



English as a Second Language

Spring 2009

www.cuesta.edu

Newsletter

(805) 546-3941

Cuesta's ESL Program

Come join us and study English at Cuesta College. Cuesta's ESL program essentially began when Douglas Pillsbury joined Cuesta as a full-time teacher in 1989. Much has happened since.

Today Cuesta offers six levels of ESL classes, ranging from beginning to advanced classes. These classes prepare students to participate more fully in the English-speaking world and help them enter the basic skills classes offered at Cuesta. Several experienced ESL instructors conduct these classes. Their professional backgrounds range from teaching at language schools in foreign countries to high schools, colleges, and universities here in the United States. They have much to offer you. You can improve your reading, communication, and writing skills by joining one of their classes.

In addition to six course levels, Cuesta also provides ESL language laboratories. These laboratories come equipped with computers & printers, audio & video players, and listening, reading, & pronunciation materials. ESL tutors also conduct small groups and one-to-one instruction as part of the lab.

The ESL program also provides classes at Arroyo Grande and Nipomo High Schools.



Improve your future by improving your English skills at Cuesta College!

Cuesta Talk

What's your question for the new president of the USA?

"Do you have time to spend with your wife, daughters, and dog?" Hui Ling Su, TAIWAN

"Do you think the USA can have a better relationship with Russia?" Maria M. RUSSIA

"Has the capitalistic system started to break down?" Azael Becerril MEXICO

"Will you stop the war?" Javier Rodriguez MEXICO

"How are you feeling about living in the White House?" Miwa Yamada JAPAN

"How can you solve the nuclear power issue in North Korea?" Chi-hun Kim SOUTH KOREA

"Can you make the minimum wage higher?" Amada Cuevas MEXICO

"Why are Ukrainian resident papers difficult to get?" Anastasia Andreichenko UKRAINE

"Can you help poor people get medicine and dentists?" Omar Mendoza MEXICO

My Ideal Job

By Elena Page UKRAINE

My ideal job is a lawyer. I like this job because it is very interesting, important, and creative work. I like this work because it requires a lot of knowledge of law and at the same time it requires a lot of knowledge of psychology. Lawyers must be responsible for all their decisions and suggestions because they can change the life of the client. I have to not only be a specialist in my field, but also a good person.

I like this job because I can plan this job by myself. And I don't have a boss. I like to have communication with people. When I can help people find solutions of problems, I feel a lot of satisfaction.



Iran

Adapting to a New Culture

By Nagas Abbasgholikhhan IRAN

I think it's very important to adapt my behavior to this US culture. It's very different from my country. For example, Iranian children live with their parents until finishing school, getting a job, and marrying. But in the USA teenagers over 18 years old live on their own and work to save money for school. I think this is good because it teaches independence. But a good thing in Iran is every weekend all of the extended family members get together. Children respect their grandparents and enjoy time with them. In the USA, many families don't get together more than two or three times a year because everybody is busy or they live too far from each other.

In conclusion, adapting to the US culture is a good thing, but I also like some things about Iran too.

Cuesta

Learn English at Cuesta College

By Sonia Hay PANAMA

I am an ESL student at Cuesta College. I'm studying grammar and reading skills. Studying English at Cuesta College is very important for communicating with others. Cuesta College is an excellent school for studying English because it provides the best teachers, a library, a computer lab, student services, and educational materials.

You should study at Cuesta College because you can study whenever it is convenient since Cuesta offers day and evening classes. Most importantly, Cuesta provides competent, understanding, and dedicated instructors. My future goal is to continue studying English and Early Childhood Education.

English has enabled me to help my children with their schoolwork and to fill out applications at work. By learning English, I feel more confident and better able to interact with others in my community.

A XVth Century Costume

By Claudia Cabrera Olsen MEXICO

In Oaxaca, Mexico every year during the last two Mondays of July, there's a festival called "Lunes del Cerro." This tradition came before the Spanish conquest, about 400 years ago.

Oaxaca, a Mexican state, still has indigenous groups that have their own costumes, language, and political rules. Every year, a group from each region comes to this festival and shares with the others in a peaceful way their costumes, music, dances, and food.

The significance of this custom is that it provides an offering, to the God of the Corn. This offering makes him happy so he would help them have a better harvest. And people come from around the world to see and enjoy this magical tradition.

Supercross

By Marie Pelard FRANCE

Last week, I was in San Diego for the Supercross. I went with Hayden, the kid who I take care of. The Supercross races were amazing! But there weren't any French riders so I couldn't scream something in French.

I bought a shirt with a motorcycle and the year 2009 on it. I want to remember this event for the rest of my life. Also I took so many pictures, maybe more than one hundred, and about ten videos.

I was so glad because we had seats so close to the riders. I'm still dreaming about it now. I have so many friends who were jealous and I understand why. I was able to watch every single thing the riders did!



My Dream

By Sherry Ramizani IRAN

I believe some dreams don't make sense. Dreams are not always representative of my feelings, but sometimes they are. How we sleep, if we're worried or upset, these things affect our dreams. If we are optimistic and have positive feelings, we can have hopeful dreams.

Some dreams have significant meanings. For example 24 years ago, I had a dream. I was in the river and there were a lot of fish. I was playing with the fish and having a relaxing time. I told this dream to my mom. She said maybe you will have a baby. Surprisingly, two weeks later I discovered that my mother was correct because I was pregnant. My mother told me that in dreams fish represent babies and the water represents life in the future world.

In conclusion, my mother taught me to pay attention to my dreams because they can tell me things about my life. Now days, young people don't care about the meanings of their dreams.

Chishi-Chinese Valentine's Day

By Roy Lu TAIWAN

A legend tells how the Weaving Maid (a bright star east of the Milky Way), the seventh daughter of the Jade Emperor, fell in love and married a Cowherd (a star west of the Milky Way). However, they were overindulgent in their love and forgot their farming and weaving duties, which angered the Jade Emperor. He exiled and separated them on opposite banks of the Silver River (Milky Way), allowing them to meet only once a year on Chishi (Chinese Valentine's Day). This day is also known as the night of the double seventh (seventh month and seventh day on the Chinese lunar calendar). They meet on a bridge formed by magpies.

Weather permitting, the Cowherd (Aquila) and the Weaving Maid (Vega) will appear closer together than at any other time of the year. If it rains on that night, the time the two lovers meet on the magpie bridge, women on earth lament that "our elder sister is crying." The raindrops are the tears of the Weaving Maid.

Cuesta's Book Fund & ESL Award

Financial assistance is available for ESL students in need. Although Cuesta can't pay all student expenses, both the book fund and the ESL Halderman Award offer money to those who meet the criteria.

In order to be partially reimbursed for books, students must submit a request to their teachers with home address, telephone number, and social security number. The ESL Halderman Award offers two qualifying students \$100 each. Students are awarded at the end of every spring semester. To qualify, students must explain in writing their future goals and financial situation.

Please don't hesitate to apply! Cuesta College is here to serve you. For more information, log onto the Internet at <http://anthonyhalderman.com/english/award.htm>

Editor's Note

In order to preserve the authenticity of the students' writing, we have kept their original word order and sentence structure.