend immigration bring out other very interesting points like the increase of cultural richness. Nowadays, other cultures influence the type of food we eat, the languages we speak, the music we listen to, the fashion and trends, the type of clothes we wear, the technology we use... and it has helped the population become more openminded.

Also, there is a movement against deportation that considers it a violation of human rights.

All things considered, we tend to forget that many of the immigrants flee to another country in very desperate situations and in search of a better life. No parent wants a life for their children where they are not sure they will have something to eat the following day.

These people whom we call "outsiders" or "illegals" are people; and we better not forget this because who can tell us that tomorrow it will not be us?

Live the Learning

THE BIRTH OF A BUSINESS

She needed a hero, and that's what she became

By Maria Hornero



Nowadays, it is common for people to start a business and some turn to be more successful than others. However, few businesses assure on their website that their mission is “to provide trendy, cruelty-free, and ethically made products that never sacrifice style”, as a very special company does.

Nadia Martínez is the founder and owner of *Kallie & Co.*, and its goal is the one stated above. They are very proud to be offering a variety of products that specially defend the rights of animals. As they themselves explain it in their website: <http://www.kallieusa.com/> *Kallie & Co.*, offers a variety of products for women; including flats, boots, sandals, certified sterling silver jewelry, and our newly incorporated rebozo handbags.”

These products are handcrafted in Mexico by local artisans and the company sells them online.

Yes, online! Because what you did not know is that most of the work is done through their website, which she runs from home.

Nadia herself said that she has not met with half of her team, because they live in different countries so far from each other. Instead, they might just videocall and have meetings and discussions about the different matters. Dual Diploma students will find that this sounds familiar.

This is interesting! If they live so far away, why didn't she just hire some graduate student from any American University, since they are so many? That would have been closer and they could have face-to-face meetings.

Nadia has thought greatly about this and as she explained, she did not want in her company people that came to get a good job that pays well, without really having any vocation. She did not want people who only graduated after being forced by their parents, or because of a need to earn money, to come work in her company.

She wanted people who would give it all for her idea and who would be willing to listen to her, not only to the sound of money in their pockets.

She needed to hire people with experience and unfortunately, a recently graduated 22-year-old was not going to have the right kind of motivation.

Apart from *Kallie & Co.*'s incredible business idea, the company also gives part of the profits to different organizations such as the Semper Fi Fund, which is dedicated to helping wounded marines and their families—Nadia and many of her employees are military spouses. They also help other American and African charities to help women, by providing them with shoes.

Another remarkable distinction is that Nadia's is a self-funded business. Working an average of a hundred hours a week, she must put in extra work hours to meet all the demands that the business requires, all the responsibilities.

However, Nadia's biggest obstacle was to learn how to delegate. In the beginning, she tried to do everything by herself, without relying on anyone. Then she realized she did not know much about some things and that she needed help. Once she learned to let go, she could center more on the type of things she does best. Nadia does not regret spending so much time working for her business, because she is very passionate about her job.

At first, she did not believe in herself and doubted her. But, she learned to overpower her fears. She recommends that we all do this. Also, what most impressed me was that she is not afraid to make mistakes. You know why? Because she does not consider mistakes failures; but learning experiences.

Even though she did not have a mentor, and the people in her family discouraged her greatly, she did not give up. Instead, she turned to motivational videos on YouTube and made those her mentor. She learned to have courage and to give her everything to achieve her dreams.

I really think she is an amazing woman and a clear role model for everyone who has an idea to start a business.

If you really want to have a look at her products, you can visit their website: <https://www.kallieusa.com/>. I can assure you, it will be worth it.

Program Director Contest Winner is....Nancy Cisneros Román!

Nancy Cisneros Román is the winner of the Program Director Contest for the month of March. She was chosen because of the use of creativity and motivation that is exemplified in this picture. Colegio Teresiano, in Mexico, is new to Dual Diploma. The program has only four students: Bruno Alberto Díaz, Jorge Alberto Martín Rodríguez, Zaira Soto Carrillo and Oriana Carolina Rincón Ledezma. Among other things, these students are interested in studying in the United States and becoming Doctors. As you can see in this picture, all students and the Program Director, Nancy, are all very enthusiastic to be a part of the program.



