



Charlottesville City Schools
 Adult English as a Second Language Program
 Adult Learning Center
www.charlottesville-esl.org

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My International Friend

By Allie Kim (South Korea)

It is difficult to imagine that we can make a foreign friend except in the same school, workplace, or club. But I made my first international friend because of the widespread Internet environment.

Shanni Hong, who lives in Singapore, is my first foreign friend. I became acquainted with her by chance. Five years ago, she visited my website about Korean culture. She was interested in both Korean culture and movies. She especially loved Korean movie actors. Moreover, she is generous like a sister. I was always surprised that she sent me cards and gifts every

Christmas, New Year, and on my birthday. Whenever winter is coming, she visits Seoul because Singapore always has warm weather and she enjoys skiing at resorts and drinking warm coffee.

There are two episodes between her and me that illustrate our close friendship.

First, after I accepted my husband's proposal a few months ago, I sent her my wedding invitation without expectation. At last, on my wedding day, she suddenly appeared in front of my eyes. She came for my wedding from Singapore! I couldn't

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From the Editor: The Second International Health Fair at ALC

On December 9th, 2004, the Adult Learning Center held its second annual International Health Fair. Over 40 students attended, and many more participated through their poster displays that lined the hall. Topics included diabetes, heart disease, endometriosis, post partum depression, Korean traditional medicine, nutrition, food establishment safety inspections, malaria, healthful recipes, the geology of the earth, rheumatoid arthritis, mental and emotional health, asthma, flu shots, safety on the road, volunteering, Japanese life expectancy, and Japan's health care system.

A core philosophy underlying the International Health Fair is that it is an opportunity for students as well as health educators to share cross-cultural understandings of health and health care systems, as well as furthering student understanding of how to navigate the U.S. health care system.

So, besides the student-created poster displays, the event featured three speakers. **Nick Mattsson**, Health Counselor from the **Health Department**, spoke about infectious and sexually transmitted diseases. **Florencia Aranda**, from the **Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)**, spoke about the many ways domestic violence

can manifest and the services SHE offers for people who find themselves in situations where domestic violence occurs. She also brought with her material from the **Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA)**. These topics were in no way meant to suggest that the international population was any more likely than others to be plagued by these concerns. Rather, they were presented for educational purposes only with the hope that, if a difficult situation does arise, student will know how to get help.

The third speaker, **Packmo Tsow**, an ESL student in the evening High Intermediate class, spoke about the differences in health care between Tibet and the U.S.

Also present with displays were **Dr. Tony Stupski**, a resident at the **International Family Medicine Clinic**, and **Diane Hoffman**, a social worker from the **UVA Medical Center** who offered material on financial assistance the hospital offers. Dr. Stupski said, "I feel as if I am learning more here from the students than they are from me." **Dorita Wood**, ABE/GED instructor at ALC, had a display on breast health awareness, and ESL instructor **Jim Gordon** (also a certified massage therapist) offered chair massages throughout the event. **Myung Jin Oh** and **Yeon-Ju Ha** each respectively provided information about different aspects of Korean traditional medicine.

Whole Foods again this year generously donated two wonderful baskets of goodies, which were raffled off at the end of the event.

Thank you again to all students, teachers, and guests for making this a truly successful international exchange of ideas and experiences of health around the world.

Leslie A. Furlong, Editor

Leslie A. Furlong, Editor
Eva Horvath, Assistant Editor

Mission Statement

The *Multi-Cultural Brief* is an ESL newsletter created by students who want to improve their English and is produced as part of a newspaper class offered through the Charlottesville Adult Education program. Its purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to

- share their experiences of being from another country,
- offer multi-cultural perspectives on life in Charlottesville,
- help inform people who are new to Charlottesville of issues and opportunities around town,
- build a bridge of communication between the ESL population and Americans living in the Charlottesville community.

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Swimming

By Chia-Hui Wang (Taiwan)

No matter who you are or where you live, swimming is a real good and fun activity to do.

My family loves swimming so much. Actually, before we left Taiwan, we prepared all our equipment, including swimming suits, caps, goggles, and towels. Right after we arrived at Copeley in Charlottesville, we immediately made inquiries about a pool.

“... our friends told us there is a wonderful pool at the University of Virginia.”

