

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

WINTER QUARTER

FEBRUARY 2004

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The English Language Center at the University of Denver is enjoying one of its most diverse student bodies ever. Twenty-five countries are represented at the English Language Center this 2004 Quarter with Korea, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Taiwan having the greatest number of students. For the first time in our 29 years, the ELC welcomes students from Nepal, Tajikistan, the Congo, Haiti and Azerbaijan. We are also happy to have a Rockies pitcher (from Taiwan) studying with us this quarter.

The ELC held Interterm classes for a small group of students in December and is now holding an evening class for DU employees. Thanks

to DU's generous tuition waiver policy, employees for whom English is not their native language can improve their English skills through these special classes at the ELC. Fall quarter, ELC faculty held two writing workshops for international students at the Law School.

At the Rocky Mountain TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Conference held in Denver in November 2003, four ELC faculty made presentations: Nancy Storer, Larenda Mielke, Linda Barrios and David Mindock. Larenda was elected to serve as Chair of the Higher Ed Special Interest Group and Nancy Storer received the Gladys Doty Award,

a prestigious award given for outstanding contributions to the ESL profession.

This quarter, Nancy Storer, Assistant Director, will be attending the TESOL Conference in Long Beach and I will be traveling to the Middle East for the International Admissions Office. Several ELC faculty and staff are involved in the Hyde Interviews as well.

We look forward to a great year at the ELC.

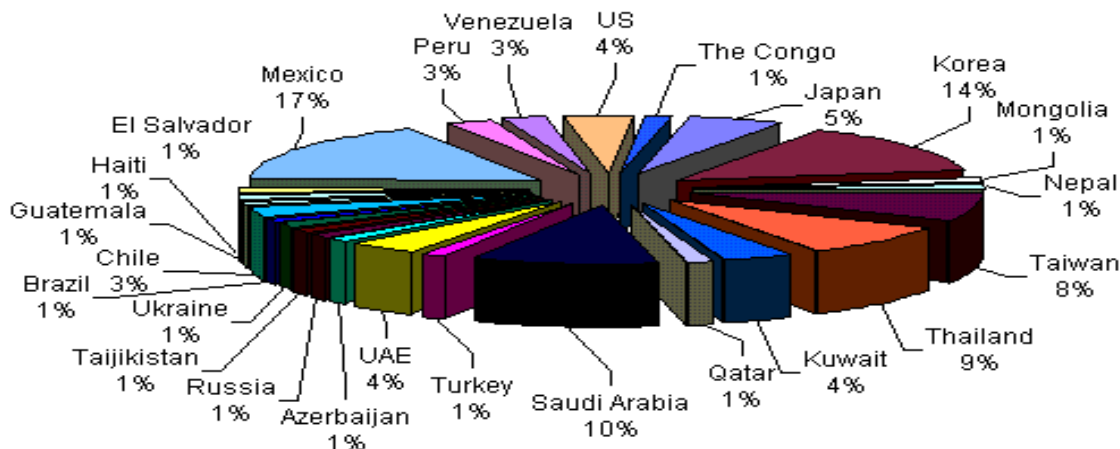


- Norma King
ELC Administrative Director

INSIDE

ELC IN THE NEWS	2
AROUND CAMPUS	2
HOMESTAY FAMILY SPOTLIGHT	3
ELC STUDENT PROFILES	4-5
FROM TAINAN TO COORS FIELD	6
ELC STUDENTS GIDDY-UP AT THE NWSS	6
VOICES FROM THE PAST	6
ELC WORKSTUDY INTERVIEWS	7

Countries Represented at the ELC Winter 2004



ELC IN THE NEWS...

The English Language Center has outstanding faculty and staff members. Each of them offers the students a unique perspective and tries to make the students feel at home.

Nancy Storer, Assistant Director, was recently awarded the Gladys Doty Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession for her contributions to CoTESOL (Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and TESOL (the international organization.) This is a prestigious award that is given out annually to someone who has provided service to the profession on either a state or international level or both.

Larenda Mielke, lecturer, has been appointed to the CoTESOL board as

the Higher Education/IEP associate chairperson.

Jill Pommrehn, Operations Manager, was quoted in "Language Travel Magazine", an international business publication for language travel agents. In the article, "Visa Crunch in the USA," she discussed the ramifications of SEVIS, the new student tracking system and its effect on student enrollment. Luckily, SEVIS has not had a huge impact on the ELC's enrollment.

