

THE PARROT



Fall 2020

ISSUE # 150

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, Californians, and, well, anybody really...

Interview with Professor Sanchez

The Parrot: Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Professor Sanchez: Sure. Actually, I'm a Mexican-American immigrant. I was born in a suburb of Mexico City. My parents came here with me when I was three years old. My dad got a job at a company in Silicon Valley, so we lived in Sunnyvale, close to San Jose for a few



years. Then we moved up here to Sacramento, and I've been living in Sacramento ever since. I've always been interested in math. First, I took advanced education classes at ARC while I was in high school. That's when I realized that community college could be so great for not just my education, but it delivers quality educa-

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Bill Gates Predicts 2021

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Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

Thomas Edison

Sesquicentennial Squawk! The Parrot #150

A Letter to Our Readers

What do rougheye rockfish, red sea urchins, bowhead whales, koi fish, vestimentiferan tubeworms, freshwater pearl mussels, various tortoises, ocean quahogs (a type of clam found mainly around the Scottish coast), Antarctic sponges, and the famously misnomered jellyfish



all have in common? According to listverse.com, they all know what it's like to celebrate a sesquicentennial birthday. That is, they know what it's like to live 150 years (and even more, but that's not the point). And now The Parrot does, too! Well, sort of. While all of

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Student Chirpings

Why Do We Celebrate Holidays?

Why do we celebrate holidays? To answer the question correctly, we must first understand what a holiday is, and then the meaning and importance of celebrating it. Holidays are associated with the greatest moments in the history of the country, nation, and religion, so depending on their significance they are celebrated differently. For example, national holidays are celebrated at the country's official level. Religious holidays are associated with a particular religion: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, or Christianity. In any case, whatever the meaning of the holidays, they are celebrated for several reasons.

First, many holidays are days to worship God. These holidays give a special spiritual meaning to life, and they are an integral part of godliness. For example, in Armenia, Christian holidays are celebrated with great solemnity because Armenians were the first in the world to adopt Christianity as an official country religion in the year 301 A.D. On the day of the feast, a solemn ceremony is held in all the churches, many prayers are offered to God, excerpts from the Bible are read, and spiritual songs are sung. And all this for the sake of God, that in the rough sea of life by faith, a man who trusts in Him can reach the peaceful haven of eternity without harm. In brief, the holidays are very important for the spiritual life, for thinking about spiritual values, and for glorifying God.

Second, holidays are a chance for families to be together. On that day, all the family members gather under one roof, around the holiday table to have a good time. They prepare the traditional, national dishes for the holiday. For instance, in Armenia, for Easter, red eggs, pilaf with raisins, boiled fish, and red wine are placed on the table. After



praying, the whole family sits around the table to enjoy the festive food. Everyone strives to ensure a high mood. They sing and dance, tell interesting stories related to the holiday. The festive evening ends with the surprise gifts. Each member of the family feels he or she is a part of that united family connected by kinship and realizes his or her importance in that union. In short, those holidays are an opportunity to get together with the family once again and contribute to the strengthening and solidarity of the family.

Third, many holidays are of great importance for teaching the next generation about history and religion. Some holidays are an opportunity to tell generations the history of their religion and nation, and they are the basis for statehood, national preservation, and strengthening of faith. On such holidays, generations hear many stories about their country and nation, about their national

heroes and their heroism. Genetic memory through holidays is very important in bringing up the right generations because it instills patriotism, humanity, and pride in the achievements of its own country. In a word, holidays raise the awareness of generations to be united and respect for their own nation and homeland, its history and future.

In conclusion, each holiday has a reason and a great meaning to celebrate it. Regardless of their differences, holidays are a great opportunity to unite, glorify God, remember history and pass it on to future generations. In my opinion, each holiday is love, love for God, for your own country, and for your own family.

Margarita Petrosyan
ESL 47
Opinion Essay



My Fish Tank

Who likes pets? I think that almost everyone likes them, and at least once dreamed to have ones. Everyone has his preferences. Some people like cats or dogs, others like parrots, and some like fish. Usually people buy pets because they feel lonely. I decided to buy a pet just for fun. I bought fish because I thought they needed less care. Of course they need a place to live, so I bought a fish tank. I bought the fish tank just to fill an empty space in my living room, but I really like it.

In September of 2016 I bought the fish tank from Pet Smart. The store had a wide variety of tanks, but I chose one that fits my size. It is firmly fixed to a stand, it has 38 gallons, and it's made of glass. Inside it has a filter that cleans the water from ammonia and nitrates, a heater to regulate the water temperature, and a provision of colorful lights; the lights increase the beauty of the tank. On the tank's bottom, there is a row of small and colorful stones. There are some adornments such as a beautiful ship, a castle, mountains, and of course a few plants. When I look inside, my thoughts go into the middle of a fairy tale that my parents told me in childhood about saving the princess from pirates' hands.

In addition to the filter making sound, I hear water running continuously, as if I am sitting on the edge of a small river and water is running and running without stopping. This sound of water makes me calm, and leads me into the middle of a forest, away from all the worries and problems. In addition to all this beauty, ten fishes swim cheerfully and

bring some life to this space. There are three colors of tropical fish: orange, yellow, and red. They aren't capricious; they don't need so much care. They are like our family members; very often we tell them "Good morning" "How do you feel today?" "Are you hungry?" Sometimes I feel that they want to tell me "Thank you!"

It is very important to keep the tank from going toxic, so I have to follow with great care several procedures. Monthly I change 25% of the tank's water to restore and maintain balanced water by removing harmful chemicals. I change the filter cartridge, and I add aquarium bacteria and conditioner to maintain water clear and healthy. I have the water tested because water quality is

critical to the health of fish. To keep the tank clear, I have to vacuum gravel and each week to add *Easy Care*. It helps to maintain the proper water chemistry, and allows fish to thrive.