THE GREAT GATSBY Analysis

by Sonia Monfort Fabregat



Plot

The Great Gatsby is a novel that was written by F. Scott Fitzgerald between 1923 and 1924. It represents some themes such as the decline of the American dream and the difference between social classes.

The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, a young man who moves to New York in 1922 to work. He rents a house in the West Egg (Long Island), an area where the new rich live. His neighbor is Jay Gatsby, a mysterious man who lives in a mansion and throws the biggest parties every Saturday night. Nick has a cousin, Daisy Buchanan, who lives in the East Egg, as all of the old rich. Discovering the connection between these two people and getting involved with their lives gets Nick into a handful of secrets, dreams and hopes that make him end up horrified by the moral decay of the society.

Historical Context

Fitzgerald's novel is a reflection of the 1920s America, showing how the American Dream was corrupted by the relaxation of social values.

After World War I ended, people were disillusioned, and the national wealth started to increase, while people began to consume like no one had ever done. The emptiness on the opulence is depicted in the novel by the parties that Gatsby throws.

The contrast between the "old money" (the established aristocracy) and the "new money" (people who got rich after the war, the self-made rich) is represented by the East Egg (where Daisy and her husband Tom live) and the West Egg (where Nick and Gatsby live).

CHARACTERS

The three main characters in the novel are:

-Nick Carraway: Nick describes himself as tolerant, quiet and a good listener, and so the other characters tell him their secrets, which makes him the perfect narrator. In the end of the novel, he goes away from New York, resolving the internal conflict he had had all along the story: on one hand, he's attracted to the funny and care-less lifestyle, but on the other hand, he finds it damaging and is repulsed by the emptiness and decay of the values.

-Jay Gatsby: Gatsby is a young man who had a poor childhood and fought to ascend in society and get wealthy. Even though he had always had the desire of being rich, this one gets even bigger when he falls in love with a girl from an upper class, Daisy Buchanan, who makes him lie about his status and gives him even more determination to achieve his goal. Even when she gets married while he's fighting in the war, he keeps trying to get her back by showing off his wealth, for example, with the extravagant parties he constantly throws. Even if we discover he made up his entire person and got rich with criminal action, we tend to feel sincere affection towards this man. Nick, who gets to be real friends with him, describes Gatsby as a person with the ability of turning his dreams into reality, and who's more hopeful than no one he has ever met.

-Daisy: Daisy is a young and beautiful woman who belongs to the settled aristocracy ("old money"). She once fell in love with Jay Gatsby, but got married to the also wealthy Tom Buchanan while Gatsby was fighting in the war. Jay sees her as charming, wealthy, sophisticated and gracious, a representation of all he had ever longed for. Even if he has this idealized image of her, we get to see through the novel how she also is fickle and superficial (a representation of the society at that moment). Nick depicts her as someone careless who smashes everything up and then hides behind her money. As the novel comes to an end, we can see her real personality, and how, even if she can show affection, she isn't capable to be loyal or to care about the others.

THE GREAT GATSBY Analysis (continued)

SYMBOLISM

The green light:

The green light situated at the end of Daisy's dock, which Gatsby can see from the West Egg's lawn, represents Gatsby's dreams and hopes. We know he associates it with Daisy, and tries to reach it, as his goal. Taking in account that his love towards Daisy is commonly associated with the American Dream, we can also say the green light is the ideal of the society, which ended up decaying.

The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg:

Even though the novel doesn't talk much about this element as a symbol, most people think they may represent God's eyes, as he judges the waste of morality and the emptiness of society.

The Valley of the Ashes:

This is a small portion of land between the West Egg and the city. It represents the moral and social decay, generated by the exaggerate chase of wealth.

QUOTES

I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.

Daisy is the one who says this to Nick, when explaining him her wishes for her daughter when she was born. This is a suggestion of her personality, which will be confirmed as the story goes on. It also gives us an idea of how their society didn't value the intelligence on women. Even if it may sound as Daisy is complaining about this fact, it's more like a kind of resignation: she doesn't like this idea, but she doesn't do anything against it, it just reflects how bored she's with her life and accepts the fact.

He had one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced, or seemed to face, the whole external world for an instant and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you just as far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself.

