



## StoryLine Issue 2 Fall 2020

Coastline College's "Arts and Letters" Magazine

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Call for Submissions

- Are you an aspiring visual artist? A potential photographer? A possible poet? Send us your best work for Coastline's literary magazine, due out each fall. Emerging essayists, sagacious short story writers, and daring digital storytellers are also encouraged to submit. (Examples of digital stories can be found at [Storycenter](#).)
- Please send your submission, along with the genre in which you are submitting, to [Oceana Callum](#) by July 1 for consideration in that year's issue.

Guidelines:

- **Art** (drawings, paintings, graphic designs): scan images and send in high-res .jpg format
- **Photography**: send up to 5 images in high-res .jpg format
- **Poetry**: send up to 5 poems in one or multiple Word documents (.docx or .doc) or PDFs
- **Essays**: 2,500 words maximum as a Word document (.docx or .doc) or PDF
- **Short stories**: 2,500 words maximum as a Word document (.docx or .doc) or PDF
- **Digital stories**: send a link to a YouTube video (must be correctly captioned)

Contributor Bios

[Tim Davies](#)

Having lived most of his life in Southern California, Tim has worked in the medical field for more than 30 years as a Respiratory Therapist, primarily in the intensive care setting. He has pursued careers in art as a sculptor and painter, as well as writing in the early 1990's. Currently, his passion is photography. He is also a pastor, father of five children and nine grandchildren and can often be found these days with a camera in his hand chasing the perfect moment.

[Bethany Diment](#)

I'm Bethany Diment from Orange County. Photography has been a quiet passion for me. Just like dance, there are moments that capture our emotions. I believe this art is worth the time because it's always something to look back on. I have been taking pictures for a few years. I prefer the landscapes, still life and plants. There is beauty within the little things. In fact, I participated in another art submission called "Look Within" run by the PTA. This upcoming school year, I'll be a junior at Early College Highschool. I also am in yearbook because it's an elective that brings a side hobby into a daily routine.

[Lisa Dupuy](#)

A native of Southern California, Lisa Dupuy is currently living in Huntington Beach and enjoys all the beach has to offer. She attended Santa Ana College and

earned her Associate of Arts degree in Business and went on to attend California State University, Fullerton, receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. She started working for Coast Colleges at the District Office in 2000 in Human Resources and is a Human Resources, Specialist. In her spare time, she enjoys riding her beach cruiser, visiting museums, and is a caretaker (servant) to two regal, high maintenance Himalayan cats.

#### [Albina Emelina](#)

Albina Emelina is a working mom. She received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2016. Since that time, she has worked with disadvantaged students in different charter schools and become passionate about teaching. Ms. Albina wants to devote her career to education of children who specifically come from disadvantaged communities. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and a receiver of the award of excellence.

#### [David Gonzalez](#)

As before in the first edition of *StoryLine*, I wanted to express human expression and shadows. In this next chapter, I focus on various facial expressions, detail, and color. Finally, I am glad to know that my work was enjoyed by many. Some of my artwork recently was donated to Children's Hospital in Los Angeles for those children that have been suffering from covid-19, but also for the adults as well. Art has a way of taking away grief and often changing a person/s thoughts process and replacing it with happy thoughts. In the end, whatever it takes to make someone else's life better, works for me.

#### [Haejung](#)

Haejung is a 2nd-time contributor to *StoryLine*. Her series *BJJ Couple* tells the story of an American expat and her Korean boyfriend. Follow Haejung on Instagram @soyhaejung.

#### [Olivia McNeil](#)

My name is Liv McNeil, I'm 15 years old, going into grade 10 at Etobicoke School of the Arts. I major in Visual Arts and have always loved drawing and painting. I do film outside of school and make little movies with my brother. I hope you enjoy my latest film, numb!

#### [Christopher Mefford](#)

Originally from Huntington Beach, California, Chris has taught ESL part time at Coastline College for 13 years and leads the Study Abroad @ the Beach program at CSU, Long Beach. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in philosophy from CSULB in 1996, he moved to Japan to begin his teaching career. A deeper dive into the world of TESL brought him back to CSULB for a Masters in Linguistics in 2001. Not finished with Japan, Chris lived there five more years studying Aikido and the Shakuhachi flute. Coastline College brought him on to create a number of customized ESL programs, including an online Communication Strategies course based on his co-authored textbook: "Take Care: Communicating in English with U.S. Health Care Workers." He has taken on the tradition of stained glass artwork from his father, who instructed the art in Orange County for 30+

years. In addition to this all-consuming hobby, Chris studies the Japanese bamboo flute on occasion and continues his 35-year passion of surfing.

#### [Andrea Mendoza](#)

Born and raised in Fountain Valley, Andrea Mendoza is a graduate of Coastline College and Cypress College, having majored in dance, business, and radiologic technology. While studying for a career in medical imaging, Andrea immersed herself in art and philosophy courses from all the coast district campuses. She has been showcasing her artwork and performing with dance companies since 2014, along with acting and writing. She created her art brand online, Andy V Renditions, with hopes of launching a future scholarship foundation. Andrea works as a lead technologist for the radiology department at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California.

#### [Christina Patron](#)

After raising her six children, Christina Patron attended and graduated from Golden West Community College. She is transferring to the University of Irvine to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Psychological Science. She resides in Huntington Beach where she enjoys spending time with her family. She has a passion for writing: poetry, screenplays, young adult fiction, and children's books. She loves reading, wine tasting, relaxing on the beach, and spending time with her children and her three grandchildren.

#### [Duane Ratzlaff](#)

Duane Ratzlaff has taught part-time as "Mr. R" in the ESL Department at Coastline since 2008. Duane and his students are anxiously awaiting that day when they can get back into their classrooms at the Le-Jao Center. Duane earned his B. A. in English at California State College at Los Angeles (1968) and his M. A. in English (Teaching English as a Second Language) at Oklahoma State University (1988). Between these two schools, he did everything from servicing campgrounds for the Forest Service to studying glassblowing at the University of Toledo to working with cattle on the plains of western Oklahoma. Duane lives in Huntington Beach with his wife and two of his four adult children.

#### [Amy Severns](#)

Amy Severns is a Digital Graphic Applications student. She is currently working towards her Digital Media Design certificate at Coastline, and plans to continue on her path to an associate and/or bachelor's degree in the digital arts. She has been a creative since childhood in multiple mediums, from music and dance, to writing and digital arts. She also has over 15 years of visual merchandising and display experience. She currently lives in Anaheim and enjoys going to concerts, attending conventions, and, when in the mood for a more quiet evening, staying in and reading a good book or watching a movie with her boyfriend and 3-year-old cat.