It isn't easy to take care of a fish tank, as I had thought before, but it is interesting. My fish tank isn't just an object that collects dust on it, but it is a part of our family. Since I bought the tank our life in the house is happier and of course busier because I have to take care of ten more members. I have a very big family! I bought it to fill an empty space in my home, without realizing how much space it would fill in my life.



Lenuta Musorivski
ESL W50
Descriptive Essay



Wonderful Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful holiday. All Christians celebrate the coming of the Savior to this earth. My family also celebrates this holiday every year. This is an opportunity to thank God again and communicate with people close to you. Many people look forward to this holiday, especially children, because at Christmas they are given a lot of gifts, and children are very fond of gifts. I like this holiday despite the fact that it adds a lot of work, worries and bustle because they are pleasant chores.

The first thing to buy is a Christmas tree. It is so accepted that at Christmas people put up a Christmas tree because the Christmas tree is a symbol of eternal life. We usually put up an artificial tree and decorate it with bright balls and garlands. After the tree is installed, I buy many different gifts although most of them I buy in advance. I enjoy shopping and choosing gifts for friends and family. When the gifts are bought, I wrap them in beautiful packaging and put them under the tree. I do not put gifts for children under the tree all at once because they like to check the gifts every day and count how many gifts have appeared.

Then we start decorating our house. We hang various Christmas wreaths, garlands, and colorful bows. When the house is decorated and all the gifts are ready, I cover the festive table with a beautiful tablecloth. In the middle of the table, there is a box of Christmas decorations, bright balls, and candles. Of course, I use beautiful fes-

tive dishes and napkins. And at this time I make a holiday menu. We usually agree with friends who will cook which dish. Friends bring various salads and desserts. I cook the main course and bake the cake.

At the appointed time, the guests come to

our house. We set the table with delicious prepared dishes and start Christmas dinner. At this time, we have various contests, children read poetry and they receive additional prizes. Other guests sing songs or tell different life stories. We also analyze what we have achieved and what we have learned in the past year and share what we want to achieve next year. We talk to each other, laugh, and have a wonderful time. Of course, we take photos and exchange gifts. This is one of the favorite parts of the party for many of us,

especially the children.

In conclusion, we are all very busy, we work hard, and we study. We don't have enough free time to just meet and talk. Despite the fact that preparations for the holidays bring a lot of fuss and worries, I am glad that we can get together with relatives and friends on these Christmas holidays to be together to communicate and just see each other.

Oksana Makarova
ESL 47
Process Essay





They Want to Delete Our Uyghur Identity

I learned about my country's history and changed my name. One year after I came to the United States, in 2011, I was 20 years old. With my lawyer's help and with his knowledge, I learned the truth of who I am and where I am from. The reason why it is so important is because there are still millions of my people who don't know the truth after the Chinese government did brainwash its people.

My sister and I, like others, had to study in Chinese school, we grew up knowing and believing we are Chinese. Because our parents and relatives were scared to tell us the truth, we learned from school that we had become part of China 2000 years ago. Sometimes my grandfather tried to tell us what happened when they were young, but my parents always interrupted them, and we never listened to even half of the story. The reason why we couldn't talk about ethnic group or government was because the government listed them as a sensitive topic, so if you ever speak out in public or try to tell your family members, you would be jailed. By growing up in that kind of environment, we truly believed that our ancestors were Chinese from the beginning.

But everything changed after those scary days when we were asking for human rights. The Chinese government brought tanks and their army and whoever wanted to get equal rights shot or arrested. After they took them to jail, their future was life imprisonment or death right after being released to their home. I was in high school at that time and I was the only minor. After I went back to school, a close friend asked me how many Han Chinese I killed while school was closed. I was shocked, and from that day, I did lots of research and questioned my family about why I was different from all my classmates. In 2011, my dad decided to send me to study overseas. I learned lots of history about back home. At the same time, I was laughing at how the government played tricks and brainwashed its citizen by blocking Facebook, Twit-



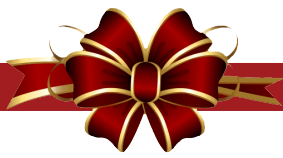
ter, Google, YouTube and other sites to hide the truth from people.

On July 5th of 2009, there was a huge protest going on at our capital city—Urumqi. With my lawyer's help, I changed my name to what it was supposed to be. Since I had been using a fake identify for almost 20 years, I was so excited and happy that I did a big decision in my own life. Then the government intervened and made that become an unpeaceful protest. From that day I noticed I'm different from those Chinese and they mean to separate us. Then I knew the whole truth after I came to the United States. Maybe many of you heard about Uyghurs, East Turkistan or re-education camps? Those are all related to me and my people. The Chinese government occupied my homeland in 1949 from the former Soviet Union. My family had to change our ethnic group from Uzbek to Uyghur, but it didn't bother us because these two ethnic groups are similar. Or we can say it's the same nation but divided by two.

Then, all ethnic groups besides the Han had to change our names into Chinese, and our new names didn't sound like our real names. I was used to that until I got my Chinese passport. They changed my first and last name, putting my last name first and first name last. (Because the way we write names is different than Chinese. For example, Jin Wu is how Chinese name on passport but on their ID it is Wu Jin.) I was having lots of trouble because of that. With my lawyer's help, I changed my name to what it is supposed to be.

Nowadays, more and more people from my country are staying overseas because it is not safe there, the world is also learning the truth and many countries are helping us. I'm so proud to know who I am and tell others about it too.

*Anonymous
Narrative Essay*



RED

At the age of 15, my mother gave me my first cosmetic, which was a red lipstick. I didn't want to use make up yet because I was just a young teenager. However, I was interested in the most iconic characters, models, singers, and actresses. From Cleopatra to Marilyn Monroe, women shared one specific quality: red lips. I knew that makeup is more than just a superficial and narcissist hobby for bored women. It's a lifestyle. There are many kinds of lipsticks in the world, multiple colors, shapes and brands. Although, there is just one that has made the history: "red lipstick". Red lipstick has been a symbol of beauty, sensuality and power since ancient times.

