

# The IEP TIMES

Bringing the World to Eastern Mennonite University

November 6, 2007

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**November 10: Trip to Washington DC**  
**November 12-16: International Education Week**  
**November 16: International Marketplace**  
**November 22-23 Thanksgiving Break (no classes)**

## Our Perspectives on the World

I am one person in the world; this is how I view the world. When I came to the United States, I saw many people from different cultures, customs and religions. I saw people from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, South America and Africa. Some people came to the US just to study and they will go back to their country. Some people came here to live because they could not live safely in their own country.

I give the US as an example just because this is where I am now. There are many countries like the US such as England, France and Japan. I would like to talk about the world we are living in. It is very hard to talk about the world because there are so many views of the world. My idea is that we, all of us in the world, are human. We have the same mind and the same body though we may have different languages, cultures and religions. All of us have some questions for God such as, "Why is \_\_\_\_\_ my religion?" or "Why was I born in this country?" or "What is the meaning of these borders between these countries and lands?" I think the world is for all the people of the world and there is no reason to fight. For example, these days thousands of people are killed in Palestine for no special reason.

Armin, Iran  
Low Intermediate Level

*We invite you, the reader, to think about the world we live in. What is your opinion? How do you view the world? We invite you to write a "concluding sentence" for Armin's paragraph.*

In 1996, my family went to Hwacheon located in Kangweon-do in Korea, which was near the border of South Korea and North Korea. We were there because my husband should serve in the army as an

army doctor for one year. I took one year off my school, and we took our one-year-old son.

Hwacheon was a very quiet and small village where we could see high green mountains. In winter, we could see the beautiful scenery of the village covered with snow even though I sometimes missed a busy city life.

One day in summer, it started to rain and it continued for 3 days without stopping for a minute. I had never seen such rain before. After the rain stopped, we heard a few soldiers in the army base in Hwacheon were dead while they were doing some restoration work of damage caused by rain. I was very surprised and sad at the news. I didn't know that soldiers work in such dangerous circumstances. I hoped that the day would come when we don't need soldiers any more.

Hunjeong, Korea  
Advanced Level

## Into the Woods

Today, we went to Brethren Woods. We did a lot of interesting games. Those games are very good, because they taught me about how we can work together very well. First of all, in most of the games we must help each other and need each other's help. After that, we must communicate with others, listen to other's ideas, and help each other. Finally, this is a good trip.

Kai, China  
High Intermediate Level

Today we skipped the classes and moved to the park and had some fun. We left the IEP house at 8:30 and we arrived here about nine o'clock. We met Seth, the guy who helped us to have fun in the park today. We started to know each other very well and then we started the first activity. It was throwing the ball to each other and saying our name and other people's names. After that, we played three more games. It was very fun and we enjoyed our day there. We learned many things today. The most important thing is to work as a team.

Muhammed, Saudi Arabia  
High Intermediate Level



## Halloween in Harrisonburg



On Halloween Day, my children went trick-or-treating. They are so young they didn't know how to do it. My husband and I accompanied them. We joined another family. We all went around the neighborhood. The children received a lot of candies and some scary things. My children enjoyed it a lot. It was a good chance for my children to experience American culture.

Min, Korea  
Advanced Level

Halloween at Starbucks- Almost every co-worker was dressed the day before Halloween. Many of them were very excited, because we were allowed to wear costumes. When I got into the store I saw that all of my co-workers who were working were wearing their costumes; one of them was representing Elvis Presley, the other was a bartender. They looked at me asking where my costume was. I just said that I was already born with a costume.

Diana, Colombia  
Advanced Level

I got out of bed like always, but last Wednesday it was Halloween. I turned on the TV and I saw the newscasters wearing Halloween costumes and I remembered that we were going to have a potluck at IEP. I didn't bring any special dish from my country or for Halloween. I just brought some cookies. The potluck was great, especially the food. There was a lot of food and it was delicious. At the potluck we played some games and also celebrated the birthday of many IEP students. I think the potluck was good especially because of the decorations. The carved pumpkins gave a special touch to this potluck.

Raul, Mexico  
Advanced Level

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the IEP family and I had a Halloween potluck. Everyone in IEP brought a dish or a meal that is traditional in his or her country. When the potluck party started there were so many kinds of food and we all started to eat and enjoy the party. At that party we played some games. At the end of the party everyone took his dish and helped each other and they went home. I really enjoyed that party.

