

# The IEP TIMES

Bringing the World to Eastern Mennonite University

April 20, 2004

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

April 25, 1:00: EMU Commencement

May 3: Summer session begins

May 31: Memorial Day

## Learning and Using English Outside the Classroom

### The Akron Tour

Our delegation was composed of an international body from many different countries and led by the son of the Director of IEP: Jean de Dieu from the Congo, Toni from Mexico, Kaori from Japan, Kiang from Laos, Yevgeniy from Kazakhstan and Norlan from Nicaragua.

We stayed at this beautiful African house with nice decorations and we really enjoyed it. At the MCC Headquarters, there are five houses that represent all the global continents. The African house has everything in African style and I felt like I was at home, but in the real world it was snowing, unlike in the Congo where we don't have any snow. However, I do like the cold weather, just the contrary of what my acquaintances felt. In this house you could see and smell the nature which meant your brain could be in touch with God's nature; you could have the ability to be assigned this spirit. The other thing that made an impression on me and my roommate, Yevgeniy, was the bathroom. There was not a bathtub but just the floor; I was so happy, remembering when I was a refugee in my country we used to take a similar bath.

The trip was very interesting due in part to the fact that we had the privilege to meet the Director of MCC Mathies and learn what they are doing around the world. The second meeting was about Peace and Justice. Their English was so clear that even Kaori could understand. We learned a lot, and I would say "Thank you" to our colleagues,

Andrew, and special thanks to Mike Medley for this opportunity to learn about Amish culture as well as Mennonite life, which have helped us to understand how we can keep our community values.

**Jean De Dieu Tshlieu**

### Offering English Services

My main intent in improving my English at IEP is to practice the language because I don't work outside the house, so I don't have the possibility to maintain a daily conversation with American people. However, because my husband is developing a newspaper business I am using the opportunity to make a lot of written translations (English to Spanish) and sometimes I interview American people. I also offer my services as a volunteer translator at public schools of this city and I had the opportunity twice to attend Stone Spring Elementary School to help some Hispanic people at the parent-teacher conference. Being a volunteer helps and satisfies me a lot because I appreciate that not only can I help others, but also myself.

**Ana Carolina Parietti**

### Interpreter

Even in my country, I was interpreting for my relatives when they went to some offices or saw doctors. My job was to facilitate the communication between the two sides. When we arrived in the United States I found myself doing the same job after three months. The first time it was very difficult, because I wasn't familiar with the western health system. Now I am much more comfortable with interpretation for my people, and here there are many opportunities to improve your English language and train people to be professionals. There are even places which provide services as interpreters in order to bridge the gap between English-speakers and non-English speakers.

**Galawesh Qaradaghi**

### **Book Fair**

On Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> our Advanced Grammar and Writing Class went to the Book Fair. It was located between Harrisonburg and Staunton, Virginia. I wasn't disappointed. The quality was good and there were many kinds of books of religion, art, fiction and lots of children's books. It took more than an hour to look around at all of them. I felt good even though there wasn't enough time to look around fully because of the class time.  
"Nothing is free in one's life"

**Samuel Park**

### **The Rewards of Hard Work**

English classes at IEP have changed my life. My life has become busier. For example: when my family gets any mail they give it to me to read. If it is a bill they say you need to call this company and ask some questions. On the other hand, it makes my life easy. For example, if I have any questions or I need to go to any places I can do it myself; I don't need to ask somebody to help me. One more positive effect of my English classes is that now I can chat with many people from very different countries.

**Yevgeniy Sychev**

### **Empowered by English**

My English classes changed many things in my life. One of the most important things is I can communicate with others in English. My life before I decided to take English classes was horrible. I was thinking that was impossible in my life. I felt sad, frustrated, and scared when people wanted to communicate with me because I couldn't; I didn't understand. As time has passed, my mind has been opening. It is very good. Now it's easier for me, easy to understand, to listen and to speak. Now my life is more easy and comfortable, thanks to my God and my teacher, ah! and of course to me.

