Pharmacist to Professor

By Adan Lopez, Estela Pena, Marvel Meza, Michelle Lopez, Lupita Vasquez, Destiny Corona

Have you ever wondered what a doctor in philosophy does? On November 14, 2017, the Migrant Journalism class from Alila Elementary School in Earlimart, California, traveled to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles to interview Dr. Gisela O’Brien, Ph.D., author of (Journalism for English Learners). We interviewed Dr. O’Brien about her college and career experiences. She also shared what it means to be a Ph.D.

Dr. O’Brien told us that her grandfather only had an elementary education, but he was a great reader. Her grandfather learned to read even though he did not have a degree. Her grandmother along with her parents inspired her to go to college. “College was never a question,” said Dr. O’Brien. She knew she was going to college; she just had to choose where she wanted to study.

When we asked Dr. O’Brien about her path from college to career, she said, “So, the first thing that you have to do is finish high school. My degree is in biology from UCLA, because I wanted to be a pharmacist. She actually worked in a hospital laboratory looking at blood. She said, ‘...’ and then I changed my major and went into education.” She got a master’s degree at the State University Los Angeles, which took two years and then she got a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California. Dr. O’Brien has a Ph.D. after her name. She explained what a Ph.D. means. It means she has a doctorate in philosophy in a field.

A Trip to Loyola Marymount

Earlimart Elementary Journalism Club went to Loyola Marymount University on November 14, 2017, to visit the school and interview Nidia Hernandez, a research associate for the Center for Equity for English Learners to learn about college. Earlimart Elementary School, Alila School, Palo Verde, and the Migrant teachers went on this trip. We went to Loyola Marymount University to practice our interview skills, have fun, learn about the university, and learn about college.

One big thing we did on the trip was we ate lunch in the cafeteria where students eat. We visited the bookstore to buy some goodies. Another interesting thing was we saw the beautiful ocean view. We learned that there’s a gym on the side of the college. All students had fun visiting Loyola Marymount University.

If you are wondering about the person that we interviewed, the answer is she is research associate named Nidia Hernandez. Nida was born in Mexico and came to the US when she was five years old. She told us her parents helped inspire her to go to college. She said, “I was looking for a lot and wanted to help at the age of 15.” In addition, she went to San Diego State University when she was at the age of 18. She also received her master’s degree. Nida also has a twin sister that went to college and are also best friends. One thing about Nida is she loves to read and write. Nida’s favorite game is soccer.

Her favorite subject is writing, science, and math. Her goal is to help create more services for more people. She loves to be part of programs that help schools. We also learned from Nida what you need to go to college. If you are wondering what you need to go to college, the answer is you need to be prepared. One big thing to know is that you have to finish high school. In addition, you have to be very involved in high school and you have to apply for college.

Nida said people in high school help you to go to college. In college you could take a lot of fun classes like art. Another big thing to know about college is you could do clubs like a book club. You can wear any clothes as long as you are comfortable. Some activities that you can do are play sports and join clubs.

One big thing to know about going to college is that you have to be motivated, read a lot, and study a lot. One thing that Nida said is that her parents inspired her to go to college. She wanted to help her parents. People like going to college.

Experiencing a technology hub in the Central Valley

By Erick Ayon, Crystal Sanchez, Emmanuel Hernandez, Brandon Vega, and Bryan Vega

Do you want to work at a fun tech-nology driven facility? On October 26, we visited Bitwise Industries in Fresno. We went to learn about the company. While there we met with Victor Perez. He is one of their developers.

Bitwise is a technology driven facility and don’t worry if you don’t know about coding. If you go to Bitwise, they would teach you about coding. There is a gym in the building and a movie theater. They have a cool facility. They have walls that people can write on. Bitwise wanted to create a place where people could come and learn about technology while being in a friendly environment. Bitwise is organized into HashTag, Geekwise, and Shift3. Shift3 offers workspace and meeting facilities. There are 150 companies that meet there. Geekwise is their school that offers coding among other classes. Shift3 creates apps for companies. Bitwise has become a place to learn about coding. Their building is located in downtown Fresno. It used to be a car lot, but they have already outgrown it and have added more facilities.

