

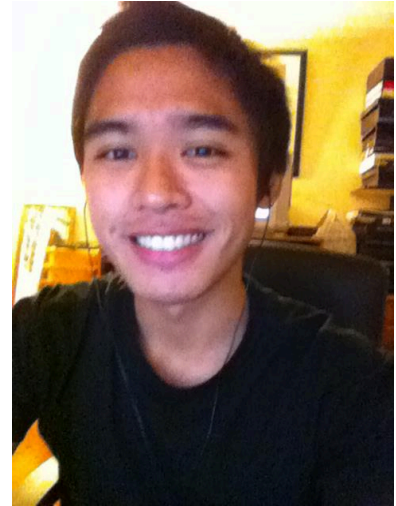
**COMS 356 Thursday Classbook**

**Intercultural Communication**

**Spring 2013**

**Professor Bridget Sampson**

Kevin Agapin



1. Major/Career Plans: I am studying accounting here at CSUN. I want to become a CPA.
2. Graduation Dates: Hopefully before 2016 ☺
3. What I'd Like to Learn: I want to learn how to effectively communicate with people from different cultures. In a world where foreign interaction is becoming more and more of a part of our daily lives, I feel like learning how to act respectfully and correctly when interacting with these different cultures is important in my future career.
4. My Interests/Hobbies: I like to skateboard, eat food, and sleep.
5. What do I want people to know about me? I am a carefree and nice guy, I think. #YOLO

Anderson, Rob



1. I am studying Kinesiology, emphasizing in exercise science. After college I plan to work in the medical field, while continuing my Track career.
2. I hope to graduate by the end of 2014, but college is fun, why rush?
3. I hope to learn more about the cultures around the world, as well as my own.
4. "I like baseball, movies, good clothes, whiskey, fast cars, and you.. What else do you need to know?"
5. I'm from the Bay, hella.

## Clouter, Justin



1. I am currently majoring in Accounting and Finance. After graduation I am planning to work for a local firm that will allow me to be involved in a broad range of financial services. Eventually I also plan to get a Masters Degree in Tax.
2. I graduate this semester
3. Ultimately I hope to better understand other people's view points. Although not everyone of a certain culture thinks the same, I hope to be able to find a way to establish common ground and respect with people of a given culture.
4. I have way too many hobbies to list everything but a few would be: Building things, fixing cars, building computers, competitive shooting, fishing, hunting, cooking, hiking, traveling, MMA, basketball....
5. After coming back to California from dealing with Hurricane Katrina and trying to help my friends there I got back into MMA training to fight competitively. I had several major injuries so I started school again while doing physical therapy. Soon after I met my wife and decided to leave MMA behind to pursue a career in accounting. Luckily my wife is a chiropractor and continues to help with my chronic injuries. My mother is from Canada and my father is from Mexico and I am glad to say I am a first generation American and will be the first on both sides of my family to have a four year degree. Luckily I didn't take too many hits to the head in MMA which has enabled me to get this far. For the past five years I have also been the general manager of a printing company in Ventura County which has been a huge learning experience and has given me some great opportunities.

## Cortes, Octavio



1. Major: I'm a Pre-Accountancy major. After I graduate, I plan to get a corporate job with Nike and hope to expand my basketball program and eventually open up my own gym for youth sports development in Ventura County. I also want to pursue a Masters degree and become a licensed CPA.
2. Graduation date: Spring 2014
3. What I'd like to learn: I would like to learn about other people's experiences. As I've gotten older I have learned to value and appreciate diverse ways of thinking. I like to view and analyze differences in an unbiased manner because it will help me grow as a person and a leader. I hope I learn about different cultures to understand why people do things the way they do.
4. Interests/hobbies/passions: I am very passionate about sports, especially the game of basketball. I play and I have coached middle school and high school teams and I am currently running an adult basketball program. I enjoy seeing players develop their fundamentals and seeing the improvement in their skills. I also enjoy running, hiking, and traveling.
5. Information about background: My parents are both immigrants from Mexico. My dad immigrated legally but my mom came here illegally and eventually became a citizen. I have an older brother, a younger sister, and two dogs.

