



The Parrot

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

Issue #33

Fall 2009

Interviewing Prof. Margaret Travis

ESL students work hard to progress through each class level. Trying to learn the language and American culture, students have teachers who help them with their problems in these areas. It is necessary for every student who wants to improve their language and make the language and American culture their own to have this help. In many cases, students feel a connection between themselves and their teachers because some of the teachers were immigrants at one time and struggled with English, while other teachers have some close relationship with people who don't speak English as their first language. Either way, ESL teachers are interesting because you never know what they can tell you about their life teaching English. If you have an opportunity to have a little conversation with them, do it! Practice your English!!! You may find out something as I did when I was having a conversation with Professor Margaret Travis. I found out how she decided to teach English. It is fabulous how a young teacher knew what she wanted to do after having the opportunity to tutor some students when she was in high school. It's awesome to have her as a reading teacher. She really makes you enjoy and understand every story. She knows what she's doing. Her satisfaction is when students



understand what she wants them to learn. Here is our brief conversation.

Parrot: So can you tell me a little bit about yourself as a teacher?

Travis: Well, I got my Masters degree from San Francisco State and I have been teaching for 5 years. I first started teaching at the UC Davis extension and then ARC. Actually, I started both at the same time, but I had more classes at UC Davis. Then, I moved to Sac State at the English Institute, I stayed there for a year and then I became a director of that faculty. I'm also teaching here at Rio.

Parrot: Why did you decide to choose this career?

Travis: When I was in high school I would tutor international students in English. I wasn't trained but I would help them with their homework – doing math if they had math homework. I would help them with corrections and things like that. I would do a lot of conversational practice and I really enjoyed it, so I really wanted to do that.

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Immigrants and Healthcare

See page 4

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking

Arthur McBride Bloch



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Student Chirpings

Big Mistakes

Mexico

Many people know my country of Mexico is big and has a lot of people. Some people think my country is not good but this is not true. The Mexican people work hard and study a lot. In my country many people study for a better life. Mexico's culture and people believe in working hard for a better future. A lot of children go to school and are expected to study hard. If the children work with their fathers they have the opportunity to have a better life. People in my country help others when they are in need. My country is known for its friendly people and the opportunities available for all people.

Russia and Poland. A long time ago it was part of the USSR, but now it is a separate country. However, we have a similar culture and the same language. If I ask a people here about Russia, they usually think it's a poor country without education. That was Russia a long time ago, when it was the USSR. Now Russia has improved. When I came to the U.S.A, people in Russia thought that America was clean, with straight roads. Yet, I see now this is not true. Nowadays, my country is cleaner with better roads than the U.S.A. Belarus has tile sidewalks, while the U.S. has concrete sidewalks. But, Russia is still a poor country except in some big cities like Moscow.

Teresa Montenegro W30

Dzianis Zazulka W30

Some times it bothers me how people think about my country. Some people think most Mexican people are poor, or they think my country doesn't have schools, or we don't have money to take vacations. Other people think Mexican people don't have good manners, or they think Mexico is an ugly country.

All these critics are wrong because Mexico is a beautiful country with beautiful people and a rich culture. When you live in Mexico you can see how wonderful it is to live there. In my personal experience I love to see how my people work hard every day. It is beautiful to see how the families help each other, how you can have time to spend with your friends, and relax and walk in the park with mom, and of course eat our delicious food. We are people rich in culture and rich in traditions. We have a beautiful place to visit, and I feel very proud to be Mexican. One day I want to have enough money to invite all the persons who have bad opinions of my country to come with me and experience the beauty and hospitality of Mexico. Viva Mexico!

Many people talk about things that they know nothing about. They make some wrong assumptions. For example, when I saw American or European films about my country my people are always portrayed as sad people, never happy. Movies make my people look ugly and do bad things. These are all the wrong portrayals. I guess that happens because people don't know the culture of my country.

