

# SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado,  
December 2020

## Courage from Fear

### University Prep Students Speak Out

*"To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom."* This quote by Bertrand Russell expresses fears from a positive perspective. Fears have never been 100 percent terrible. In some cases, fears have been the motivations for so many people. Therefore, if we see fears in this way, it will help us convert our fears to motivations to overcome them. Doesn't it seem ironic that our weaknesses can become our motivation? Furthermore, encountering one's fears is the definition of courage. Consequently, the more fears people have, the more courage they will have when they overcome them. Climbing over our fears is the only option that people have. No one is born without fears; all people have them, but people who convert these fears to motivations are those whom we call "courageous." *Afaf Aljohani, Saudi Arabia*

*Fear is a physiological reaction.* Whenever we sense difficulties or dangers, the brain reacts and causes physical responses, such as a faster heartbeat. Some personalities deny it or avoid it, others just sit in their fears, and others transform fear into courage. Let's first consider those who are swallowed by fear and don't try to overcome it. Both those who deny their fear and those sitting in it without doing anything about it will lead to failure in every part of their life. Also, those people perceive shame that won't let them engage with people. They will feel that their fear is a wall between them and their goals. The final and most desirable type is the one who faces their fear. They are courageous. There is no success without challenges or fear. Moreover, the level of fear and courage are correlated. Whenever you feel vulnerable and you can't face your fear, you become devoid of courage. Therefore, take a step towards your fear; face it! And have the courage to make your life successful. *Afaf Alluhaybi, Saudi Arabia*

*Everyone has fear.* Some fear the future, and others fear loss, but the greatest fear is the fear of failure. Fear of failure locks people in their comfort zones without moving and wastes their great potentials. Consider a 22-year-old student who has been offered the opportunity to study abroad. Many risks, and therefore fears of failure, may be associated with such a move. If he succumbs to this fear, he will either remain locked up in his zone or he will take the risk which may be the torch of his success. If people honestly look at it, they will find that many opportunities, and joyful moments may have been lost due to the fear of failure. Consequently, people should face this fear and unleash their abilities. If failure does not make you stronger, at least you will learn something. Nothing is perfect and has not done without fail. As one proverb puts it, "Success is born from the womb of failure." *Alhussain Alshammari, Saudi Arabia*

*Courage is how you act in the existence of fear.* The bravest person that shows me what courage really means is my mother. When I was fifteen, my father abandoned us and left five children to my mother. Unfortunately in Saudi Arabia, the community blames women and puts more burdens on their shoulders when it comes to marriage, family, and children. My mother faced the fear of failing, and she raised five children between the ages of two and seventeen on her own. It takes courage to raise five kids by yourself; providing for all their needs. At first, we all experienced fear as a reaction to my father moving away, but my mother decided to be courageous. My mother started a part time job to provide for our needs, and she did this while she was still taking care of my youngest brother. She made it clear to us that school is a crucial part in our life. She was the father and mother for us. Fear is a reaction, and courage is a decision. Fears are faced by courage, faith, and belief in God. Regardless of the situation, my mother has never complained about it, she is an optimistic person, and that gives us the power and courage to face life. *Hussam Altalhi, Saudi Arabia*

*Fear usually starts from a young age* when children realize the consequences of life. Children thrive and can live a happy life due to the love of their parents. They also learn to behave well because they are afraid to lose their parents. If they make a mistake, their parents will be irate with them and no love will be shown to them. As children get older, they face many challenges and a variety of fears. For example, there are the fears of failing grades, making friends, and dealing with bad peers. Some children will get over all these basic fears without help and some of them will need assistance. There are still others whose fear remains with them for much of their life because of a serious trauma (cont. p.2)

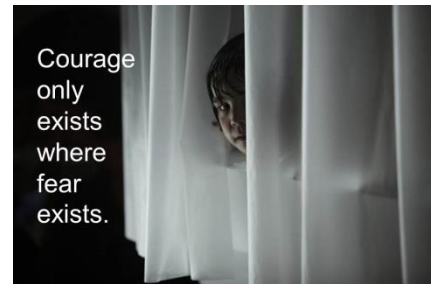


## **Fear** (cont. from p. 1)

that was inflicted by their parents when they were young. However, when they get older and wiser, they look back on those fears as learning experiences, and they enjoy telling those stories to their families or friends, so they will learn as well.

*Faisal Alsulaiman, Saudi Arabia*

In the 2003 movie *Daredevil*, Father Everett says, “A man without fear is a man without hope.” Fear of dangers forces humanity to depend first on small groups to protect each other. In conquering fear, these small groups can develop into a community that creates a civilization. However, it takes much collaborative effort to use this fear for the benefit of the whole. If the communities understand the danger of separation or dispersal, they will remain unified. They will not change or break the rules of their healthy communities. This will protect them from reverting to a less secure time, so fears can have a positive impact. *Wael Alshehri, Saudi Arabia*



*My biggest fear is the increase in the number of deaths* from COVID and the economic recession because I'm worried about the health of my elderly parents and family. The recession and unemployment have made it difficult to live. There's not much I can do in this situation. I think the only way to take care of my family's health is to live hard.

