All the World Meets at CELOP

Spring 2001
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Dear CELOP Students:

Congratulations on completing your English program. We hope you have enjoyed your three months at CELOP and learned more English than you thought was possible. This spring we have had more than 500 students from 50 different countries.

I had the pleasure of welcoming many of you to CELOP at Boston University and to the city of Boston at the large orientation session in January, and now I am delighted to be able to bid you good-bye as well. I sincerely hope you had a wonderful adventure here this semester, improving your English language skills, meeting new people, making new friends, keeping warm in the cold weather, and seeing new sights. We have greatly enjoyed having each and every one of you at CELOP.

Although classes are ending and many of you will be returning to your countries in April, this Semester Book will help to keep your experience at the Center alive. Enjoy it and share it with your friends and family. For those of you who are returning to school or jobs, we wish you the best of luck and will certainly miss you. For those of you who are returning to CELOP for another semester, have a great holiday break and we'll see you in the summer or fall.

Margot S. Valdivia
Director
CELOP
The Semester Book Elective class contributed significantly to this Semester Book. Their contributions appear throughout this book. These eight pioneering students didn't merely study English from a textbook; they used it in coordinating assignments, doing research, conducting interviews, and writing reviews. In other words they used English as native speakers do—to do a job. The product of their effort will remind us of our CELOP experience this semester for years to come. Their teacher, Barbara Bliss, meticulously orchestrated their story assignments and guided them through the process of writing (and rewriting) on their subjects.
The Semester Book Elective class hard at work planning their reporting assignments in the CELOP lobby.

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Among friends at the club.

A debate rages in Doug Kohn’s class.
Spring Break Stories

CELOP students had spring break from March 3rd to 11th, and many students traveled outside of Boston. They traveled to other cities of the U.S., Canada, South America and Europe. But many other students stayed in Boston during the spring break. Here are three of their stories. — Barbara Bliss

Spring Break in Boston

Nergis Pazarbasi

I stayed in Boston during spring break. It didn’t look like spring at all, although there was a terrible snowstorm I could enjoy. It was a good opportunity for me to learn ice-skating. Therefore I spent most of my time at the Boston Common. Since there are not many things to do outside, we stayed at home and watched some nice movies with friends. Of course, the best part of spring break was to sleep until noon.

Spring Break: Interview

EJ Kim

Hide, a Japanese student in CELOP, went to New York City and New Hampshire during this spring break. He planned to meet his professor from Japan in New York City. They have had a close relationship as a professor and a student since he was a university student. He already graduated. Now he is studying in Boston and they have to be apart, but they still keep in touch with each other.

He went there by “Chinatown Van.” He took the van because it was the cheapest transportation from here to New York. It took 5 hours, so he was very tired when he got there. He spent 3 days in New York City. He shopped around SoHo, bought some gifts for his friends in Japan, and drank with the professor and his friends. He also saw the Metropolitan Museum, and he said it was really, really nice.

It was his third time to visit New York City. When he visited New York City for the first time, it was very crowded, noisy, and humid (probably he was visiting in the summer), so he didn’t like it. But, this time he was very excited and he liked it. However, he told me that he preferred Boston, because it has a lot of beautiful places to go to.

He also went to New Hampshire to snowboard with his friends at CELOP. He loves snowboarding. That was the time that New England had a snowstorm, so he had quite nice snow for snow boarding. Unfortunately, he broke his wrist, because he rode pretty passionately, I think. He went to the hospital and waited 6 hours just to get an X-ray. He was pretty mad, so he doesn’t want to go the hospital again.

He had much fun during this spring break. He is looking forward to the next break.

A return to the Carnival

Chano Escuela

Carnival is usually celebrated on the last days of February and the first days of March. So imagine me here in Boston thinking that I was not going to be able to enjoy the party this year. Finally, I got a good airfare and the place to enjoy my Spring Break vacation was decided, Tenerife. It was going to be a very long trip but when you are talking about Carnival you have to forgive all matters.

I arrived in my island after 20 hours of flights and waits in airports. After that I had to drive for 2 hours to go to the town where the Carnival takes place. No matter. You don’t think about those hours of travel when you know what you are going to enjoy. And it was like that.
I arrived in Santa Cruz, the city where the Carnival takes place, at 11:00 p.m. At first, I went to a friend’s house to meet the rest of my friends and then we went to the big square where most of the people were. This big square, the Plaza de España, is next to the sea and the house of my friend in a higher place. When you are walking down you can see hundreds of people dancing in the street or joking in their different costumes. Also there are different groups of people making circles around percussion bands that are playing “batucadas.” As you near the big place, you see more people and typical bars placed in the street and made of metallic sheets called “chiringuitos.” Of course, in all this way down you don’t stop to dance and laugh. Because there are so many people, you can feel afraid that something bad can happen, but you don’t have to worry. The people are very friendly and if you are a foreigner it is very likely that someone will finish by inviting you to take some drinks. From 12:00 a.m. until the “light appears again” (as one friend of mine says), you don’t stop having fun and realizing that there are few moments in the year that you will feel so free and good as in a night of Carnival. It is the best thing of the year.

After the Carnival in Santa Cruz, a lot of little villages have their own party. This is the case in my village.

My village is called Los Gigantes, and all the years we have a 4-day Carnival when all the people go to the street in groups and each group uses a different costume. This year my friend and I wore a special one. We were the Baywatch girls. We used the same red bathing-costume they use in the TV series and of course we made ourselves up with very big ones ...you know, breasts. Also we took an old truck and restyled it. We painted it yellow, we put a water jet over it and, of course, 4 big loud-speakers to make the people in the streets rumble with our music. My village is a touristic place and, at the beginning, all the English tourists were very surprised to see men using women’s costumes (most of the tourists in February are old people, so imagine them). But after a few beers you had to take care because they got a little bit confused with your airbag protection; do you know what I mean? We went out with these costumes on Saturday night and on Sunday afternoon in a parade. It was very funny and we were laughing all the time. In Sunday’s parade I also met some friends that play in a comparsa (samba group), so I was playing batucadas all that day. I played the biggest drum, and because you have to handle it using a belt around your shoulders, I felt a lot of pain at the end of the day. But it didn’t matter; it was a perfect day.

The day after, I took the plane to come to Boston. Snow, cold, and rain were waiting for me, but my mind, my mind was still dancing and making rhythms. The Carnival is still in my mind, and believe me, it is a pleasure.
Chris Antonellis’ class: Suk Jin Ko, Brigitte Lee, Ling-Chun Liu, Monica Macias Morales, Tatsuaki Matsunaga, Ji Sook Moh, Taly Ostfeld, Miho Takenaka, Akira Zheng.

Jamie Beaton & Laura Morgan’s class: Ghannam Almazrooei, Shin Chul Choi, Yun Hyk Chung, Joel De Souza, Marisela Gutierrez, Jennifer Jang, Yoshie Kasuya, Ariel Khafif, Yun-Chuan Li, Alper Ogan, Mardani Putra, Akifumi Saruga, Ondrej Sipos, Yuichi Ueda, Esperanza Vasquez; not shown: Laura Morgan.

When I came to America I didn’t have any problems about the culture because in my country most of the customs are similar to this country. Although Turkey is not known very well, it’s one of the most progressive countries in the world. With its long history Turkey is open to many different cultures. Most of the educated Turks are aware of many other countries’ costumes.

The only thing I can say is about the way I dress. I have been working in an Ad Agency for three years. I dress more work-like but students in the school are wearing more casual clothes so I try to wear more casual clothes when I come to school.

The writer, from Turkey, is in Amelia Onorato’s intermediate class.

When I came to America, I was very surprised. America is a different country than Poland, a different culture. In the United States are many big cities. American people’s attitudes are different than people in Poland. Everybody is smiling and happy. If you ask somebody “How are you?” his answer is always positive. In Poland it’s different. If you ask the same questions, many people’s answer is negative because people in Poland are dissatisfied with their life. They have many problems with work and money. Life is expensive and sometimes I made a mistake when somebody asked me “how you feeling?” Sometimes my answer was negative and people looked at me differently. I’m think that was a mistake.

The writer, from Poland, is in Amelia Onorato’s intermediate class.
Living in Another Country
by Luis Canas

One of the strongest reasons that you may consider not going away from home is your family and friends. You might be afraid of meeting new people or just feel afraid of being alone. Ten years ago I was sent by my parents to a boarding school in Wisconsin. That was the first time in my life that I was going to be far away from home and by myself. At that time, I was really afraid and concerned because I didn't know what to expect about the kind of people that I was going to be with and the place where I was going to live.

When I first arrived at the Academy, I didn't know what to do. The first thing that came to my mind was to ask someone for my room number. So I did and I went all over the place trying to find it. When I finally reached the room, I found this big guy giving instructions out loud to everybody. I knew in that moment that I was in big trouble.

Later on I had to move my luggage to my room. It was not really a normal bedroom. It was a big room with five beds or more. After that I realized I was not alone. I shared the room with students from Mexico, Venezuela and the U.S. They had a unique way to wake up students. Each bed had a huge light right on top, so there was no way that you would want to stay in bed more. Like it or not I had to get out of bed, take my towel, shampoo and soap to get to the shower, and in two minutes I was supposed to be done.

But not everything was so bad. I also had a great time learning new things, doing a lot of sports, meeting new people and also the school made some nice trips like the one to Rome and a few in the U.S. to New York and Chicago.

It is only a matter of time to get used to a different lifestyle, a new home and the new people that are around you. Maybe because of my age at that time, I didn't realize the huge opportunity and experience that I was having. Now I am glad I had the chance to learn the English language and also share my culture and beliefs with people from another country. It is not easy to leave your country, but it is a great and unique experience that you will never forget.

The writer, from Venezuela, is in Dorothy Lynde’s class.

CELOP Ambassadors
Program Abroad

• Were you happy with your experience at CELOP?
• Would you be interested in helping CELOP get the word out about our English language programs to people in your home country?

If you answered YES, why not consider becoming a CELOP Ambassador?

Being a CELOP Ambassador is easy and fun! All you have to do is give CELOP materials to officials at your high school, university, and/or place of work in your country, and talk with them about your experience studying English at Boston University. In return for your help, you receive a Certificate of Recognition from Boston University, identifying you as an official CELOP Ambassador!

If you are interested in becoming a CELOP Ambassador, please visit the Front Desk at CELOP or E-mail us at celop@bu.edu. Thank you for supporting CELOP!

Betty D’Angelo’s class: Anfal Al-Qadri, Regis Ayache, Demian Bustos, Andrea Cangiano, Shizuka Furuya, Aytul Isik, Gulmira Kulumbetova, Yasuko Kushii, Matija Paunovski, Aline Pinho Mattoso, Ah-Reum Son; not shown: Young Choi.
Marsha Dean's class: Hend Al-Obaidi, Fatima Alhewail, Mary Almosny, Alla Belova, Zainab Ghuloum, Seung-Min Kang, Kayoko Koshikawa, Yen Li, Randy Liang, Ellen Liao, Bonnie Na Ranong, Michelle Xia, Mehmet Yoruk; not shown: Misato Nishijima, Jerry Ryu.

