

ESL Reflections

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Farewell! By Mary Hill, ESL Department Chair

Special points of interest:

- *Voodoo and the Death party*
- *Cambodian Water Festival*
- *Poetry*
- *How to buy a car*
- *More Beautiful Places in the World*

It is with great pleasure that we publish the second edition of "Reflections", the newsletter where students in the ESL Department are able to see their writing in print. This semester we have a mixture of poetry and prose written by our Intermediate and Advanced students. Several students have written about unique customs in their own countries, some have described both the best and worst days of their lives, and others have contributed short poems or haiku. We hope that you will enjoy reading all of these pieces and appreciate the effort that went in to their production.

As many of you know, I am retiring at the end of this semester and will not be at North

Shore in September. I have been here for ten years and it is amazing to think of the changes that have taken place during that time. When I arrived, the ESL Lab was in Room LE234 and consisted of a series of booths with antiquated tape players. At the edge of the room there were a few leftover computers. Compare that to the wonderful multimedia lab we have now where teachers are continually experimenting with new ways of making teaching and learning more effective. Courses, schedules and teachers have also changed during the ten years but I think the lab best symbolizes the way that the ESL Department has strived to keep abreast with the latest techniques in



language learning.

It is with mixed feeling that I leave North Shore. I have to admit that I will not miss the marking and grading of papers, but I will miss my colleagues and most of all the students who make each day of this job interesting and rewarding.

My Experience as a Work Study Student

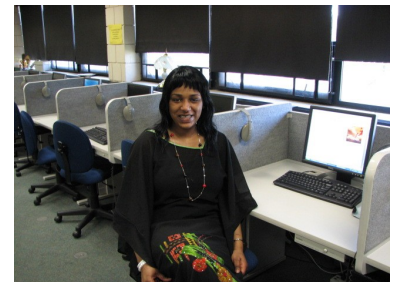
Being a work study student is a wonderful and interesting experience. As an ESL Lab Assistant, I have had the opportunity to be around people from all over the world. I've learned to work with ESL students, assist them when they need help, and also give and receive advice from them. I also do other work for Tom J and Mary H who are my supervisors.

The most difficult part about it is to find a schedule that suits you. I started as an ESL student at North

Shore and I never thought at that time that I will be working as the Lab assistant.

Every time I work there I learn something new and it feels great to know that I'm helping other students. I'm honored to have such a job.

I have the best supervisors and I appreciate all their patience and help.



Djenabou Diallo
(GENA)



*“Amusement park
Hang out with friends
Exciting and Colorful”*

Haiku

Summer Vacation

Hot weather, shiny

Greeting feeling of happiness

Fun, colorful day

Weekends

Are relaxing days

Disconnecting from the world

To have free time

Rock Music

Expressing feelings

With a crazy rhythm

Passion everyone

Amusement Park

Hang out with friends

Exciting and colorful

Perfect to have fun

Jherlynn Torres

Haiku

Brazil, summer, sun

Beach, river, ocean, and
more beach.

Just relax my mind

English language

Hard, difficult and rules

But I will learn it

Rice, beans and beef

Delicious, and good
taste

The best food for me

True love I need

Dream, mystery, and
far away

I want to find it.

Tatiane Lima Silva



Ha Long Bay

I like to spend my free time on Ha Long Bay beach in my country, Vietnam.

It's a quiet, beautiful beach. In the morning, you can see dewdrops on the small green leaves, a few sparse clouds in the blue sky, and a trail of clouds on the surface of the peaceful sea. On the beach, the sand is soft and white. It makes your feet feel comfortable when you step there

You can climb up on a big dark rock and sit down there to see clearly and far away. The sea gulls are flying over

the sea. They look like they want to give a signal: good weather for today.

The beach is still so quiet.

Throw a rock into the quiet sea, it makes a little ripple in the water. Some little yellow fish try to breathe pure air on the top of the water. So far away in the bay, the gray limestone mountain looms out of the morning dew. The mountains aren't too high; they come up from the bottom of the sea. It looks like magic over there.