Fortunately, our friends told us there is a wonderful pool at the University of Virginia. The AFC Aquatic & Fitness Center swimming pool really is the best I have ever swum at. There is an Olympic-sized pool for me and Leo (my older son), a Lap pool for Herby (my younger son), and a Sauna and Whirlpool for my husband. The most important thing is that we make many good friends at the pool.

Family membership fees are not very cheap, yet \$550 for a year for the family brings us a wonderful time. It is worth it.

Language and Me

By Hera Lee (South Korea)

Sometimes my thirteen-year-old daughter, who came to America last year and has stayed in America for just 12 months, does not understand me when I talk about conceptual or complicated subjects in Korean. And sometimes I do not understand the language between her and her American friends. Every time that happens, I am disappointed and feel frustrated. Even fear comes over me that gradually we might be cut off from one another.

I will never be able to speak English as fluently as my mother tongue, and my children's language will progress strikingly. I will not give up my mother tongue, and I will never be satisfied with simple usual conversation with my children, such as, "Have you finished your homework?" I still have ambition to communicate and get to know

my children's thoughts, feelings about movies, novels, poetry, and everything in life. But how is my English? I was so jealous when my daughter caught something that I missed understanding at the service desk of a

“I would not share the feeling of English as exactly perfectly as my mother tongue.”

cellular phone company last summer. I have known English for one decade, and still I do not speak one sentence perfectly. But she, who has only been studying English for several years, has caught up to me in a year.

So every day I am frustrated and say to myself that this is why I cannot live in this foreign country. I would not share the

feeling of English as exactly perfectly as my mother tongue. I will never understand the trivial but exquisite meaning of many words that every American understands. That is why I will never be able to live in a foreign country forever.

What is love? For me, it means that I understand someone's language and share something in it.



One Day in My Life in Israel

By Ronen Kraus (Israel)

For the last 4 years (since September 28, 2000), Israel has been under attack by suicide bombers and terrorists. I will try to describe how this situation has influenced my life. I'll try to give you a realistic picture of the life in my country these days, which, unfortunately, is not always the way I would expect. I hope that after you finish reading, you'll be able to feel and imagine something about my life in Israel. Although this topic can be related to politics, I don't intend to involve politics. I'm going to talk only about facts and everyday life in Israel.

I would like to say that all the incidents I will mention happened, and it is also true that some of them happen every day but others less frequently.

So, the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is to turn on the radio and listen to the news. To listen to the news in Israel is like a reflex, and the radio is always in the background. The 3 most popular stations in this country broadcast news for 2-3 hours every morning, and, during the day, they broadcast news every hour, and we have breaking news every half hour. This is when nothing unusual happens. If something happens like a

terrorist attack, then there is just news all day and all night long and mostly very sad and unpleasant news.

When you leave for work, you never know how much time it will take you. Besides the usual traffic jams, which are pretty heavy in central areas like Tel-Aviv, we have a lot of warnings for potential suicide bombers. In these cases, the police and the army put roadblocks in different areas, and some roads are closed to regular traffic. This, of course, causes delays and additional traffic jams. For the last 4 years, we have had these kinds of warnings almost every day. Then a drive that will usually take something like 20 minutes can take you two hours, and you'll be late for work.

After work, sometimes we go shopping. We drive to the mall, which has an underground parking area. A security officer is standing at the entrance to the parking area and usually asks if you are carrying any weapons. Then this person sticks his head in the car and looks for suspicious items. If he thinks you have some, he asks you to show them to him. This will include your personal bag, school bags, and grocery bags. The last thing he does is check

what you have in the trunk. Finally, you go through, and then you have another security station at the entrance of the mall. This time another guy will check your personal belongings. He will pass a special detector all over your body and will check your bag again. Sometimes, if he doesn't have electronic equipment, he'll use his hands. I forgot to mention that if there is a line at the checking station, you'll be really nervous and anxious because we had many cases when suicide bombers explode themselves at the entrance.

