

Columbia College

ESL

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO OUR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS NEWS

AUGUST 2013

Learn English!

August 26 – December 14, 2013

Three convenient locations:
Sonora, Angels Camp & Murphys

**ENGL A/B/C English as a Second Language
Beginning/Intermediate – 0 Units**

8:15 am – 10:05 am / Mondays & Wednesdays

Mark Twain Elementary School District
981 Tuolumne Ave., Angels Camp

9:00 am – 10:45 am / Tuesdays & Thursdays

ATCAA Family Center
18080 Bluebell East Rd., Sonora

5:30 pm – 7:20 pm / Mondays & Tuesdays

First Congregational Church of Murphys
Eastman Education Center
509 N. Algiers St., Murphys

- Only \$19 for the entire class.
- Just come to class; we'll help you register!
Open enrollment; start anytime, but earlier is better.
- Questions? Contact Julie Ingber at
209.728.3603

Aprende Inglés

26 de agosto – 14 diciembre, 2013

Tres sitios convenientes:
Sonora, Angels Camp & Murphys

**ENGL 705 A/B/C English as a Second Language
Beginning/Intermediate – 0 Units**

8:15 am – 10:05 am / lunes y miércoles

Mark Twain Elementary School District
981 Tuolumne Ave., Angels Camp

9:00 am – 10:45 am / martes y jueves

ATCAA Family Center
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5:30 pm – 7:20 pm / lunes y martes

First Congregational Church of Murphys
Eastman Education Center
509 N. Algiers St., Murphys

- Solamente pagas \$19.
- Preséntate a una de las clases y te ayudamos a inscribirte. Para todos los niveles.
- Para mas información, llama a Julie Ingber
209.728.3603

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2013 school year! This year we will be continuing with our classes in Angels Camp, Murphys and Sonora. Stay tuned for re-opening of our Jamestown classes. **Julie Ingber** is the core teacher who has done a fabulous job incorporating three new laptops with headphones into her teaching to allow students of all levels to use the internet and various computerized programs to improve their English. The fall class schedule is listed on the front page.

If you are ready to move on to regular classes at the college, please see the “Next Step” information on page 3. Also new in this edition is our Highlighted Student section. We sent out invitations to several students to tell us about their successes. Borislav Radosaljevic was the first to respond. If you are interested in sharing your success, please contact Julie at (209) 728-3603 or by email at ingberj@yosemite.edu. See the following questions for ideas.

Laptops boost learning



Julie Ingber says, “I have a student from China who is learning English for the first time and it’s been useful for learning the alphabet, numbers, and colors—now she’s on to food vocabulary! Laptop computers have been especially helpful with the beginning students as they can continue their learning while I’m teaching an advanced lesson to the rest of the class.”



In Angels Camp, laptops help students learn the alphabet.



Beatriz, a beginning student from Mexico, learns new vocabulary using an Acer Netbook in Sonora.

ESL Success: Submission Information

On behalf of the ESL department at Columbia College, we would like to invite you to contribute to our annual newsletter by highlighting your accomplishments in order to encourage other ESL students to continue their studies. Therefore, below are a series of questions that can be used to help guide you. You can return it by email to ingberj@yosemite.edu or by regular mail to Julie Ingber at 11600 Columbia College Dr. Sonora, CA 95370. Please attach a picture of yourself as well. If you need help, call us and we can take your picture and submit it. Thank you for your contribution! We look forward to highlighting you and your achievements. If you are aware of another former ESL student who might want to contribute, please forward this to him or her.

Questions for consideration:

- When did you come here, from where, why?
- Did you come alone or with family?
- What was your job in your country? What do you do here?
- How was your ESL class experience? What is your first language? Do you speak other languages? How long did you attend classes? How did they help you?
- What are you doing now? (Work, family, hobbies, etc.)



ESL

How to continue your education at Columbia College



Here are some facts for ESL students considering continuing their education:

- ESL students don't need to complete ESL classes before starting regular college classes at Columbia. ESL instructors can actually help with regular college classes!
- ESL students can take classes at Columbia without a high school diploma.
- ESL students can take a variety of classes, such as fitness, art, auto, music, etc., not just math and English.
- Columbia offers helpful programs including: child care, Veterans benefits, financial aid, scholarships, free tutoring, assistance for first-generation college students, and more.

How do I continue my education at Columbia?

1. Apply to Columbia – If you have applied to Columbia within the past three semesters, you *do not* need to re-apply. If you haven't applied, do so online at: www.gocolumbia.edu.
2. See a counselor to create an Educational Plan and sign-up for math and English assessments. Call 588-5109 for an appointment.
3. Attend an orientation session. Orientations provide lots of helpful information.

FYI: Once a student has taken Columbia's non-credit ESL courses the maximum number of times, he or she should be ready for regular college classes. Here is a normal progression of courses:

English: ESL 705 A/B/C → ENGL 649 with 650 or ENGL 151 → ENGL 1A

Math: Math 601 → Math 602 → Math 101 → Math 104 → Math 2-18

Our Former ESL Student Successes!