Vasyl Manilenko W30

A lot of people think wrongly about my native country. They think Russia is all the time freezing, but it is not like this. Russia is the biggest country in the world, and Russia has a lot of different climates and all four seasons

Lyuda Gaydayeva W30

Palestine

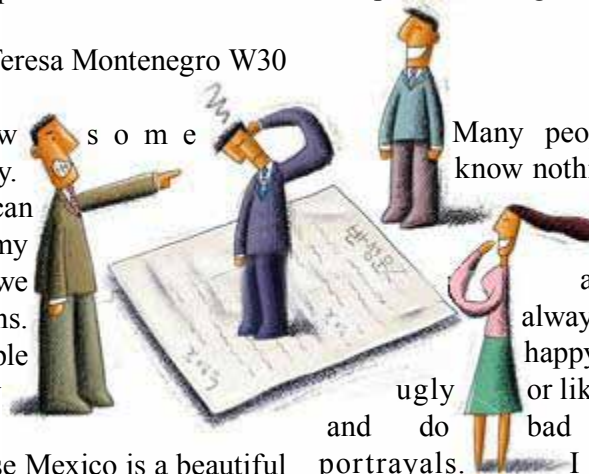
Most people think that Israel is different from Palestine. It's the same. They think that Palestinians are terrorists. It's not true. They think that Palestinians kill the Jews. It's not correct. They think that the land of Palestine is for the Jews. They think that our kids are bad too. That's not correct.

Luay Yaghmour W30

Lili Garcia W30

Belarus & Russia

I will tell you a bit about Russia because if I ask people about my country they usually have never heard of it. It's Belarus. I am from Belarus. It's a small country between



Procrastinating

I have been staring at this blank piece of paper for over an hour. I'm trying to come up with ideas for our in-class essay. We have to write about something or an event that seemed to be bad but turned out to be good. I have so many ideas in my head but when it comes to putting them in writing it is almost impossible. I think I'll remember this day for a long time, because it seems like a bad idea, with little hope. It is not something new to me to be doing this like this, to postpone things until the last possible minute. Right now, I'm looking at the time and all I have left from my two hours of writing is just a little bit over a half an hour. I'm starting to feel the pressure of having to get my essay done in time. But it is not just the pressure of getting it done; it's also the pressure of not writing off topic. I think that's the hardest one, the pressure

of staying on topic.

I really don't know why am I doing this to myself. Do I like to work under pressure? Well, if someone had asked me that, I would've said no. But somehow, I contradict myself by saying I think I do like the last minute



rush of things? I know there are more "cons" than "pros" when it comes to leaving things till the last minute, but somehow I like it. Probably I should push myself a little more so I can get my work done in time. However, many times I start doing it, but I never get to the end of it.

Other things distract my attention. For example now in my class, I wanted to write about something totally different than what I'm writing now. Just because I didn't know how to spell a word I got myself stuck and therefore I changed my entire essay.

I knew it was a bad idea doing this but I did it anyway. I like the adrenaline rush I get when I know I'm doing something I'm not supposed to, but end up doing it anyway.

Now, all I hope is that I didn't write off topic too much. I'm looking at this as an event in my life. The kind of event I don't want to repeat again. I hope I'll come up with a solution to my procrastinating problem before I end up with a bad grade in this class.

Nina Urucu W50

How to Avoid Procrastination

- Look at the deadline of any new assignment you get and write it on your calendar. For assignments with no deadline - a frequent phenomenon in graduate school - impose a deadline yourself.
- Imagine how the world will look on that date, to make it real to you: What will the weather be like? What else will have changed? Don't allow those changes to pass without finishing the assignment.
- Calculate roughly how many hours the assignment will take.
- Decide, before bedding down each night, how much time you're going to spend the next day on the assignment.
- Remind yourself, upon waking up, of this amount of time.
- Tell yourself that you won't allow yourself any leisure activities that day until you've put in the promised amount of time.
- Reward yourself, when done for the day, in whatever way you see fit. This reward is key - having a positive incentive can make all the difference.
- Don't be afraid to call your student services office. There are well-trained people out there who can help you.



