LIVING IN HARMONY WITH...

ERICA GARCIA
Reporter

The 12 high school students attending a journalism workshop June 9, 2015, at the University of Arizona back away as Cecil Schwalbe, a retired Arizona Game and Fish Department herpetologist, lifted an angry buzzing rattlesnake with tongs and a metal hook.

The students watched closely as Schwalbe, whose friends call him “Snake-man,” picked up the rattlesnake and held it above his head. Hearing the snake was like hearing electricity.

Schwalbe, who has a Ph.D in evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona, studies amphibians such as native Arizonan frogs and reptiles like Sonoran desert tortoises.

Schwalbe enjoys what he does, and loves knowing that he is helping these animals by educating the public about the animals’ behavior toward humans.

Schwalbe enjoys what he does for the animals. His treatment toward the snake, Gila monster, and the tortoises showed how much he cares about each animal. He said he has had the Gila monster since the 1980s and has a special permit that allows him to own it.

Schwalbe has nothing to complain about his job.

During Schwalbe’s visit, he demonstrated how to handle rattlesnakes safely.

After the rattlesnake was taken out of the box, Schwalbe slowly lifted it and the snake got angry and then he put it on the ground and allowed it to lie there for a second and then picked it up again with the tongs and then slowly moved it to the trash bin next to him.

And as Schwalbe placed the snake on the ground he said, “They generally don’t like to strike more than half their body length, but I always give them a body length and a half.” The snake he had that day was 3 feet long.

“Who wants to...

Steel hearts secure love

ESHE OZERI
Reporter

There are a variety of ways to show your love.

Pictures, flowers, chocolates, love letters, or even putting locks up.

One way to show your love started off as an event on Valentine’s Day 2015, but now one can “lock their love” daily on Fourth Avenue.

If you spot a medium sized red or copper metal heart with small metal bars going from one side to the other in a green plant and want to lock your love, just remember to get a padlock from any hardware store. There is no specific lock to look out for, as long as it symbolizes your love.

Once that is done, you go back to the spot where the heart was and “lock your love” for an animal, significant other, family member, or anyone you have a fondness for.

In the planter between the flowers there is a metal pole with a square on top. In between the words Key Insert on the square is a slot. Once you “lock up your love” on the heart, put the key in the slot. This action symbolizes that your love will be stored for a long time. Hopefully forever.

There are four hearts along the avenue. One is located in front of Delectables between Fifth and Sixth streets. Another one is on the corner of Fourth Avenue & Sixth Street, in front of Chocolate Ignana. The next heart is on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Seventh Street in front of Antelope Books. The last heart is in front of the Mike Haggerty Stage between Seventh and Eight streets.

There are a variety of locks on one of the heart sculptures. For instance, on the heart that is located on Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street one lock has the date 2-14.
Camp kids shoot hoops

Q&A with John Seavey, Student Manager for the University of Arizona Mine’s Basketball Program

Q. What are some of the challenges with the players?
A. We are just making sure that all the kids have fun at camp and learn something about basketball.

Q. What is your favorite part of the camp?
A. The games are always the best part.

Q. Why is it important to be part of the camp?
A. I am a student manager with the basketball team, so I see all the games in person. This is my third summer. I went to camps like this when I was a kid and remember how fun they were for me.

Q. What are you interested in in basketball?
A. I have always been interested in basketball, but at knowing that I would be good enough to be a college player. I have turned to becoming a student manager.

Q. What does the University of Arizona basketball program mean to you?
A. I am very thankful for the opportunity that Coach Miller has given to me.

The University of Arizona is hosting its 7th annual Sean Miller Basketball Camp inside McKale Center this summer. The camp has two sessions that take place from June 8 to 12 and from June 15 to 19. The camp is for boys who are in grades second through eighth.

Ryan Reynolds, director of the camp, said via email that camp preparation takes between six to seven months and he is in charge of registering the gym, choosing dates, insurance, hiring staff and following NCAA rules and regulations.

About 350 campers sign up for the program, which has 39 coaches working with staff to assist them and there is one coach assigned to every 10 campers. Reynolds said the camp is designed to teach younger players interested in basketball the sport and to learn the sport’s techniques such as dribbling, ball handling, and shooting.

