

Diversity

The Intensive English Program Newsletter

Kingwood College
Volume 2, No. 1, 2002

Editor's Note:

Kingwood College Intensive English Program, started in August 2001. It offers courses in grammar, writing, reading & vocabulary, and listening & speaking in levels 2 through 6. Our students come from more than 20 countries, speaking over 40 languages. One of the goals of the program has been to promote intercultural understanding and diversity on campus and in the community.

Diversity: The Intensive English Program Newsletter plays an important role towards this goal.

Living in the US

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First Christmas in the U.S.A

MARIA TERESA CLARK, Venezuela, Level 3

I remember my first Christmas with my family in Indiana. We celebrated this day on my father-in-law's farm. All our family arrived with different plates of food. The farm had a very nice house. I remember this day because it had a lot of snow. All of it was very white - like sugar. The home was very warm. In the kitchen were different foods: turkey, pork, potatoes, different salads, bread, fruits, gravy and various desserts. My family brought Colombian coffee. All of our family was around the living room and basement visiting and enjoying the time together. We then decided to eat. First, my father-in-law said a prayer and welcomed my family from Colombia. After that we started the buffet. When everyone had finished eating, we decided to go to the basement to exchange Christmas gifts. I will never forget my first Christmas there because it was such a wonderful experience.

Living in Houston, Texas

GRECIA PASTRANA, Mexico, Level 2

I like to live in Houston, because in this city there is a lot of work. Also, this city is not crowded. Houston has many trees. It is a well organized and planned city.

My Life in Houston

BELGICA SALAZAR, Mexico, Level 2

My life in Houston is very nice, because in my country life is very, very different. My life in Houston is stable and nice. I feel very happy about living in Houston, because it is safe and calm. I like living in Houston.

For more information, call **281-312-1578**
or go to **www.kingwoodcollege.com**

Diversity: The Intensive English Program Newsletter
is published once a semester.

KINGWOOD  COLLEGE

A NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

My Experience as An International/Immigrant Student

MYRZA MORENO, Mexico, Level 2

My country is Mexico. I love my country. I lived on the border of Mexico and Texas. I took ESL classes for three months. The program was very slow for many reasons. I decided to leave my country. I saw a better future for me in Houston, Texas, where most of the people have to speak in English. I came to the United States. I looked for one month for different schools and some were more expensive. I couldn't afford them and looked for other programs. I was confused and I thought, "What am I going to do?" One day I went to Montgomery College and a lady helped me. She gave me orientation about these courses, but North Harris College had them. That college was far from where I live.

The other option was Kingwood College. I came here and they helped me. They had what I needed. I took a test. Today I am taking my classes. I feel very happy because I feel good that every day I learn something. I remember my first day. It was emotional.

I have the opportunity to share education with people of other countries. It is wonderful to learn other cultures, customs, and listen to other forms of speaking. We all could be friends, and race, color, and religion, don't matter. These people and I have one goal, to learn English and be better every day



YOKO TATSUMI, Japan, Level 5

There are many students and immigrants who go to a college in the U.S. nowadays. Some of us already have a B.A degree from our countries and try to earn a higher education in the U.S. Some of us have just graduated from high school and plan to go to college to get a specialized skill or education for a better occupation. However, studying in a foreign country is not quite the same as going to college in our country. There is one main concern to complete the college in the U.S as a foreign student: language problem.

It goes without saying that we have problems taking classes that are taught in English in The U.S. It is hard to deal with a large volume of reading and writing for homework everyday. It is even difficult for many American students to write academic essays; many of them are still required to take a developmental class if they do not score high enough on the TASP test. If it is hard for American students, we, foreign students, obviously, need much more effort and time to try to complete the college courses successfully.

There are other problems that affect individual students who live in the US as immigrants or international students. Every foreign should be aware of these problems and repara do deal with them to complete the college courses successfully.

UNYIME E. INYANG, Nigeria, Level 5

My problems in the United States are how to communicate with Americans and the need of being social with them. I have problems when talking to Americans because they think I have poor verbal skills and pronunciation, and I lack vocabulary. They do not understand me. Whenever I speak to an American I have to repeat myself many times and I also have to write it down for them to understand. Although they talk fast, I still understand them, so why do they find it difficult to understand me?

