

Local Foundations Support the English Center's Career Advancement Program

What do new Americans need in order to begin to contribute their talents to their new home country? Whether coming with years of education and work experience or not, a recent arrival needs strong English language skills, essential computer applications skills and knowledge of the job search process and U.S. workplace culture.

The Career Advancement Program (CAP) provides this training in an intensive model of instruction—sometimes called an 'immersion' experience—so that the highly motivated student can prepare as quickly as possible to enter or re-enter a profession.

Recognizing the unique value of CAP, local foundations have offered support.

The **Y & H Soda Foundation** and



the **van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation** help fund instruction and counseling services; the **Walter & Elise Haas Fund** help working students by supporting a financial aid program for low and moderate income applicants.

Studying 22+ hours each week in class and doing several hours of homework each night, the typical CAP student can advance from beginner to intermediate level skills in 16 weeks. The intermediate level student can become an advanced level student in another 16 weeks, ready to enter the workforce and/or to begin classes at the local community college.

Responding to community need, the English Center is taking CAP 'on-the-road'—first stop, the Downtown Oakland One-Stop!

WALTER & ELISE HAAS FUND
van Löben Sels/RembeRock
FOUNDATION

National Recognition for the Career Advancement Program	2
The English Center Students Reach Educational Goals	2
Fairy Tales Can Come True!	4
New Teachers, New Ideas	4
International Student NEWS	5
Introducing the English Center One-Stop Career Center	6
What is <i>Academic Readiness</i> ?	7
Meet ECIW Alum Martha Cuevas	7
What Does "Diversity" Mean?	8
What is it Like to be an English Center Student?	8
We're Waiting for You!	9



New at the Downtown Oakland One-Stop at 1212 Broadway—Career Advancement Program classes!

When I came to ECIW my self esteem was on the floor. Many people looked down on me because I am a single mother, but at ECIW, people saw me with admiration because I was working, studying and taking care of my son alone. Now I feel like I can go to college and be anything I want to be.

National Recognition for ECIW's Career Advancement Program!

The English Center's Career Advancement Program has again been recognized as one of the most effective models for helping newcomers to learn English, find employment and integrate into U.S. society as quickly as possible.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) provides comprehensive information on the needs of the world's growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. In the GCIR just published toolkit, ECIW is one of three organizations identified nationally as offering model programs of language acquisition. You can read about it at www.gcir.org. See *Investing in Our Communities: Strategies for Immigrant Integration*, page 79.



Eighty-six percent of the English Center's CAP 2006 graduates found jobs or continued their education at a higher education institution...The average hourly wage for 2006 graduates was \$12.26 per hour, which was 32 percent higher than what participants earned before they enrolled in CAP.

The English Center Helps Students Achieve their Educational Goals !

In January 2007, with the support of the **San Francisco Foundation**, the English Center launched the Academic Readiness Program (ARP), a new program to help immigrant students prepare for and apply to vocational schools, colleges or universities in the United States.

Students receive guidance from Yvonne Lefort, our new Education Counselor, on all aspects of the college selection, application, and financial aid process. "Students have no

clue where or how to begin the process of going to college," says Yvonne. "I discuss their career goals with them and research programs that will help them attain those goals. After they decide on a program, I put together an education plan, and help them apply and register for college."

Once students start taking classes, Yvonne meets with them regularly to track their progress and see where they may need additional assistance. She acquaints them with the college's student services, such as the tutoring office and writing center,

THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation of the Bay Area



Sunny I.
Veterinary
Technician



Shao-zen L.
Office Assistant



Gerlee M.
Bookkeeper



Candy C.
Financial Planner



Tuvshin N.
Medical Doctor

where they can go if they need help with their studies. If you take a look at the students around this page, you will notice the variety of the career goals of English Center students! Each one needs a different education plan.



Ramil I.
Auto Mechanic
Shop Owner

So far, seven ECIW students are enrolled in community colleges in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Three students are at Laney College, one is at Merritt College, another is at College of Alameda, and two are at Diablo Valley College. Their career interests are widespread, ranging from nursing and dentistry to business administration and physics. Three international students have enrolled or will enroll in the University of California Diploma Programs.