This is the first time Nick examines Gatsby's appearance, showing us the big amount of charisma he has. It's also a reflection of his hopes and imagination, which made him the person he was. Nick also says that Gatsby smiling at you makes you feel better with yourself, as if he had chosen you out of "the whole external world".

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther. . . . And then one fine morning—

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

These are the novel's closing lines. They represent the idealistic dream and the ignorance of reality that end up in destruction, both in Gatsby's case and in the end of the American Dream. People keep focusing on the past and the utopian idea of life, ending up crashing with the corruption.

"Innocent Victims: The Characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird*"

By Maria Fernandez



Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is without doubt one of the most widely read books in history due to its great moral and emotional content. The novel transports the reader to Maycomb, a small village located in Alabama in which racial inequality is present in all aspects of day to day life, in the 1930's.

The title of this famous work refers to the metaphor of the mockingbird, a symbol of innocence and purity. These two concepts are depicted in the novel by means of several characters, who are as varied as American society. Each character represents different types of innocence and develops the role of the mockingbird, pure creatures whose only "sin" is to do good.

Among these characters we met Jem, a child in the process of reaching adolescence, who is disappointed and confused by the hypocrisy of the society in which he lives. Jem represents the innocence of children, an untouched and pure innocence that exemplifies the greatest sense of naivety and ignorance. Jem is considered to be a mockingbird due to the damage caused him by Bob Ewell, just for being Atticus's son. In representation of childhood innocence, we also find Scout, who is too young to realize the magnitude of the facts that surround her, and Dill, another mockingbird. Dill is Jem and Scout's closest friend in Maycomb, in spite of only visiting the town in summers. Dill is the perfect portrayal of a mockingbird. A good creature full of love and fun who "just gets passed around from relative to relative". Dill's character is also witness to the hypocrisy of society and justice in the trial of Tom Robinson.

Innocence and purity in the book is not only represented by kids. Adults are also victims of the cruelty in Jim Crow's South. Tom Robinson is, undoubtedly, one of the most obvious mockingbirds in the book. He is a humble negro who is sent to prison because of a crime he was physically unable to commit. This is definitely a sad but true rendering of how America society used to condemn a person only because of his skin tone or birthplace. Even though the innocence of Tom Robinson was more than proved by Atticus, he was condemned not by justice but by society just because he "was still different somehow".

Other representations of mockingbirds can be perceived in Dolphus Raymond and Arthur "Boo" Radley. Both of them are characters whose true personality we are not able to see through their words but through their actions. Mister Dolphus Raymond fell in love with a black woman and fathered two biracial kids. He pretends to be drunk whenever he is in Maycomb in order not to be judged or to be an easy target of prejudices and insults by Maycomb's inhabitants.

On the other hand, Arthur "Boo" Radley is not exclusively a mockingbird but a principal character in the plot of the novel. Boo Radley is an unseen person who hadn't left his house since his father shut him up for a petty crime committed in his teens. Arthur "Boo" Radley needs to tolerate daily not only his confinement but the children's plays of legends and myths that do not put Boo Radley in a very good position. However, Boo Radley is able to "climb in their skin and walk a minute around it" and take the children's actions with a great sense of humor. At the end of the day, we can see that Jem and Scout are not just kids but "protégées" in some way.

To sum up, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is not only one of the greatest books in history but a story capable of transmitting the widest range of emotions just by means of a few words written down on a paper. This wonderful book is able to capture different shapes of innocence and reminds all readers of the importance of preserving it. This novel is now in the hearts of thousands of people and its great plot and characters are undoubtedly one of the reasons for that.

Pablo Ráez—YouTube Inspiration

**By
Borja Medina de las Heras**



Pablo Ráez was born in Marbella, Malaga, Spain, the 26 of April of 1996 and he died in the same place the 25 of February of 2017. He was a blogger and youth Spanish sportsman and he was very famous because he fought to convince people to donate bone marrow. Thanks to him the number of donors of bone marrow in Malaga increased by 1300%. His most popular sentence was: “Siempre fuertes” or always strong.

He was very athletic, and he always had a very healthy life, until the 26 of March of 2015, the day he was diagnosed of acute myeloblastic leukemia before an operation of his knee. This illness is a type of cancer in which one the bone marrow produces abnormal blood cells. To cure this disease, you need to receive a bone marrow transplant. Pablo Ráez received his first transplant of bone marrow from his father. Later, in the summer of 2016, he got another knee operation and the doctors saw that the Leukemia was developing again. After this, he uploaded a video on YouTube asking for bone marrow donors and he could get past the illness another time, but knowing that his health was going to decrease. The last sentence he uploaded to his Facebook account was: "Death is part of life, so do not fear it, but love it" (in Spanish).

