

# IEP NEWS



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*Elena Moore, IEP Director*

Summer Session A is off to a fast start, with three weeks already gone.

We have had Shaun Boren from Health and Leisure to conduct team-building exercises, an activity enjoyed by all. This

time even some instructors participated. Soon IEP students will have Conversation Partners again and will take a field trip to Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site in Milton, where we will all have a picnic afterward. Eddie Rogers from Admissions will be coming to talk to advanced students about the UWF admissions process. Mr. Rogers will explain conditional admission to UWF.

For those interested in taking the TOEFL, a TOEFL preparation class began on Friday, May 29. The class covers content as well

as practice tests and test-taking strategies. Students may sign up at the front desk and the class is open to the community. A new class will begin on Friday, July 10.

Our Student Spotlight this month is Maria Muradas from Spain. We have also featured one of our faculty members, Kathryn Van Dyck.

## GAME ZONE

Below you will find abbreviations in ads for houses and apartments. How many do you know?

1. 3br
2. off st pkng
3. 2ba
4. LR
5. HW flrs
6. FP



7. 15 min dntwn
8. W/D
9. H/A
10. lg kit
11. sec sys
12. dep reqd

Answers:

1.) 3 bedrooms, 2.) off-street parking, 3.) 2 baths, 4.) living room, 5.) hardwood floors, 6.) fireplace, 7.) 15 minutes to downtown, washer and dryer, central heat and air conditioning, large kitchen, security system, deposit required.

## IEP TEAM BUILDING

IEP students participated in team-building activities.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A new student from Spain, Maria Muradas-Lopez (MM), was recently interviewed by Elena Moore (EM).



Maria Muradas-Lopez

**EM:** Tell us a little about your hometown and region in Spain.

**MM:** I was born in Ferrol, a small village of Galicia, in the northwest of Spain. Ferrol is in the coast and is a NATO base, and because of this there are a lot of people from other places.

Galicia is very different to the rest of Spain. It is a cold place, cloudy, and it rains most of the time. I think Galicia looks like Ireland. We have beautiful beaches but the water is freezing, and swimming is only for the brave people, even in the summer.

In Galicia, we speak Galician, a romance language very close to the Portuguese. In the University, most of professors teach in Galician but they are very tolerant with the foreign students, and they speak Spanish and allow them to do the homework and exams in Spanish too.

**EM:** When did you first come to the US?

**MM:** My first visit to the US was in September of 2007. I came here for my Ph.D. research, and I stayed for two months doing research at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) on knowledge management and knowledge representation with Concept Maps.

It was a great time, both academically and personally. I learned a lot about different topics, opened my mind with new ways of thinking, and, of course, met a lot of nice people there.

**EM:** What was the most surprising thing about the US or American culture?

**MM:** The multiculturalism. In the US everything is a mix of culture and backgrounds. You can learn a lot of different things if you have an open mind. Here, homogeneity does not exist. This is the same for the academic studies; you can study biology and literacy. In Spain this is not possible. I love it.

**EM:** You are currently studying at UF? Tell us about your work there.

**MM:** Well, I am not studying in UF. Actually, I am a visiting scholar. I am researching in the Department of

Educational Administration & Policy with Dr. Mendoza. Our work is about the process of socialization of teacher assistants and doctoral students for teaching.

This stay is part of my fellowship in Spain. The goal is improve my research skills and finish my Ph.D. thesis.

**EM:** What are your long-term career plans?

**MM:** Ok, it is a hard question. I hope to present my Ph.D. dissertation in October, and after that... I don't know. Maybe I will do a postdoctoral stay here in US, or to continue my career as professor in a Spanish University.

**EM:** What are your hobbies and interests when you are not studying?

**MM:** I have many different hobbies. I love read books, above all novels, and watch movies. But I like hiking (in Pensacola I cannot found a lot of mountains) and bicycling too.

**EM:** Finally, what do you do for fun in Pensacola?

**MM:** I love walk with my dog Ginger at the beach or take her to the dog-park. And I also like to go out with my friends to the beach or to the movie theatre.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 25



Memorial Day  
No Class

May 29



TOEFL prep  
class begins

June 15



Post-Test

June 18



Last Day of  
Session A

June 19-28



Vacation

## FACULTY FORUM



*Kathryn Van Dyck*

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up both in Japan and in Montana. I went international schools in Japan until I was nine, after which my family moved to Montana, where I finished elementary school and high school.

### **You have lived and taught abroad. What are some of the countries where you have lived?**

I have lived in Japan, Germany, Belgium, and Saudi Arabia. I have taught in Japan and Saudi Arabia.

What are some languages you speak or have studied? I have studied Japanese, German, and French.

### **You have worked in ESOL for many years, some of that time in program administration. What do you like best about working in this field?**

I find teaching ESOL to be very interesting. It is very rewarding to watch students accomplish so much in their studies of English. I know from experience that learning another language is hard work and takes a lot of effort. However, I think it is one of the most rewarding things a person can do for themselves because learning a language includes learning about the culture and people who speak the language. It can really broaden one's horizons.

### **What is your general teaching philosophy?**

A teacher has to be as enthusiastic about teaching as the student is enthusiastic about learning.

### **What is the biggest challenge in teaching ESOL?**

Every language has aspects that are difficult. English is difficult

because it is not a uniform or well-organized language. Learning English involves a lot of memorization because we can't always count on the rules to explain the language. English is also difficult to learn because there is so much vocabulary. It is said that English is rich in vocabulary, so there is a lot to learn!

### **What advice would you give to a student who wants improve his or her English to attend an American university?**

Read as much as you can. Reading really helps students understand grammar and vocabulary. Reading for pleasure (books, newspapers, and magazines that interest you) will help increase comprehension and speed. It doesn't matter if the book is long or short, easy or hard. Just READ!

## IEP SESSION DATES

### **Summer 2009**

- May 11 - June 19 (6-week session)
- June 29 - August 7 (6-week session)

### **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)

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/intered](http://www.uwf.edu/intered). Complete the application and mail to the address below with a \$100 application fee.

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