Reneé Delatizky & Dorothy Lynde's class: Leila Akhmisse, Jasim Saeed Al-Zaabi, Urara Arata, Luis Canas Dominguez, Monica Della Grotta, Carmelo Follo, Samuel Guidon, Maria Herrera, Rene Juarez, Ozgur Kelleci, Min Kim, Jung Hyun Park, Rosana Slezeviciute, Chayatat Wadhanakul.
The first location of CELOP was 730 Commonwealth Avenue, which is part of the School of Engineering now, and CELOP moved to this location at 890 Commonwealth Avenue in 1995.

The first directors were two people (co-directors), and Margot became the fourth director in April, 1988.

We also asked her what her main job at CELOP is. She told us she is doing large stuff, mainly administration of the academic department, admissions and marketing, registration, payment, and student services.

We wanted to know what she supervises. She always checks if everything keeps on running well or not. Usually people who work for CELOP report to her what is going on at CELOP, especially in their departments, and she gets the information about what is going well and what should be fixed.

Her major job is making the budget, to arrange which part needs money, how much they need, and how much she should give them.

Good things and bad things happen together in her job as the director of CELOP. The best part of her job is that it varies everyday, but often she is in situations of making hard decisions. She told us that whenever she made an important decision, she always has considered it a challenge.

When we asked her what the worst thing to do in her job is, she thought a while and she answered that it is giving people bad news, which means she is working with the personal issues so sometimes she has to give unhappy news to some people, and it makes her feel bad.

However, she said that she was very happy to work as the director of CELOP. The evidence that proves it is that she has worked at CELOP for 25 years.
Q. Where do you live?
A. I was born in South Carolina and moved to MA, and now I live in Medfield.

Q. What do you do in CELOP?
A. I am the Financial Administrator; I do the budget, payroll and student payments.

Q. What is your favorite activity?
A. Every time a new program begins, I meet new international students and see the fresh faces from different cultures and I think how much we are all alike.

Q. Which are your favorite places in Boston?
A. The MFA, the Museum of Science, the John Hancock building, the Freedom Trail, and the Charles River.

Q. What do you think are the most popular/traditional foods in Boston?
A. Pizza, clam chowder, Boston baked beans and codfish.

Q. What are the most popular sports teams in Boston?
A. The Boston Red Sox (baseball), the Boston Celtics (basketball), the New England Patriots (football), the Bruins (ice hockey) and the U.S.A. women’s and men’s soccer teams.

Q. Which do you think are the most popular drinks in Boston?
A. Coca Cola, coffee and water.

Q. What is your favorite hobby?
A. Bridge, which is a card game.

Q. Who is your favorite celebrity?
A. Michael J. Fox.

Q. What is the thing that you like most in Boston?
A. I like the students.
Judy Di Leo & Roselyn Frank’s class: Othman Al Amoudi, Luis Diazgranados, Sook Heo, Han Byoul Kim, Na Ki Kim, Angel Lupi, Ahmed Salim Mazrouei, Sixela Montilla, Maria Alejandra Ostos Nunez, Jae-Hun Roh, Gaukhar Upusheva, Takako Yoshima; not shown: Roselyn Frank, Maria Jose Manzoni Ramirez, Al-Shaima Al-Sabbre, Young Mal Park (“Emma”).

Shelley Fishman’s class: George Antzoulatos, Gerardo Garvet Borregales, Maggie Huang, Shingo "Diego" Ishimura, Fabricio Klang, Yun Lee, Umut Ozalp, Maria Victoria Padin, Francesca Scivetti, Roberta Terziani, Rumy Yamashita; not shown: Miguel Aparicio, Andrea Bernal, Marisabel Zelaya Salas.
My husband and I went to dinner at Ginza, a Japanese restaurant in Chinatown. Ginza is one of the best Japanese restaurants in Boston. The food is very good and the prices are not too expensive for good Japanese food.

Ginza is popular for its fresh sushi and Maki (seaweed rolls). We had shrimp tempura and baked scallops for our appetizers and a large selection of sashimi for our main course. We drank warm sake because it was cold outside, and I also drank some green tea. For dessert, we both had green tea ice cream. The total cost for both of us was $100 including the tax and tip.

Ginza has two locations. There is one in Chinatown and one on Beacon St. closer to BU. The atmosphere is nicer at the Beacon St. restaurant, but the Chinatown restaurant has better sashimi and is open until 4:00 am. We usually go to the Chinatown restaurant because we like sashimi and we eat late. We go to Chinatown a lot because we like Japanese food and Boston does not have very many good Japanese restaurants.

I recommend this restaurant to anyone who likes Japanese food. I don't think that Ginza is as good as some restaurants in New York, but it is less expensive and the service is fast and the waitresses wear traditional Japanese kimonos to make the atmosphere very Japanese inside the restaurant.

I usually drink tea everyday, so I'm going to tell you guys about “A Nice Drinking Tea Place” in Boston. The name of the restaurant is Tea Luxe. Tea Luxe has many kinds of teas and some English style foods and desserts. My first favorite is Tea and Scones. You can choose any kind of tea and scones. I like Blue Flower Earl Grey tea and Raspberry Orange scone with Devon Cream. Earl Grey tea is one of my favorite teas, and they have six other kinds of Earl Grey teas. Also, they use tea pots for serving tea.

Next, is something good to eat with tea. It is difficult to choose! But, let me see... Yes! I like The Martinique. It is a garlic shrimp, smoked mozzarella and plum tomato sandwich. Oh! yum yum. You should try it, then you will understand. Thirdly, do you know Crumpets? These are a kind of English style bread. It is round, about 10cm in diameter and 1.5cm thick and has many holes in it. It's crunchy when it's toasted and you spread butter and honey or jam on it. It is light and tasty. Anyway, Tea Luxe has many teas and foods, so you must try it!
In January, I went to dinner with my friends to Bangkok House. This is a Thai restaurant in Cambridge. It was delicious and a little spicy.

Bangkok House has original Thai decoration and looks great. We were three people that ate tom yam goong, green papaya salad, red curry with bamboo shoots and phuket seafood. Tom yam goong soup was delicious and it was not too spicy. Green papaya was fruity and it was very big. The Red curry plate was very spicy and I was so surprised. Phuket seafood was the spiciest in the order. Phuket seafood was shrimp with ginger, baby corn, mushrooms and many green peppers. I drank three Thai beers. Thai beer was cheap. Our meal cost about $110 for three people, about $37 each, including tax and tip. I think that is not expensive. I drank three beers and I was full.

Bangkok House is not big. I forgot the number of tables. The decoration has an ethnic atmosphere. There were Thai tapestries and furniture. The service was not slow, and it was good. I was comfortable. I would go back to this restaurant again because I like spicy food. If you like spicy food and Thai food, you should go to this restaurant.

I went with my husband, Luis, to Gyuhama. This is a Japanese restaurant just in front of the Prudential Center mall. It is a little expensive, but it was delicious.

Gyuhama has a regular menu, not too big but not too small. You have many choices. We ordered a boat with many different pieces of sushi (sashimi lobster, yellow tail, tuna, salmon and maki rolls). It came with lettuce and cucumber salad with Japanese dressing and miso soup. We love this kind of food. It was exquisite. I drank regular iced tea and Luis drank two beers. The meal cost $80 for two people, including the tax and tip.

Gyuhama is a small restaurant, with around 20 tables. It's not a very romantic place, but it's comfortable. It has light lights, and it also has a bar in the back that you can enjoy after dinner. The waitress service is very nice and fast. I'm sure I would go back to this restaurant again because the fish quality is excellent. You would enjoy it.
Cynthia Flamm & Ellen Yaniv’s class: Mohamed Al-Sayed, Marina Blumenthal, Jae-Woong Choi, Sabine Helbig, Gabriel Hernandez, Sewon Hwang, Sunny Kim, Frances Lin, Felipe Pereira, Silva Roberta Premoli, Sergio Villasanti Goni, Ryosuke Shimoda; not shown: Hakan Yedier, Ellen Yaniv.

Joanne Fox & Judith Dan’s class: Hassan Al-Hail, Marcia Benarroch Hayon, Betul Guzin Cam, Carlos Cortes, Ana Maria Fernandez De Soto, Abdullah Ghurab, Jose Lauro Silva Neto, Hui-Ya Yang; not shown: Sa’ad Al-Saud, Robin Huang, Elnaz Naseri, Atif Sh. Ali, Tolga Zaimoglu, Joanne Fox.
Class Pictures

Spring 2001


Doug Kohn’s class: Gaia Bongi, Juan Castellanos Villani, Joyce Choi, Jae-Hyun Chung, Giap De Matos, Aliya Doshmukhambetova, Soo-Yeon Hwang, Nozomi Ito, EJ Kim, Joohyang Kim, Sean Kim, Jennifer Lee, Nergis Pazarbasi, Kevin Yang; not shown: Danah Al-Qadeeri, Saoud Almehairi.
I went to lunch with my friends to Chung Shin Yuan. It was very delicious and not too expensive.

It is a small Chinese restaurant. It’s always full of customers. You have to wait a while for a seat. It doesn’t take reservations. It has many varieties of food. Every dish tasted good. We shared fourteen dishes:

- Chinese Fried Dough
- Spring Rolls
- Soy Bean Milk (sweet)
- Small Steamed Buns
- Pan Fried Buns
- Stir-Fried Rice-Vermicelli
- Steam Spiced Spare Ribs
- Steam Spiced Chitlins
- Taiwan Style Lao-Mian
- Soy Bean Noodle Salad
- Pork Tripe Salad
- Tofu Salad
- Pan Fried White Turnip Cake
- Gay Gnn

The last dish was Tofu Jello in Light Syrup for dessert. Every dish was wonderful, not too big, not too small. It cost me $13.00, including the tax and tip. Chung Shin Yuan is a lively restaurant. All the seats are occupied by guests. The service was fast and friendly. The waiter made us feel good. I would go back to this restaurant again. It also reminded me of my country’s food.

This is one of the most famous Chinese restaurants in Boston, I think. It is famous for Dim Sum. If you go to Chinatown, don’t miss Grand Chaw Chou and its fabulous seafood entrees prepared with an Asian flair.

When I went there with my friends, we ate only Dim Sum. However, there is also formal Chinese food. I recommend Dim Sum. It is a big restaurant. When I sat down, jasmine tea was ready for us. We ate some kind of dumpling, shumai (its Japanese name), flavored rice wrapped with leaf. Dim Sum has small portions in each dish, so you can order many dishes. The cost is quite cheap. If you go with many people, it will be cheaper. In my case, it cost about $15 each, including tip. You should go at lunchtime.