His father says that he knows, as well as his son knew, that the situation which Pablo Ráez faced, was very difficult, but that Pablo never gave up in his fight. When Pablo Ráez was alive he tried to express how he felt, and he also said that the life was very short, and that for the first time in his life, when he was strong, he was starting to really enjoy life. He also encouraged people who were in his same situation to do what he did and never give up. I think that he had a very good testimony and that he is a very good example of life to follow, both by those who were closest to him and by those who have never heard his story.

LUKA DONCIC, YESTERDAY A GUY TODAY A STAR.

By Jaime de Andrés Lerma



DONCIC, DONCIC, DOOONCIC, PLAYING FROM A PARALLEL UNIVERSE!!!!

DONCIC TAKES VITORIA AND REAL MADRID LEADS ALONE!!!!

VERY BEST OF DONCIC, BEST ASSISTANCE AND BEST CAP OF THE MONTH in the Euro league!!!!

ALL THE NEWSPAPERS SAY: DONCIC, DONCIC, DONCIC, but who is Doncic?

He has not yet turned 18, but Luka Doncic (Ljubljana, 1999) has long since become one of the best players of Real Madrid.

The first time he came to Madrid was for three or four days in 2012 before the Mini-copa in Barcelona. He remembers everything so perfectly, he doesn't believe it. The court where he trained was incredible; he liked all he ate... All this then influenced his decision of signing for the club. That affection and the facilities he had to train is what made him decide to come and live in Madrid.

But "He was only twelve then, he was only a boy and he had to leave behind all his friends and come to live alone in a country where he did not know anyone, but he could not say no to Real Madrid. He took the risk of coming and now, he is very happy about that decision.

Although the first months became very hard, especially the first few weeks, because his family could not be in Madrid and he felt very alone. Every time they came to see him and he had to say goodbye to them, he had a terrible time, although with the time everything was improving. He remembers that he used those weeks to learn Spanish. He had no one to speak Slovene, so in just three months he had learned what he needed to be able to understand his colleagues.

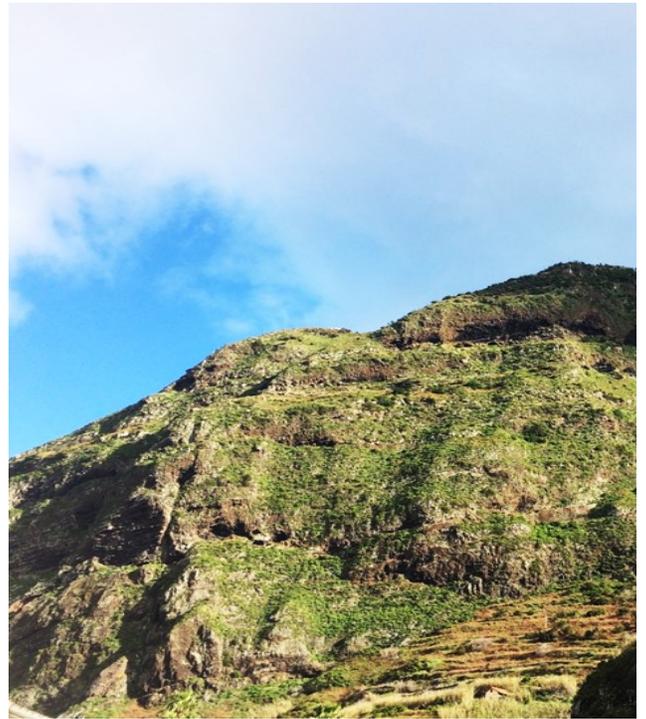
One year later, his name began to appear in the media ...and everything is happening to him very fast. Not long ago he was just a child who played in the quarry and now he stands in the Euro league, like a great star!!!!

To sum up, what you say must be supported by evidence, and Luka Doncic gives us the perfect opportunity to see that Real Madrid forms players but also people, people from every place all around the world, not only Spanish but also Slovenian.