Crumpacker, Nicole



1. Major / Career plans: Currently I am majoring in Biology and I am also considering minoring in Chemistry. After I graduate from CSUN, I plan on going to graduate school to study pharmacy and earn my doctorate. Once I have my credentials, I would like to specialize in psychiatric pharmacy.
2. Graduation date: I estimate that I will earn my undergraduate degree in 2015. Pharmacy schools are typically three to four years so I believe that I will have my doctorate by 2019. If I decide to complete a specialty that would take me about two additional years.
3. What I'd like to learn: I would like to learn how to better understand different cultures. I think that it is really important to be able to have an open mind about cultures or religions that are different from your own. Studying different cultures makes you a more well rounded individual. This course will greatly benefit my career in the future because I will be working with many different people and being able to communicate with them effectively is very important.
4. Interests/hobbies/passions: I enjoy working out, traveling, spending time with my friends, watching movies, and reading. I also love studying and learning about Chemistry. Ever since I was in high school I have been very passionate about Chemistry.
5. Information about background, life, experiences: My mother's family emigrated from Ireland during the potato famine. Every year my family celebrates St. Patrick's Day with the traditional corn beef and cabbage. My grandpa has been the main father figure in my life. He is a very conservative Catholic and as a result, I have gone to Catholic schools all my life until I entered college. Over the summer, before my senior year of high school, I volunteered at Northridge Hospital and this is where I met my partner. He comes from a completely different culture and religion than I do. Over the years we have been together, I have really enjoyed being a part of the different traditions, such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, that his family celebrates. I have also found it really fun to learn a couple words and phrases in Farsi, which is the language that his family primarily speaks. I feel like this experience has really helped me become more open minded and able connect with people of different cultures and religions.

Darby, Curtis



1. Mechanical Engineering. Possibly design aircraft, it sort of depends on the internships I hope to get; I'll just internship/job search after I graduate, but I'm doing that now as well.
2. Spring 2013
3. Learn to better relate with people from other cultures faster.
4. I used to read comic books, now I just read books. I watch and buy copious amounts of movies and DVD's. Copious. I go to improv shows (improvised comedy) whenever possible at the UCB Theatre. I go to see Shitty Jobs.
5. I wouldn't say I have an exciting culture. I come from farmers on my mother's side and hunter's on my father's side. When people ask me about my background I say I'm Irish, Scottish, German, and Native American (Potawatomi and Pokagon).

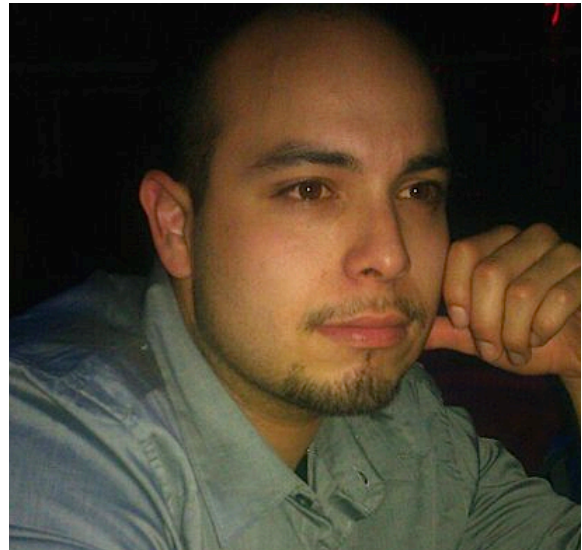
I was born in Orlando, Florida on December 10, 1989. Don't live in Florida. I was chased by every animal imaginable there: pelicans, snapping turtles, alligators, etc. The amount of bugs and insects is unnerving. Also, hurricanes; they happen there.

Parents were divorced when I was about 5. Mom and I moved to Lancaster, California soon after. She is an elementary school principal now. Being raised by a single mother has definitely helped shape me into who I am today. I like that person for the most part.

As a mechanical engineer I am required to participate in a senior design class in order to graduate. I am participating in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle project. The picture of me above is from volunteering last year. This year I am enrolled and last semester was responsible to designing the fuselage, among other things. This semester I am focusing on making it a reality.

Figueroa, Christopher

(Chris)



1. Major/Career plans: I am majoring in accounting, and when I graduate I plan to work at a mid-size firm where I can have the opportunity to do a little of everything, meet great people, and have room for promotions.
2. Graduation dates: I plan to graduate and get my BA in the Spring of 2014 and get my MA and CPA within the following years.
3. What I'd Like to learn: I would like to learn the differences that are present in intercultural communications and ways to adapt and handle these differences. It is interesting how many different cultures are always present around us and will be in the classroom.
4. Interests/hobbies/passions: Math, puzzles, educational challenges, electronics, gadgets, and watching movies with family and friends. Also adrenaline rush activities such as water jet skiing, paintballing, and an interest in zip lining and skydiving.
5. Information about background, life, experiences: I have been married for over 3 years and have a 4 year old daughter who is now my life. I am Latino, born in the U.S. but parents from Mexico and El Salvador. I love to visit Mexico because the days seem longer and lots of fresh air, and I like making new friends, and love new experiences.