Igor L.
Film Director



Altankhuar B.
Lawyer

Ru, from China, dreams of having her own business one day. She is studying Business Administration at Laney College and will later transfer to a four-year university to get her Bachelor's degree. This past semester, she worked at ECIW part-time and was a full-time student. She took courses in Accounting, Trigonometry, and Economics, and did extremely well in all her classes!



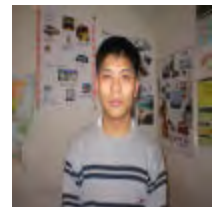
Seyful L.
Radio Personality

In March, ten ECIW students went on a tour of Laney College in Oakland. They learned about the college's programs and services, visited classrooms, met some administrators, and asked lots of questions!



Cheay G.
Truck Driver

In the coming year, several more ECIW students will be going to college or vocational school. Lupe, from Mexico, whose career goal is to become an immigration lawyer, will be going to Laney College in the fall. While at Laney, she will participate in the Puente program, which helps students transfer to a four-year college or university to get their Bachelor's degree. Other ECIW students are planning on going to college to get degrees or certificates in Early Childhood Development, Automotive Technology, Nursing, and Biotechnology. One student from Mexico is moving to Hollywood to attend a vocational school for make-up artists! With an education, anything is possible!



Yuan-yue L.
Astronaut



Halima B.
Banker



Tammy L.
Nurse



Cecilia L.
Teacher



Guadalupe A.
Lawyer



Migdalia O.
Teacher

Fairy Tales Can Come True!

English Center students from Janice Tolman's Advanced Reading and Writing Class studied and wrote fairy tales during Summer A session this year.

Both morning and evening students also attended a presentation by

Technical Director, Robyn Rindge from DreamWorks Animation.

DreamWorks Animation Studio in Redwood City.



Students attend opening of *Shrek the Third* at the Jack London Square Cinema.

The culminating experience was a trip to see the movie *Shrek the Third* made at the



Robyn Rindge, from DreamWorks Animation Studio, shows some Shrek toys during his presentations

New Teachers, New Ideas !

Meet Madeline Aranda, Paula Gunder, Amanda Jenks, Jill Schutz and Janice Tolman. They are new to The English Center for Summer 2007 and are creating new and fun activities and lessons for morning and evening students across all the levels.

Paula, Amanda, Janice and Madeline are collaborating on Friday evening Conversations - all of the classes rotate from room to room and visit 'topic' tables. Students will learn vocabulary and how to have conversations about different aspects of the 'topic' at their table. Alternating with Friday evening conversations will be Movie Fridays where students will learn

about a variety of different cultures within America, vocabulary and use critical thinking and writing to explore the issues that are interesting to them. Suggested movies are:

- ◆ Native American Culture: SMOKE SIGNALS
- ◆ African American Culture: THE LONG WALK HOME
- ◆ Chinese American Culture: THE JOY LUCK CLUB
- ◆ Mexican American Culture: REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES
- ◆ Irish American Culture: FAR AND AWAY
- ◆ Muslim American Culture: ALADDIN, HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG, and Others
- ◆ Gay Culture: THE WEDDING BANQUET
- ◆ Deaf Culture: CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD
- ◆ Creating Community: WHAT'S COOKING

Jill is working with evening students on how to access medical care in the U.S. and SF Bay area and how to use MS Office applications in the computer lab.

Lasting Impressions

Nancy Lam

Very rare are those times when people, who live oceans apart, come together to form bonds that make an everlasting impression. But when they do happen, especially at the English Center, it's always an experience that needs to be shared. At the English Center, international students are given the chance to practice what they have learned in the classroom, outside in the real world.—on campus and in their internships they are given opportunities to share their own culture as well as opportunities to learn about the diverse American culture.



These students have the challenging task of succeeding while away from their home country, but with the guidance and support of the English Center's staff, teachers and career placement counselors, they achieve their goals!

This year at ECIW, we have had the great fortune to encounter international students from **Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.** These students came with an open heart and in the end,

they received an educational experience they would never forget. As we look forward to another wonderful year with new international students, we will surely miss those who have left their impression on us.