*Hye Sun Kim, South Korea*

## **Courageous People We Admire**

*In History: A Japanese Admiral*

Yi Sun Shin who is admiral during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 showed great courage. He had no fear of death, and had a great desire to protect his country. Admiral Yi was always at the vanguard of the battles. He encouraged his soldiers, led them, and gave them strong confidence that they could win the battle even before he died. Also, Admiral Yi had a strong belief that he should protect his country. He showed strong patriotism in his war diary. He was a great hero, and his courage still serves as a model to Korean soldiers, of which I was one from 2012 to 2014. *Taehee Jang, South Korea*

*In Our Hearts: Our Mothers*

My mother has always been a courageous person. That's why she likes challenges. There were three men in my house, but my mother was the most courageous person. She wasn't worried and was always bold. Eight years ago, my mother had cancer. All of my family were worried, but my mother was rather bold and the most courageous. Also, she has courage without worrying about any big decisions. I think this mother's courage is great. *Hyuncheol Shin, South Korea*

Life is hard for us. However, we should still embrace the sun every day, shouldn't we? For me, I'm afraid to hear the sound of the garage door opening at night because a horrible thing happened at my home on 8th March this year. In the early morning that day, while I was sleeping and the sky was just dim and bright, suddenly I heard the sound of the garage door opening, I could not believe it because my husband was sleeping beside me, and there was nobody else living with us. How could it happen? I woke up my husband and told him what happened. He put on his clothes and looked out the window and saw my car being driven away. When we came downstairs, all was quiet and it seemed nothing happened even though my garage was empty. Then my husband remembered that he put my other car key in his car parked on the street and he forgot to lock his car the day before. The worst thing is that the remote control of the garage was in his car. After this, I incident lost my basic sense of security. I check the car several times every night to see if the door is locked and the car is safe. Every time I hear the sound of the garage door, my heart pounds.

Only praying to God can help me calm down. God knows everything. I know God is looking after me and giving me a hand at any time. As time goes by, I have gotten better and better. I always tell myself I should be brave like my mother. My mother has experienced many hardships, but always stays strong and optimistic. In her life dictionary, there is no weakness, only strength. She is a great woman who always gives me courage and strength. Next to the dictionary word “courage” is my mom's name! *Tao Zhang, China*

### **A Frightening Experience Followed by Healing**

Everyone experiences bad days. One day was especially bad for me because one of my children had an accident five years ago. I have four children now. My two sons are Abdullah and Abdulrahman and my two daughters are Seba and Heba. Something happened to Seba when she was one year and a half. On August 20, 2015 at 3 p.m. the weather was raining and Seba was playing in her room. She was watching a dog from the window and the dog was barking outside. Suddenly Seba fell from the second floor. I ran out of my home when I heard, “Mom! Mom!” She was screaming, and I was very scared about Seba. I went to her, but I felt so bad because her mouth and clothes were covered with blood. My neighbor called an ambulance because I didn't have a cell phone. My husband was at school. After that I was talking to nurses and they wanted to send Seba to the hospital, so I went with a police man to the children's hospital. Later my husband came to the children's hospital with my son. Two weeks later Seba came back home. She is fine now, and she is in the first grade. In short, I will never forget it. I hope Seba has a good life. I love Seba. *Aisha Elghamdoi, Saudi Arabia.*



**My favorite restaurant is Albek.** I love Albek because it is the best restaurant in Saudi Arabia. About the appearance, the restaurant looks normal. There are tables and chairs. Also it has a special sign, and they use the color red in the sign. Albek has 2 floors. The first one is for ordering food, and the second floor is for eating. The food is very delicious, but the menu only has a few dishes. Finally, the price is cheap. I think the cost is low because they help poor people. They have another special way to help poor people. If someone spends \$10 on one dish, Albek gives \$1 to the poor. I will be very happy

if there is an Albek in Denver. *Tawfiq Aljabri, Saudi Arabia*

## Foreignness

*An English poem with Arabic form  
by Faisal Alsulaiman (KSA), Alhussain Alshammari (KSA), and Hussam Altalhi (KSA)*

*Reaching a country far away  
Trying to contain ourselves  
Breaking through hard steps  
Making friends hanging out  
Looking to recognize the positive  
Producing strength from new life  
Creating courage from passion  
Forging our own path here  
Dreaming beyond the sky*

*and here is our homesickness  
yet defeated by gloominess  
with feelings of foreignness  
forgetting what stresses us  
which makes life unique to us  
and embracing the differences  
to overcome mournfulness  
to serve great purposes  
our ambitions are limitless*



***Dreaming Beyond the Sky...Our Ambitions Are Limitless***

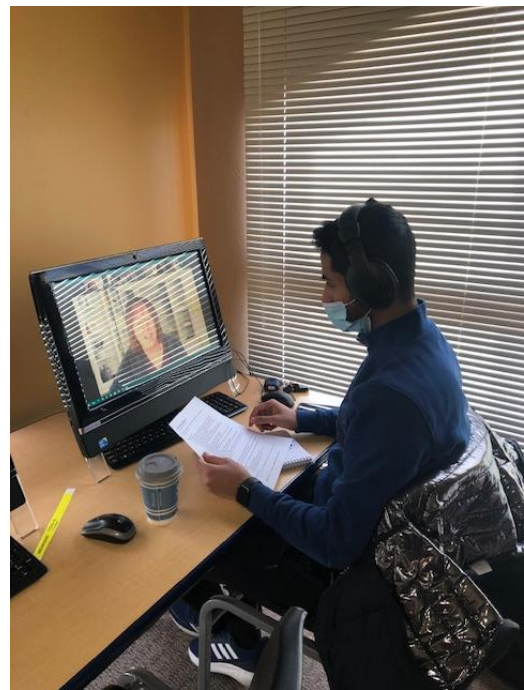


***In Spite of a Pandemic***

## **Spring School Is Still Going Strong!**



***We still make presentations...Omar's Session***



***We still have in person and virtual classes...Ibrahim***



***We still have fun...Halloween tricks and treats with Kristen Christine, Jen, and Missy***

***Thank you to Spring International administration, students, teachers and staff for their courage and dedication during these difficult times.***



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*Spring Views is published every term to showcase the writing of students from levels one through six.*

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