I remember the day when I used red lipstick for the first time. My mother was doing my make up just for fun. The feeling was weird and I felt so uncomfortable with that thing on my lips. Instead, I went to the mirror near my vanity desk. What I saw in the brilliant mirror was extremely surprising. I never imagined seeing my face like that. The red color was so bright, vibrant and jazzy. It's incredible how my features could change using only lipstick. I wasn't a very secure girl at that time. However, I found that every person can fight for reveal the best part of themselves. I wanted to observe carefully the whole product. Physically, the body of a lipstick package is not extraordinary at all. The common lipsticks have shapes like bullets. This is not a crazy idea, "I'm sure that the use of makeup is a strong weapon for many people," I thought. Red lipstick has a special meaning for me. Wearing red lipstick can give a feeling of power if you have enough security.

However, some persons criticized me for using red lipstick many times. I cannot forget when

my sister's mother-in-law said to me, "You know that in ancient times women were not permitted to use makeup in public, and much less if it's an extravagant color like red. What does it mean that is an issue of morality." I thought about those words for a long time. I met people with different opinions about my red lips. One thought that women are more beautiful without make up because they love "natural" beauty. Others didn't care if women wore or did not wear makeup. As a result, I stopped using my favorite red lipstick for a while.

However, I rather wanted to have my own

opinion and think about it. What does wearing a red lipstick entail more than just a beauty ritual. When I used lipstick, carmine, scarlet or crimson tone, it feels as if I am painting my lips with "goddess blood." What gave me an air of elegance and style, making me a powerful woman, secure



and stronger than anyone else, like the most iconic women in the world who used to use red lips like a symbol of their times.

Overall, red lipstick isn't just another simple cosmetic for making profit. There are many kinds of lipstick, and the color that some people choose depends on the mood of the day. However, for me the most important is the red one. There is a lot of history with it. It's a classic symbol that defines empowerment and women's liberation. Red is a symbolic color. Red is the color for life and love. However, red is a color for death too. Finally, red lipstick is the perfect complement for a powerful woman.

*Laura Lopez Loza
ESL W50
Narrative Essay*



A Kazakh Wedding

Nowadays, weddings are held in an advanced style with chic white dresses, white doves, expensive motorcades, and long photography sessions. The people of my country have a special wedding celebration. Modern Kazakh wedding celebrations are also different from previous ones, but people try to preserve the traditions of their ancestors. A wedding is the birth of a new family, and Kazakhs celebrate this event at all times according to many interesting traditions.

First, the parents of the groom and bride meet at the bride's parents' house. This meeting is matchmaking, where the parents of the groom give gifts to the bride's side. These gifts are called "kalym" and usually include money or horses and sheep. Kalym is here as compensation for a good bride and a guarantee that the bride will be well in the new family. Also, the future mother-in-law gives the bride gold earrings. The hosts, in turn, treat the guests with delicious food, and they also present to the groom a "dowry". A dowry is the property that a bride's parents have been preparing for their daughter and her future groom over the years and includes handmade blankets, bedspreads, pillows and sheets. During this meeting, the families discuss all the details of the upcoming wedding, such as the date and expenses.

Second, the bride has a celebration called "uzatu toi" or the bride's wedding. Uzatu toi is a kind of event held in the parental house for the bride's relatives and friends when the bride says good-



bye to her family and parental home. Of course, the groom comes to this event with a minimum number of accompanying relatives and friends, and everyone celebrates with songs, dances, and a wedding feast. The bride and groom are dressed in attractive apparel. The bride's dress is certainly very expensive and beautiful, and the groom's wedding clothes are handsome. The ceremony is focused on preparing for the bride's departure to the new family and collecting everything needed for the move, but nevertheless, the celebration takes place with an obligatory feast with delicious national dishes and snacks, various desserts, and a wedding cake. The next day, the bride goes with her dowry to the groom's house.

Finally, the main wedding is celebrated at the groom's house. It is called "kelin tusiru" and includes some ceremonies. When the bride arrives at the groom's house, her way is showered with "shashu" - tossed sweets and coins cover her path. Neighborhood children and relatives collect and take away everything that is scattered as a treat. After that, in front of all the relatives and friends, the festive ceremony called "betashar" or revealing of the face begins. The bride's face is covered with a white veil. A special person is invited who, to the accompaniment of the "dombyra", a national Kazakh musical instrument, praises all the relatives of the groom for the bride in verse, and she must bow to everyone mentioned. This can last for a long time since there are a lot of family members in Kazakh families, and, so that the bride does not get dizzy with endless bows and she does not fall, she is supported from both sides

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by the hands of a relative of the groom. Now, the mother-in-law lifts the white veil and lays it back on the bride's head to symbolize her marital status and then welcomes her into the groom's family. Then the newlyweds, relatives, and friends gather in a luxurious, expensive banquet hall. Usually at a Kazakh wedding, there are at least three hundred guests. They have fun and dance, eat, and drink until the morning. Special groups which organize dance shows and various contests with gifts and prizes, are also invited to the wedding.



In conclusion, a wedding in Kazakhstan is the most important celebration for both families,

the bride and the groom, and their closest friends. Kazakh wedding traditions consist of an extensive series of rituals and ceremonies, starting with

matchmaking. Some wedding traditions have become less important over time, but others have been revived. Kazakhs observed and passed on the traditions of their people from generation to generation for many centuries.