Tameem, Saudi Arabia  
Advanced Level

## Recipe from the Potluck



My food's name was Utah Chinii and it is made with rice, chicken, zereshk, eggs, saffron, sugar and butter. First you should mix the saffron with the yellow part of the egg very well. Then add sugar. You should cut the chicken into small pieces and cook it. When the rice is finished cooking, mix the rice with the saffron and egg mixture. Cook it a little and after that, mix it with the chicken and cook it. Towards the end, it will give you a yellow food that looks like a yellow cake. After this, put some zereshk (zereshk is something like a small red grape that is very sour). You can add pistachios if you want.

Armin, Iran  
Low Intermediate Level

## The Pleasure Reading Book Club

*Book Reviews by students in Low Intermediate Reading and Critical Thinking.*

The title of my book is *Island of The Blue Dolphins*. The author is Scott Odell. This book is very interesting. It is about an island named Coral Cove, its population and its visitors, the Aleut Hunters, who arrived at the island to hunt many otters and bass. The Aleut hunters made otter pelts. The story is beautiful because I can imagine the sea with many dolphins and the island with many people. For me, the book is difficult to read, but it is important and helps me to learn many new words. If you have not yet read this book, you should read it. I give this book \*\*\*\* stars.

Cecibel, Nicaragua  
Low Intermediate Level

Dear Friend,

I just read a book I want to tell you about. The book's title is *Black Eyed Susan*. The author's name is Jennifer Armstrong. The book has 120 pages. This is a lovely story that can be compared to *Sarah Plain and Tall*. The story is true. The book is easy to read. My favorite sentence is: "It's a big place with a big notion and whenever I tried to do some thinking on the subject, I found it was too big for my head." This is about the big prairie and the big sky where you can see the sky and the earth. I like this book very much because it is interesting for life and the planet. I think you should read it.

Neris, El Salvador  
Low Intermediate Level

My pleasure reading book is the biology book for GED practice. It is a book for people in the United States who study for their GED (General Education Diploma). I am reading this book to practice my English. Part of the book is about the human body, chemical sciences and the animal body. At last it talks about plant life. In the part about the human body it talks about the skeleton, muscular system, the digestive and excretory systems, and the circulatory and respiratory systems, etc... I recommend this book only to the people who like biology.

Armin, Iran  
Low Intermediate Level

## A Dating Story



There are some similarities and some differences about dating in America and my country. If you compare these two cultures about dating you will find out the reasons for the differences and similarities. The purpose of dating in both countries depends on your age. Find a member of opposite sex to have fun with or to be a boyfriend or girlfriend with, is for teenagers and find someone for marriage, is for older ages. In my opinion the purpose of dating and the things that the couples usually do on a date is the same in both countries.

In the US usually guys ask girls but sometimes you can see a girl asking a guy for a date, however in Iran guys do that. You will never see a girl ask for the date in Iran. The reason is, in Iran the girls have a special pride in this case and it is not acceptable for them to ask a guy for a date. The way of asking for a date is the same in both countries for example you might say: "I want to hang around with you," or "I want to know you better."

One of the important differences is the age when the people start dating. In this case, Americans start dating earlier than Iranians. In Iran people usually start dating from high school age but in the US they start when they are in middle school. The parent's permission for dating also depends on the age. In the US usually you don't need the parent's permission for dating but in Iran usually the relationship between couples is a secret between them, when they are boyfriend and girlfriend, especially for teenagers. A boy or a girl who is in middle school in Iran would have to be brave to have secret date. Because of that, dating in Iran is more common in high school. Another reason that makes dating different between the two countries is students in Iran don't have as much free

time as American students because the education system in Iran is harder than America.

One of the similarities is where the dates take place. Usually you take your date to a place like a restaurant or a movie theater in both countries. The time is not as important in the US as in Iran, but most dating is in the evening. Another interesting thing that is similar in both countries is that the couples usually act fake on the date. For instance, the guy might act funny, rich, or cool and the girl might act fancy, extra polite, or shy. On the date the guy is the one who pays for everything. This is the same in both countries. One thing that is not common in Iran is going Dutch. It is a very impolite idea for Iranians but in the US it is ok. When a date begins the most popular gift that is exchanged between couples in Iran and the US is the flower. When a date ends the last thing to do for Americans is to end with kissing or hugging, but in Iran a handshake is more common.