Gomez, Apolonio (Polo)

1. Major/ Career plans: I am a history major, and this is my second semester at CSUN as a transfer student. I am in the hiring process for Los Angeles and Ventura county Sheriffs. I am actively pursuing a career in law enforcement.
2. Graduation date: My projected graduation date is Spring 2014.
3. What I'd like to learn: I am interested to learn my peer's true opinion of intercultural communications and their perception of what is acceptable and not acceptable in the modern world. I believe that the biggest bigot is someone who assimilates to popular culture but conceals their true beliefs so that they are not ostracized.
4. Interests/hobbies/passions: My Harley-Davidson, weight lifting, running, learning, movies of historical significance, family, my fiancée.
5. Information about background, life experiences: I was born and raised in the valley, and I come from a loving home and big family. I have two older brothers, an older sister, and two younger sisters. My parents are Mexican immigrants and I am considered to be first generation American. I grew up playing baseball, I retired my passion for the game after high school. After earning my Associate's degree from Los Angeles Pierce college, I enlisted in the United States Army, Infantry. I spent all of 2009 In Sadr City, Iraq and after the end of my enlistment, I returned back home to L.A.

**Granados, Melissa**  
**(Melissa)**



1. What is your major and what do you plan to do when you graduate?

My major is Business Law and I am minoring in Finance. I am currently interning for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and I am hoping to continue working there until I plan to attend law school in the Fall of 2014.

2. What is your estimated graduation date?

I graduate this May 2013.

3. What would you like to learn in Intercultural Communication?

I would like to learn more about globalization. I am truly interested in studying the ways different cultures create meaning, and comparing them to how we communicate here in the United States.

4. What are your interests/hobbies?

I enjoy being outdoors. I like going to the beach. I love spending time with my family and friends. I love travelling and I try to travel as much as I can. I love sports! I love comedy and like to go to comedy clubs. My favorite comedians are Kevin Hart and Anziz Anzari.

5. What else would you like your instructor and classmates to know about you?  
(e.g. anything about your cultural background, life, experiences, or perspectives)

I am Colombian and Peruvian. I am fluent in Spanish and can understand a bit of French and Portuguese. I would love to travel all over South America one day. I went skydiving last semester, which was the most invigorating activity I have ever done.

Griner, Jason



1. What is your major and what do you plan to do when you graduate? I am a CTVA major with a minor in Communication Studies, although I have recently been thinking about changing my minor to a second major. After I graduate I hope to eventually become a television and/or movie producer.
2. What is your estimated graduation date? Spring 2013 or Fall 2013 if I decide to double major.
3. What would you like to learn in Intercultural Communication? I would like to learn about the different cultures of my classmates and about more of the cultures from around the world. In doing so, I might even discover a little more about my own.
4. What are your interests/hobbies? Some of my interests include going to theme parks, baseball, watching movies, camping, hiking, and film/television production.
5. What else would you like your instructor and classmates to know about you? (e.g. anything about your cultural background, life, experiences, or perspectives) I come from an open minded middle class family and have lived in West Los Angeles my entire life.

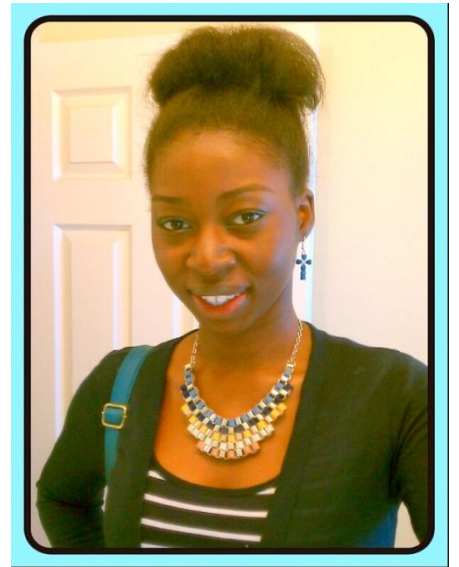
Jones, Jo Ellen (I usually go by Jo but Jo or Jo Ellen is fine)



My major is in accounting. I plan to graduate and possibly go into cost accounting or work for a firm at some point.