Secondly, it is difficult to make friends with Americans. There is no intimacy between them and they are just casual in friendship. For example, in my country a person who sees one of his neighbors or friends goes to his friend and they greet and embrace each other and they also both visit each other. In America people just say hi to their neighbors and mind their business. However, my neighbors are friendly, we interact with each other and their children are allowed to play with us. In short, my problems encountered in the United States are limited. With time I will begin to adjust to them.

VIVIANA S. MERRIL, Colombia, Level 5

Immigrants who come to the United States and want to work according to their career have serious difficulties finding a specific job. In my personal experience I have had two main problems as an immigrant, mostly due to my poor English.

The first problem has been a lack of immediate verbal reaction, especially in the interviews. For instance, when I was trying to be part of a very prestigious airline company, the lady asked me how I would react if a customer was yelling at me and screaming hysterically because he had lost his flight and he was assured that it was the company's fault. My brain started to find the right answer rapidly. However, no matter how fast I was able to think, my limited vocabulary and lack of fluency did not help at all with my honest intention to resolve the problem.

The second and the more important problem is to be an immigrant with foreign professional education. Being in my country I used to feel proud and happy to be a hard worker because I was doing what I had studied for, but here once I started seeking a job which was related with my career, I found the cruel reality that my diploma did not have any validity.

Furthermore, to deserve a medium-rank and regular position I should have at least three years of experience. For example, I went to a hotel near the airport and asked for a job as the front desk assistant, but I was told that if I wanted that position (which I guess is a very special position for a foreign person) I had to start working as a housekeeper, or in other words making the room beds. Then, while I was gaining the experience I could have the honor of making \$5.00 hourly.

Many people might think that to be an immigrant in the United States can be easy and fun, but the truth is different; to succeed in this country we have to prove that we can learn the new language, be smart to get the right opportunity, and finally show to the people that we are capable of accepting the culture and differences of North America. The advantage of being a foreigner is that every day is a brand new day full of surprises and challenges to deal with.



Alisa Cancino

Hello! My name is Alisa Cancino. I was born on the tiny island of Aruba, which is off the coast of Venezuela. My family left for the United States when I was six years old. Kingwood was a brand new community and my parents fell in love with the trees. Many of their friends from Aruba also made the move to the Houston area, so I was exposed to many different cultures growing up.

I went to college at Sam Houston State University and became a first grade teacher. After two years, I taught first grade English as a Second Language. It was wonderful to work with students from other countries. Their families seemed to instill an appreciation for education that my native students took for granted. I became a librarian at another school which was 98% Hispanic. I enjoyed the challenge of working with parents who were limited in their English speaking ability.

While I was at college, I met my husband. He is Hispanic and from Brownsville. Together we have made many trips across the border to Mexico. We enjoy traveling and meeting people from all cultures. We have two sons now and expose them to as much of the world as we can. They are our greatest source of happiness and entertainment. We also have my husband's teenage cousin living with us, so any advice on teenagers is appreciated!

I have been teaching in the Intensive English Program at Kingwood College for a year now. I have focused on Listening and Speaking and love it! Teaching here has been an incredible experience. The students, teachers, and Masoud make this program great!

ESL Program at Kingwood College

The Importance of the ESL Program at Kingwood College

MARLY PERDOMO, Honduras, Level 4

There's no doubt that Kingwood College has started a very important program. The ESL program is available for all those international students who have the enthusiasm to be good bilingual professionals. Texas has many foreign people, including a great number of Latin Americans who speak Spanish as a native language. They should know and recognize the great job that this campus is doing for the community. The college offers the Intensive English Program unselfishly and with faith that the next generation will have more opportunities than their parents and grandparents.

The best way to be thankful is by showing enthusiasm for learning more every day and at the same time valuing this program. This program makes us valuable because it will help us become perfectly fluent in two different languages.



How to Learn English Effectively

D'JUNNA SMITH, Panama, Level 3

The best way to learn English effectively is to study the things you have learned the day before every day. Never say to yourself that you don't know or that you can't continue doing it because you can do better than that.

Also, speaking with other people will help you a lot because you will get more confident in the way you express yourself to other people. Then, you will recognize that you are getting used to talking without problems.