Victor Perez came to Geekwise to See TECHNOLOGY, Page 3
Bitwise: An opportunity for the valley
By Yutiry Delgado, Nurh Natalie Reyes, Claudia Gomez, Elber Barco Gomez, and Alison Barcenas

On October 26, 2017, third and fourth grade students: Yutiry Delgado, Nurh Natalie Reyes, and Claudia Gomez had the opportunity to interview Marketing Director Angelica Cano from Bitwise Industries. Not only did we get to interview an amazing person but we learned about a place we never knew existed! Bitwise Industries is located at 700 Van Ness Ave in Fresno. It is a cool place both inside and out and there is much going on in this building than you can imagine.

Our interview was held in the theater. After learning some background information on Bitwise, we were introduced to Angelica Cano. When asked what the most exciting part of her job was she stated, “It’s kind of coming to work each day. You really never know what can happen.” Angelica has been in marketing for about seven years if you count the time she worked at Fresno State as a communications person and has been at Bitwise for about six weeks. When Angelica was asked what Bitwise Industries was she replied, “That’s a question I’m still trying to figure out. It’s a lot of different things like Hashtag, Geekwise Academy, Shift3 through technology, but it’s also a cool place both inside and out and there is much going on in this building than you can imagine.

Wherever they come from they are welcome. So to me Bitwise is really sort of a mission to keep doing good things. Extending technology in this region and doing good.” Angelica got her inspiration from a movie called “Almost Famous.” She wanted to be a music journalist so she started writing and DJ’d at the Fresno State stations. It was a lot of fun learning about Angelica Cano and her very interesting job.

If they want to take a class to learn how to build a website they are welcome. If they have no experience they are welcome. Wherever they come from they are welcome. So to me Bitwise is really sort of a mission to keep doing good things. Extending technology in this region and doing good.” Angelica got her inspiration from a movie called “Almost Famous.” She wanted to be a music journalist so she started writing and DJ’d at the Fresno State stations.

It was a lot of fun learning about Angelica Cano and her very interesting job.

Superheroes at Tulare Fire Station #61
By Karina Canchola, Jasmin Mangana, Jesus Gonzalez, and Jose Rodriguez

Wow, we got to meet real superheroes today and see them in action! Our Migrant Program organized a 911 trip to our local fire department and it was “hot”! By being able to do it properly. We had the pleasure to meet some of the team assigned to Station #61 and they informed us of what it takes to become a firefighter. First, you must have a love for what you do. It takes hard work, time and effort, and dedication. These men and women live at the station for several days out of the week and they are away from their families. Because they are away, they form a second family with their coworkers and they enjoy being together. There is a wonderful sense of bond and familiarity when you are around them. You can tell they truly appreciate each other and respect what they each have to offer to the job.

We had the pleasure to meet some of the team assigned to Station #61 and they informed us of what it takes to become a firefighter.

If becoming a firefighter is something that you are interested in, you must first be 18 years old. Not all departments require a college education, but if you are interested in moving up in the ranks, one is necessary. Although college is not always required, much training is. Firefighters are always in “school” because they are constantly training or taking classes to learn new techniques to fight fires and protect lives. Fires, like people, change, so firefighters must always be ready. There have been many improvements through the years with their clothing, equipment, materials, and even how to approach a fire. This type of job requires a lot of communication, too. One thing we learned from each firefighter we spoke to was how much they love their jobs and how much they love helping other people. All of the firefighters stated that helping people is the best part of their jobs, and we are so thankful for that.

In closing, we would like to thank all service men and women for putting their lives on the line for each one of us, but we especially want to give a special shout out to Firefighters Guinn, Lopez, and Dugay at Station #61 for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend with us. You are truly appreciated and you are our superheroes!
No one can take your education away

Thinking out of the box

Offering any courses on androids. Instead Victor ended up taking classes at Gsekive. Then Victor decided to stay and work at Bitwise. Victor enjoys making games and coding. He likes what the facility offers. He likes that there is a cafe, gym, and theater. He likes that it feels like a community where people can come and use their place to meet. People come to Bitwise to learn technology and build robots. People also learn to code. If you want to learn about coding you can start by practicing playing with Legos. Math and writing will help you to prepare for coding. If you are looking for a beautiful experience in which you can find a future in technology. Don't let other people stop you. Just keep going! Do not be discouraged! Follow your dreams. If coding is your dream, you will know that you can come to Bitwise.

