

“A Friend, the Gift You Give Yourself”

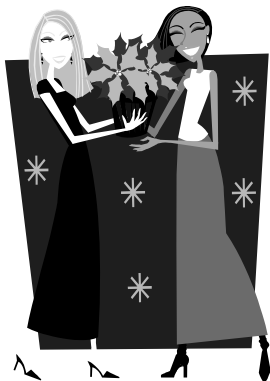
IEP is for helping me to learn English and helping me to get into EMU. However, IEP is really important for me in another way also. It is "friendship". I've met many students from different countries and each one of them has a wonderful personality. I was afraid I would not be able to get to know them well at the beginning of this semester. BUT, because they were all friendly to me, my worry flew away from my mind right away. Some of the IEP students invited me to their parties. I think they do not know how much I appreciate it. I was so happy that they considered me. I also go to know other students. One of them invited me to have dinner at her house. We had Korean food and it was so yummy! Another new friend took me to his church on Sunday.

I also appreciate my classmates. We have such a small number of people in our class, but I enjoy seeing them every day. I feel sad if someone does not show up to our class. I am thankful for everyone and they are all important for me. I have more good experiences that I can't put all of them in this writing. In all, I hope I can keep in touch with most of them even when I leave IEP.

Junko, Japan
Advanced

When I write some letters or make some phone calls to my best friends and my family in Costa Rica, I have fresh memories of them. Drinking a cup of coffee in some mall, out of the rain and laughing about every joke; real friendship is a special relationship that exists in the mind, in more intense feelings. Remembering that sometimes makes me laugh or cry. Friendship is really more than a simple relationship.

Alejandra, Costa Rica
Intermediate



Sometimes a Stranger Can Be a Real Friend

This young person helped me with a problem in my car. I drove one hour with my sister, then the car started to make different noises. I stopped in the dark road. Too many cars and trucks passed. I was scared and did not understand the problem. Later I drove 20 miles more to look for a gas station. The noises were stronger. The next I drove slowly when the tire went out. I parked the car, and put on the emergency light. Some young people parked their car and helped me. He repaired the car and also called my family. The most important thing is when you help somebody, in the future somebody will help you. Thanks young people, for helping me with the problem in my car.

Nancy, Peru
Basic

One night I was driving my car in a new city with two of my friends, and the police came and stopped them because I had a back light broken. After that the police took my car because I don't have a driver's license. Next my friends and I walked to look for someone that had a driver's license to help us. Then we arrived at a Mexican store and we asked the people if they could help us, but everybody said "No" or "I am busy" or other words. At last someone said yes. And this person said, "I'm going to help you but I need to buy something in the store", and I said okay. After that he invited me to his home, and I met all his family. I was very surprised because he was very friendly. I couldn't believe that a stranger was helping me. After that I asked him why he was helping me and he said, "I help you because, if I have a problem maybe you are going to help me too." At last we went for my car and I said to him "Thanks so much" and he said, "It's okay." I was very glad with this stranger.

Jorge, Mexico
Basic

Crossing Cultures

This week, I learned about Halloween. It means "holy" (hallow) "evening" (een). This is the evening before the Christian holiday of All Saints Day. Before I came to the United States, I didn't know the day of Halloween is similar to the Thanksgiving Day. Now, I know exactly about Halloween. On October 31st, it was the first time that my family celebrated Halloween in

the U. S. My children went from place to place and said, "Trick or treat!" Then, they got some candy, cookies and chocolates. They were very happy. As time passes, I am interested to know about how some Americans celebrate several different special days. Next year, I wish to make a jack-o-lantern with my family on Halloween.

Jenny Korea
Basic

Today is my husband's birthday. In my country people have to eat long noodles and eggs for the birthday. The long noodle means that you have a long life. Egg means that you have good luck. People also have birthday cake now. That's Chinese and western together. My husband had a Chinese and western birthday today. My parents cooked the long noodles and eggs, and bought a birthday cake to celebrate. He was very happy.