We have many successful ESL students who have moved on to bigger and better things. Just to name a few:

J.P. is a male RN at Sonora Regional Medical Center.

M.T. runs her own cleaning business.

V.S. runs her own vegan catering business and cooks vegan meals for Maynords.

S.L. works in the Sonora Regional Hospital kitchen.

J.SJK. owns and runs two local laundromats

G.D. is a full time student at Columbia College and plans to study law.

N.D. is a prominent local artist and runs a successful house cleaning and painting business with her husband.

E.C. works as a child care social worker at ATCAA.

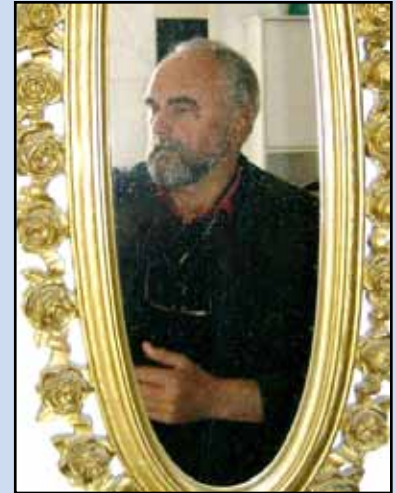
P. family owns and operates several local restaurants.

There are many more, but these are the ones we've heard from lately. Congratulations on your studying and hard work! This newsletter we are focusing on a Bosnian student who took nine years of ESL with Cheryl Divine then went on to get his AA in English here at Columbia. He is now successfully running a 20 unit housing complex, in charge of renting and maintenance (after getting his contractor's license). He is also a successful wine maker, brandy maker, gardener, sculptor, photographer, writer and fisherman. See his story, "My First Millions," on the following page.

ESL Experience at Columbia College

My name is **Boro Radosavljevic**,

a Yugoslavian man who, with the family, came to Sonora 1994 during the war in my former country. I used to be journalist for major daily newspaper in Bosnia and



Herzegovina for 18 years. In my second life I am doing construction for 18 years, and I feel that I am good in that almost as I was about daily reporting in Sarajevo.

My first language was Serbo-Croatian, but after moving to the US, it was time to learn more of English. ESL experience at Columbia College was such exciting that I have decided to continue regular classes at the college until I earned an AA degree majoring English, and I can say I am not to bad speaking the second language any more. Heavy accent is different story, but I am powerless about changing it.

Practice your English on the Internet!

Connect With English Videos

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html>

Get extra practice watching the video series here

Activities for ESL Students

<http://a4esl.org>

Play games, take quizzes, read grammar, and practice vocabulary

Dave's ESL Cafe

<http://www.eslcafe.com>

Easy to use, lots of activities, including games, quizzes, pronunciation practice, and stories

About.com ESL Guide

<http://esl.about.com/homework/esl/>

Quizzes and tests for different levels; employment opportunities for nonnative speakers

ESLAmerica.US

<http://www.eslamerica.us/>

An English language website to practice conversation, vocabulary, grammar, reading, and more

AND all of it has sound so you can listen while you practice

Remember, you can
USE COMPUTERS FOR FREE
at all community libraries and at
Columbia College library, too!

My First Millions

A story by Boro Radosavljevic

There is not a better place on the earth to easy become a millionaire than the United States, and many of us Americans are taking the chance. The first time I got not just 1, but 11 million dollars at once! It was six years ago. I was in the U.S.A. about one year, and my English was terribly poor, but I was able to read and understand what was written on the long, yellow envelope I took from the mailbox. "B. Radosagjevic you won 11 million dollars! Congratulations!" was written by big red letters like a title of some newspaper article. My last name, as usually, was spelled wrong, but this time that didn't make me mad. I even didn't care about fact I didn't play any lottery. Millions were there on the envelope. I was rich.

My fist was clenching the letter, and I repeated silently, "Rich! Rich! Finally rich!" My mother in law got in my mind, "If you are asking me, you will never win," she told me one time when I bought a Super Lotto ticket. I didn't ask her of course. Suddenly, I got a wish she were visiting me.

Red faced, I was turning around to see if anybody suspicious was passing by, and in a moment I got angry that the lottery has written about my millions on the envelope, and probably some of neighbors already read it. I was sharing the mailbox with ten other families, and it was almost impossible that nobody opened the box before me. I hate people from the lottery, because I would like to keep the millions as a secret.

At home, I opened the letter and, using a dictionary, I understood there was one condition to get my 11 million; I should subscribe to a minimum one magazine from a list of magazines I got in the same envelope. I chose the easiest one to read, "Playboy." I "read" it even in Bosnia, when I didn't speak English at all, and it wasn't so hard to understand. After a few months they sent me letter

promising that I am going to win fifteen million if I subscribe to another one magazine, but I was not interested any more. Eleven million and "Playboy" were enough for me.

