

Profile: D.C.
Written by: D.M.

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D.C.: A Journey Unfolds

The classroom was crowded with nineteen students, juniors and seniors, and an equal number of Community Members from the surrounding Boulder area. They had all come together for the 2025 launching of the InterGen English class, now in its tenth year. After brief interviews and consultation with the faculty and staff, the students had chosen a community member to “partner” with for this Fall course. They would go forward as a pair in a co-mentoring structure and mix with other pairs for projects throughout the course.

As a Community Member, I sat viewing the arriving students crowding into the room, their heads turning from side to side. Each was searching the handwritten nametags worn by the CMs, trying to ferret out their partner to be for the coming semester. “Hi, you’re Don?”....came the question from beside me. “I’m D.C....I’m your student!” he exclaimed. I turned to see a smiling, twenty-year-old sitting to my right sticking his hand out to say hello, while pointing to his own name tag. We both laughed, smiled and started the friendship that has grown class by class since then. “Wow...this will be fun...”, I said to myself.

How does a conversation start with a person 64 years one’s junior? Each opening our mouths at the same time, D.C. won the race....”So, where are you from?” he asked. “I’m from New Jersey”, I said. This never elicits much of a reaction in the middle of the country, so I quickly returned the question. “How about you? Where are you from?” “I’m from California!”, he blurted out. I nodded my head in acknowledgement wondering about all the places he might hail from. He followed up by saying he was from Orange County....specifying that his home was in Newport Beach. That was the ice breaker! “Wow, really?” I answered, “My wife is from Newport Beach,...she went to Harbor High!” D.C. laughed at this and finished by saying, “Our high schools are rivals, I’m from Corona del Mar!” Mentioning that I would let her know, I finished up by saying that before we moved to Colorado we also lived in California, in San Clemente, in the southern part of the county. Nodding and smiling, we each imagined that we had probably surfed the same beaches but likely at different times! He then asked if I had surfed Cotton’s or Trestles, two of the best surfing spots in that neighborhood. The connection was complete....things were off to a good start.

From there, we began to randomly build our conversation to understand the profile that each of us represented. The paths that we had followed which led us to room #13 in the Economics Building at the University of Colorado in Boulder began to take shape. Since there was no picture on the front of the jig-saw puzzle box that had been dumped in front of us, we began to slowly put the pieces together with laughter and questions, class by class, text by text and meal by meal. It has been a delightful journey, which has only just begun.

D.C. pointed out that his dark complexion came from his grandfather, of Indian descent, who migrated to the United States from Guadeloupe, a group of islands in the Caribbean. For school, his grandfather's first stop had been to university in New York City and then to Los Angeles, to complete his academic education at the University of Southern California. After this, he married a woman from Fountain Valley. The growing family's next generation moved to Newport Beach, with the name Charlesworth, his Mom carrying the Indian inheritance. D.C. also has two younger sisters as well as a half-sister that joined along the way after his mom and dad divorced.

D.C.'s life in Corona del Mar was that of a Southern California boy filled with various sports including football, basketball and the new rage in Southern California, lacrosse. While surfing was a pastime, D.C. specifies that his life growing up was not to be confused by the stereotype touted by the Beach Boys of my era. The astronomical growth in Orange County had created a very sophisticated urban area and had left the "Beach Boys" culture way behind. D.C.'s education and childhood reflected this. As he grew and matured, his dad included him in many projects in his electrical contracting business. Through this, D.C. began to learn the electrical trade and to understand the world of business and project management. While learning this trade, D.C.'s appetite for a knowledge of the greater world and new opportunities also grew. As college approached, D.C.'s high school advisor suggested he look at several universities outside the confines of Orange County. On a trip to Boulder during his senior year, D.C. interviewed at the University of Colorado. Understanding the depth and breadth of the opportunity presented by CU, D.C. felt that Boulder and the surrounding area would be a wonderful place to put down roots for college. While being away from home for the first time, he also felt it might be a relief to have some distance from the complicated family dynamics swirling around back home. Now in his third year, D.C. has chosen Communications as his present major. During the previous two years, he took several business courses that interested him and may lead in that direction in the future. He is also active in his fraternity, a role he relishes and a place where he spends time contributing to various of the organization's activities.

Due to his international roots and the broad exposure he has had during his first two years of college, D.C. has also developed an interest in "the greater world". He has traveled to Europe twice for brief visits and has recently been accepted as an exchange student to Lisbon, Portugal for the coming Spring. He is excited!

It is fun to be around D.C.. He is a communicative, sophisticated person with an active curiosity. He likes to be part of what's happening. During the recent parent's weekend, his mother visited and they were part of the crowd at the Wyoming / Colorado football game. There were buddies from Corona del Mar also, now CU students, and their parents who were visiting. Most recently, he joined our family group at a Walk to End Alzheimer's, a fund-raising event that took place on the University of Colorado campus. I look forward to working with D.C. for the balance of the semester and assisting in any way I am able as he pursues his various course related interests. Go D.C. and Go Buffs!