Another thing is to try to make more friends who speak English. They will help you and correct you when you need it. It is not bad to have friends that speak your language, but remember that you are here for one reason and that is to know more about the people who are from this country and to learn their language which will someday be yours, too.



Recipes

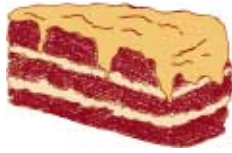
Chocolate Cake

GRECIA PASTRANA

Mexico, Level 2

Ingredients:

- 1½ cups of sugar
- ¾ cups of butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup of water
- ⅔ cups of Nestle cocoa
- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons of baking soda
- ½ teaspoons of salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract



Preparation:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour round cake pans. In a large mixing bowl, beat sugar, butter, eggs, and vanilla extract until fluffy for about 5 minutes. Add water, flour, Nestle cocoa, baking soda, and salt. Beat until blended and smooth. Pour into pans.

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Yield: 6 servings

Rajas con Queso

MERCEDES RAMOS

Mexico, Level 3

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. or 2 lbs of poblano peppers
- 1 large white onion
- 2 cups shredded cheese (any white cheese)
- 2 or 3 tbs. of sour cream
- salt
- chicken bouillon (powder)
- cooking oil

Preparation:

1. Roast the peppers, and put them in a plastic bag and let them cool and set aside for a while.
2. Peel the peppers and take seeds and de-vein them.
3. Chop the onion and fry it in some cooking oil, and cut the peppers in long strips, fry it all together.
4. Add the rest of the ingredients, taste for salt and let it boil until the cheese melts and the other ingredients are well mixed.



My Country

Nepal: A Small Garden of Many Flowers

ROсна MISHRA, Nepal, Level 4

Nepal is known as a small garden of many flowers. Nepal has many kinds of languages, customs, cultural heritages and entertainment.

In Nepal, ten different languages are spoken, but our official language is Nepali. Nepali, a derivative of Sanskrit, belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family. Our great festivals are Dashin and Tihar. We like to celebrate with our families. In Nepal, the vast majority of the population is Hindu, but a small percentage follows Buddhism or other religious faiths.

The contributions in the cultural heritage of Nepal are particularly made by the NEWAR (a kind of cast in Katmandu, the capital of Nepal) in sculpture, painting and architecture, and are a source of great pride. Hindu & Buddhist religious values have provided the source of inspiration to Newar artisans. The themes of artistic works have been primarily religious: the lives of Gods and saints. In Katmandu Valley, some 2500 temples and shrines display the highly developed skills of Newar artisans. So Kathmandu is called City of Temples.

Music is popular among the Nepalese. Nepalese music is played on Handmade instruments. Nepalese like to play the madal (a kind of drum) and the basuri (a wind instrument) at their ceremonies. Nepalese dance is very different from other countries. Facial expressions and physical movements are the important parts of the dance. Historical plays are often based on dance.

Nepalese love their traditions and customs. We respect other languages and other customs too. Respecting the elderly, being polite and having good manners are traits that can be found in every Nepali.

nepali

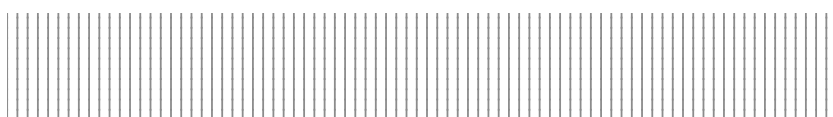


How to Spend a Great Day in Acapulco

REGINA HERNANDEZ, Mexico, Level 5

In order to have a great time in Acapulco and have a lot of fun, you'll need to organize your time. First of all, wake up early, take a shower, and get dressed with a swimsuit, sandals, a t-shirt and cotton shorts. Then you can go to breakfast at Rosaura's Mexican Cuisine and order a pineapple juice made with real pineapple, orange, and a cucumber. Then drive to a beach called Princess or Revoladero. There you can tan, swim, buy some souvenirs, play Frisbee, meet new friends, drink coconut water, eat shrimp cocktail and so much more. Later in the afternoon, you can eat at Sushi 'N' Gada, the best sushi place in Acapulco. My favorite place is located in the Condensa, a nice place to walk and watch a beautiful sunset. Around 11:30 p.m., you can go to one of several nightclubs in Acapulco. If you like electronic music the Palladium or Enigma is for you. But if you prefer all kinds of music, including electronic, then Alebrige is for you. Of course, there are so many different things to do and one day isn't enough. Don't worry. It doesn't matter how much time you have in Acapulco. You'll have fun.

