

# IEP NEWS



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*Elena Moore, IEP Director*

Spring has arrived in Pensacola, and soon there will be warm breezes and flowers everywhere. Energized, we look forward to events such as spring break and Festival on the Green, and to summer on our beautiful Gulf Coast. Spring break

for the Intensive English Program will be the same as that of the university this year, March 9-13.

Session A ends this week and Session B starts on March 2. We had a new tour of Historic Pensacola Village, after which students and instructors enjoyed lunch outdoors at nearby restaurants. IEP also had various speakers drawn from our campus community. See the interview with psychological resident Brian Turner. Eddie Rogers from the Admissions Office came to speak about the new conditional admissions policy.

During Session B, IEP will host our third Conversation Lunch, during which student volunteers converse with and teach faculty and staff the students' languages. This is a fun event that allows IEP students to reverse roles and share their knowledge.

A number of IEP students are applying for university admission for summer and fall, and others will be applying after Session B. We wish them all well.

*Elena Moore*

## MARDI GRAS

IEP students celebrated Mardi Gras with king cakes and beads.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sofia Evangelista is an intensive English student from Argentina. She became interested in studying at UWF because her brother, Lucas, attended UWF for two years. She graduated from high school last year, and has plans to study hospitality management at UWF after completing the Intensive English Program.

Sofia lives in the Village Apartments on campus and has enjoyed practicing English with her French exchange student roommates.

She recently visited New Orleans with her roommates to celebrate Mardi Gras. In addition to traveling around the area, Sofia enjoys working out at UWF's state-of-the-art recreation facility and playing volleyball. She admits she is anxious for summertime so that she can spend more time at Pensacola's beautiful beaches.

One of the most surprising things Sofia has witnessed during her stay in Pensacola is how friendly the people are.



*Sofia Evangelista  
Argentina*

"It is so nice to feel completely welcome on campus and in the community," says Sophia.

We are happy to have Sofia studying with us this semester.

## IEP FIELD TRIP - HISTORIC PENSACOLA

IEP students recently took a fieldtrip to Historic Pensacola. The students took a customized tour and ate lunch downtown.



## PENSACOLA'S SPANISH HISTORY



On August 15, 1559, Spanish explorer Tristan de Luna arrived in Pensacola with 1,500 people. One month later, a hurricane destroyed supplies. In 1561, this settlement, probably the

first European settlement in the United States, collapsed when a hurricane sank most of Luna's 11 ships. The Spanish did not return until 1698, when they founded the first permanent European settlement in Northwest Florida. After that, possession of Pensacola shifted between Spain, France, and England, the area becoming Spanish once again in 1783.

In 1992, the Emanuel Point shipwreck was discovered. The second oldest shipwreck in the

country, it belonged to Tristan de Luna. A second ship was discovered nearby and further excavation was conducted by a UWF archaeology team in 2007, confirming the historical association with Luna.

Today Pensacola retains its Spanish heritage. This is most evident in the names of places and downtown streets including Cervantes, Gonzalez, and Tarragona.

## CROSS CULTURAL DATING

Dr. Brian Turner from UWF's Counseling and Wellness Services recently visited the IEP to discuss cultural adjustment and dating in America. Following his visit, Elena Moore (EM) interviewed Dr. Turner (BT) to find out more information about cultural adjustment and the services offered at UWF.



**EM: What was the subject of your recent talk at the International Center?**

**BT:** The recent presentation

addressed concerns about dating across cultures. Students were engaged in a discussion to assess similarities and differences regarding their culture of origin and cultures that they interact with regarding expectancies about dating/relationships. Students were also provided with a cursory introduction to some of the zany practices that Americans have regarding relationships.

**EM: What effect does culture have on dating and friendship for international students?**

**BT:** The greatest effect that international students experience appears to be attempting to reconcile what may be expected of them within their culture of origin and the new culture(s) they may live in. Studies on acculturation highlight the transition between cultures as a time for individuals to pretty much create a new culture within the context of their native culture that usually respects and adheres to some traditional ideals while assimilating and adopting new practices. So things like having friends of the opposite sex/gender, romance and intimacy, dating etiquette, and family expectancies appear to be areas impacted greatest by a student's culture of origin and the competing culture(s).

**EM: What about body language?**

**BT:** Body language is a big part of what we describe as "para-language." It can

tell us all the things that a person may not be willing to say or able to say.

Different cultures have very different practices concern things like how close a man and woman should stand if they are dating, married, or just friends. As well as things like eye contact, kissing, holding hands, and style of dress play a role in how a person may perceive different interactions. It is always most important to consider the message that body language may give off. If you aren't sure of the meaning of someone's body language, it is acceptable to ask and explain to the person what you think it means so that you don't offend them or to stop someone from offending you.

**EM: What resources are available on campus for international students?**

**BT:** International students are afforded great opportunities to interact with the campus as a whole with the numerous activities that incorporate diversity and inclusion. The various culturally-themed programs provide students the opportunity to display their cultural heritage as well as the traditional activities that occur on campus to interact and observe traditional American antics. Within Student Affairs we have Counseling and Wellness Services, which assists students with mental health issues and adjustment issues. Career Services is a good resource for students who want assistance preparing for selecting majors of interest, opportunities for employment, and practicing good interviewing skills. I would encourage any student who has any questions or concerns to reach out to us at CWS, and if we can meet their needs, we will gladly assist them with our direct services or

help by referring them to the appropriate resource.

**EM: What advice would you give newly-arrived international students?**

**BT:** I would encourage a student to be willing to explore their new environment and to become active in learning about what UWF has to offer. There are so many clubs, organizations, events, and places to see and experience that you should never be holed up in your room with nothing to do. Always be safe and remember to be aware of your surroundings, but take advantage of being able to share your culture and heritage with others while getting to know the beauty of the UWF campus and the city of Pensacola and surrounding areas.

**EM: Tell us about your background.**

**BT:** I am a psychological resident with Counseling and Wellness Services at the University of West Florida. I have my doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and describe myself as a generalist. I oversee the outreach and diversity initiatives within our department. I enjoy my work as I am able to interact with people that are diverse in every sense of the word. My love of different cultures and different people is an outgrowth of my upbringing in the great city of New Orleans, where I learned about many of the great cultures of the world and the beauty that they offer.



## A ROYAL VISIT



*Mayor of Pensacola Mike Wiggins thanks His Majesty after unveiling the new plaque honoring the royal visit of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain to Pensacola.*

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain recently visited Pensacola for the city's 450th anniversary. Pensacola's anniversary celebration created a unique occasion for them to visit Pensacola.

Four and a half centuries after Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna arrived at what is now Pensacola Bay, a link between the two countries remains.

King Juan Carlos delivered a speech to over 3000 spectators in Plaza Ferdinand in Pensacola.

The king said the 1,500 men, women and children on Luna's expedition were "guided by the hope of achieving through hard work a better life for them and their children, the same spirit of so many others who came later to the United States."

The seeds of that "extraordinary adventure took root and flourished" and paved the way for

the development of Pensacola, a city with a "culture and heritage among the richest in North America," he said.

After the speech, the king and queen attended a luncheon at the National Naval Aviation Museum.

Source: www.pnj.com



*Dr. Judy Bense, president of the University of West Florida, shows King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain a selection of artifacts that were salvaged off the Spanish ship, the Emanuel Point I.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2



First Day of Class

March 9-13



Spring Break

March 18



Conversation Partners

April 1



TOEFL Trial

April 24



Last Day of Class

## IEP SESSION DATES

### Spring 2009

- January 9 - February 27 (7-week session)
- March 2 - April 24 (7-week session)

### 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)

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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