Now let us imagine that a suicide bomber explodes himself in the middle of a restaurant in Tel-Aviv and I'm somewhere shopping. Now I'm running a search in my mind about my relatives and close friends, trying to find out if someone works nearby or went to a nearby restaurant or the same restaurant, or if someone is shopping in some place close by. I'm trying to call my friend who lives nearby but, guess what – he is not answering. It could be because the mobile phone company has shut down all the lines or because it just crashed due to the number of calls at that area or that something awful happened to him. Meanwhile, you start listening to the radio or TV, which brings eye-witnesses, damage estimates, and

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"... in the possibility that a suicide bomber will explode himself in the restaurant, where should we sit?"

Listen to the Hands

By Elena Marani (Italy)

I wrote tens and tens of pages, and I believe I'll write more about the most alienating and deep experience of my life until today.

Summer 2004, Africa.

Rwanda. I went as a volunteer with seven other Italian people to a country that has been massacred by genocide, by poverty, by hunger, by sickness, by neglect... Rwanda. But in this moment, I'm not thinking about this. It's really too much for me. I'm thinking over the importance of something I seem to have discovered for the first time, even if I "practice" it every day. I speak about the touch between human beings, the physical contact that has the capacity to eliminate all words. I can't believe in it! It's unbelievable, but it exists as another kind of listening, not through the ears, but in silence through the hands, through the skin, the embrace, the touch.

Try to imagine it. It was not easy to find the way to communicate. The Rwandan people don't speak English (or Italian!), and not all of us spoke French, and their mother tongue, Kinya Rwandan, was incomprehensible to us. In spite of these difficulties, I was sure that all my thoughts didn't remain in my mind or my emotions just in my heart.

I knew my hands spoke to their hands and my heart spoke to their hearts. When you go to another culture, you must be empty so you can fill yourself with another culture. Use touch, not words, to fill yourself. After a few days, me too, I was able to listen in the silence, to listen through the touch of the hands.

It's not only a language question. The young Rwandan people keep inside not only a very very big pain (the genocide that killed one million people) but also a long tradition formed by love, instinct, respect, spirit, ... all possible to be expressed without words.

"I knew my hands spoke to their hands and my heart spoke to their hearts."



Who knows? Maybe at one time all people were able to listen through the hands. For the moment, I'll continue to say, "Thanks," to Eric, Yannich, and the others who taught me to listen. Thank you!

Want to Contribute to the Multi-Cultural Brief?

Do you have a story, an opinion, a skill you want to tell people about, a recipe, a good idea, a complaint, or a response to what you learned here?

Share it with others!

All submissions are considered. You don't have to be part of the Newspaper Class to contribute!

There are still openings in the Newspaper Class! Classes meet on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12 noon, Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and on Fridays from 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.** Come as many times a week as you like.

If interested, call (434)-245-2817, or e-mail: Susan.Erno@ccs.k12.va.us.

To receive the *Multi-Cultural Brief*, visit 1000 Preston Avenue, Suite D.

My Most Interesting School

By Wanxia Wang (China)

I'm Chinese. I came to the U.S. one year ago. I learned English in China, but I still can't speak it fluently. Since I knew there is a school that teaches ESL (English as a Second Language), I joined it. I enjoyed it very much. It is the most interesting school I have ever gone to.

First, the classmates come from all over the world. They have different cultural backgrounds, but they had similar childhood experiences and played the same games in their childhood. I have learned about different cultures from classmates, so I know how to respect others in the international country of America.

Second, English teachers can teach about culture in the U.S.,

modern American English, and some idioms, including where they come from and how they have changed to this day. Most of them are vivid and easy to imagine after being described. Learning American culture can help my living in America be more comfortable because some cultures are opposite from our country.

Third, ESL classes have no discrimination. No matter how you entered the U.S., where you come from, what religion you are, or what color you are, the students have an equal right to go to ESL classes. We are friendly with each other. We share our experiences and go to events together. We make friends here, so I feel the significance of life.

Fourth, I have a lot of chances to taste all kinds of food which come from different countries.

Fifth, the ESL teachers are obliging. They try their best to help the students to learn English and to improve their ability. They encourage the students more than any school I have attended.

In summary, I love this school. I enjoy it. It's why, through education, Americans can develop so quickly, so powerfully, to be nice to their citizens as well as to people from other countries.

The system is good so they encourage immigrants to come to the U.S. They improve their knowledge.

