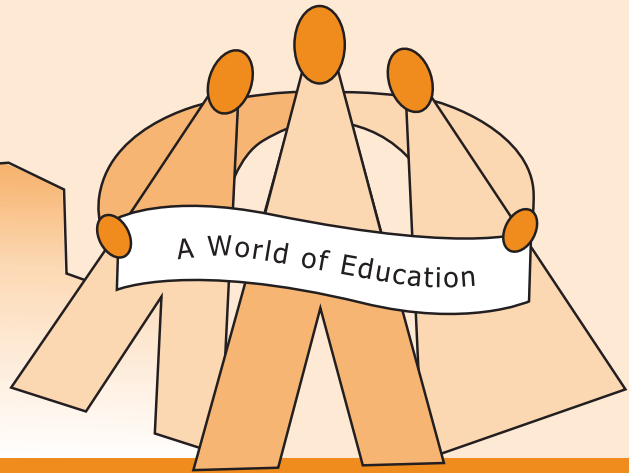


English Learning Center NEWS



Summer 2007 | Volume 1 | Issue 1 | www.englishlc.org

Student Profile

Why do teenagers get naughty too early? Who has the most responsibility to teach them? Ask Yen Long Huynh, an English Learning Center student who shared his thoughts on these subjects and more at the University of Minnesota earlier this year.



*Yen Long Huynh,
English 6 Student*

Yen was invited to speak at the Campus-Community Colloquium by his teachers, Emily Smith and Steven Hall - both U of M service-learning students. Yen spoke to U

students and community members about his essay, "My Thoughts About Teenagers in the U.S. and the Future." Yen also shared about his involvement in creating the publication that featured the essay: The ELC People's Press - a newsletter written by English 6 students, headed up by teachers Emily and Steven.

Together, the English 6 class covered topics ranging from personal biographies to staff interviews and sports reports. "Almost everyone who grew up in the U.S. past and present is very successful," began Yen's comments. "Education and justice are also up-to-date and strict, and this is the reason that America is stronger and prosperous," he continued.

Yen should know. He grew up in Vietnam and came to the U.S. as an adult in 2001, beginning classes at the English Learning Center in 2004. Aided by the English Learning Center's volunteer teachers and a small pocket translator, which quickly became his trademark, Yen made his way from English level 3 to English level 6, the ELC's most advanced class.

Yen's progress became all the more satisfying when he was able to speak

to a full crowd at the University, sharing his thoughts in English - having set his pocket translator aside.

In addition to his contributions to English 6, Yen takes citizenship class at the ELC. He hopes to become a U.S. citizen in order to bring his family to the United States, as well. He says, "I want to learn more English, to get a better job, and to maybe go to college later."

(See Yen's full essay, as well as other students' writing, on our website: http://www.englishlc.org/client_stories.htm)

Thank You Notes

Welcome to our new look!

With this newsletter, we are pleased to present our new logo and newsletter design. The logo was designed by the talented Tom Pedersen, for his internship project as a student at the Art Institutes International. We are also pleased to showcase our re-designed newsletter and nameplate by new staff member, Liz Helberg, Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

Thanks to Tom, Liz and the entire staff for their work on these projects.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I wish you were sitting in my office so you could hear what's going on outside my door. It's 5:15 p.m., and the first busload of students has just arrived for classes. They flowed into the building, down the stairs - and as they pass my office to make their way toward their classrooms - voices from dozens of countries fill the hallways.

Even though I can't pick out one voice, or understand the words, their voices lilt with energy. They're excited about something - returning to school, studying their favorite subject or learning how to use a computer.

As their voices float away, down the hall, I soon hear the slower, quieter plod of one of their teachers. Week after week, for over 25 years, hundreds of dedicated people come to teach classes and offer a warm welcome to our students.

I do wish you were here to hear it ... but even more, so you wouldn't miss the excitement of Back-to-School at the ELC. Why not come? Visit us. Sit in on a computer class. Have some coffee with students in the lounge. Or meet the students who wrote the articles on this page.

Listen - and see - for yourself. The English Learning Center is full of energy and excitement. Come share it with us!

Warmly,



Sandy Aslaksen
Executive Director

P.S. To our donors and supporters, thank you for making "Back-to-School 2007" possible.

