

# The City & the World

## IALC 2017 Spring Newsletter

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### Like a Bird in the Air

The winner of the February IALC Photo Contest shares reflections on true love.



On February 14th, people all over New York can be seen buying roses and chocolate hearts and sending romantic cards to their loved ones on Valentine's Day. However, love isn't always about flowers and sweets, according to photographer and IALC student Anamaria Quintana. Ms. Quintana, a lawyer and teacher from Colombia, takes a profound look at love in her prize-winning photograph, *Love Is as Free as a Bird in the Air*. The photograph captures a seagull bathed in

sunlight, framed by the docks of New Jersey and the iconic Verrazano Bridge. "The best way to love someone is to allow him his freedom," Ms. Quintana explains. "Like a happy bird flying in the air, love is more pure if it is the result of a free decision." Real love isn't about your own happiness, Ms. Quintana insists. "Real love is the happiness of the other."

*Love Is as Free as a Bird in the Air* © Photo by Anamaria Quintana 2017

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## Profile: My Classmate Sinan

*The student body at the IALC is as diverse as the city where we live. It's not unusual to find eight different nationalities and cultures represented in a class with as many students. Instructor Nicol Miraflores turns diversity into a teaching tool by assigning his writing students the task of interviewing and composing profiles about another classmate. Below is a piece by Yiqi Zhang, a student in Mr. Miraflores' College ESL Writing class, who spoke to fellow student Sinan Saglam.*

### My Classmate - Sinan

With curly hair and a height of 6'6", Sinan is a handsome Turkish boy who studies with me in the same class. Born on March 6th, 1997, he is an only child like me, and he is cherished a lot by his family. His hometown is Istanbul, one of the most famous and beautiful cities in the world. He is a Muslim by birth just like his family. In his words, religion is a kind of "heritage". Since this is his freshman year, his major is undeclared. Living on campus as a resident, he has three roommates and he feels quite good living with them. When we came to the topic of marriage, he said he's single but might want to get married around 25, after he graduates.

Sinan is not a dull person at all. As a member of our school basketball team, he loves basketball and enjoys playing it a lot. Horror movies and hip-pop music are among also his favorites. It really surprised me that we have the same taste in these two aspects. "In my country, American hip-pop is a trend among youths," Sinan said. When asked about which animal he liked best, his answer was dog. He owns a golden retriever named Lucky, and I could tell by his eyes that he really loves his dog. Steak is his favorite food, and I think this may explain why he is tall and strong. The best place he visited is Amsterdam, Netherlands, because of the wonderful memories he had there with his friends. I think this could explain why he thinks fun people attract him most, since having interesting friends is one of the best things in his life.

## Special Feature: New York in Black and White

IALC instructor Peter Van Suntum, when he's not teaching academic writing, is passionate about photography. Below are several images from a black-and-white series Mr. Van Suntum shot this winter. Contrasting lines and atmosphere in Mr. Van Suntum's *Fisherman* series capture both the modern landscape of New York and the countless human stories that fill its streets.



*The Fisherman Series* © Photos by Peter Van Suntum 2017