Located in the middle of Chinatown’s loud, tiny crowded streets, the Grand Chaw Chou has long been one of Boston’s most authentic Chinese restaurants.
I went to lunch with my best friends to Dok Bua. It was very nice but in my opinion it is not the best restaurant that I have ever gone to.

Dok Bua has a small menu. I ate Pad Thai. This dish was very good. For me it was very big. This dish has sauteed rice noodles with bean sprouts, shrimp, egg, scallion and ground peanuts. I drank a regular coke. It was very cheap. My meal cost $10.83, including tax and tip.

Dok Bua is a small restaurant. The decoration is like Thai with many things like flowers. The service was not too fast. I like the food, but I think we can choose another restaurant.

My husband and I went to have dinner at Legal Sea Foods. We usually eat Korean style food for our dinner. Every now and then we like to eat fish, but it is difficult to cook, plus the scent is too strong for our neighbors.

We discovered Legal Sea Foods. It has a varied menu. There are all different kinds of fresh fish. The friendly waitress recommended an entree that we had never eaten before. For the main dish I ate a wood grilled fish, “Arctic Char,” whose taste was between a salmon and trout. It was very fresh and it wasn’t greasy. It was served with a butternut squash and coleslaw. I especially liked the butternut squash. It was my first experience of that side order. It was very tasty. We didn’t eat a dessert because we already had full stomachs.

My meal cost $28, including tax and a tip. I think it was a reasonable price. The restaurant has a unique dish which was made by the chef, who had previous experience of an exchange program in Shandong, China. I’d like to go back to this restaurant if my parents visit Boston. However, I still miss my mom’s cooking.
George Krikorian & Margo Miller’s class: Antonio Balza, Cristobal Comandari Letelier, Abdullah Mubarak Dhahri, Ricardi Duval, Perla Guerud De Pfeffer, Ji-Eun Kwon, Eun-Young Lee, Gishuku Nakiri, Selin Onel, Maryam Safarova, Gerardo Santamaria, Noriko Tamura, Sean Yang, Takuya Yoshizaki; not shown: Margo Miller.

Jacquie LoConte & Ellen Yaniv’s class: Kamino Abe, Beni Bregu, Yugi Chiu, Abdulla Ahmed Ekaabi, Yasuko Fujii, Hye-Jin Han, Yasuo Iga, Roger Lee, Jin-Yong Lee, Zula Sukhbaatar, Joi Sukrojana, Chris Tsopelas, Nadia Villarreal Morales; not shown: Yousef Alhammad, David Shi, Jacquie LoConte.

Irene Maksymjuk & Michelle Remaud's class: Wei-chi Chen, Francisco Cunat, Yukari Fujimura, Leyla Gualdron Murhib, Miwako Hanada, David Huang, Seung-Ouk Jeong, Takuya Kimura, Yayoi Kurokawa, Hojin Lee, Kyoko Takahashi, Francisco Cunat, Miwako Hanada; not shown: Hojin Lee.
An interview with David
by Danah Al-Qadeeri, Nergis Pazarbasi, & Jasim Al-Zaab

Sitting in front of the BU bookstore, Barnes & Nobles, is where we always find David, a homeless man who has many friends who are students in BU. Since he was very famous among students, many of us wanted to know the story of this man: Who is he? Why is he always in this place? And many other questions. Sometimes we see him watching TV on a very small screen. Sometimes he is sleeping on the floor and sometimes he isn’t even there and we wonder where he is. Because we are reporters of CELOP’s semester book, we decided to interview this guy to know more about him. So, three of us went to the bookstore looking for him to interview him, but we didn’t find him. We were all wondering where he would be and fortunately one of us noticed him in Starbucks in the bookstore. We asked him if we could interview him and write down his answers and he didn’t mind and was so nice to us. We started asking him questions and here is the interview:

Q. Can you tell us about yourself? Are you from Boston?
A. Actually, I’ve been in Boston for two and a half years. I’m from Illinois but I lived in New York City for a long time.

Q. Why are you not working?
A. I am unable to work. I have physical problems.

Q. Which are?
A. I used to be a drunk and a drug addict for 20 years and this disease was killing me. In this coming August it will be 2 years since I quit. Sometimes when I was drunk in the street or anywhere I thought: What’s life? It doesn’t matter for me to live; but, I changed my mind when I thought of myself dying. Over the years I’ve learned how it is to be well.

Q. It was really hard to quit, wasn’t it?
A. When you have a disease like I do, you think...It’s a matter of life and death, so if I ever drink again or do drugs I know I’ll be dying.

Q. How was your life before drugs?
A. I was almost married. I chose drugs instead of marriage! I was stupid, young and stupid, and I am regretting that in some way. I was a drug dealer getting high with people in New York City. I was doing real drugs.

Q. Do you regret all that you were doing?
A. Drugs and alcohol ruined my life. I had my own place in New York City but then I lost everything.

Q. Do you enjoy your day while sitting out there?
A. There are days when I wake up and ask myself if I am getting better or worse, but I see students everyday and they tell me that I am doing better.

Q. Do you always need to sit out there?
A. Some days I have to sit out there and some days I don’t. I just sit there, drink a cup of coffee and enjoy my day.

Q. Where do you spend your night?
A. I can tell you how it is to be homeless! I stay in the Theology building or I stay with my brother sometimes.

Q. Can you tell us more about your family?
A. My brother, my mother and I took care of our alcohol
problems. My mom was a real drinker and so was my brother, but when I started dealing with drugs, at first they wouldn’t talk to me but they do now.  

Q. Do you have any plans for the future?  
A. Yes I do. When I’m done with being homeless I want to become a drug counselor. I am hoping that I can do that here in BU because I am already helping some students with their drug and alcohol problems. I want to do it here because I know a lot of kids and there are some kids who unfortunately need me! I want to work and soon I’m going to have my own place.  

Q. What do you think of life?  
A. Life is what you make it. It’s true that some days you enjoy and some days you don’t. Sometimes, I want to go and drink again, but I don’t because I can’t forget what it did to me as a human and what it did to my life, and also drugs got the best of me for 20 years.  

Q. Anything you want to add to this interview?  
A. I want to help the young kids at BU and I hope you carry away the message.  

The interview was ended and all I can tell you about this guy that he was so nice with us and “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

What do BU students know about other countries?

At Boston University's Culture Fest on March 31, CELOP had a table with information about CELOP and sponsored a contest: a multiple-choice quiz about countries of the world. Twenty-three people took the quiz, and gift certificates to neighborhood stores were given to the winners. The editorial staff of the Semester Book elective contributed questions to the quiz, and here are some of the results:

The easiest questions were “How do you say hello in Japanese?” and “What is the capital of Venezuela?” Twenty people knew that the answers are “konnichiwa” and Caracas.

Eighteen people knew that karate is a Japanese (not Korean or Chinese) martial art, and seventeen knew that kim chee (not hanbok or teriyaki) is a traditional Korean food.

Who is the president of the United Arab Emirates? Seventeen people correctly chose Zayed Al Nahayan, but 3 picked Ahmet N. Sezer (Turkey), one Jose Maria Aznar (Spain), and one Kim Dae Jung (South Korea).

Sixteen people knew that the 1988 summer Olympics were held in Seoul, but others chose Athens, Mexico City, and Nagano—all, of course, locations of other Olympics in other years.

Also, sixteen people knew that Mandarin is the main language of Taiwan. All other seven chose Cantonese, which is another form of Chinese but not spoken in Taiwan.

Sixteen people correctly identified Istanbul as the only city in the world located on two continents. Beirut and Cairo each got some votes. No one chose Thessalonika.

Twelve people knew that the island of Malta is located in the Mediterranean Sea, but others chose the Caribbean Sea, the Persian Gulf, or the Red Sea.

How many different nationalities are represented at CELOP? Twelve people correctly guessed about 55, but ten others guessed about 100.

Overall, out of 14 questions, the low score was 6 and the high score was 13—by a CELOP teacher!
Patricia Peknik’s class: Jean Dabadie, Erkan Kenger, H Kim, Hyunjung Lee, Marc Lemieux, Abdullah Magboul, Hee Won Min, Masato Otaka, Souad Saib, Songwon Seo, Ken Yokokawa; not shown: Elena Grebenchuk, Hsun Lin, Akihiko Sato, Hsing Tseng.

Nora Smith & Kathy McCartan’s class: Dae-Weon Ahn, Sultan Alrasheed, Angie Beiner, Lucy Chen, Eun-Young Choi, Jib Dissamarn, Yukiko Hosoi, Gabo Jaramillo, Fardan Nurfaizi, Makicci Perez, Anwar Radha, Gigi Soleman, Yi-Ming Tseng; not shown: Young-Min Beck, Jin-Ho Choi, Hyun Soo Kim, Kathy McCartan.

Francisco Cunat

As a continuing student at CELOP, I think I’m able to make an evaluation about my almost six months I have spent here. I think I have improved my English and also I have had a lot of fun with my classmates who are from different parts of the world. I have gotten to know some people better than others, for example, when I went with Taco, Greg and two other Japanese people (from another class) skiing at Loon and staying at Greg’s cabin. We spent a weekend there, and they taught me how to snowboard. I really enjoyed it!

Another thing I enjoyed in class was when we used to have lunches on Tuesdays. I think it was a good opportunity to taste different kinds of dishes from around the world.

Yukari Fujimura

During this semester, we ate lunch together every Tuesday. Each student had a turn to cook for our classmates. So we could eat several kinds of international foods. They were so delicious that we had an excellent time! Especially, we had lunch at Michelle’s house once. She cooked Mexican food for us. At that time, we enjoyed eating and chatting. After having lunch, we went to Harvard Yard and took some pictures.

In my experience, this class is the most interesting for me because we get along with each other. We also help each other learn English. We often had dinner, parties, and went to clubs, movies together. Those were fun and precious experiences.

Fortunately, I could participate in this class. So what I want to say to all of my classmates is “Thanks for your friendship! I won’t forget you! Our relationship is forever.”

Miwako Hanada

I can tell you, my classmates are wonderful. They have different characters and are from different cultures. Sometimes, we are together not only in class, but also outside of the class. We want to know each other and to share our cultures. Every Tuesday, we ate lunch together with traditional dishes. It was also wonderful experience. Fortunately, I was surrounded by favorable environment, and so I’m happy to meet them and to learn English with them.

“IT was the first day of spring when we were invited by Michelle to her apartment to have lunch. It was very warm and a nice day to go out of class and we enjoyed lunch with her pretty cat. She served us delicious food, like chicken, a spicy Mexican dish with beef and some fruit. We felt comfortable eating and talking while listening to jazz. It was a very nice and precious time for all of us. We took some pictures at her apartment and in Harvard Yard.”