In conclusion, Iranian dating is similar to American in many of the activities. In my opinion American dating would be much better in some cases because you could be more comfortable. But sometimes the Iranian way works better because it has more control in the physical contacts for some ages.

Arian, Iran  
High Intermediate Level

## EMU Faculty Art Show Visit

*IEP Students visited the EMU Faculty Art Show at the Hartzler Library Gallery, featuring art by Barbara Fast, Cyndi Gusler, Jerry Holsopple, Steven David Johnson, and Laura Scott. The show runs through November 9<sup>th</sup>.*

[In response to: *Aliens* digitography, inkjet on canvas]  
"The Eye in the Alien Earth"

The eye found life in the alien earth.  
The eye found a hope in the alien earth.  
The eye found a visa for a dream.  
The eye found a word to call her own name, liberty.  
The eye found justice, dignity, equality and peace with balance.  
The eye said, "How can I find, in the alien's earth, this liberty?"

Neris, El Salvador  
Low Intermediate Level

Today I saw an art show. There were many different pictures, but each had their own style. My favorite picture was *Azalea*. It was a picture of pretty flowers in black and white. I think this picture shows a cloudy morning, but the sunlight is coming in and

making the flowers bloom. I enjoyed looking at all of the different styles of pictures at the art show.

Svetlana, Belarus  
Low Intermediate Level

## Real Stories from Real Students

Have you ever wanted to meet an old friend? Since the beginning of this year, I wondered what had happened to my friend, Cecilia. I met her a long time ago when a friend of mine introduced us. She is short and thin with black hair, and beautiful. We used to cook dinner and watch movies. Last month I was driving home on Interstate 81 around 2:30pm. The weather was hot and the traffic slow, which made the drive boring. While I was trying to keep myself awake, I noticed that a green car was following me. I was in the left lane, because I usually drive at 70 miles per hour. When I watched the car flashing its lights at me, I thought the driver wanted to pass. Therefore, I switched lanes. While the car was passing beside me, there was a woman waving her hands at me. I was in a haze; it took me a minute to recognize her. I asked her to pull over. I gave Cecilia a big hug and we had a short talk. I told her that it was nice to see her again after two years without notice about her; she surprised me. I never thought I would meet her in this way. The satisfaction of knowing that she is OK saved the day.

Raul, Mexico  
Advanced Level

In the summer of 2006 something happened to me. It started like this. The streets of the United Arab Emirates are not that safe at night. It was 3:00am. I was walking on the street, going to a supermarket to buy some groceries when this black car with tinted dark windows pulled up next to me. Suddenly the car doors flew open and three guys came up to me and told me to give them my wallet and my cell phone. I was shocked and did not know what to do. All of a sudden, I started stinking against and started running as well. I ran as fast as I could to the supermarket. When I got there, I looked out to see if the car was still following me, but there was nothing there anymore.

Waleed, Saudi Arabia  
Advanced Level

Last Friday, I went to Washington, D.C, to visit my friends. While I was on my way, I received a call from one of them asking me to come as soon as I could, since they had an important appointment and they wanted me to be with them. One of my friends passed the red traffic light, and the police captured him; as a result, he should go to court after two weeks for a trial. It was horrible for him because it is not common that you go to court in Saudi Arabia for a small issue. The lawyer assured him that it is not a

serious case and he will take care of it without going to court. Eventually, my friend relaxed after a hard time.

Saltan, Saudi Arabia  
Advanced Level

## The Final Word

It is a great pleasure for me present this *IEP Times* to all our readers! This issue does a great job of representing the varied learning experiences that have been going on at IEP through the month of October.

I especially want to highlight how we moved closer to achieving one of the goals that we set at the beginning of the semester. “Build a team spirit to make our learning more powerful.” I saw big progress in reaching this goal as a result of our trip to Camp Brethren Woods for the ropes course. The ropes course gave us opportunities to work together and practice in communicating.

We have shown our team spirit by sharing in presentations that were done by students—on topics as diverse as the fast of Ramadan and the issue of sexual harassment. We also put together a terrific potluck lunch, as you read about above.

More chances for learning together will be coming up in November, as many students read the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as we travel together to Washington, DC and highlight some themes from that book (justice for African-Americans and the Great Depression), and as we work together with the rest of EMU to celebrate International Education Week.

I look forward to the weeks ahead. We are going to finish this semester *strong!*

Dr. Mike Medley  
Director of IEP

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

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