

IEP NEWS

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Elena Moore, IEP Director

During the past weeks we've been getting inquiries about the Intensive English Program from parts of the world that are currently less represented than others among our student body.

This fall we expect new students from Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia. We will also have our annual group from Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan. They have been studying with us for a decade.

We have been very pleased to have Radek Pomije with us. Radek studied at the Intensive English Center, as it was called then, in 1998. He's had an interesting life since. Read about it in Student Spotlight.

Because summer is going by so fast, we have decided to make the most of the time left. After field trips to the Arcadia Mill site and the NAS Museum, we are planning a visit to the climbing wall for those who dare.

Session B will end on August 6 with a certificate ceremony and reception. Enjoy your summer vacation!

Elena Moore

TANABATA

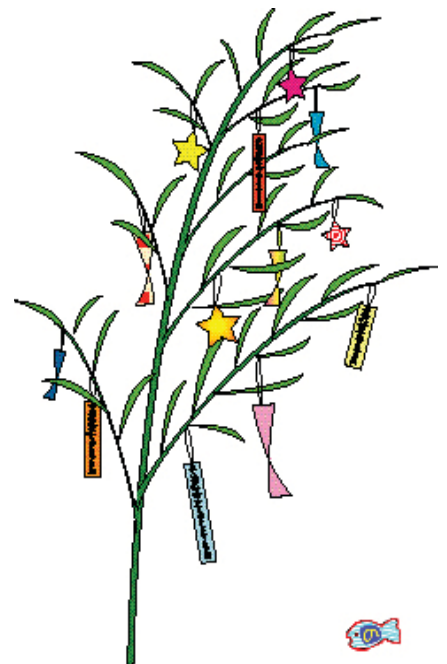
Tanabata, or the Star Festival, is held on the July 7. The Tanabata festival is thought to have started in China. According to legend, the two stars Altair (the Cowherd Star) and Vega, (the Weaver Star) are lovers normally separated by the Milky Way but allowed to meet just once a year--on the seventh day of the seventh month. There are many stories about Tanabata, and festivals are held across Japan.

A popular Tanabata custom is for all, but especially children, to place long bamboo sticks in their gardens or in their rooms. On the bamboo branches they hang decorations cut out of colored papers as well as long strips

of paper on which they write poems or wishes. By tying these colored papers to the branches or Sasa-kazari, they offer prayers thought to advance learning and particularly skills in calligraphy.

At the end of the Tanabata festivities, the bamboo branches are thrown into a river to be carried away, thereby dispelling misfortune, or else placed in rice paddies as a means of repelling insects or as a thanksgiving offering for a bounteous harvest.

View a video of the UWF Tanabata Festival at: <http://www.pnj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?category=videonetwork&videoID=1174675931>



TANABATA

IEP students participated in Tanabata - The Star Festival.



NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

IEP students participated in a field trip to to the Naval Aviation Museum located at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Radek Pomije, a student from the Czech Republic (RP), was recently interviewed by Elena Moore (EM).



Radek Pomije

EM: First, we are delighted when former students return to study, and were looking forward to having you with us again. However, no one else has joined us after an 11-year interval! You studied English here-- in 1998, I think--when Dr. Anne Boone Johnson was here. What do you remember about that time?

RP: Most of all, I remember my classmates, for example, Soccoro Bravo, Mahmood and the others from the whole world. We spent almost all our time together, had many parties, went to the beach, to play football, and to our favorite activity – karaoke at Hunan's. We enjoyed that time and, of course, we were improving our English permanently;-)

EM: You've had a career since. What type of work have you been doing?

Tell us a little about your life since 1998.

RP: When I returned back to the Czech Republic, I became a Chief Audit Executive for one local utility. In 2001, I was appointed to the same position for the biggest utility in the Czech Republic. Six years later, I decided to work abroad, in our daughter company. I chose Sofia, Bulgaria.

EM: How long did you live in Bulgaria and what were your impressions of life there?

RP: I spent 18 months there. I have to say I enjoyed it even though Bulgaria is a very specific country. There is a totally different culture, lifestyle, work approach and many other things. On the other hand, I did a lot of sports there – skiing is incredible there. And I can't forget food. Surprisingly, I think their food is much better than food in my country.

EM: You've mentioned friends here as well as having taken other trips to the area, and you seem very comfortable with the language and culture in the US. What did you find different here from your stay in 1998? I'm referring to the program, UWF,

and Pensacola.

RP: The (Intensive English) Program is much more professional now, but I am missing a little "after class" activities mentioned above. It is a pity because we miss opportunities to speak English more and have fun together. I still like the pool at UWF, where I swim almost every day like years ago .

Pensacola is my second hometown, still nice. But if I compare progress-- for example, in Destin-- I wish to see the same here.

EM: We're glad you came back to study and this will always be your second home. Can you tell us something about what's next in your life?

RP: Well, I am in a little bit unique situation (especially for the students). After 19 years working for utilities I have time and opportunity to choose my future by my wish only.