The ELC was selected to participate in AMIDEAST's PLUS (Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies) program. AMIDEAST is a government organization that promotes educational training services for

Africa and the Middle East. We are expecting seven students for the Spring Quarter. Aicha Haki and Nour-Eddine Labiad from Morocco, Khaoula Touati from Tunisia, Fatma Janahi from the UAE, Lina Salah from Jordan, Shaden Alamlah from the Gaza Strip/West Bank and Abdulkarim Alenazi from Saudi Arabia will be arriving in March. Rewa Kabbani from Syria and Kholoud Hassan from Egypt will be our two participants for the Summer term. After these students work on their English, they will begin bachelor degree programs throughout the United States.

-Jill Pommrehn
ELC Operations Manager

...AND AROUND CAMPUS

The ELC students have participated in the University of Denver's intramural sports program for about 20 years. The ELC students have a soccer team every fall and almost every winter.



Back row from left to right: Hyoung il Kim a.k.a Carl and Thiti Waikavee. Front row from left to right: Yoon Taek Oh a.k.a. T and Seung Geun Kim.

This quarter, for the first time, the ELC has a coeducational soccer team. Karin Franco, a student from Brazil, and two coeds from DU are playing alongside several male students from the ELC. Participating in the intramural games gives the students a chance to interact with students from other countries, including the United States, and to have a good time.

David Mindock, a lecturer at the ELC, organizes the teams and attends many of the games. He even plays occasionally when the students need an extra player. It was, in fact, ELC students who taught him how to play soccer in the 1980s.

Fall quarter, eight students played on the ELC soccer team. They were from China, Korea, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. The cap-

tain was Ahmed Almarzooqi from the U.A.E. The students' performance gradually improved as they played the first four games of the quarter. As the students learned to communicate among themselves more effectively, their teamwork improved. After playing four games, the students won the first game in the playoffs but lost the second one by only a few points.

The main objective of participating in intramural sports, of course, is not to win but to get to know people from other countries and to have a good time. Fall quarter, the soccer players did not come in first, but they enjoyed themselves and made some new friends.

-David Mindock, Ph.D
ELC Lecturer

HOMESTAY FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

JEANANN JOHNSON: THIRTEEN YEARS OF WARMHEARTED HOSTING

Nestled in her Denver home near the ELC, Jeanann Johnson builds on thirteen years of memories hosting international students. Sharing her home with ELC students, she says, has been and will continue to be, “a great adventure in human relations.”

Particularly, the gains in understanding, communication and the friendships grown out of helping others have inspired her to continue hosting students.

The friendships she develops as a host mother are long lasting as she keeps up correspondence via e-mail with former students whom, she says, “want to come and visit her again.” Friendships of warmhearted cultural exchange have taught her not only about foreign cultures, but have given her perspective on American culture as well. She says that Americans are often too busy, causing them to speak too fast and miss a wonderful opportunity for international friendship.

She has seen students mature in their English language abilities. One female student from Brazil touched her heart as she came to stay with her without

any English at all. She said, to communicate, “we wrote notes and used a lot of body language.” Now, after five years of friendship they talk regularly and still have a great time together.

Outside of language, the experience of students abroad can be quite confusing, and Jeanann does her best to help. Concerning the most common confusion for students, Jeanann replied jovially, “Students from warm countries have no idea how to dress for cold weather. I keep extra gloves and hats on hand; the layered look is in here!”

-Clinton Miller
ELC Workstudy Student

FOOD FOR THOUGHT... Cooking for an international student can be a joy and a challenge. Here is a recipe that Jeanann has had much success with and continues to feed her international students.

CHEESE BARS

Spray a 9 x 13 pan with oil. Mix 2 cups bisquick and 1 cup milk. Set aside. Cook 1 lb. spicy turkey sausage with sliced onion and green pepper. Mix 4 eggs with 1 can evaporated milk, salt and pepper. Put egg mixture in first, sprinkle 1 cup cheddar cheese and add onion, green pepper and sausage mixture. Spread bisquick mixture on top and sprinkle with more cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

HOMESTAY TIPS FROM JEANANN JOHNSON

Making students feel welcome in the USA and in her home is Jeanann’s specialty! Here are some tips that Jeanann shared with us on how to make international students feel right at home.

- *Place a “welcome” banner in their room.*
- *Place a bowl of candy in their room.*
- *Show them where everything is in the kitchen.*
- *Ask them what kinds of food they like or dislike.*
- *Take their picture and post it on the refrigerator.*
- *Take pictures of you and international students and put them in a designated student photo album, which students can look at. Jeanann is on her third album!*
- *Talk and take time with them.*

ELC STUDENT PROFILES...WE LIKE TO THINK OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE ELC AS OUR WINDOWS ONTO THE WORLD. WE PICKED A STUDENT FROM EACH LEVEL TO SHARE THEIR STORY.