#### [Joanna Tang](#)

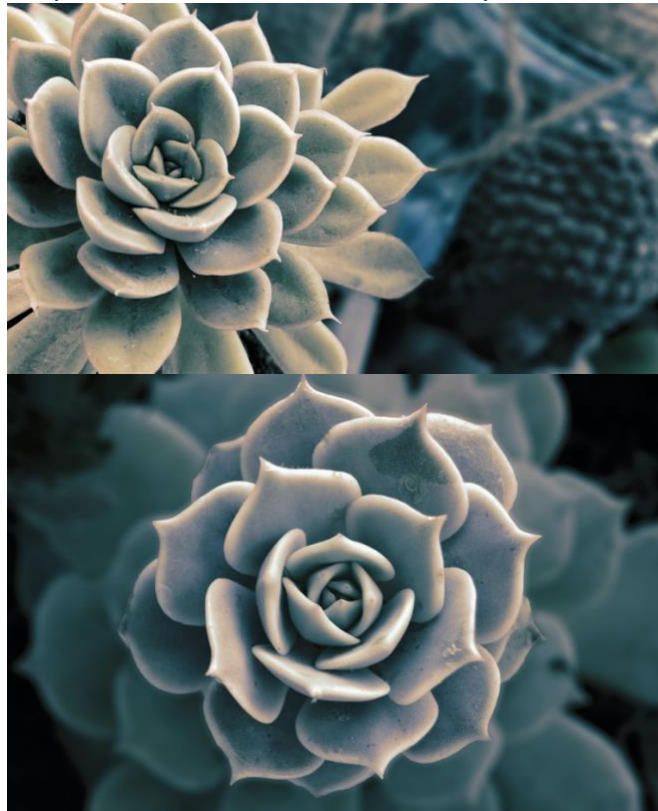
Joanna Tang lives in sunny Huntington Beach with her parents, older sister, younger brother, and grandmother. Homeschooled her entire life, she passed

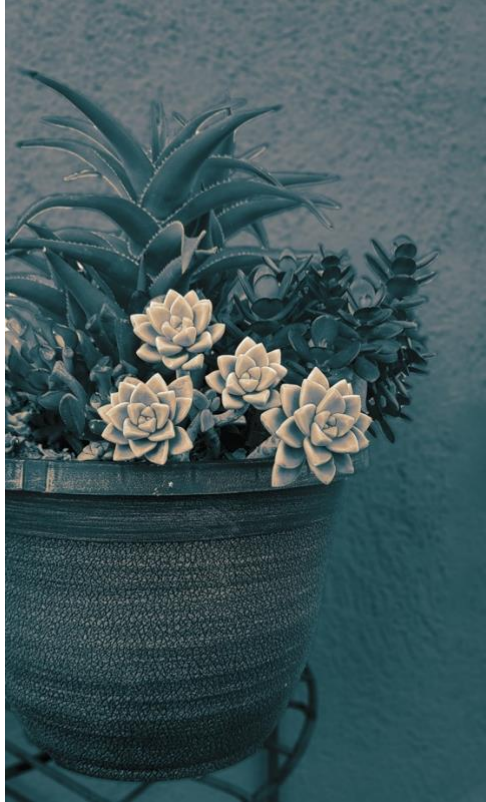
the California High School Proficiency Exam at fourteen. She juggled her high school years with many extracurricular activities, including memory competitions and music performance. Currently, Joanna is pursuing a degree in computer science with her sister. Outside of school, some favorite activities that she fills her schedule with are teaching children (especially during the summer months) and playing piano and flute for church and senior homes. In her free time, Joanna finds pleasure in tending her family's vegetable garden, brewing kombucha, cooking, serving as her brother's Lego assistant, and discussing life with her family at mealtimes.

Liv McNeil, "Numb"

"Numb"

Amy Severns, "Unsheltered Creativity"







Amy Severns (Image 1) , My Uyen Truong (Image 2), and Katherine Vo (Image 3),  
"Creative Fruit"





Special Programs, Beginning Instrumental, Keyboard, and Vocal Classes, "Born this Way"

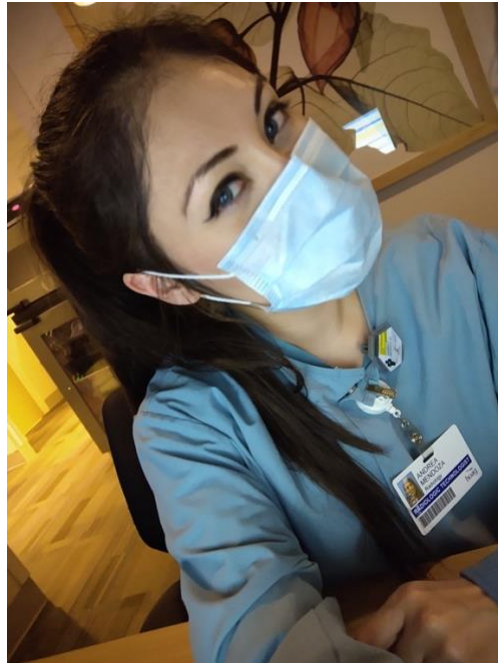
"Born this Way"

Andrew Mendoza, "Under Quarantine"

Scraggly, slumbering tree, distorted and gnawed,  
Pallor of frozen silver, standing in a desert of white.  
I grip its ligneous arm, firmly with rugged claws,  
Golden eyes behold a desolate, snowy sight.  
Drops of hail enervate, descending over my wings,  
Invisible ornaments, from my careworn branch hung.  
They glow blue in the winter dusk, icicle drippings,  
Ears are listening for a sweet song, not yet sung.  
We bide time until dawn's crack of crustal daylight,  
For when the veins of the sun may warm us.  
To pour hope into the cold indigo heart of twilight,  
I am but a snowy owl in the sky, star of these cosmos, and I dream to fly free.  
For this obsidian forest is a haunted cavern, perished and grey,  
Home to the ghosts of living things that once waltzed together.  
Buried thorns and flower stems, insentient, and long decayed,  
A peaceful silence nestles, ruffling my feathers.



Andrea Mendoza, "Perseverance through Adversity"



Christina Patron, "Food Insecurity in the U.S."

(Winner, Argumentative/ Persuasive Category, Crux Essay Contest 2019-2020)

"...there should be as much attention given to the economic and human costs of food insecurity as to a comparable breakout in infectious disease."

– Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg

Food insecurity affects communities everywhere in the United States and is the leading cause of hunger and malnutrition. It affects those of all ages – from children, teens, and young adults, to the elderly. Currently, over 42 million people in America are affected, of which thirteen million are children, according to a survey by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Ward). There are many contributing factors to this ongoing problem, and many potential solutions have been tried. However, one of the largest contributors in combating this problem is being targeted by budget cuts. Moreover, many people living in the U.S. are unaware of the threat to programs and do not realize their voice can have an impact on the solution.

Another problem is food waste in the public schools, which I have witnessed first-hand. Most people do not realize that many schools throw any uneaten food into the dumpsters instead of it being donated to those in need. Informing Americans about the effect food insecurity has on many people and the urgency of eradicating this problem will motivate them to action; hence, people will pressure local governments to provide necessary programs through effective policies, and individuals will work together within their communities to make food more accessible.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been aware of the ongoing problem of food insecurity that has plagued America since the Great Depression. However, it is yet to be resolved. The USDA defines food insecurity

as, “a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food” (Ward ). This inadequate or inequality of food distribution stems from the gap between the low wages of the poor and the high cost of living. This gap should be bridged through government benefits; however, many policies fall short in meeting the needs of the people (Nestle). Nationally, one in eight households is affected, which is inexcusable in a first-world country. Food insecurity leads to hunger and malnutrition; moreover, it affects the overall well-being of the individual. Those who are the most vulnerable are the children and the elderly. One in six children exhibit problems with behaviors, delays in their development, and an increase risk of developing chronic illnesses (Ward). David Beckmann, the President of *Bread for the World*, says “the U.S. has the worst infant mortality rate among developed countries” (Banks).

This is an outrage that any child in America should perish from malnutrition. In adults, malnutrition can result in heart disease, hypertension, stroke, and developmental and behavioral health issues ("Food Waste..."). In many cases, those facing hunger resort to eating inexpensive and unhealthy foods. Oftentimes, this results in obesity and malnutrition. They fill up on empty calories and do not consume the necessary nutrients required to lead healthy lives. This also makes it difficult to function in society and do basic things like going to work or going to school. According to a Christian advocacy group, “Hunger and food insecurity are so widespread in the United States that they add \$160 billion to national health care spending” (Banks). These unnecessary costs could be eliminated through investing in effective programs to combat malnutrition.