[Left to right] Takuya (Japan), Francisco (Spain), Kyoko (Japan), Leyla (Venezuela), Wei-chi (Taiwan), Yayoi (Japan), Yukari (Japan) and our teacher Michelle.

— Kyoko Takahashi
Being in the Spring 010 class has been an extraordinary experience for me. We are a heterogeneous group composed of several Asians, one European, one South American and two Americans. Those different nationalities and cultural backgrounds have forced us to follow the rule of “only speak English,” getting more and more confidence with language while at the same time learning from each other as much as we can. We have shared politeness norms, history and cultural values combined by the exquisite taste our own food. I surprised myself having every Tuesday a shared lunch in my classroom when all my classmates and I would bring the typical food from each of our countries, so that we could know each other not only with behavior but also with taste! Now my classmates know how Venezuela tastes, and also I know how Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Spain and the USA taste! It was very yummy and rich! I will never forget Michelle’s idea (one of our Americans in the class).

Our amusement was not only restricted to the classroom or the CELOP lobby. We have gone to museums, to the movies and we have immersed ourselves into American culture. My classmates have been great. We help each other with our English and we share our plans. It is the first time that I have met so many people in my situation. Most of us are international students that are trying to get into an American university in order to continue with our careers. So we help and support each other.

As I said, our focus is not only spoken English, but also academic English, so the 010 program has been great for our needs, our two American members (our instructors) have focused a lot on that! They have been able to look for our needs and adapt the program in order to make this course as productive as possible. Our listening and speaking instructor has pass us through the conversational English, helping us to correct our individual difficulties while at the same time we can get the confidence and the awareness of not making silly mistakes in the street. They encourage us all the time to find our way to speak with native speakers, so not bad! On the other hand, our reading and writing instructor, Irene, has been crucial for our “American academic development.” She has been able to deal with our individual needs, while at the same time we follow a program that gets into all the basic stuff that we need to know and practice! Going through grammar, sentence structures, and all that we need to “polish” our English skills in an advanced level. We have had great classes where she also has taught us about American society values and behavior. I feel really thankful for getting all that preparation, attention, and support. As I said being at CELOP has been an extraordinary and rich experience for me, and I will never forget that!
Maria Tomeho-Palermino & Alex Oliveira’s class: Jimmy Arakanji, Adrian Camou, JT Chung, Giuseppe Cobol, Kaan Erdogan, Yoshinori Hirayama, Grace Jeong, Jun Kondo, Patxi Mateo Perez, Brian Quigley, Yago Ramos Rodriguez, Miguel Saade Cardenas; not shown: Chia-Ming Shen.

What countries are the students from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the UAE</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, the biggest group is from Korea, followed by Japan, Venezuela, Taiwan, and the UAE. But almost half of the students here this semester come from countries other than these top five, so a lot of different countries are represented at CELOP.

Are there more women or men at CELOP?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In other words, this spring, CELOP students are 54% men and 46% women.
I still clearly remember a grand, well-known stadium in Yokohama, the second biggest city in Japan, as if it were yesterday. The stadium has been used as the main ballpark of the Japanese professional baseball team, the Yokohama Bay Stars. Consequently, although it is not usually open to junior high school baseball players, which we were, we were able get into the stadium only on that occasion since we were on the national Junior high school baseball tournament that takes place once a year at the stadium. We passed hard trial games in our area in Japan, and at last we had a ticket to the stadium.

It was a hot, sunny day in the summer of 1992. I had been looking forward to this day for a long, long time, for playing baseball at that stadium was a really big dream for all of my teammates. To achieve this dream, we had kept practicing until late every day, and we refrained from everything except baseball after school: no going out with a girlfriend, no playing with friends, no going on trips, no eating of junk food, and so on. Therefore, just reaching this place already satisfied us somewhat. After making the dream come true, we tried to play just for the fun of it. I wanted to win the game at the tournament just to play longer with my long-time teammates.

The moment I set foot on the ground, the sight, which I always saw at night on TV, jumped into my eyes. I felt my heart beating extremely fast. I just remember that the stadium seemed to be a huge field, although it was actually not so big—almost the same size as Fenway Park in Boston. Owing to the tension, I couldn’t even walk correctly during the opening ceremony. Besides, because not until then did I walk on and feel a baseball field with artificial grass, which the stadium had, I was wondering if I could play as usual. However, insasmuch as many of our families came from all over the country to support us, we were extremely pumped up. I also asked my family—my father, mother, brother, and sister—to come and see us play, and they were excited to do so. I didn’t feel any pressure from them, and I was proud of myself. I just wanted to be seen by my family once, even though my parents had always come to and watched my games.

In the first game, we played against the team from Osaka—the third largest city in Japan. We were from a smaller city, but we were confident of our force. I was always the second batter in the lineup, and so I was again in that game. I was really in a relaxed state of mind and got the first hit of the game. My teammates played nervously, maybe because it was our first game and because of the pressure from our families ties, our opponents, or the stadium, but we won by a score of 2 to 0. We were able to win a game in the dream stadium! And then two days later, we played the second game. Our opponents were the flawless champions of the tournament the previous summer. We played without any pressure and did our best, but the team was stronger than any we had played before. We lost the game by a score of 3 to 0, but at least I enjoyed the game. Despite the fact that I was completely satisfied with the result, tears ran down from my eyes. At that moment our long, hot summer was over.

Still now, whenever I see the stadium on TV, the picture carries me back to the memory of that summer. Last December, when I was living and going to college in Tokyo, I went to Yokohama to visit the stadium. It had been nine years since the tournament. Accordingly, buildings around the stadium had changed somewhat, but the ballpark had not changed at all. It reminded me of my most memorable summer, and I was really delighted to remember the culmination of my life.

The writer, from Japan, is in Ramon Valenzuela’s advanced class.
Valentina Tomio

My Body Wanted to Talk With Me

There was a period in my life when I felt very strong and powerful. In a word, I thought I was almost perfect. I was a young girl who was studying to build her future. Boosted by high ideals, I had chosen to study medicine. As everybody knows, doctors are very important figures for people and the community. They can comfort those who suffer, alleviate pain, and also save lives. They help babies to see the light of the sun but also accompany patients who are seriously ill to a sweet death. So becoming a doctor seemed to me the best way to be an altruistic person and to make the world a better place. Another maybe ridiculous reason why I wanted this was my science professor's suggestion, "You would be a capable and solicitous doctor!" That sounded to me like a moral imperative.

I was really happy with my choice, and I was a good student too! I spent four years of my life studying night and day and using all my energies. And my efforts paid off. In my dreams I saw myself as an esteemed doctor--able to cure all the diseases and to solve all the problems of my patients. Obviously, this doctor would have a beautiful family, too. Unfortunately, someone didn't agree.

One month, during the fourth year, we had to take an internship. In this period the students had to spend the whole day in a hospital following a doctor around doing his daily work and trying to become more skilled in the simplest operations. One day the doctor told Giovanni, a classmate and a friend of mine, and me that he had to do a sternal biopsy--a drawing of marrow from the sternum. I was glad to take advantage of the opportunity to watch this operation, also excited and a little bit worried because it was my first serious one. During the operation, everything worked well. The only thing that disturbed me was the noise of the giant needle drilling the sternum. Nevertheless, I didn’t get upset by this sight. Proud of myself, I felt like a rock-climber who had just climbed his first summit.

Then Giovanni and I left the room to discuss this experience. While we were talking, I asked him, "In your opinion, if a person feels that he is going to faint, what should he do?" When Giovanni finished his academic lecture about fainting, I lay on the floor unconsciousness. Immediately I was surrounded by doctors and nurses. They lifted me bodily and put me on a stretcher. So, all the patients were able to see a student of medicine in a white coat and white in the face, lying on a stretcher in a corridor of a big hospital.

I had never been squeamish. However, after that day everything changed. Whenever I went to the hospital, I felt butterflies in my stomach. Moreover, my skin became warmer and warmer and I began to sweat while my heart raced: a panic attack. Another problem was that I had this feeling not only in operating theatres but even when I was listening to lectures about surgery! In spite of this, the hardest thing for me was to discover that I wasn’t able to control this feeling. It was stronger than me.

I fell into a deep depression. I lost my self-confidence. I felt like a loser.

I needed a lot of time to come out of that. I talked with a lot of people. I learned to let myself be helped. Finally, after five years of studying and almost thirty courses, my body and I decided to change our life. I was worried about the thoughts and the expectations of other people but all the same tried the admission test for the University of Architecture. Now this is still my major.

I no longer think, "I am perfect." I feel I am weak and fallible. Yet now I’m serene because I don’t ask myself to be perfect anymore. Maybe, I have become a little bit wiser. Furthermore, I have learned that all occupations help the community. All jobs have worth. I hope that the houses that I will design will bring a bit of beauty to gray cities and will be welcoming places for people to meet.

The writer, from Italy, is in Ramon Valenzuela’s advanced class.
After I finished my training as a military officer, I was assigned to an army base in the north of Taiwan. Although my rank had not changed, my position kept changing when I was there. I served as a team leader, a high-ranking officer’s PE coach, a political warfare officer, and a counselor.

However, at such a high-class headquarters, a second lieutenant was as minor as a private. I think that is why they kept adjusting my position according to their wishes. I really didn’t know if there were any rules for the operation of the army or if the rules were just someone’s arbitrary decision. Anyway, my last job was as a counselor, and I was lucky to stay in that same position for my last nine months in the army.

I had a private first-class serving as my orderly. Actually, he had been in the army longer than I had. “A human being’s value depends on his rank in the army,” my experienced orderly once told me.

“No, I don’t think so,” I replied. “Men are born equal. That’s the main idea I learned in law school.” I looked at some birds flying freely in the sky and continued, “I think I can change the environment instead of being changed by the environment.” I showed him a confident expression.

With a sharp look at my determined face, my orderly responded with a leer, “I am not a hypocrite, but I think you will learn a good lesson in the coming days.”

My work was unique, and I had to deal with all kinds of problems—psychological, legal, whatever. In my office, my superior officer was a captain, and he answered to a general. They always reminded me of the importance of my work while they were smoking.

“You know, we should keep death to a minimum,” said my captain.

“Once the soldiers face some trouble, they can turn to you for help,” the general said to me. “We need an efficient army.”

I was also sick of their cliches: “Do you know how I rose steadily from lieutenant to general?” Each time I saw their fingers pull a cigarette out of a pack, I could expect a repetitious, banal speech. For me, their faces always seemed connected with smoking. Therefore, during those days in the army, the smell of cigarette smoke always struck me as something grotesque.

