

The IEP TIMES

Bringing the World to Eastern Mennonite University

October 7, 2005

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

October 8: Hayride and Hot Dog Roast

October 18: Potluck with Conversation Partners

October 24-25: Fall Break

November 5: Field Trip to Washington DC

My First Days in IEP

My first experience in IEP was something new in my life because I never was with a lot of people from different countries and that made me feel good, just to think of more friends, but this time with different customs. I'm not going to learn only English, but I am going to learn some words of their language.

Juan, Honduras
Intermediate

If you are an American native speaker, you already know what an ice breaker is. When I came to IEP I was embarrassed because there were few Koreans. On the other hand, I was happy. I want to speak English with a variety of people, so I like IEP. The first time it was not easy to make friends. But fortunately IEP provided some program for students. There was a game. Throughout this game I could ice break with other people. I did greetings, give and take. I realized it for the first time only after this experience. Ice breaking is very important anywhere. If I have this chance in another place next time, I will do that greeting with my smile the first time.

Choi, Korea
Intermediate

My first day at I.E.P. was very exciting. That day I felt so happy because I was really interested in taking classes at I.E.P. The very first day I attended classes, I felt so happy. I wasn't nervous. Being new in class didn't bother me at all since I was good at getting along with everybody. I really enjoyed my first day in class because I made many friends. Nowadays I take classes at I.E.P. This education center is a good place

to study. I will continue taking classes at this school until I become a good English speaker.

Jaime, Guatemala
Intermediate

When I visited IEP for the test, I thought this was the most important step and my feelings were nervous and I forgot all. But every day when I talk with my classmates and my teachers, it is more comfortable and a true university experience.

Alejandra, Costa Rica
Intermediate

Well, since I came to study English at EMU, I have felt myself challenged. It is a new experience that I'm facing in my life. English it is a very difficult language compared with other languages spoken all over the world. Though I say that English is a very difficult language, as I started to learn in IEP, I feel a strong confidence in myself, because now I can speak English fluently with the other people here around the United States and abroad. However, I usually speak English with friends at school, coming from all over the world, such as students from Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Korea, Portugal, and so on. We have good times, when we are talking together in English. So, therefore, it will be my privilege to share this learning experience with people of Angola when I return there. Knowing English gives one a good advantage since it is spoken worldwide. It will be great for me to show my new experience and my skills about the Language. I have gone to school everyday and I study *Listening, Grammar, Reading, and Writing*. These classes, for me, are difficult but I'm really getting involved in them because I have good lecturers. They are skillful and they pay attention to each and every single student in Class. They know the performance of each student and they help students to fully understand what is being taught in class. I like all the Lecturers at IEP because they are friendly, funny, and helpful but the only thing I fear is that they are tough in such a way of doing as much as they possibly can to every student to learn about English. In other words, the program is rigorous. One of my biggest concerns has been time management. Sometimes I go to class late because it has been hard for me to leave the bed, but now I have changed at all thanks to one of my classmate's

remarks. Junko, a student from Japan, shared in class a wonderful article about time management. She also mentioned that in order to reach the highest standard for my English Language, I always have to be in class on time. So, I have switched on an alarm everyday and I can get to my classes early. I think my lecturers are very excited about this big change that I have made.

In all, I am excited about all of the challenges that make up this new life experience. Nicolau, Angola
Advanced

I know my own limitations in the English language and I know that I have to improve. I am not a self-taught person (a person who learns readily without instruction.); therefore, I decided to register myself in an English language course. Considering that I am a working person, it was a hard task try to find a school where I could attend in my spare time. As I mentioned before, I am not self-taught. I am from the old school; I need a teacher, a professor, someone to give instructions and guidance and correct my errors. For me, this is the best way to learn. I found IEP English courses. It took me two years before I could register in IEP. Thanks to my employer who allows the opportunity to study. So I registered myself in IEP and here I am now, at my age, 50 to be more specific, in college again. Perhaps I am the oldest student in IEP; at least that is what my son said. He is 18 and he is in his first year in college. When I got my student ID, I started teasing him with it and joking about being a college student again. He told me that college is not the same anymore and that maybe I will not be able to finish or do the job. What is it that he wants to tell me; that I am too old to study or learn? Well studying is like any other task, if you have discipline, a good attitude, organization and commitment to do your homework, then you are winning 90 percent of the fight. Knowing my son, I know that he was trying to use some "basic psychology". Probably, he was thinking, "If I pick on the old man's self-esteem, he will do his best". Well in either case, I do need to get good grades, but most important, I need to learn, to improve my English language skills. In that way, we will both feel proud.