I am not the only one in my neighborhood who won millions. The next was Michele, an old lady from apartment #9. I saw her letter in the mailbox before she picked it up. Michele won seven million dollars: I assumed with the same condition. I was right because after while in mail box started to be delivered "Rolling Stone" magazine to my 87 year old neighbor. After a few months, Michele began receiving another magazine about horses. The last one she has subscribed to was some magazine about make up, and that was all.

My cousins from Salt Lake City had a different experience. One day I got a certified and insured mail from them with a ticket in it. Their English was much worse than mine, and they asked me to check if they had understood right. The cousin asked me to be confidential and not tell anybody about the case. They were right; on the ticket was clear they won a brand new truck. The condition was to buy a condo at Hawaii. They were sad for a long time because they didn't have money to buy the condo. They were in love with the truck they won, and even tried to borrow some money to invest in Hawaiian tourism and get their prize but it wasn't enough.

I won one more time. It was just a two million prize, and this time, I didn't subscribe to any magazine because I thought it is not fair to win so often and other people deserve to get millions in the same way. Now if I get millions I didn't ask for, I don't open the envelope as if anthrax is in it. It is not I am scared of this kind of marketing terrorists; it is about my English getting better.



Yulia's Time Line

I was born in Tajikistan in 1974 and I grew up in a big city there. In 1991, I graduated high school. I got my first job in Tajikistan in 1991 as a seamstress. In 1996, most of my family moved to Russia. Then in 2000 I moved to Russia and became a Russian citizen. I got a job at a restaurant as a waitress in 2001. In 2002, I got a promotion to assistant director and I met my son's father. I had my son in November of 2003. In January of 2004, I moved with my son to Siberia, Russia. In 2007, I got a job at a furniture store as a salesperson. Then in 2008 I got a promotion to head manager. I was a manager at the furniture store for three years. I met my future husband in October of 2009 in Russia. Before I met him, he had never been to Russia and he came to meet me



in Moscow. He has been to Russia three times. Now I live in the United States and I've lived here since 2011. My wedding was in August of 2011

at a Russian Orthodox Church. I haven't had a honeymoon yet. I hope it'll be soon. I haven't visited my family in Russia since I got married. I've been a stay-at-home mom and I've been studying English since I came here. I've been married to my husband for almost two years and I'm very happy!



The year-end celebration in Sonora—always great cooks in our classes!



A Brazilian cake-making lesson



ESL Easter brunch



Kayaking field trip to Lake Alpine!

Adios!

After twenty years of teaching

English and ESL at Columbia College, I've decided to move out of the area. My twins are leaving for college and I'm ready for more adventures!

I first came here in 1993 to teach for Spring International, a private language school located where the dorm office is now. I remember driving up here from the Bay Area and thinking how beautiful it was! I also remember not feeling very well, freezing cold (it was August), then getting very hot. It turns out I had malaria and didn't know it yet! I had just gotten back from four months of cycling by myself through Central America, and probably got it from camping down there.

After Spring International closed, I started teaching classes at the college, first ESL, then English. I watched as some of our ESL classes in Jamestown swelled to 35 students when Fiberboard went out of business. I've also taught Columbia College ESL classes at Bret Harte High School, the college annex at Glory Hole and the Mark Twain District office, (all in Angels Camp), Michelson school in Murphys and even at the conference room at Kautz! (Nice... white table cloths, pitchers of ice cold water.) I also started an advanced 3 unit ESL class on the college campus.

During these twenty years, I've had the opportunity to meet and get to know students from over twenty-five countries. I've learned as much from them as I hope they've learned from me. They've taught me languages, customs, recipes, many things which have made my life richer. I'm so grateful for those opportunities!

We've taken field trips to San Francisco, Yosemite, Pinecrest, Dodge Ridge, Lake Alpine and had multiple class parties, where we've shared incredible food from around the world. We've evolved to using laptops in the classroom and moved to new sites in Sonora and Murphys.

The program has come a long way, but now it is time for me to move on. Julie Ingber will be taking over as main teacher and program coordinator. It has been a fun-filled, learning experience for us all. Thank you for all you have shared, and good luck in all your language endeavors! I will miss all of you...

Fondly,
Cheryl Divine

Special thanks to Gail Segerstrom for her excellent work on our newsletter!



Jamestown ESL class celebrates Lucy's birthday at the casino



ESL summer potluck



We need more men for dancing!



Welcome back Ana Victoria from Brazil!



ESL / English as a Second Language

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ATCAA's Sonora Site

ATCAA has a new site on Tuolumne Road. The site is larger and has four classrooms.

The address is **18080 Blue Bell East, off Tuolumne Road**. To get to there, take Hwy 108 or Mono Way East.

Turn right on Tuolumne Road (at the Junction Shopping Center), drive 2.4 miles, turn right on Blue Bell Road, drive ½ mile, you are there!

