



The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, new Californians, and, well, anybody really...

Issue # 19

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Interviewing Dixie Thomas, Prof. of ECE

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am a mom and I have two sons who are young adults. I like to be outdoors, go camping and hiking in Northern California and travel to distant places too. I also enjoy going to hear music of different kinds. And, of course, spending time with my family.

How long have you been working at American River college?

I have been at American River College for 11 years full-time and I worked part time before that for several years teaching at Folsom Lake, Sierra, and Cosumnes River colleges. I worked with young children many years before that, infant care and pre-school and teaching kindergarten.

Why did you decide to become involved in child development?

When I first started college after high school, I was not sure what I wanted to do but I took a child development class



because I wanted to find out information about that and I got very interested in research and all the things

I could learn about the way children develop. I also thought it was a lot of fun because my younger brother was only 6-years-old and I enjoyed playing with him and doing things with him. I also had gone to child care when I was a

child. I remembered how much fun that was. Eventually I got a job at the college working in the children's center for the students' kids and I was sure I could pursue that.

This is an important career to join because you are having fun with children. The development of children is very interesting and it is fulfilling to get to know them and help them. Beyond that, it supports families and is a huge contribution to the future.

How is the participation of ESL students in your class?

In my class, we do a variety of things and sometimes I ask a question and anybody in the class may raise their hand and give an example of something

The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on.

Robert Bloch



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a child does or something they have seen their own child do. A lot of people do not raise their hand; however, in other activities we do in class almost every day, we may have a time when two or three people are talking together. So, you do not have to be out in front of everybody but you are just talking to a couple of people and in that way ESL students start talking to everybody else and they

Continues on last page

Student Chirpings

The Problems at ARC

All of us have some problems at work, in the neighborhood, or in the family. My mother says sometimes that you have problems because you are poor, and you are poor because you have problems. It's like a circle. Many people try to find a solution, and they can't. They try to solve their problems, and they don't know how. But the problems can be at school or at college also. I've been studying at ARC since January, and I've already seen some problems. There are a few problems at ARC: not enough parking spaces in the morning, a lot of homework, and no discipline in the lessons.

The first problem at ARC is that you can't always find a free parking space, especially in the morning. It's a big problem for students who have classes in the morning, and for teachers too. When you come thirty or twenty minutes early, you might have a chance to park your car. But if you are at work, or somewhere else, and you come exactly on time before your lessons starts, you won't be able to find any free parking spaces. There are many students at ARC, and almost all the parking lots are full in the morning. However, when you come to ARC in the afternoon, you will find many free parking spaces here. Students who have classes in the afternoon are lucky because they don't have to look for a parking space for a long time, so they don't worry about this problem too much. Sometimes students might be late for their lessons because they can't find where to park their cars. Those stu-

dents might get lower grades if they have many tardies. It's a big problem to park a car in the morning for students, and also for teachers in the beginning of the semester.

The next problem at ARC is that teachers give too much homework. Many students do understand that it isn't an ele-



mentary school any more, and you are supposed to study a lot, and be ready to do your homework. But, still, students are people, and many of them are working students. They also have their families with whom they would like to spend their time, instead of doing homework. How about friends? Not all of them are also students, and they will understand that you need to do your homework. Forget about them? I don't think so. How about weekends and holidays? You sit at the table writing and reading, instead of having fun, or going somewhere. It isn't fair. All people, first of all, are people with their plans, hobbies, habits, and families. So why are students dissuaded from all of these things? I think students know that homework is important, and it isn't the end of the world if they don't do it, but if they have a lot of homework, that's the

problem.

The last problem at ARC is that there isn't discipline in the classrooms. Many students who study at ARC are under eighteen years old. It means that all of them are adult. They have their own opinion and own personalities. They are responsible, polite, and friendly. But there is the question of how these people can be so disrespectful to their teachers or classmates. On one hand, it's the question about culture; on the other hand, it's about our behavior. Sometimes when students are given some assignment, and one or two students have done it first, they just shout the answer to all the class, instead of waiting for everybody. One more example is when teacher asks someone a question and the rest of the students answer this question, not the person who was asked. For somebody it can be difficult to find out the answer so fast, but other people need just two or three seconds and they know the answer. All students have to respect each other, and teachers especially need to enforce discipline during the lesson.

