



In Our Words Newsletter

Celebrations

Haidy Wasef's New Job

We're celebrating English Language Learner, Haidy Wasef, who received a full-time position as a teacher's assistant with Metro Nashville Public Schools in January! Here's Haidy (in back and center) with her K-4 students at their graduation ceremony this summer. Also pictured is Haidy with her NALC tutor, Cindy Seay, who has been helping Haidy learn English. Congratulations Haidy and thank you for supporting the education of our children!



Haidy (back, center) with her MNPS students.



Cindy (left) and Haidy (right)

Do you have something you want to celebrate?

We want to know about your accomplishments - whatever that means to you. Examples could be, but are not limited to: new jobs, graduations and certificates, citizenship tests, and even personal celebrations like newborn babies, children going to college, and family members visiting.

If you would like to share any celebrations, no matter how big or small, please submit them using the *In Our Words* form below or email info@nashvilleliteracy.org

[Share Your Celebration](#)

Student Writing

Goals Essay by English Language Learner, Lupita Villarreal Key

I have set a really important goal in my life.

Since I finished college, I wanted to keep studying and get a Master's Degree.

I needed a high level of English, that's one of the reasons I decided to move to the USA to improve my English. Right now, I'm taking English classes and I'm looking for a better job so I can start working as a professional.

I've been looking to start classes about Industrial Engineering so I can refresh myself since I haven't worked for about three years in this field.

It's been a big challenge for me to start my life in this country from scratch, but I'm really excited to see what's my next step in my life.

Since writing this essay in May, Lupita has gotten a new office job and will be starting a Master's program at MTSU this fall!

Mosquitoes in Dong Thap Muoi by English Language Learner, Yen Ngo

Not long ago, the South of Vietnam was a fertile land, accreted by alluvium from the Mekong River. The Mekong River is one of the largest rivers in the world, originating in Tibet, flowing through many countries and eventually south of Vietnam. In Vietnam, the river divides into nine branches like nine dragons pouring into the Pacific Ocean, so it was named Cửu Long (River of nine dragons).

The climate in the south of Vietnam was mild, neither too hot nor too cold, there were never storms or cold winters. Under the water it was dense with fish and shrimp, on the ground all kinds of animals, in the sky all kinds of birds. People lived in harmony with nature and never had to worry about lack of food. There are only two seasons all year round: dry season, no rain, rainy season, lots of rain. During the rainy season, the water rose and flooded. But when the water rose, the rice tree always rose above the water level and bloomed and bore fruit, providing rice for the people, that was called "Rice of Heaven". In the rainy season, the water level rises, also known as the "floating season". As the water receded, it left behind a more fertile layer of silt. Just like that, year after year, creating an extremely rich nature with all kinds of fragrant flowers and sweet fruits.

However, there was a small area (Dong Thap Muoi), flooded all year round, very few people, animals and plants could live there. There were a lot of mosquitoes and leeches there, so there was a sentence: "Mosquitoes sound like a flute blowing, leeches wade (swim) like "bánh canh" (a kind of noodle made of rice flour)". Mosquitoes are so numerous that when they bite someone, they have to connect to each other to form a long tube like an oil pipe or a train, one car connects to another.

Today, the land that used to be flooded for half a year, every year, extremely rich natural area has gradually become arid land because the Mekong River has been blocked to build hydroelectric dams upstream (in China). Salty sea water penetrates deeper and deeper, destroying freshwater ecosystems.

NALC Announcements

Find news from staff and other updates here!



New Employee

We are excited to introduce you to our new **Learner & Volunteer Manager, Catherine Davis!**

Catherine was born and raised in Miami, Florida. After graduating from the University of Florida, she moved to the Dominican Republic to serve as a youth literacy specialist with the Peace Corps. Since returning to the United States, she has earned her M.Ed. in English Language Learners from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College and worked with adult learners in Nashville, including through NALC. Catherine is passionate about language learning, educational equity, and supporting individuals as they are empowered through literacy. She is excited to work with both learners and volunteers to positively impact our Nashville community!

If you'd like to welcome Catherine to the team, contact her directly at cdavis@nashvilleliteracy.org!



Submit Your Work

Do you have something to share? Please let your teacher or a NALC worker know OR submit work using the button below. You can also email your work to mharding@nashvilleliteracy.org. We are here to help!

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