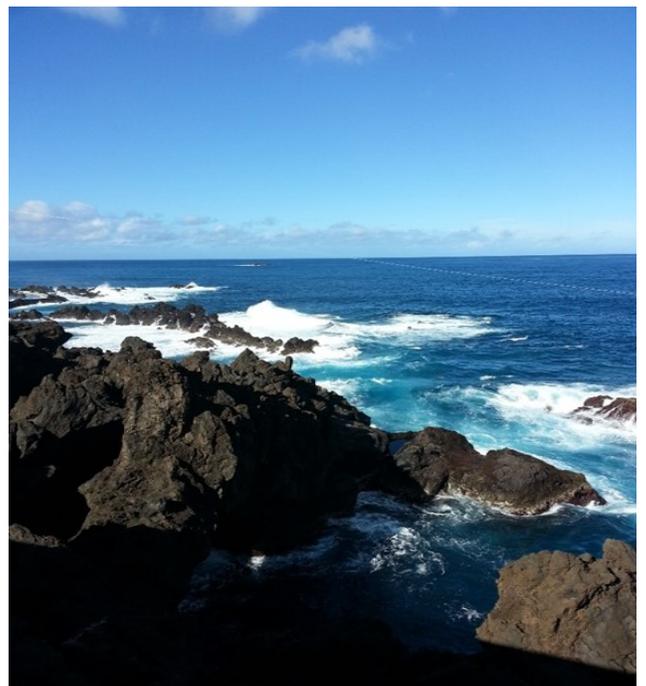


The Canarian Isles: Archipelago of Natural and Cultural Wonders

By Tanja Paulmichl

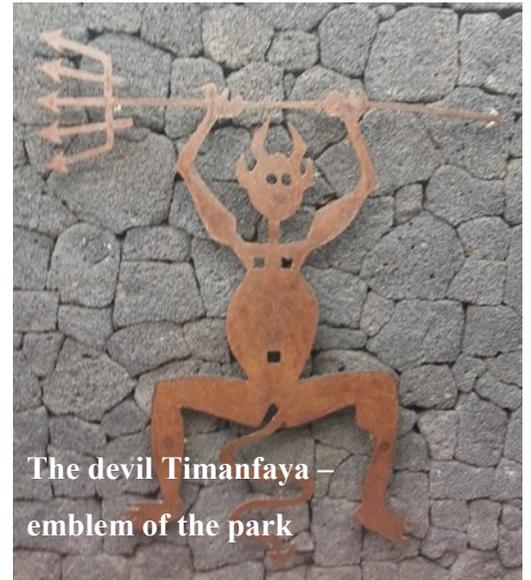


Madeira – Often compared to the Garden of Eden, the Portuguese isle imposes with its mountain ranges covered with forests, which contrast to the intensive blue of the seashores. However, the isle’s landscape enchants not only with its natural beauties, but attracts interest also for the mysterious stories about their origins.