Although I never took their words seriously, their words did affect my work sometimes. Once, after a long talk, my boss asked me to offer my services as long as someone wanted to “talk to me.” Yes, that was the phrase—“talk to me”—that I had to reiterate to my soldiers. “If you have any trouble, come and talk to me!” I often said that when I was introducing my work to the soldiers. “Don’t commit suicide! Come and talk to me.” That was another phrase I had to emphasize. “Trust me! I am omnipotent in solving your problems!” I could feel a thousand soldiers doubt me when I said that. My boss reminded me that to win their trust, I had to utilize all the speaking skills I had learned in law school.

Whenever I made a perfect speech to introduce my services, I would have to answer calls all day long the next day. Still, I preferred solving their problems to signing their death certificates, which was another important “service” of mine.

Due to my law background, I had to deal with a lot of legal documents. Sometimes if someone died, I also had to type a report to explain the cause of death. My boss and my orderly always offered me lots of documentation for these corpses. Although I neither had seen these people nor knew anything about these young men’s deaths, I was always able to make out a full, well-organized report complete with bountiful legal notes. The conclusion would always be, “We are really sorry for this young man’s death. However, the army is
not responsible for anything.” Each time I typed this sentence, I could almost see the satisfied smile of my captain. The head general might praise him for doing a good job.

One day, I was really curious about a young private’s case. “Have you seen this case, sir?” I asked my boss.

“Of course! Just the same as the others.”

“What do you mean by that?” I asked.

“You know, a spoiled young man can’t deal with pressure well, so he commits suicide...” He kept on smoking and reading his newspaper. “Since he can’t survive in the army, we can’t do anything more,” he murmured, concentrating on his newspaper.

“All right, but I still want to have more details to work with. Would you please give me a few more days?”

“What do you want to do” He was finally distracted from his paper and looked me in the face.

“I want to investigate and collect more information. I think it might be helpful.” I tried to express my concern as much as possible.

“What the hell is wrong with you?” He looked at me with a disdainful smile.

“Nothing! Just trying to look for some truth.” I looked at him innocently.

“Come on, my idealistic lawyer!” He jeered at me with mocking eyes. “He is just a private. You don’t have to waste so much time on him,” he said, abruptly pulling out another cigarette. “You are an officer. All you have to do is the same thing as always.” He swiftly lighted his cigarette. “Then explain our sorrow and our responsibility. We need an efficient army, don’t you remember?” He was getting impatient with me. “How come you spend so much time dealing with these soldiers? They are unimportant to us.” His words sounded so familiar. They sounded like words I had heard but never truly understood before. “I don’t care about the truth. Truth is something in your textbook.” He was getting serious. “Just compose a persuasive report. You are always good at that, right?”

At that moment, there were many vivid images flashing in my head—the way my orderly had talked to me, the derisive expression he had when he said I would learn a lesson, and my confident smile when I answered that I would not be changed by the environment. I suddenly realized how easily the environment affected people—you never notice you are already identical to it, no matter how idealistic you have been.

I looked at my captain despairingly and tried to utter some words, but I just couldn’t. I felt totally defeated. Then I pulled out a cigarette and lighted it up. Suddenly, a cloud of smoke engulfed us. After a while, he glared at me, surprised, and said, “I never knew you smoked.”

“I also never knew I smoked,” I said.

The writer, from Taiwan, is in Ramon Valenzuela’s advanced class.
Green Line Music Stores

If you are thinking about buying a guitar, improving the quality of your home studio or starting to produce your own electronic music, you are lucky! Boston will offer you a great bunch of options with a lot of good stores with the best brands on the market.

When you are going to buy a guitar, a bass, a drum set or even a harmonica, it is better to know all the options the market offers you. This is why you should start an extensive search, taking the opinion of a lot of people. They will help you to find what is the best for your preferences. In Boston this search could be done in several ways. There are different areas where the music stores are concentrated, making the search easier. Basically, we will show you those places along the B line of the Green Line T. Of course, there are more shops located in other parts of the city and surrounding areas but we are going to focus on these because at the same time we can have a fun tour around the city.

These are the stores or shops that we will find at each T stop:

**Harvard Ave. Station**
**MR.Music Inc.**
128-132 Harvard Ave.

How to get there: Once you leave the train, take the right following Harvard Ave. (There is a liquor shop with a green advertisement that will guide you). At 100 meters from the stop you will find the shop.

Characteristics: This is an old style shop. By “old style” we mean the kind of shop where we can find a lot of second hand goods but from the best brands. If you are trying to find an old, good, cheap guitar, maybe this is your place. They have a little repair department where they can modify all the features of your guitar or bass. Also the attention is very good: They only ask you one time what you need. Then, you are free to play whatever you want. Isn’t it good?

**B.U. Central Station**
**Guitar Center**
750 Commonwealth Ave.

How to get there: If you can’t see it from the T, you don’t need a musical instrument, you need to visit an oculist.

Characteristics: This is a big shop where you can find a lot of products from most of the brands on the market. Maybe they have the most complete catalogue of all the shops distributed along the B Line. They have some used instruments but they mostly have new stuff. We can’t describe everything you can find here because the shop is too big to do so.

Although they sell both new electronic music instruments and studio recording equipment stuff (effects, microphones, recorders), they are really specialized in guitars, basses and drums.

However, we always will recommend that you visit a lot of places to make the right decision.

In this shop they have a very good communication with their customers, and if you buy something for over 100 dollars they will send you a greeting card that is also a gift that you can exchange after your next purchase. (i.e. free strings, etc.)

**Hynes Convention Center**
**Daddy’s Music.**
165 Massachusetts Ave.

How to get there: Once you get out of the train you have two options: go out to Newbury St. or to Mass. Ave. To go to these shops it is better if you go out to Mass. Ave. Then take the left until you reach Berklee Music School (aprox. 100 meters) and you will see the shop in front of you.

Characteristics: This is another old style shop where many instruments are used. In this place you
can find very affordable prices. The brands that they have in this store are focused on people that are going to start to play an instrument. They are not famous but, as we said, the prices are very good. There is not a lot of variety and most of the instruments seem to be old-fashioned, but don’t worry about it. This is what makes this shop interesting. You are the one who has to judge this shop. You will buy the product and maybe here you will find that old thing you would never expect to see in another shop.

Wurlitzer E U Inc.
180 Massachusetts Ave.

How to get there: It’s easy. It is just in front of Daddy’s Shop walking down 50 meters. The only thing is that they have two names (I don’t know why they make it so confusing). However, remembering they have a blue solar protection is enough.

Characteristics: If you ask me for two words that can describe this little store, I will say: Neat and Tidy. Few times in my life have I seen a place neater than this. However, as a music shop, this is what I missed the first time I went in. The shop has very good brands, specifically in guitars, basses, pianos and amps. Their acoustic guitar room only has 15 different models, but what models! Here you will find guitars that maybe you won’t be able to see in another place. The price of most of the items is of a mid-high range, but their quality is extremely high. They also have a repair department, which will make you feel better in case of a deficiency in the product you buy.

Boston Guitar Works
334 Massachusetts Ave.

How to get there: Once you go out from the Wurlitzer shop, you should take the left and walk straight ahead along Mass. Ave. At the intersection of Mass. and Huntington Ave., opposite Symphony Hall, you will see this shop. It is on the other side of the street.

Characteristics: This is a very small shop, if we compare it with the rest, but full of different and interesting goods. They are very specialized in basses and guitars, and in fact here you will find some rare and beautiful acoustic guitars. They have a bunch of guitar and bass amps and effects. If you are interested in pianos or electronic music this may not be your shop, but if you are searching for a good mid-range priced guitar, this could be a good place. The good thing about this shop is that here you will find different brands than the ones they offer in the other stores.

Lechmere
MARS, The Musician’s Planet
14 McGrath Highway

How to get there: This store is near the last Green Line stop, at Lechmere. Getting to the shop is very easy. Once you leave the train, take your left (the opposite direction to the one you take if you go to the Galleria Mall). You will walk following a big avenue and it will seem that you are lost in the middle of nowhere. Don’t worry about that. In only 5 minutes you will see the shopping center where the last shop of our tour is placed. Also, you will see a McDonald’s. Mars is located after the big Star Market.

Characteristics: This is the biggest shop I’ve ever visited in my life. The different departments are very well distributed and they have a lot of different brands. They are specialized in every instrument or musical device you can ever imagine. From guitars to computer synthesizers, you will find a lot of different products with very good prices. The other good thing is that you are free to play all the instruments you want, no matter if you show that you are an expert musician or not. It is not difficult to find two punk guys playing their guitars and screaming at the same time. It is crazy the freedom they allow you. Of course, you will have access to percussion and brass instruments. The conveniences are that if you are special brand of drums or brass, maybe you won’t find it. The other thing is that, because all the people are allowed to play the instruments, it may happen that the instrument you buy as a new one could seem to be used. But if you don’t care about that, go for it. This shop will match your expectations.
This question still stays unanswered. Nowadays, jet travel is increasing rapidly throughout the world and most people use air travel as a first choice. As the technology is getting better and more dependable, jet travel is becoming safer and safer. In addition, today's pilots are trained to handle high-risk emergencies. However, in spite of technology, new planes and highly trained pilots, most people still don't agree that air transport is safe enough, whereas some people highly depend on jet travel and don't fear being on a plane.

The Boeing Company really made a good effort in the past few years, making its aircraft some of the most highly rated aircraft in safety features. The FAA, the Federal Aviation Administration, certified Boeing for safety on its 747 and its new 777. Both 747 and 777 basically have the same flight management computers, FMC, which enable them to fly safely and efficiently. The FMC not only works as an aid for pilots but it actually takes 90% of the crew workload. The FMC collects all the information of the aircraft and puts it on one screen next to the pilot, which makes it easier for him to make quick decisions. The FMC consists of three processors, which work together to collect information and take control of today's big jets. The FMC is the brain of the aircraft. Without it the plane can not be controlled. It takes inputs from the pilot's yoke and sends it to the wings to give the desired action in split seconds. It's amazing how it acts like a highly trained pilot in emergencies by doing the right procedures for certain emergencies. And having the FMC on the new aircraft makes air travel safer than ever.

No matter how good the computer on an aircraft is and no matter how safe the aircraft is, human error is always present, whether it's a highly trained pilot or not. Computers need pilots to give them commands, check if the computer is doing the right thing and keep everything on the safe side. According to the FAA, “On Oct 31st Singapore Airlines flight SQ006, daily service from Singapore-Taipei-Los Angeles, crashed when taking off from Taipei's Change Kai Shek International Airport at 23:18 local time...Subsequent investigation of the accident confirmed that the flight crew mistakenly attempted takeoff on Runway 05R, instead of the planned Runway 05L... Runway 05R was closed for repairs, and numerous pieces of construction equipment were parked on the runway...The 747 impacted the construction vehicles, breaking the fuselage into three parts and igniting a large post crash fire” (www.airsafetyonline.com). Here you can see how human errors could lead to huge deadly disasters.