The peace in Ha Long Bay in the morn-

ing makes me peaceful and filled with good feelings. Whenever I could, I went to Ha Long Bay to enjoy the place.

Thang (Trandy) Tran



Cambodian Water Festival

In Cambodia, one of the most important celebrations is the Annual Water Festival. The primary event during the Water Festival celebration is a traditional boat race. The racers represent the marine forces of the ancient Khmer Empire. This ceremony is celebrated during three days, and takes place each year in late October or early November, at the time of full moon. This celebration is characterized by large crowds gathering in the capital (Phnom Penh) along the Mekong river.

Every year there are about four hundred boats competing. The race teams decorate their boats with many different colors. On the first day, the boats race in pairs along the Mekong river. The winners of this first race compete again with the other winners until there are only two boats left. In the evening, fireworks are shot over the river, and all the paddlers who battled stop racing and come to join the fireworks. During the fireworks, we also have brightly decorated boats cruising down

the river who came from different ministries. The second and third day are the same as the first day, except the racers have been pared down to the final two boats of which the winner will receive a gift from the government..

“On the first day, the boats race in pairs along the Mekong River”

Kouch Knapp



Math

Numbers, one, two, three

Problems, not solved, tears, god!

Please god help me

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The Best Day Of My Life

My first jump with a parachute is the best day of my life. It was fabulous and admirable; but there were some challenges at the beginning. At first, I took practical courses and listened to lectures. I studied three days a week for two months. When that happy day occurred, I had to get a parachute to jump by myself and put an enormous and uncomfortable uniform on. When the airplane rose up, I got nervous. It was a terrible but exciting moment when I jumped. There was freedom. I saw that our land is very beautiful and irresistible. The flight was short, but I will remember it all my life. Even after so many years, thinking about that wonderful day still makes me happy.

Natallia Karasik

“It was a terrible but exciting moment when I jumped”

The Best Day Of My Life

The best day of my life was the day I left my birth country for the United States. I came to America when I was 21 years old; it was on June 20th 2006. I woke up early in the morning to take a shower and had breakfast to prepare for the longest journey of my life. The night before I left my country, I spoke to all my friends, and called my uncle and aunt to inform them of my journey. They were thrilled and happy for me. They could not hide their feelings. Everyone became emotional, especially my mother. She could not bear the thought of seeing me gone for a long time. At the airport, everyone waved at me as I walked through the security check to board the plane.

Adelolu Adenike

“The best day of my life was the day I left... for the United States”

The Worst Day Of My Life

The worst the of my life was when my boyfriend left me for another girl. We were together for three years. He left me during our religious holiday Ramadan. I was very depressed during that period. I couldn't eat because the food had no taste anymore, I lost weight. It was anorexia, I think, or maybe not. I

couldn't feel the taste of the food so I stooped eating but drank a lot of water. Furthermore, when I saw that I had lost almost twenty five pounds, I didn't love my body, I hated myself; so I became aggressive toward people. I skipped school because everybody could see that I was sick and that wasn't the same. I couldn't concentrate in class, so my mother advised me to see a psychologist.

It was so great to talk to

someone who did not know me, someone who could not criticize me about what I did wrong. After going to the psychologist several times, I made up my mind and promised to love myself first. Today, I know that something that started bad ended up being good. I learned a lot about myself. I am in Boston now and I will work hard to be what I want.

“I made up my mind and promised to love myself first.”



Oumou Barry



The Worst day of my life

My worst day is now the best day of my life. At the beginning of June 2008, my wife told me that she felt strange. She didn't know what happened to her. She only wanted to sleep and hated the smell of the food sometimes. One week after that, she told that she thought that she was pregnant. I didn't understand what she said; I was shaking and sweating. Two days later, I asked her if she wanted to see a doctor to be certain. After that, I couldn't sleep or eat. She had a

blood test which I picked up the results later. When I opened the envelope the first thing I saw was positive. I automatically called her, she was so happy but at the same time sad. I said that it was ok we are going to have a baby, but I have to get back to the U.S. She had to stay with my grandmother. She can help her take care of the baby. At first, she didn't want us to be separated because she will feel lonely, but she understood that it was for the best of us. We told our parents and they were

both happy for us. Now I am the happiest man in the world because of my son and family. They mean everything too me. Now when I think about that day, I know how it had changed my life.

