



ECI/ACE Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2011 Issue

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL



On March 28th, 2011 many of our students participated in the 20th International Student Awareness Day celebration which took place at the State Capitol in downtown Oklahoma City. More than 500 international students, representing 79 countries, were present at the event which featured a special address to the students by Lt Governor Todd Lamb. Students enjoyed a visit to the House of Representative and Senate chambers; as well as various live performances, including: the National Anthem, country music, and drums. The celebration reunited, in a lively and fun atmosphere, international students from various language programs around the city with state representatives, vendors, and honorary counsel generals in what State Representative Cory T. Williams described as “a unique opportunity to get to know those international students who have chosen to come to our state.”

CALIFORNIA



Hollywood



Birthday Party



Perris County Fair



Six Flags

Area Coordinator Martin Delatorre and his students enjoying all of what California has to offer. Here are a few pictures of all the fun they have had this year.

FAREWELL

The staff of ECI would like wish all the departing students good luck in all their endeavors. Thank you for participating in our programs, and we hope you had a wonderful experience. Thank you to all the host families who so graciously welcomed our students into their homes. We wish you all the best!

NEWS FROM THE ECI/ESL SCHOOL DALLAS



Here at the Dallas Campus of ECI, our spacious new classrooms and student computer station are nearly ready. The expansion allows us to welcome more students and offer more classes.

To welcome and help acclimate our student body, a Student Orientation was held on May 1, 2011. The ELP Coordinator gave a Power Point presentation that outlined the rights and responsibilities of the students, staff and faculty. Each student received an ECI Student Handbook which was discussed in detail. The Orientation concluded with a question and answer period.



Upcoming events in May include a field trip to the Dallas Heritage Village, home to the largest and finest collection of 19th century pioneer and Victorian homes and commercial buildings in Texas. These buildings, moved from throughout North Central Texas to Dallas' first city park, a tree-shaded 20-acre setting. We hope the students enjoy the village as much as the last two field trips when we went to the Dallas Zoo and the Dallas World Aquarium.



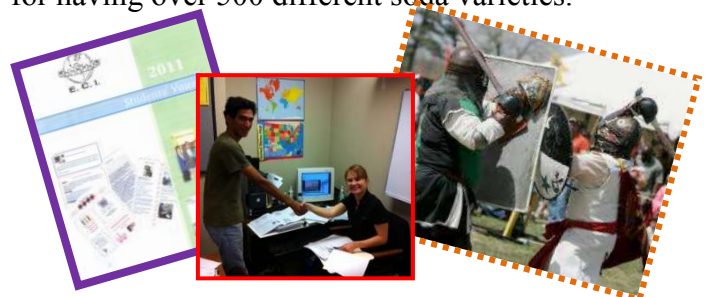
NEWS FROM ECI/ESL SCHOOL OKC



Here at the Oklahoma City campus we are gearing up for the new session and welcoming new students as well as new instructors. Mr. Aaron Berry, who holds a Masters' in Education and Linguistics, joined our teaching crew this session. Our other instructors are Emilie Gordon and Joyce Crawford. Meanwhile, we are eagerly awaiting the addition of our international high school students for this summer's sessions.

We were sad to see two of our students go this last session. Salem Al Auqeel and Hawaa Falata both completed their studies at ECI and will be going on to pursue their university education in Oklahoma this fall. We wish them all the best of luck. In other recent news, Fidaa Almuhanha gave birth to a baby girl, named Sarah, on April 5th.

The students here in Oklahoma City have been working hard to complete their many projects lately. The advanced students have begun working on a student newspaper, Students' Voice, where they will be publishing monthly articles and stories as well as pieces of student work. There has been time for play as well; we took a field trip to the Medieval Fair, in Norman, OK, at the beginning of April. The students enjoyed seeing the sword fighting and jousting reenactments. Other recent field trips have included local historic land mark on Route 66, The Round Barn and Pop's which is famous for having over 500 different soda varieties.



COORDINATORS

Thank you to our Area Coordinators for all you do. We would like to express our gratitude for making sure that the students and families are always your top priority and taking pride in what you do.

Florida:

- * Bibi Demby
- * John Bronson
- * April Langston
- * Andrew Dees
- * Pastor Tim Vanderveer
- * Mary Garvin

California

- * Sonia Delgado – Regional Director
- * Leona Gibson – Regional Director
- * Martin & Erica Delatorre
- * Lily Delao

Kansas

- * Robert Rotola

North Dakota

- * Michelle Thomas
- * Christy McKeen

Alabama

- * Harvey Brooks

New York

- * Annette Sielski

Massachusetts

- * Amy Sacco
- * Diane Daviau

Missouri

- * Trish Cooper
- * Della Cooper

Oklahoma

- * Charles Robertson
- * Chris Belyeu

Arkansas

- * Andy Matthews
- * Justin Kelsey

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

As you all know, the school year is nearing an end and the students have to prepare to return home. **You will have to leave the country one week after finishing your school.** Please book your tickets if you have not booked them by now, so there will be no problem with space later. Please send your flight itinerary to ace@ionet.net.