Netscape - Articles from the Web

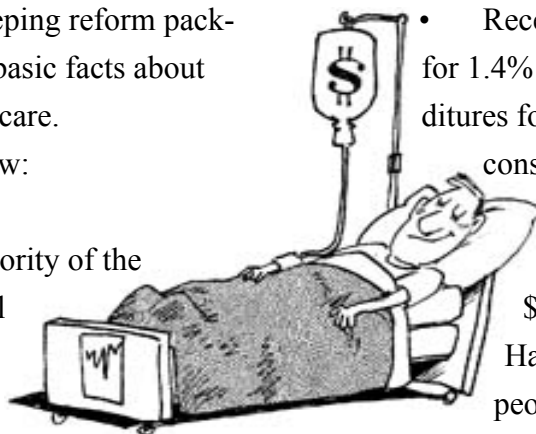
Immigrants and Healthcare

The Immigration Policy Center (July 22, 2009) has released a fact sheet on immigrants and health care reform. As Congress debates health care, and decides who to include in their sweeping reform package, it is important to review the basic facts about immigrant participation in health care.

Highlights of the current data show:

- U.S. citizens make up the majority of the uninsured, at 78%, while legal and unauthorized immigrants make up 22% of the non-elderly uninsured.
- Immigrants incur fewer health care costs than the rest of the population because they are generally younger and healthier than the overall aging U.S. population.
- Immigrants' per-person medical expenditures

were one-half to two-thirds less than U.S.-born citizens.



Recent immigrants were responsible for 1.4% of the total public medical expenditures for adults in 2003, even though they constituted 5% of the total population.

- The cost of Medicaid and Medicare could be as much as \$1.2 trillion per year by 2015.

Having more healthy, working-age people paying into the system will lessen the burden on the current, smaller pool of taxpayers.

- Non-citizens are a vast, untapped network of new subscribers who can share the risks and the benefits of health care coverage.

<http://lawprofessors.typepad.com>

September in History

1 Germany invades Poland, starting World War II (1939).

2 The Great Fire of London is started (1666).

3 The image of "Uncle Sam", a symbol of America, is first used (1813).

7 The first Miss America beauty Pageant is held in Atlantic City N.J. (1921).

11 The Beatles record their 1st single "Love Me Do."

13 New York City becomes the capital of the United States. I bet you didn't know that! (1788).

14 Francis Scott-Key composes the lyrics to "The Star Spangled Banner" (1814).

16 The Mayflower sets sail from Plymouth, England. It carried Pilgrims headed to the New World to escape religious persecution (1620).

22 The record for drinking ketchup belongs to Dustin Phillips (USA). On this day, he drank a 14 oz. bottle of ketchup through a 1/4 in. straw in 33 seconds (1999).

23 The planet Neptune is first discovered by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle (1846).

25 Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female Supreme Court Justice (1981).

26 The Federal Trade Commission is established.

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Plural Verbs with Singular Subjects British vs American English

We often use singular nouns that refer to groups of people (for example: team, government, committee) as if they were plural. This is particularly true in British English and less true in USA English. This is because we often think of the group as people, doing things that people do (eating, wanting, feeling etc).

In such cases, we use:

- plural verb
- they (not it)
- who (not which)

Here are some **British English** examples:

- The committee want sandwiches for lunch. They have to leave early.
- My family, who don't see me often, have asked me home for Christmas.
- The team hope to win next time.

American English: Committee wants, family doesn't, team hopes.

Here are some examples of words and expressions that can be considered singular or plural:

- choir, class, club, committee, company, family, government, jury, school, staff, team, union, the BBC, board of directors, the Conservative Party, Manchester United, the Ministry of Health.