A veteran farmworker

By Alexandra Santillan

Although Catalina Lopez attended school in Mexico and in the United States, at 31 years old, she has worked in the fields for over 15 years. Lopez began labor work at the young age of 15. She said she considers herself an experienced farm worker because she has done different kinds of field work. Lopez has labored in the fields alongside her family for many years, and continues to do so. She told us that at times she traveled an hour to reach the job destination.

PROFESSOR
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which is not medicine or law. For example, her doctorate is in education and her research is in how students learn a second language.

Dr. O’Brien started out on a journey to become a pharmacist, but her passion led her another path. She started out in the medical field, but ended up as an education major. Although she changed her mind, she still completed her degree and never lost sight of her education goals.

LOYOLA
Continued from page 1

college because they pick their own classes. The last thing I learn is that you need to work hard to go to college and stay in college. We learned that everyone can go to college if they are motivated. As long as you read a lot and study a lot you can go to college.

By Vivian Carranza and Omar Santillan

Officer Denise Benavidez sat eagerly at our side as we started our interview. She responded with a smile as we asked questions regarding her job as a probation officer. For us that was an indication that she really enjoys her job. We started our interview by asking Officer Benavidez what inspired her to choose the career as a probation officer. She told us that she had a brother who she looked up to. Her brother had mentioned to her that he wanted to be a police officer. Even though she was attached to her brother, she decided to become a police officer as well. So she went to college and took criminology classes. She studied crime and why people commit them. Benavidez, who has been a probation officer for seven years, enjoys her job very much and told us that her favorite aspect of her job is going to schools and working with students like us and making an impact. Teaching the GREAT program, which focuses on respect, communication, and anger management, is one of the best things she does well with students. She also told us that she likes being around other officers because they learn from each other. Officer Benavidez told us her supervisor is very understanding and very encouraging. But the best part of her job is connecting with and meeting students like us. We also wanted to know what it takes to be a probation officer. She said that before becoming a probation officer she had to do an internship in Madera County where she shadowed and observed other probation officers. Instead of being the junior officer or seasoned officers or as she explained, these are officers who have been working for a long time. Officer Benavidez told us how she observed and asked these experienced officers questions, which gave her the idea of what a probation officer does. After finishing college and completing her internship, she knew it was her time to take the responsibilities and duties of a probation officer. Geoffrey treating with a fistful of hand, she said, “I had my education done and ready to get my hands dirty.”

By Luis Miguel and Aisha Alos

As a reading specialist, Maria Valdez told us that she always has to think out of the box. Besides following a teacher’s manual, she has to think outside the box so she can bring her own ideas and creativity to her lessons so the students’ learning process can be more effective. She explained how she takes her time developing any lesson plan. Valdez has to make sure that she has all the materials needed for her instruction. Most importantly, she believes the most essential standards she needs to teach her students. She also questions what the key standards are. From there she develops her lesson based on the standards and organizes it based on the most important standards for each grade level. She also shared an experience in which she had to adapt her teaching method to meet the students’ needs effectively. She said one of the things that she does to meet her students’ needs is to differentiate her instruction, which means creating the best learning instruction so it makes sense to the student. But before she does this, Valdez needs to make sure she knows their educational level. She also uses a lot of scaffolding to make sure the students understand what she’s trying to teach them. She said she’s also targeting that specific level. Aside from providing differentiated instruction and organizing lessons, knowing and understanding their culture helps Valdez understand the students’ needs. She told us that in past her life she has visited many places to help her understand where the student is coming from, which helped her teaching and in the delivery of her instruction. We wanted to close the interview with Valdez by asking her to share with us what the key to success when communicating with the public is. She said we must make sure we communicate to make our point, and to be clear what we are trying to get across. In a firm voice, she said, “Most importantly, make sure they understand what you are saying, asking, or want from them.”
Our educational trip to Loyola Marymount University
Students from Palo Verde School visit and interview Angela Castaneda at LMU

Up: Xiomara Rivera
By Dayanara Torres and Jose Rodriguez

A hangout with Mr. Patterson

Mr. Patterson is very nice and an awesome third-grade teacher.

Discouraging words become inspiring words

You are not smart enough, or have the grades to go to college.