**Paula Gutierrez**

## **Sharing Our Holiday Customs**

### **A Holiday in Colombia**

In Colombia there is a big celebration in the New Year. The people eat special foods, and in this holiday my family makes food such as tamales, turkey, pork, salad, etc. I like this celebration because my family in this holiday is together and I like to eat different kinds of food that the people make. In this celebration people

usually say "Cheers" and drink champagne or other liquor. Also in this holiday night, the government has fireworks in different places, and it is usually some families' fireworks to begin the New Year.

**Alvaro Gutierrez**

### **Chinese New Year**

The Chinese New Year is a family celebration. On this day, Chinese people celebrate last year's every thing and they hope to have good luck for the New Year. They prepare many foods such as whole chicken, whole duck, white cakes and dumplings. In my family, we have our own dish for the New Year. My parents kill chicken and duck and cook seafood such as lobster, shrimp, fish, mussels and different kinds of vegetables. I prepare some snacks, drinks and fruits. We also have to visit and offer New Year's greetings to our relatives and friends. We eat more than usual and watch spring festival's TV performance until 2:00am. The first New Year's Day, everybody wears new clothes to go out sightseeing; it is very lively. Everyone is happy.

**Cindy Ren**

### **Christmas Foods and Customs**

In my country, there are two important holidays: Christmas and the New Year. All of my family is together at Christmas. The dinner has various plates, such as *hallacas*, ham, bread, pork leg, chicken salad and coffee. They are the typical plates in almost every home of my country.

In the New Year all the family is together and makes the dinner and eats *hallacas*, pork leg, chicken salad, ham bread and drinks coffee. After we eat everybody talks and tells jokes, hears music, dances to wait for the New Year, and eats twelve grapes to give wishes for the New Year. The tradition is to go outside with a suitcase for travel and count the money to have a lot of money in the New Year, and we hug for the welcome of the New Year.

**Maria Hernandez**

### **Nawroz**

Nawroz is an important holiday in Kurdish culture. It comes every year on March 21. On that day everybody prepares themselves for the Nawroz party. The kinds of foods prepared on that day is a variety such as different kinds of rice, chicken, soup, and deserts like paqlawa cake.

**Chemana Muhamed**

### **Christmas in Honduras**

In my country, Honduras, there are important holidays such as Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ. The people prepare many special foods such as tamales, sweet bread, and fruitcake, but in other places they make other kinds of food and different drinks. My mom starts cooking early Christmas morning. The custom in my country is to visit all your friends and family in the night and eat together.

**Francisco Lugo Rosado**

### **The History of Nawroz**

This holiday came from a long, long time ago in my country. There was a king named Zohak. He was one man who killed many young men from Kurdistan. Day after day he killed people. One day a big group came with a big man in the group who was a very strong man named Kawa. The group went to the king's house and killed the king. From that day, every year Kurdish people celebrate a big holiday, and everybody with a family makes new for everything. The family makes special food called Yaperas, which includes grape leaves, rice, chicken, lamb, tomatoes, potatoes, and eggplant.

**Abdulla Rostem**

### **The Love of Travel**

#### **Why do People Travel?**

Throughout human history, people have always been traveling to different places. At first they traveled because they needed to get food. They were nomadic. They were always moving to other places. Now, in our modern period where the technology makes it easy to travel, many people are going to other places for different reasons or causes.

The first or main cause of people moving is war. In our world, we can find many international conflicts or conflicts within countries. That situation makes people move to other places. Those people try to escape from violence. For example in Latin America around 3% of people need to move to other places in order to save their lives, because in those countries there are many political conflicts (Bermudez, 41).

The second reason for movement is people's need to get better standards in their life. For example sometimes people who live in towns or small cities want to move to big cities, because

they think that in those places they can get better opportunities. From time to time people are traveling to other countries with the same purpose.

Another reason for people traveling is for education. Some cities in the same country or some cities in other countries offer them high levels of education. When teenagers finish high school, they need to look for colleges or universities and they need to move to other cities, states or other countries.

I can enumerate several other causes for people traveling. For instance, health, jobs, and pleasure. However, these last causes are temporary and the first reasons are more continuous or permanent.