1. I am estimating to graduate in spring 2015.
2. I would like to learn how to communicate with people from other cultures with a better understanding of how I communicate and how they communicate so that there will be better communication with less of a chance of offending someone or taking offense to something said.
3. My hobbies/interests are reading, my dogs, and activities with my family, games, and working with animals.
4. I am Italian and Scot-Irish, I tend to be a bit on the shy side but once I start talking I will talk about nearly anything that is brought up.

*Jackie Kembi*  
(*Jackie or Keymbay*)



1. What is your major and what do you plan to do when you graduate?

I am currently a business management and pre-finance major, planning on starting my own hotel/ spa resort and a retail franchise.

2. What is your estimated graduation date?

I plan on graduating during the of 2015

3. What would you like to learn in Intercultural Communication?

I would like to know how to communicate with varies people and how to deal with people that don't know or want to understand the different cultures around the world. I'm sure this class will be an eye opener for many and a way to let others be aware of their own culture. I'm looking forward to it.

4. What are your interests/hobbies?

Dance, Photography, finding out beneficial facts about anything, traveling, watching YouTube videos, and networking.

5. What else would you like your instructor and classmates to know about you? (e.g. anything about your cultural background, life, experiences, or perspectives)

I love finding out new things about myself, other people and life. Culture has always been a big deal in my life. I was born in the United States but raised by a Nigerian family. Leaving the house everyday is like leaving an entire country. This has helped me to be opened minded and understand that everyone has their own interesting background and the choices they make whether it make me be the way they have always lived with their family or the complete opposite. Either way, I'm always interested in learning how people are the way they are.

# King, Danielle



1. Major/Career Plans: I am a Communication Studies major. I currently have a pretty decent job at Bank of America Corporate Servicing. I get to work from home and they are really flexible with my school schedule but I do not want to get stuck in an office job forever! I feel like there are so many things I would like to do career wise but I'm not entirely certain of my exact passion yet. I would like my career to involve me being creative and expressive while engaging different people.

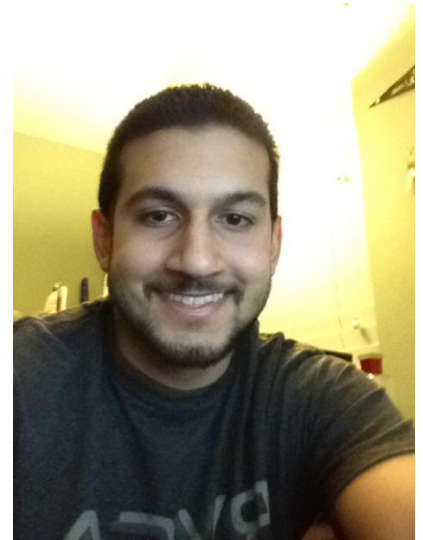
2. Graduation Date: May 21, 2013.

3. What I would like to learn in Intercultural Communication: I enjoy learning about different cultures in general-traditions, religions, stories, etc... In this class, I look forward to expanding my understanding of communication in different cultures as experienced by my classmates. Everyone has unique experiences/stories and I believe we can all learn from one another.

4. Interests/hobbies/passions: spending time with my husband, reading, education, singing, playing piano, catching up with good friends, tropical passion tea late from coffee bean, vacations, San Diego, laughing, challenging myself, overcoming challenges, always learning, always growing.

5. Background, life, experiences: I am the oldest of four siblings. They all call me "ate" (pronounced Ah-teh). I can't reach things on the top shelf, so I married someone who can! He's my best friend. I am a Christian. I will be the first of my grandmother's 16 grandchildren to graduate college-my younger sister will be the next. My mom taught me to read at 4 years old and I have LOVED reading ever since! To this day my Filipino family still cannot understand why I don't eat fish... I just don't like it!

- Liske, Sandeep Bryan
- Sandeep(pronounced: San Deep) not sandy - I will have deep resentment towards you if you call me Sandy.



1. Sociology emphasis on Criminology - Walk around aimlessly wondering what I should do with my life.
2. Spring 2013
3. Everything - All of it...teach me
4. I'm 2-0 when it comes to Dance Battles, I have a pet rock, a hamster named Albert, and I secretly like watching Honey BooBoo. I like to read books in the "true crime" genre. And I lie a lot when writing these type of things.
5. I'm 23 - Indian and want to run for political office when I'm corrupt enough. I look forward to meeting all of you. I respect everyone's views and opinions - I hope that gets reciprocated.