The Timanfaya National Park

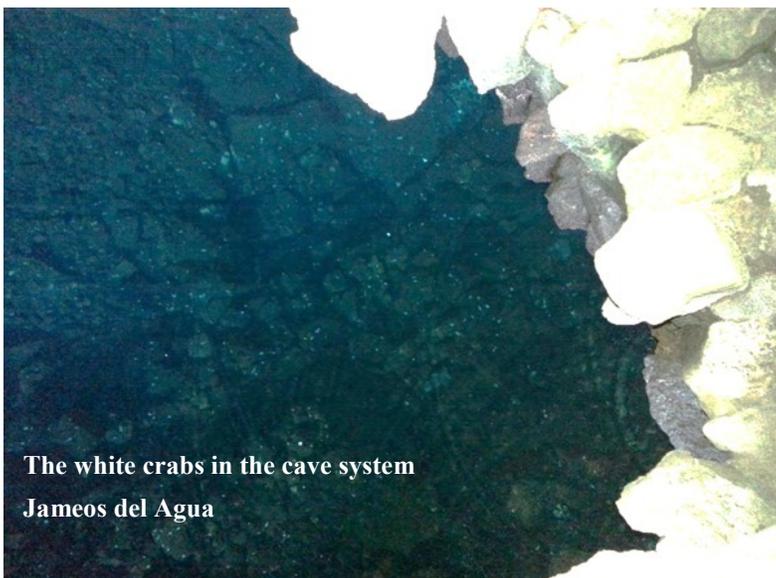


The devil Timanfaya – emblem of the park

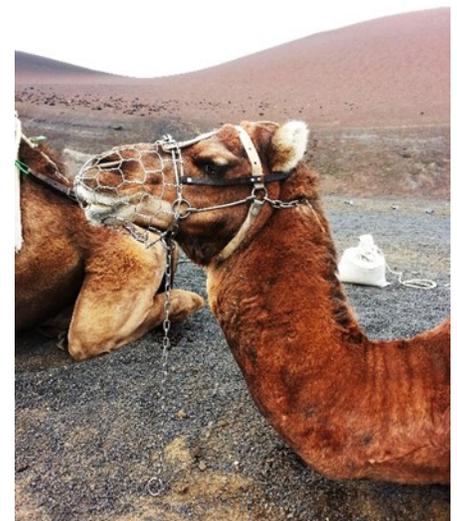
Lanzarote – No matter if driving with the yellow bus or riding on camels through the volcanic landscapes of the Timanfaya National Park, this Spanish isle impresses with its spectacular fire mountains. This special place inspired also the famous native artist and architect Cèsar Manrique, which invented the particular housing. Finally, a cave system hosts the few rare exemplars of white crabs in the world!



Cèsar Manrique's famous architecture



The white crabs in the cave system
Jameos del Agua





The ancient part of the city



The pygmy, the most celebrated figure of La Palma.

La Palma – In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean the Canarian Isle La Palma lights up the deep blue of the sea with its colourful ancient city, particular buildings and gardens that were designed in order to cleverly adapt to the local climatic conditions. The cultural traditions of the capital Santa Cruz – among these the so called pygmies dance - are every year a fascinating spectacle.





Spectacular vision of the seashore of Tenerife.



The townhall of a village on Tenerife

Teneriffa – Unique plants growing on the rocks that tower over the coast of Tenerife next to small, old cities whose inhabitants tenderly decorate the Ramblas – an image, which highlights how creative and adaptable people can be just because they love their home place.



The Canarian Isles continue to impress both for their beauty as well for their particular stories, so get ready to discover this fantastic place on our earth!

ACADEMY AWARDS 2017

By
Claudia Mateos Diaz



“The Hollywood Film Academy announced the nominations for the 2017 Oscars.”

Sunday February 26th the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, hosted the 89th edition of the Hollywood Film Arts and Sciences Awards. Traditionally, guests parade on the red carpet installed outside the venue wearing elaborate looks. The ceremony of delivery of the Oscars began at 10:30 pm but by 7:30 pm the first assistants began to arrive.

“La La Land” was the most nominated of the night:

-The American director Damien Chazelle (considered the youngest director to win an Oscar) won the Best Director Award of his film: “La La Land.”

-The American actor Casey Affleck (Ben Affleck’s brother) won the Best Actor Award by “Manchester by the Sea.”

-Emma Stone won the Best Actress Award by “La La Land.”

- Mahershala Ali (American actor) won the Best Supporting Actor Award for his film “Moonlight.”

-The American actress Viola Davis (best known because her new series “How to Get Away with Murder”) won the Best Supporting Actress Award by her appearance in “Fences.”

-The Best Non-English-Speaking film was an Iranian-French one: “The Salesman.”

- The Best Animation Movie Award was for “Zootopia”, an American film of adventures and animals. - The Best Original Screenplay was for “Manchester by the Sea.”

Finally, the BEST FILM:

“By the way, we lost.” Fred Berger, one of the producers of La La Land, closed his speech of thanks, with the Oscar for the best film in hand.

Then began, the most ridiculous and embarrassing moment in the history of the Academy Awards. Warren Beatty, in charge of delivering the next award, noticed something was not right. He had the wrong card. Hence Beatty showed the card to Faye Dunaway, who read only “La La Land”. The entire musical team took the stage to collect the award. Moments later, a backstage crew member with a headset ran onstage with the correct card. The real winner was the film “Moonlight.”

