

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center

Littleton, Colorado

December 15, 2014

Student Nurses Meet EMTs at Local Fire Department



Students from the ASO College of Medicine and Specialized Care in Fukuoka, Japan, recently visited with EMTs in Littleton to learn about the skills needed for this profession.

ASO has sent students to Spring International for more than 20 years to receive English language training and practical medical skills. The 2014 program includes Sayuri Kodama, Riko Koto, Misaki Nagatoshi, and Aoi Naka. The students will return to their studies in Japan in March to complete their nursing degrees.

Conversation Tables Match

Students with Americans

The chatter of English fills the room on Thursdays during lunch break as American Conversation Partners (CPs) talk with Spring students during weekly Conversation Tables. CPs are local university students, retired community members, and professionals from different fields. They also participate in Listening/Speaking classes from basic to high intermediate levels during each term.

(See photo below.)

A Long Way from Home...by Supak Jonas, Thailand

On April 28, 2010, I left Thailand for the first time in my life. I was going to the country that people call "The land of opportunity." I had someone waiting for me there, but the way to get there was very difficult for me. I felt very excited and panicky. I remember that day very well: the day I said goodbye to my family at Suwanna Phon Airport in Thailand. My mother started to cry. Then I just couldn't stop my tears. They ran out of my eyes like the rain pours from the sky. I gave my family a hug before I walked straight to the gate without looking back. While I sat in the airplane, I looked outside the window to see my country until all the clouds covered it. Suddenly, tears ran down my cheeks again. I didn't want to cry, but I just couldn't stop it.

The airplane took about eight hours to get to Narita Airport in Japan. After that, I felt very confused and I didn't know what I should do next. I had followed the people who got off the same airplane. Then I found other people standing in line waiting for customs. I was lucky to stand next to a Thai man. He was very nice and helpful. I felt relieve when I found the next airplane to go to Houston.

Later, the airplane landed in the airport in Huston, Texas. It was difficult for me again, but luck came to me when two Vietnamese men helped me out with the immigration forms. We walked to customs together. Then I stood in the long line feeling nervous and scared at the same time. I was afraid they would not let me in to the United States. I had heard stories about how customs could send you back home any time if your documents weren't good enough to support your visa. I kept waiting until my turn and gave all the documents to the customs officer. Then he sent me to a room with another officer. I had to wait there for some reason I never knew.

Twenty minutes later, I heard someone call my name to take me to a room nearby. I was waiting in that room for a while. During that time, I watched a lady check all my documents. She then called my name and asked me a few questions. Then she told me what I wanted to hear. She said, "Congratulations," and I thanked her with a big smile. Finally, I left the room with happiness. (cont. p. 2)



A Long Way Home (Cont. from p. 1)

My flight to Denver was delayed. I kept trying to call my fiancé, but he didn't answer my call. I had to get on the airplane feeling very worried. How could I contact him? I was looking for someone who would lend me their cell phone to text my fiancé and I found a nice man sitting next to me. He helped me with the message.

Finally, the airplane landed safely in Denver. When I walked out of the gate, at first sight, I saw a tall man with a bouquet of red roses standing next to the crowd. He was waiting for me with a big smile on his face. I just couldn't believe my eyes!

In short, from this long process I learned a lot about people. When I started my travels out of my country, I was very scared and careful not to talk with strangers. Now I know that there are some kind, good strangers who helped me to have a successful journey.

My Best Friends...by Naif AlZahrani, Saudi Arabia

Friends are the best thing in our lives because they help us to be happy. Almost 70 per cent of people when they feel sad, try to contact their friends or meet up with them. I used to contact my friends when I felt sad. Two of my closest friends are Saleh and Hussen. They have many differences in hobbies, personality, and education.

First, Saleh has traveled to many countries since we graduated from high school. For example, he has visited Malaysia, the UAE, Indonesia, Egypt and Bahrain several times. These days, however, he has a full-time job, but he travels on the weekends to Dubai to relax. Also, he likes to play soccer in his free time, and he had a team a year ago. He is a good player, and he has a lot of skill. In addition, he is a sociable guy and he likes to make friends. He has a big smile that makes people feel comfortable with him. He likes to travel at night to the Gulf countries by car since he is an adventurous person. Furthermore, he has a diploma in Pharmacy, and he works now in the best hospital in Saudi Arabia.

Second, Hussen likes to tune up his car. He has two cars, and he works hard to make those cars different from other cars. One car is for drifting in the desert, and the other car is for downtown. Also, he is a photographer and he likes to take photos of every event. In addition, he is an outgoing person, and he enjoys his time with his friends. Furthermore, he likes to go outside home and enjoys meeting new people. If he has any problems in his house or with his car, he tries to fix those by himself. He fixed his car last year by himself since he is practical. Hussen has a diploma in Computer Networking, and he works hard in network management at King Abdulaziz University.

As you can see, friends are more important to make us feel joyful. Personally, I recommend that everyone make good friends because they will help you and make you happy. I will not forget my special friends, and I will stay in touch with them my whole life.



An Architect or a Civil Engineer? By Katherine Yau Kwo, Panama.



What would you really prefer to be: an architect or a civil engineer? In the world, there are many professional workers who can make a lot of money in their work, such as architects and civil engineers. They are very interested in building. Therefore, an architect and a civil engineer have the same duration of education...

Nonetheless, they have many differences in their work activities and salaries.

First of all, the education of an architect and a civil engineer is similar in length of time to get a degree. An architect has approximately four years in university. The subjects of this major are focused a lot on math. Thus, you must like math if you want to study architecture. Likewise, civil engineering lasts around four years, too, and you must be intelligent and good in math because civil engineering has a lot of subjects which are connected to math. In addition, if you study this kind of major, you have to analyze a lot of math problems, like pre-calculus, calculus and physics.