acapulco



venezuela

Christmas in Venezuela

ANDREINA M. BRITO, Venezuela, Level 3

Christmas time in Venezuela is very exciting. People are happy and peaceful. Children write letters to Santa Claus and tell him what they want. Generally, they want toys. They then put their letters on the Christmas tree. Downtown is full of shoppers because they are buying gifts for their parents and friends. In addition, people turn on colorful lights in their homes at night. They look so sweet. The typical Venezuelan food at Christmas is 'hallaca'. It is delicious! I love Christmas in my country.

st. petersburg

My Hometown of St. Petersburg in Russia

OLGA ARRIOLA, Russia, Level 3

I am from St. Petersburg in Russia. The city is big and beautiful and has old famous art. We have a lot of interesting museums, theaters, and parks. One museum is called Winter Palace. It is so large that you can't see it all in one day. There is another museum named Summer Park. You can go in and see a lot of famous statues. We also have a famous river called the Niva which goes all around St. Petersburg.



Caracas: A Wonderful City

MARLINE SUTTON, Venezuela, Level 4

Arriving in Caracas is arriving in a valley surrounded by mountains. The climate is always Spring-like. Caracas is known as "La Sucursal del Cielo" (Caracas the subsidiary of the sky). It offers a series of architectonics and social contrast. Definitely, it's unique in the world.

Caracas is located at 1,000 m. above sea level in the central mountains of the country. This condition gives this city a warm spring temperature, which fluctuates between 22 and 28C.

The Caracas Valley is extended from the Avila Mountain to the Caribbean. The mountains surround the city. The landscape and the historic and contemporary buildings serve to show off the beauty of the cosmopolitan capital of Venezuela.

Caracas has a variety of dishes such as typical Italian, Mediterranean, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and many more. Moreover, if you want to have fun at night, you can find exclusive places in "Las Mercedes," such as discotheques, pubs and bars. However, for those who just want a relaxing atmosphere, our city also offers theater plays, art galleries and classical concerts.

Finally, most important is that Caracas' people are friendly and warmly welcoming. Therefore, when foreigners visit Caracas, they feel as if they were in their own home.

caracas

Hawaiian Salad

BÉLGICA SALAZAR, Mexico, Level 2

Ingredients:

- 1 can pineapple tidbits
- 6 to 8 cups mixed salad greens
- 1 cup (4 ounces) Sargento double cheddar blend or Chefstyle mild cheddar shredded cheese.
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts



Drain pineapple, reserving 1 tbs juice. In a large bowl, combine greens, pineapple, and cheese. In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, sugar, and reserved pineapple juice; mix well. Pour over salad; toss to coat. Top with walnuts; serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

Pork Fried Rice

MEI MAHER, Taiwan, Level 4

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound of pork
- green onions
- 2 cups of rice
- cooking oil, salt and pepper

Preparation:

1. Prepare a half pound of pork & slice thin.
2. Chop some green onions and cook in 2 cups of rice
3. Pour cooking oil in a pan until it boils, and then place green onions in.
4. Steam the rice and the pork and add salt with pepper.
5. Stir for three minutes.

Macaroni & Cheese

NAGHMANA UDDIN, Nigeria, Level 5

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cooked macaroni
- 1 tbs. spoon butter or margarine, melted
- 2 cups evaporated milk
- 3 cups shredded sharp processed cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preparation:

Toss macaroni with butter or margarine, and add remaining ingredients. Pour into lightly greased pot. Cover & cook, stirring once or twice.