One Day in My Life in Israel

(Continued from page 4)

commentators. They broadcast only sad songs. The more damage that has happened, the more hours of sadness.

So, we come back from shopping. The kids are in bed and the babysitter has arrived. We planned to go out today. We are going out with friends to a movie. We still try to run a normal life without being afraid all the time. We pass all the security checks that I already told you about, once again. After the movie, we decide to go to a restaurant. We planned to go to a great restaurant, but it is located in a dangerous zone. So, we have to choose a different one, but, before we enter the restaurant (security checking again), the two wives

have to discuss a very important issue: in the possibility that a suicide bomber will explode himself in the restaurant, where should we sit? Should we sit in the back or near the exit? We eat really fast, and the wives usually stare at people that look suspicious. At midnight, we arrive safely home.

To summarize, what I just described is a typical day for a typical person in Israel. I couldn't describe everything because of length limit. Most Israelis put their fears somewhere in the back of their minds and try to live normally. In spite of this atmosphere, people still go out and travel to most places in the country.

Happy Metaphors

by Samdup Bhuti Pittard (Tibet)

*These are translations of traditional verses
that are very popular in Tibet, India, and Nepal.
First is a literal translation followed by an interpretive translation.*

One Life, One Body

If I like you as much as I like
the Holy Dharma
One life, one body time. I will
reach in
Dharma Palace.

*In this lifetime, we have only one
body and
one life. If I liked my Holy Dharma
as much
as I am keen on you, then in one
lifetime and
one body, I would reach enlighten-
ment.*

Flower of the Pond

You are pond's Flower, and I
am pond's Jewel.
Pond's Flower not change then
pond's Jewel
will not change either.

*You are that pond's Flower,
And I am its Precious Stone.
If you, Pond's Flower, do not
change your feelings,
Then I, Pond's Precious Stone, will
remain for
you without end.*

Karma and Karma's Path

I am very beautiful grass flower,
You are Halo flower.
If we have karma and karma's
path, then we
may meet in flower vase.

*I am a handsome wild grass flower.
You are
the Hibiscus flower. If we have
good karma
and can meet on karma's path, then
we will find
each other in the flower vase.*

Need Good Experience

Before you ride on horse, to
make sure
saddle is right. Before you get
spouse,
make sure you choose right one.

*Before you ride a horse, make sure
that you
put the right saddle on.
And, before you acquire a spouse,
make sure you choose the right one
for you.*

Apricot in the Mouth

Apricot tastes really good in
mouth.
Flower is beautiful in eyes.
Today, can I sleep under the
apricot tree?

*Apricot is tasty in one's mouth.
The apricot flower is beautiful in
one's eyes.
So, can I sleep under the apricot tree
today?*

Message by Water

Letter send by water.
No reply receive.
But, fish lady, keep me in your
heart.

*I sent a message through the water.
There was no response, but, woman
of the fish,
please keep me in your heart.*



Our New Website

Visit the new website for the Adult Learning Center! Included there you will see current and back issues of the Multi-Cultural Brief, the latest schedule of classes, and much, much more! www.charlottesville-esl.org

Breastfeeding in Taiwan

By Li-Chu Kuo (Taiwan)

On Saturday, October 16, 2004, the Bureau of Health Promotion Department of Health, Taiwan, R.O.C. held a press conference about public breastfeeding. Those who support breastfeeding met in north, midland, and southern Taiwan in order to educate the people who live in Taiwan that breastfeeding is beautiful, sacred and important. I was deeply affected by this news, and I am so appreciative of their acts. It reminded me of my own experience of breastfeeding. It was a hard time.



When I was about 7 months pregnant, somebody asked me, "Will you breastfeed your baby?" I said, "I don't know!" I was just a little surprised because I had never thought about this. Nobody told me, including my common sense, my family, my education, my government, even my obstetrician, about the importance of breastfeeding for babies and mommies. In Taiwan, we think feeding babies formula is a matter of course. On the basis of curiosity, I looked for information on breastfeeding from books and the Internet. And then I decided to breastfeed my baby.