Campers play at McKale Center, Richard Jefferson Gym, and UA Recreation Center, according to the camp website.

“I really enjoy seeing the kids’ faces when they walk into McKale for the first time,” Reynolds said. “You can tell they are very excited to be able to play on the court that some of their favorite players do or the court they watch on TV all day.”

A typical day at camp starts with Coach Miller talking to the kids. Then, they do contests, play games, eat lunch and have guest speakers. They do individual skill stations nicknamed “The Factory.” Reynolds said with campers in action and, and from the court with their neon shorts and neon shirts. When the coaches start to count down the seconds they try to make buzzer beaters, and throw any shot possible. Sometimes the shots do not touch the rim or even come close. There are men and women coaches on the court who help out with the program along with members of the University of Arizona coaching staff. When the campers hug the ball then the coaches shout out to them, "pass the ball!"

The most challenging part for Reynolds is the first day of camp, before the first game has even been played. "Having 350 kids and parents checking in is a long process, so being organized that first day is the most challenging."

At lunch time things get dramatic and crazy. Campers had died into one big circle and one of the coaches shouted, "give me a flare." The campers responded with two claps and a bow. Afterward, each team was dismissed and the kids ran and jumped to where they got their lunch. The coaches said to walk, but the campers did not listen. After they got their lunch, the court was empty and there were just some boyfriends standing around.

The kids who excited when they got their lunches and everyone seemed happy and laughed with joy and had big smiles on their faces.

"Our camps are a great way to be able to work with Tucson youth and allow them to play basketball and have some fun in the McKale Center and the Richard Jefferson Gym," Reynolds said. "Since most of them are U of A fans, it’s a thrill for them, but we do really enjoy having them on campus.”

Diversity feeds growth

Diversity is the state of having variety. When speaking of people, diversity is the inclusion of individuals representing a variety of cultures of ethnic backgrounds, genders, ages, and personal qualities. One thing a high school senior will look up when researching colleges is how diverse the campus is. Diversity is a huge part of a senior’s decision on which college to attend. A diverse campus community can be beneficial, because students can learn from each other.

Theresa Dang, a Vietnamese student from California, is studying at the University of Arizona this summer. She applied to many colleges, but the UA was the one that accepted her. When she arrived on campus, she felt a bit homesick. However, a few days later she realized how helpful the admissions office and her fellow students were. Theresa ended up feeling at home a few days after her arrival.

A diverse student population does not however, always mean there is no room on campus. According to Steven Martin, the Director of Native American Student Affairs (NASA) at the UA, there have been instances of discrimination against Native American students on campus. For example, a student newspaper published a cartoon that offended Native American students.

"Native Americans aren’t going to come to a college (where) they don’t feel welcomed,” said Martin, who tries to instill all work the attitudes he’d do in high school so they can attend college.

NASA works closely with other organizations like the Department of Education and American Indian Student Affairs and the Women’s Resource Center. Together they all work with the admissions office to create a diverse campus.

UA programs aim to curb sexual assault

An international issue as large and difficult, it’s over, and it’s normal, and it gets a lot of attention from media, private companies, celebrities, schools, politicians, and communities. Bringing awareness and understanding to a topic like sexual assault is the first step in preventing it.

Sexual assault is an issue that occurs on every college campus, but reported occurrences are different at each institution. At UA, the stand taken against sexual violence is “pretty progressive,” says Krista Millay, program director for the Women’s Resource Center at UA.

“We try to get ahead of the federal regulations and then also be really progressive of what we’re doing on campus.”

What she says is true in comparison to other universities in the nation. In the year 2012, UA reported nine sex offenses while Columbia University, famous on this topic involving the Emma Sulkowicz case, reported 16 sex offenses. Cornell University had 18 sex offenses, and Yale University had 31.

The pattern in this particular sample shows that the more prestigious the university, the more accounts of reported sex offenses occur many questions, but a common factor all the universities in this sample is that they all share the Title IX program, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and harassment in any federally funded education program or activity.

Dr. Millay commented on the two Title IX investigations being added to the UA campus.

“I think it’s really good, not great, but good.”