Although there are current programs helping those in need, the problem is far from being resolved or eradicated. Existing programs such as WIC, SNAP, and Public-School Breakfast Programs have been beneficial in helping this epidemic. There are also free lunch programs in schools that have helped to increase attendance, concentration, and focus in students and reduce tardiness and visits to the nurse’s office (Galvin). Nevertheless, the cuts in the Food Assistant Program, the Food and Nutrition Education Program, the Temporary Emergency Food Assistant Program, and many other programs along with the high cost of food, have become an obstacle for families to access nutritious food ("Hunger and Malnutrition in the U.S."). Not only is there a need to reinstate certain programs, but there is also a need to develop new government policies to advocate for Federal Nutrition programs. The program SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is the largest antihunger program implemented by the U.S. Government and has helped families access food for many years. In 2017, it helped 3.4 million Americans to overcome poverty, providing them with healthy food. This program is crucial in helping to improve the health of many Americans.

Although this program is protected from being completely eradicated by the Farm Bill, there are lobbyists and congressional representative who oppose it and are trying to enact steep budget cuts. Representatives fear that Americans

are taking advantage of the SNAP program, and are idle and lazy, not willing to strive for financial independence. (Nestle, "The Supplemental Nutrition Program..."). It states in the article, "Children's Rights and the Politics of Food: Big Food Versus Little People," "President Trump's budget not only called for \$193 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next ten years, it also would terminate SNAP's status as a national program...It would also cut WIC funding for pregnant and nursing mothers and their children by \$188 million and totally defund the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (Woodhouse). These cuts will hurt millions of families across America. Americans should be educated about these matters, especially if they affect them directly. They should vote for the politicians who will advocate and protect the struggling families and write letters to representatives and to Congress. Unfortunately, without effective programs and policies in place, many will continue to go hungry and will suffer the consequences of malnutrition and death.

Another large contributing factor in food insecurity is that, even though the U.S. produces more than enough food to feed everyone in America, food goes to waste. It is said that, "the United States wastes up to 40 percent of its food supply. This disconnect results in approximately 125 to 160 billion pounds of wasted food every year" ("Food Waste..."). Can you imagine how many lives could be saved if all that wasted food was made available to the hungry? As mentioned earlier, from my own personal experience working at an elementary school, food is wasted on a daily basis. According to an article in *The Daily*, "The USDA's National School Lunch Program serves 30 million kids every school day...but the program also wastes about \$5 million worth of edible food every school day" (Bloom). It's horrifying to watch. I see fresh produce, hot lunches, and unopened milk tossed into the trash can on a daily basis. When I confronted the Principal, she informed me that no one is allowed to remove the food from the premises, even if it is to be donated to needy families. I wondered if there was a law responsible for their unwillingness to reduce this ongoing food waste. As it turns out, the Federal Government does not stipulate in what circumstances that food is allowed to be donated. Consequently, very few states have laws regulating the donation of food ("Food Safety Legislation 2018"). An article states, "California's SB 557 allows for unused food or food returned by a consumer at schools to be donated to a food bank or other nonprofit charity" ("Food Safety Legislation 2018"). It's unfortunate that most California schools have not implemented any sort of program to reduce the amount of waste that occurs.

Fortunately, there is one individual who is making a difference in Alameda County. Nancy Deming, the sustainability manager for custodial and nutritional services for the Oakland School District, has transformed the schools in the district. She has devised a program to throw produce that has been partially eaten into a compost bin, to put uneaten food in the share bin – separating into cold foods, hot foods, and produce – and to give the rest of the food to a local hunger-relief organization. Deming has successfully implemented this program

and is responsible for reducing the amount of food that would have typically been wasted. The USDA now endorses this program (Bloom). The need for individuals to get involved and advocate for similar programs throughout the United States is crucial in reducing food insecurity. Awareness and action will help provide food that would have normally been wasted to hungry families. In addition, establishments such as markets and grocery stores should not be allowed to throw away food that has not gone bad but may not appear aesthetically pleasing, making it difficult to sell. Instead of discarding the produce, establishments should donate to food banks or be given to sell at a lower price at the local farmers market. It's the responsibility of everyone who witnesses these wasteful practices, to help in putting a stop to it. If more people were made aware of these ongoing issues, the chances of help and support would increase, and important changes would be made.

The answer to food insecurity and eradicating hunger and malnutrition is not an easy one and many people look away from the issue, feeling they cannot make an impact. Nevertheless, the problem needs to be addressed by the whole of America, the wealthy and the poor. People can get involved in their communities to help. Organizations within communities, for-profit or non-profit, can help to organize food drives, food banks, soup kitchens, offer educational programs on nutrition, and to create gardens within their communities. Individuals can develop new skills and become involved socially and work together with others within their communities to improve their lives and their food security. In addition, cash donations, especially from the wealthier individuals or organizations are helpful in running these facilities and can help to pay for the utilities and tools needed. Americans are responsible for becoming educated in these matters; the more aware they are of the ongoing hunger problems within their own communities, the more willing they will be to contribute in a positive way.

One solution that is being considered and researched is called Biofortified crops. These crops are the hope of some to combat this problem of hunger, or what's known as "hidden hunger." This is when people eat enough food to survive, filling up on food with little to no micronutrients, and incur health problems or malnutrition as a result. Scientists genetically modify these crops by adding more essential vitamins and minerals to them, thereby giving people a better chance of staying healthy. (Kesavan). This is a good solution for developing countries as the majority of crops they grow are rice, wheat, and others that are low in nutrients. Here in the United States, healthy foods are more readily available. However, the problem is finding sufficient ways for people to access these products. In addition, there has been minimal research done on biofortified foods and the long-term effects are unknown. There are benefits to this method, but it's proven that there are also risks. Using biofortified foods in the United States should not be the main solution for food insecurity.

The problem of food insecurity is one that will not be solved immediately. It has been an ongoing concern for many years – not only nationally, but also

internationally. People are suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the globe and are in need of help. No one should have to suffer from lack of basic needs such as food. According to the article, "Hunger in America: A Matter of Policy," "An ideal diet provides sufficient energy and essential nutrients to meet physiological requirements, maximize growth and longevity, and prevent nutrient deficiencies as well as conditions of nutritional excess and imbalance; it should also be obtained from foods that are available, affordable, and palatable" (Nestle). Food is a right that everyone should have. The continuation of effective government programs, the implementation of new ones, organizations proactively reaching out to communities and helping to educate and get citizens involved, will help to eliminate hunger and malnutrition caused by food insecurity and will help to make America thrive. The food insecurity problem in the United States is not only the responsibility of the government, but also of the people.

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## Coastline Cares

Pssst! Did you know Coastline has a food pantry to help fuel your studies? It's called Coastline Cares!

THE COASTLINE PANTRY HAS MOVED

2 New Locations

Mondays: 11am - 1pm

Coastline's [Garden Grove Campus](#)

12901 Euclid Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Fridays: 11am – 1pm

Coastline's [Newport Beach Campus](#)

1515 Monrovia Avenue Newport Beach, CA 92663

Order and Pick Up Instructions:

- Complete this [Coastline Cares Pantry RSVP Form](#)
- Arrive on Mondays at Garden Grove or Fridays at Newport Beach between 11am and 1pm.
- **Have your Pantry RSVP form handy** and pop your trunk.
- We will deliver food to your trunk, following 6 feet social distancing guidelines. Looking forward to seeing you!

Bethany Diment, "Forever Bond"





David Gonzalez, "Faces for Thought"







Duane Ratzlaff, "Passionfruit"

Week 1, Spring Semester, 2020

"How was your first day, Tri?"

Just after 4 pm on a Monday in late January, we were sitting in the living room of my family's crackerbox. Desperate for a study break, I sat on our glider that had stopped gliding. Tri was slumped on the couch, a rescued dumpster sofa hiding underneath a tattered red and black Mexican blanket that Grandma had bought second hand when we got here in '08. Tri's Nike hoodie reached almost to his knees. He was cold.

