



# who are without YOU

## How immigration affects America as a whole

You don't belong here. Go back to your country. Stop stealing our jobs. These were phrases immigrants from all over America heard from their fellow unaccepting residents. As of 2015, over 43 million immigrants inhabited the United States and 11 million of them were unrecognized.

"I think that America was started by immigrants and it's just a part of the culture and the history – that's the most beautiful thing about it," SIPA student, senior Wessam Hazaymeh said.

For reasons such as the communist regime in Cuba, lack of freedom of religion and several other reasons, millions of refugees fled to the United States. But, not only were refugees fleeing from Cuba, millions came from countries in South America, Africa and even Europe. These people fled from their native countries for better opportunity and freedom presented in America, but kept their indigenous culture despite their immigration.

"In regards to immigration, I think that there needs to be more of an openness to other cultures and other people coming into this country. It would open up opportunities for other cultures to display their differences and their viewpoint," local South Carolina street vendor, Mike Sarato said.

Insecurities and hateful words from peers and onlookers made some immigrants ashamed and shy about their culture. However, with the encouragement of others, they learned to be proud of their values and expressed themselves unapologetically.

"At the end of the day, I know what my values are, and I know that I am who I am and it doesn't affect me if someone hates me or loves me because I will be who I am without any kind of barriers," Hazaymeh said.

Due to increased news coverage and exposure, immigration was a prevalent issue in society which resulted in the urge to choose a side – pro

immigration or the opposing side. Some students supported immigration because of their first hand experience or because of knowledge of struggles they observed.

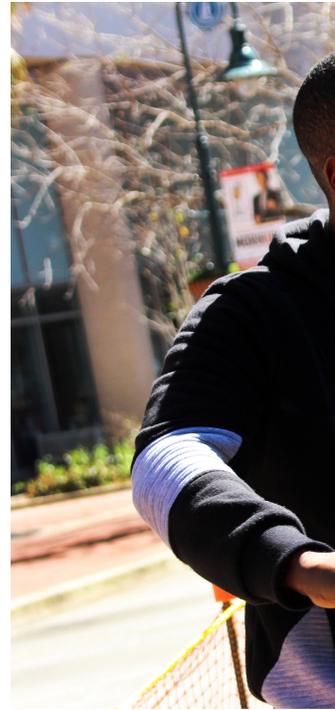
"I have vivid memories of my mother going through the process of getting citizenship when I was a child. I also have a lot of friends, because I live in Miami, which have to go through [the same process]. They're being kicked out and they have to fill out all of these forms and it's just a situation that doesn't need to happen," SIPA student, junior Chantal Busted said.

Based on extensive news coverage, several student journalists tasked themselves with making themselves familiar with facts regarding immigration and how it would affect them, their school, and their communities. Students used their voice to speak out and shed light on their beliefs towards social issues.

"I got into journalism to educate myself and help others educate themselves. I found my voice through others' voices. As a journalist, it is my job to make sure everyone's voice is heard, no matter where they came from," Hazaymeh said.

Through all the negativity and opposition, immigrants continued to gain support and find their place in America no matter their status and no matter what their origins were. Without being phased from the harsh words and incriminating stares, immigrants living all over the United States fought daily to keep their place in the country.

"As a citizen of America, I believe that people are people and that's it. [Immigration] doesn't phase me and everything would be different without all of the people in this country. The American culture is not just one culture, it is so many just mixed together, and to limit immigration would be to strip the beauty of what America really is," local South Carolina street vendor Sarah Box said.





**Colors of the Wind** Playing a song from the movie Pocahontas, violinist Laron Hearst preforms for a crowd of people. Hearst was heard as onlookers ate food and shopped from local vendors. Photo by Heather Boaz

**Lunch Time** Putting the final touches on a meal, vendor Maria Rodriguez serves a hungry customer. Rodriguez served traditional Venezuelan food at the Columbia Street festival. Photo by Heather Boaz

**Up for Sale** Polishing at set of pearl earrings, Gloria Smith urges customers to purchase her creations. Smith sold handmade earrings, rings, bracelets and necklaces to customers. Photo by Heather Boaz

**Crowd Pleaser** Performing on the curbside, Oliver Laurent serenades walkers and joggers with parisian songs on an accordion. Laurent gave the locals a little piece of Paris through his performance. Photo by Heather Boaz



## tell your story

My great grandparents immigrated here from Ireland, and just to have the opportunity to come to a country where there is an abundance of opportunity is a blessing. If people take [opportunities] away from others then not only are they limiting those people who want to live here, but they're also limiting America. They're taking away bright people who want to come here and make a change and contribute to society.

**Christine Bartruff, 12**

## keep them safe

The Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA), also known as the Dreamer's Act, was enacted by former president Barack Obama in 2012. The act allowed for any child, under the age of 16, who entered the United States to be protected from deportation. In 2016, president Donald Trump called to end DACA and send any child protected under DACA to be sent back to their native country.

**89%**

Yes, I support DACA

**11%**

No, DACA should be eliminated 100 people polled

I had a friend in middle school whose family didn't finish their application on time and they were deported from America. Because Miami is a city of immigrants, DACA is a huge problem in the area. Due to it being a port city, a lot of people immigrate there from places like Cuba.

**Chantal Busteed, junior**

I know a lot of family and friends of mine have posted on social media about completing their [DACA] applications on time. It's something I didn't even acknowledge that it was something they were a part of until it became a limited resource.

**Angie Lopez, junior**