

# The NEWSLINE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • WWW.RESLIFE.OKSTATE.EDU/FGSH/

## 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

*cont. on pg. 3*

### Table of Contents

Cultural Stereotypes ..	1
FGSH Office.....	2
Stereotypes Cont.....	3
AA News.....	4
FGSH News.....	5
YFP News.....	6
CD News.....	7
Calendar.....	8

# Family and Graduate Student Housing Office

## 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

## 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!
- Help your <http://www.divinedinnerparty.com/thanksgiving-customs.html> <http://www.divinedinnerparty.com/thanksgiving-customs.html> plan the next neighborhood gathering.
- 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.

Sarah Wilkey, FGSH & FRC Coordinator, may be reached by phone at 405-744-6539 or by e-mail at [sarah.wilkey@okstate.edu](mailto:sarah.wilkey@okstate.edu)

Family and Graduate Student Housing  
100 Iba  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405-744-5353

Family Resource Center  
719 N. Walnut  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405-744-6539



Family & Graduate Student Housing

*Cultural Stereotypes continued from p.1*

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.

*Newsline*, a FGSH publication, is produced and published monthly by Amanda Lanning, Communications & Marketing Residence Director. She may be reached by phone at 405-744-6539 or by e-mail at [amanda.lanning@okstate.edu](mailto:amanda.lanning@okstate.edu)

# Apartment Assistant News

## Brumley Neighborhood

**Nabil Rashdan  
& Rania Basyouni**  
Bldg. 125, Apt. 5

rania.basyouni@okstate.edu  
120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125,  
126

## Demaree Neighborhood

**Andrea Moore**  
Bldg. 41 , Apt. 5

744-3452  
landrea@okstate.edu  
S36, S37, S38, S39, S40, S41,  
S42

## Morrison Neighborhood

**Mitch & Tiffany Tillison**  
Bldg. 247, Apt. 204

744-3776  
mitch.tillison@okstate.edu  
245, 246, 247, 248

## Prosser Neighborhood

**Agus Widarjono &  
Dewi Sri Sudewi**  
Bldg. 20, Apt. 9

agus.widarjono@okstate.edu  
N16, N17, N18, N19, N20,  
N21, N22, N23, N24, N25,  
N26, N27, N28

## Stevens Neighborhood

**Foad Mahdavi & Pia Guyman**  
Bldg. 75, Apt. 1

744-2783  
pia.guyman@okstate.edu  
mahdavi@okstate.edu  
S70, S71, S72, S73, S74, S75,  
S76, S90, S91, S92

## West Neighborhood

**Ky Phuoc Le & Vinh Nguyen**  
Bldg. 89, Apt. 5

ky.le@okstate.edu  
S80, S81, S82, S83, S84, S85,  
S86, S87, S88, S89

## Williams Neighborhood

**Mahmoud & Wafa Mistarihi**  
Bldg. 103, Apt. 3

744-4931  
mistari@okstate.edu  
wafam@okstate.edu  
N12, N13, N14, N15, N101,  
N102, N103, N104, N105

## 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 sandwiches &  
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.

## 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 7pm and every 15 minutes after 7pm. The BUS also provides public transportation in Stillwater to all citizens from 6:30am to 7pm 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](http://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](mailto: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

Enrique Sanchez,  
 Community Relations  
 Residence Director may  
 be reached by phone  
 at 405-744-6539 or  
 by e-mail at [enriqjs@okstate.edu](mailto:enriqjs@okstate.edu)

# Youth & Family Programs

## Youth and Family Programs Schedule Spring 2012

Kindergarten Kids Club (age 4-5) .....	Monday-Friday, 4 - 6pm
After School Adventures (ages 6-11).....	Monday-Friday, 4 - 6pm
Book Club (ages 9-12) .....	Monday, 6:30 - 7:30pm
Toddler Time (ages 2-3) .....	Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30am
Teen Club (ages 12-17) .....	Tuesday & Thursday, 6:30 - 8pm
Cowboys & Cowgirls 4-H Club (ages 9-17)* .....	Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6pm
Family Story Hour (ages 0-4): .....	Friday, 10 - 11am
Practical Parenting.....	Friday, 11:30am - 12:30pm

## 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.

Amie Allen, Youth & Family Programs Coordinator, may be reached by phone at 405-744-6539 or by e-mail at [amie.allen@okstate.edu](mailto:amie.allen@okstate.edu)

# Community Development

## 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.

Jessica Agnew,  
Community  
Development Residence  
Director, may be  
reached by phone at  
405-744-6539 or by  
e-mail at  
jagnew@okstate.edu

Programs made possible  
by funding and services  
provided by Family  
and Graduate Student  
Housing, OSU Student  
Activity Board Fee and  
the Stillwater Literacy  
Council.