Abdullah is ready for a game of American style hockey!

Abdullah Albarji, Level 1

Hometown: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is the capital city of Saudi Arabia. It's one of the fastest growing and prosperous cities in the world. In less than half a century, it has grown more than a hundred fold, and its residents increased from 20 thousand to approximately 4 million.

Degree in progress: Business Administration
Why DU's ELC? I heard a lot about the ELC at the University of Denver. Before I came here, I asked my brother to find me a good school for studying English.

Favorite spot in Colorado: Downtown. I love hanging out with my friends over there every weekend—restaurants, 16th Street Mall and night clubs.

Future plans: I'm planning to attend the business school at DU to get a master's degree in business and then return back home.

What do you miss about your country? I miss my family, friends, and my city.

What do you find funny about the USA? The thing that I found funny about America is the hockey game (it's weird because I saw the players fighting each other and it seemed to me legal).

Ai-Lin Tsao a.k.a Irene, Level 3

Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan. It is the capital and Taiwan's largest city.

Degree in Progress: International Trade

Why DU's ELC? My mom asked my cousin to find information about ESL programs. Then I chose the best one, that is the ELC at DU.

Favorite spot in Colorado? I like all of the places where I ever been to in Colorado. I like to shop and go to bookstores.

Future Plans: I will return to my home country to work, and I want to study Japanese if I have free time.

What do you miss about your country? I miss my country's food. It is very delicious for me. Also, I miss Taiwanese New Year because we eat dinner during the New Year Eve with whole family.

What do you find funny about the USA? The funny thing is why American people put sugar or honey in any kind of hot tea.



We caught Tulasi practicing for his American Idol audition!

Tulasi BK, Level 2

Hometown: Katmandu, Nepal. Katmandu is the capital of Nepal with about 1 million people.

Degree in Progress: Business Administration

Why DU's ELC? My English classes in Nepal were not very good so I needed to learn more. I did not know much about Denver but I heard DU was a great school and I was happy to find ELC and the nice people here.

Favorite spot in Colorado: In my free time I really like to go to Cherry Creek Mall to shop and watch people. I also like walking at Sloan Lake. My favorite places in Colorado are the Royal Gorge Bridge and Garden of the Gods.

Future Plans: I'd like to attend a university here and find a good career for myself.

What do you miss about your country? I miss my family and friends in Nepal but also the food and the mountains.

What do you find funny about the USA? In the US, I think driving, politics, and using credit cards are confusing. American Idol and Jerry Springer are confusing too, but in a funny way.



Irene loves books!



Shakhnoza all bundled up!

Shakhnoza Solieva, Level 4

Hometown: Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It reminds me of Denver, especially with the mountains in view.
Degree in Progress: International Relations and Diplomacy
Why DU's ELC? My friend recommended that I choose the ELC at DU.
Favorite spot in Colorado?: I like everything in Denver. Downtown is incredible.
Future Plans? I would like to go back to my home country and convince my sponsor to send me back to Denver in order to continue my master's degree here at the University of Denver.
What do you miss about your country? I miss my job working as an administrator.
What do you find funny about the USA? When it is cold and snowy, people in Denver do not dress correctly for the weather. They do not wear hats and scarves enough.



Jean, always with a book in hand, studies away.

Hui-Chun Lu a.k.a Jean, GPP

Hometown: Tamsuie Taipei, Taiwan. I lived in a small town near Tamsuie River in northeast Taiwan. This town is beautiful and charming. Most people here make a living by fishing. Everyday I went to an outlet of Tamsuie river to watch the sunset. You must really see some golden sunsets here.
Degree in Progress: MBA or Computer Information Systems
Why DU's ELC? I picked the ELC at DU to study because my younger sister is here.
Favorite spot in Colorado?: The library of law school is splendid; the Penrose library is comfortable, the public libraries are interesting. Besides libraries, I like Steamboat, too. I went to Steamboat last December and enjoyed the hot springs on a snowy day.
Future Plans? I plan to establish my own business after finishing a master's degree. I am interested in international trade, and I think that the first step of realizing my dream is to learn English well.
What do you miss about your country? I miss foods in Taiwan, especially seafood.
What do you find funny about the USA? One confusing thing about America is the greeting. When I came here, I tried to answer the question—"How are you doing?" Finally, I knew that this question merely meant hello. And, I just needed to reply, "Fine, how are you?"



Tomoko is ready for some HOT water!