In the beginning, I had a lot of problems, but

nobody could answer my questions, and my family didn't actually support me. On the one hand, I felt lonely, sad and tired; on the other hand, I needed to fight their many queries. They told me, "You have too little milk for your baby; he needs some formula." "Your milk does not give enough nutrition for your baby; he needs some formula." As far as I know, mother's milk is the best in the world for baby's body and mind. Fortunately, when my son was 5 months old, we moved to Montreal for one and a half years. I could breastfeed my baby freely and easily when he needed it. I breastfed my son until he was 20 months old. As of today, I am so proud of my decision.

I was excited to learn the news in Taiwan. I admire those mothers who breastfeed in public places for their great bravery because the society of Taiwan is conservative. They improve the environment for breastfeeding in Taiwan. I am grateful to them for all that they have done. I hope that mothers who decide to breastfeed can get more support in the future in Taiwan.

"Nobody told me, including my common sense, my family, my education, my government, even my obstetrician, about the importance of breastfeeding for babies and mommies."

Massage @ Home

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Help the Helpless

By Eva Horvath (Hungary)

*The greatness of a nation and its
moral progress
can be judged by the way its
animals are treated.*
-- Mahatma Gandhi

In our time, independently of country, many animals get abandoned that people are bored of. If they are fortunate, they will go from the street to the shelter, or temporarily to friendly people, and then to a new owner. Every day, they euthanize hundreds of thousands of animals who live in shelters because of lack of money or space. People know about the problems of stray or badly treated animals in almost every country. Animals who live on the street get injured easily, and without treatment they could transmit diseases and reproduce freely. With this they give birth to a lot of creatures who will have no hope for a good life.

For many reasons, there are a lot of crowded shelters. People don't take responsibility for their cats and dogs; they start to own animals without thinking and are uninformed. Besides the lack of experience and carelessness, there are other reasons why they give up their animals. For example, moving, death, hospitalization. Many cruel people just kill or put their pets out where vehicles could hit them. There is only a slim chance that these poor things get to the shelter without injury

or trauma.

Every knowledgeable person knows we have to find a solution for these problems. Still, in practice, many of them do nothing. Some feel impotent because they think they should solve the situation immediately. Of course, it is impossible, so they think they can't do anything. For others, it is simpler to turn their back rather than to face the issues. There are some lethargic people who can live with the feeling that they can't make amends. But this is not true. If we want to make this world better and more humane, we need every intent to help. Some can do more, some can do just a little. But many little steps make a big difference; you just have to start. Everyone can find her own right way, even if it is just a small thing.

There are many ways to help.

Today, many countries have their own laws to protect the rights of animals. It works more or less. If we see a tortured or harmed animal, we must report it immediately because it is an offense against the law, as if someone stole your car. The consequences of carelessness and animal torture are fines or imprisonment. Still, they can't get to the root of the problem because basically the defects are in the people's thinking.

So we can do a lot for animals with our children's education and with responsible guidance. If we do this, we can reach the goal, and the next generation will be more humane with animals. And don't forget that guidance begins at home, not in school, so this is the most effective way to prevent these problems.

Many people are immersed in weekday routine, and they don't have heart and eyes to see the suffering animals that live around them. If you notice an animal that needs help, you could feel yourself in a unique position because the solution is in your hands. At least you can do something to make his life better, or you can improve his situation.

Adoption can help in existing situations, so one more dog or cat may escape euthanization. A lot of people who want to adopt are afraid because of the illnesses of animals, or bites. These fears are mostly baseless because the vets can give only healthy, friendly, spayed or neutered and vaccinated pets away. If the animal feels himself safe, he isn't afraid – so he doesn't want to attack because of fear. He will turn to people with hope. He won't bite or attack. He won't be aggressive.

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Happy Halloween

By Hong Zhu (China)

Halloween is the funniest holiday I have ever seen. October 31st is Halloween. We have heard about this western holiday in China and call it "Ghost Festival."

Several days before Halloween, my daughter was excited to make a kitten mask by herself, and I went shopping to buy a costume and basket for her.