Stiff 501s stretched to Tri's Jordans, propped up—a double no-no in our house—on what once was an elegant Ethan Allen mahogany coffee table. Grandma had left the room with the TV tuned to one of Channel 57's Vietnamese stations, all of them sounding the same to my ears because my Vietnamese had slipped badly. She chided me for that—until Tri arrived.

My winter quarter at UCI had begun Jan. 2. Coastline students always came back six weeks after the end of the fall semester. Nice. I missed that long break.

"Trying to think of the right thing to say. Maybe good."

"Wait. You said you didn't want to be here and would do your best to get kicked out and sent home. As soon as possible. Now your first day of classes was 'good'?" I couldn't believe my ears.

“Maybe I change mind, Trang.” Like a leopard changes spots.

“So who do you have for Reading/Writing/Grammar?”

“Mr. F.”

“Ha! He’s really tough, but I loved him. How about Listening and Conversation, your afternoon class?”

“It a woman. Can’t remember name.”

“Yeah, everybody’s name isn’t as easy to remember as *Mr. F.* How about the other students? Any hot girls?”

I knew cousin Tri well enough by now to understand his priorities, even though he’d been in the country for only a few weeks—just long enough to complain about everything, from the “weak” Nem Nướng Cuốn at Brodard to the “weak” Tet celebration on Bolsa.

“Low-key.”

“What’s her name, or *their* names?”

“Just one. Hien.”

“Morning or afternoon?”

“Both.”

“Bomb!”

Week 5, Spring Semester, 2020

“Wondering what’s on your mind,  
it must be hard to be that fine

Hold on, I got to start this mutha—”

“Tri! Do you know what you’re saying?” Tri was repeating the Drake lyrics grinding out of his EarPods, loud enough for me to know what he was listening to.

“Course I know, Trang. You think I stupid?”

I was sitting in the glider. Tri was lying on the couch, in socks now, after Grandma had ripped into him when he both wore his Nikes in the house *and* parked them on the coffee table. Tri was multitasking, bumping along with the tracks in his ears and texting with his iPhone 11 Pro. I was surprised to see him out of his bedroom.

“What happened, Tri? Internet out?”

“What?”

I shouted: “What happened, Tri? Internet out?” Tri ejected the Pods.

“You funny, Trang. I give you all break and you look my beautiful face.”

Unfortunately, Tri was right. He could thank my aunt. She was gorgeous, 63 wearing 43.

“Must be a coincidence that Grandma’s just about finished her bun bo.”

“Actually, I thinking going out to eat.”

“Sorry. I’ve got homework.” I knew Tri didn’t want me along, but I liked to mess with him. “Did you ever get a date with that hot girl in your grammar class, tryin’ to make a rebel of the careless man’s careful daughter?”

“Passionate from miles away. Trying to think of the right thing to say. How the boyfriend, Trang?”

“Tri, it’s fun talking to you—or your idol—but I’ve got to get ready for my lab tomorrow.”

“What your class?”

“Biopharmaceutics and Nanomedicine.”

“Two classes.”

“One.”

I left the living room and went back to my bedroom to study. Before I finished Coastline and transferred to UCI, I had no idea how tough it would be. I learned right away. So I studied. And studied.

To tell the truth, I was jealous of Tri. His family back in Vietnam had a lot of money. Not like my family. My dad was working at Chipton-Ross in Anaheim as an electronics assembler, and my mom was doing nails at Nailed It during the week and cooking for Pho-Out on the weekend. The family bottom line *did* get me aid at UCI, though. Free money, no loans. When my bimber-driving friend Houng complained about the cost of a UC, I didn’t say anything. I knew her family was sending me money through DC and Sacramento.

Tri had never wanted to come to the U. S. It was his father’s idea. His dad, my mother’s brother, owned 35 McDonald’s franchises in Vietnam, and he wanted Tri to improve his English. Dad didn’t think memorized Drake lyrics would allow his son to communicate with American McDonald’s executives. I don’t know why.

Tri, on the other hand, saw no reason to take ESL classes at Coastline. Or anywhere. He didn’t really want to command thousands of burger chefs. He dreamed of producing music. He’d asked his dad to fund a recording studio in Ho Chi Minh City, but his father answered by sending Tri to Coastline to study English and live with us, my mother and father and grandmother, in a tiny three-bedroom in Westminster. Tri’s dad was paying, so he got his own room while I was forced to move in with Grandma.

Tri had gone to every class of the spring semester but only because of Hien. The poor girl was in class with Tri about 12 hours a week, Reading/Writing/Grammar in the morning and Listening and Conversation in the afternoon. A beautiful trapped bird in a cage.

Week 9, Spring Semester, 2020

I couldn’t believe my cousin. We were sitting at our green Formica kitchen table with the spindly metal legs angling out that we’d found at a yard sale in Huntington Beach for \$15. The plastic on the chairs looked like someone had taken a knife to it. Tri was eating a bowl of rice for breakfast. Or was it lunch? He had just gotten up. It was 1 pm. I was having noodles with passion fruit on the side. Dad had planted a tree in our postage-stamp backyard for Grandma, who said it reminded her of home, the countryside of South Vietnam. She always said “South Vietnam,” even though there was only Vietnam now, no “North” or “South.”

“Trang, I’m fallin’ apart. I headed back Ho Chi Minh City when virus come.”

“Too bad, Tri.” I lied.

"I thought for sure I can kick out Coastline and come home."

"Not for a lack of trying."

"No. I started out *F*s on all tests in Mr. F's class. What kind name that for teacher, anyway?"

"His name is *Fadenreicht*, OK? He's doing you a favor."

"I know. He my teacher. He probably not even pronounce his own name. That why he *Mr. F*."

"He's a great teacher."

"For you, maybe. Me . . . I just want come home. See friends. Hang out in clubs with girls. Stuff like that."

"Goal oriented."

"I thought for sure I can get kick out when we start Zooming. I was plan Zoombomb Mr. F's class."

"You're awful."

"Yeah, I putting together cool video. But I too late. Mr. F went to 100 trainings in spring break and now can stop me and all Zomers."

"My teachers didn't get much training. The other day my Post-Colonial Lit teacher accidentally shared his Zoom screen and we all saw him shirtless, running his fat belly to the back of his apartment to escape his webcam and find a shirt, clean or not."

"I wish—"

"So you're still in the class?"

"Ha! Not take much. Mr. F and all teachers desperation—"

"Desperate. Are *desperate*."

"Desperation to keep students." Hopeless.

"Did you ever consider the fact that maybe Mr. F and all the Coastline teachers might just be extra compassionate right now?"

"*Compassionate* like *passion*? Anyway, what I do if I kick out? I no can fly home."

"There *are* a few flights."

"Right. When I land, army take my bag, put me in dormitory for 14 days. Prison."

It was hard to keep from laughing. Tri was getting what he deserved. Here he was, sitting at home, *our* home, with his own room and my mom and grandma cooking for him and doing all his laundry, while he played League of Legends all night and only got up before noon two mornings a week. By now he couldn't even find his textbooks in his room, though he didn't spend much time looking for them.

Grandma shuffled through the kitchen in her orange and black polka dot robe and fluffy pink slippers on her way to the backyard.

"Chào buổi tối, cậu bé lười biếng."

Grandma kept moving, out the kitchen door and on her way to water her precious passion fruit tree, her once-a-week chore. She was fortunate that we had lots of sunshine in our yard.

"I couldn't quite catch that, Tri. What did she say?"



“Good evening, lazy boy.” That’s what I thought.

Hien was the only reason Tri got up Monday and Wednesday mornings to join Mr. F’s Zoom meetings. Not that he could do anything about her, what with the quarantine and the transition to online classes. He texted her. That was it. And she ignored his texts. Like she didn’t turn on her video during the Zoom sessions. When his initial texts got no replies, he switched to asking her about homework assignments. She fell for it at first but then went silent again when she realized Tri and homework weren’t on speaking terms.