Cindy, China
Intermediate

I am from Honduras in the Comayagua State. In this city we don't have high buildings. I was born and grew up there but in 1996 I came to the United States, to New York. When I got to the airport I looked around and it was so awesome, especially when I went to Manhattan and saw the Twin Towers. That was incredible for me. And then I was so sad after what happened on 9/11.

Juan, Honduras
Intermediate

First Impressions

My first experience to visit a big city was to New York. One day, I was working and I was amazed when my friends told me to prepare for a trip to Pennsylvania for Fall Break. That Friday night at 6:00, we left for Pennsylvania. We drove for 5 hours. We went first to our friend's house in Pennsylvania, where we stayed for the whole vacation. The next day at 6 in the morning we drove to the train station, then at 15 we went to New York. When we arrived in New York it was cold and windy and it was sprinkling. We didn't know where we should go first, so one of us had the idea to look at the map, and we got ideas. One of us was the guide.

When we were walking we got tired and hungry, so we went to a Chinese restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we

continued to walk, and we went to the island. Then we took the ferry past the Statue of Liberty and came back. After that we took the subway to where the World Trade Center was, and then we took the subway to Times Square. That place was very beautiful, and I was excited to be there. It was interesting that there were a lot of people walking around there, like in my country, but New York has many more skyscrapers than my country. We took some pictures there, and then we went back to Pennsylvania.

The next two days we went to Philadelphia. There, we visited different places. Some of us were Indonesian, so in the evening we ate at an Indonesian restaurant. After that we went to my aunt's friend's house. I had never met that family before, but I had talked to them on the phone. They were very happy to see me. Then we drove around downtown, and we saw some museums and did many things there. When we were driving back to Perkasie we got lost and drove around for 2 hours before getting back. Finally, the next morning it was raining but we drove back to Virginia and we got lost again for 2 hours. But at last we arrived in Harrisonburg. I had a good Fall Break and a good trip, and I enjoyed this new experience.

David, Congo
Basic

When I first came here, I felt nervous because I have never been in a culture like America. Also I didn't understand English and so I thought the English is confusing. When I had the first conference in Pennsylvania with IVEP (International Visitor Exchange Program), all the IVEP people spoke English and their respective languages, and I didn't understand. I listened to many idioms in the same time, so I was confused all the time.

The dance in my country is very nice, we have all kinds of dance, but here there isn't so much. But in Colombia we have misconceptions about the dance, because we think if the music is not Christian and we think about other kinds of dance, some Christian people think they are sins. I think this is wrong, because God created all kinds of music and all kinds of dance, you know.

When I rode in an airplane I felt excited. I have never ridden in an airplane before, and I liked to see the mountains from the airplane. I would like to have the feelings again. I was really happy and I had a great time in the airplane.

The people here are very nice, but not all are pleasant. If someone is unpleasant, it's okay, because I like to

learn about other people's personalities. When I arrived in Atlanta, I felt bad because a man asked me "What do you do in America?" I didn't understand so I didn't answer him. But I think it doesn't matter. I will think about good things, I won't think about negative things.

I have never seen people on the street, neither have I seen signs around the town. People share with other people, so there are many beautiful houses. Most people stay inside their houses. Dinner time is special because for many people the principal meal is supper, so it is very important to eat together. American homes have many books for cooking. When I go to someone's home, they always make something from the books. In Colombia everyone cooks without a book in the kitchen. Sometimes the food here in America is strange, but I like it very much.

It's really exciting now, because the nature here is very beautiful and the leaves are changing their colors. So I feel excited about the different colors and the leaves falling.

Ximena, Colombia
Intermediate

Relationship between Teachers and Students

When I first started classes at IEP, I felt like my professors were so tough and demanding, but overtime I ended up realizing that they are good. They pay special attention to students attending classes with no exceptions.