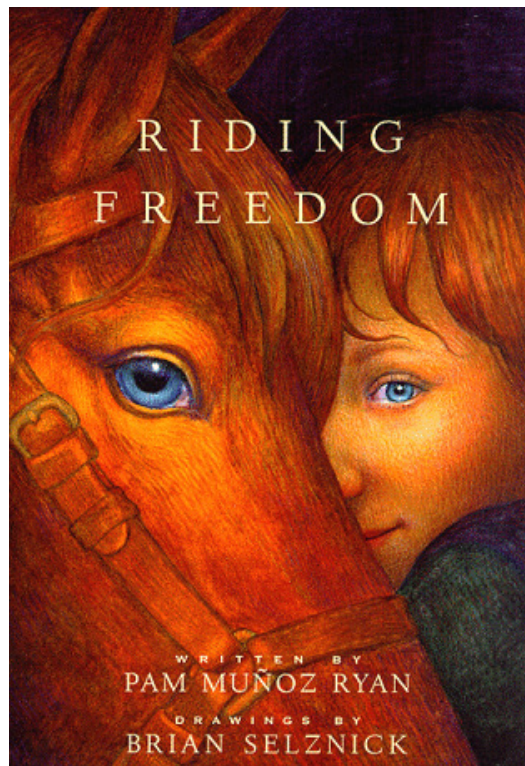
Yelena Chuikova

ESL 47

Descriptive Essay

Riding Freedom Discussion Board

In this story that we read, I knew that Charlotte is the main character. My favorite character is Charlotte because she was smart, clever, and brave girl for her age. She grew up in a place with no parents, and this place was just for boys. Her parents are dead, when she was young, and she didn't know how her parents look like. She never gave up, and she worked hard until she reached her goal. She was a good horse rider, she knew how to behave with horses, and also she had skill to raise the horses. She figured out her problems that she had on those hard time. She was



a girl, but she worked as a boy. She didn't like to play with girls her age because she grew up in an orphanage for boys. Charlotte was very successful girl. She was the first woman that voted in United States. Charlotte had a friend. His name was Hayward. Charlotte and Hayward were good friends, and they had dream. They thought how to come through their dream. I don't have the same character, but I like her character.



Rabia Azizi

ESL 47



A Breakthrough because of *Breaking Through*

Every person on earth is going through different challenges through his/her life but a person can understand the feelings of another person when he/she has experienced the same challenges in life. I am Farid Jalali an immigrant to US from Afghanistan and an American River College student of Professor Lindsey Curtis in ESL 315 class, where I read the book of Professor Francisco Jimenez "Breaking Through". At the beginning I thought it was a regular novel but as much as I was reading through, I thought this was all about the challenges I went through and Professor Jimenez wrote about my life experience. Most of the challenges he faced were the same like me but some of them were different. I became a refugee to Pakistan with my family when I was just 4 years old and then came back to Afghanistan and then to USA. The real challenges started when I migrated back to Afghanistan in 2003, struggling to survive and worked hard to support my family of Mom, four sisters, and two brothers. When I got a little bit settled there due to security conditions, I got forced to leave Afghanistan and be immigrated to US in 2017 and once again the same struggle of survival started again and I had to find a job immediately in order to support my family of six (wife, 2 daughters and 2 sons). In the meantime, I had a dream to get bachelors in computer sciences, so I started attending the American River College and still chasing

my dream. However, I am a full-time employee but don't want to give up and trying my best to support my family and get my bachelors. When I finished reading "*Breaking Through*", I wrote my feelings in an email to Professor Jimenez, I shared my feelings and some of the challenges I faced and paid my

respects to his mother who supported him in the same way my mother supported me.

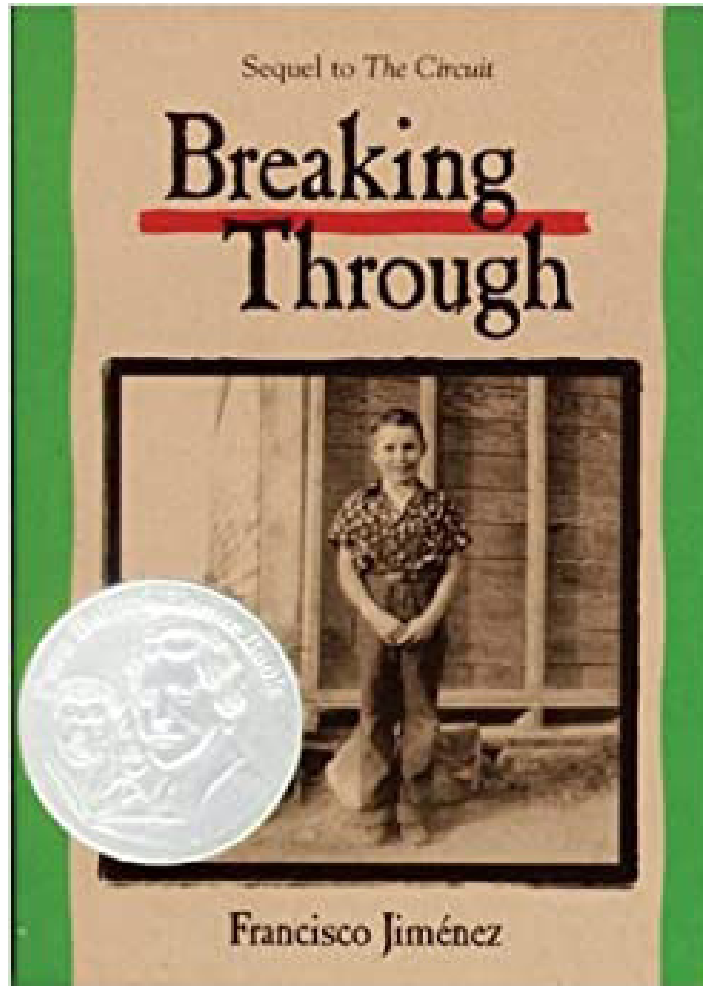
Fortunately, I received his email in which he thanked me for sharing my feelings with him and respects to his mother and stated "*You cannot imagine how touched I was by your kind and gracious words. Thank you! Your comment about my mother brought tears to my eyes.*"

Your extraordinary efforts to get an education are inspirational. I admire your hard work and perseverance and love of family. Your five children and wife must be so proud of you. You are a wonderful role model for your children and for everyone.