Hien wanted to be a pharmacist. Exchanging flirty texts with Tri wasn’t on the Coastline counselor’s educational plan for her. Or, more importantly, her parents’.

“What happening Sunday, Trang?”

“Not much. Why?”

“It Easter, right?”

“Yeah, but all the churches are closed. My Lutheran church is on YouTube. The same for Mom and Dad and Grandma’s church, St. Teresa’s.”

“But I hear Grandma say she going confession in shed on Saturday.”

“She’s talking about this priest one of her friends told her about in Garden Grove. He bought a 10 x 10 metal shed at Home Depot and is doing drive-by confessions. Six feet away. Confessors in cars. Grandma’s going.

“By herself?”

“Why not?”

“First, because her driving. Second, because a virus. Third, she old.”

“Grandma raised five children by herself while Grandpa was in re-education camp for five years after the war. She fought off a dozen men who wanted to marry her. Do you think a governor’s ‘suggestions’—I inserted air quotes—“are going to stop her from doing what *she* wants to do?”

“Maybe no.”

It was time to change the topic. “Here’s an idea, Tri. While you’re stuck here, why don’t you make the best of what you call your ‘bad situation’? Study hard and improve your English. Before you know it, summer will be here. There are no ESL classes in the summer at Coastline, so you can go home. You’ll get better soon.”

“You funny, Trang. My English good. It better than you. You stolen English.”

“Really.”

“Lookin’ for the right way to do the wrong things.”

“You can stop lookin’, Tri.”

“So why am I in class if this is who I’m trying to be like?

So I drop out, lessons I was taught are quick to fade

As I realized that turning papers in won’t get me paid.”

“Nice English, Tri. Too bad it’s not yours.”

“Better than your Sailor Twit.”

Three months of insults. I crawled back to our cluttered burrow, trying to focus on my Micro test and block out the near certainty of an online fall semester. At least I would have my old room back by then, my future Zoom room. Bomb.

Lisa DuPuy, "Three Haikus"

Work remote from home  
Zooming is how we connect  
Brady Bunch grid-style

Gray hairs peeking out  
Shelter in place, no movement  
Showing my true age

Neighbors wearing masks  
Muffled good mornings to me  
As they cross the street

Alyssa Namibiar, "Takeout Menu"

I learned my culture from  
The back of a takeout menu  
Trying to connect the dots  
Between the slanted parentheses  
That turned Hindi to English  
I learned the states and cities in India  
From the curries they produced  
Andhra, Hyderabad, Madras  
Mild, medium, spicy  
The same way a foreigner would  
I learned in elementary school  
To throw my mom's cooking in the trash  
That sometimes the rumble of an empty stomach  
Was less painful  
Than the searing snarl of someone else's disgust  
I learned to push it all away  
To guard myself in the armor of the ordinary  
To stay away from the spices and scents  
Of a land I never knew  
That still lived within my skin  
I learned my culture from  
The back of a takeout menu  
Thanking those like me who were brave enough  
To put these words in print  
The way I never could

Tim Davies, "My Father on the Feather"

My father looks up at me from the bank of the Feather River with a smile that would reappear in rare, sacred moments from the mirror in later years. It is the kind of smile that finds its home on the porch of the eyes, genuine and easy. Those piercing blue eyes and the long eyelashes that were passed down regard me with a wisp of triumph. Behind him, the water boils and churns, its mossy perfume filling my nose. The smile seems at odds with the flashing knife held tightly in his right hand; looking down offers an explanation.

There on dull gray, smooth rocks, lay two bright King Salmon. We had arrived at daylight, crawling from a deep sleep at 3 AM to make the morning rise. Dad had spent the prior evening tying flies, intricate bumblebees and the like, flies of his unique invention – something he promised he would teach me. Now, the fish lay in glistening repose on the river's bank in testament to the power of the fly and the skill of my father.

His green neoprene waders cover him from chest to feet. I am wrapped in brown. In order to catch the prize, we must *do the dance*, according to my dad. This means wading into the stream across the moss-covered stones in swift, icy water recently melted from the snows of the Sierra Nevada range. Claiming a likely spot, we make gentle, rolling casts, not unlike fly fishing, and the line is allowed to sink and bump along the bottom, driven by current and hope. The wait for a change. It is not a bite really and must be felt to be understood. Most times I am wrong, and it is just the bottom, pretending to be a fish. But when the rod bends and the string sings as it climbs the river, so does my heart. I learned patience here and it has served me well.

We must be careful not to cross each other, so the rhythm of cast... drift... wait... cast... takes us to a place without words. As the sun rises, even though the only thing biting is gnats, I would rather be nowhere else in the world. The call of hawks and the occasional rise of mammoth fish fill the day with promise. We mesh. It is a father-son dance. Cast upon cast we waltz in eddies and riffles. It has a melody of its own, one with which we are both familiar. The bites will come if we are patient.

Soon, the beat of the river bottom is committed to touch, and I anticipate its contours. Tap, bump bump, tap tap, and then a beat is missed.... I strike! Leaning back into the rod and watching it bend as the line sings like a plucked string on a harp. The fish runs and my reel hisses in protest. I bring him a little closer, simultaneously fighting the current and the powerful silver king. We battle until my wrists ache and my forearms are on fire. At last, he surrenders, his heart burst from the effort, a valiant fight, a worthy opponent.

So, the day goes. Dad fights, then I do. Now the pair wait at his feet to be cleaned and hauled back to the truck. Had I known that there was another battle raging, I would have done more. I wish I had felt the pause, his change in rhythm. But I didn't and I couldn't. My wife never told me about the pain in his arm as he drove her to camp, causing him to stop at the side of the road

I imagine, that merely a week later he fought valiantly like that bright salmon on the Feather, struggling against an invisible force that dragged him from this world and onto the banks of heaven. If I close my eyes, hearing the rush of water in my memory, I still see that smile.

Joanna Tang, "At What Cost?"

It's just a dirty russet potato, one of several in an ordinary, five-pound bag. But that bag of potatoes took almost 240 gallons of water to produce (Kim et al.). Grown on roughly 14.5 square feet of demolished natural habitats, the plants that produced these potatoes were continuously sprayed with fertilizers and pesticides, pollutants which contaminate our waterways and wetlands via agricultural runoff. These potatoes were then harvested with industrial-scale machinery and transported over thousands of miles in refrigerated trucks filling the atmosphere with fuel emissions. This is the impact for producing a single bag of potatoes. But the story doesn't end there. That's right; this bag of potatoes sits on top of a giant pile of identical bags with the same production history. Furthermore, this potato pile is surrounded by a brilliant rainbow of hundreds of different veggies and fruits, all resting in the chilly produce section of a typical grocery store. The strawberry clamshells, the tomato clusters, the beet bunches— each sadly shares a similar story to the bag of potatoes. And this grocery store is only one of the 40,000 grocery stores in the U.S. alone, not to mention all the other countries in the world. Our planet is paying a high price for our irresponsible farming practices. How can we continue to feed the world while preventing the negative environmental impacts from conventional farming? With the constant demand to provide for our increasing population, I propose indoor vertical farming as a sustainable alternative to conventional farming to reduce energy, land, and water usage as well as detrimental waste byproducts.