Fernando, Puerto Rico
Advanced

International Festival

This festival is celebrated in the city of Harrisonburg each year, at the Hillandale Park. In this festival a lot of people of different countries come here to meet other persons and exchange different customs. This festival has a lot of things to do. Around the park the

people walk along the road admiring different kinds of art. Then the people can try food. After that they can enjoy listening to music in the principal area. Each year many people come to enjoy this festival.

Jorge, Mexico
Basic

International Festival is exciting. It was held in the Hillandale Park on September 24, 2005. I went there with my family. As soon as we arrived, the most interesting thing I found was to see the Korean flag in the many others on both sides of the road and I was very happy. Also, there were many activity booths at the park. My family and I took pictures and we made picture frames with decoration of spangles of many colors. It was beautiful and we were happy. In the Mexican booth, my children made necklaces of "God's Eye", and it means good luck. Then, I enjoyed watching other countries' traditional dancing and listening to music. It was fun. In addition, the string figures I found were interesting and I used to do them. I thought it was a world-wide known thing. Then, there were many kinds of different country foods. I ate some European food. It was delicious. I was glad to meet new people, my classmates, and teacher. It was a great time to share cultures of many countries at one time at the same place. I thought it is a very good idea. I wish we can share our cultures there in the next year!

Jenny, Korea
Basic

Although the size of this festival was one fourth what I thought it would be, I really enjoyed it because I went to there with Mr. Donovan Tann who is my CA in my dormitory. This festival was small and each shop was also small but there were many people. Of course, they weren't only Americans. A few persons played some pieces of music on the stage. In the children's department a few children drew some pictures on the ground. Each group of people sat on the grass and in front of the stage. After we bought our lunch, we sat on this grass. Our lunch had some salty vegetables, an egg roll and a lot of grilled chicken. Though I couldn't speak to my CA so much, I was so comfortable and Enjoyed myself because he tried to talk with me. It became one of my good memories.

Kazunori, Japan
Advanced

The 18th Annual International Festival was on Saturday, September 24th, 2005, in Harrisonburg's Hillandale Park. When you enter the festival there are all sorts of different countries' flags and food. Each nation has its own music and dance. Also there are all

sorts of different traditional dress for the festival, especially Kurdish clothes. It is fun for all ages of the family.

Jaf, Kurdistan
Advanced

My Story

I'm Mireille. I'm from Congo. I'm learning English because I need to go to study my last year in high school at Eastern Mennonite High School (EMHS). The most important thing in my life is, I never lived in a foreign country, like USA. Now, it is my first experience to live in a foreign country. So, for me it is very difficult to live in a foreign country. Now it is difficult to do something, for example, I can't study and I can't work because I don't know how to speak English very well. My lesson about this thing is, it is very important to learn a new language. Because when you learn a new language, you can live in a foreign country, you can study and you can talk to other people. Finally, sometimes it is very important to learn a new language and to live in a new country. These things are very important when you go somewhere or in another country.

Mireille, Congo
Basic

My name is Alma. I'm from Guatemala. I have been living in the US 10 years. When I came I didn't speak English but three years ago I started to learn. I live in Harrisonburg and I work at Perdue in Bridgewater. My job is Quality Control and in my job I need to speak English very well, so I decided to improve my English. Now I am taking classes in EMU. I am going five days a week, because I have a goal and my goal is to be a nurse. My job and taking classes five days a week made me so tired and stressed. I think if I work hard my dreams will be real. Sometimes I think about leaving everything and spending all my time with my family because they sometimes tell me I need to spend more time with them. I felt bad because it's true but I think about success too. In my weekends if I don't work I spend my time with them and they enjoy that a lot. I love my family but someday I want to be someone in life. You need to sacrifice but the most important thing is when they finally understand you and say "Keep doing good" and "God bless you mom."

Alma, Guatemala
Basic

I was born in Puebla, a state very rich in history. Many important battles took place there. Also the food is very unique. It dates back to before Mexico was Mexico. As a matter of fact many natives still cook

and eat in the same way as then. We also have the biggest and most churches in Puebla. They are so old that some were built when Spain was there. That is not all, we have an active volcano. It's one of the most active volcano now. Its name is Popocatepetl. It is being studied by just about everyone. Well that is only a small taste of Puebla. I hope you can go to see all of this when you go to Puebla.