Tomoko Furukawa, Level 5

Hometown: Shiga, Japan. It is in the countryside and surrounds a large lake.
Degree in Progress: International Communications
Why DU's ELC? Before I came to the ELC, I'd been studying in San Francisco. After six months, I wanted to change my whole environment. Then I found that this school had so much difference from my previous school including learning style, programs, and surroundings.
Favorite spot in Colorado?: I like staying in my balcony which has a great view of the Rocky Mountains! Especially in winter early in the morning. Snowy mountains show up the pale pink landscape by the morning sun.
Future Plans? I'm planning to study Accounting in graduate school. I don't have any confidence of entering, but the ELC staff and instructors are my great advisors who encourage me a lot.
What do you miss about your country? I miss traditional Japanese hot springs a lot. Last vacation, I was trying to find some in Colorado, but it was totally different from Japanese one; wearing swimwear, the temperature of hot water.
What do you find funny about the USA? I couldn't believe that Americans think it's a hot spring which is not for Japanese! I'd like taking a good hot spa for relaxation of my body and mind.

FROM TAINAN TO COORS FIELD



This quarter at the ELC, we have a farm team pitcher for the Colorado Rockies studying English in Level 2. Ching-ling

Lo's contract says that he must attend school, so Lori Brown, the Cultural Program Coordinator for the Rockies, found the ELC for Lo.

Lo, from Tainan, Taiwan, moved to the United States two years ago, when he was just 16. Lo plans to be a starting pitcher for the Rockies in 2006. Tainan is a large city in Taiwan, but it is much smaller than Denver. It's located on the plains of the island, but only 20 minutes

from the ocean. Because he left home so young, he often worries about his parents. "The first year here, I missed my parents terribly every night. I had no friends. But, I couldn't tell them, because I didn't want Mom to worry about me." Now, however, Lo has found his place in Denver. He is living with Jay Liao, a former ELC Graduate Prepa-

ration Program (GPP) student. He is well-liked at the ELC and his English is improving.

Lo enjoys going to the 16th Street Mall because it is so different than any shopping area in Taiwan. In Taiwan, people go to a department store to shop. "The whole street is for buying," Lo explains.

-Jill Pommrehn
ELC Operations Manager

"Lo plans to be a starting pitcher for the Rockies in 2006."

ELC STUDENTS GIDDY-UP AT THE NWSS

In January, ELC students took in some Colorado culture at the National Western Stock Show. Here is what Level 5 student, Karen Franco from Brazil, had to say.

"The Brazilian Rodeos and Live Stock Shows are very traditional and popular entertainment for citizens and international visitors. Families spend time visiting stands at the stock show, where children

"So, can you imagine me not going to the Denver National Western Stock Show?"

can play with animals or know exotic species while one decides to buy some country style clothes or typical furniture. The singles spend their precious time looking for possible partners. Otherwise, you don't need to be a cowboy to feel like one just for few hours—just wear a hat, country boots and a tiny Wrangler jean...and do not forget to

speak with a western accent!

Besides all those events, the most important are the evening shows with Brazilian country singers and international guests. After the rodeo, it doesn't matter if it is raining cats and dogs, the visitors are sure that thousands of people will be yelling for their idols.

So, can you imagine me not going to the Denver National Western Stock Show? I noticed some differences from Brazil, but even the clown jokes were almost the



same. Breeding sheep and catch-a-calf shows are unusual in my country. As a veterinarian, the most exciting moment was when the gorgeous eight black horses carried an old fashioned wagon!"

VOICES FROM THE PAST—ALUMNI CORNER

ELC's Director, Norma King, recently received this email from past students, Nobuo & Mika Iwata.

"I am Nobuo Iwata and my wife is Mika. We both studied at ELC and were your students back in 1988-89. My wife and I met each other at ELC and were married in 1994 back in Japan. After we lived in Denver, we moved to Florida and now we live in Irvine, California. I work at an architectural firm in Newport Beach. Yes, ELC is a

passport to English, but it is not only that. It is more than that. I cannot describe it in one word. My wife studied in Chicago, IL. and I studied at several universities including DU after completing the program at ELC, but for me my time at ELC was the greatest. It was most enjoyable! It was the most memorable time in America for me. Probably it is for my wife, too. It was such a great experience to meet wonderful teachers who respect each individual regardless of their nationalities, cul-

ture, race and language. We are so proud of being ELC graduates. We are also very happy to know now the ELC was chosen as one of the best English as a Second Language Schools in the US."

If you are a past ELC student and would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please email us at du-elt@du.edu. We would love to hear from you and hear about what you are now doing!