Please thank your English teacher for me for intro-

ducing you to my work. I feel honored."

I am very pleased with his reply email and I am planning to read his more books "*Reaching Out*" and "*Taking Hold*" about his life experience and success.





Sesquicentennial Squawk!

Continued from page 1

these venerable creatures often live for 150 years or more, and thus can be dubbed legitimate “sesquicentenarians,” the celebration for The Parrot is not years but issues. Yes, dear readers, strut your stuff, fan your feathers, and give a special squawk and believe it or not—this is Issue 150!

To help with this “Parrotfest,” we had hoped to invite Charlie, who used to own Winston Churchill, to celebrate, but at a mere unofficial 114 years of age, she modestly declined the honor noting that she wasn’t yet old enough to preside on such an auspicious literary occasion. Though she did hint that she would be more than happy to grant The Parrot an interview when she celebrates her own sesquicentennial in 2056 but only if Professor Paul Bracco comes out of retirement to do the interview himself. (Note, the agent for Poncho—officially the oldest living parrot according to the Guinness Book of World Records—mentioned that Poncho



Mr. Bracco inspired by The Parrot

would be happy to appear on his sesquicentennial, but we’ll have to wait until 2078 since Poncho is still only 92. As cool as it would be to have the two oldest living parrots in the world together to celebrate our Parrot’s 150th issue, Poncho refused to share the stage claiming that Charlie is a charlatan who actually doesn’t have any records to verify her age even if she did share a perch with Winston Churchill and

learned to repeat all of those nasty things that he said about Nazis).



The worlds oldest parrot Poncho

Like us, you probably can’t spell “sesquicentennial” without peeking, and maybe you’re not even sure how to say it, and perhaps you think that this is all totally made up. In truth, some of it is made up, but not nearly as much as you probably think. More than half of it isn’t—feel free to fact check with the websites below—but we hope that you enjoy this “sesquicentsquawkial” issue of The Parrot, and thank you for the joining us on this flight of fancy.



Charlie in 2008

Thank you,
The Parrot Staff

<https://www.oldest.org/animals/parrots/https://listverse.com/2013/03/23/10-animals-with-incredibly-long-lives/>



ELLIS Club

Passport to Success

Various members of ELLIS help ESL students in many ways. Do you have some of the same questions that other ESL students often ask? Sayed Sadat, president of ELLIS had these tips to share.

The three most common questions that I helped students within November are:

A. Some students asked for ARC financial aid's phone number and email address. The financial aid phone number is, 916-484-8437 and their email address is, financialaid@arc.losrios.edu; and for more info, please refer to the below link,

<https://arc.losrios.edu/student-resources/financial-aid>

B. Some newcomers asked how to make an appointment for the ESL remote assessment. To make an appointment, please visit the below link and enter your Student ID and birthday.

<https://sarsgrid.arc.losrios.edu/esars/Assessment/eSARS.asp?WCI=Init&WCE=Settings>

C. And some students asked what HomeBase is. "At the heart of American River College are relationships. HomeBases are spaces, which live virtually in Canvas, where you can develop and strengthen relationships within the entire campus community.

Every continuing student has a HomeBase based on your major with a Success Team, consisting of a HomeBase Coach, Counselors, and Peer Mentors. Their goal is to meet students' needs by engaging and connecting them to the people, programs, and services needed to help students stay on their path toward success. HomeBase gives the ability

to students to remotely connect with your Coach, Peer Mentors, or a Counselor. Your HomeBase is also a place for you to build community; this is a welcoming space for you and about you. Your Success Team is here to help. To access your HomeBase, please go into your Canvas dashboard and click on the HomeBase



icon to start using this resource."





American Slang--Are You Down for Some?

Slang words are an essential part of conversing in English. American slang is full of eccentric sayings and colloquialisms, which are useful in a wide variety of casual situations. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned English speaker, you'll want to brush up on your command of American slang words.

"Slang" refers to informal vocabulary words that aren't typically found in a dictionary. Many of these slang words have multiple meanings, so you'll have to pay close attention to the context of a conversation in order to use them correctly. This makes it a good idea to practice your English slang words with friends before using them with strangers.

Using American Slang Words & Phrases

As you work your way through this list, keep in mind that American slang can vary depending on the region you're in. For example, certain slang words are more commonly used in rural areas versus in the inner city. You may find a different set of slang words on the West Coast of the US versus the East Coast or in the Midwest versus the Deep South. Not sure which ones to use in your area? Just spend a bit of time with the locals and hear what kind of slang they use.

Keep in mind that slang words are meant for casual conversations, so you won't want to use these in a formal context. You will hear plenty of American slang in popular TV and movies, so chances are you'll already be familiar with many of these words. Also, if you think these English slang words will work "across the pond" in England – think again! While there may be a few crossover phrases, by and large, the countries have their own unique sets of English slang.

Conversational English Slang Words

1. What's up? – Hey, what are you doing?
E.g. "Hey Tom! What's up?"
"Not much!"
2. I feel you – I understand and empathize with you.
E.g. "I feel you. That was really unfair."
3. I get it – I understand.
E.g. "I get it now! Thank you for explaining that."

4. Same here – I agree.
E.g. "I'm having a hard time studying for this exam."
"Same here."
5. My bad – My mistake.
E.g. "My bad! I didn't mean to do that."
6. Oh my God! – Used to describe excitement or surprise.
E.g. "Oh my God! You scared me!"
7. You bet – you're welcome.
E.g. "Thanks for the jacket, Tom!"
"You bet, Sally!"
8. No worries – Response to "You're welcome." or "I'm sorry."
E.g. "Thank you for helping me with my homework."
"No worries."
No biggie – (Same usage as above).
No big deal – (Same usage as above).
No sweat – (Same usage as above).
No problem – (Same usage as above).

