From the Director!

Welcome to spring 2015! Our teachers, counselors, and staff have planned a great semester full of fun learning events for you so that you can achieve some milestones in your college and career plans!

Are you familiar with this word “milestones”? Long ago, back in Roman times, people used to look for a stone marker to tell them how far they have traveled on their journey. These stones were 1 mile apart from each other and guided travelers from one city to another. Now, we use the term milestones to say that we have achieved something great or very important in our lives. I’m sure you can think of some milestones in your life that made you proud of your accomplishments. Certainly, coming to the United States is a milestone for almost everyone in our program... even for me! It’s an accomplishment that we passed on our life’s journey. Now we look forward to new adventures to achieve on the road to success.

Reaching more milestones is something the ESL program wants to help you do. For this reason, we have some great activities planned for this semester. If you want to improve your English more quickly, for example, then you should join the English Lounge conversation groups after the Friday morning classes. Or, you can come to the ESL Movie Night that we have on some Friday evenings. And, don’t forget the Give Me 20 reading program that is scheduled after daytime classes and just before evening classes. All of these take place in our ESL Library.

If you want to get a promotion in your job, you may want to go to the computer workshops that we have scheduled during the teacher meetings. We also have computer classes on Fridays that can give you a certificate at the end. Lastly, we have planned our ESL Career Conference for some time in May to help you decide what milestone markers match your personal goal for learning English, here at Mt. SAC.

So, I hope this semester will help you reach some milestones and that you continue onward to the next ones in your journey. Your accomplishments are our accomplishments!

We are happy to have you in our program and wish you a happy ESL journey!

Dr. Liza Becker, ESL Director
I want to describe me. My eyes make a strong impression because they are sharp. Not only my eyes but also my appearance too. Some people who meet me first time, are afraid of me. But I’m not a person who has bad and horrible character. I am tall like most men but not fat. I am happy but shy and am most pleasant when I am laughing with my friends and family. I am from Shanghai, China and I have a major in computers. I worked at software company for 2 years which was far from my home. Everyday I get up early to take bus for 1 hour to go to work. I miss my job but now is important I learn my English better for me to improve my new language skills. Now I am student in Mt. San Antonio college ESL program. I take bus still and when I am on bus I listen to music and read books. I like the bus. I get to look at people and things when I am riding.

I have a younger sister, she likes to listening to music like me, and she likes dancing in our playroom. She likes going to school by walking and being with her friends. I like spending time with my sister. We go to movies and talk about many things. Sometimes we don’t agree and she looks at things one way and I look at another way. But we still get along some. My father is doctor and my mother is school teacher. They are good to me and my sister. We are close family liking to go out to theatre and dinner together. My family stay in Shanghai but I come to live with my aunt, uncle and cousin. I miss my family very much but know this is good for my future. I hope to see them soon.

I have made many new friends and we like to go have coffee. Sometime we go watch movies and go travel the city. I enjoy seeing new things and understanding the American culture. I most like the custom of brunch. It is nice to sleep late and then go eat with friends. This helps to not eat too much because you only eat two times a day. My new friends are from different places. It is nice to try new foods and experience new cultures. America is a nice place with many amazing things to see and learn. I have made many friends here in America from many places like, India, Colombia, Taiwan and other places. I am most liking to eat crunchy tacos and fruit waters. My friend Joel is nice and he take me to his home many times to share in his food and traditions. He is from Mexico and he is a good friend. He hopes to go visit and meet my family one day. I am lucky to find friends to help me enjoy myself and not be so sad without my family. My other friends are good to me to. I hope to visit these countries one day with my new friends. I like to know I am not alone in this country. I miss my friends from Shanghai but I know I will see them again.

Liu Feng Zhang

Writing B
I love Tibet with my whole heart for many reasons. The first reason is that I saw a lot of pictures about Tibet since I was a little girl. The sky there looks so blue without even a cloud. The Potala Palace looks really magnificent. Lake Namco looks like a tear drop of the Moon, pure and quiet. The portrait of people who live there is different from the others, very different. You could find out if a person comes from Tibet or not just by looking at his/her face. Because of the highland climate, the color of their face is reddish brown. The girls there all have two “red apples” on their face. They are so cute. The old man/woman’s face is full of wrinkles. That is Time who engraved is so lively. And all of them have a pair of very beautiful eyes just like Lake Namco, peaceful and mysterious. I was lost in their sight even though I had not been there yet. This feeling stayed in my heart, and flashed in my dream for about twenty years until I got there.