ELC WORKSTUDY INTERVIEWS

Clinton Miller

Major: English and Creative Writing

Hometown: I suppose I call Denver my hometown, seeing as I've lived here nearly thirteen years, but the high winds and higher temperatures of childhood in Bakersfield, California's desert wasteland wander through my mind often nostalgically.

Best Adventure: I hiked for four days alone in the mountains of Shikoku, Japan, fishing for my meals and one night I woke up

to the unfamiliar sound of inoshishi wild boar, rooting around the forest. I couldn't get much sleep with the animal circling around me as I slept on the ground in the thick of the trees. The next day I hiked a bit further up the trail and found a huge muddy pen full of the boars. It was an amazing sight, they were running through the mud in groups making the eerie snorts I heard in the night!

Favorite Food when abroad: I loved to eat takoyaki! In Hirakata, Japan, you

can buy it from vendors all along the street. They are bite sized octopus dumplings, delicious!

Why do you enjoy working at the ELC? The ELC is a great place to work! I enjoy talking with the students from all over the world. It is rewarding to be around kind and mellow people, a real stress relief.

Any future plans after you graduate? My plan is to go back to Japan and work in the Japanese government's JET program.



This is Clint in the flesh. Need we say more!



Over the years, Jodie has become very intimate with the ELC filing cabinets!

Jodie Darnell

Major: My majors are Spanish and Criminology. I also have a minor in Political Science.

Hometown: Denver, CO

Best Adventure: My best adventure would have to be the time I was in Monte Verde, Costa Rica...right in the middle of the rainforest. I ran out of money and needed to go the bank which meant getting on a bus to take me to another small town about 20 minutes away.

At the bank I accidentally withdrew about \$600 colones, the Costa Rican currency. After hiding this huge wad of cash in my clothing, I realized that I had missed the last bus back to the town I was staying in. I ended up hitching a ride in the back of a pick-up truck full of chickens and vegetables.

Favorite Food when abroad: Tacos from a taco stand off the street anywhere in Mexico.

Why do you enjoy working at the ELC? After working here for the better part of my time at DU, I have to say it is a great place. I love meeting all of the students from different countries and getting to know them. The teachers and staff are great and so much fun to talk to and work with!

Any future plans after you graduate? My plans include working for Teach for America, going to law school, and seeing the world!

Elsa Colón

Major: English and a minor in French. I'm also in the DU Honors Program.

Hometown: I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and lived there for 10 years before moving to Colorado. Most of my family still lives there.

Best Adventure: Kayaking at midnight in a bioluminescent bay in Puerto Rico. By

bioluminescent I mean that there are these little animals (dinoflagellates) that glow like fireflies when the water is stirred. So, the water all around you is glowing.

Favorite Food: The "arroz con pollo" (rice with chicken) that my mom makes.

Why do you enjoy working at the ELC? I like the diversity of the people and the relaxed atmos-

phere...and Clint makes me laugh. Also, it gives me the opportunity to speak and write Spanish with the students.

Any future plans after you graduate? Travel, more school, work...I plan to go to graduate school to pursue further studies in literature and creative writing. I am considering the University of Chicago.



Elsa, "lost in translation," as she translates ELC materials into Spanish.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The overarching mission of the English Language Center at the University of Denver is to support the internationalization goals of the University of Denver. This mission is met in several ways. The ELC prepares international students with the skills necessary to be successful undergraduate or graduate students at the University of Denver or other U.S. institutions of higher education. Also, it supports the language needs of matriculated international students at the University of Denver. In addition, the ELC provides short-term language and culture programs in response to requests of University departments, community groups and international constituents. To carry out this mission, the ELC provides high-quality intensive English language instruction, assists students with cultural adjustments, and provides students with the necessary services to ensure maximum learning and well-being. The ELC also provides a supportive environment in which faculty and staff can continue to work and grow professionally. The ELC at all times represents the ESL profession, the University of Denver, the state of Colorado, and the United States through ethical, legal, and caring treatment of its international students.

ENDING THOUGHT

“As the traveler who has once been from home is wiser than he who has never left his own doorstep, so a knowledge of one other culture should sharpen our ability to scrutinize more steadily, to appreciate more lovingly, our own.”

-Margaret Mead

COMMENTS

We welcome your thoughts, feedback and suggestions for future newsletters. Please write us at du-eltc@du.edu



English Language Center

1958 S. Josephine St.
Denver, CO 80208

Phone: 303-871-3075
Fax: 303-777-7380
Email: du-eltc@du.edu

Visit us on the Web:
www.du.edu/intl/eltc

WINTER QUARTER 2004 NEWSLETTER