

Reflective Journal 1

By Deirdre Wilson-Redmond

EDLP 6140-09 Field Experience II

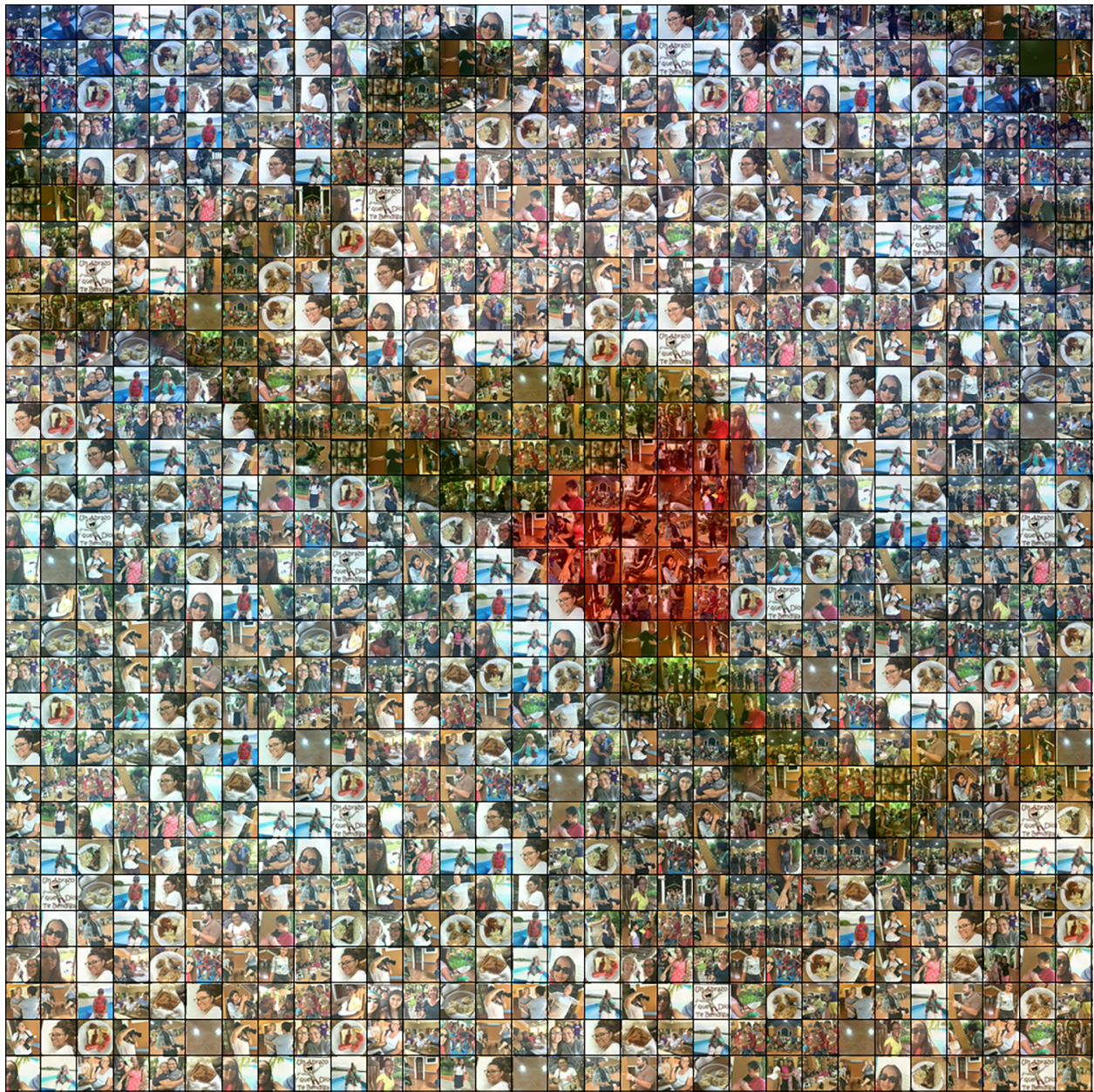
Professor Ronald Verdicchio

Due August 20 - September 1, 2017

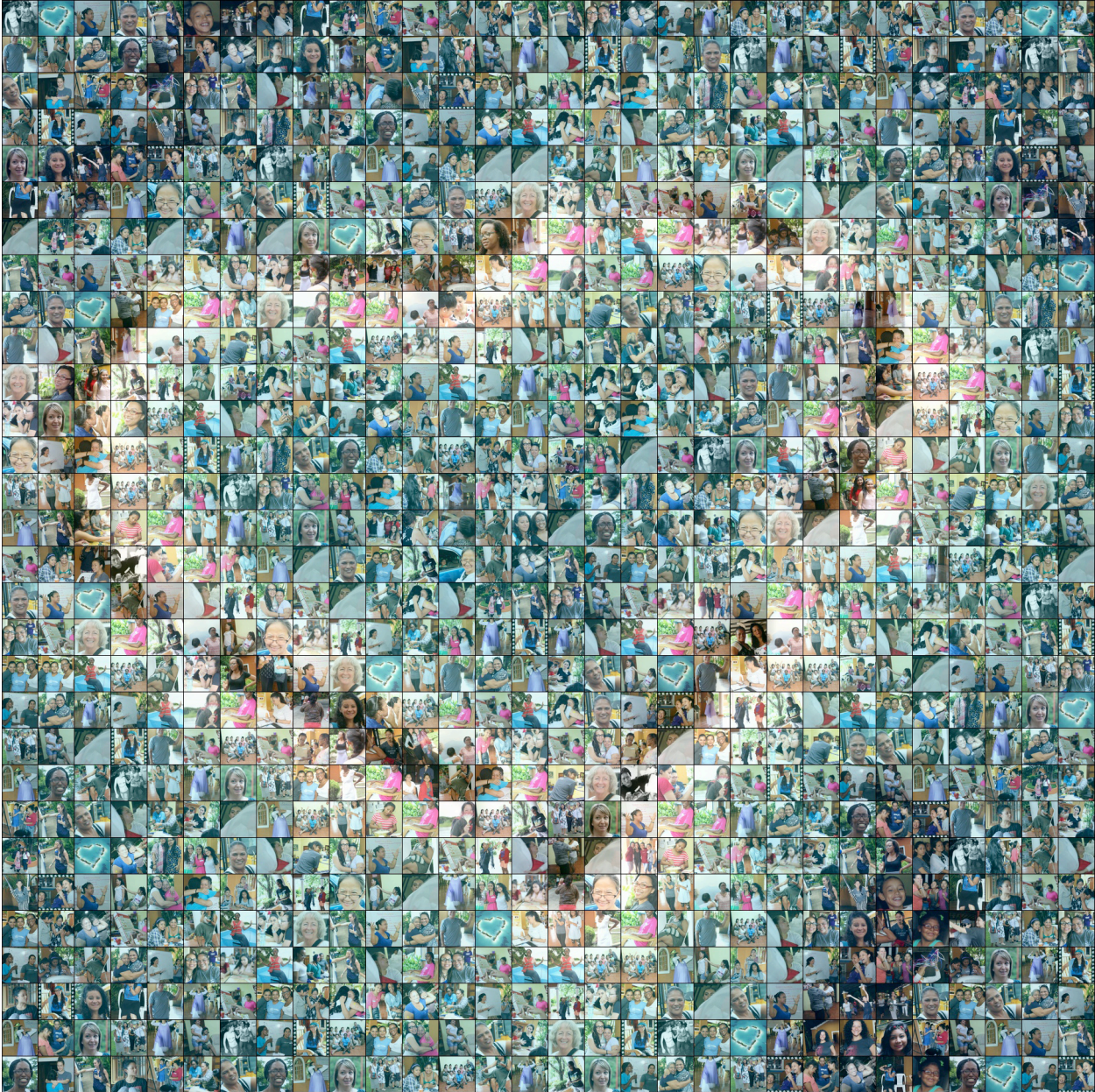
The Summer of 2017 was very fruitful. After school was over and prior to the new school year starting and had two amazing experiences. First, I took my first missions trip and the destination was Managua, Nicaragua. The reason I mention the Nicaragua trip is because it was an educational missions trip where we engaged girls, aged 12 to 25 along with their mothers in learning emotional healing strategies. It was a refuge for young women called Villa Esperanza started by a former Nicaraguan principal who had a vision to rescue the young women of La Chureca, the city trash dump where families lived in extreme poverty and some forced their young daughters to commit unspeakable acts. It is supported by the U.S. agency, Forward Edge. As the lone professional teacher of my group, I was asked to produce ice-breaker/fun activities in between the rather intense sessions. The work I did gave me ample opportunity to put my educational administration skills to great use. The head of our team looked to me in an administrative capacity, as I led and collaborated with a variety of stakeholders. Christ Church, located in two NJ locations, sent eight of us, all women volunteers, to do this work.

When I returned, I spent most of the weeks leading up to the new school year shadowing my vice principal. She is amazing and I have learned the most about being a principal from her, so far because she seems to be the most the detailed person I've encountered. She also seems to have had more experience with the older students, like middle-school-aged students. We worked on developing a character-based "Morning School" curriculum and she asked for my input, which I gladly gave her. We also worked on scheduling – a task I am fascinated by – and I got some clarity about the process. Another thing that we focused on, among many others, was student population and distribution within grade levels. She showed me the system they use of determining each student's class homeroom placement based on his/her effort, grades and behavior classification. Little did I know that this would come back to me directly in the

processing of my SGOs. Great experience overall. I was able to see my class list for the first time before school started in September.



A Mosaic Map of Managua
(really the country of Nicaragua in the center of Central America)
The pictures represent our experiences at Villa Esperanza.



A LOVE Map
The pictures represent our experiences at Villa Esperanza.