It is not a secret that not only ARC has these problems but many other colleges have the problems too. It's a part of life. If you don't have one problem that somebody has, you will have another one. The problems can be big or small but it doesn't change the fact that they are problems. But for all problems there can be solutions.

Getting Lost

I used to go to the forest and pick mushrooms. In my native country, Ukraine, mushrooms should be gathered after a rain-storm. When it was appropriate weather, we would arrange our weekends together, and my friends and I would go to the woods for a while. On one of those trips, I had a good lesson for the rest of my life.

It was a beautiful morning. I woke up at 6:00 a.m. in a good mood. I took a shower, dressed, brushed my teeth and hair, and quickly ate some pancakes with milk. I had to be at the bus station at 7:00 a.m. Trying not to forget all necessary things like wooden baskets and a snack, I left home. Being the first at the bus station, I impatiently waited for my friends. By the time the bus was to depart, we had gathered one by one. There were five people in our group: my best friend Ann with her brother Tom, two of my cousins, Helen and Michael, and me. I was fifteen

years old, the youngest in the group. While we were waiting for the bus, we laughed and joked about the name of the bus station, "Safe Place for the Lost." I remember that I said, "I have never gotten lost before; only careless people or



people who do not pay attention get lost."

Finally, the bus arrived and we were driven to the forest. When we came to the forest, we decided not to go far from each other. In those days we did not have cell phones, so we had to keep close to each other as much as possible. At the beginning we were quite close together, and we were talking about the nice

weather, when we would have a snack and who would pick more mushrooms. Laughing and joking, in other words, we were enjoying ourselves. Soon I saw a place where lots of mushrooms were growing, but I did not want to tell anyone because I wanted to show off and collect more mushrooms than everyone else. Step - by - step, mushroom - by - mushroom, I went between trees picking each one with great care and putting them into my wooden basket.

Mushrooms should not be ripped from the earth by hand; they should be cut between the stem and the root with a knife. If they are torn out of the earth, then there will not be any roots left for other mushrooms to grow. However, if they are cut carefully, then in that place a new mushrooms will grow. I knew which mushrooms were edible and which were poisonous. I was delighted by the astonishing view all around me. The

mushrooms grew like families. Each family included three to five members. There were large mushrooms such as 6-inch white ones, which are equal nutritionally to meat; little brown mushrooms called "boletus luteus"; mushrooms with stems and flat red heads called " saffron milk cap " ; and pepper mushrooms, which are grey with short stems and upside - down cone heads. However, when we were mushroom picking, we had to watch out for the dangerously poisonous toadstools. One of the most dangerous mushrooms is a very beautiful fly - agaric, which is a large mushroom with white polka dots on a bright red cap.

I was overjoyed that my basket was filled to the top. I felt like I was living in a fairy tale. The forest was very still and the air felt warm on my skin. The clear blue sky was without a single cloud. The sun shone through the trees, warming the surroundings with its beams. A light breeze slightly shook the branches of the trees. Birds were singing cheerfully, jumping from branch to branch. The easy cool of the

day pleasantly freshened the air. Suddenly I came back to reality and noticed that I had not seen or heard any of my friends for a while. At first I did not worry because I was sure that they were somewhere nearby. Just to be



sure that I was not alone, I called out, but I did not get an answer. Then I started yelling my friends' names and running in different directions trying to figure out where I was or where everyone else had gone. I realized that I was all alone and lost in a big forest. That thought really scared me, and I began to panic. I could not figure out how and when it had happened. I continued calling my friends, but no one was responded. I remembered my mother's words, "If you ever get lost, stay where you are, and then it will be easier for others to find you." I kept thinking, "Why is this happening? "