The kind of work activities an architect and a civil engineer must practice are different. The work activities of an architect are a little boring since an architect almost always has to work alone. Therefore, an architect does not have a partner to work together with, and he works in his office alone. Moreover, when an architect wants to draw a building or a new project, he must draw on paper. After that, the architect needs to finish his project on the computer and print it as a blueprint.

On the other hand, the work activities of a civil engineer are very interesting and fun. A civil engineer has to work with a lot of co-workers. In other words, the civil engineer is like a boss who has a lot of workers. Also, a civil engineer has to check the architect's drawings before he starts to construct the project, and he or she usually works outside of the office. For instance, many civil engineers construct new streets in a country.

Another difference is that a civil engineer has a higher salary than an architect. A civil engineer works under a contract, so his client has to pay him according to the specifications of the contract. As a result, the salary is higher. The salary of an architect is on commission. He does not have a contract. Therefore his clients just pay him when he finishes the project. As a result, this kind of job can produce more money, but less than the civil engineer.

As you can see, both jobs have some similarities, such as education and the importance of math in their subjects, but they have many differences in activities. The architect almost always works in his office. In contrast, the civil engineer works with a lot of co-workers. Also the salary of a civil engineer is higher than an architect because he works on contract and the other works on commission. As for me, I would prefer to be a civil engineer since the work is very interesting, fun, and beneficial.

Students from 14 Countries Talk About Their Favorite Things

By Tom Barendregt, the Netherlands

My interviews of representatives of fourteen countries at Spring demonstrate the uniqueness of each student. I asked students the following questions: 1) their names, 2) their countries, 3) why they came to Spring, (4) what they like the most about the U.S., (5) their favorite music, (6) what thing is most typical of their culture, and (7) one additional comment they would like to make. Here are the results:

1. Mohammed

2. Qatar

3. Study English to go to college

4. The freedom

5. Rap music

6. The clothes

7. Bonus: What is the best party you've ever been too? A party in Qatar

1. Supak Jonas

2. Thailand

3. Married to an American, to learn English. She also likes the activities a lot.

4. Freedom, mountains, winter

5. Pop music

6. The food

7. Bonus: What do you think of the American culture? Great culture but it was hard to adapt at the beginning.

1. Serge

2. Russia

3. To learn English, his family is in the U.S. His wife has business in Miami and his son plays college hockey.

4. Hockey

5. Rock

6. Vodka

7. Bonus: Where does your son play? He plays college hockey in Colorado.

1. Riko Koto

2. Japan

3. To learn English for her nursing degree

4. The freedom, the so called "American dream"

5. Pop music

6. Sushi (of course)

7. What is the best restaurant you've ever been to? Sushi bar in Tokyo, obviously to eat sushi

1. Iris

2. China

3. In order to take the TOEFL and GMAT tests. She wants to go to college next year.

4. The weather and the people.

5. Popular Chinese songs (pop)

6. Xiaolongba food

7. Bonus: What do you like to do in your free time?

1. Carolina Rodriguez

2. Colombia

3. To learn English

4. The food, the mountains

5. Reggae-ton

6. Dancing, salsa.

7. Bonus: Best party? in Bogota, Colombia.

1. Tom Barendregt

2. The Netherlands

3. To improve English and keep F1 visa.

4. The sports and the culture

5. Rap

6. Pannenkoeken (pan cakes) stroopwafels (some kind of waffle with sirop)

7. What is the best party you've been to?

Amsterdam (Amsterdam) or Ibiza (Party Island next to Spain)

1. Katherine Yau Kwo

2. Panama

3. Learn English to go to university

4. Culture

5. Pop music

6. Dancing tipico

7. Bonus: What did you do growing up that got you into trouble? Hitting the table and everything fell off. She broke a lot of expensive stuff. Her dad was not happy. (cont. on p. 4)

INTERVIEWS (cont. from p. 3)

1. Miriam Celique
2. Peru
3. English, married
4. Traffic, better organised, safer
5. Rock, salsa
6. Ceveche
7. Bonus:
What do you like to do in your free time? Run, go to the mountains

1. Jacob
2. Kuwait
3. Learn English and go to college
4. Freedom
5. Jazz/hip hop
6. Kubsa
7. Bonus: Spare time? Work out

1. Esther
2. Congo
3. To learn English
4. The lifestyle
5. Pop music
6. Fufu
7. Bonus: What do you like to do in your spare time? Reading books

Food and Eating Habits in Saudi Arabia and the USA... by Saud Al Marri

There are several differences between the food and eating habits of my country, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. In fact, when I was in my country, I thought that American food was healthy and delicious. Also, I thought that there were no big differences in people's eating habits between these countries since we used to watch lots of American movies and thought Americans liked to eat a lot.

However, after I came here, I found that most American food is not as delicious as I thought and American people do not eat that much. Otherwise, people here eat around three to five small meals daily, but in my country, people eat only two or three big meals daily. Moreover, most restaurants here serve junk food, but I have noticed that a lot of people do not like the restaurant meals and prefer to eat healthy food. In contrast, in my country, restaurants usually offer our national and popular food; however, people like and usually look for junk food.

Frankly speaking, the food in my country is more delicious than food here. However, people here are healthier than people in my country. I think that is because people here prefer to eat fruit and vegetables in most of their meals. But people in Saudi Arabia do not eat much fruit and vegetables but prefer to eat rice and meat, which has a lot of fat.

So, these are a few differences between food in Saudi Arabia and the United States.



Spring Views is published each nine-week term to give students from all levels the opportunity to share their compositions and essays. This issue focuses on writing from levels two and three. Edited by Connie Shoemaker.