American English Slang Descriptors

1. Laid back – Description of relaxed or calm personality.
E.g. "That professor is very laid back."
2. Chill – Telling someone to calm down.
E.g. "You need to chill before you get a heart attack."
3. Sweet – Fantastic.
E.g. "I passed the test!"
"Sweet!"
Cool – (Same usage as above).
4. Lame – The opposite of cool or fantastic.
E.g. "That's so lame that you can't go out tonight."
5. Bomb:
 - a. Bombed – Failed at a task.
E.g. "I just bombed my test."
 - b. The bomb – Really good.
E.g. "That sandwich was the bomb."
6. Bummer – A disappointment.
E.g. "That's such a bummer. I'm sorry that happened."
7. Shady – Questionable or suspicious.



E.g. "I saw a shady guy in my neighborhood last night."

8. Hot – Attractive.

E.g. "He/she/it is hot."

9. Beat – Tired.

E.g. "I was so beat after that soccer game."

10. Sick – Awesome.

E.g. "Those shoes are sick!"

11. Epic – Grand or awesome.

E.g. "That was an epic party last night."

12. Ripped – Very physically fit.

E.g. "Tom is ripped!"

13. Cheesy – Silly.

E.g. "The romantic comedy we watched was very cheesy."

14. Corny – (Same usage as above).

15. Flakey – Description of a person who breaks his promise or commitment.

E.g. "John is so flakey.

He never shows up when he says he will."

16. Sucked – It was bad/poor quality.

E.g. "That movie sucked."

English Slang for People & Relationships

1. Babe:

a. Babe – Describe an attractive person.

E.g. "She is such a babe"

b. Babe – Expression to refer each other by couples or close friends.

E.g. "Hey babe, what would you like for dinner?"

2. Have a crush – Attracted to someone romantically.

E.g. "I have a big crush on him."

3. Dump – To end a romantic relationship with someone.

E.g. "She dumped him last May."

4. Ex – An old relationship or spouse.

E.g. "That's my ex-girlfriend."

5. A turn off – Items/actions/traits that repel sexual attraction.

E.g. "His body odor is such a turn off"

6. Party animal – One who loves parties.

E.g. "Jerry is a party animal."

7. Couch potato – A lazy person.

E.g. "Don't be a couch potato! Let's go for a hike."

8. Whiz – A really smart person.

E.g. "Sally is a whiz at math."

9. Chicken – Coward.

E.g. "Don't be a chicken! Go ice skating with me."

10. Chick – An attractive young girl/woman.

E.g. "That chick is hilarious."

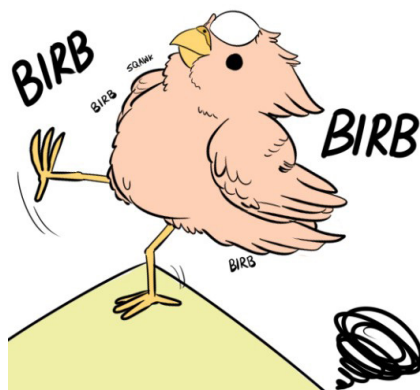
11. Getting hitched – Getting married.

E.g. "Tom and Sally are getting hitched."

12. Tying the knot – (Same usage as above).

13. Get fired – Lose one's job.

E.g. "Did Jerry get fired?"



American Slang for Social Events

1. Hang out – To spend time with others.

E.g. "Want to hang out with us?"

2. I'm down – I'm able to join.

E.g. "I'm down for ping pong."

I'm game – (Same usage as above).

I'm in – (Same usage as above).

3. A blast – A very fun event/person.

E.g. "Last night was a blast!"

4. Show up – Arrive at an event.

E.g. "He didn't show up until 11 pm."

5. Flick – A movie.

E.g. "Want to see a flick on Friday?"

6. Grub – Food.

E.g. "Want to get some grub tonight?"

7. Wasted – Intoxicated.

E.g. "She was wasted last night."

Drunk – (Same usage as above).

8. Booze – Alcohol.

E.g. "Will they have booze at the party?"

You can't master conversational English with only a textbook! Listening to native speakers and picking up on social cues is key to getting these slang words and phrases to sound natural. You can also listen to how these words are used in American music, movies, and television to get a better understanding. Don't forget to imitate what you hear!



Bill Gates Predicts 2021

4 Things Bill Gates Says You Should Expect in 2021 and Beyond



The pandemic will get worse before it gets better, and will continue to be a threat at least through 2021. The toughest climate challenge won't be the cars we drive, but the buildings we build. And even though things seem dire right now, in the big picture, life will continue getting better.

Those are just some of the predictions Bill Gates made during an hourlong fireside chat at the virtual GeekWire Summit conference last week. Gates answered questions from GeekWire editor-in-chief Todd Bishop on topics ranging from his late father to antitrust action against big tech. (Today's leaders aren't making the mistake of neglecting their relationships with government officials, he said, because, "Everybody saw what I did and knows better now.")

Here's some of what Gates predicted:

1. The pandemic will get worse before it gets better.

"Between now and the end of the year, things are going to get worse," Gates said, when asked for a timeline to beat Covid-19. "The model even a few months ago showed that with more people indoors and colder weather, both Europe and the U.S. rebound. And, unfortunately, that proved to be correct. So we can expect an increasing number of cases and deaths over the fall."

After that, he said, things will improve: "The good news is that better therapeutics -- primarily monoclonal antibodies -- will start to become

available by the end of the year or early next year." Monoclonal antibodies are made by cloning white blood cells and can be targeted at particular antigens. President Donald Trump received this treatment as part of the cocktail used to defeat his Covid-19 infection. Eli Lilly recently paused its monoclonal antibody trial, but Gates is hoping it will restart soon.

Vaccines are also on their way, he said: "The likelihood is by early next year, two or three of the first six that are in phase three trials right now are likely to get approved. And that starts you on a path toward cutting transmission."