But when we consider the group as an impersonal unit, we use singular verbs and pronouns:

- The new company is the result of a merger.
- An average family consists of four people.
- The committee, which was formed in 1999, is made up of four men and four women.
- Notice that this is often a question of style and logic. The important thing is to be consistent

www.englishclub.com

Falling Asleep in Class

*I fell asleep in class today,
as I was awfully bored.*

*I laid my head upon my desk
and closed my eyes and snored.*

*I woke to find a piece of paper
sticking to my face.*

*I'd slobbered on my textbooks,
and my hair was a disgrace.*

*My clothes were badly rumpled,
and my eyes were glazed and red.*

*My binder left a three-ring
indentation in my head.*

I slept through class, and probably

*I would have slept some more,
except my students woke me*

as they headed out the door.

Kenn Nesbitt

www.gigglepoetry.com

Rigoberto's Riddles

This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it? It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it! In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out! Try to do so without any coaching!



Answer: The sentence doesn't contain the letter "e"

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



Fish Wordsearch

Find and circle all the fish that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message -- A Benjamin Franklin quote.

U I I B M I H T R L O A A L P A R
 O P M L R U S S L G D S L L O P G
 M A R U E U S H P U E A M Y M P H
 R L E E N R E K C E V O O V P I S
 A I P F D A E A E E E D N A A E I
 W T I I D F R K R L A H D R N S F
 W S M S E R I C C R L D S D O H T
 H A S H A R K S O A L U O E L A O
 S L H B U H C D H E M C N N I L R
 I R O O S T E R F I S H N G T I R
 F H R E O H S I F E N O B R E B A
 W C A T F I S H B A D D N A S U P
 E A N U T H G R A Y L I N G E T D
 J K O O N S W O R D F I S H A Y S

Barracuda	Grunt	Shark
Bluefish	Halibut	Sheepshead
Bonefish	Jewfish	Smelt
Bullhead	Mackerel	Snook
Catfish	Muskellunge	Sturgeon
Chub	Paddlefish	Sunfish
Cod	Parrotfish	Swordfish
Crappie	Permit	Tilapia
Crevalle	Pompano	Tripletail
Dolly Varden	Redfish	Tuna
Dorado	Roosterfish	Wahoo
Drum	Salmon	Warmouth
Gar	Sand Dab	
Grayling	Sauger	

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



A petshop owner had a parrot with a sign on its cage that said "Parrot repeats everything it hears." Davey bought the parrot and for two weeks he spoke to it and it didn't say a word. He returned the parrot but the shopkeeper said he never lied about the parrot.

How can this be?

Answer: The parrot was deaf

Idiom-Attic



Stick Out One's Neck

How come they're asking me to act as their guide through the jungle? Evidently they think you're the only one who can lead them to the lost temple. That jungle has danger lurking around every corner. Why should I **stick my neck out for them?** They didn't pay me for my services. They know that you would be **taking a great risk and could possibly get hurt, but you're the only one with enough knowledge** to take them to their destination. I'm sure you'll be amply rewarded.

Beak Speak

- Part of a Roman soldier's pay was called *salarium argentium*, "salt money", which was used to buy the then-precious commodity, and so pay today is called a "salary."



- "Journal" does not have any letters in common with the Latin word from which it is derived: *dies*, "day." Intermediate steps in the word's development include the Latin *diurnus*, the Italian *giorno*, and the French *jour*.
- The word "kindergarten" comes from the German for "children's garden". Friedrich Froebel, who coined the term, originally was planning to use the term "Kleinkinderbeschäftigungsanstalt" instead.
- The word "abracadabra" originated in Roman times as part of a prayer to the god Abraxas.
- The word "tragedy" is derived from two Greek words meaning "goat song."

Artie's Corner

Artie's Easel

Readers: I will continue sharing the exciting and inspiring lives of several famous artists whom I know and interact with on a weekly basis with you. Here goes!

Artist B is a northern California artist who works in water-based media on both traditional and alternative surfaces. She holds a dual BA in Art Studio and Art History, with a concentration in modern and contemporary art from Sacramento State University. She is currently attending classes at the San Francisco Art Institute where she is completing a Masters of Fine Arts in painting.