Most of us don't consider how much energy goes into crop production. Industrial-scale farming relies heavily on equipment and machinery for mixing soil, planting, pumping water, spraying agricultural chemicals, harvesting, and, in some cases, thorough drying. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the U.S. agricultural industry in 2012 used "nearly 800 trillion British thermal units of energy"—the same amount of primary energy required to power "the entire state of Utah" (Hicks)! Even though this number includes the energy both from crop and livestock operations, crop operations still accounted for over 62 percent of energy used. This high energy usage is a problem and even more so because of where farms are sourcing their energy from. The USDA's economic research service reported that U.S. farms dominantly source their direct energy from fossil fuels (Beckman et al.). The earth has a limited supply of fossil fuels making them an expensive power source for farmers. While conventional agriculture is depleting our planet's natural

oil reserves, vertical farms, on the other hand, can be run on solar energy. Since solar power is a free and renewable source of energy, operating vertical farms would be much less expensive compared to the cost of using fossil fuels. Solar energy technology has come a long way over the past decade which makes this power-generating alternative possible. With the earth's unlimited supply of sunlight, energy for vertical farms would be easily sustainable.

Moreover, conventional crop production uses much energy indirectly by the manufacturing process of agricultural chemicals specifically, fertilizers. Unknown to many, fertilizer production is "extremely energy-intensive requiring large amounts of natural gas" (Hicks). The EIA's Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey estimated that in 2010 the U.S. nitrogenous fertilizer industry consumed "more than 200 trillion Btu of natural gas as feedstock and another 152 trillion Btu for heat and power." Huge amounts of these costly fertilizers are used in conventional field farming because large amounts of it are wasted in the wind, soil erosion, and water runoff. Contrarily, indoor vertical farming is very contained. Plant fertilization is targeted and controlled resulting in the use of much less fertilizer. In this closed system, any excess fertilizer is recaptured, and then reapplied to crops. This frugal method of fertilization in indoor vertical farms will greatly reduce the demand of fertilizer production and thus will result in much less energy consumed.

To add to high energy usage, there is enormous water usage involved in conventional farming. In a U.S. Geological Survey, the USDA reported that agriculture accounts for approximately 80-90% of U.S. water consumption. And in 2013 alone, U.S. agriculture used over 28 trillion gallons of water for irrigation. Eighty percent of this water was applied in the western states ("Irrigation & Water Use"). But according to NASA models, much of our western states are predicted to suffer a 20-25% decrease in rainfall and severe drought by the end of this century due to global warming ("World of Change"). With this projection, agriculture will soon be unsustainable, especially considering our population is continuing to increase in size. More people create a higher demand on our agricultural industries leading to a strain on our water resources. This is why vertical farming is such an important alternative to consider. Vertical farming is extremely water efficient. Because indoor vertical farming is done in a closed system, excess water is captured, filtered, and recirculated to the plants. Also, because plants are grown on "shelves," farmers can apply water directly to the root zone with targeted irrigation so that none is wasted on the plants' leaves, as it is in field farming. With several soil-free options available, plants can absorb water even more directly in vertical farming, and farmers don't have to waste water for moisturizing soil. Farmers can irrigate their crops with much less water

using techniques including, but not limited to, hydroponics (using a soilless medium to support plants in gentle water current), aeroponics (misting suspended plant roots with nutrient-infused water), and aquaponics (circulating fish waste to plant roots to include fertilization). For example, located in Newark, New Jersey, Aerofarms grows lettuce vertically in a large warehouse using aeroponics. Their water usage is 95% less than field farming (“Environmental Impact”). With the predicted water shortage coming to the western states, efficient water usage is mandatory to conserve our planet’s precious water supply.

Apart from the large amounts of water expenditure in conventional farming, the water runoff from irrigation poses another serious problem. Because much of the water usage in field irrigation is wasted in runoff, conventional farming is a major contributor to environmental pollution. According to the EPA’s National Water Quality Assessment, pollution from agricultural runoff is the “leading source of water quality impacts on surveyed rivers and streams, the third largest source for lakes, the second largest source of impairments to wetlands, and a major contributor to contamination of surveyed estuaries and ground water” (“Nonpoint Source: Agriculture”). Fish are being poisoned. Earth’s natural habitats for wildlife are gradually being destroyed. Washed-off soil, heavy metals, and toxic substances—including chemicals originally meant for killing agricultural pests like insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides—all pollute unintended water sources, impairing the health of both humans and wildlife. How can agriculture continue with such devastating side effects to our coastal, land, and ground waters? Again, vertical farms are totally enclosed and separated in their own indoor space. This responsible method of growing crops will protect the environment from any overflow of unwanted contaminants.

The extent of pollution from conventional farming not only impacts the world’s water supply but also distorts the atmosphere. While farmers continue to depend on fossil fuels to power tractors, tillers, harvesters, etc. in crop production, negative byproducts are generated and released into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane. These byproducts, created by the burning of fossil fuels, are also known as greenhouse gases because of their heat-trapping properties. It isn’t just the burning of fossil fuels that creates greenhouse gases, but also the production of these fuels. Because conventional farming is so heavily reliant on fossil fuels, oil companies need to produce more to match the demand, which then contributes to the greenhouse effect of earth’s rising temperatures. A flow chart from World Resources Institute showed that agriculture was responsible for 13.5% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions in the year 2000—the same percentage as greenhouse gases released from road, air, and water transportation combined (“World



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Flow Chart: 2000"). People and wildlife breathe in the harmful fuel emissions created from burning fossil fuels in conventional agriculture, a burden the entire planet must bear. On the other hand, vertical farms do not need to burn fossil fuels because they do not require heavy industrial machinery to operate. As mentioned earlier, vertical farms can be run on solar energy which "burns" clean. Thus, we can greatly reduce air pollution and the accompanying effects of greenhouse gases. By making the switch from conventional farming to vertical farming, we can begin the process of ultimately saving the temperature of the earth.

Carbon dioxide is the most dominant gas of the greenhouse gases. In 2017, eighty-two percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions came from carbon dioxide ("Overview of Greenhouse Gases"). Interestingly, research conducted by the Rodale Institute showed that the global implementation of regenerative organic agriculture techniques on all farms could recapture 100% of the world's carbon emissions into the soil by the first year (Marcario and Bronner). But there's a reason why conventional farmers aren't choosing organic: they are constantly battling pests, disease, and weeds from the natural world. However, recapturing all of the world's carbon emissions by organic farming is possible with vertical farms. Organic farming can be achieved in a controlled environment. By implementing indoor vertical farming, farmers won't have to remove insects, pests, and outside contaminants and therefore wouldn't need to use pesticides. Disease would have a much lower chance of infecting crops. Winds and birds that carry unwanted seeds, weeds, and cross-contamination from surrounding lands would also be eliminated. Vertical farming is the key to organic farming, organic farming is the key to eliminating carbon emissions, eliminating carbon emissions is key to reducing the greenhouse effect, and reducing the greenhouse effect is key to preserving our planet.

Besides minimizing the greenhouse gases produced from agriculture, we also need to preserve the ways by which the earth naturally sponges up these gases. Heat-trapping greenhouse gases created by human activities are absorbed through our planet's carbon sinks. Carbon sinks are natural reservoirs that absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests are a big carbon sink for the earth and are therefore essential for regulating earth's climate and keeping earth's natural cycles balanced. But conventional agriculture is destroying our forests. For example, Earth's biggest rainforest, the Amazon, is a "critical reservoir and sponge for CO<sub>2</sub>" (Revkin). But since the 1960's, the Amazon has been reduced by 17% from clear cutting and burning (Nunez). Rose Marcano, CEO of Patagonia, and David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's, points out in their report for CNN that clear cutting forests and industrial-scale tilling "release massive

amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere” and also “eliminate one of the best ways the earth naturally captures and stores carbon— sequestering it in plants and soil” (Marcario and Bronner). Most of the Amazon’s destruction has been due to agriculture, and forests all over the world are still being cleared for crop production purposes. Scientists from the University of Wisconsin-Madison compiled maps from satellite images revealing that “40% of the Earth’s land is now given over to agriculture” and crop production occupies “an area roughly the size of South America” (Owen). Despite the already extensive spread of farming on our planet, farmers are still clearing more land to cultivate to serve the world’s continually-rising population. We’re annually losing 18.7 million acres of forests – that’s equivalent to 27 soccer fields every minute (“Forest Habitat”).