“You are not smart enough, or have the grades to go to college,” were the words that inspired Free- dom Elementary counselor Cristal Villalobos to pursue a career working with children. Mrs. Villalobos told us she never forgets the high school counselor’s discouraging words. Now, as a school counselor, she tells students that they can do whatever they want to do. Villalobos also said because she has been a counselor for four years and a social worker for ten, she feels very confident talking to students and people in general. She pointed out to us that the most important aspect of her job is the relationship between her and us, the stu-
Mrs. Padilla is a mom of three grown children. She likes chocolate cake and in her free time enjoys learning. She became a teacher because she loves to teach others and enjoys learning. Mrs. Padilla attended Fresno Pacific University and got her degree in Early Childhood Development. Then she continued to work in the classroom for 28 years. She decided to go back to school to learn about the college, classes that you could take there and how to get a degree. The degrees that you can get there are BA (bachelor’s degree) in Liberal Studies (to be a teacher) and BA in Business Administration. You can also finish your credentials there so that you can become a teacher.

Who can get into this college? “Anyone can get into college as long as they have the desire and the will,” said Shirlene. The qualification to get into this school is that you have to have a 2.5 GPA to transfer from COS. The students that attend there are between the ages of 17-18 and up. To apply you go to Fresnostate.edu. You can also go to the web site to know more about the school and apply for scholarships. There are hundreds of scholarships.

What are the student’s favorite classes? The student’s favorite classes are Psych 169, Soc Sci 110, Soc Sci 180, and English Lit. The most popular class is Psych 169. The students need 64 units to graduate from the Fresno State Campus. It takes four years to graduate from a University and a total of 120-124 units. The cost of this college is $5,000-$6,000 a year. It can be about $3,000 per semester if you take 12 units. To pay for college you can apply for scholarships. Scholarships are a way to get free money to pay for your college.

Why go to Fresno State? It is not in Fresno it is in Visalia which is easier for you to get to. You can save on gas by going to Visalia. There is a more diverse faculty there: that means there are a lot of different people and classes there to choose from. A lot of people from the valley go to school there. It is convenient because COS is right there next to it. Shirlene Majors said, “I love the students; they keep me young.” She works here because she is from the valley and went to school there. She went to school in Fresno and she wanted to give back to the students. She is now here to inspire students to get their education. Come see Shirlene at Fresno State in Visalia to get your degree!

Fresno State University in Visalia

By Thalia Hernandez

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, I talked to Mrs. Padilla. She was my Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Padilla is a kindergarten teacher at Pailey Elementary School. Roxanne Padilla worked at a dental office for 28 years. She decided to go back to school to become a teacher. Mrs. Padilla attended Fresno Pacific University and got her degree in Early Childhood Development. Then she continued to work on her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She became a teacher because she loves to teach others and enjoys learning.

Mrs. Padilla is a mom of three grown children. She likes chocolate cake and in her free time enjoys reading. Her favorite holiday is Easter because she enjoys attending church with her family. Then she hosts an Easter egg hunt and her family plays games together. She said that her favorite gift has been a pair of cowboy boots. I liked writing a story about my kindergarten teacher and learning more about her.

Did you know that Fresno State is in Visalia? On November 1, 2017, we went to Fresno State University to interview Shirlene Major. It is in Visalia on the campus of COS (College of the Sequoias) it opened in October 2016, but they have been in the valley for over 20 years. We went there to learn about the college, classes that you could take there and how to get a degree. The degrees that you can get there are BA (bachelor’s degree) in Liberal Studies (to be a trainer) and BA in Business Administration. You can also finish your credentials there so that you can become a teacher.

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From the dental office to the classroom

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Acknowledgments

It takes huge effort to implement new educational projects such as the Migrant Education Journalism Project. We couldn’t have done it without the support of Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools; Earlimart School District, Palo Verde Union School District, Tipton Elementary School District, Farmersville Unified School District, Pixley Union School District; committed professors, resilient teachers, patient and understanding interviewees, parents and other dynamic support staff. This project was invaluable to Migrant children and we believe that it was a success.

Our Migrant children thank all of you and appreciate you taking the time to lend a helping hand. As a result of everyone’s efforts, we may see these students as future journalists.