Artist B's accomplishments include showing her artwork in San Francisco and northern California through the California Museum for Women, History, and the Arts, the Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, the San Francisco Art Institute, and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento. Permanent in-

stallations of some of her paintings can be seen at the San Francisco Writers' Grotto, the Italian Cultural Center in Carmichael, and multiple locations at Sacramento State University. In addition, Artist A has



Prof White -- Artie's Mentor

won many awards for her fine paintings, including the First Place Contemporary Award from the North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce (2006). In 2006, she was also identified in the Sacramento Bee as an up and coming artist worth watching.

When Artist B is not painting in her studio or visiting museums and galleries, she is supporting arts-related community efforts. In addi-

tion to her work with the Creative Arts League of Sacramento, she is a board member of the Art Service Group of the Crocker Art Museum and participates annually in the Capital Artists' Studio Tour. Artist

B is also involved in researching the need for a scholarship fund for worthy art students at Sacramento State University.

As you can see, Artist B is a very busy person; she not only attends full time graduate classes in the Bay Area, but continues with her creative en-

deavors as well. Hats off to Artist B who inspires all of us who are trying to become great in the art world.

If you haven't already noticed, but Artist A and Artist B are both actively involved with projects in the Sacramento community that help other people. Thus, art, it seems, is not only about ourselves but also about our relationship to those who live around us.

To contact Artie: whiteg@arc.losrios.edu

Net Gain: Ask the Komputer Kid -- Pawandeep Singh!



Dear Pawan,

Most of my friends and family members live in Canada and on the east coast. I talk to them often and I spend hundreds of dollars on phone bills. Is there any way I can reduce my phone bills by taking advantage of new technology?

Telli Foan

Dear Telli,

Yes, there are lots of different ways of communication, such as landline and wireless telephone, voice chat, VoIP, etc. All of these technologies have something special. Telephone gives a high quality of service but it is very expensive. Voice chat is free but it requires a computer and internet access on both ends. VoIP is an online telephone service which uses internet service for

communication. Some of them will cost you the same as telephone service and others not. I believe Magic Jack VoIP is one of the communication tools that could help you to reduce your telephone cost.

Magic Jack is a VoIP but it is lot cheaper than regular VoIP. It's a device that you can connect to your computer and make unlimited calls from United States to anywhere in North America. The cost per month is less than the cost of a cup of coffee. It costs about forty dollars for the first year and for the second year only twenty dollars. There is no monthly bill. It includes voice mail, call waiting, caller ID, 911, and call forwarding. For example, if you are on vacation and you want to redirect you VoIP calls to your cell phone, you can do that by using the forward feature in your Magic Jack account at no cost.

I use this device myself and it works very well for me. My phone bill has been reduced by fifty percent because of this device and I highly recommend if you want to reduce your phone bill.

Pawan

Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I sit in my room and study English 4-5 hours a day but my progress in speaking is very slow. What else besides taking classes can I do to help me get better in English?

M. Paishent

Dear M. Paishent,

Here on campus we have a lot of clubs and organizations you can join. That means you will be mixing with



people and, in all likelihood, communicating in English (unless, of course, it's the Esperanto Club). You can go to Student Services and they will have some ideas for you. The alternative would be to sit in your room in front of a mirror and talk to yourself. I don't advise that. My grandpa used to do that, and he used to get in some very bad arguments...

Granny

To contact Granny: braccop@arc.losrios.edu

Parenting the Parrot Way!