Bermudez, Abel E. *Un Problema De Orden Mundial*. Barcelona: Editora Sigma 2002 (p. 41)

**Henry Garcia**

### **Upcoming Cross-Cultural to China**

Since I was very young I was very interested in Chinese culture. Now I have the opportunity to go to China. I am really excited about it; I feel that one of my dreams in my life is going to be true. About 19 students, the leaders from EMU and I are going to leave on May 4. We will be there three weeks visiting six of the most important cities of China. It will be a great experience in my life because I never have been so far from my country. Since I knew that I really will be there I have been telling all of my friends and family; all of them are glad about it. My parents are a little worried due to the fact that I will be without any of my family, but anyway they feel happy and proud of me. They will come here from Mexico to see me off when I leave. I am wondering how I will feel, not speaking even a word of Spanish. It will be very interesting and difficult, only speaking English and trying to speak some Chinese words. I know some Chinese words already and I feel it is not as difficult as I thought; in addition, my Chinese friends have told me that my pronunciation is not too bad and I am glad to hear it.

**Roxana Luna**

- ▲ Improve your English skills!
- ▲ Enhance your education!
- ▲ Press forward in your career!

## **Causes and Effects: Current Issues**

### **Environmental destruction**

Still now, we have a lot of environmental problems. The reasons for these problems are mostly human causes. For example, deforestation, water pollution, air pollution, etc.

The first cause of global environmental problems is destruction of tropical rain forests. These forests provide habitat for an estimated almost half of the world's plant and animal species, provide water and fuel for much of the world's population, and influence regional and global climates. But humans are still cutting down the trees for export and development. "Extensive areas of the tropical rainforest have been cleared to grow pasture for cattle rearing and to cultivate crops for subsistence and commercial agriculture. Cattle ranching is an important source of farming activity in many Amazonian countries like Brazil, Colombia and Peru just to name a few. The export of beef to developed countries such as USA, Canada and Japan is extremely profitable and brings in valuable revenue to poor South American countries" (Indoor & Outdoor Air Pollution). Also our garbage is reclaimed in the forest, and so many animals are destroyed each year every minute.

The second thing that is destroying the environment is air pollution. For example, people use hairspray for their hair and exhaust from the car; these destroy the fresh air. Evidence shows that temperatures have been constantly rising in recent years. This is only partly caused by deforestation. Too much Carbon Dioxide is in the air and this carbon dioxide and other gases thin the ozone layer, thus allowing Ultra-violet rays to enter earth. Worst of all, these rays are cancerous.

The third cause is water pollution. Industry drains pollute the water. The major sources of water pollution can be classified as municipal, industrial and agricultural. For example, "One type of air pollution is the release of particles into the air from burning fuel for energy. Diesel smoke is a good example of this particulate matter. The particles are very small pieces of matter measuring about 2.5 microns or about .0001 inches. This type of pollution is sometimes referred to as "black carbon" pollution. The exhaust from burning fuels in automobiles, homes and industries is a major source of pollution in the air" (Indoor & Outdoor Air pollution).

Municipal water pollution consists of waste from homes and commercial establishments. "Raw sewage, garbage and oil spills have begun to overwhelm the diluting capabilities of the oceans, and most coastal waters are closed regularly, often because of high amounts of bacteria from sewage disposal, and marine wildlife is beginning to suffer" (Water Pollution and Society). Water and air are the main important things to develop the forest and humans. Forests and greens cannot develop near pollution. Environmental destruction is really related to deforestation.

Humans are destroying what they need to live on the earth by themselves. Tribes, animals and plants alike have lost habitats and homes to greedy modern men. Our life is getting convenient but it is also destroying the environment and all green things.

<http://www.lbl.gov/Education/ELSI/pollution-main.html>

(Indoor & Outdoor Air Pollution)

<http://www.umich.edu/~gs265/society/waterpollution.html>

(Water Pollution and Society)

**Kaori Mori**

### **The Effects of Computers at an Early Age**

What are the effects when children learn computers at an early age? The effects can be positive and negative. It depends on how they use the knowledge about computers. "The valuable experience most often depends on the computer software [they] are using" ([www.terc.edu](http://www.terc.edu)).