Amanda, Mexico
Basic

These are the most important years of my life. On October 27, 1956 I was born in Lima, Peru. When I was seven years old in 1963 I started school. Later, 1970 I graduated. In 1971 my first daughter was born. 1971 to 1982 I had four children, two boys and two girls. Next I came to the USA in 1990. I was happy and sad because the airplane scared me. In 1992 I got divorced and in 1993 my three children came to the USA. In 1996 I moved to Pennsylvania and got married. In 2000 my older daughter came with my two grandchildren. Later, in 2002, I visited my son Frank in California and saw his family (wife and little daughter). After that, in 2003, I moved to Harrisonburg. Finally, in 2005 I started English class in IEP. I love life because I learn every day.

Nancy, Peru
Basic

I'm David. I'm from D.R.Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo). I have been in United States for two months and two weeks. I'm here to study Nursing, but now I'm learning English at Intensive English Program (IEP). Because I didn't know how to speak English and in my country we never spoke English. But now I can speak, read, write and understand something. My goal is when I finish learning English, I will go to Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). My family lives in Congo and I have four brothers and four sisters and I'm the oldest. I need to tell you about my country DRC. First of all, before my country was called Belgian Congo for many years, because it was colonized by the Belgians and Joseph Kasavubu was the president. It had its independence on June 30th, 1960. So, June 30th of each year is Independence Day. In 1965 there was a war for a short time and after that, the name was changed Republic of Zaire. Marechal Mobutu Seseko was the president. He was president for a long time from 1965 to 1997 (32 years). Then on May 17th, 1997 the name and president were changed for a second time and there was a second war too just for a short time. Now it's called Democratic Republic of Congo and Laurent Desire Kabila was the president for four

years. Then on January 17th 2001 he was killed. Then his son Joseph Kabila become the president. But four more people of the government needed to become president also. Now we have five presidents. Then the people needed elections but the presidents don't like it. On June 30th of this year, the people marched for elections, but they didn't get it. They need to do it next June 30th 2006 .Those things are very important for DRC. For some people who live in the region it is very sad. The military bury the people alive. That's very difficult. So, actually life is very hard in DRC.

David, Congo
Basic

Haiku

Leaves fall from the trees
Making big piles on the ground
Where squirrels are playing
Henry, Honduras
Intermediate

Look at the mountains
The wind caresses the trees
With a loving touch
Jaime, Guatemala and Ana Laura, Uruguay
Intermediate

I feel the cool breeze
That's touching my face softly
And the leaves are red
Vanessa, Mexico and Alejandra, Costa Rica
Intermediate

There are many trees
They are changing their colors
Leaves are falling down
Juan, Honduras and Choi, Korea
Intermediate

It is cool today
The leaves have changed their colors
Trees are turning brown
Lourdes, Mexico and Cindy, China
Intermediate

My Favorite TV Comedy

I like to watch many different types of television shows, but my favorite TV comedy is the "I Love Lucy" shows. It took place in the 1950s, but it is still very funny today. There are many funny episodes, but my favorite episode is when Lucy and Ethel trade places with Ricky and Fred. The women get jobs and

the men stay home and do the housework. Lucy and Ethel work at a candy factory machine. I like the "I Love Lucy" show because the actors are very good and the episodes are well written. Although it is many years old, it is still very funny. I think that 100 years from now, people will enjoy the "I Love Lucy" show.

Marlenny, Dominican Republic
Basic

How to Be Healthy

I have not had enough sleep since I came to Virginia for so many reasons. I was so use to being told what to do in my high school. I always followed the rules which were as example, room time, light out time, etc... When I started to live in North Lawn (one of EMU's Dormitories), I found that there was no room time or light out time. That made me become "a night person". I talked a lot with my friends until we fell asleep. That continued almost the every night. I slept only three to five hours and that made me really tired every morning. It was hard for me to focus on studying and take classes at IEP. The experience taught me to control myself. One day, I tried not to stay up late even though my friends asked me to stay together. I felt so much better the next morning. I was able to listen to and learn from the teachers. Another good thing about sleeping well is I could be more talkative than I was other days. I am still struggling to sleep early, but it is getting better than before.

Junko, Japan
Advanced

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

Please contact IEP at (540) 432-4059, email iep@emu.edu or see our website at 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 Fall Semester, 2005. Thank you to the students and the teachers – Barbara Roberts, Anali Kratz Mathies and Christi Kramer - for their contributions, and to Maria Esther Showalter for the layout of this edition. The director of IEP is Dr. Michael Medley.