The Magic List



ESL Prof. Elizabeth Moon

Just the other day I was wishing someone would walk down the street and hand me a magic list to becoming the perfect parent. You know the perfect parent, the mother or father with the children who listens attentively to their words and with a smile on their face agree to clean the bathroom. I want to be that parent and not bribe my children with sugary treats or later bedtimes, but how? I discussed this with a few of my friends who seem to have perfect parent moments at least 50% of the time, as well as did some research at growingchildren.com and both seemed to agree to the following list:

1. Anticipate trouble. Consider the ages and personalities of your children to guess their likely responses to situations and people.
2. Give gentle reminders. Don't speak down or with disrespect to your children or nag them constantly. Instead, use reminders that may be just one word, such as "helping" or "waiting", or even a nonverbal nod of the head ("yes, that's okay"), or shake of the head ("no, not now").
3. Notice and praise the positive. Giving compliments

that are clear about the behavior you want ("Great job putting your toys in the toy bin." Or "I am glad you listened to my request, now we can play a game together.")

4. Use humor. Laugh with your children and this will help them see the positive of the situation.

5. Offer choices. When possible, offer children choices that are acceptable to you. Freedom to make choices makes it more likely that children will cooperate, as well as learn to make good decisions.

6. Be clear with your words. Leave no room for misunderstanding, and make sure you have your child's attention.

9. Ignore. This refers to all the little things our children may do that annoy us, as well the behaviors they use to try to make us angry. It is not worth the cries and screams by child and parent to respond to these behaviors or situations, and hopefully without any reinforcement our children will begin to act like the angels we know them to be.

10. Point out natural or logical consequences. Help your children see the connections between their actions and the results of their behavior. When these behaviors and results are presented as a means of explanation, not as a moral judgment or punishment, consequences help children see the sense in acting in a certain way.

11. Provide personal time and lots of hugs. All of us need time to ourselves to think or do without any other person telling us what to do. Send them off to their room with a hug and a promise not to disturb them for at least 15 minutes. This way everyone has time to refresh and look forward to trying again.

Boots on the Ground: Get Slick with Trail Mick

Monroe Ridge Trail Loop and Marshal Gold Discovery State Historic Park

In 1848 while gazing into the water at John Sutter's Coloma Mill on the American River, John Marshall discovered gold. Marshall and Sutter tried to keep it a secret, but the word quickly got out and caused excitement throughout the world. Many thousands of people soon rushed to California from the United States, Europe, China, and other places. Soon after the Coloma discovery, more gold was found throughout the Sierra Nevada foothills. Today, the Coloma site is preserved and is considered one of our nation's historic treasures. A replica of the old mill, a giant statue of John Marshall, and the cabin in which he lived are among the Park's monuments.

Coloma also has other natural treasures as well. The river and valley and the surrounding hills are quite scenic and there are a couple of nice hiking trails there. My favorite is the combined Monument / Monroe Ridge Loop Trail.

To get there, take US Highway 50 east from the Sacramento area to the town of Placerville. Turn on Highway 49 north for about eight miles, until you reach Coloma and notice that you are within the state park. Turn left onto High Street and follow it to the junction of Church Street. On the right you will see a large gravel parking lot with a couple of portable toilets. There is a small parking fee for using the Park's facilities. Collection is done by the honor system. Park your car in this lot and begin a three-mile hike that will take over an hour to complete. Walk up the road past Marshall's old cabin and continue uphill to John Marshall's statue. Nearby you will see an old farmhouse and a picnic area. Most of the Park once belonged to the Monroe's, an African-

American family brought here as slaves during the gold rush. In 1850 California entered the Union as a free state, so all slaves were granted their freedom. When the miners left Coloma, the Monroe's remained, gradually buying up most of the property there. The Monroe Ridge Trail portion starts just beyond the picnic area and continues uphill in a series of switchbacks. Don't



Mick Congratulating Himself

worry – it's not too steep. The trail soon reaches a crest and continues for over a mile along the ridge. This is my favorite part of the hike. There are lots of views of the American River and of the surrounding parkland. A few picnic tables along the trail provide places where people can rest or have a snack while enjoying the view. There are lots of trees, meadows, and (depending on the season) wildflowers along the route. Finally the trail descends in another series of switchbacks until it reaches the valley floor and

into an old orchard that was part of the Monroe farm. Watch out for cars as you cross Highway 49! You will cross over into the North Beach Picnic Area parking lot. Continue until you see the pathway along the American River. Follow this trail to the right, past the gold discovery site and the replica of the old sawmill. Cross Highway 49 again and walk up High Street, where you will pass a few old houses that have been converted to bed and breakfast inns. Your hike ends at the parking lot, the starting point. See you there!