Student Writing

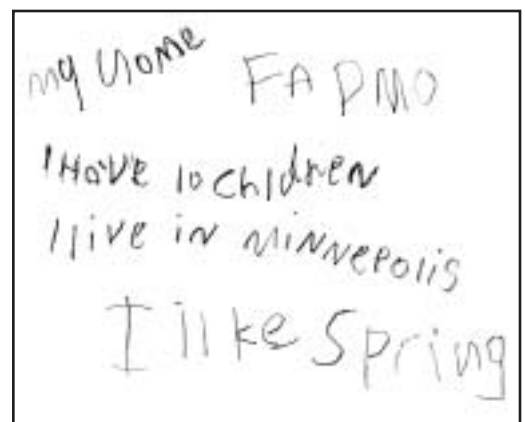
My Own Biography

Muse Ali, English 5/6

I am an old man. I used to be a businessman and a farmer. I left from my own country, Somalia, in 1977 and came to Kenya to continue my business. My businesses were shops and farms with things such as beans, corn and soybeans. In addition, I was selling clothes, food kitchen utensils, and cleaning substances. I got some profit, I made some money, but finally I lost what I had found.

I decided to move to America in hope of seeking a job because I heard that America is an opportunity country. Unfortunately, I did not find a job. Every time that I applied for something, I was rejected. The justification for this was that I am an old man.

In conclusion, instead of living here and not doing something, I decided to study the English language to get the abilities to speak it fluently.



Adult Student Writing,
Beginning English

Volunteer Highlights



Some people just stand out. They're not afraid to take a risk. They inspire you to look at the world differently. And they delight to bring you with them on their journeys.



Jessica Porath,
English 2 Volunteer

Jessica Porath, an English 2 volunteer and Concordia College student, is one of those people. When Jessica found out that her summer employer, Johnson Controls, offers grants to non-profits where their employees volunteer, Jessica jumped on the phone to the ELC. A couple of weeks (and a lot of emails) later, Jessica and the ELC applied for a \$1,000 grant for a "Computer Lab Facelift" -including buying new chairs to replace the old, mismatched ones that have been donated to the ELC second-hand over the years.

The proposal was approved! In mid-August, a group of Johnson Controls employees - recruited, organized and led by Jessica - came to the ELC assemble chairs, assist staff in a big lab clean-up, and visit the place where Jessica has been volunteer teaching all summer.

Here are some of Jessica's thoughts about the project and volunteering at the ELC...

What did you hope to get out of this service project?

I hope that this service project helped the ELC and their computer program. It would be hard being a non-profit organization and not having the money or staff to make needed facility upgrades. I'm excited that Johnson Controls could help out.

What do you hope your colleagues got from participating?

I hope that helping out at the ELC helped my colleagues better understand how important English language, computer, and other classes provided by the ELC and similar organizations are. Maybe it will inspire them to volunteer more of their time.

What have you gotten out of your experience teaching at the ELC?

I have had such a blast teaching at the ELC! It is fun teaching adults because they are only in class because they want to be.

What are your plans after you graduate from college?

Next May I will be leaving with the Peace Corps for two years teaching ESL in Latin America. I'm really looking forward to it, and my teaching at the ELC has definitely helped me feel more prepared.

(For the full text of Jessica's interview, please see our website <http://www.englishlc.org/vhighlights.htm>.)

Volunteer Opportunities



Can you read and write? Add and subtract? Point and click? Then you can teach at the ELC! We offer free English, basic math, citizenship, and computer skills classes to the newest Minnesota residents - and we need you!

"No experience necessary!"

Volunteers teach almost all classes, and a variety of opportunities are available - including small group tutors, main classroom instructors, and classroom assistants.

Commitment is 1-3 hours, one night a week (Monday-Thursday), for one semester. All classes are in the evening. Training, curriculum, books and ongoing support provided by ELC staff. No experience necessary!

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Claudia Holt for more details (612.874.9963 x2, claudia@englishlc.org).

For information about how your workplace might partner with the ELC, please contact our Development Director, Nicole Pettitt at 612.871.5900 x3 or nicole@osom-mn.org.

A group of Johnson Controls employees - recruited, organized and led by Jessica - came to give the ELC's computer lab a facelift



Our Mission



Educationally empowering immigrants and refugees toward self-determination.

Every gift you give - whether in-kind, monetary, or your time - makes getting an education possible.

Your partnership provides...

- Classes in English, computers, math and citizenship exam preparation
- Referral and advocacy services for students
- Transportation service for students
- Training for volunteer instructors

Make your donation today!

Donate online at www.englishlc.org/donations.htm or use enclosed envelope.



Your donations make computer classes possible for students like Zeynudin

The English Learning Center is a program of Our Saviour's Outreach Ministries



The English Learning Center

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming soon!

2006 Annual Report

Please check our website

in mid-September

www.englishlc.org

ELC Wish List

computer headphones
pencils (with good erasers)
pens
notebooks (8 1/2 x 11)
3-ring binders (red, 1")
dry erase markers and erasers
comfortable chairs for student room
gift cards from Cub Foods,
Rainbow Foods, Aldi, Target
Kleenex
coffee
creamer
sugar
paper towels

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