While a portion of the Title IX program is dedicated to on-campus harassment, the information on other universities raises the question of how much of that is being enforced. Do universities genuinely care about their students’ safety, or are they simply accommodating to the cultural silence surrounding violence?

As the 2015 fall semester approaches, a new class of students will be entering the UA community. They must complete the mandatory incoming student online training to give students the skills and mindset to protect themselves from violence. But this training will also be paired with peer-on-peer training in the upcoming year as the campus program OASIS, designed to provide services for those in the university community who are impacted by violence, is taken on by the Women’s Resource Center.

This combination of programs will begin July 6, 2015, and may continue the UA’s knock of “having really high standards on what it means to create a safe environment,” said Jennifer Howle-Olsen, the program director of LGBTA Affairs.

UA coordinates with approximately 37 violence prevention and victim support organizations and makes it clear that it is a serious issue that can be openly addressed with student volunteers within the curriculums of certain courses. The UA takes measures to try and educate and protect students from sexual assault. One of the ways it does this is through queer sex education classes, the LGBTA Affairs Office holds.

Learning how to create healthy boundaries and create a safe space for yourself is part of educating and protecting yourself and others against sexual violence Howle-Olsen said.

"Supporting survivors is the baseline for what we need to do. We have to heal as people and as a community."
How to avoid texting traps: message mishaps

ALLISONE DOERNER
Reporter

Instant messaging has progressed greatly throughout the years and has expanded all over the world. It has become bigger for socializing and communicating with people. However, one of the problems that have occurred with it is miscommunication and not knowing how to respond correctly to hard situations.

In order to interpret and understand the confusing messages, University of Arizona students have talked about their experiences with misunderstandings through IM.

One example of a situation is making plans with your family, friends, colleagues and so on. You are trying to figure out the place, time, and what you are doing. Alex Cole, who will be a junior at UA this fall, has experienced this problem of making plans. "Arranging outings and making time with people can be confusing sometimes. My friends and I have a hard time when you're trying to plan the outing while texting," she said.

When instant messaging someone, you should always think about what you are going to say. "Make sure you know who you are texting, clarify and think before you press send because you can never really take back something once you have said it," Cole said.

Being in touch with your friends while texting is a great source for quick and easy communication. However, it could become difficult connecting with them when you are not on the same page. Karen Winnie, who will be a junior at UA this fall, describes her state of confusion. "I was texting one of my friends recently and we were talking about one of our other friends and she kept saying weird things about her and I said, 'I have no idea what you are talking about. I think we're on the wrong page, there has to be some sort of misunderstanding here,'" Winnie said.

Physical expressions can describe how people feel and you cannot see that through IM. "It was definitely weird because, for example, if you're having a physical conversation with someone and you can see his or her reactions and emotions, that is all lost with a text message. And, it happens so often," Winnie said.

Try to find some kind of social media that involves hearing the tone of voice. "If it's super important, with special connection to someone, then definitely call the person instead. Or I do that when I do with my mom, for example, in a text the microwave that lets you send your voice to the receiver so they can hear your emotion in the message so that it won't get confusing," Winnie said.

Sometimes the cases lead to conflict. "Some of the situations that I have been affected in the relationship. For example, I have gotten into arguments with people that I've been texting. Communication is hard. For example, I have friends that spend time in America, and there is a lot of miscommunication which leads to arguments because they don't understand; there is definitely a language barrier," Hernandez said.

Consider how the receiver feels and why they are feeling that way. "Try not to hurt the other person's feelings. Also, ask them if they can explain something better. If you're comfortable with that person, talk it out and try to understand what they're talking about. If they speak another language, ask what language they prefer speaking so you both can be on the same page. If you don't understand the language, again, ask them if they can try to explain it in a different way or manner," Hernandez said.

Learning how to speak a different language is tough. Especially when you're trying to interpret what people are saying to you. Sam Basso, an incoming freshman at UA this fall, has struggled with comprehending what people say. "I am studying a second language, English, and sometimes when people talk to me or instant message me, I do not understand them very well. It is very complicated," Basso said.

It is hard to understand what people mean when you do not speak the language. Learn that is OK. "People don't speak the same language have to accept that they're not always going to understand what people say sometimes. Don't feel bad," Basso said.