However, the intimate relationship among the lecturers and students has been great because all the classes that I have taken at IEP have been challenging, and most of the students are very proud of them. We are able to clearly express or even explain what we think about, and we are also able to actively participate in class by means of giving suggestions, exchanging ideas, and giving similarities and differences about the context!

Meanwhile, I feel myself brand new, and capable to grab knowledge through the work given by my professors such as research papers as well as homework. In all, this has been a good learning experience that I'm passing through, and I will be willing to share my knowledge that I got at IEP with people of Angola when I return back to my homeland.

Nicolau, Angola
Advanced

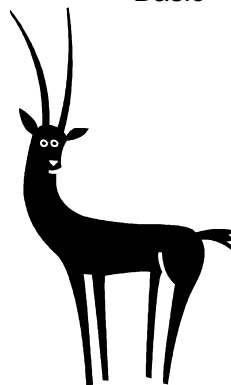
EMU's Science Center and Planetarium

It is very important for students or EMU community people to learn more about these places. I was very happy because I learned more about kinds of animals like the moose. It was my first time to see these kinds of animals, and I also saw something with two heads. I never saw deer before in my life, and I would like to return to the museum to learn more about this beautiful animal. It is a good place for a visit.

Amanda, Mexico
Basic

The Science Center is a good museum for everybody to visit, this museum is good entertainment. I saw many kinds of animals but the animal most interesting for me was the steenbok. That was the first deer I saw with a long neck, and I think this animal is very fast. I think it is more lean, and that is the reason it can run fast. I visited a museum before in New York, and this museum had many animals. It's good for families. The other thing is when I went to the planetarium museum I liked the stars and the moon. In my opinion everybody should visit this museum. I think it is very enjoyable for every family.

Marlenny, Dominican Republic
Basic



I saw different kinds of animals, sea plants, and eggs. Some of the things I liked were the Ruby Throated Hummingbird small eggs, those are wonderful, and I also compared them with the ostrich egg. Another thing that surprised me was the African scorpion, but the most interesting thing for me was the horseshoe I have never seen. Also, I will never forget the kinds of deer, and one of my favorites is reindeer because those are Christmas deer. Another thing I enjoyed was the movie about a tiger eating a snake. I got nervous because I don't like snakes. But in the planetarium

museum I learned a lot about constellations, sun, moon, years, months, days, and other things related to the world. I would suggest that people take this tour because it is interesting, and you can see and learn a lot of things.

Alma, Guatemala
Basic

First, I saw many different kinds of animals. The most interesting thing was I saw many different animals and now I know the names of them. I saw the musk ox and the guar before in my country. I didn't see the impala, the Cape Buffalo and the mountain goat before, but I like them. In my experience I learned many things, like where they live and where some of them are from. I think these places are very important for the students or EMU community, because they help people to know about the animals and to show how they look. I would like to tell other people about these places because they can learn more about animals. I like these places because they are very important for me, I learned many things, and they are good places to relax with your friends or family.

Mireille, Congo
Basic



The Sound of Rain

The day was a rainy day which I like. Do you like a rainy day? Most people dislike the day, I think. Maybe, they don't notice such a day is wonderful. Everything which is outside is wet and the air smells like dirt. When I take a deep breath and breathe the air, my mood calms down. The scenery is a little bit hazy because of the rain. You know, on the day which is rainy we can see plants and flowers clearly because the ground is wet. Especially, the concrete has gotten black, so the plants and flowers that are around can be watched vividly. We can see a red flower as redder and a blue flower, bluer. And also, the color of leaves will look greener.

Then I was looking outside through the window as I thought about nothing. I could see a tree from the window. The leaves had some drops and a little shine. And also, the tips looked heavy because of drops. I felt that they were smiling at me and seemed so happy. I thought, why are they smiling? It was because the sky had clouds and was dark and the air was soggy and most people dislike rainy days. So, I thought they might dislike a rainy day, too.