Gates said he hopes that, with vaccines available, schools will be able to move toward reopening. "Certainly by next fall, I would hope that we could get education back on track," he said. "So by late 2021, the U.S. could be in much better shape than we are right now."

Still, he cautioned, the pandemic won't be truly finished anywhere until it's defeated everywhere. "We won't be completely back to normal until we get rid of this virus everywhere in the world," he said. Gates noted that some nations, such as New Zealand, Australia, and South Korea, quickly contained the virus only to see new infections arrive with visitors from abroad. "So global elimination, with a lot of cooperation, is something we think should be done," he said.

2. We'll be better prepared to fight the next, pandemic, and some of today's diseases, too.

One good thing to emerge from the current pandemic is that governments around the world, and the U.S. in particular, are doing a much better job of providing funds for pandemic response, Gates said. Perhaps even more important, the race to stop Covid-19 has accelerated development of RNA vaccines. Traditional vaccines work by infecting the recipient with inert or "dead" pathogens in order to jump-start an immune response. RNA vaccines aren't entire pathogens but merely their "messenger" RNA, which produces a similar response from the immune system. Because they



don't require the entire pathogen, RNA vaccines are safer to administer, easier to produce, and potentially more versatile.

"That's a very promising approach, both to shorten the time to create a new vaccine, and to be able to have a generalized factory that could be standing by no matter what disease you're going after," Gates said. "We want to use that platform to try and do an HIV vaccine, malaria vaccine, and TB vaccine."

3. The toughest climate change challenge won't be cars. It'll be buildings.

Most people think of fighting climate change in terms of greener energy, such as solar or wind power, and such solutions as driving electric cars. Gates said he supports those initiatives, but that we're facing a tougher problem when it comes to manufacturing cement and steel. "We don't have a way of making cement that doesn't involve substantial emissions," he said.

That means that, while changes in human behavior to reduce carbon emissions can make a difference, "tech is the only solution," he said. "Without innovation, there's no way. Fortunately, innovation -- although it's hard to predict -- across about 10 different areas, if we have those innovations, we can do very well." Gates is already backing Heliogen, a startup exploring ways to use solar power for high-temperature applications such as steel and cement manufacture.

4. If you look at the big picture, things are getting better.

Gates is famously optimistic, and that quality came through when Bishop asked him, "Bill, what gives you hope?"

"Overall, the basic framework is that life is getting better," Gates said. "Slowly but surely, we're recognizing how we treat minorities, how we treat women. Slowly but surely, we're reducing cancer deaths, beginning to understand things like diabetes and Alzheimer's." There are setbacks, he acknowledged, and the pandemic is a huge example of that. But, he said, "a hundred years ago, the death rate of children was about 30 percent before the age of 5. There's nowhere in the world that's that bad now." While child mortality is still

too high in some places, he added, "Progress will continue to take place. And so, you know, I'm upbeat."



BY MINDA ZETLIN, CO-AUTHOR, THE GEEK GAP
<https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/bill-gates-offers-4-predictions-for-2021-beyond.html>



A Brief Love Letter

*My darling, I have much to say
 Where o precious one shall I begin?
 All that is in you is princely
 O you who makes of my words through
 their meaning
 Cocoons of silk
 These are my songs and this is me
 This short book contains us
 Tomorrow when I return its pages
 A lamp will lament
 A bed will sing
 Its letters from longing will turn green
 Its commas be on the verge of flight
 Do not say: why did this youth
 Speak of me to the winding road and the
 stream
 The almond tree and the tulip
 So that the world escorts me wherever I
 go?
 Why did he sing these songs?
 Now there is no star
 That is not perfumed with my fragrance
 Tomorrow people will see me in his verse
 A mouth the taste of wine, close-cropped
 hair
 Ignore what people say
 You will be great only through my great
 love
 What would the world have been if we
 had not been
 If your eyes had not been, what would the
 world have been?*

By Nizar Qabbani
Translated from Arabic

Rigoberto's Riddles

What is the Panda's wish?



A: The panda wants to take a color picture.

Birds of a Feather

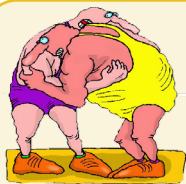
A man received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. The man tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary. Finally, the man was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. The man shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. The man, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, the man quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto the man's outstretched arm and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior." The man was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird spoke-up, very softly, and asked, "May I ask what the turkey did?"



I intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior." The man was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird spoke-up, very softly, and asked, "May I ask what the turkey did?"



Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Indefinite Pronouns

Definition: If your plans for this weekend are indefinite, or not definite, then you are not sure. An indefinite pronoun is one that doesn't refer to a specific person or thing.

Singular: another, each, either, much, neither, one, other, anybody, anyone, anything, everybody, everyone, everything, nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone, something.

Plural: both, few, many, others, several.

Singular or Plural: all, any, more, most, none, some.

Example: Of these two sandwiches, **neither** looks like something I would eat.

Can **no one** tell me the answer to this math problem?

Many indefinite pronouns can also be used as adjectives.

Pronoun: **Either** will be acceptable to my aunt.

Either stands alone as a pronoun.

Adjective: **Either** set of dishes will be acceptable to my aunt.

Either modifies the noun set.

Pronoun: There are 35 students in this class and **several** arrived late today.

Several stands alone as a pronoun.

Adjective: Several students arrived late today.

Several modifies the noun students.

Idiom--Attic

To turn over a new leaf

Meaning: To change one's behavior, usually in a positive way.

Ex: Jason has really **turned over a new leaf**—he hasn't been in the slightest bit of trouble in months.

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/turn+over+a+new+leaf>



L Sound

Light L & Dark L

The voiced **L sound** (IPA symbol: / l /) can be found in American English words such as pull, like, circle, light, help, clean, English, language, and milk.