After a while, my feet hurt really badly, so I sat down. Then the thought hit me that I was one of those careless people who do not pay attention to warnings. I wished that I could have taken my words back when I said that I had never gotten lost before. I blamed myself for my overconfidence. The most important thing at that moment was no longer my basket full of mushrooms or being the winner, but instead seeing my friends and hearing people's voices again. Finally, forty or fifty minutes later, I heard human voices calling my name. I started calling back so that my friends could come in the right direction towards me. The past forty or fifty minutes had been like a whole lifetime of waiting. I was overwhelmed to see my friends making their way through the forest towards me.

Since that time, I have learned my lesson not to joke about people who get lost. It was a good lesson for my whole life. I think that I will never forget this experience, and even when I am old, I will always remember how I got lost in the forest.

Natalia Lushchenkow W310

Look Who's Nesting Here!

Sergey Arvov — A Real Dynamo!

I grew up in a poor family in Uzbekistan. My father worked for an engineering plant and my mother was an engineer. I was constantly asking my parents to buy me a bike, but each time they promised me they would, they didn't. When I was 13, I began to train with the Dinamo Bike Team. My first bike was very old, and I had to fix it almost every day. I trained a lot, and did not miss any training because I wanted to be the first on my team. Finally, after a long time, when I was 16, I was invited to join the National Junior team and began to participate in all possible bike events. I am an eight-time champion of Uzbekistan. I represented my country in such international bike events as the Asia Games in Hiroshima in 1994 and Bangkok in 1998.



From 1994 to 1999, I traveled over almost all Asia and the European countries participating in bike events and was a prize-winner many times. I finished my athletic career when I was 29 as a team leader of the Uzbekistan national

bike team. I have more than forty medals and cups in my home collection, and all the time I feel pleasure looking at them. After ending my sport career, I began to coach a new generation of cyclists at Olympic college in my country right up to my emigration to the USA. My former

students continue to write me. I want to find such a job here in Sacramento but my bad English does not allow me to do it. That is why I am taking classes at American River College.

Pleasing Pasha

So tell us about yourself.

My name is Pasha Radu. I'm from Moldova. I'm married and have three kids. I've been living here since 2004.

What's been the hardest part of learning a new language or what's the hardest part of your job?

The hardest part of learning a new language is pronunciation because there are a lot of new sounds for me. I used to work at a company that made nuts and the hardest part of my job was when I had to meet my boss every morning because he was a tough man, never laughed or joked. .



Do you enjoy being at ARC? Why?

I enjoy being at ARC because I can learn English faster, and I like how professors explain English to ESL students,

especially Mark Rau because he explains things very clearly..

What future plans do you have?

My future plans are to finish taking ESL classes, and take other classes that I need for my professional job, nursing.

I can just study while my kids grow up, and then I can have a good job.

Are there any changes you'd like to see on campus or on your job?

I'd like to see more empty spaces in the parking lot during semester time, and have more good teachers like. About the job, right now I don't have any jobs, but in the future I will.

Briefly describe an average day for yourself at ARC.

I'm taking ESL classes at ARC, I like being here, and everything is good so far.

Parrot Warbling



Idiom Attic

Shoot Off One's Mouth



Jim doesn't play tennis very much, but he's always **shoot-ing off his mouth** about how good he is. Yet he's fooling nobody. Jim is somewhat of a braggart and everyone knows that he gives opinions without knowing all the facts and **talks as if he knew every-thing about the game.**

Prepositions of Place: at, in, on

In general, we use:

- **at** for a point
- **in** for an enclosed space
- **on** for a surface

at	in	on
POINT	ENCLOSED SPACE	SURFACE
at the corner	in the garden	on the wall
at the door	in France	on the door
at the top of the page	in a box	on the cover
at the entrance	in my wallet	on the carpet

Notice that we use prepositions of place in **at, in, and on** in these standard expressions

at	in	on
at home	in a car	on a bus
at work	in a taxi	on a train
at school	in a helicopter	on a plane
at university	in a boat	on a ship
at college	in a lift (elevator)	on a bicycle, on a motorbike
at the top	in the newspaper	on a horse, on an elephant
at the bottom	in the sky	on the radio, on television
at the side	in a row	on the left, on the right
at reception	in Oxford Street	on the way

Rigoberto's Riddles

What book was once owned by only the wealthy, but now everyone can have it? You can't buy it in a bookstore or take it from a library.