FLORIDA

Some of the students had their prom on Friday April 22 at the Mission Inn Resort. They had lots of fun. Friday, May 6, they are going to the Senior Bash at Universal Studios and Island of Adventures.

Academically, Martin Mickovski from Macedonia qualified for the Talented 20 Program and is eligible for one of the eleven state universities. Ema Ristovska from Macedonia received OSFA and she is considered for a state of Florida grant and scholarship program.



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JANUARY 2011 STUDENTS

For the students that started their Program January in 2011 and will finish in December 2011, you will all attend the English Language Summer Program in Oklahoma City, OK. There will be two (2) session start dates: May 27th, and July 1st, 2011. All students need to call the main office with their flight information at 1-888-446-5437 or e-mail to eci@ionet.net.

CALIFORNIA PROM PICTURES



Sun Min Lee (Angie), Bomaliyamu Aimaiti (Christie), and Zhao Yang (Cindy), who all attend Summit Leadership Academy, having fun at prom with some friends.

END OF THE YEAR PREPARATION

Dear Host Families and Students:

The school year will quickly approach its end and we all need to finalize the completion of the Program. It is now the right time to point out some of the policies of the Program as well as to give instructions to the students so that they can start preparing themselves for their return home.

We would like to point out to the students the important reminders and obligations to make the preparation process for ending the Program and going home a smoother and more structured one.

1. **All students should plan to leave the country within one week after the end of the school year.** All the students should have their return tickets with them. Since ACE/ECI was not involved in your airline ticket arrangements please communicate with your parents and your agencies in your country to book your return tickets. The health insurance coverage will stop at the end of one week after the school year finishes.

ECI/ACE Newsletter

2. Make sure that you have your **passport and the I-94 form.** (I-94 form is a small cardboard document that was stapled to your passport when you arrived in the USA). When you go to the airport, you will need to show your ticket, passport, and I-94.
3. You are allowed only **two (2) suitcases** to check in. Each suitcase cannot be heavier than **50 pounds**. You can have one small carry-on bag with you as well as a purse or backpack. You have to have **at least \$150** with you before you travel (you may need to pay for each bag about \$20-\$30 and you will need money for meals and drinks at the airports). You may have to pack some of your clothes and other belongings and mail them home as soon as possible.
4. You have to take your **Grade Report** from school for the Fall Semester and the **Final Transcript** at the end of the school year. You may need to **talk to your counselors** to ask them if you could have the final transcript at the end of the school year or within 2-3 days after that day. The counselors are usually very helpful because they know that the exchange students will be going home. **Macedonian and Kosovo students** have to have the Fall Semester grade report stamped and signed and they need to mail the grade reports to our office with \$25, so that we can get the Apostilles. At the end of school year they have to do the same with the Final Transcript.

We would like you to enjoy the rest of your stay: bond even more with your host family, improve your grades, and get involved in school. This is an experience you will always remember.

We thank the host families for giving such good care to the students and ask you to help your student/s in preparation for their departure.

Please remember:

1. You are allowed to check-in only two (2) suitcases.
2. You can have one small carry-on bag with you as well as a purse or backpack.
3. Each suitcase has to weigh less than 50 lbs. You may be asked to pay \$20-\$30 per suitcase if it is too heavy.
4. Please have cash money with you for your travels. We suggest to have at least \$150 with you before you travel (you may need to pay for each bag about \$20-\$30 and you will need money for meals/drinks at the airports).
5. It is good to pack some of your clothes and other belongings and mail them home as soon as possible. Therefore, anything extra you have (such as clothing, books, etc.) needs to be packed in boxes and shipped back to your home.

We have been receiving calls with questions regarding whether students can extend their stay one more year and not go home – this cannot happen. By Law, the students coming on a J-1 exchange visitor visa may only study one school year in a publicly funded institution and they have to go home after the Program finishes. Therefore, we urge and say to all the students that after the school year finishes, all of you must go home within one week.

We hope you understand these regulations seriously and will abide accordingly.

Students and Host Families

**Remember, you can call anytime you need us.
We are here to help!**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Oklahoma City Office: (405) 810-8314

Dallas Office: (972) 239-8555

Toll-Free: (888) 446-5437

Email: eci@ionet.net

ace@ionet.net

ACE/ECI STAFF

Olga Aceska, President/CEO

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE

Sarah Caldwell, ELP Director

Martha Rollyson, Program Director

Jessica Fraire, Program Coordinator

Emilie Gordon, ESL Instructor

Joyce Crawford, ESL Instructor

Aaron Berry, ESL Instructor

DALLAS OFFICE

Marie Buettner, ELP Coordinator

Colette Shelley, Program Coordinator

Angel Del Rio, ESL Instructor

Brad Sanders, ESL Instructor

Erica Walker, ESL Instructor