Statistics show that in 1970 there were 69 accidents and the number of accidents has been decreasing since then.

Aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus are trying to make jet travel the safest way to travel. They fly-test their aircraft before delivering to airlines, and by testing their aircraft, they're saving lots of lives. Manufacturers use computer aided graphics to show pilots different aspects of the aircraft. That makes everything easier for pilots like predicting what's going to happen if an engine fails. Furthermore, the Boeing 777 is the first jetliner to be 100 percent digitally designed using three-dimensional solids technology.

With all the technology on today's aircraft, jet travel is getting safer than ever and it's actually the fastest way to travel. Flying is not 100% safe, nothing is 100% safe but it's safer than ever. Jet travel is booming. It's the future; we don't want to look back.

When you step aboard a commercial aircraft, you are in the hands of some of the most well trained professionals in the world. Most pilots go through their entire careers without a major incident . . . And if you cancel your airline reservation and decide to drive to your destination, you aren’t in the hands of skilled pilots anymore. You are among countless inexperienced, irresponsible and drunk drivers just feet away from you driving along the freeway at 70 miles per hour. (The Inaugural Flight, 1999: Mel J. Ott.)

Accidents do happen but not like the way they were in the old days. But again, nothing is 100% safe. However, the chance of you being involved in a fatal plane crash is so minimal that there is no reason, whatsoever, to be afraid to fly.

The information in this article was taken from the following web sites:

- The Boeing Company: www.boeing.com
- Airbus Industries: www.airbus.com
- The FAA: www.faa.gov
- www.airdisaster.com
- The Inaugural Flight, by Mel J. Ott, 1999

The author, from Kuwait, is in the Semester Book Elective class.
Kai-Chun (Kevin) Yang

Lake Louise of the Icefield Parkway
The Unrivaled Beauty of the Rockies

It was during my summer vacation in 1997 that I spent almost one month traveling in a Dodge Caravan around the western part of Canada, including Alberta and British Columbia. The Trans-Canada Highway led me through Calgary, Banff National Park, and finally to my dream wonderland—the Icefield Parkway of the Rockies.

Waking up much earlier than usual, I was so amazed at what I saw. Sitting in front of a shiny, enormous French window and having a savory continental breakfast in the Victoria Room of Chateau Lake Louise—the only building and hotel on the shore of the lake—I was deeply enchanted by the stunningly splendid scenery which kept my eyes fully occupied. Lake Louise, the most beautiful sapphire of the Rockies, lay in the arms of the mountains which rose one higher than the other. It was a clear, gorgeous morning with glaring sunshine and a slight breeze. Several snowy clouds floated high up in the azure sky as if some white cotton had been blown by naughty kids. Partly covered by niveous snow and ice, the magnificent sage-green mountain chain rose straight up into the sky. The brilliant sunlight produced some avocado-green shadows without any uniform size between the peaks. In front of those majestically impressive giants were countless forest-green trees and some much lower hills with several brooks trickling through them. When the breeze had stopped, the surface of the huge turquoise lake was like an enormous mirror that had a clear upside-down reflection of the whole scene above it. While the lake was rippling, the sun then threw plenty of gold foil onto the lake to decorate it. The still lake made everybody speak softly so as not to disturb the tranquility. An extremely touching feeling welled up rapidly from the deepest part of my heart, for I finally found myself completely immersed in and integrated with this natural impressionistic painting.

The next day I woke up to a misty early morning with a different kind of amazement. Seeing the Chinese-landscape-painting-like scenery through the old-fashioned, teakwood-framed crimson window, I thought that I was ‘monopolizing’ a masterpiece of Nature. Although the gauzy mist covered the whole lake region, I still could distinguish those peaks and trees which appeared indistinctly. I thoroughly enjoyed myself indulging that aerial feeling.

When I immersed myself in that spectacular and serene place, everything around me seemed to hold itself aloof from the world. Nobody would feel uneasy, or disturbed, or even have any violent temper. Bathed in such an incomparable Arcadia, we would easily forget our vexation and become calm—and that’s the implication left by those glaciers of this dignified ancient land.

The writer, from Taiwan, was in Ramon Valenzuela’s advanced class in the Fall 2000 semester. He is in Doug Kohn’s class this semester. This story was inadvertently omitted from the Fall 2000 Semester Book.
Atsushi Yatsuda
My Sanctuary

Sometimes, people’s lives halt abruptly without their saying goodbye. I had not had a chance to look into my father’s eyes and say, “I love you and thank you,” when he was alive. After his death, I always felt his spirit and found solace whenever I visited his grave. His gravestone was engraved with the symbol which means a “spirit of unity.” Indeed, he used to love harmony among people. His grave stood on a hill and faced the old city, Kamakura. That place is my sanctuary.

One day, a car accident took his life away. I was fourteen years old. It is true that people don’t realize a familiar person’s true value until they lose him or her. I took for granted that he would stand by my side always. He was witness to all the important events in my life. He cherished me when I was born. He rushed me to the hospital when I seriously burned my wrist. He cried with joy at a welcome ceremony for new elementary school students.

What is more, he was my mentor. He taught me how to play catch. He disciplined me when I was wayward. He showed me what a real life was like.

After losing him, I intensely felt an emptiness in my life. I could not get rid of my feeling of a tightened chest no matter where I went. I occasionally could not contain my sadness at twilight. I was too young to cope with his death. I was like a fawn on thin ice. I needed something that was very stable and solid in order to preserve my sanity. I tried to devote myself to study. However, the more I tried to forget his death, the more I felt vacant.

I realized that I could not feel better as long as I averted my eyes from the reality, his death. I visited his grave and tried to remember every single memory of him. I remembered his unshaven face on weekends and its coarse feeling when he rubbed his face against my cheek. I recollected his drinking beer in good humor on Sunday evenings. I recalled our small arguments (we didn’t see eye to eye) when our opinions differed slightly. I gradually sensed my pain inside getting alleviated. No other place but his grave gave me comfort, and it still provides me with a great peace of mind.

I still believe that my father and I are connected in spirit. That idea becomes clearer each time I stop by his grave. While I am feeling a breeze on my cheek, I communicate with my father in my heart. Sometimes, it is a dialogue. Other times, it is a monologue. I feel that every element surrounding me there—the wind, the rustle of the leaves, the sunlight, a downpour, and the sound of silence—is some kind of inarticulate message from him. These days, the occasion to visit his grave grows fewer and fewer because time is also healing my suffering. But it is my sanctuary and will be for the rest of my life.

The writer, from Japan, is in Ramon Valenzuela’s advanced class.

Sebastian Escuela Benitez
Cold Day Story

On February 11th we had the coldest day of this semester with temperatures that went down to 12 Fahrenheit (during the night). The wind was also very strong and most of the people were very surprised at that uncommon situation. These two things meant that the wind chill was near -7 Fahrenheit (-21 Celsius). The wind chill makes reference to the real cold we feel because of the effect of the wind, so on that day that was the real cold we were feeling. Not many times in our lives will we suffer or feel this cold.

For the Semester Book we thought that it would be interesting to know your opinion about that issue.
Trying to see how that weather affected your plans for that day made us describe with more exactness what you did to “survive” that strange situation.

We asked several students and they reached the same conclusion: it was one of the coldest days of their lives. No matter where the people came from, all of them experienced the harshness of that weather.

In that morning, Pedro Manuel, from Angola, felt that it was not the ideal day to go out of his house. He has travelled driving his car through Europe and the African continent, but he never felt that mix of cold and wind. “It was so dangerous!” he exclaimed. His country has a totally different weather (warmer and calmer), but in fact, it was not his coldest day since he has been in Boston. “Last semester was a very good period to prepare myself to confront this part of the winter and at that time I suffered a lot of cold,” he said. However, he preferred not to go out and stayed in his house for the whole day.

But not all of the CELOP students come from warmer countries. For example, Jeremy Hamon is more used to this kind of cold weather. He is from Paris, France, and he used to go to Switzerland to ski in the winter. Even so, he didn’t feel that sensation before. “I was trying to breathe and I felt that I had a very big ice cream in my throat,” he said with an expression of surprise on his face. That day he walked with his girlfriend Olympe and Taichi, who are CELOP students too, on Newbury St. They were freezing to death and decided to come back home. The three of them shared the same idea: One of the coldest days of their lives had happened.

Miguel, a student from Chile, was in his room in the morning and he decided to go to the supermarket to buy something. That was his last visit to the street on that day. “I needed to buy some things and when I arrived at the street I couldn’t believe it. It was so cold!” he said.

As you can see, all of us have an extraordinary story to tell about that day. In this article we tried to show you a couple of experiences of several CELOP students. We can’t put here the comments of all the people, but they all think the same. The cold and wind we suffered will remain in our minds as one of the hardest things of the 2001 Spring Semester at CELOP.

The writer, from the Canary Islands (Spain), is in the Semester Book Elective class.

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Danah A. Al-Qadeeri

Valentine’s Day

This day is celebrated on February 14th throughout the United States of America, and as it is the color RED that expresses LOVE, Boston was covered with red roses and red candy boxes on Valentine’s Day. Exchanging roses was noticeable in Boston on this special day of love. And special discounts were offered in almost all shops in Boston.

On this special event of celebrating love and emotions, none of us, international students at CELOP, forgot our family. We all sent our families cards or e-cards telling them how much we miss them and how much we care and think about them.

Valentine’s Day is a special event for all lovers, friends and families. It is a special day of celebrating love. For me, the best thing about it is to love and to be loved. My dad always used to tell me “To love and to be loved is the greatest joy in life” and now I understand what he meant and what a great feeling it is to be loved. It was a special day of the spring semester of 2001. Happy Valentine’s Day!
Mystery of TOEFL

Fatima Al-Hewail

"I hate TOEFL and I’m really fed up with it" is the most popular sentence among international students around me. Yes, I do agree with requiring the TOEFL test to get an acceptance to an American university, but I believe that the required score shouldn't be very high and that it makes students suffer to get it. Let’s think of it, why do universities ask for 600 TOEFL when a student has 550 and they can make an interview with him to check whether he is as good in English as he seems from the score? Why do they have to insist on the 600 when they can give him a conditional acceptance in order to hand in the 600 score by the end of the English language course? Offering the conditional acceptance to students who have 550 and higher is the best decision that universities could ever make for three reasons.

First, in the case of giving the student conditional acceptance he must attend an English Language Program mostly at the institute belonging to the university itself so he will be able to improve his level with more enthusiasm because he doesn’t want to lose his acceptance.

Second, universities in these cases should have the ability to know whether the student can attend classes with American students and understand most of the lectures in his major by following his English program results each semester. If his language improves, he'll reach his target to enroll in the university.