Let's look at what can be positive. Now, it's very easy to use computers even for children. "Very young children have shown comfort and confidence in using computers. They can turn them on, follow pictorial directions, and use situational and visual cues to understand and reason about their activity" (Clements and Natasi 1993). Due to computers, children can become more smart and intelligent. Computer programs raise children's skill levels. "Technology can change the way children think, what they learn, and how they interact with peers and adults. It can also teach the same old stuff in a thinly disguised version of the old way." (Papert, 1980). As a result, they can invent something new in very different realms. Also computers really help children with any physical problems to find themselves in their life. "Thanks to recent technological developments, even children with physical and emotional disabilities can use the computer with ease. Besides

enhancing their mobility and sense of control, computers can help improve self-esteem.” (Schery and O’Connor 1992).

Now, computers can be very dangerous. Because children learn computers at an early age, they know a lot of information about computer programs. As a result the first negative effect is they create viruses. “...mainly students and schoolchildren do. Having just studied the assembly language, they would like to try something, but can’t find anything more decent to do” ([www.viruslist.com](http://www.viruslist.com)). As a result people have a lot of problems with their computers. The very dangerous effect is when children become hackers. They steal money and secret information. Now, it’s a very big problem, because we have a lot of hackers in the world. Do you think it’s possible to solve this problem?

In my opinion all these effects depend on children’s parenting. It depends on how we educate our children. We need to show a good way to use their knowledge about computers, and then we can solve the problems about viruses and hackers.

#### *Works Cited*

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4. Schery, Teris K., and Lisa C. O’Connor. “The Effectiveness of School-Based Computer Language Intervention with Several Handicapped Children.” *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools* 23 (1992): 43-47
5. [www.viruslist.com](http://www.viruslist.com) Eugene Kaspersky. “Who Creates Viruses and Why?”

**Yeveniy Sychev**

#### **Evers Restaurant**

When I went to Evers restaurant for lunch with our students, I was surprised at several things. The first, it was far from downtown but I could see a lot of cars in the parking lot. The second, we had to pay money before eating contrary to other restaurants. The third, the cost was cheap and the food was delicious. The fourth, there were no young people in the restaurant. The fifth, all employees were kind and friendly. The sixth, we didn’t each have to give tips necessarily. This was a good experience after the Book Fair which we also enjoyed.

**Young Bum Chun**

#### **Shopping**

Shopping is one of my favorite activities in the United States. I don’t go shopping very often in my country, because I always have a lot of things and activities to do in my free time. When I came to the United States, I felt that it was so different. It is the opposite of my country, so I try to do something to keep myself busy. One thing that keeps me doing things is shopping with friends. When I lived in Connecticut, I went to the shopping mall several times a week with my friends. Now I still often go shopping with friends.

**Shu-Ling Huang**

#### **Farewell**

With sadness we bid farewell to those students who are completing their studies at IEP. At the same time we rejoice in the progress that everyone has made in learning & using English.

Recently Barbara Roberts commented to me that the group we had in IEP this semester is the finest group of students we have had in the past 3 years. Your commitment to your studies made classes valuable for all—including the teachers.

I want to especially commend and thank Barbara, Betty Lou Buckwalter, Laura Miller, and Sandy Longenecker for their excellent work. It is a privilege for me to work with you.

**Mike Medley, IEP Director**

*We are currently receiving applications for the Summer 2004 terms and the Fall 2004 semester. Please contact IEP at (540) 432-4059, email [iep@emu.edu](mailto:iep@emu.edu) or see our website at [www.emu.edu/iep](http://www.emu.edu/iep) for more information.*

***The writings in this edition of the IEP Times were produced by the students who are studying in the IEP during the Spring Semester, 2004. Thank you to the students and the teachers—Barbara Roberts, Sandy Longenecker, Laura Miller, and Betty Lou Buckwalter—for their contributions and Laura Miller for doing the editing & layout of this edition.***