Trail Mick

To contact Trail Mick: braccop@arc.losrios.edu

Mim's Cafe



Prof. Montgomery with happy eater.

Finger foods are popular at get-togethers. I especially love home-made finger foods like pot stickers. On the Internet and in cookbooks, many variations of pot sticker recipes exist. If you are allergic to shrimp or don't care for dry sherry in your food, leave them out. Also, don't let the folding of the wonton wrappers scare you away from trying to make this. I simply connect two diagonal corners and seal the edges with water. Try this appetizer recipe and let me know how you like it. Email me, montgot@arc.losrios.edu, with comments or to share your own amazing recipe with The Parrot fans. Bon appétit!

Chinese Pot Stickers

Ingredients

- 3/4 pound of ground pork
- 1/4 pound of chopped shrimp
- 4 mushrooms (any kind) – chopped up finely
- 2 tablespoons of oyster sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon of sesame oil
- A handful of chopped green onions
- 1 tablespoon of dry sherry
- 1 tablespoon of cornstarch
- 1 package of wonton wrappers
- 3-4 cups of oil for deep frying

Cooking Instructions

1. Mix the first 8 ingredients together.
2. Spoon about a teaspoonful of the meat mixture and put in the middle of the wonton wrapper.
3. Use water to dab the corners of the wonton.
4. Fold wonton by bringing two diagonal corners together. (Don't worry so much about the looks.)
5. Once you finish making all the pot stickers, put oil in a wok.
6. Turn on stove to medium high heat.
7. Put pot stickers in and cook for 7-10 minutes or until golden brown.
8. Serve with sweet and sour sauce.



Out of the Cage

Poetry of Wild and Natural Places

Tuesday, September 15
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Please welcome Poets Maya Khosla and Indigo Moor to American River College as part of the Sacramento Poetry Center's project "A Confluence of Poets: Poets' Tour of Capital-area Colleges" Sept 14-17, 2009. Maya and Indigo are local, published poets who will share their poetry and discuss influences on their work.

Location: Raef Hall 162

"True Colors" Workshop

Wednesday, September 16
11:00 a. m. - 12:00 p. m.

True Colors is a career assessment tool to help you know and understand yourself better – what motivates you, why you behave in certain ways, why you have certain attitudes and preferences, and what your core values are. It helps you identify what careers and career environments would be most compatible and fulfilling. It also helps us understand others better, improve our communications with others, and appreciate our differences.

Cartoons and the Constitution

Thursday, September 17
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p. m.

Celebrate Constitution Day this year with Sacramento Bee political cartoonist Rex Babin. The United States Constitution assures "government of the people, by the people and for the people" by guaranteeing the people's right to publicly criticize government policies and politicians. For many years Mr. Babin has exercised that right on the editorial pages of our local newspaper. Join him for an interesting hour as he discusses our rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great nation.

Location: Raef Hall 160

ADA Transition Plan Forum

Thursday, September 17
12:30 p. m. to 1:30 p. m.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the college to review accessibility for people with disabilities, to identify problem areas, and to work toward resolving these. On Sept. 17, a panel will report on the college's progress so far, explain where we are headed next, and take questions from the audience. If you are interested in the ADA Transition Plan for the college, you are invited to attend.

For more information, contact ARC Administrative Services at (916) 484-8300.

Location: Training Room, Instructional Technology Center (directly north of the Learning Resource Center).



Questions/ Comments?

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The 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), or call (916) 484-8988, braccop@arc.losrios.edu.

