Cultural Stereotypes

Written by: Lupita Fabregas

Nine years ago I came to the United States. This was the first time I visited the US with the purpose of staying for more than a month. The objective of my visit was to strengthen the relationships between Oklahoma State University and UPAEP, a private university in Puebla, Mexico. When we (my kids and I) arrived at the OKC airport, one member of the Partners of Americas bought us a little car. So when we arrived from Mexico, we were ready to drive to Stillwater. We were left in our apartment with a map and best wishes for a successful stay in the United States. The next morning we drove to Walmart. I only knew one way to get there and we drove almost three times more than was necessary. We purchased the basic things needed to survive, and of course a good TV. The family figured that if we could watch TV with closed caption, our English would improve and we would be able to navigate easier in the new culture. We believed that the only thing missing from our cultural integration in the US was our language skills.

Now, after almost 10 years, I still remember those days. I remember my positive and naïve attitude toward the change, and our cultural immersion. I also remember how ignorant I was thinking that improving our English skills would lead to our full integration into the new society. I was completely wrong.

After a week or two of being “ignored by the world,” I enrolled my kids in their new schools and was ready to start with my new assignments. I arrived at my new office and was immediately aware I had no plan to fit into the new culture. I hadn’t thought about the need to be accepted, or to learn how the American people interact with each other. I never thought anything would be different. I was shocked that when my colleagues arrived at their work place they would begin working immediately without feeling the need to socialize with their coworkers, at least asking a couple of questions before start working.

I was shocked at lunch time when they did not share with me or others their lunch plans. Why were they not having lunch together? Why were they not asking me to have lunch with them?

I realized that my culture was different and I needed to make some “attitude” changes in order to fit in with this new culture. In the process, however, I made a terrible mistake…I started creating stereotypes about the American culture, drawing certain conclusions from what I was seeing in my small coworkers’ group. The Americans do not like to say good morning, the Americans do not like to have lunch together, the Americans do not like to talk with me, the Americans do not like the visitors, etc. I didn’t understand that this is a part of the “normal” process when you interact with a new culture. Also, the stereotypes I was creating of the Americans and the American culture were almost always negative, because by default, my culture was best. I was
A note from the FGSH Coordinator

I hope you are enjoying the Spring 2012 semester. Each semester offers a fresh start, and I wish you all the best with your academic pursuits, personal goals, and family life. This semester we will again be looking at our budget needs for the coming year. We will likely have a rate increase in FGSH for the 2012-2013 contract year. We have had only one rate increase in FGSH in the past three years, and we are working very hard to ensure that any increases are kept to a minimum. Please be assured we are doing our very best to control costs in order to provide you with the lowest cost possible. We wish to thank everyone that has participated in helping us control costs by turning off unneeded lights, not running water unnecessarily, and all the other things that make a difference. Our rate proposal will be reviewed by the Director of Housing and the Vice President for Student Affairs and then forwarded to the Board of Regents to make final determinations for the next year. Any rates decided on by the Board will typically not take effect until July 1, 2011. If you would like to be involved in these discussions, contact your neighborhood Apartment Assistant. Also, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact your AA, the FRC, or the FGSH office. As always, the FGSH community will try to assist in any possible manner.”

Sarah Wilkey
FRC & FGSH Coordinator

Family and Graduate Student Housing Office

The FGSH Community is a Great Place to be!

Thank you for making the FGSH community such a great one! Because of our residents’ involvement and input, we are proud to be a part of a community with so many amenities and opportunities:

• Family Resource Center
• Lending Programs (Sewing Machines, Books and Toys)
• Neighborhood Gatherings
• Children's Programming
• Craft and Cooking Classes
• Family Activities
• Safe Neighborhoods
• Leadership Opportunities
• Free Language Classes
• Cultural Events
• 24-hour access to a computer lab
• Helpful, friendly and diverse residents and staff!

Want to become more involved?
If you are looking for a way to be more involved in your community, there are many ways to share your talents:

• Volunteer at the FRC in various areas, including cooking, cake decorating, childcare, computer skills, sewing, quilting and teaching!
• Attend and provide feedback on FRC programs and neighborhood events.