Mazmanian, Sarkis



My major is Finance and I plan to work in the banking industry after graduation

My estimated graduation date is spring 2013

I would like to learn how to effectively communicate with people of other cultures

My interests and hobbies include but are not limited to weight lifting, running, smoking hookah, stock trading and business in general

I love Vegas specially the clubs and playing craps. The more spontaneous the plan, the better. I own an SP hookah catering business. I'm in Westwood Tuesday night.

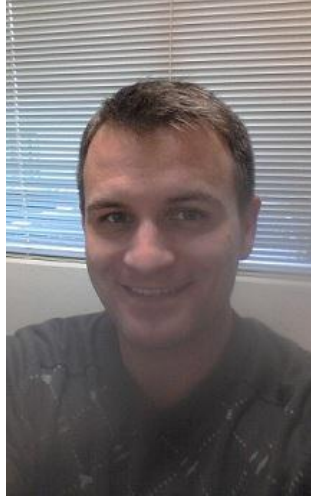


Scott Miller



- 1.) Major/Career plans: I am majoring in accountancy. After I graduate with my BS, I plan to jump straight into the master's program while taking the CPA exam concurrently. I hope to start off my career working for Deloitte, of the "big 4" accounting firms, once I am finished with school.
- 2.) Graduation date: I plan to graduate with my BS in Accountancy by spring of 2014, and my MS in Accountancy by spring of 2015.
- 3.) What I'd like to learn: I would like to take the chance and self-reflect on my own cultural background. I also find the different ways of communication within different areas of the world fascinating.
- 4.) Interests/hobbies/passions: I love accounting (I know it's odd, lol). I also love to play guitar, and have been playing for 14 years. I also love watching Mad Men and The Walking Dead.
- 5.) Information about background, life experiences: I am super mellow all the time. I grew up in Newport Beach of Orange County, though I have moved, and lived, in Seattle, Washington, and Toms River, New Jersey. I also have traveled to South Africa and Hong Kong.

**Pitillo, Joseph**  
**(Joe)**



1. Major / Career Plans: I am a Communications Studies major. My career goals are a little uncertain at this point. However I am interested in learning more about the consultant business. In particular, incorporating that into the food service industry somehow because food is my real passion. I am very open to suggestions.
2. Graduation dates: I graduated from the California Culinary Academy in 2003, and am scheduled to receive my B.A. from CSUN in May 2013.
3. What I'd like to learn: I would like to learn more about the traditions and customs of cultures other than my own. I would like to see why and how other backgrounds celebrate big events.
4. Interests and Hobbies: My biggest interest is food. I like to learn about, cook it, and eat it! I'm not too fond of the cleaning up though. In addition, I love to spend time with my wife and two little daughters. Other things I enjoy include American football...Go Cowboys, working on my house, and the outdoors.
5. Other things about me: I have been married for almost 5 years to my wonderful wife Katie. We have two daughters, Aine (pronounced Anya) is 2, and Elena (we call her Ellie) is 4 ½ months old. I have been working and going to school full time for the past two years, and am very excited to graduate so I can give all three of my girls more attention. For a funny tidbit.... I come from an Italian American background, and until I was about 19 I thought the phrase "To each his own" was an Italian saying. Go ahead, say it fast, "toeachisown"! ☺

Rubalcava, Alexis



1. My major is communication studies. After I graduate, I plan on finding a job while also going to graduate school.
2. Estimated graduation date is Spring 2014
3. I would like to learn about communication both non-verbal and verbal between cultures.
4. My interest and hobbies include swimming, reading, and arts and crafts.
5. I love to snorkel, hang out at the beach, and travel.

**Shin, Suna**  
**(Sharon)**



1. Major/Career Plans: I'm currently pursuing a major in journalism with an emphasis in broadcast and a minor in humanities. I hope to become a news anchor or sports broadcaster for networks like ABC, NBC, or ESPN.
2. Graduation date: I'm currently on track for a 3 ½-year plan, so I hope to graduate by fall 2014.
3. What I'd like to learn: I hope to expand my cultural awareness by learning both from the textbook and students from class.
4. Interests/hobbies: Golf, hiking, camping, exercising, traveling, spending time with my family.
5. Additional Info: I'm from Portland, Oregon but I love attending school in southern California for the great weather! I'm on the CSUN golf team and I really enjoy balancing my time as a student-athlete. I currently have two jobs. I'm an RA for the CSUN dorms and I work as a mentor/tutor for other student-athletes at CSUN.