A telephone book

What is the moon worth?
\$1, because it has 4 quarters

What gets whiter the dirtier that it gets?
A chalkboard



Questions/ Comments? Please let us know what we can



do to improve the "ESL Parrot" We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D387 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu

Student editors— **Christian Valenzuela , Andrea Carrero, Natalia Arboleda, Ivy Balansag, Vi Tran**

Dear Granny,

What do you think about boxing for elderly women?

Doan

Dear Doan,

Thank you for writing. I think the practice is undignified and horrid. If a man is a gentleman, he can win an elderly lady's heart in the old-fashioned way – flowers, candy, and love letters. Most of all, he should try to just be himself. He needn't engage in competitive pugilism.

Granny



Dear Granny,

I hear that the ESL Center is open this summer. Is that true? I think it's a great idea because if I just stay home, I lose my English and I like to correct my English.

Sveta

Dear Sveta,

It's true! The ESL Center will be open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 23 to July 31. As for your English, it's probably true. English is like a boyfriend – easy to lose in the summer but fun to correct.

Granny

English is Tough Stuff

*Dearest creature in creation,
Study English pronunciation.
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and worse.
I will keep you, Suzy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye, your dress will tear.
So shall I! Oh hear my prayer.*

*Just compare heart, beard, and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,
Sword and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written.)
Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as plaque and ague.
But be careful how you speak:
Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.*

*Hear me say, devoid of trickery,
Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,
Exiles, similes, and reviles;
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,
Solar, mica, war and far;
One, anemone, Balmoral,
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;
Gertrude, German, wind and mind,
Scene, Melpomene, mankind.*

*Billet does not rhyme with ballet,
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.
Blood and flood are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.
Viscous, viscount, load and broad,
Toward, to forward, to reward.
And your pronunciation's OK
When you correctly say croquet,
Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive and live.
Ivy, privy, famous; clamour*

*And enamour rhyme with hammer.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
Doll and roll and some and home.
Stranger does not rhyme with anger,
Neither does devour with clangour.
Souls but foul, haunt but aunt,
Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant,
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,
And then singer, ginger, linger,
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge,
Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age.*

*Query does not rhyme with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury.
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.
Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.
Though the differences seem little,
We say actual but victual.
Refer does not rhyme with deafer.
Foetter does, and zephyr, heifer.
Mint, pint, senate and sedate;
Dull, bull, and George ate late.
Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
Science, conscience, scientific.*

*Liberty, library, heave and heaven,
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.
We say hallowed, but allowed,
People, leopard, towed, but vowed.
Mark the differences, moreover,
Between mover, cover, clover;
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
Chalice, but police and lice;
Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, disciple, label.*

*Petal, panel, and canal,
Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal.
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair,
Senator, spectator, mayor.
Tour, but our and succour, four.
Gas, alas, and Arkansas.*

*Sea, idea, Korea, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria.
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean.
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.*

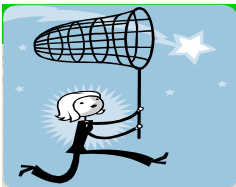
*Compare alien with Italian,
Dandelion and battalion.
Sally with ally, yea, ye,
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.
Say aver, but ever, fever,
Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.
Heron, granary, canary.
Crevice and device and aerie.*

*Face, but preface, not efface.
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.
Large, but target, gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust and scour, scouring.
Ear, but earn and wear and tear
Do not rhyme with here but ere.
Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk,
Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.*

*Pronunciation -- think of Psyche!
Is a paling stout and spikey?
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing groats and saying grits?
It's a dark abyss or tunnel:
Strewn with stones, stowed, solace, gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,
Housewife, verdict and indict.*

*Finally, which rhymes with enough --
Though, through, plough, or dough, or
cough?
Hiccough has the sound of cup.
My advice is to give up!!!*

Author unknown



NET Escape - Articles from the net.