Kingwood College

ROSNA MISHRA, Nepal, Level 4

Look! This is Kingwood College
Where you can get more knowledg

It is located in Texas
Where you are guaranteed success

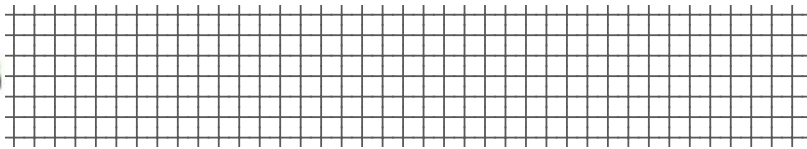
It is the temple of education
Where you can fulfill your ambitions

Alisa & Julie are our teachers
Who are making our bright future

I'll tell you one thing more
Never forget their lectures

Don't worry about the English language
They have ESL classes

Let's go to join, my friend!
Don't say to me, "Oh! I'm late again."



Venezuela

MARIA ISABEL DIAZ, Venezuela, Level 4

Here is a beautiful and moving song that I translated from my country, Venezuela.

I hope everybody enjoys it.

I carry your light and your fragrance on my skin
and "the cuatro" (local instrument) in my heart
I carry in my blood the surf of the sea
and your Horizon in my eyes.

I don't envy the flight or the nest of "the turpial" (National bird)
I'm like the wind on your skin
I feel the Caribbean like a great love
That's how I am, What can I do?

I'm the desert, the jungle, the snow and volcano
and when I walk I leave my wake
the whisper of the prairies in a song
that keeps me sleepless

The love that I want has to be
heart, fire and spur
with the skin tanned like a flower
of Venezuela

With your scenery and my dreams I will go
through God's worlds
and your memories at sunset
will make the road shorter

In between your beaches I left my childhood
laid down to the wind and the sun
and that yearning that comes up to my voice
without wanting to become a song.

From the mountains I want the immensity
from the river the watercolors
and from you: the children that will plant new stars.

And if one day my ship is to wreck
and the typhoon is to rip my sails
bury my body near the sea....
In Venezuela.....



Grammar & Writing

TANJA BUCHHOLZ, Russia, Level 5

Writing, writing, writing,
That is the motto.
You cannot be a good writer
When you only play Lotto.

We always try to give our best,
But sometimes it gives **us** the rest!
Future, past or present tense?
Sometimes, in my head, it doesn't make sense.

But when you've always done your work,
You will never be a jerk!
On the test, you will always learn a little bit,
Even if you don't pass it.

Do it like me and have always fun,
And when you've passed all the levels,
Then, you can lie in the sun!



My Journey**YAYUK SIHWINAYUN**, Indonesia, Level 5

When I was a baby
 I saw everything was white.... everything was so nice....
 I was smiling at everybody
 I didn't care who ate with golden plates
 I didn't care who ate with iron plates
 I didn't care if they were bad guys
 I didn't care if they were strangers
 I kept smiling at them
 Because I saw them as so nice.... so glittering.....
 When I was a little girl
 My parents gave me direction
 Good ways..... bad ways.....
 White things.... black things....
 I knew that some animals are poisonous
 I knew that some flowers are thorny.....
 When I was a teenager.....
 The world seemed so cumbersome complicated.....
 Many colors were crossing in my mind
 Many choices were facing on me
 Many ideas were drowning me
 What should I do????
 I learned many things.... and more things....
 I learned that white is not always white....
 I learned that black is not always black....
 I learned the grayish..... purplish.....
 The more I learned..... the more I knew nothing
 Now..... I am a mother
 I've chosen my way
 The way I believe in
 When my sun dawns to my west
 That means my time has come
 I hope I've been on the right track
 A certificate for me
 To a power above a power.....
 The eternity power.... beyond me.


I Cultivate a White Rose
MARIA ELENA MARTINEZ
 Mexico, Level 4

This is the translation of a beautiful Spanish poem:

I cultivate a white rose
 In June like in January
 For my sincere friend
 Who gave me his open hand
 And for the cruel man
 That takes from me
 The heart with which I live
 No thistle or stinging nettle do I
 cultivate
 I cultivate a white rose



International Education Week

November 18–22

Cultural Events, Ethnic Food, Entertainment,
Lectures and ...



Intensive English Program



The 2nd term of Fall semester
starts on October 21.

Register today!

For information about the
Intensive English Program (IEP),
please call:

- 281-312-1536
- 281-312-1792
- 281-312-1578

Visit the IEP Website at
www.kingwoodcollege.com/programs/esl/index/html

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Kingwood College is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The college does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, disability, age, veteran status, national origin or ethnicity in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other college administered programs and activities.