Parks put out saguaro friendship calls

KEI ANN MANDANAS
Reporter

Wanted: Tall, green, and thorny desert plant seeking well-mannered locals to form lifelong friendship. Saguaro National Park wants to see more than just prickly; it wants to be considered lovable, warm and fuzzy.

Even though every year Saguaro National Park receives between 650,000 to 700,000 visitors, most of them are not from around here, said Bella Ferr, a national park representative who works in Community Engagement.

"I would say probably 70 percent are not locals based on people coming through the fee stations," Ferr said.

This lack of local involvement is a concern for the park staff. And this could be due to a lack of awareness. A short informal survey around the UA campus revealed that nine out of 14 people interviewed had not heard of the park.

Most of the respondents were also younger than 25, which supports the idea that young people are especially unaware of the park.

Andy Fisher, the Chief of Interpretation at the national park, said that the youth can have a significant impact on the park.

"Youth hold the strongest voice out of everyone," Fisher wrote in an email. "The NPS [National Park Service] needs to be relevant to them because they will be the ones in the future to help, support, and be a part of the NPS."

This is why the national park decided to create programs to encourage the youth to participate in it and hopefully be part of the park and raise awareness. These programs include environmental education programs, hiking clubs, and family events such as Camp Saguaro and Family Picnic in the Park.

The park also has the Jr. Ranger Program which is aimed toward youth from grades four to six and the Not So Jr. Ranger for families and adults.

The programs were made possible by a partnership with the Friends of Saguaro National Park, a non-profit organization that was created "to support the projects and activities at Saguaro National Park," said Robert Newsom, the current executive director.

Friends of Saguaro National Park raises money and recruits volunteers to help the park with some of its activities. They also help the park promote educational environmental programs.

Some UA students offered ideas for how to increase the involvement of young people in the park. Edward Monteverde Jr., a 19-year-old engineering student, said, "I think they just need to have more events that are active and engaging in a more entertaining sense. Not always like yard work."

Another student, Sullman Alhbayji, 19, suggested an app that visitors from the park can use when visiting the park. Instead of using just tables to give out information to the visitors, he suggested to, "Try to add some technology to it."

According to the park's website, people such as the Hohokam, homesteaders and ranchers have been in the area for thousands of years. These people have made history, from hunting to raising their families. They have also left a mark on the landscape. People had been going to the park for at least a century. The park and the cacti wanted to continue this tradition.

Saguaro National Park (SNP) has two locations: One on the East Side, the other West. It takes approximately 33 minutes to travel by car from UA via Speedway to reach the East Side.

Photo by Kei Ann Mandanas

Saguaro are a dominant desert plant in this region.
Higher ed shapes, improves outlook

ANEMONIE BANELLY
Reporter

Every student has his or her own unique story about the college experience and how it benefited each person, and Native American students are no different. Many have come far from home to change their lives and those of the next generation.

In the fall 2013 semester there were 337 undergraduate, 131 graduate, and seven Native American doctoral students attending the University of Arizona.

There are many possible reasons college can be difficult for Native American students. For example, a person in their family may have health problems, college life might be too stressful or they might not have the money to go to college.

They are not alone. There are many people out there with similar problems. Karen Begay from Chinle, Ariz., graduated from Chinle High School in 1982. Today, Begay is a special advisor on American Indian Affairs to the president of UA and has worked at the university for 28 years. She started college in 1983 and earned her master's degree in American Indian Studies. Begay never saw herself as an administrator, but worked her way up to the position. She missed the Navajo reservation, her family, the quiet setting, the beauty of the land, participating in family gatherings, the food, and the Navajo language. She was inspired by her parents and extended family, and wanted to live up to their hopes.

Stanley Throssell, 67, is the editor of the community newspaper named The Runner based in Sells, Ariz. He attended UA and started out as an intern, but soon figured out he had no interest in art. He said he called the journalism department and then director Phil Mangelsdorf invited him to switch to the program. Throssell majored in journalism with a minor in English and graduated in 1979.