For more information on helping with neighborhood events, contact your AA (page 4). If you are interested in volunteering at the FRC, please contact an FRC staff member at 744-6539.
applying a personal perspective of a limited group to an entire culture and comparing it to a culture with which I was comfortable. After reading a couple of books, I found an explanation for what I was doing, I was creating stereotypes. A stereotype, according to Peterson in his book *Cultural Intelligence* emerges when a person applies one or more perceptions to an entire group. That was exactly what I was doing; I was creating cultural stereotypes and limiting my possibilities of getting to know the people from other cultures. I was referring to a person from certain culture through stereotypes, this attitude not only may offend them, but it may limit the opportunities to discover the new culture for what it is.

How many of us have created a culture stereotype without knowing a large number of the members of that culture? How many of us have referred to a certain culture with stereotypes that offend or denote our poor cultural competence? How many of us believe in the stereotype the TV or the media has created?

I would love to be asked if all Mexicans like tequila, or if all Mexicans are hard workers, or if all Mexicans are illegal in the United States. Would the Irish love to be asked if all of them are drunks, or Italians if they all like pizza, or the people from Chicago if they all belong to the mafia, or the Japanese if they all drink sake, or Germans if they all like beer, or Americans if they all enjoy professional football. Generalizations for a whole population tell you little about any specific person and likewise, generalization drawn from small groups may tell you little about the population. There is likely as much variation in cultural practices within a population as there is between populations, and thus it might serve us better to learn the specific cultural practices of those around us.

**First Annual FGSH Soccer Tournament**

If you love to play soccer you not want to miss out on this! Gather your neighbors and sign up to play in the first annual FGSH Soccer Tournament on Saturday, April 14, 2012. Sign up is Feb. 17-24th at the FRC front desk. There will be 8 teams, with a total of 11 players per team. The first 11 will be assigned to their neighborhood team. After each neighborhood team is filled, additional participants will be assigned to the 8th team. Teams can consist of both males and females, 16 years (with parent permission) and older. Great prizes will be awarded and a free dinner for all players and fans will conclude the soccer tournament.

**Soliciting: An Important Notice**

Soliciting is not permitted in the OSU FGSH area except with special written permission from the Assistant Director. Residents are requested to ask all solicitors (sales people, door hangers, religious groups, etc) to show their permits, which must be signed by the Assistant Director. If the solicitor is unable or unwilling to show this permit, please call the FGSH office at 744-5353 or if after office hours, the OSU Police (dial 311) to report the solicitor. Flyers or signs of any kind must be registered with Campus Activities prior to being posted on FGSH bulletin boards. The only printed materials you should be receiving on your door are FGSH, FRC, and Apartment Assistant newsletters and notices.
# Neighborhood Gatherings

## WEST
Saturday, Feb. 11 • 5pm at the FRC  
Board games/ Pasta, chips, pecan & cherry pie and cake.

## BRUMLEY
Saturday, Feb. 11 • 6pm at the Brumley Hall  
X-box for kids & board games for adults/ Italian Food, lasagna, dessert and drinks.

## MORRISON
Saturday, Feb. 18 • 2pm at the FRC  
PS3-FIFA 2012 Tournament/ Grilled cheese sandwitches & tomato soup.

## WILLIAMS
Saturday, Feb. 18 • 4:30pm at the FRC  
X-box 360/ Turkey sandwiches, chips & drinks.

## STEVENS
Saturday, Feb. 18 • 7pm at the FRC  
Scavenger hunt/ Fruit, cakes, drinks.

## PROSSER
Sunday, Feb. 19 • 7pm at the FRC  
Bingo games/ Middle East food.

## DEMAREE
Sunday, Feb. 26 • 6pm at the FRC  
“Around the World” activity/ finger sandwiches, cookies, cakes, cheese and crackers, punch, tea and coffee.