Mother's Day — History of the Celebration in America

When the first English settlers came to America, they discontinued the tradition of Mothering Day. While the British holiday would live on, the American Mother's Day would be invented—with an entirely new history—centuries later. One explanation for the settlers' discontinuation of Mothering Day was that they just didn't have time; they lived under harsh conditions and were forced to work long hours in order to survive. Another possibility, however, is that Mothering Day conflicted with their Puritan ideals. Fleeing England to practice a more conservative Christianity without being persecuted, the pilgrims ignored the more secular holidays, focusing instead on a no-frills devotion to God. For example, even holidays such as Christmas and Easter were much more somber occasions for the pilgrims, usually taking place in a Church that was stripped of all extraneous ornamentation.

- **Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870**

The first North American Mother's Day was conceptualized with Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870. Despite having penned The Battle Hymn of the Republic 12 years earlier, Howe had become so distraught by the death and carnage of the Civil War that she called on Mothers to come together and protest what she saw as the futility of their Sons killing the Sons of other Mothers.

- **The Rise & Fall of Howe's Mother's Day**

At one point Howe even proposed converting July 4th into Mother's Day, in order to dedicate the nation's anniversary to peace. Eventually, however, June 2nd was designated for the celebration. In 1873 women's groups in 18 North American cities observed this new Mother's holiday. Howe initially funded many of these celebrations, but most of them died out once she stopped footing the bill. The city of Boston, however, would continue celebrating Howe's holiday for 10 more years. Despite the decided failure of her holiday, Howe had nevertheless planted the seed that would blossom into what we know as Mother's Day today. A West Virginia women's group led by Anna Reeves Jarvis began to celebrate an adaptation of Howe's holiday. In order to re-unite families and neighbors that had been divided between the Union and Confederate sides of the Civil War, the group held a Mother's Friendship Day.

- **US Government Adoption**

In 1908 a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday at the request of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The proposal was defeated, but by 1909 forty-six states were holding Mother's Day services as well as parts of Canada and Mexico. Anna Jarvis quit working and devoted herself full time to the creation of Mother's Day, endlessly petitioning state governments, business leaders, women groups, churches and other institutions and organizations. She finally convinced the World's Sunday School Association to back her, a key influence over state legislators and congress. In 1912 West Virginia became the first state to officially recognize Mother's Day, and in 1914 Woodrow Wilson signed it into national observance, declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

- **The Fight Over Commercialization**

The holiday flourished in the United States and flowers, especially white carnations, became very popular. One business journal, *Florists Review*, went so far as to print, "This was a holiday that could be exploited." But the budding commercialization of Mother's Day greatly disturbed Anna M. Jarvis, daughter of Anna Reeves Jarvis, so she vociferously opposed what she perceived as a misuse of the holiday. In 1923 she sued to stop a Mother's Day event, and in the 1930's she was arrested for disturbing the peace at the American War Mothers group. She was protesting their sale of flowers. In the 1930's Jarvis also petitioned against the postage stamp featuring her mother, a vase of white carnations and the word "Mother's Day." Jarvis was able to have the words "Mother's Day" removed. The flowers remained. In 1938, *Time Magazine* ran an article about Jarvis's fight to copyright *Mother's Day*, but by then it was already too late to change the commercial trend. In opposition to the flower industry's exploitation of the holiday, Jarvis wrote, "What will you do to route charlatans, bandits, pirates, racketeers, kidnappers and other termites that would undermine with their greed one of the finest, noblest and truest movements and celebrations?" Despite her efforts, flower sales on Mother's Day continued to grow. *Florist's Review* wrote, "Miss Jarvis was completely squelched." Anna Jarvis died in 1948, blind, poor and childless. Jarvis would never know that it was, ironically, *The Florist's Exchange* that had anonymously paid for her care.