Third, I believe that when the student can get 550 on the TOEFL test that means he will be able to improve his level in the English Language faster than other students if he has the chance to practice this ability with as many native English speakers as possible. That's what the conditional acceptance can offer this student.

Some professors think that 550 is not high enough to enroll this student into any of the graduate programs which the university offers. I can see their point. They want to make sure that this student is going to be able to understand everything said to him in the class or out of it. I can say that not every 600 TOEFL score holder is going to understand everything and not all 550 holders are going to misunderstand their classes.

It’s simply because TOEFL is not the only thing which can divide who is good in English from who is not, especially because you can find many silly questions that examine a student’s memory or ability to collect numbers together more than his ability to understand the English language!

The writer, from Kuwait, is in Marsha Dean’s advanced class.

[Academic Advisor’s comments:

Conditional acceptance means that the student must attend an approved English language program until he or she reaches the required score. Conditionally accepted students may not study anywhere else nor may they stop studying at that program. They are occasionally able to take individual academic courses in addition to their English program, but they are not able to start their degree program. Therefore, their classmates will be other international students. A university will offer conditional acceptance to a student who is academically acceptable, but who has not yet achieved the required TOEFL score. Most universities reserve conditional acceptance for exceptional students whose TOEFL scores are very close to the required score. In any case, it is hard to predict how long it will take a person to raise his or her score.]
On February 5, 2001, CELOP reporters met Alpen Ongan who came from Antalya, Turkey. Before he came to Boston, he had made silver accessories in his country. His goal is to be a computer engineer and work in the U.S. He thinks staying in America is very expensive, and cold weather is the most difficult thing to get used to in Boston. However, he was impressed by the beautiful and historical buildings in Boston. He learned about CELOP by internet and thought this would be the best place to study English.
Blue Man Group
Live the Experience

by Mohamed Al-Sayegh, Maria Herrera, Jasim Al-Zaabi

One of the most exciting experiences that you can have here in Boston is seeing Blue Man Group.

What is Blue Man Group?

Blue Man Group is a creative organization dedicated to innovative work in a wide variety of mediums. The performance features three strange bald and blue characters who take the audience through a multi-sensory experience, combining music, art and science in a way that you would never expect. Critics have described the award-winning productions as new, hilarious, visually stunning and musically powerful.

Blue Man Group’s unique style of music is played on a variety of invented instruments, such as the PVC instrument which is made from hundreds of PVC tubings. The pitch is determined by the length of the tube; it also changes color and that is one of the reasons apart from the extraordinary sound why it is so attractive.

The drumbone has different sounds when the tube sections are slid back and forth. This changes the length of the column inside, and it is also hit with drumsticks that change the sound in combination with the sliding of the tubes. The air poles are made of flexible fiberglass rods and they slice through the air. There are three different kinds.

In addition, the use of paint gives the show a unique colorful touch that you could never imagine unless you see it. They combine music with color in a way never done before by any artist.

They have to train for the shows, and they are always improving them. To be a Blue Man, they need to have experience as musician or actor. Nevertheless, one of them was hired without any background, but ever since he has been studying the skill he needs to have to be a Blue Man. They also practice yoga and they need a lot of physical training specially in their arms to be in shape to perform the show.

Blue Man Group has been performing since 1991. People from all over the world, from all walks of life and from all age groups have become fans of Blue Man Group’s show in New York, Boston, Chicago and most recently Las Vegas. In addition to live shows and music, the group has created installations, happenings, unusual ads, and a number of television-specific performances for The Tonight Show, several of which were nominated for Emmy awards. Their debut album, AUDIO, has been released on Virgin Records and was recently nominated for a Grammy in the category “Best Pop Instrumental Album.” One reviewer called it “a glorious wall of sound.” (This information came from www.blueman.com.)

Blue Man Group is something special that certainly, you must not miss.

How can I see Blue Man Group?

You can of course buy a ticket, or, as a CELOP student, you can see the show for free if you work as an usher. Here is the experience of one of them:

When I entered CELOP for the first time, I saw a big poster of a strange band. I didn’t know what kind of band they were, but I felt that they were funny people. Unfortunately, I couldn’t attend any of their shows in the last semester because I couldn’t get the chance to be an usher for the show. However, I got the chance in this semester to be an usher for the show as a member of the semester book elective. Jenn Kay told me that I had to go to the theater and work for them to see the show for free, and I accepted that offer because I was dreaming about the time when I’d see them face to face.

I can tell you that the show was fabulous and amazing. In fact, I thought that I would have a hard time in showing the people their seats’ location, but it was easier than I thought. I was so confused when people were flooding into the theater, but everything was all right. When the show began, I relaxed because I thought that I had finished what I was supposed to do, but at the end of the show the sponsor gathered the ushers and he told us that we had to clean up everything that was left in the theater. I was so tired but I couldn’t escape from them, so I started collecting the garbage. It was really a very nice, hard and interesting experience, and I enjoyed it a lot, and I advise everyone who hasn’t gone to Blue Man Group to go there and enjoy his or her time.
Movie Reviews—Pan and Praise

Movie Review—Hannibal

§ Semester Book Elective class members offer their opposing opinions on the movie Hannibal. §

Nergis Pazarbasi

We were talking with friends about Hannibal, “the best film of the semester,” and I told them that I won’t watch it. You can ask how I can write my opinion about it before watching it; therefore, I won’t write my opposition just to Hannibal but to all these kinds of films.

I believe these kinds of violent films just make people’s already difficult lives more stressful. Maybe instead of giving my own opinion, I should tell what I observed of people who watched that film. I went to dinner at my friend’s house. While we were eating our dinner we started to talk about films. Of course the subject came to Hannibal. My friend started to talk about how nice and incredible this film was. I was also interested in the story of the film, or maybe Anthony Hopkins was who really took my attention. She asked us, “If you kill someone, how would you get rid of his/her body?” I had never thought about it before. “You may burn it or eat it.” Everybody was guessing something. She said “Okay, this is not a big deal to get rid of the body, but what about the bones?? The most difficult part is to get rid of the bones.” Suddenly, I realized why people should know about it. This is not a thing that we should keep in our mind.

Now we watch this film in the movie theaters but in one year it will be on TV. Do you think all families can prevent their children from watching this film? You may say this is not the film’s fault if the families are not careful about that, but you can’t expect that every parent, especially working parents, can control their children closely.

I also discussed this film with another friend. She told me you can always watch violence in the news, but I think the films such as Hannibal are not just the ordinary kind of violence we see often in our real life. To produce this type of film, you should use the last pitch of your imagination, and it inspires other people’s, especially children’s imaginations and thoughts, by using such a widespread thing as TV.

My personal opinion: There are enough bad things in the world and there is no need to see more or get an idea how we can make it worse.

Here are some opinions about Hannibal from people who saw it:

Chano (Canary Islands): I was confused.
Gaia (Switzerland): Stupid film.
Francesca (Italy): I hated it.

Sebastian Antonio Escuela Benitez

It is what has been called a “gore movie” (one in which they show a murder or killing as realistically as they can). But don’t think that you are going to see nothing but killing bodies or cannibalism acts. This is still a very good movie and as such it has to be seen.

“Hannibal” is based on the second novel with the same name written by Thomas Harris, and the movie is nothing but the same thing (except the confusing end). The main objective of this movie is to try to confuse the viewer, giving him reasons to accept as art what in fact is the most brutal characteristic of the human being, his strange interest in the killing of people.

From the Roman Empire times, man has enjoyed the killing of people as a divertisement. The gore “movies” of those years were showed in the Coliseum and their main characters were glorified as the stars of Hollywood are today. Therefore, can we say that we are living in the same kind of period as the Roman Empire but represented in movies like Hannibal? No, definitely no. The differences are clear. This is just a piece of art that shows us a story and doesn’t glorify the horror of a killing. Furthermore, it doesn’t try to give us lessons or useful conclusions for real life. The movie doesn’t educate, only gives a message.

I found that the people’s reaction in Spain about the movie is different. Of course, they think that in some parts it is disgusting, but their reaction was totally different. In one of the harshest scenes of the movie the American audience did nothing except laugh. They were totally out of the movie. However, the Spanish audience was more surprised and afraid, feeling the action of the movie more. But the most important thing is that between these two reactions there is one main conclusion: no one in Spain started to talk about the consequences the movie could produce in the future.

In the United States, it is forbidden to show an alcoholic drink in the street. In my country, Spain, it is not. Do you think that the percentage of drunk people is higher in Spain than in the U.S.? I don’t think so. In fact, I’m sure that there is no connection in the number of drinkers between a country with this prohibition and one that doesn’t have it. So, can this movie create new psycho killers like Hannibal? This is another question with “no” as an answer. The right question with a “hard-to-find” answer would be: Is there any problem in the education of a country that educates people by a movie? I’m sure that the right question is this one. I don’t think that with strong ethical knowledge a person can be alienated by the mind of a Hollywood’s director. If this were true, the world would have ended after Edgar Allan Poe published his novels.
Q. Where are you from?
A. Argentina.

Q. How long have you been here at CELOP?
A. This is my first semester.

Q. Why did you choose CELOP?
A. I found it on the internet.

Q. What is the most difficult thing for you to get used to?
A. The most difficult thing is the meal times.

Q. What kind of culture shock have you had here?
A. None.

Q. What is the most attractive thing for you in the US?
A. American football.

Q. What kind of problems have you had since you got here in Boston?
A. I had one problem and it was that when I got to BU, they wrote my last name wrong, and I had to go to different places to get it right. Also I was not prepared to find my room with nothing in it. I had problems getting my phone and all the things that I need for my bedroom. It was very uncomfortable for these reasons.

To see Uri's advice for settling in Boston, including getting a phone, you can find it on the Web at:
www.bu.edu/mfeldman/004/bliss004.html.
(Also try: www.bu.edu/celop/mll/Teachers/004.html.)

The Twins
by EJ Kim & Danah Al-Qadeeri

On the first day of classes at CELOP, I was in a class with the twins before knowing they were twins. They were sitting beside each other. One of them was facing me talking to me, while the other was looking at some papers. As I was chatting with Alan, Adrian raised his head and looked at me. The second they both were facing me, I got confused. I totally forgot what I was talking about and started staring at them, looking for the differences. Since that day, I thought of knowing more about them because it’s interesting to have identical twins here at CELOP. So EJ, a CELOP Semester Book reporter and my partner, and I decided to interview the twins.

We started asking them questions and staring at their faces, and they told us what the differences between them are, and, yes, now we know who’s Alan and who’s Adrian.

They come from Mexico and were born on the 15th of Oct., 1977. Adrian is 5 minutes older than Alan. They both usually have the same opinion about solving problems or ideas, and they also have the same taste in food and girls! What’s interesting is that they have a deal. If they both like the same girl, the one who gets to meet her first wins her. That happened once when they saw a gorgeous girl, and Adrian met her first. Then she became his girlfriend.