# February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am Situational Eng. 10:30am Eng. Grammar 12:30pm U.S. History 1:30pm Cooking Demo 3pm Current Events 4pm KKC, ASA 4:30pm 4-H 5:30pm SS	2 9:30am English Basics 9:30am TT 10:30am Hlth & Nut. 1pm Pronunciation 2:30 Listening Skills 5:30pm Experience Korea 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	3 9:30am Reading Skills 10am FSH 10:30am Spanish 11:30am PP 1:30pm Craft Class 3:30pm Writing Skills 4pm KKC, ASA	4 9am SS 6pm Survival English 7:30pm Intern. English
5 <i>5:15pm Super Bowl Party</i>	6 9:30am Intern. English 11am Grammar 12:30pm Everyday Engl. 1:30pm Around Stillwater 3pm Engl. Language Tricks 4pm KKC, ASA 5:30pm SS	7 9:30am TT 10am Arabic 11:30am English Conversations 1:30pm Adv. English 3pm Book Club 4pm Media English 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	8 9:30am Situational Eng. 10:30am Eng. Grammar 12:30pm U.S. History 1:30pm Cooking Demo 3pm Current Events 4pm KKC, ASA 4:30pm 4-H 5:30pm SS	9 9:30am English Basics 9:30am TT 10:30am Hlth & Nut. 1pm Pronunciation 2:30pm Listening Skills 5:30pm Experience Korea 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	10 9:30am Reading Skills 10am FSH 10:30am Spanish 11:30am PP 1:30pm Craft Class 3:30pm Writing Skills 4pm KKC, ASA	11 9am SS 6pm Survival English 7:30pm Intern. English <i>5pm West Brunley</i>
12 <i>6pm Couples' Night</i>	13 9:30am Intern. English 11am Grammar 12:30pm Everyday Engl. 1:30pm Around Stillwater 3pm Engl. Language Tricks 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm BC# 5:30pm SS	14 9:30am TT 10am Arabic 11:30am English Conversations 1:30pm Adv. English 3pm Book Club 4pm Media English 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	15 9:30am Situational Eng. 10:30am Eng. Grammar 12:30pm U.S. History 1:30pm Cooking Demo 3pm Current Events 4pm KKC, ASA 4:30pm 4-H 5:30pm SS	16 9:30am English Basics 9:30am TT 10:30am Hlth & Nut. 1pm Pronunciation 2:30 Listening Skills 5:30pm Experience Korea 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	17 9:30am Reading Skills 10am FSH 10:30am Spanish 11:30am PP 1:30pm Craft Class 3:30pm Writing Skills 4pm KKC, ASA	18 9am SS 6pm Survival English 7:30pm Intern. English <i>2pm Morrison 4:30pm Williams 7pm Stevens</i>
19 <i>7pm Prosser</i>	20 9:30am Intern. English 11am Grammar 12:30pm Everyday Engl. 1:30pm Around Stillwater 3pm Engl. Language Tricks 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm BC# 5:30pm SS	21 9:30am TT 10am Arabic 11:30am English Conversations 1:30pm Adv. English 3pm Book Club 4pm Media English 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	22 9:30am Situational Eng. 10:30am Eng. Grammar 12:30pm U.S. History 1:30pm Cooking Demo 3pm Current Events 4pm KKC, ASA 4:30pm 4-H 5:30pm SS	23 9:30am English Basics 9:30am TT 10:30am Hlth & Nut. 1pm Pronunciation 2:30pm Listening Skills 5:30pm Experience Korea 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	24 9:30am Reading Skills 10am FSH 10:30am Spanish 11:30am PP 1:30pm Craft Class 3:30pm Writing Skills 4pm KKC, ASA <i>6pm Women's Night</i>	25 9am SS 6pm Survival English 7:30pm Intern. English <i>5:30pm Kids' Night In</i>
26 <i>6pm Demaree</i>	27 9:30am Intern. English 11am Grammar 12:30pm Everyday Engl. 1:30pm Around Stillwater 3pm Engl. Language Tricks 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm BC# 5:30pm SS	28 9:30am TT 10am Arabic 11:30am English Conversations 1:30pm Adv. English 3pm Book Club 4pm Media English 4pm KKC, ASA 6:30pm TC	29 9:30am Situational Eng. 10:30am Eng. Grammar 12:30pm U.S. History 1:30pm Cooking Demo 3pm Current Events 4pm KKC, ASA 4:30pm 4-H 5:30pm SS			

FSH-Family Story Hour

KKC-Kindergarten Kids Club

TT-Toddler Time

ASA-After School Adventure

SS-Shopping Shuttle

TC-Teen Club

PP-Practical Parenting

BC#-Book Club for Youth & Family

TOEL-Tricks of the English Language