Worldwide Spread of Mother's Day

Argentina

Though most of South America observes Mother's Day—Día de la Madre—in May, Argentina celebrates on the second Sunday in October. Due to the country's geographical station in the southern hemisphere, it could be argued that this choice of a date for the holiday more accurately coincides with the traditional spring-time seasonality of the Motherhood festivities. It is customary to honor Argentinean Mothers with dinners, poems and special gestures of attention. Children write letters in school or make cards and crafts to take home. Husbands cook and clean and look after the family, allowing the mother to relax and enjoy the day. Moms are almost certain to receive flowers, cards, candy, jewelry or an unexpected surprise. One example of an Argentinean Mother's Day surprise party involves young children gathering their mothers together, encircling them in a room or hallway and reading them poetry. After the reading, a door at the end of the hall is opened to let in all the children's grandmothers who have remained in hiding up till then. Jubilation ensues.



France

Inspired by American soldiers in World War I, France celebrated other's Day first in 1918. The Minister of the Interior created the official day in 1920, declaring December 19 *La Fete de Meres*, Mothers' Day. The focus then was on the re-population of France following the high rate of attrition from the Great War (aka WWI). Mothers with four or five children were awarded a bronze medal. For six or seven the mother would receive a silver medal, and eight or more offspring garnered the gold. This tradition was abandoned when a more modern version of Mother's Day came from the Vichy government, which on May 25, 1945, instituted the National Day of Mothers. Today a common gift is a cake shaped to resemble a bouquet of flowers, along with candies, flowers, cards and perfumes.



Japan

The Japanese call Mother's Day *haha no hi*. In 1913, Japanese Christians were already celebrating it, based on the American practice. It grew steadily in popularity and in the 1930's it was especially prevalent. That changed during WWII when the practice was banned along with all other western customs. After the war, however, the tradition was taken up again to help comfort to the mothers who had lost children in the war. By 1949, the celebration of Mother's Day had again spread throughout the country. The Japanese began holding an art contest for children. The children would enter drawings of their mothers, and the winning drawings would tour through Japan and other countries in an art exhibit celebrating mothers and peace. This contest was held every four years. Today the Japanese celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. A family may prepare and enjoy traditional dishes that their mothers taught them to cook. The Japanese give their Mothers flowers (especially red carnations), scarves, handkerchiefs and handbags.

India

A westernized version of Mother's Day is officially observed on May 10 in India, though cities and cultural centers tend to celebrate it more than the smaller settlements. On this day mothers receive flowers, a prepared meal, cards or a phone call. Yet apart from the modern version of Mother's Day, Hindus have long celebrated a 10 day festival in October called Durga Puja. As the ancient Greeks honored their earth goddess, the Hindu holiday praises their divine mother, Durga. This ancient festival has evolved into one of the biggest events in India. Families spend weeks preparing food and gifts for friends and cleaning and decorating their houses for parties. Businesses and companies now capitalize and plan their own special promotions for the event, much the same way American businesses have tapped into the market potential of Mother's Day.



Mexico

On May 10th the Mexicans celebrate the Día de las Madres. In 1922 a journalist, Rafael Alducín wrote an article advocating the celebration of Mother's Day in all of Mexico. Though the practice had already spread to parts of Mexico, Alducín's article led to widespread observance of the holiday, and May 10 is the universal day of celebration in Mexico. In the morning the mother is usually treated to a song sung by her family, or a serenade by a hired band. A family breakfast or brunch is also customary. Any family trouble or enmity is laid aside and all gather to honor the matriarch.