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## Apartment Maintenance

The Facilities Management Office is the office that handles maintenance issues. If your apartment requires maintenance you should contact the FMO at 744-8510.  
The FMO is open 8am-8pm. In case of a maintenance emergency after 8pm or on weekends, contact the Physical Plant Action Desk at 744-7154.
FGSH News

The BUS--Campus and Community Transit

The BUS is the campus and community transit service operated by the Department of Parking and Transit Services at OSU. The BUS provides fixed-route transit services throughout Stillwater and the OSU campus. Two routes provide service on the main campus every 7 minutes from 6 am to 7 pm and every 15 minutes after 7 pm. The BUS also provides public transportation in Stillwater to all citizens from 6:30 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday. The BUS fares are as follows:

- OSU Students, Faculty, and Staff .................................................................Free with ID
- General Public ..............................................................................................50 cents ($0.50)
- Child Under 5 ..........................................................Free when accompanied by paying passenger
- Child/Young Adult age 5-18; Seniors age 60+ ...........................................25 cents ($0.25)
- Persons with ADA Disability Card & Persons with Medicare Card ...........25 cents ($0.25)

Exact fare required; fares are for one-way trips. Return trips require additional payment.

For route information, visit www.transit.okstate.edu.

Keep up with the FRC on Facebook! Search “OSU Family Resource Center” and like our page. Make sure to check daily to find important FGSH information and for chances to win prizes!

Newsline Online

Interested in receiving your Newsline electronically?
Send an e-mail to sarah.wilkey@okstate.edu with your name and the e-mail address you want to use. You will still receive a paper version.

Shopping Shuttle (free for all FGSH residents)

Sign up for the shuttle at the Laundry Mart 30 minutes prior to the shuttle's departure.

Monday & Wednesday Schedule

5:30pm (Pick Up @ Laundry) .................................................................To International Stores
(Sultan International Market, Overseas Market, Boomer International Plaza, and El Jacal)
6:30pm (Pick Up @ Laundry) .................................................................To Walmart & Food Pyramid
7pm (Pick Up @ Brumley Office) .............................................................To Walmart & Food Pyramid
7:10pm (Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ...........................................Return to FGSH Apartments
7:30pm (Pick Up @ Laundry) .................................................................To Walmart & Food Pyramid
7:40pm (Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ...........................................Return to FGSH Apartments
8:10pm (Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ...........................................Return to FGSH Apartments
8:40pm (Final Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) .................................Return to FGSH Apartments

Saturday Schedule

9am (Pick Up @ Laundry) ................................................................. To Walmart & Food Pyramid
9:30am (Pick Up @ Brumley Office) ..................................................... To Walmart & Food Pyramid
9:40am (Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ...........................................Return to FGSH Apartments
10:00am (Pick Up @ Laundry) ................................................................. To Walmart & Food Pyramid
10:10am & 11am (Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ...........................Return to FGSH Apartments
11:40am (Final Pick Up @ Walmart/Food Pyramid) ..............................Return to FGSH Apartments
Youth & Family Programs

Youth and Family Programs Schedule Spring 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Days/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Kids Club (age 4-5)</td>
<td>Monday-Friday, 4 - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Adventures (ages 6-11)</td>
<td>Monday-Friday, 4 - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Club (ages 9-12)</td>
<td>Monday, 6:30 - 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler Time (ages 2-3)</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Club (ages 12-17)</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday, 6:30 - 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowboys &amp; Cowgirls 4-H Club (ages 9-17)*</td>
<td>Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Story Hour (ages 0-4):</td>
<td>Friday, 10 - 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Parenting</td>
<td>Friday, 11:30am - 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth & Family Programs Update

At this time, all Youth and Family programs are full. If you are interested in signing up your children on the waiting list, please send Amie an email.

Program Attendance for Spring 2012

Due to the high demand for programs, we ask that all children enrolled attend on a regular basis. Any child who has a record of consistent absences will be dropped from our programs to make room for other families on our waiting list. If your child will be absent from programs for an extended period of time, please contact Amie via email.

FRC Kids’ Night In

The Youth & Family Programs staff is hosting a Kids’ Night In at the FRC from 5:30-8:30pm on Saturday, Feb. 25. The Kids’ Night In event will be a fun-filled evening with games, activities and pizza. Parents may sign up their children for this event by emailing Amie. Only children ages 7 to 11 may participate. A limited number of children may attend this event, and spaces will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis. This program is only available to children currently enrolled in FRC Youth & Family programs.