Wilver C. Gonzalez

The Voodoo and The Death Party

The voodoo and the party of the dead are very popular in Haiti. The voodoo comes from Africa where blacks were bought for slavery. During the war between the Haitians and the French, Haitians used magic tricks to kill the French. In addition, the magic tricks gave them power to get protected against bullets. It can also be used for many things like killing people, making them sick, transforming them into animals, making them blind and making pow-

der with certain animals like crabs and snakes. However it can also be applied to do good things, such as treatment of people with traditional medicine, protecting children against bad spirits, giving people luck to win the lottery, and more. The death party is a national holiday in Haiti. It is celebrated on November 2nd. The holiday consist of honoring dead people in a family. When celebrating the holiday, people go to the cemeteries to speak to dead people who were important in their lives. They drop off water,

coffee, and tea on their tombs. Christians people do not participate at this celebration and they always say that honoring and adoring the dead is prohibited by God. In addition, adoring and honoring those tombs is a huge sin in God eyes.

Finally, even if the Christians do not practice the Voodoo, and even if they do not believe in the Death party, those things will stay from generation to generation.

Gerald Joseph



Baron Samedi





Copley Plaza

“On Saturday, in the middle of the night, people go dancing and drinking...”

My favorite Place in Boston

Boston has everything you want in a city. But when I want to have a good time, the best place for me is Park Street. I choose a old bench located near the subway exit. There is a lot of noise from the people and the traffic around me; everything is in movement. On the sidewalk, people are smoking and drinking hot coffee. There is a strong smell of cars and tobacco. I hear the murmur of the pedestrians passing in front of me.

Some of them whisper secrets

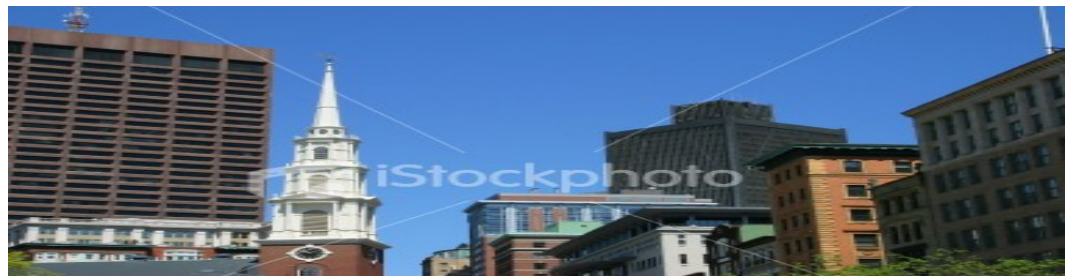
that only them knew. Others are laughing or running. It’s pretty cold, but I am comfortable to be here thanks to my weatherproof jacket.

I can see different kinds of buildings : high, old, modern. The sky is blue and the sun is brilliant, saying’ “ I am the king of heavens.” The sunshine reflects in all the buildings .It appears like a rainbow on the windows. Many cars of different colors and models surround the park.

The trees don’t have the green foliage yet. I see the small dark

brown birds flying with their extended wings to the sky, and a light brown squirrel with a long furry tail that is running between the tall trees on the ground. I can also see other squirrels jumping on the branches. I can’t see the breeze, but I can feel it hitting my face. The landscape of this park entertains me and relaxes me. All these experiences make Park Street the place I go when I want to forgot the struggles of my life.

Elim J. Lopez C.



Holy Week in My Country

Each year in my country, we celebrate the holy week. During that week, all schools and universities are closed. The businesses are open until Thursday at noon. Some people take a vacation during that week and they go to hotels, beaches, rivers and other different places. Other people stay home or visit churches.