Ethiopia

Mother's Day in Ethiopia occurs in mid-fall when the rainy season ends. Called "Antrosht," Ethiopians celebrate by making their way home when the weather clears for a large family meal and a three day long celebration. For the feast the children bring ingredients for a traditional hash recipe. The ingredients are divided along gender lines, with girls bringing butter, cheese, vegetables and spices while the boys bring a bull or lamb. The mother prepares the hash and hands it out to the family. After the meal a celebration takes place. The mothers and daughters ritually anoint themselves with butter on their faces and chests. They dance while the men sing songs in honor of family and heroes. This cycle of feasting and celebration lasts two or three days.

More Student Chirpings

My Secret Admirer

I like bad boys! They are very loud and interesting. They know what they want and they get it their way. I like tattoos and piercings. A tattoo stays forever on your skin. Usually people who get tattoos on their bodies think about it a long time. I know a guy who has 13 tattoos. He is a bad boy, but I can't really say that I know him. He is my secret admirer.

I always liked bad boys but all of my boyfriends were good guys. It isn't bad, but they were very shy. Sometimes I felt like a boy myself. That is why I wanted to have a bad boy. Half a year ago I moved into a new apartment. I was busy with my new problems. I moved and unpacked my stuff. I didn't know anybody at my new home. One month later, it was raining. I was running late for my date. I was in a hurry, and when I sat in my car I saw a piece of paper on my front window. It confused me a little bit because the paper was black.

Then I opened that paper and started to read. It was a letter from a guy. It was written in silver ink. He wrote about himself. First of all, his name was Thomas. He was 29 years old.

He was 6'3" tall, single and he has

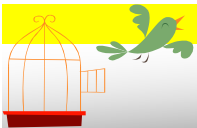


13 tattoos. In addition, he lives in my apartment complex. Moreover, he saw me very often and I have probably seen him in the area, too. He asked me to call him. Then I remembered a guy, but I just smiled and forgot about him in a short time.

Two weeks later he reminded me about himself. I went to get my mail and I found a little black paper on the front window again. But this time he

added two small flowers. One of them was yellow and the other one was orange. It was very cute of him. I picked up the letter and went home. I was happy because I knew who it was from. It was a shorter and a nicer letter than the last one. He wrote "Beautiful." He asked me to call him again. Then I knew who I have heard "beautiful" from, whenever I went outside. It was him. I was afraid and I wasn't going to call him. Maybe I was afraid of his tattoos and lots of piercings, but when I saw him again, I was smiling and he was too. I heard "Beautiful" again.

I don't know what I want. He is very different. Probably he is my chance to learn English better than I can learn by myself. On the other hand, he is very polite and he still waiting for my answer. Now I know that I want to have him as a friend but not as a boyfriend. I think he is going to write a new letter to me. I will wait for it. What do you think I should do? Should I call him?



Out of The Cage

Alan Weisman Speaks at ARC

Alan Weisman, author of the New York Times bestseller "The World Without Us," will speak at American River College on Saturday, April 26, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the ARC Theatre.



Tickets are \$15 general/\$10 students, and are available through April 18 at the ARC

Business Services Office (Administration Building), then at the theatre box office beginning April 21 (484-8234).

In what has been called "one of the most audacious thought experiments of our time," Weisman imagines in his book what might happen to the Earth if humans vanished. "The World Without Us" seeks to show humanity's true impact on the environment in a wholly original way, and to challenge the reader to re-imagine the planet—and humanity's place within it. Time Magazine named "The World Without Us" as the number-one non-fiction book of 2007.

Weisman's appearance is presented by American River College's Community Lecture & Concert Series.

Thailand: Land of Smiles

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Why is Thailand known as the land of smiles? This and other questions about Thai culture will be answered in this talk by Oranit Lim-

maneeprasert, an ARC professor who is originally from Thailand. This presentation is in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander



Heritage Month at American River College

Location: Raef Hall 160

Benjamin Ajak (of The Lost Boys of Sudan): Plight of a Refugee

Thursday, May 1, 2008

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Please join Benjamin Ajak in a discussion of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Benjamin is a survivor of the crisis and a member of the Lost Boys of Sudan. The lost boys were orphaned or separated from their families when

government troops systematically attacked villages in southern Sudan killing many of the inhabitants, most of whom were civilians. Orphaned and with no support, they made an epic journey lasting years across many borders to international relief camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, evading thirst, starvation, wild animals, insects, disease, and one of the most bloody wars of the 20th century.



