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for his major. "Recently I've seen Uruguayan vocalist Jorge Drexler, Mary J. Blige and Robin Thicke in concert," musicians he can hope to soon emulate on stage. Omar is convinced he has made good decisions during his time in this country. "I feel more in control of my life in every way, I've developed a new sense of adventure and freedom."

In Tunisia it is common for students who learn foreign languages in private high schools to travel to other countries to continue their education. Between Khalil and Driis' close friends from the urban schools in Tunis (capitol of Tunisia), traveling to America was a respectable choice.

Became family of theirs resides in California, the two brothers have previously visited America and even knew of the merit of LBCC's educational programs. "Everything here is nice, I knew that since the first time I came, the people here are open minded about foreigners and that helped us decide to come here," said Driis.

Khalil and Driis were focused on completing their education before they left home. Their sole intention is to return to Africa as professionals in the growing fields of dentistry and pharmaceuticals. "There are better oppor-

unities in these fields in Tunisia," Khalil says. Foreign exchange students know of the valuable education they can receive here and despite the continent change, "There were no big challenges or changes since we've been here. To us everything's the same" ... "The same," added Driis to Khalil's statement.

The Tunisian twins looked past the issue of adaptation by enjoying the most of their lives. "We go to the beach a lot and play club soccer on the weekends for fun," Driis said. For these LBCC students the environment is fitting to their educational needs, they are aware of the disadvantages of adjusting to a new country. Regardless of the challenges that present themselves they set goals for themselves to achieve and with help from the foreign exchange student program they level the disadvantage. "I remember seeing the city lights from the airplane and was impressed on how big it was," Lina said upon her arrival to LAX from Bogotá, Colombia.

After three years of living in Long Beach Lina Maria Pinzon, 24, has been able to adapt little by little, becoming increasingly comfortable with her new life. Her primary objective is completing her studies in Architecture and

Lina Pinzon values the path she's on and says, "I feel my future is bright, with good connections and an excellent preparation to enjoy my career."

Lina Maria also pointed out how places of interest are scattered across the city and that it has taken her time to familiarize herself with Long Beach. "I had to rely on public transportation and that was a challenge because the buses here are so unreliable and slow," says Lina Maria, who dealt with little things that made her acclimatization a little rough.

Foreign students, like Lina who go through a completely different educational process than local students, often cope with loneliness or homesickness, she suffered in the early stages after her move but she found a remedy for it and it came in the form of food. "I make arepas at least twice a week they are a delicious traditional dish," Lina says. Lina Maria says she doesn't miss her culture too much because it has traveled with her, "The warm-hearted of my people and music that I love is in my blood, I couldn't lose it."



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