When asked who inspired him to go to college, Throssell thought for a few moments and said he didn't have someone in his life who inspired him. He said his inspiration came from himself, and that he was able to see the benefit of going to college, but students should try to not let the experience overwhelm them.

"No matter how far the goal seems to be, it's doable in pieces at a time," Throssell said.

Steve Martin, program director for Native American Student Affairs at UA, has worked at the university for 15 years. When he was small he wanted to be a sports player or a forest ranger, and never saw himself as an educator.

Martin graduated from the University of Oklahoma, but faced many challenges, such as trying to fit in, establishing relationships, learning to study at the university, racial discrimination, and funding his education.

Reba James, 23, who is majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry, is a junior at Northern Arizona University and is in the Marines. She has taken the semester off and will be deployed for six months.

James was inspired to go to college by her parents, who are both college graduates. She is able to afford her education through the tuition assistance program offered by the military, but has a difficult time getting scholarships as she only attends school part-time. Currently, she works as a combat correspondent.

"It was hard to leave the reservation. I did miss it, but I was also excited in embarking on a new journey," James said.

Tribal newspaper is Throssell's legacy

KAYLA YAZIE
Reporter

Many readers in Arizona may not be familiar with The Runner, a community newspaper in Sells. But the paper's editor and publisher, Stanley Throssell, knows how important tribal newspapers are to the Tohono O'odham Nation because they record the culture, art, and events important to the people.

According to the newspaper's website, The Runner was originally named the Papago Runner because in the 1970s it was the way to carry information or news from village to village.

When Throssell was a young teen, he never pictured himself as an editor.

"I probably couldn't even spell "editor" when I was a kid," he said.

When asked what he saw himself as when he grew up, he replied, "Nothing. When you're a kid you don't think about what you're going to do 30 years ahead." He said he simply enjoyed life when he was a young boy.

The first job Throssell applied for was at the Ascencio copper mine near Tucson. But he didn't get the job because of an injury to his back that happened when he was on a track team in high school. His first real job was working as a janitor at Kitt Peak Observatory.

It didn't take him long to decide he didn't want to be a janitor, and moved on from there. He tried college but said he was not ready for it that he was not mature enough, and he flunked out. He joined the Navy and got out in 1971. He went back to college on the GI Bill and got into journalism.

He said he did well in journalism, including an internship at the Arizona Daily Star, and that experience gave him the skills and confidence to approach people in Sells to start the newspaper.

In the summer of 1976, Throssell and Cecil Williams started a community newspaper with help from the tribal government. The Runner is now an independent community newspaper that sells advertisements to companies in order to print next weeks newspaper. The Runner can be purchased for 50 cents a copy.

It is unusual that the Runner is operating as an independent newspaper on an American Indian Reservation. The tribal government funds most American Indian community newspapers, the website states.

Throssell said he made the decision in 1976 to not be financially dependent on the tribal government. This decision came because after he published a controversial article, one of the council members approached him and threatened to withhold financial support for the newspaper. For this reason Throssell decided not to accept financial help from the council. The newspaper has operated from subscription and from advertising since 1978, Throssell said.

Because finances are tight he is only able to donate a few hundreds of dollars here and there. One way in which Throssell saves money is by printing 2,600 copies of the newspaper each week and going back to the places where they are sold and counting how many he had left over.

The difference between the ways The Runner is managed versus the way other tribal newspapers that receive tribal support are managed is in the number of people on staff as well as the number of copies printed.

The Runner operates with two staff members and prints 2,600 copies. By comparison, other newspapers such as the Gila River News will publish 6,000 copies and operate with about six staff members.

Throssell said the future of the paper is uncertain at this time. He said his son, Tom, might want to continue operating the newspaper, but he doesn't know what the future holds.

Indy publications face cash strain

ADRIENNE GRAHAM
Reporter

Know the struggle of a startup newspaper or magazine? Stanley Throssell and Lisa Snell do. They each own their own newspapers, and they both know what it's like to have to put endless hours into their publication and into reporting and doing all they can for the people they inform. They both know what it's like to face the financial hardship to keep their publications going.

Stanley Throssell is the editor and publisher of the newspaper in the Tohono O'odham Nation called The Runner, which was originally The Papago Runner and was first published in September 1976. Throssell has kept the newspaper going for more than 30 years. In that time and he has had financial challenges and it's been difficult to keep the newspaper functioning.