At Graduation



Introducing the English Center One-Stop Career Center

Nancy Taylor, Career Center Placement Counselor
Mayra Ramirez, Career Placement Assistant

The EC One-Stop helps students realize their career goals in a number of ways. Many students are not aware of the cultural intricacies of job hunting. The One-Stop provides services that teach students how to find a job step-by-step. In the career classes, for example, students learn how to fill out employment applications, write cover letters, resumes and references, prepare them for job interviews. The EC One-Stop also helps students achieve personal goals by providing Internships where students can learn and practice their English skills and/or gain work

experience. In conjunction with their career classes, the EC-One Stop provides career counseling. These services include giving students a career assessment that



Ramona has just finished her job interview practice with Instructor Nancy Lam.

identifies students' career and personal interests. Students can review their results and discover which careers they may find interesting and rewarding. Through instruction, counseling and follow-up from instructors and the EC One-Stop staff, students have the opportunity to prepare for the English speaking workplace while learning the career and technology skills they require in their job search. One of ECIW's alums, **Zula Sunnatcheva**, recently earned her

...a Resource for Students and Alums!

Medical Assistant certificate from Merritt College. "Before I came to ECIW, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. But after taking the Level 3 career class, I realized I wanted to work in the medical field. After I graduated from ECIW, I enrolled in the Medical Assistant program at Merritt College. When I first entered the program, I was

"Later that week I applied for two jobs, and was invited to two interviews. As luck would have it, both employers wanted to hire me."

overwhelmed by English terminology and vocabulary. But, because of the study habits I learned at ECIW, I overcame my fears through studying and completed the program. After I graduated, I needed to get a job so I pulled out my resume and realized it needed to be updated. I made an appointment

with the EC One-Stop and the staff helped me write a cover letter and edit my resume. They also help me prepare for an interview. Later that week I applied for two jobs, and was invited to two interviews. As luck would have it, both employers wanted to hire me. I was so thrilled! Without the help of ECIW, I don't think I would have the opportunities I have now."

Yuka Wakabayashi is from Japan

For International Students and Immigrants!

and came to ECIW to study English. Yuka told the EC One-Stop staff it was her dream to work at an international airport and speak both English and Japanese. Yuka admitted that she was afraid to speak English and needed an internship where she could practice without feeling pressured or judged. When asked if she would like to intern at a preschool, Yuka was a little skepti-

cal. "I didn't really know very much about children, but when the staff at the EC One-Stop suggested working with children would help me practice English, I reluctantly agreed. Of her experience at Joe and Bernice's Preschool, Yuka reported, "At first I didn't know how to talk to the children, but they taught



Students enjoy interning at the Mills College Children's School

me how. They wanted me read to them and play games that required me to use English. When it was time for me to go back to Japan, the children told me that they didn't want me to leave because 'they needed me.' I was so touched and so sad to leave them." Yuka told her career

What is 'Academic Readiness'?

Lynne Wilkins, Associate Director

What do our students need to be successful in the community college or university system? They need strong reading skills, strong note taking skills, the ability to synthesize and summarize, the ability to think critically and problem solve, the ability to express themselves appropriately in writing, and the ability to ask questions. But they also need to be able to talk with their classmates, to approach their professors, to relate to the course content and to understand the relevance of what they are studying. *What is academic readiness? It's something*

different for each person!

Recently I 'ran into' a 2002 alumna, a young Chinese woman who used to be shy and not very confident. She completed Level 5 in our program and then attended a local community college. When she and I accidentally met, we both were waiting on line in San Francisco for the ferry to Oakland. She was the one who initiated contact, reminded me of her name, introduced

Academic readiness is a combination of innate qualities and acquired skills, a magic mixture both complicated and individualized!

her companion and asked many questions. Her hair was cut in a cute modern style, she wore cute fashionable clothes and she spoke with me, my husband and my daughter, making

jokes and carrying on a very fluent conversation. She now is working as an assistant clothing designer, a long-time interest of hers, and is 1 class away from graduating with a BA from San Francisco State

ing with a BA from San Francisco State

Is it More Than Academic Skills?

University. So, what was academic readiness to her? It was the English language she needed to be able to take her next steps.