Maybe I will accept proposal to join one project in Asia, maybe I will stay in Prague. But first I have to make some clean up in my personal "past" life and enjoy my kids and girlfriend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 4



Climbing
Wall

August 5



IEP
Debate

August 6



Certificate
Ceremony

August 7-21



Vacation

August 24



Fall Session A
Begins

Rite of Passage - Czech Republic

Would you believe that in the Czech Republic survived one of the governmental-supported events from the period before democracy? People surprisingly loved that event, maybe because of their babies' love. After World War II, when the communists gained power, they started to punish all events and habits connected with religion. The communists knew, however, that it was not possible to eliminate everything. They accepted Christmas and Easter and started to support other events which were similar to Christian events. One of them replaced by their activity was baptism of babies.

The communists created something called the "Welcome to the Neighborhood" ceremony. The ceremony was held in a municipal building in a big attractive hall. The mayor of the city welcomed several babies to life, to the city, to the neighborhood. Babies received small gifts and special certificates.

In the beginning, people were a little confused about the "Welcome to the Neighborhood" ceremony. Some of them did not know which ceremony (religious or governmental) was OK because they did not want to have trouble with the state. But more and more people started, naturally, to be atheists. They also wanted to have a ceremony for babies.

That is why this ceremony now is very popular in the Czech Republic, even for religious people. The most important thing of this ceremony lasts the same – to welcome babies to the neighborhood, to society.

*Radek***Rite of Passage - Japan**

All over the world, parents hope their children will grow up healthy. As a result, there are many coming-of-age rituals for children. One of the most popular children's ceremonies in Japan is Shichi-Go-San; it means seven, five and three. The ceremony is for celebrating their children's growing-up.

The ceremony is held in a Shinto shrine. Female children wear kimonos, and male children wear hakamas, male kimonos, and both are blessed by Shinto priests. Shinto is the Japanese traditional religion.

Male children are celebrated at three and five years old, and female children are celebrated at three and seven. In Japan, odd numbers are lucky numbers.

Why do people celebrate these ages? A long time ago, the average length of life was short and also babies' rate of survival was low, so people thought that babies were gifts from the gods, and they were the children of the gods, not humans yet. Children started growing their hair at three because people believed that all illnesses entered from hair. Therefore, parents shaved their children's hair until they were three. Boys started to wear hakamas at five and girls changed their obi belts instead of using strings.

Today, Japan is noted for the longevity of its people: men's average length of life is about 79 and women's is 86, according to the 2007 Ministry of Health's official report. The Japanese, including myself, should reconsider Shichi-Go-San's real religious purpose and give thanks for a healthy life.

*Yoshiko***Rite of Passage - Moldova**

Every country has different traditions and rituals. Prom is one of the beautiful rituals in Moldova. Moldavian adolescents celebrate Prom the day after all of their final exams. Imagine several couples dancing the waltz. Girls are in beautiful, colorful waltz dresses, and boys are in classic slacks.

In Moldova, every teenager waits for Prom day. This occasion marks both the adolescent's graduation from high school and his or her becoming an adult.

The first part of the tradition is the official part in which every adolescent comes to school with his or her parents. There is an official ceremony with the director of the school and the teachers. Also, a concert is performed by adolescents and younger pupils. At the end of the ceremony, the director of the school gives the parents and graduates different certificates. In the evening, after the official part of ceremony, everyone, including the director of the school and all the teachers, goes to a restaurant for a party. Based on traditions, only graduates and their parents are usually invited to the party.

The moment when the sun rises is a very important moment in the life of every adolescent, as it represents the first moment of adulthood. Everyone who graduates usually sees his or her first sun of adult life at the lake.

While many Moldavian traditions are very beautiful, the Moldavian Prom is a tradition I suggest people of other cultures observe. On the next trip to Moldova, I hope you will choose summer to observe this beautiful tradition.

Tatiana

GAME ZONE

We all know color names such as navy, mint, and coral. How many of these color terms do you know?

1. Cinnabar	7. Teal
2. Azure	8. Slate
3. Celadon	9. Puce
4. Umber	10. Sage
5. Indigo	11. Greige
6. Primrose	12. Xanthic



Answers: 1. Deep red; 2. Light blue; 3. Pale green; 4. Brownish red; 5. Deep blue-violet; 6. Yellow; 7. Dark greenish-blue; 8. Dark blue-grey; 9. Brownish purple; 10. Greyish-green; 11. Greyish-beige; 12. Yellowish.

IEP SESSION DATES

Fall 2009

- August 24 - October 9 (7-week session)
- October 19 - December 9 (7-week session)

Spring 2010

- January 8 - February 26 (7-week session)
- March 8 - April 22 (7-week session)

Summer 2010

- May 10 - June 18 (6-week session)
- June 28 - August 6 (6-week session)

IEP News is produced by Marketing Coordinator, Rachel Errington & IEP Director, Elena Moore. IEP News also includes student contributions.

APPLYING TO IEP

Apply to the Intensive English Program at the University of West Florida by downloading an application at www.uwf.edu/iep. Complete the application online or mail to the address below with a \$100 application fee.

The University of West Florida
Intensive English Program
11000 University Pkwy, Bldg. 71
Pensacola, FL 32514
email: iep@uwf.edu

