

# ADULT EDUCATION

FALL 2016 • ISSUE 1

## News letter



## Welcome to the Adult Education News letter !

### *Dear Adult Education Students:*

Welcome to the first issue of the Adult Education newsletter! If you're an Adult Education student, this newsletter is for you. It is a platform to showcase your work, your progress and your accomplishments, as well as a place to give you important information about what's going on in the Adult Education Department.

In every issue, we will feature students who have demonstrated exceptional progress in their course of study, as well as student writing and projects. Whether you are a beginning ESL student or a new High School Equivalency graduate, we want to hear from you. Are you proud of an essay you just wrote? Submit it to the newsletter! Do you remember what it was like when you first started learning English? Write a letter of encouragement to your fellow students and submit it to the newsletter! Due to limited space, please limit submissions to 500 words or less.

Of course we won't be able to publish everything we receive in every newsletter, but we will try our best to make sure your work is published eventually. Send your submissions to Mitchell Goins at [mitchellgoins@triton.edu](mailto:mitchellgoins@triton.edu).

In this first issue, we welcome our new dean of Adult Education, Jacqueline Lynch, and spotlight two ESL graduates, Mina Lombardo and Mauricio Moreno. In addition, we feature four pieces of writing from four different AE students: Lyudmyla Dokhvat, ESL Level 3; Sofiia Pudlyk, ESL Level 4; Teresa Sarat, ESL Level 5; and Yesenia Quezada, HSE student.

We hope you enjoy this first issue, and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

*Sincerely,*  
*Your Adult Education Staff*

## Adult Education Welcomes New Dean!



This past fall, **Jacqueline Lynch** packed her bags and left her long-time home in Massachusetts to join Triton's team as dean of Adult Education. Dean Lynch comes to Triton with over 25 years of experience in Adult Education.

Dean Lynch got her start in Adult Education in 1989, when she began teaching adult ESL courses in Massachusetts. After teaching her first ESL class, Dean Lynch was hooked and knew she wanted to continue working with Adult Education students. "I fell into the AE bucket in 1989 and I knew then that Adult Education was where I was meant to be. When we were little, my dad used to tell us 'find a job you love and you will never work a day in your life.' I found a job I loved in 1989 and have never looked back," she recalls. Dean Lynch went on to pursue a master's degree in education in 2009 and is currently working on her doctorate. She has worked in adult education in multiple capacities, including as an ESL and computer instructor, an adult education program director, a professional development coordinator and a grants manager.

For Dean Lynch, adult education is about serving people. She believes strongly in the power of education to make a difference in students' lives. "I want students to look back on their time in Triton's Adult Education program and say – 'My time in Triton's AE Program was a turning point in my life,'" says Dean Lynch.

You can stop by and see Dean Lynch anytime! Her office is in the A Building, Room A-203A, and she would love to meet you and hear about your academic and career goals. You can also email her at [jacquelinelynch@triton.edu](mailto:jacquelinelynch@triton.edu).

## Student Spotlight

### Where are the Board of Trustees Scholarship Recipients Now?

#### Mina Lombardo

Mina Lombardo, 2016 ESL graduate and Board of Trustees Scholarship recipient, didn't see herself where she is now back in the fall of 2015, when she was in ESL level 5. "Honestly," she says, "I never thought I would receive the Board of Trustees Scholarship. In my ESL class, there were a lot of better students than me, and I was so shy in my class. But I just tried and didn't give up, and in the end, I could get the scholarship."

A year later, Mina still hasn't given up. Her ultimate goal, she says, is to one day own her own restaurant. She is steadily pursuing this goal by using her Board of Trustees Scholarship to take two culinary arts courses here at Triton College – HIA-125, Introduction to Baking, and HIA-130, Food Preparation I.

Mina attributes her success so far to her determination and the help that she received from the Adult Education Student Success Strategists. "Once you set a goal," she says, "you should immediately go to a Student Success strategist. Do not procrastinate. Immediately register for the class you want to take. You never know what you can accomplish!"



## Mauricio Moreno

To say that 2016 Board of Trustees Scholarship recipient Mauricio Moreno is a driven person would be an understatement.