The basic issue of deforestation is clear: farmers need more land. But feeding the earth should not come at the expense of our carbon-regulating forests or any of the earth’s valuable ecosystems. How can we preserve the precious ecosystems on the earth when we continually need more space for farming? We need to grow up instead of out. This is what vertical farming does because it is essentially multiple levels of plants grown above each other. The sky literally is the limit! With vertical farming, we can put an end to land degradation and at the same time address the need of our growing population. Vertical farms have an enormous potential to produce much more than conventional field farms. Depending on how many levels are installed, farmers can increase their crop yields over the same acreage by five, ten, or fifteen times! Since vertical farms are indoors, all the lighting is controlled. Thus, farmers can give their crops more hours to perform photosynthesis so they can grow much faster. With longer light exposure, more crops can be produced in less time. Vertical farming would give farmers the growing space and crop yields that they need to feed the world without destroying any more of the earth’s natural ecosystems or habitats.

Some may argue that farmers will have to pay a financially high cost to switch from conventional farming to vertical farming. The upfront cost of building vertical farms, including the installation of lighting, filtration, and solar-powered electrical systems, would be very expensive. This is undoubtedly true. The implementation of vertical farming will be an extensive project which carries a high financial price tag. However, following the initial cost, vertical farming would generate a much higher net profit for farmers compared to conventional farming because the operating costs are much lower. Unlike conventional farming, farmers would not continuously have to pay expensive energy costs from fossil fuels because of the free supply of solar energy. Furthermore, farmers would not have to pay the high cost of heavy water usage as in

conventional farming because the water used in vertical farms is constantly recycled and none is wasted to runoff. Also, with increased crop yields, farmers can expect an increased income. For example, with seven levels of plants and triple the average light exposure, crop production could be increased 21 times compared to field farming of the same acreage. Even the cost of transporting produce would be eliminated. Because vertical farms would be built in or in close proximity to cities, farmers would no longer need to transport their produce over thousands of miles in refrigerated trucks. This is possible since vertical farms are not dependent on the environment and can be built in any region and climate. In vertical farms, farmers have control over the temperature, humidity, nutrients, and even light wavelength so they can produce crops all year long with optimal crop quality. Hence, regardless the season, the veggies and fruits produced from vertical farming will always be fresh and local, ensuring a steady income stream for farmers in the long run. Conventional agriculture needs a major reformation. Every bite of food we eat carries implications on our environment. The fossil fuels burned for power, the heavy water usage and contamination, the pollution of our atmosphere, and the continuous land destruction—all done to serve our ever-growing population—have made agriculture costly and detrimental to the future of the earth. At what cost will we continue to eat fresh produce? Vertical farming is the solution. It is environmentally sustainable. It is even able to provide for a populous planet for generations to come. We are the ones in charge of the earth at this present time in history. Therefore, it is our obligation to be responsible stewards of the planet entrusted to our care.

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Albina Emelina, "Public Opinion on Working Mothers and their Relationships with their Children"

According to Arkass (2013), a large population of Americans seem to have problems with working mothers. Arkass (2013) believes that Americans have an idea of the "ideal" family moving from one generation to another. According to Friedan (1963), men, who work as statesmen, anthropologists, physicists, poets are not supposed to do dishes and/or change babies' diapers because they have more important duties to accomplish. Since the time Friedan (1963) wrote her book, women still face gender stereotypes as at home as at workplace (Gerson, 2004). Some individuals still believe that a "good mother" would not work but stay at home with her children (Young, 2000). On one hand, our society encourages females to become leaders and improve their confidence and self-awareness (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). On the other hand, when those confident women become mothers, our society wants them to forget about their work skills and critical thinking because it is assumed that when mothers work, they are less committed to their family duties due to their work obligations (Okimoto & Heilman, 2012).

Okimoto and Heilman (2012) compared responses about working mothers and nonworking mothers and examined how the information about employment status can reduce ratings of working mothers and increase an assumption of being a bad parent. Okimoto and Heilman (2012) discovered that when mothers work because of their own choice they are assumed to be "bad parents" than those mothers who work because of their need (Okimoto & Heilman, 2012). Another study, described by Endendijk, ete al. (2013), showed that when a mother works, she is believed to be less nurturing and caring about her offspring. The probability of working mothers increases due to the following reasons: number of children in the family and their age; husband's income and mother's education, value of labor-market for the woman's employment skills, and mother's philosophy about employment (Brescoll & Uhlmann, 2005).

Usually, mothers, who stay at home, are judged as more effective caregivers than stay-at-home-fathers (Okimoto & Heilman, 2012).

Arkass (2013) examined how the American media constantly remind females about importance of their duties (Arkass, 2013). Women are warned to start their families because of a decline in fertility as women age (Arkass, 2013).

Arkass (2013) examined the possible risk factors associated with being the child of a working mother such as diabetes and obesity. It is quite interesting how women can find a right path being confused by multiple demands of motherhood (Kelly & Dobbin, 1999). Such confusion, created by our society, impacts women's relationships, work, and sense of self (Endendijk, et al., 2013). Working mothers experience high levels of stress, which usually disturb their relations at home (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). The stress comes from work, sending children to school and completing all family plans and deadlines (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). According to Poduval (2009), working mothers have to look after home concurrently, maintaining its cleanliness and order because it is still believed to be a woman's responsibility. A child's unpredicted illness can be a disaster that can be difficult to handle (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). Due to gender stereotypes, our society still believes that the woman is the one, who is expected to take care of ill children (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). Usually, the working mothers would take several days off to take care about their sick children (Poduval & Poduval, 2009). A popular portrayal of the stressed-out working mother could easily explain employers' preference towards men employees (Motro & Vanneman, 2015) due to high productivity of males (Mandel & Semyonov, 2005). Hochschild (1989) described an idea of the double load on working moms in her "second period, -" Horshild (1989) also examined stubborn male resistance. Supporters for modification of women's lives claimed that American women had hard time to combining an effective career and responsible caregiving for their children (Hochschild & Machung, 2003). Primarily, this occurred due to a lack of support from their partners and/or government (Mandel & Semyonov, 2005).

In Korea, before the 1990s, working mothers were a very unusual thing (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). Korea was one of the countries, where stay-at-home mothers were expected to concentrate only on the house work, their husbands, and children (Won, 2015). However, the situation changed in the late 1990s when the active movement of married women with children involved into the labor market (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). Traditionally, Korean society defined working mother, who did not give full-time care to their children, as deficient (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). Those mothers put their children's wellbeing at risk and did not complete their motherly duties in regards to the development and educational achievements of their children (Won, 2015). The negative portrayal of working mothers was demonstrated in 1990s during the rise of feminism, when women combined jobs and caregiving at home (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). The portrayal usually showed a distressed guilty mother and her unhappy children, who were left in child care (Motro & Vanneman, 2015).

Haslam, Patrick, & Kirby (2014) showed that some stay-at-home mothers show regrets about sitting at home and idling. According to Haslam, ete al. (2014), these mothers believed they wasted their time and education. They would rather return to work and progress intellectually (Haslam ete al., 2014). Working mothers, on the other hand, demonstrated guilt due to the lack of time they

spent with their children (Haslam et al., 2014). The mothers stated that they tried their best to balance work time and time they spend with their children (Haslam et al., 2014). The study examined a meaning and significance of jobs for full-time mothers, which they gave up because of their families (Haslam et al., 2014). The working mothers shared how they combined relationships and jobs in their lives; and how social class, gender, and culture impacted relationships and work (Haslam et al., 2014).

