



# World Language Press

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## Seni Seviyorum means.....?



Mira lives in Orange with Mahar senior Caitila Pierson and her family.

By M.W.

### How do you spell your name?

Ilmira Sufeuva Muhammata. Most people call me Mira.

### Where were you born?

Samarkand, Uzbekistan. That is also where I grew up.

### What languages do you know?

I know Russian, Uzbek, Tajik, two dialects of Turkish, English and I can read Arabic.

### Did anything surprise you about America?

I guess I was expecting the worst because of the things I heard at orientation. There

were people who were sharing stories about the U.S. Some people really liked it and some didn't like it at all. So I didn't know what to expect. One thing I can say is that you don't expect to meet friends like I have met here. I am really going to miss them all.

### What is the thing that you will remember most?

That would have to be Christmas. We don't celebrate it in Uzbekistan, so it was a new experience for me. I really enjoyed everything about it.

### What differences have you noticed in family life here?

In the United States you have a lot more independence. At home in Uzbekistan the parents overall tend to be more strict.

### How do the two school systems compare?

We don't get to choose classes. We have 13 classes a year and we have them all year long. When you go to school in the first grade, you are with a class that you stay with through 11th grade. High school is only

from 9-11, not 12th like here. Classes are 45 minutes and school goes from 8:00 to 1:00 or 1:30, depending on your classes.

### Was American food hard to adjust to?

It was in the beginning. There is a lot of junk food. We have McDonalds and places like that but we don't eat junk food at home.

### What is the legal age for drinking?

We can smoke, drink, drive and vote when we turn 18.

### What sports are popular at home?

We have a lot of soccer. I love to play tennis, volleyball and basketball. We also have kurash, which is a form of fighting similar to karate. We don't have football, so it was neat to see that here. I really enjoyed learning about football and attending the games rooting for the Senators.

### What are your aspirations for your remaining time here?

I want to further my understanding of American cul-

ture and I would love to go to California and I want to see the Statue of Liberty.

### What are your life goals after you return to Uzbekistan?

I am planning on coming back to the U.S. to attend college. I would like to become a doctor. I think the education is harder and more effec-



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Mira M.