Another reason is about Buddhism. It is a mystery for me. It is so near to me, and it is so far from me. It is so easy and so hard for me. It is so real and such a dream for me. Tibet is the exact birth land of Tibetan Buddhism. You could see the Buddhists are everywhere in Tibet, and it is full of Buddhist atmosphere. I love the smell of the Tibetan incense. I love the sound of the low mass. I love the color of the streamers. I love to Kowtow in the Temple. I love to sit in the corner of the Bajiao Street and look at the followers of Buddha worship on bended knees a thousand times. How I yearn for it!

The most important reason why I love Tibet so much is about freedom. In my mind, Tibet is another word of freedom. I went there by myself. I was alone but not lonely. I enjoyed it. I could do everything I wanted without discussing it with others. No talking means more thinking, and more time to communicate with myself and nature. Mt. Everest is in Tibet, which is the highest place in the world. It was so near to the sky as if I could touch the clouds by my hands; as if I could pick off the stars from the sky. The wind blowing through my hair, I stood on the snow mountain, as free as a bird. When I came back to my home, my friends asked me about the feeling of Tibet. My answer is that it is just like a dream! It is gorgeous! And I will be back!

Yang Dong (Dora)

Writing C
Contemporary psycholinguist Frank Smith once said, “One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” This quote applies to many of the students who have successfully completed our ESL Program and have continued growing on the road of career and education. One of these students is Pedro Flores who is convinced that learning English has brought a whole world of new opportunities for him.

Ten years ago Pedro emigrated from Mexico to the United States. Back in his country, Pedro had completed high school and was pursuing a career in computer technology. However, when he moved to the United States, his limited English proficiency made it difficult for him to continue his education or even get a job in a related field. Pedro needed a job to survive, so before enrolling in ESL classes, he held several jobs. He worked as a gardener, as a construction laborer, and as a factory worker.

Being an ambitious person, Pedro was not satisfied with the job he had, and he knew that in order to find a better job or pursue a career, he needed to learn English. It was then when, despite the long hours he worked, he decided to enroll in an ESL program. He attended the Bassett Adult School and completed their ESL program. Even then, Pedro did not feel confident enough to enroll in credit classes, for he felt that his English was not at the level required to enroll in college yet. It was then that a friend told him about Mt. SAC’s ESL Program. His friend, he says, highly recommended our program.

In 2007, Pedro took our ESL Placement test and was placed in Level 6. While he was a Level 6 student, he heard about the VESL Program, which is a program that prepares ESL students for college and career advancement. The program was attractive to Pedro because it includes English, computer training, and job skills. Pedro joined the VESL Program in the fall of 2008.

Pedro says that the first semester of the VESL program was a little bit challenging because he was working full time, and the program required him to attend classes from Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 10:00 PM. Nonetheless, he attended classes regularly and kept up with his assignments. In Pedro’s opinion, one of the VESL courses that helped him the most was Career & Life Planning. Through this course and under the guidance of Professor Michael Ngo, Pedro learned about the different ways in which he could achieve his career goals. Professor Ngo, who is also one of our counselors, helped Pedro design an educational plan to continue improving his English and to pursue a certificate in Business Management.
In addition to a VESL certificate, Pedro earned a Mt. SAC Business Management certificate as well as an International Business certificate. Almost two years ago, Pedro decided it was time for him to start his own business, which he named PF Electrical Services. Starting a new business is always a challenging experience, especially when English is not one’s first language, and most of the clients are native speakers of the language. Nonetheless, the computer training, business, and English skills Pedro acquired through the VESL Program and the business certificates he earned helped him reach his goals and overcome the barriers he once thought were too difficult to conquer.

Heidi Alcala, VESL Outreach Specialist

California Career Zone

For anyone looking for a place to go to and get answers about jobs, careers, or find the answers to their questions, California has just re-launched its site after many upgrades to help anyone.