The weekend is peaceful, nobody listens to music and it is quiet. For the lent, some people don’t eat meat on Wednesday and Friday, they eat fish. On “Good Friday,” the Catholic church walks in procession on the street. The people also walk praying and singing religious songs.

On Saturday, in the middle of the night, people go dancing and drinking because it ‘s the time when businesses reopen. On Sunday, people return to their home and to their regular life of working and studying.

Karen Lora

How to Buy A New Car

It's easy to buy a new car if you follow these instructions. First of all, consider how much money you have. It is very important to decide whether to get a new or used car. Second, consider how much money you can pay per month. You should consider your incoming money and expenses. Also, consider what kind of car you want. If you are single, a small car may be best for you. Third, go to

several car dealers. This is the perfect way for you to save any money and see a variety of cars.

Next, take a look at how many miles the car has. It can tell you how long the car will be fine. Then, find out if the car has been in an accident. Make sure the care has not been in an accident to avoid trouble in the future. After that, compare prices at different deal-

ers. It will help you to negotiate for the best price.

Finally, choose your car. You have learned all you want to know about buying cars. Now pick a car which you think is the best for you and your budget. If you follow these steps, you will buy a wonderful new car.



Porfirio Ortiz

Thanksgiving Day

Every year on January 15th and 16th the people who live in my village celebrate Thanksgiving Day because they would like to thank the Earth God, and spirits who bring them a successful harvest. The holiday attracts approximately two thousand people from everywhere. On the first day, the monks lead a parade of a couple hundred flower cars, gold buffaloes, enormous silver pigs, and many groups of people wearing different traditional dresses of the three parts of Vietnam. While they are walking, they are praying for the forsaken spirit. On the other hand, the people float many beautiful flower boats with whole roast pigs, chicken, ducks, fruits and cakes inside. During this part

of the parade they worship the spirits of the river. They also set free hundreds of ducks. If someone dives into the river and catches a duck it belongs to them.

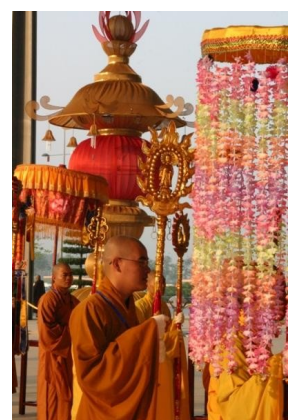
On the last day, the lion groups gather together and wear costumes to exhibit their skills. At the end of the day, most people gather around the stage which is over ten meters high and contains a big statue of a man and many kinds of food, fruits, and

candies. Finally, at 12:00 am the statue is burned, it represents freedom from suffering of forsaken spirits, ancestors, and creates peace for plants, animals, and humans. After the statue is burned, the leader counts down and signals and many people rush ahead to pick up the food.

Dieuhien Huang



“On the last day, the lion groups gather together and wear costumes to exhibit their skills”



New Technology for ESL Lab

The ESL Lab has added more technology resources to help students learn English and help teachers to use technology in their classes. With funds from a Verizon grant that the ESL lab received this year, the lab has purchased several laptop computers, a tablet PC, and the Turning Point audience response system. The additional resources make the ESL lab one of the best equipped lab of its kind in Massachusetts community colleges.

The Turning Point audience response system is a series of PowerPoint slides with questions or curriculum that students “respond” to using small clickers. Several faculty members have used the audience response in their classes with great success. Professor Kathie Gerecke is pioneering the system with a Technology Across the Curriculum grant, and will show the rest of the faculty the capabilities of this new teaching and learning tool in the fall.

The new Dell laptops are being used for multi media creation such as this newsletter and student videos. The ESL department will also bring the laptops, along with a projector and ESL software, to demonstrate to Community Based Organizations the use of technology in teaching ESL. All of us that use the ESL lab regularly are very appreciative of the great resources we have and the way that students respond so positively to learning with technology.