"I have short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals for myself," Mauricio says. "My short-term goal is to get a certificate in 3D models right here in Triton's Engineering Program. My mid-term goal is to transfer my bachelor's degree from Mexico to the American education system. And my long-term goal is to get a master's degree in architecture at UIC."

Mauricio set out to meet these goals back in the spring of 2014, when he began ESL Level 1 here at Triton College. Through his hard work and determination, Mauricio completed the ESL Program in just five semesters, sometimes taking three classes at a time. His progress in English is an example of how fast one can learn a new language if they really put their mind to it. Mauricio's Level 5 instructor, Joan Amore, calls Mauricio every teacher's "dream student." "His quest for knowledge is amazing," she says, "and he doesn't let anything stand in his way to reach his educational goals and dreams."

Mauricio is currently using the Board of Trustees Scholarship to take two engineering courses here at Triton – ENT-280, Solidworks Design & Rendering, and ENT-255, Autodesk Inventor Design & Rendering.

As an adult student balancing work, school and family life, Mauricio knows the barriers his fellow students face and his advice is simple – "Whatever happens in your life, you can still accomplish your goals. Anyone can do it. Trust me. Anyone can be successful. Just remember – you must be willing."



## Student Voices

### Teresa Sarat, ESL Level 5 Student

#### *Burglar Robbed My Apartment But Left My Only Treasures*

One sunny day I lost the sense of safety and my opinion on a good human being had changed. I had a burglar in my apartment! I was robbed of everything what was valuable to me; at least I thought it was at that particular moment.

It was the pretty summer of 2002. My family and I lived in an old one bedroom condominium. My husband and I had been working during the weekdays. That summer, my father-in-law had been staying with us and taking care of our one-year-old daughter, Klaudia. Everyday he kept the same schedule, including his outside walks with Klaudia around noon.

Everything was going normal until one day when I left my work earlier probably sensing some problems in the air. While parking my car in front of the building, I noticed my father-in-law coming back from his walk with Klaudia. I caught up with them and we entered the condominium through the main door. Since we lived on the first floor I rushed to unlock my apartment just to learn the upper lock was uncommonly locked too. My father-in-law had a key only to the bottom lock. I questioned him if he had locked it. He nervously replied, "No!"

All of the sudden some strange and suspicious thoughts come up to my mind. I stormed to my apartment feeling that something fishy was going on. Then I screamed, "The back door is wide opened!" Furiously, I checked my rooms but nothing seemed to be touched. When I opened my jewelry

box, my heart started pounding heavily. At the same time the heat stroked my body from head to toe, like a jolt from a thunderstorm. And yes, the biggest fear of the empty box of my memorable treasures had come to life. I stood there like I had been nailed to the floor. All the gold bracelets, earrings, necklaces, engagement and engraved wedding ring, collected as gifts from my husband, were gone, forever! Recalling what my husband always said, "Flowers will die but gold will be valuable and is everlasting". "Too bad it won't be me who will be wearing that gold" – I said to him the next day after that horrible one.

Beside the jewelry we lost digital cameras, a Polaroid camera, my husband's silver coin collection and other items. Half an hour later, I called 911. After what seemed like hours, the police officer arrived and had written a police report. I remember I tried to find out how it happened and who had done such a thing. Whoever it was I am sure he spotted my apartment and my father-in-law before that day. He knew our schedule and where to look for things.

After that heart-braking incident my thoughts were scattered for a while. I felt angry and unsafe in my own home, and I was disappointed of human nature. At the same time, it was a turning point in my thinking on what is more valuable in life. I had learned a great lesson. I was robbed of material things not more valuable like life, happiness or the loved ones. From that time on, I have told my husband to not get any gold jewelry for me.

## Lyudmyla Dokhvat, ESL Level 3 Student

### Paris

"The world is a book, and those who don't travel read only one page." I absolutely agree with this quotation. I have always wanted to know more about the world, to see new places, to discover new sights, to learn more about different cultures.

When I was a child I dreamt about the most romantic city in the world – Paris. For me Paris is a fairy tale. I think I will be the happiest person in the world when I visit Paris. I will see the Eiffel Tower. Hope it will be fantastic. I would like to do shopping in Paris, as Paris is a fashionable city. Maybe it is expensive to buy things in the capital of France but I'm sure I will buy something, as I like shopping to much. In Paris there are so many interesting places to visit! The Louvre, Notre Dame de Paris, the Elysian Fields and many others.