FRC Teen Lending Program

Teens ages 13-17 will no longer be allowed in the FRC without their FRC-issued card. This card is issued as a part of the FRC Teen Lending Program. Teen FGSH residents who enroll in this program may be present at the FRC without adult supervision in designated areas. These teens may also independently borrow items from the FRC Library. Teens that are enrolled in this program will be issued a photo I.D. card that they will be required to present to the desk staff upon entering the building. (This card does not authorize teens under 18 years old to use the computer lab without adult supervision.) If you would like your teen to have these privileges, please email Amie to set up an enrollment appointment with the Children’s Programming Staff.
Community Development Programs Schedule for Spring 2012

Intermediate English with Soha** ................................................... Monday, 9:30 – 10:45am
English Grammar with Soha** .......................................................... Monday, 11am – 12pm
Everyday English with Maria** ..................................................... Monday, 12:30 – 1:30pm
Around Stillwater w/ Carmen & Courtney ................................... Monday, 1:30 – 3:00pm
Tricks of the English Language with Caitlin ............................... Monday, 3 – 4pm
Arabic Language w/ Farag & Mona** .......................................... Tuesday, 10 – 11:30am
English Conversation with Caitlin** ......................................... Tuesday, 11:30 – 12:30pm
Advanced English with Dana ...................................................... Tuesday, 1:30 – 2:45pm
Book Club with Carmen ............................................................... Tuesday, 3pm – 4pm
English in the Media with Carmen ................................................ Tuesday, 4 – 5pm
Situational English with Zhanna** ........................................... Wednesday, 9:30 – 10:30am
English Grammar with Zhanna** ........................................... Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:30am
U.S. History with Adran** ................................................................. Wednesday, 12:30 – 1:30pm
Cooking Demo w/ Courtney, Carmen & Caitlin** ...................... Wednesday, 1:30 – 3pm
Current Events Conversation with Courtney .............................. Wednesday, 3 – 4pm
English Basics with Courtney** ................................................... Thursday, 9:30 – 10:30am
Heath & Nutrition with Mai** ..................................................... Thursday, 10:30 – 11:30am
Pronunciation Skills with Caitlin ................................................... Thursday, 1 – 2:15pm
Listening & Speaking Skills with Dana ......................................... Thursday, 2:30 – 3:45pm
Experience Korea w/Helen Hyeyoung Park & Jin Young Im .... Thursday, 5:30 – 7pm
Reading Skills with Zhanna** ...................................................... Friday, 9:30 – 10:30am
Basic Spanish/English Conversation with Maria** ..................... Friday, 10:30 – 11:30am
Craft Class with Courtney and Dana** ........................................ Friday, 1:30 – 3:15pm
Writing Skills with Courtney .......................................................... Friday, 3:30 – 4:30pm
Survival English with Ron Avants ................................................ Saturday, 6 – 7:30pm
Intermediate English with Ron Avants ...................................... Saturday, 7:30 – 9pm

**Child care is provided

Super Bowl Party
Come cheer on your team, Sunday, Feb. 5 at 5:15pm will be having a Super Bowl Party at the FRC. Please bring a side dish or finger food to share with the group. We will be watching the Super Bowl Game and enjoying food. Kick-off is at 5:30 pm. Children are welcome as long as they don’t disrupt the viewing of the game.

Women’s Night
Craft time at the FRC, this month’s Women’s Night will be on Friday, Feb. 24 at 6pm at the FRC. DIY (Do-it-yourself) night of crafts and goodies!! Child care will be provided.

Couples’ Night
Join us for Couple’s Night on Sunday Feb. 12 at 6pm at the FRC. Come celebrate Valentine’s Day a few days early with your sweetie. Details are to be announced. Childcare will be provided.
# February 2012

## Sunday
- 5:15pm Super Bowl Party

## Monday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

## Tuesday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

## Wednesday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

## Thursday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

## Friday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

## Saturday
- 9:30am TT
- 10:30am English Conversations
- 11:30am English Language
- 12:30pm Mandarin
- 1:30pm Writing Skills
- 2:30pm Doing Business
- 3:30pm Health & Nutrition
- 4:30pm Kids’ Night In
- 5:30pm TC

FSH - Family Story Hour
KKC - Kindergarten Kids Club
TT - Toddler Time
PP - Practical Parenting
BC# - Book Club for Youth & Family

*TOEL - Tricks of the English Language*

*SS - Shopping Shuttle*

*TC - Toddler Time*

*TC# - Book Club for Youth & Family*