Let’s have a deeper insight into “Moonlight”, the movie that won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

By Sara Varljen



Moonlight is a coming-of-age film about Chiron, an African-American gay boy who grows up in Miami. It was written and directed by Barry Jenkins, who adapted the script from Tarrell Alvin McCraney’s play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*. The movie was critically acclaimed and received multiple nominations at important international cinematographic awards, such as the Oscars and the Golden Globes. The movie is divided into three sections: “Little”, “Chiron”, and “Black”, each presenting some key events of the protagonist’s childhood, adolescence, and adulthood respectively. Although the story is quite simple and brief, it is rich in topics that engage the viewer both emotionally and ethically. The audience is constantly challenged throughout the movie: it must infer what happened in the periods of Chiron’s life it does not get to see, it must understand what is going on in the protagonist’s mind when he is not speaking (most of the time), it must form an opinion on all the controversial themes the plot presents it with. The topics covered by the movie vary from personal identity to parent-children relationships, from homosexuality to masculinity clichés, from love to bullying.

A key aspect of “Moonlight” are the relationships between the various characters. Each personality is well-developed and has its own peculiar traits that make it unique and ambiguous at the same time. Chiron’s mother, Paula, for example, does not behave like a parent should. Her occupation, her addiction and her impulsive way of thinking make her very distant from her son. On the other hand, two characters, Juan and Teresa, become parent figures for the protagonist, even though they are definitely not saints. Another crucial person for Chiron’s evolution is his long-standing friend Kevin. He is always the one stimulating a transformation in the protagonist’s personality, by supporting his friend when no one else is going to.

The most enigmatic character, however, is Chiron himself. This taciturn boy, who speaks more through his eyes than he does through words, has a complex personality that is kept so hidden behind numerous façade layers, that he is not even aware of the thoughts and emotions he is trying to repress. Because of his nature, he is bullied by his peers and by people he used to trust, which makes him even more insecure. When he finds himself without reference points, he decides to emulate Juan, the only person that always helped him, ending up losing his true self.

FICTION

THE BEST CHRISTMAS OF MY LIFE!

By Maria Morant



Richard, a very studious boy, curious, and... a little bit cowardly, is admitted in Madrid to a very famous boarding school. To put it nicely, Richard isn't very popular. All the classmates make fun of him, and especially during Christmas holidays, since all the children in the boarding school go on vacation with their parents and family, except for him and one other boy, George--who is also very intelligent, but much more adventurous than Richard!

The next day, after all classmates left the boarding school, George convinces Richard to go for a walk around the city. They are walking in an alleyway which is a little bit dark. It looks like the old neighborhood of the town, with all the houses made of stones and old bricks. There is dust everywhere. Suddenly, a girl with a white dress comes out of a house illuminated by candles. The girl presents herself. She is called Mary and turns out to be quite the chatterbox! Also, she says that this house was from her great-grandmother, who told her the story of the illness that killed her parents and grandparents.

Richard becomes very scared and nervous as the hour grows late and all is dark. But Mary only wants to talk, talk, talk, and show them the most secluded places of the old neighborhood in the town. Now, they follow her to the church, and behind it, there is a forest that they do not enter, since there is clearly a cemetery within it. George is enjoying more than never, happy to make new friends and walk around the dark town, but, conversely, Richard is enjoying less than never!

Suddenly, they see a car's headlights, and after, they see that car park in the middle of the square. Mary begins to run and shout to them: RUN, RUN, RUUUN MORE THAN NEVER! Richard doesn't know what to do, and he becomes paralyzed. George tries to drag him and run, but two men capture the boys and drag them into the parked car.

Mary finds herself in the cemetery. She must have run in that direction in a panic. She begins to sweat, as she tries to open a tomb, seeking safety. In less than a second, a ghost emerges from inside the tomb and greets her. Mary begins to run and shout, arousing the interest of the two suspects who had captured George and Richard. Seeing the ghost that is chasing Mary, they decide not to help her.

When Mary can't run anymore, she stops and begins crying. The last thing she expects is that the ghost would begin to caress her back. She feels the cold sensation of a hand on her shoulder and it sends chills down her spine. But then she hears a familiar voice. It is the ghost of her mother, after all. Mary's mother's ghost communicates that the two suspicious men had killed her, not a disease. Mary must be very careful, her mother warns, they are very dangerous men. Her mother adds that Mary has the special ability to speak with a ghost, since she had learned it in Magic school. Magic school? Why didn't she know this? Mary also wonders what other skills she must have learned there. But the suspects are approaching the tomb, thinking it is safe and unguarded, now that they have seen a ghost chase after Mary. Without wasting any more time, Mary races to the tomb, and closes the door. The ghost body of her mother manifests itself into a lock that secures the tomb. Hearing the desperate cries of panic from inside the tomb, Mary decides to let her mother handle the rest, so she could find Richard and George.