In the beginning he and his then-wife ran the paper, which was not receiving financial support from the tribal government. Throssell wanted the paper to operate independently with funding only from advertising and subscriptions. The reason for this was because a tribal council member threatened to withhold funding.

Lisa Snell is the owner of the Native American Times and works for the Native Oklahoma Newspaper. Currently her newspaper has become an online-only publication due to a loss of funding from a weekly add from a nearby casino. Snell said she is a "one man team" for her publication, and the articles all appear on the Native American Times website, which gets about 5 million views a week. The number of views has gone down due to the other local newspaper creating their own website.

The Runner and the Native American Times, both independent newspapers, have the same experience and knowledge with financial support. But both are very different with regard to where they are located and what regions and what tribes they report about.

Snell is from Oklahoma and her publication reports on Cree and Cherokee tribes, and Throssell is from Sells, Arizona, and reports on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Alike in what they do for their people and different in where they are and what stories they do.
BRIANA SANCHEZ
Reporter

Writing in a journal. Going to poetry night at that café you love. Reading in a noisy park. These are all things those who love to read and write dream about.

The University of Arizona Poetry Center, 1500 E. Helen St., is one of the best places you can visit on campus. It’s open to the public and it’s perfect for people who are passionate about writing, reading and poetry. One problem, though, is that I didn’t learn about it until I became a participant in the Dow Jones News Fund Journalism Diversity Workshop for Arizona High School Students this summer.

The Center does get recognition because well-known poets give lectures and readings, but there are people in the community who--like me--have never heard of it or what it has to offer.

According to the Center’s website, it was founded in 1960 by writer and philantropist Ruth Walgren Stephon (1910-1974). The overall mission of the Center is to spread poetry awareness and promote literacy and diverse literary culture. The Center holds about 700 pieces of literature ranging from photos to audio files.

I spoke with Julie Johnson, the front desk assistant. When asked how the Center could be a “home” to visitors, writers and students, Johnson said, “The Center provides home to any student and is a welcoming and good for research and overall a beautiful place to be.”

Johnson said the Center receives community input by conducting surveys. The Poetry Center offers workshops, readings and art exhibits throughout the year. More information can be found at http://poetry.arizona.edu.

JUMP FROM
Page 01

another lock is red and has the words ALWAYS BY UR SIDE in silver ink.

Mike Torres, 60, is a native Tucsonan and welded the hearts. Torres’ passion for welding began at the age of 9 from his dad’s teachings. Even though the passion was on and off throughout his life, welding is something Torres is extremely dedicated to today. Mike was asked to weld the hearts because he used to have a studio on Fourth Avenue and has worked with the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association for about six years. There is a chance he will weld more hearts in the future.

His sister, Esther Torres, helps him weld, but Mike does the majority of the work. Their studio is located off of Plummer Avenue and Broadway Boulevard. It looks like two garages in one. You walk into the first one and on the left is the welding table and different metal projects. The metal production happens in the front. You keep walking and the back walls are filled with baskets and a table is in the middle. The “Love on The Avenue” event will be held every Valentine’s Day, but people can put up locks anytime. When a heart is full, with about 300 to 400 locks, it will be relocated to Haggerty Plaza located at 314 N. Fourth Ave.

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Adrienne Graham
Adrienne Graham, a 14-year-old high school student, cares about her family, her future and her writing. Graham aspires to be a registered nurse or a writer. She has already written five books, and plans to write more. Graham's favorite genre, both to write and to read, is mystery fiction.

Growing up, Graham would take care of other people, especially her younger siblings, but would never step up and defend herself. For example, before encountering a new situation, she would make sure it was safe for her younger sister and two younger brothers.

These experiences made Graham realize that she loved and had a passion for taking care of people. When asked what animal would best represent her, Graham picked a lion, because she wants to defend others with the spirit of a lion. Graham also loves sports — anything from volleyball and softball to basketball. When asked to choose three words to describe herself, Graham said that she is sporty and laid back, but determined when necessary.