Fajardo-Skinner, Marcia

(aka Marcy)



1. Major/Career Plans: I am currently achieving my degree in Communication Studies. My career plan is to transition from a contractor to a permanent employee at Keck Medical Center of USC working in Clinical IT. Since I have been working in this field I have learned so much and there is so much more to learn. Health IT is fun stuff despite all the technicalities. Also, I plan to pursue my graduate degree in Communication Management or Health Administration within the next five years. I am still undecided on my major.
2. Graduation dates: I am scheduled to graduate May 2013. I could not be more excited!
3. What I'd like to learn: I am looking forward to learning how different cultures interact and how to be a great communicator despite color lines or cultural biases. This class should be fun!
4. Interests/hobbies/passions: I love to travel, spend quality time with my husband, workout, listen to different genres of music and dance. I also love to sleep. 😊
5. Information about background, life, experiences: I have been married for ten years. Despite challenges, ups and downs, I can undoubtedly say my husband is my soul mate and best friend. I was born and raised in a beautiful little paradise in Central America named Belize. I am a friendly and outgoing person although I can be introverted at times. For the most part I am fun!

Joseph Tajaran

1. Major / Career plans:

English major.

Tentative career goals include: English/ESL teacher, public policy maker, program director at a nonprofit, Children's lit. writer, llama farmer, neo-cowboy, clown, etc.

2. Graduation dates: This is my last semester at CSUN (hopefully).

3. What I'd like to learn: How to deal with people (of different cultures).

4. Interests/hobbies/passions: writing/reading, film/filmmaking, doodling/comic books, manga/anime, moe, Norah Jones, nerd stuff, staring at the ground, etc.

5. Information about background, life, experiences:

I'm a snobby guy who carries a copy of *Ulysses* that I don't really read.



## Wake, Dean



1. Major / Career Plans: I am an Accounting major. I plan on pursuing a career in either public or private accounting after I graduate. Also, I will be applying for graduate school upon my graduation at CSUN. I have been working at St. Jude Medical, Implantable Electronic Systems Division (EISD) in the accounting department since 2008.
2. Estimated Graduation Date: Spring 2013.
3. What I'd like to learn: There are a few things that I hope to learn after taking Intercultural Communication. First, having a better understanding of other cultures can be beneficial in the business world when communicating with individuals from different backgrounds. Second, I hope that this class can equip me with better communication skills.
4. Interests / Hobbies / Passions: Playing basketball, working out, friends, and fishing.
5. Information about background, life, experiences: I am full Japanese but I was born in the U.S. This is my last semester here at CSUN. The only place I have traveled to was Japan and it was a great experience.



☐☐☐

Zilberstein, Eli

(Eli or Eliyahu)

1. Major/ Career Plans: My Major is Business Administration with an option in Real Estate and minor in Economics. I plan on working with my dad in the Real Estate business.
2. Graduation date: I am planning to graduate in Spring 2014.
3. What I'd like to learn: I am excited to learn about intercultural communication, and how it is significant to me. I hope that after finishing this class, I will be a better communicator and writer.
4. Interests/Hobbies/passions: Basketball, Tennis, Fitness, Going on trips, and spending time with family and friends.
5. Information about background, life, experiences: I am an observant Jew, who has many holidays that I have to celebrate. I take school and work very seriously. On my spare time, I like to spend time with family and friends.



**Zuo, Xunya**  
**(Xunya)**



1. Major/Career plans: My major is accounting. I will graduate this summer. I have been studying in CSUN for four years. I am a full time student because I want to get my degree as soon as possible.
2. Graduation Dates: I will receive my BA by the end of this summer, hopefully. Next, I will go further to seek my master degree.
3. What I'd like to learn: I would like to know and learn more about the cultural dimension of communication. I hope I can get opportunity to practice intercultural communication competence skills.
4. Interests/Hobbies/Passions: Traveling, reading, learning, staying with families and my pets, shopping.
5. Information about background, life, experiences: I have been in the US for five years. In the past years, I have learned a lot through college life. I enjoy to be student and study in this country. After I finish my BA, I will continue to seek my master degree. I like traveling and my favorite places are New Zealand and Australia. I wish I can make friends in this class and have fun in the entire semester.