When it was getting dark on Halloween evening, my daughter put a glittering crown on her head, a cute kitten mask on her face, and carried a pumpkin basket and a flashlight to go to Copeley Hill with me. When we saw an orange pumpkin sign on the door (the

system Copeley Hill used to let people know who was participating in Halloween), my daughter ran to the front of the door and knocked on the door

"... my daughter put a glittering crown on her head, a cute kitten mask on her face ..."

and shouted, "Trick or Treat!" Then the door opened. The host came out with a full bag of candies and chocolates in her hand. She smiled and told my daughter, "Happy Halloween! Take some treats." My daughter grabbed several candies and said "Thank you" to her. Then we went to another door to get more candies. Under the curtain of evening, we saw some children

dressed as Mickey Mouse, as fairies, princesses, monkeys, ghosts, etc., going from door to door for trick or treats like us. They were all very joyful. One hour later, all of them had buckets full of candies.

Kids enjoy Halloween not just because of the candy but because they are able to pretend. Parents like it, too, because we have a wonderful time with our children.



My International Friend

(Continued from page 1)

believe her appearance. She looked like a special guest in my wedding place. She took a picture with my girlfriend, and she was interested in the Korean traditional dress which I wore. She looked happy. My friends were pleased looking at her, too. She sincerely celebrated me. I will remember her attendance at my wedding forever.

Second, whenever she visited Seoul, I took many pictures with her in many places. Last winter, when she visited Seoul,

we went to the Culture Center. We took funny pictures there. After she returned to Singapore, I read about a photography contest about "International Friends" on a website. I thought that this contest was for us. I told her about the photography contest, and I uploaded our picture. After a few months, I checked about the photography contest. AWESOME! Our picture won first prize! Shanni and I jumped for joy. I was happy whenever I thought about this episode.

In this way, Shanni and I have

built our friendship with several episodes for five years. We are from different countries, languages, and cultures, but she understands me very well. And she always worries about me whenever I have good or bad news.

Since I came to the United States, she always asks about my health and today's events. Wherever I go, she prays for me. Although she lives far away from here, she is in my heart. Shanni Hong is my precious international friend.

Help the Helpless

(Continued from page 9)

But don't forget that these dogs and cats were stray, hit, or injured animals even though they are healed. The lives of these pets are mostly unknown, and most of them went through serious physical and neural stress and violence. These animals can have difficulties with integration. Most of them feel extremely grateful, because they found a lovely owner and home, and they can adapt immediately without any trouble. But there are some others who need more time. We must help them through this time with a lot of patience and love. In this way, the pets who are afraid will calm down soon.

You can help a lot with donations and volunteering, too. The organizations will spend the money for food, for medical care, for medical equipment, and for preventive activities. There are a lot of people who can't give any money for this. For them, I recommend, if they can, to sometimes help with one can of food for the shelter.

As you can see, there are a lot of ways to help animals. Anyone can find her own method that she can do besides what I wrote here. Fortunately, there are a lot of organizations and volunteers who work for the helpless

animals, and they try to find a way to give them another chance. But this is not enough. Everyone is needed, everyone has to do her own part, so in the future there will be fewer vulnerable, powerless, suffering animals because of us.

Do you remember, "But if you tame me, then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world...." from *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint Exupery?



I Love You

By Faye Shih (Taiwan)

I always hear American people say, "I love you" to anybody anywhere frequently. It is so embarrassing if I say it. I haven't heard my parents say it to each other or to me since I could remember things. My husband never said it before we married. Perhaps he would sometimes use "I like you" or "I adore you" instead of "I love you." It is not easy to convey this message orally because of our tradition and culture. We are so implicit and conservative and do not know how to express ourselves explicitly.

My mother died three years

ago, so I have felt deep sorrow since then. It hurt so much that

"It is a simple, clear, significant, and meaningful expression."

I did not have a chance to tell her I loved her even though I believe she knew.

One day, my daughter talked to her father by phone after she had left home for a couple of weeks for her first year in college. Puzzled, I asked my husband "What's wrong?" after he had hung up with a smile and wet eyes. He said, "Your daughter said, 'Daddy, I love

you.' It is the first time she said it since she was born." Then he smiled and gloated. I teased him with jealousy. I always worry that my children, who were born and grew up in the U.S., don't express their love like American people do because of their parents.

We don't always have a second chance to make up what we meant to do. I often tell my friends, "Don't forget to say 'I love you' to your family if you plan to visit them in Taiwan." I am still waiting for my kids to say, "Mom, I love you." It is a simple, clear, significant, and meaningful expression.



