

Ms. Gloria Garcia  
3644 Trinity Street  
Belize City, Belize  
Central America

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a graduate of the Economics Class of the College of the Holy Cross, 2002, I would like to express my gratitude to one faculty member in particular who made that important transition in my life an unforgettable one. This member of faculty, Professor of Growth Economics, gave me my first academic experience at Holy Cross, and it is something that has indeed marked the path of my career and even, I must admit, my life. Subsequently, I feel the need to share my experience and exemplify the work of someone who has impacted me immensely.

I arrived at Holy Cross, a transfer student in my junior year of the Economics Major from St. John's College, in Belize City, Belize, Central America. Indeed I was a long way from home, and there was no ease in acclimating to the completely difference social and cultural climate of Holy Cross, and Worcester Massachusetts. My first class ever at Holy Cross was Economic Growth and Development, taught by the one and only Professor Sanchez. Surely I was in for a surprise. I recall sitting in the class waiting for the benign way in which I knew most economic classes to be taught, the equations, the graphs and the possible making an effort to stay awake after the first thirty minutes. Well, I could never be more wrong. Professor Sanchez walks in the class and says the most, in my perspective, insane thing I had ever heard, why should Christmas be moved to the New Year's Eve, and what should be done to facilitate that. Of course, I checked the room number on my schedule to make sure I was in the right room, and indeed I was. Professor Sanchez used that very introduction to launch into economic thought, and of course his reasoning, despite its eccentricity, was brilliant.

His teaching methodologies present only portion of the dynamics of this, in my mind, great teacher and thinker. Being from Central America and from a developing academic system, Professor Sanchez took me under his wing, he not only pointed out where I could improve to perform better in my courses, he went beyond the call and re-taught me some concepts lacking in my background. He gave me supplemental texts to read to catch up with the course, and then he encouraged me to join the Honors Program and even recommended me for it.

The College of the Holy Cross was an adventure in my life, but it was also scary at times being so far away from home, and being in such a different cultural environment. Professors are seen as the nurturers of our intellect, but for me Professor Sanchez was not only a teacher, he was an advisor, a mentor, a role model, and most importantly, my friend. Now as I work as a monetary economist at the Central Bank of Belize, I still draw

on the principles I learnt and observed from Professor Sanchez, I am not afraid to be different for brilliance is not always found in convention

Yours truly,  
Gloria Garcia  
Class 2002