Tom Justice

Multi Cultural Fair

Several ESL students helped set up a display of culture and delicious food from the Dominican Republic. The students reported having fun and feeling happy that so many people visited their table and enjoyed the Dominican food.



Dominican Republic Table



Brian Gets His Groove On



Sandy and Vanessa at the fair

Visiting Thailand

Here is some advice if you decide to go to Thailand. First, go to Mae Sot. It is in western part of Thailand. It is a nice city. There are many restaurants and cafes. Thai food is very good. Shish Kebab and Meatballs are two popular dishes. Try them! Then go to the outdoor café, and have coffee. Second, visit Umpham. It is about

4 hours south of Mae Sot. It is a beautiful new town in the mountains. There is a famous waterfall there. But do not drive while you are there because the mountain roads are sometimes dangerous. Take a taxi. Next, visit Lay Ton Koh which is near the capital city of Bangkok. It is a small village where people wear traditional clothes. There are beautiful rivers, and the waterfall there is tall, beautiful,

clean and blue. Finally, learn some words in Thai. The Thai people are kind and friendly, but many of them don't speak English.

Ehsay Lar



“Thai food is very good.....Thai people are kind and friendly.....”



The Other Side of Iraq

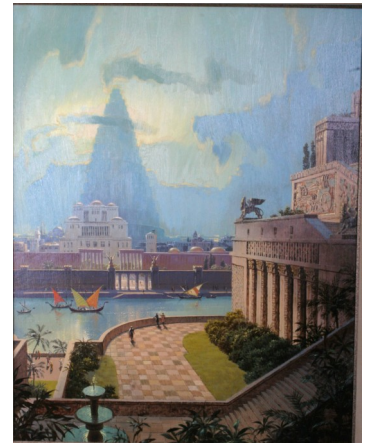
Iraq is a rich country which is an interesting place to spend a vacation . Let us start with the north part of Iraq which reflects the beauty of nature. In the north there are huge pine forests , and mountain ranges like the Taurus and Zagros mountains which are green in summer and white in winter . It has water resources such as waterfalls, for example the Holistic Beck fall and Bejal falls . There is nothing more wonderful than to visit these waterfalls and breathe fresh air and feel the water spray your face under the hot sun shine.

In addition to the resorts and monuments such as castles and forts, The middle part of Iraq has two big lakes, Habbaniyah lake and

Tharthar lake . There are a lot of ancient cities there, one of them is Babylon which contains the great Ishtar Gate. This gate is completely covered with blue and white marble and colored tiles .It was decorated with 576 prominent animals such as the dragon and the oxen. Babylon had one of the great seven wonders of the world, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon which were built by Nebuchadnezzar .

The central Iraq cities are full of palm groves watered by the Euphrates River . The capital of Iraq (Baghdad) is a modern city which has big stores , huge museums , wonderful parks ,luxurious hotels , very good restaurants . What could be better than

spend a day in one of the restaurants overlooking the Tigris River and have a meal of delicious Iraqi food.

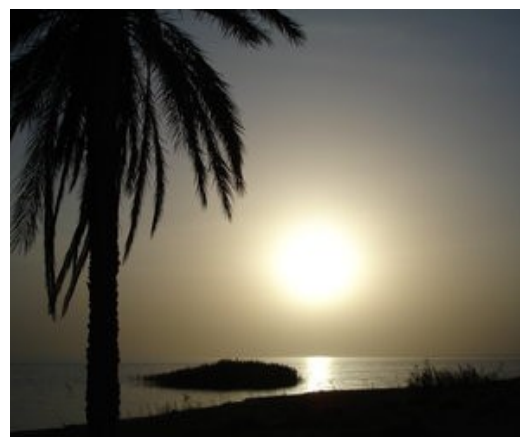


HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

“Iraq is a wonderful country where you can see different types of natural beauty, not scorched buildings...”



GELI ELI BEG WATERFALL



HABBANIYAH LAKE



ISHTAR GATE