Cherry and Eaton (1977) studied 200 low-income families and examined the consequences of the children's IQ because their mothers were working during first three years of the children's lives. Scientists compared children of working and nonworking mothers test scores on arithmetic, reading, and spelling tests (Cherry and Eaton, 1977). The results of tests showed no specific differences between children of working mothers and children of nonworking mothers (Cherry and Eaton, 1977).

According to Arkass (2013), many mothers work not only because of money but rather to receive fulfillment in their lives. A feeling that they make a difference makes them happier (Arkass, 2013). Many modern working mothers are thankful to progressive women in the past, who opened doors for them and permitted to have the choices for their lives (Goldin & Katz, 2002). Working mothers do not actually try to fulfill anyone's expectations rather than their own expectations and what would fit best for their families first (Arkass, 2013). Thus, the optimism of working mothers defines their success at their workplace (Arkass, 2013). In spite of changes in legislation about sexual discrimination, females experience difficulty of combining motherhood and work due to media headlines (Atkinson, 2010).

The purpose of this study is to find out what men and women think about the statement "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work." The current study will test the following hypothesis, women more likely than men will agree with the statement "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work."

## **Method**

### **Participants**

This study included 24,043 participants, who were randomly-selected adults over 18 years old. Among them, there were 13,144 randomly chosen females and 10,899 males. (Smith, T. W., Marsden, P., Hout, M., and Kim, J. 2010)

### **Procedure**

Data, which was included into this study, was drawn from the General Social Surveys (GSS) questionnaire. The data was collected from 1972 to 2014. The questionnaire was conducted in face-to-face interviews by personnel from the National Opinion Research Center in the survey, which lasts about 90 minutes. Survey data was collected every year from 1972-1994 (except in 1979, 1981 and 1992). Since 1994 it has been collected every other year. Variable coding and quick table statistical analysis were available at the University of Berkeley SDA



(Survey Documentation and Analysis) website, which is made available for students and researchers for any variety of opinion research projects based upon the GSS data. *Since 1994 surveys have been collected every other year.* The participants were asked about their levels of agreement with the following statement: "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work." That specific statement was related to the dependent variable. Respondents were provided eight answers to select from, including: 1) strongly agree, 2) agree 3) disagree, 4) strongly disagree, 5) IAP, 6) don't know, and 4) no answer.

### **Results**

A complete analysis of the study showed that 22.4% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work." 14.6% of males and 28.9% of females responded that they strongly agree with the statement. Among those respondents, who strongly agreed with the statement, there were 70.5% of women and 29.5% of men. There were total of 3,794.5 female participants, who strongly agreed with the statement. There were total of 1,587.6 male participants, who strongly agreed with the statement. *42.8% of men agreed with that statement, and 45.4% of respondents, who agreed with the statement were men. 42.7% of women agreed with the statement, and 54.6% of participants, who agreed with the statement were women.* There were total of 4,670.1 male participants, who agreed with the statement and were males. There were total of 5,610.4 female participants, who agreed with the statement. *33.5% of men and 21.7% of women disagreed with that statement. 56.2% of participants, who disagreed with the statement, were males, and 43.8% of respondents, who disagreed with the statement, were females.* There were total of 3,654.5 male participants, who disagreed with the statement. There were total of 2,851.5 female participants, who disagreed with the statement. *9.1% of men and 6.8% of women strongly disagreed with that statement. 52.6% of respondents, who strongly disagreed with the statement, were men. 47.4% respondents, who strongly disagreed with the statement, were women.* There were total of 987.1 participants, who strongly disagreed with the statement and were males. There were total of 887.8 participants, who strongly disagreed with the statement and were females. The hypothesis, women more likely than men will agree with the statement "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work," was supported ( $\chi^2 = 910.81, p < 0.001$ ).

### **Discussion**

The current study concentrated on the investigating of the difference in opinions between men and women regarding the statement "A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work." According to the results from several researches from the past, outcomes from the current study certainly reinforced the hypothesis (Cohn, et al., 2014). Remarkably, the present study discovered an estimated

11.8% difference between men and women who disagreed on the statement (Smith, et al., 2010). The results specified that there were 11.8% more men than women who disagreed regarding working women having a warm relationship with their children. These results are important even though past research already demonstrated that men dislike when mothers work (Cohn, et al.,2014). There are some important limitations. First, the results showed that there were 2,244.8 more females than males, who participated in the study. Hence, the research cannot determine if the results could be different if the number of males and females would be equal. Second, the changes in opinions towards the working mothers could change over the time. For example, opinions of people about family values and stereotypical behaviors of women were different in 1974 in comparison with opinions in 2014 (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). Future researchers should concentrate on additional examination of the changes in views regarding the working mothers. For example, during the rise of feminism, in 1990s, the negative representation of working mothers displayed a troubled working mother and her children left in child care (Motro & Vanneman, 2015). However, since 1974, people's views on working mothers changed (Cohn, et al.,2014). Cohn et al. (2014) believes that the nation's demographics has transformed since 1970 and redesigned the view of stay-at-home mothers (Cohn, et al.,2014). According to Cohn et al. (2014), due to changes due to rise in women's education levels, 25% of 2012's stay-at-home moms were college graduates in comparison with 7% of stay-at-home moms in 1970. Data shows that in 1970, 35% of stay-at-home mothers did not have high school diploma in comparison to 19% of stay-at-home mothers (Cohn, et al.,2014). Thus, this study needs to concentrates on such moments, which can impact results. There are also different views on this subject among people of different educational levels. Thus, 51% of college graduates believe that children's development is better when one parent is at home (Cohn, et al.,2014). Another 43% of college graduates said that is ok if both parents work (Cohn, et al., 2014). 66% of adults who had only a high school diploma or less education, said that children should be at home with one parent (Cohn, et al.,2014). 30% of those adults believed that children's development is fine with both working parent (Cohn, et al.,2014). Another limitation of the present study is it did not utilize data regarding a participant's income level, political and religious affiliations, and these factors could change the results of the research. People of different social and economic classes, different political and religious views would have different opinions on this question (Cohn et al., 2014). For example, Hispanics are significantly more likely than Caucasians or African Americans to believe that development of children is much better when one parent stay at home (Cohn, et al.,2014). That is 73% of Hispanic population comparing to 57% of both Caucasians and African Americans (Cohn, et al.,2014). The survey was also taken among members of different religious affiliations (Cohn, et al.,2014). Thus, 69% of white evangelical Protestants believed it's better for at least one parent to stay at home with children, and 26% of them said that children's development would not be

affected if both parents work (Cohn, et al.,2014). White Protestants and white Catholics tend to evenly agree on this question, even though both prefer to see a caring parent at home (Cohn, et al.,2014). 46% of adults, who were not associated with any religion, said that one parent should stay at home and 50% of them believed it does not matter (Cohn, et al.,2014). Interestingly, mothers and fathers split their opinions on that subject as well (Cohn, et al.,2014). 69% of fathers were more likely than mothers (56%) to believe that it is better for a parent (a mother) to stay at home (Cohn, et al.,2014). Around about seven-in-ten fathers say children are better off when a parent stays home to focus on the family, only 58% of men who are not fathers agree (Cohn, et al., 2014). Although the opinions on working mothers have changed and expect to change over time, this study can serve a unique purpose to people of different educational background. First, readers will learn how and why public opinions about working mothers have changed. Second, readers will be able to make their own research based on the provided literature. Following provided references, readers will be able to explore people's opinions based on their cultural, ethnical, economic, and educational backgrounds. The study can be useful for lawmakers, who might change the way people see maternity leave and change the laws for working mothers. Since choosing quality and affordable childcare is the most important decisions for working mothers, changing laws about subsidies for working mothers would have a great impact on readiness of children for school and their future success in life. Thus, this study provides is its unique approach to people of different cultural, ethnical, economic, and educational backgrounds.

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