Continued from page 1

Parrot: That is why you decided to specialize in teaching English to foreign students?

Travis: Well, also I wanted to teach in Japan because my mom is Japanese, so I wanted to go to Japan but my mom said I needed a skill before I went. So I got my Masters but then I met my husband. That's why I stayed here.

Parrot: Do you speak Japanese?

Travis: Not fluently, but I speak it. I learned speaking in conversations with my mom, but I learned reading and writing Japanese when I was in college. That was my major for my B.A.

Parrot: Do you speak another language besides Japanese?

Travis: No, but I know I need to learn Spanish.

Parrot: What satisfies you as a teacher?

Travis: My favorite part is when you see a student that has been struggling with something, anything, any concept, and then finally get it, like we call it a "Aha moment" "Ah, I get it!"

Parrot: Tell me a good experience that you have had as a teacher.

Travis: A good experience? Most of them are good experiences.

Parrot: Well, tell me about a bad one.

Travis: I had a bad one. I was teaching writing because my favorite thing is teaching composition and I was teaching high intermediate composition at the EAI at Sac State. I had a student who bought his essay from www.essay101.com and then plagiarized the whole thing. I mean he didn't even try to change it. He just copied and pasted from the Internet. It was like an essay that you can buy online or something. I had to give him an F on the essay and it was worth a lot. And then it was the last essay, and he didn't study for the final either, so he ended up with a D in the class. He didn't pass and that was his last session. Then he had to go home, and he was going to get credit for his time here. But because he didn't pass my class he didn't get credit and he had to repeat the semester at a university in Korea.

Parrot: Do you think there is any difference between teaching here and teaching at Sac State?

Travis: Well Sac State has a language institute so it's all international students. Well, like 99% international students. Most of them are from Korea or Taiwan and here (ARC) there are mostly immigrants. The difference is the kids are younger at Sac State, because they are college students, and most of them are academic and they want to go to college here and take the TOEFL. At ARC that's not their goal. They want to get the credits and learn English. It is a different focus. However, I treat everyone as a serious student in my classes regardless of what their goals are.

By Alejandra Alvarado ESL L320

Facts on Immigration and Health Insurance

By Steven A. Camarota

As Congress and the nation debate health care reform, the impact of immigration policy is an important component of that discussion. This *Memorandum* provides information about immigration's effect on the nation's health care system. The analysis is primarily based on data collected by the U.S. government in March 2008 about insurance coverage in the prior calendar year (2007).

Among the findings:

- In 2007, 33.2 percent of all immigrants (legal and illegal) did not have health insurance compared to 12.7 percent of native-born Americans. (Table 1)
- Immigrants account for 27.1 percent of all those without health insurance. Immigrants are 12.5 percent of the nation's total population. (Figure 1)
- There are 14.5 million immigrants and their U.S.-born children (under 18) who lack health insurance. They account for 31.9 percent of the entire uninsured population. Immigrants and their children are 16.8 percent of the nation's total population. (Figure 1)
- In 2007, 47.6 percent of immigrants and their U.S.-born children were either uninsured or on Medicaid compared to 25 percent of natives and their children. (Figure 2)
- Lack of health insurance is a significant problem even for long-time residents. Among immigrants who arrived in the 1980s, 28.7 percent lacked health insurance in 2007. (Table 2)
- The high level of uninsurance among immigrants is partly explained by the large share who have low levels of education. This means they often have jobs that do not provide insurance. Moreover, their lower incomes often make insurance unaffordable.
- Cultural factors may also contribute to the high rate of immigrant uninsurance. College-educated immigrants are twice as likely as college-educated natives to lack health insurance.
- In an earlier study, the Center for Immigration Studies estimated that 64 percent of illegal immigrants were uninsured in 2006, accounting for one out of seven people without insurance. If the U.S.-born children (under 18) of illegal immigrants are included, they account for one out of six people without insurance.
- Among legal immigrants (non-citizens), 27 percent were uninsured in 2006.

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