The California CareerZone is a Web-based career exploration resource available free of charge. The Web site allows users to explore three primary areas: Assess Yourself (self-assessment tool), Explore Industry Sectors (view 900 occupations in 23 sectors), and Get A Reality Check (online budgeting tool examining cost of living, occupation and education). www.cacareerzone.org
Interpreters and Translators provide a link between words, spoken or written, in one language to persons fluent in another language. Generally, Interpreters and Translators work into their native language and out of their foreign language. Languages that frequently need interpreting and translating are: Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

**Ability to:**
- use language and words in one’s native language, and in one or more foreign languages
- listen to others carefully to gain understanding
- read and write the English language
- use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- understand academic, business, scientific, technical, and other concepts
- communicate effectively in writing so that others understand
- communicate ideas effectively through speaking
- reading for comprehension
- make decisions and judgments
- remember information
- concentrate on a task for a long period of time without being distracted
- willingness to help others

**High ability to:**
- be clear, concise, and fluent in spoken language
- grasp facts and details while listening and preparing to speak in another language
- handle clerical detail, such as travel plans
- create effective relations with others
- tolerate long hours of people contact
- write on the level of Technical Writers and Editors
- maintain professional code of ethics at all times
- use math
- do research and solve the intricacies of language innuendoes
- deal with detail and clerical process for preparing manuscripts and analyzing data
- be trusted with confidential materials
- perform within specified deadlines

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**Current Monthly Wage Data (2013)**
- Entry/Low Pay $2,937
- Average Pay $4,337
- Top Pay $5,416 & up
Radiologic Technologists operate x-ray equipment to help diagnose and treat various health problems. They review the Physician’s instructions, then prepare the patient for examination by providing physical assistance, verbal instruction, and reassurance. They position patients under the x-ray machine, expose the patient to the prescribed doses of radiation, may administer any drugs necessary to make organs visible in the picture, and set and operate controls. They also develop the film, prepare records of services performed, make adjustments and minor repairs on equipment, and make arrangements to have more difficult repairs done by professional services. They may specialize in diagnostic technology, therapeutic technology, or Mammographic Radiologic technology.

Ability to:

- recognize and understand the importance of situations
- use words
- use hands and fingers to work quickly and accurately
- compile information.
- operate or control machinery or equipment
- work well with people
- do precise work accurately
- make decisions based on facts
- work according to set standards and procedures
- visualize objects from pictures and sketches
- see pertinent detail in pictorial material as in determining whether or not an x-ray picture was taken correctly
- see slight differences in objects
- read and follow instructions
- write effectively and legibly
- use basic math skills and algebra
- relate to patients
- keep records

Work Environment:
- Work is done indoors in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and private offices.
- Work can be physically demanding; requiring a lot of standing and walking, lifting and positioning patients, occasionally lifting up to ten pounds, and stamina.
- The strict adherence to safety regulations minimizes the danger from exposure to x-rays. Some specialize in therapy work normal business hours.
- Those who work in large hospitals may have to work night and weekend shifts.
- Some work alone. Others work as a member of a health team.
- Some work is done with close supervision.
- May experience stress from a lot of activity and from working with ill patients.
- Small hospitals may not have these extra shifts, but Technologists may be called back to work after hours to handle emergencies.

Current Monthly Wage Data (2013)
Entry/Low Pay $4,714
Average Pay $5,963
Top Pay $7,239 & up
15th Annual ESL Career Conference

Wednesday, May 13th 2015

This dynamic and energetic conference informs matriculating ESL students about Mt. SAC programs and services. There will be speakers (Mt. SAC faculty and staff) who will be presenting on degree and certificate options, college services, information about career and job skills, and general college success. There will also be presenters that will give information regarding personal experiences in certain careers. Sessions are 45 minutes in length.

MORNING CONFERENCE
8:30-9:15, 9:30-10:15, 10:30-11:15

EVENING CONFERENCE
7:00-7:45, 8:00-8:45

ESL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mt. San Antonio College ESL Scholarship Committee would like to invite Level 4, 5, 6, and VESL students who are planning on taking credit classes to apply for one of three $500 scholarships available for the 2014-2015 school year.

We invite applicants who:
- Are currently or have been a Level 4, 5, 6 or VESL student with fewer than 6 units
- Have attended at least two-thirds of a semester and have passed an ESL Level class
- Are planning and are eligible to attend credit classes in Fall of 2015

Requirements include (included in the application packet):
- An essay describing your educational and career goals, potential for success in credit classes and the obstacles you have overcome in becoming a successful student
- Two letters of recommendation (forms included in packet)
- Proof of successfully completing a Level class with good attendance

Interested students should go to http://esl.mtsac.edu or obtain an application packet from the ESL Registration counter for complete details.

Packets are due by Friday, March 14th, 2015

If you need assistance, please contact a member of the ESL Counseling Team: Michael Ngo, John Pellitteri or Bertha Rodriguez.