The genes for twins come from their mother’s side. It is really amazing that each of the four sisters (their mother and their 3 aunts) gave birth to twins. So there are 4 twins in the mother’s family.

Since their childhood, they have always taken the same classes, subjects, and even major. Unfortunately, they were both good at the same subjects and bad at the same subjects too, so they couldn’t help each other.

The funniest situation that happens to them is when Alan goes to school, he meets his friends who don’t know that he has a twin brother, and later when his twin Adrian passes by them they start wondering why Alan would change his clothes twice and so quickly, till they learn that he has a twin brother.

They both majored in business administration and graduated in Mexico. Now they are here at CELOP to improve their English, and afterwards they want to get jobs here and study for an MBA.
Greg Eisenhower

Student Teacher
by Mohamed Al-Sayegh

Q. What do you do in CELOP?
A. I am a student teacher, which means that I study at Boston University and I’m a substitute teacher in the afternoon.

Q. Where do you live?

Q. What is your favorite place in Boston?
A. My favorite place in Boston is the USS Constitution, because I love sailing and boats.

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Clams.

Q. What is the most popular sport in Boston?
A. Baseball and football.

Q. What is the drink you think is the most popular in Boston?
A. Cape Codder: it is vodka in cranberry juice.

Q. What is your favorite activity?
A. Sailing on the Charles River in summer.

Q. Where do you like to go in Boston?
A. I like to visit historical sites, go to bars and restaurants, and sail.

Q. What is your hobby?
A. Sports, football, sailing, studying, and traveling.

Q. Who is your favorite artist?
A. The Beatles.

Crystal Brunelli

by Tere Herrera

Q. Where do you live?
A. I grew up in New Hampshire but actually live in Brookline.

Q. What is your favorite thing to do?
A. Be close to my family.

Q. Which is your favorite place in Boston?
A. MFA (Museum of Fine Arts).

Q. What do you think is the most popular/traditional food in Boston?
A. Clam chowder, brown bread and Boston baked beans as traditional food. Popular could be seafood.

Q. What is the most popular sport in Boston?
A. Baseball.

Q. Where do you like to go in Boston?
A. I like to go to concerts, museums and lectures.

Q. What is your favorite activity?
A. Cooking sweets and cakes.

Q. Who is your favorite celebrity?
A. Yo Yo Ma.
Q. Hi, **Marcella,** what is your position and how long have you worked here?
A. Hi, I’m an admissions officer and I’ve been here for 4 years.

Q. What made you decide to work here in CELOP?
A. Well, I like working with international students and I wanted to work in Boston University.

Q. We heard that your sister works here, too.
A. Yes, I started first and Fabiola came later.

Q. Would you mind if we ask you the most difficult part of your work?
A. Explaining visa and immigration things to the students is the hardest part. Also, working with different B.U. departments is not easy.

Q. Do you have any unforgettable memory which is related to any CELOP students?
A. Sorry, I have lots of experiences but I can’t remember them well.

Q. Thanks. Well, do you have anything to say to the CELOP students?
A. Yes, I hope you enjoy your time at CELOP and benefit from your experiences in CELOP and in Boston!

Q. Hey, **Jenn Kay,** what is your position and how long have you been here?
A. Humm, I’m student life coordinator and I’ve been here 4 years. But in this position, 6 months.

Q. And what made you decide to work in CELOP?
A. By accident. On the last day of my interviewing with the B.U. personnel, they asked me about this job.

Q. Wow, you were very lucky!
A. Yes, I think so.

Q. Would you mind if I ask the most difficult part of your work?
A. Making students happy.

Q. Do you have any unforgettable memory which is related to any CELOP student?
A. Yeah, my conversation partner “Ginger.” She came from Taiwan and was my first international friend. We went to Chinese restaurants to have dinner and went many places together.

Q. Thank you for sharing your good memory, and do you have anything to say to the CELOP students?
A. I encourage you to say what you feel and suggest that you discuss your problems, talk more! Do not be afraid of speaking in English!
Interview with Hazim

by EJ Kim

Jason and I interviewed Hazim on February 6th, around 2:30 pm. He was sitting in the CELOP lobby. In fact, he is a friend of Jason, so we could accost him easily. He is 19 years old and he is from the UAE. He had studied computer science at the university in his country, but he is here for studying English. I asked him if he wanted to apply for B.U., but he said absolutely not because if he goes to B.U., probably he can’t live with his family and friends. He doesn’t have any problems with CELOP. I also asked him about his hobbies, and he told me that his hobbies are swimming and playing soccer. He has been playing soccer for 7 years as a goalkeeper, and he loves soccer.

The last question was about his attitude toward American people. He told me that most American people are very nice, kind, and friendly to him, so he likes them. He was a very friendly and nice guy, and he was very favorable to our interview.
Results of the Student Survey

§ The Semester Book Elective class compiled and analysed students’ responses to the survey on the Lab Web site. §

- **Question 1) What is your favorite nightclub in Boston?**
  - Avalon 27%
  - Embassy 25.4%
  - Pravda 22.2%
  - Series 4 11.1%
  - Roxy 4.8%
  - Venu 3.2%
  - Lialyna 3.2%
  - Aria 3.2%

- **Question 2) What is your favorite food that you have tried in Boston (different from your native food)?**
  - European 12.1%
  - Asian 39.4%
  - Latin American 3.0%
  - American 22.7%
  - Soups & chowders 9.1%
  - Pizza 6.1%
  - Fish 3.0%
  - Other 4.5%

As we can see, Asian food is the most tried among CELOP students. The results of this survey are natural given the number of people from Asian countries. Asian food refers to the food of several countries including Thailand, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and India. However, most of us will recognize that one day we went to try these kinds of food. Not only Asians wanted to eat like at home, and many of them wanted their Western friends to try this food too. Also, it is interesting to see that this choice is greater than what we call American food. This means that the winner in this survey is not hamburger or the pizza. Congratulations to all of you! This means that, finally, we were not totally alienated by the American food.

- **Question 3) What is the most beautiful place you have seen in Boston?**
  - Charles River
  - Quincy Market
  - Boston Common/Public Garden
  - Copley Square
  - Back Bay
  - Fenway Park
  - Cambridge/Harvard
  - John Hancock Building
  - JFK Library
  - Boston University/Marsh Chapel
  - Chinatown
  - Downtown
  - Waterfront/Atlantic Ocean
  - Somerville
  - Top of the Prudential Building

Many places were mentioned. In addition, some outside of Boston included: Newport, Salem, and the beach.
Student Survey Results

Question 4) What is your favorite sport that you are interested in?

![Sport Preferences Chart]

Question 5) How many movies have you seen in Boston? And which one was the best?

![Movie Preferences Pie Chart]

CELOP students had different opinions about the best movie, and the movies are:

- Traffic
- Finding Forrester
- 15 Minutes
- Meet the Parents
- Proof of Life
- Sweet November
- Hannibal
- Dude, Where's My Car?
- Chocolat
- Scarface
- The Wedding Planner
- Castaway
- Gladiator
- Save the Last Dance
- Pay It Forward
- Men of Honor
- Snatch
- Exit Wounds
- Where is the Heart
- The Mexican
- Turbulence
- Gone in 60 Seconds
- What Lies Beneath
- Miss Congeniality
- Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- Yes, I did!
- No, I didn't!

As there are students of diverse nationalities, their choices also very diverse, but other than Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, those are all American movies. This shows that students didn't have many chances to see various countries' movies in the U.S.

Question 6) Did you travel outside of Boston? If yes, where did you go?

![Travel Preferences Pie Chart]
Wow, there are many places where CELOP students visited! And the places are:

Out of Boston, in Massachusetts: Rockport, Cape Cod, Salem, Concord, Wachusset Mountain, Framingham.
Out of the U.S.: Mexico, Canada, France.

As you see, many CELOP students enjoy traveling, and among the places, New York, Florida, and Washington, D.C., were the most popular.

Question 7) Do you think that Boston is an expensive place? Which country are you from?

As you see in the chart, most students in CELOP think that here, Boston, is an expensive place. The people who answered “No” were from Kuwait, Panama, and Japan. And the people who answered “Yes” were from Venezuela, Korea, the UAE, Mexico, and so on.

Question 8) Do you plan to study in Boston or in the US after CELOP?

Question 9) Which university do you think is the most popular one?

As you see in the chart, most students in CELOP think that here, Boston, is an expensive place. The people who answered “No” were from Kuwait, Panama, and Japan. And the people who answered “Yes” were from Venezuela, Korea, the UAE, Mexico, and so on.
**Student Survey Results**

**Question 10a)** How many American friends do you have here?

**Question 10b)** How many international friends do you have here who are not from your country?

**Question 10c)** How many friends do you have from your country here?

These charts show that most students have a few more friends of their own nationalities than friends of other nationalities, but the difference is not as large as we expected. By coincidence, the results of charts 10a and 10b were exactly the same. Maybe, people were not including classmates as international friends, or maybe it was just easier to put the same number. But, they were more aware of the friends they have from their countries.
Chris Antonellis
Jamie Beaton
Shelley Bertolino
Barbara Bliss
Lynn Bonesteel
Charletta Bowen
Jill Brand
Kathy Brenner
Amanda Brown
Meredith Clark
Ron Clark
Pamela Couch
Linda Coyne
Betty D’Angelo
Judith Dan
Marsha Dean
Renee Delatizky
Jeff Di Iuglio
Judith Di Leo
Margo Downey
Ginny Drislane
Sammi Eckstut
Michael Feldman
Gail Fernandez
Shelley Fishman
Cynthia Flamm
Joanne Fox
Roselynn Frank
Margo Friedman
Shirley Gould
Catherine Howell
Barbara Ishikura
James Kaplan
Doug Kohn
John Kopec
George Krikorian
Robert Lally
Jacquie LoConte
Lori Lubeski
Dorothy Lynde
Bob Maguire
Irene Maksymjuk
Kathy McCartan
Doreen Miller
Margo Miller
Laura Morgan
Alex Oliveira
Amelia Onorato
Patricia Peknik
Joe Pettigrew
Carol Pineiro
Michelle Remaud
Mahtab Rezvani
Adrienne Saltz
Gregg Singer
Nora Smith
Pam Steeves
Heather Sundahl
Maria T. Palermino
Ramon Valenzuela
Susan Vik
Ellen Yaniv

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For information or copies of any CELOP Semester Book, please contact John de Szendeffy <johndesz@bu.edu> or CELOP <celop@bu.edu>. The Books are also available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format on the Web.

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A crew rowing on the Charles River, passing in front of Marsh Chapel and the College of Arts and Sciences on the Boston University campus. The new Photonics Center looms in the background.

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890 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts 02215, U.S.A