Allison Doerner
Allison Doerner, a high school student from Sedona, is not sure what she wants to be when she grows up, but she does know that she wants to major in journalism and minor in drama and theatre arts at the University of Arizona, the University of Washington, the University of Florida or a university in California.

Doerner is originally from Fresno, California. She lived there for five years and then moved to Sedona. Doerner thinks her hometown of Sedona, which she describes as "mainly a tourist town," is nice, even though you have to drive about 50 miles to get to a mall or entertainment facility. Doerner is going to be a senior in the fall and is excited about the new school year and all the activities that are coming with it. She plays tennis, is a cheerleader and is a part of her school newspaper, The Sting.

Doerner took a trip to Naval Station in Northern Arizona when she was in a photography club during her freshman year of high school. She enjoyed the sense of spirituality in the area and how her classmates were able to experience things "really cool!" She has also visited Window Rock, Arizona.

Doerner came to the workshop with quite a bit of journalism experience, and readily took on the job of design chief for the workshop newspaper. She has learned a lot about the journalism world and all the aspects that come with it. She is honored that the program leaders of the UA Journalism Workshop had chosen her to come to this camp. She will always remember the friends, experiences and education from her time at the workshop.

—By Anemone Benally

Anemone Benally
Anemone was born on Aug. 17, 1998, and is the eldest of six siblings. Benally’s father is a welder, and her mother is currently studying chemistry on her way to becoming a scientist.

Benally lives in Tubac, Arizona, and is a senior at Tubac City high school. There are about 1,000 students at her school, and Benally feels that the students and teachers are very nice. Benally is thinking about running for senior class president. She wants to help the students in her high school get more involved with the community by encouraging them to reach out and connect through service work.

After high school, Benally is considering attending the University of Arizona, the University of Texas or the University of Utah. She plans to study anthropology. If anthropology doesn’t work out, Benally hopes to study child development, with the goal of helping children all over the world.

After college, Benally wants to go to third world countries to help reduce poverty. She plans to write about her experiences.

Benally’s favorite color is purple, she likes Asian movies and some of her favorite shows as a kid were Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh! and Naruto.

—By Adrienne Graham

Briana Sanchez
Briana Sanchez, also known as Beti, is a 16-year-old Tucson girl who is a part of the Journalism Diversity Workshop for High School Students. When asked why she chose to be a part of a journalism workshop, Sanchez answered that she wants to be an author when she grows up, and believes the workshop will help her learn how to be a better writer.

Sanchez’s hobbies include riding the penny board (a type of skateboard), hanging out with friends, reading, writing, listening to music and dancing. Sanchez is also learning to choreograph her dances to Korean pop music. When asked what country she would choose to represent her and why, Sanchez chose South Korea, because she is a friendly person herself, says she chose South Korea because of the country’s friendly people. “I like how it’s serene, may be small, but I have heard that the people are friendly!” Sanchez said.

—By Eshed Ozeri

Destinee Hardy
Destinee Hardy, a 17-year-old student at Arizona College Prep Academy in Tucson, Arizona, is undecided about what she wants to study in college. She is thinking about majoring in business then transferring to an art and design school to major in fashion design.

Hardy describes herself as a hardworking, ambitious, and determined student. One semester (senior year) she needed help in a math class so she arranged to meet with a teacher from 7-4 am before class and 3-4.55 pm after school everyday. She eventually became one of the top students in her class.

Hardy has one brother. She plays volleyball and soccer, and in her spare time she does photography and likes to plan events. Hardy loves to tap, and her favorite tap dancer is Fatty McGee.

Sheerly feels that she is living a rich and successful life.

—By Adrienne Graham

Erica Garcia
Erica Garcia was born on July 13, 2000, in Tucson, Arizona, and is part of the Tohono O'odham tribe. She is a student at Tanohata’ O’odham High School, and has six siblings — two boys and four girls.

Erica, 14, said she enjoysIrish or alternative music, and her favorite band is Pierce the Veil. She likes basketball and softball, and she is not in all clubs in high school. Erica’s hobbies are writing and listening to music.

When she grows up Erica wants to be a lawyer. She hopes to attend Northern Arizona University to study pre-law. The reason Erica came to the journalism high school workshop is to get more writing experience.