Paris will remain forever my passion. I would like to live out my dream.

## Sofiia Pudlyk, ESL Level 4 student

### Christmas is coming ...

My favorite season of the year is the time between Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holiday. During this time, people start preparing and counting down the days to Christmas.

The magic starts from window shopping to shelves. There are all kinds of Christmas decorations for every customer. The lights are shining and drawing our attention to them. Christmas trees are waiting for their "new homes." They will be decorated, and they will make people's holidays joyful. Fussy people are walking around, looking for gifts for their families and hoping to choose something special and magical. Children are preparing for Santa some cookies and glasses of milk. They are expecting to see him and make a wish. Christmas songs are heard everywhere bringing us some appropriate feelings of celebration.

At this time each of us can feel like a child and go back to a carefree childhood. We can decorate a Christmas tree and sing carols. We send out Christmas Cards, expecting to make someone happy. Also, we make funny snowmen outside to make a smiles in our neighborhoods and on the faces of pedestrians. All these things fill the air with Christmas spirits, and it looks like everything whispers – Christmas is coming ...

## Yesenia Quezada, HSE Student

### "Get Over It!"

In today's society the topic of racism is something we believe to be part of the ancient past. A lot of people might even argue that it is something to forget and to "get over it!" In reality, racism still exists and is no longer being swept under the rug. We see this everywhere from discrimination present in the workforce to it being visible in our current prison population. Even in how our government

agencies "protects us." We have come a long way from slavery and segregation, but there is definitely more work to be done.

A bit of a history – in the early 1600s, the first slaves were brought over to the colonies in ships where they caught and spread many diseases, such as yellow fever and malaria. After years of being raped, lynched, and sold, slaves began to escape to the north using the Underground Railroad. Some familiar names include Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) or Fredrick Douglass (1818-1895). In 1862 Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that made it illegal to have slaves in the U.S. Although slavery was now illegal, segregation was prevalent. Whites and blacks were separated in all public places. Movie theaters, restaurants, and even parks had signs sectioning off areas where black people could be. People were harassed and even murdered. The infamous group named the Ku Klux Klan arose in 1915, and made it their mission to attack and kill any African American. This group was not only made up of your average white civilian men, but its members and supporters included many prominent politicians, doctors, and lawyers. Many African American activist were fed up with the fact that their people were being mistreated and decided to stand up and fight back, and that was the birth of the Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) is still a very influential name. From his "I Have a Dream" speech to his malicious assassination, he is still remembered for his mission – the Civil Rights Act, which was signed in 1964. This law banned all public segregation in the U.S. Long story short, even though segregation was made illegal, racism was and still is very much around.

Throughout the years and in the present day, many people believe that racism is now a thing we only learn from our history books, as it is a thing of the past. In reality, it's still very much real and dealt with in today's society. The best example today is treatment of the civilians by the police, more specifically police brutality. This police brutality has become very serious and outrageous. We've all seen stories on the news about racial profiling and inequality. Everything that is going on right now is making regular people and police officers lash out in a horrific way. We have all seen the news where innocent men as Philando Castile (32), Eric Garner (29), Alton Sterling (37) lost their lives. These men were killed by police officers as a result of racial profiling. More and more becomes clear when you take a look at our prison demographics.

So, we have come a long way from slavery, but have we come a long way from racism? Racism is something that is just pure evil – people hating someone who is not of their color. Racism is introduced by parents, family, TV shows and movies. It is sad, too, because there are our energies should be focused on other issues or world events. People should get more involved in issues of world hunger, poverty, immigration, global warming, and the future government. Racism is a serious matter that needs to be abolished. We all bleed the same color – why can't we be friends?

### Call for Submissions

Adult Education Newsletter welcomes writing submissions from all ESL and HSE students.  
Please email submissions to Mitchell Goins at [mitchellgoins@triton.edu](mailto:mitchellgoins@triton.edu).

**Spring classes begin Jan. 23 and 24, 2017!**

*(Returning students will register for spring classes in class).*

**Spring registration for NEW students is open now through Dec. 22, 2016.**

**For more information, go to [triton.edu](http://triton.edu) or call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3130, or visit us at [www.triton.edu/adult-education](http://www.triton.edu/adult-education).**