However, I noticed the reason when I thought about the recent weather. They wanted to take a bath because they hadn't been able to have a bath recently! Maybe their leaves had thick dust by the time the rain started. Then I felt sorry because they can't take a bath everyday. It depends on the weather. However, I know nature was made perfectly so I don't need to worry about it.

When I went out, I could hear the sound of rain. I tried to close my eyes. I seemed to like the rain closer to me. Each drop of rain must be falling on its hands and cleaning its body. After that they might fall and soak into the ground. They will be changed into nutrition soon. I was wondering about such things.

Kaz, Japan
Intermediate

From Afghanistan: Women Under the Taliban Regime

Historically, women in Afghanistan have been oppressed seriously and deprived of their fundamental rights more than anywhere else, which during the Taliban discrimination against women reaches its tip. The Taliban, which began as a religious movement of students educated in traditional Islamic schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, emerged as an military force in 1994.

Taliban issued decrees that greatly restricted women's movement, behavior, and dress, and in fact, virtually all aspects of their lives. In public, women are required under threat of severe punishment to wear the chadri, and to be accompanied by a close male relative at all times. Violations of the dress code, in particular, can result in public beatings and lashing by the Religious Police, who wield leather batons reinforced with metal studs. Women were not permitted to work outside the home except in the area of health care, and girls over eight years old were not permitted to attend school.

These decrees have had a significant negative impact on women's lives. The rate of illiteracy among girls in Afghanistan is now over 80 percent. The restriction on women's mobility has meant that women do not enjoy satisfactory access to health care. As a result, an estimated forty-five women die every day from pregnancy-related causes.

Widows, whose numbers after twenty-three years of war were significant, were acutely affected by the restrictions on women's employment and movement. Although the Taliban issued an edict in 1999 allowing widows with no other means of support to take paid work, employment opportunities remain extremely limited. International aid agencies, including U.N. bodies, had provided work for some women. However, in July 2000 the Taliban issued a decree banning all Afghan women from working in aid agencies except for those in the health care sector.

The Taliban has also allowed HABAT, a U.N. agency to employ over 3000 women in pasta processing centers in several urban areas. The general restrictions placed on women's employment have caused an increase in men begging on the streets and participating in prostitution.

Saeed Murad Rahi, Afghanistan
Center for Justice and Reconciliation
Advanced Writing Class



Afghanistan

Final Word

Some wonderful academic work has been going on this semester. We are now celebrating some of these accomplishments, which are part of our LILAC initiative—Lively Intercultural Learning Across the Curriculum

Recently we viewed the videos made by students in Professor Jey Holsopple's video editing class who interviewed IEP students Anali Kratz Mathies'

intermediate listening and speaking class. Both the interviewees and the videomakers did a great job on this project. Everyone is still learning from the videos as we watch and discuss them.

Caleb Yoder's basic listening and speaking class shared music from their country with two EMU students who are doing an independent study in ethnomusicology. We look forward to hearing more about some of the music from countries represented by our basic students.

Another project that is still going on is the partnership between Sandy Logenecker's advanced listening & speaking class and Prof. Jim Yoder's conservation biology class. Last week the advanced IEP students made PowerPoint presentations about important conservation issues in their countries. We look forward to enjoying these presentations in IEP next Monday.

Christi Kramer's American cultures through films class continues to take part in discussions involving the international film series. Everyone is invited to the last two films being shown in the international film series—Nov. 20 Shower (from China) and Dec. 4 Osama from Afghanistan. They are shown at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evening in Science Center 106.

I invite IEP students to give me more ideas about what they would like to study in partnership with EMU students so that we can have some exciting LILAC projects next semester. I appreciate all the hard work that students and teachers have been doing to make LILAC a success.

Mike Medley
Director, IEP

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- for their contributions, and to Christi Kramer for editing this edition. The director of IEP is Dr. Michael Medley.

Please contact IEP at (540) 432-4059, email iep@emu.edu or see our website at www.emu.edu/iep for more information

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