She finds them tied and gagged in the backseat of the car. Untying them, she begins to apologize for drawing them into danger. Will they believe her story? Will they blame her? She should try.

She tells them about her mother, and how she could hear her voice and how she watched her turn into a lock. Richard, who is not so scared any longer, asks Mary how she knew the people in the car were dangerous, just by looking at the headlights? Mary thinks for a long time, as Richard and George wait in silence.

She does not know. It had been a night full of curiosity. She had meant to show her new friends a neighborhood she thought she knew. In her stressed mindset, Mary blurts out a plea. "Please, please don't stop being my friends," she begs. "I will figure all this out. I just need to think about it longer."

Richard smiles. "Nothing will keep us from being your friend," he says. "You saved our lives. Maybe now we can help you."

An Outsider in Barcelona Interview by Aitana Ramos



Barcelona is a metropolis located on the Eastern coastline of Spain, also known as Catalonia. The city, with its 1.602 million people and its 102,15 square kilometers of surface, is a very popular place for tourists, and for a group of German exchange students, it seemed like a good choice too. But what is it like for an outsider to live like a local for 6 days?

Leon Keller, who studies in Steinhagen, Germany, tells us his experience.

-Which were your expectations for the trip?

Nothing special personally, I just wanted some sun, beach, and palms.

-What was your first impression of Barcelona?

It was “alive”, like, many people and lights, huge buildings...

-What was the thing that surprised you the most in your trip?

It was that there was a Catalan language, and I had never heard of it before.

-From the places we've visited, which one impressed you the most?

The bunkers. It was an amazing view.

-Was it hard to adapt?

Kind of, everyone was still so “happy” even in the afternoon and I just wanted to sleep.

-How did you feel when you first arrived?

I was sweaty. It was hot, but I was surrounded by nice people.

-Did you like Spanish people in general? How did they treat you?

Yes, they have been nice to me and I like them.



WEDDING INDUSTRY By ANNA BERENGUER MATEO

I recently attended a wedding. To be more precise, I attended an amazing, beautiful and probably very expensive wedding. Now you might be wondering, what's the point on writing a personal opinion essay if you're going to say how magical that wedding was? Well, while standing in a corner eating *amuse-bouche* I started to think about the wedding industry. And that's what I'm going to talk about.

The wedding industry is a great example of an industry in transition, spurred on by digital innovation, and more than that, it has turned something that before was pretty simple into a bunch of complicated steps. I'm not here trying to explain how the wedding industry works but how weddings have turned into an industry, into pure capitalism in which people throw the biggest parties, people have to wear the most expensive dresses and you are expected to behave as if you were in Louis XIV's court in Versailles.

Weddings really cause
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getting mar-millions of
plan and or-those who
to it have to sent, spend
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nowadays
headaches.
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the list goes on and on. So what I'm trying to say is how getting married is a big machine that represents capitalism in its pure state and in which each person is a little gear. Many couples today tend to veer away from the religious roots of marriage as part of the rise of selfish, “me, me, me” weddings, and without religious tradition, weddings lose their sense of history and the notion that what the couple is doing is a cultural rite, not a personal one.

On the other hand, this is what we love about today's brides and grooms: their weddings joyfully celebrate their distinctive brand of love (and sometimes go against tradition) but they honor what matters most to that couple. According to the Huffington Post, “The personalization of modern weddings is indicative of a significant shift in couples' approach to marriage itself, just as today's newlyweds are defining what their weddings will look like, on their own terms, they're also redefining what “partnership” means and building marriages that reflect modern gender roles and equal values.”

So, at the end of the day (or should I say wedding?) what is the most important is that there's real love in that “just married” couple. What does that headache matter? I can promise you everything is worth it when you're in that corner eating those delicious *amuse-bouche*.

The Dual Diploma Times

Thank you for reading the sixth edition of The Dual Diploma Times!

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