Student Highlights!

The Multi-Cultural Brief continues its new series dedicated to highlighting the rich diversity and talents of students taking classes at the Adult Learning Center. We call this series "Student Highlights," wherein students from the ESL Newspaper Class conduct interviews with fellow students. What follows is the result of an interview of Emilio Dominguez-Salazar, a student in the ESL Advanced Conversation class conducted by two students in the Newspaper Class, Hong Zho (China) and Li-Chu Kuo (Taiwan).

On Wednesday, October 6th, 2004, it was a chilly day. Standing in front of us was a shy and sophisticated man. He sat down and introduced himself.

His name is Emilio Dominquez-Salazar. Dominguez is his father's name. Salazar is his mother's name. He comes from Mexico City, the capital of Mexico. One and a half years ago, he finished his Ph.D. in Mexico. He chose UVA for his post-doctoral research. He had heard that Charlottesville was a beautiful and peaceful small city. So he brought his family to Charlottesville. He settled down in Copeley Hill. He has a wife and two lovely children. One is a six-year-old boy; the other is a four-year-old girl. He works in the Biochemistry

Department at UVA. His project is about the function of genes on sexual behavior. His boss is a woman. She is very nice. She has encouraged him to learn English during the daytime to improve his English. He takes English classes not only at ALC, but also at UVA. He also supports his wife's taking an English class at Albemarle High School.

He likes Charlottesville's forests, which are so different from his hometown. In summer, the trees are tall and bushy, the grasses are green and verdant. In autumn, the leaves float in the wind and then turn into red, orange, purple, and yellow. What a beautiful picture! Just like our own feelings.

He wishes the government in Charlottesville could give free medicine to the people who need it. He told us the medicine was free for everyone when he was at school in Mexico. We hope his wish comes true.

Now he plans to stay here for another one and a half years. He doesn't want to spend all his life here, however, because he misses his country, his friends, and real Mexican food. We understand the difficulty of tearing oneself away from one's native place. We also hope he and his family enjoy their life here in Charlottesville for the next one and a half years.

New Year's Eve in Charlottesville

By Eva Horvath (Hungary)

Near the end of the year, most people have decided with whom and where they will celebrate New Year's Eve. But some people are in a completely different situation, particularly those who are new in town and don't have any friends with whom they could celebrate. If you couldn't find a program because of this or other things, for example, you would like to meet with new people or you want to enjoy a hearty celebration or you are just curious because you never saw anything like this before, this suggestion was written for you.

There is an alternative way to celebrate New Year's Eve in Charlottesville. It is called **First Night Virginia**. The main idea is to bring families, friends, and people of all ages together on New Year's Eve. Throughout the evening, there are plenty of musicians, magicians, storytellers, puppet shows, and entertainers. There are many programs from 2:30 p.m. until the fireworks at midnight. Events are at different locations

around the whole Downtown area. This opportunity is great because it is not so easy to find other alcohol-free, family-oriented and safe alternatives. First Night Virginia has a great history; this year, it will celebrate its 23rd year.

"Events are at different locations around the whole Downtown area."

Before the event, you must buy admission buttons that will let you into every concert; they are sold at all Charlottesville Kroger stores, Mincer's, Timberlakes, Plan 9 Records, and St. Anne's Belfield Bookstore. Buttons are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and free for children 3 and under. But if you buy the buttons at the last minute, you will pay a little more (\$14 and \$7). You can buy tickets online, too; just visit the following website: <http://www.firstnightvirginia.musictoday.com/FirstNightVirginia/calendar.aspx>.

It is possible that someone can't afford a ticket, but if one volunteers on this day, he will get one free First Night button and also a special gift. I think

as a volunteer one could have more fun than others because one has more opportunity to be involved in these programs, and, besides the fun, one can do something really important and interesting.

If you want to know more about the schedule, events, and performances, visit the following website or check the local newspaper. There you will find answers to all of your questions: <http://avenue.org/firstnightvirginia/>.

Wherever New Year's dawn finds you, have great fun, and we wish you a Happy New Year!



SNOW DAYS

For information about whether classes are canceled due to inclement weather, call 245-2401, or watch Channel 29 News.



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