—By Milton Gashwesema

Eshed Ozeri
Eshed Ozeri, also known as Eshed, was born Feb. 20, 1999, in Israel. Eshed left Israel when she was 3 1/2 years old along with her parents, younger brother and older sister. When asked the reason for the move Ozeri said, "we moved because family was here [Tucson] and we thought we were better here ."

Ozeri enjoys relaxing, being out with friends and listening to music. She is also interested in psychology, and wants to take up softball. Ozeri isn’t set on a career yet, but is exploring journalism, by participating in the Journalism Diversity Workshop for Arizona High School Students.

When asked why she chose journalism, Ozeri said that she lets her thoughts flow onto paper, and is entertained by hearing about world events. Ozeri says, "[she] would like to contribute by distributing information that is understandable to readers." Ozeri is also considering psychology or counseling as possible career choices, but is not sure exactly what she wants to do.

Ozeri hopes to travel in Europe and Africa to see firsthand the differences in community and culture in other places. In addition to worrying throughout her lifetime, Ozeri wants to be healthy and happy. Whatever career Ozeri chooses, she wants to do something she enjoys and is excited about.

—By Briana Sanchez

Gretchen Smith
Gretchen Smith is a 15-year-old girl who goes to Arizona College Prep Academy in Tucson. This young student loves learning and enjoys art and writing — from essays to short stories. Her dedication, resilience, passion and strong will drives her to the Journalism Diversity Workshop.

Smith lives in Tucson with her mother Belinda, her dog Bailey and her cat Thumper. She is a member of the school’s Student Voice Committee (student council) to name a few. Gretchen is also a member of the school’s year book. She hopes to build a school, become a lawyer, and eventually a judge. Smith is, without a doubt, a very ambitious young woman. She sees herself as a businesswoman and a future president. She keeps a busy schedule, her future includes traveling to France and Spain someday, and to take part in the Spanish pilgrimage known as “Camino De Santiago.”

—By Keli Ann Mandanas

Kayla Yazzie
Kayla Yazzie is a 15-year-old young woman who was born Dec. 10, 1999. She was born and raised in Tuba City, Arizona, and has only traveled outside of her hometown to attend journalism workshops or to go on construction work trips with her father. Yazzie hopes to be a lawyer, because she wants to promote justice for all and help young people who are in unfortunate situations. She plans to study law at Arizona State University. Yazzie has never left the country, but looks forward to traveling after completing her college studies.

In addition to studying law, Yazzie is interested in horseback riding, working with horses and shopping. Yazzie’s ambitious and resilient character has helped her cope with the death of her mother 2013 and when she lost her sister Sherylyn Natsen (2011), and her father Tom Yazzie (2014). Drawing inspiration from music and films, she tries her best to enjoy and live every life she has to offer.

—By Gretchen Smith

Kei Ann Fleurs Dela Cruz Mandanas
Kei Ann Fleurs Dela Cruz Mandanas, 17, was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States in October of 2010. Mandanas attends high school at Arizona College Prep Academy in Tucson, Arizona, where she has participated in everything from volleyball to student council. In her free time, Mandanas writes songs, reads, paints and teaches herself Korean and Indian.

Mandanas definitely plans to attend college. She originally had her mind set on Oxford, but with time and further consideration has opened her mind to other college choices. Oxford is still her dream school, but because of an informative college tour, is now also considering the University of Arizona.

Mandanas would like to run her own restaurant in the future, using her grandmother as inspiration. This week Mandanas is attending the UA Journalism Diversity Workshop because she has enjoyed writing since her childhood.

—By Jane Sophia Reid-Bendickson

Milton Gashwesema
Milton Gashwesema, 17 years old and a rising senior at Tuba City High School in Tuba City, Arizona, wanted to participate in the Journalism Diversity Workshop for High School Students to learn more about journalism and to learn how to put his writing to use.

Gashwesema’s hobbies include listening to music and drawing. He loves pets, especially dogs, and likes the colors black and white. This young man may seem quiet at first, but he has a funny side, and is always ready to laugh in things and he enjoys watching funny videos on YouTube and laughing out loud at things he finds amazing.

—By Erica Garcia