On the other hand, let me introduce another alum from 2006, a young man whose intelligence and drive is unmatched. He quickly mastered most skills in our program but never was a confident communicator. He is now

attending community college and is struggling with his academic load. He has remained linguistically a first language speaker, rather than a comfortable bilingual speaker, and stumbles through conversations in English. Recently I called him on the telephone and he asked "Who is this?" as his initial greeting and after I explained who I was, he fell silent. He has

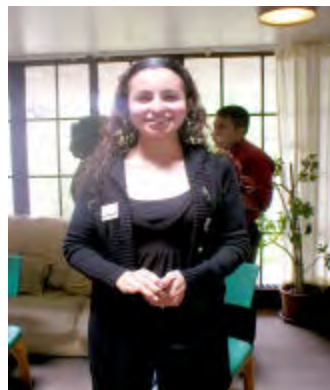
never learned the ebb and flow of conversing in English.

When he becomes more comfortable in his new cultural environment, he will be more confident in his conversation and, magically, his academic work will reflect his true abilities. For him, 'academic readiness' = confidence.

English Center Alum Martha Cuevas!

Martha had studied accounting in Mexico, but could only find work as a waitress in California. Wanting to use her professional skills, she started English Center classes in January 2004. By summer, her language skills were strong enough for her to begin volunteering at the English Center. Though she still kept her waitress position, after class she would volunteer in the Financial Aid office, where her help was much appreciated by

the Financial Aid Officer, Sima. When it came time for Martha to begin her job search, she contacted Sima and asked permission to use her as a reference. Of course, Sima was happy to help such a good worker find a new career position.



Today, after working as a teller for Bank of America for just six months, Martha is now a Teller Operations Specialist. On a recent visit to the English Center, she gave a presentation to students and staff about Bank of America's services and answered questions about her own career path and aspirations. Martha Cuevas (nee Salcedo) is a great role model for English Center students.

What does “ Diversity” mean at the English Center?

ECIW's student enrollment for academic year 2006-2007 is certainly one of the most diverse ever-**238** students from **38** different countries!

East Asia

Japan
Taiwan

China
Korea
Thailand
Vietnam

Central and West

Asia

Iraq
Iran
Uzbekistan
Mongolia
India
Kazakhstan

Afghanistan

Africa

Eritrea
Ethiopia
Yemen
Sudan
Morocco

Congo

Europe

Romania
Ukraine
Russia



Men & Women alike study at ECIW

Poland

The Americas

Brazil



Mexico

USA

Colombia

Chile

El Salvador

Guatemala

Venezuela

Peru

Cuba

Nicaragua

Honduras

Dominican Republic

Switzerland

Bulgaria

What is it like to be a student at the English Center?

As a student at The English Center, you'll learn English and you will learn a lot about yourself! You'll learn to speak and write fluently and comfortably in English **and** you'll gain confidence to study and work in an American university or corporation.

In your classes, you'll meet other students from all around the world. Many sessions, we have students from as many continents as North



A student making a presentation in the computer lab

and South and Central America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Because the class size is small (average 13 students),

you will form friendships with your classmates and learn about their customs and culture. And, you will receive very personalized attention from the very professional and experienced teachers here at The



Students at one of ECIW's famous class parties

English Center.

Several times each session there are class and school parties. You will learn about American holidays and taste foods from around the world. Often, your class will go on field trips to local museums

and other interesting locations. Below this article is just a sample of what it's like to be a student learning at The English Center.

Writing by Doing in Hannah's Reading/Writing Class

ECIW instructor Hannah Meadow explains her unusual method of teaching writing!

In our steps to understand and learn the writing process, we use different techniques for organizing information. In this example, by building a gingerbread house, students practice organizing language around issues of space, and after-

wards describe their finished project in a written piece.



The Beginning Reading/Writing Class with Instructor Hannah



ECIW Staff (l-r): Lynne Wilkins, Rimma Shchukina, Sima Brodskaya, Tony Vigo, Angelica Vera, Nancy Lam, Monica Mendez, Michael Goldberg, Erika Wong, Marcy Jackson, Nancy Taylor, Mayra Ramirez

Come study with us. We're waiting for you!

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