Global Warming: Message from the Ice

Thursday, May 8, 2008

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Robert Christopherson, popular textbook author and ARC Geography Professor Emeritus, highlights the latest global climate change science, including dramatic video, photos, and observations from his August 2007



trip to the Arctic Ocean. Christopherson will also include photographs and discussion from his latest book project, *On Melting Ice, The Fate of Our Polar Bears*, which he is co-writing with Dutch author and expedition leader Rinie van Meurs.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Spring Dance Concert

Saturday, May 17, 2008

American River College Dance presents the Spring Dance Concert. The Dance Company and guest artists from the dance community will perform at 7:30 p.m. on May 16 and 17, in the ARC Theatre. Admission is \$5.00 at the door only. For more information call 484-8321.

American River College



Celebrating Diversity

Multi-Cultural Week



April 28 - May 1, 2008

10am—2pm

Library Quad

Food
Art Exhibits
Custom Car Show
Speakers
Crafts Sales
Cultural displays

Music and Dance Performances
and much more!



The American River College Equity Committee,
Student Association, Campus Life Center, InterClub Council,
Faculty, Staff and Students invite you to
participate in Multicultural Week 2008

get experience knowing everybody else too.

How do you think ESL students could improve their English skills?

Well, I think practicing. You know, I think, go ahead and talk to the teacher, talk to other students and raise their hands in class and say something; just try a little bit because what I have noted is they are usually better at that communication in English than they realize. Sometimes people are afraid that English speakers are not going to understand them and we do understand you because you are doing a good job and you are probably better at it than you realize and just keep trying.

Do you speak any languages other than English?

I do not speak a language other than English.

Have you tried to learn any? Maybe in high school?

In high school I took Latin, which is not a language anybody speaks but it helps you understand the meanings of words and where words come from. I took several years of Latin and so when I am reading European languages such as words on signs, directions, or menus or something like that I know what the words mean because of Latin. But it is not a spoken language so I never learned that. When I was teaching kinder garden

many years ago I had 27 kids and among that class they spoke 7 languages besides English. So there were a lot of different languages and there was no way I was going to learn Spanish, Tagalog, or Mandarin. There was a child who spoke Finnish at home. Her mother was from Finland so there was no way I was going to learn 7 different languages and I think I do not really think I was going to be good at it. So I have a huge respect for people who come to Sacramento and try to learn English which everybody says is not the easiest. I have a very serious respect for what they have taken on; it is a good thing.

What do you think about ESL students who want to get a college degree here in America?

I think it is really important for all students to get a college degree. I think it is really important for people today to get an education that is going to help them in their careers because if you are going to be able to support yourself, you have to have these many skills that you can call upon and your college degree is more important than ever.

Can you give them any advice on how to succeed?

I think the first advice I would give them is to talk to their teachers if they have questions or do not understand or need help. Talking to their teachers is the first thing to do. I think besides that, the other

advice that I would give students here in America River College is to take advantage of all the different services we have that help. For instance, in my class I work with the Beacon-tutoring program and there are two tutors available who have different sections during the week to help students with child development. They help students understand the chapters, help them prepare for the tests, help them understand assignments and they meet with a group of students so you are learning from other students too. So taking advantage of that kind of help program is good for every student, but I think it especially helps ESL students.

Do you think it is important for ESL students to take ESL classes before taking regular classes like your class, for example?

I think if students have taken the ESL classes in writing, speaking, and reading and they have improved their skills in English by taking those classes, then I think it makes it a lot easier for them to take regular classes. I think those things really help and I encourage everyone who speak English as a second language to take part in those classes because they are a really strong preparation for doing well in their other classes.