There are actually two L sounds in English: light L sound and velar (dark) L sound.

Light L sound

If the **L sound** comes BEFORE the vowel or diphthong in a syllable, it will be a **light L sound**.

When you make the **light L sound**, the tip of your tongue will rise up and press against the back of your top teeth. The **light L sound** is a voiced sound, so your vocal cords will make the sound.

Example: like, lips, laugh, etc.

Dark L sound

If the **L sound** comes AFTER the vowel or diphthong in a syllable, it will be a velar or **dark L sound**.

The **dark L sound** is really two sounds: a vowel sound + the **L sound**. After making the vowel sound, the tip of your tongue will rise up and press against the back of your top teeth in the same way as the **light L sound**. The **dark L sound** is a voiced sound, so your vocal cords will make the sound. The **dark L sound** is often found in the middle or at the end of a word.

Example: circle, milk, pull, etc.



Eat the World!

The Parrot represents students of many hues and sounds --- no news there. Indeed, birds of a feather flock together, right? They also eat together. The Parrot is proud to present Parrot fodder from around the world in this and subsequent issues. Squawk!

Chicken Tamales

Ingredients (20 tamales)

- 24 dried corn husks
- 1 broiler/fryer chicken (3 to 4 pounds), cut up
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 3 quarts water

DOUGH:

- 1 cup shortening
- 3 cups masa harina

FILLING:

- 6 tablespoons canola oil
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cans (2-1/4 ounces each) sliced ripe olives, drained
- Hot water



Directions:

1. Cover corn husks with cold water; soak until softened, at least 2 hours.
2. Place chicken, onion, salt and garlic in a 6-qt. stockpot. Pour in 3 qt. water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until chicken is tender, 45-60 minutes. Remove chicken from broth. When cool enough to handle, remove bones and skin; discard. Shred chicken. Strain cooking juices; skim fat. Reserve 6 cups stock.
3. For dough, beat shortening until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Beat in small amounts of masa harina alternately with small amounts of reserved stock, using no more than 2 cups stock. Drop a small amount of dough into a cup of cold water; dough should float. If not, continue beating, rechecking every 1-2 minutes.
4. For filling, heat oil in a Dutch oven; stir in flour until blended. Cook and stir over medium heat until lightly browned, 7-9 minutes. Stir in seasonings, chicken and remaining stock; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 45 minutes.
5. Drain corn husks and pat dry; tear 4 husks to make 20 strips for tying tamales. (To prevent husks from drying out, cover with a damp towel until ready to use.) On wide end of each remaining husk, spread 3 tablespoons dough to within 1/2 in. of side edges; top each with 2 tablespoons chicken filling and 2 teaspoons olives. Fold long sides of husk over filling, overlapping slightly. Fold over narrow end of husk; tie with a strip of husk to secure.
6. Place a large steamer basket in the stockpot over water; place tamales upright in steamer. Bring to a boil; steam, covered, adding hot water as needed, until dough peels away from husk, about 45 minutes.





Interview with Professor Sanchez

Continued from page 1

tion. I decided that I would go to ARC first before I transferred to university. It was there that I appreciated or started to appreciate teaching. I didn't know yet what I wanted to do with math, but I just knew that I wanted to be a math major. After tutoring people in my class, helping friends out and eventually getting a job as an instructional assistant at the Natomas Center, I realized that this was something I wanted to pursue and was what I was passionate about, so I went back to school. I got my master's in math from Sacramento State University. All that time I was also either an instructional assistant at the Natomas center, or for Sacramento City College, or teaching graduate classes. As a graduate student, I was able to teach classes like intermediate algebra. That gave me the first experience of actually being an instructor. Then I got hired in 2019 by ARC to be a full time professor and I've been here ever since. It's been a really exciting, and thrilling experience for me. I can see myself having a very long and fruitful career here.

The Parrot: Why do you find math enjoyable?

Professor Sanchez: I didn't at first. When I was younger, my experience of math was my mom. My mom was a stay-at-home mom. After school, she would have me do the multiplication tables, and she would continuously drill me in doing that. Coming from Mexico, the culture there is very much like you need to do well in school, and pass your examinations in order to get into a good university, and get ahead in life. That was the mentality that they raised me with. For my childhood, math was like a tool. It was something that you learn. You needed to advance yourself, your education, and career later on. It wasn't until in high school that I got asked by a friend to fill in for somebody at the international high school math modeling competition. I don't know if it's a thing anymore, but UC Davis had a team. They recruited some high school students for this competition. Basically what it was is they locked you in the math department at UC Davis for a weekend. Occasionally they gave you some pizza, and you got to work on the math problem. For ex-

ample, a problem would be you lost a very valuable object in a park at night and you don't know where you lost it. Can you come up with an efficient way to go looking for that object. The team that I joined was all high school students, so the most that we'd seen was maybe calculus. We knew how to calculate a derivative. It was the first time that I saw math as something creative. Here's a rigid problem that you need to solve. Here are all the tools that we've been practicing, and we can combine them in weird ways that nobody expected. That was very beautiful to me. That made it come alive for me. Ever since then, my passion for math has only grown. The more I learn, the more I realize what I don't know. I think this is true about a lot of different subjects.

The Parrot: You said you're Mexican-American. Can you speak Spanish?

Professor Sanchez: I do speak Spanish. My Spanish is not as good as it used to be. My parents spoke Spanish with me growing up in our household. I had friends that spoke Spanish in elementary school, middle school and high school. Also, I took French in high school because I wanted a challenge. Ever since then, the only opportunities I really have to speak Spanish are with my parents, so that's made it difficult to keep that true bilingual part of me. Now that I have a daughter, it's much more interesting. We want to raise her to be bilingual, too, but we're just so used to speaking English in the home. That's why I really appreciate that my parents—her grandparents—are so close by. They speak only Spanish to her, so she's getting both of that and the dual immersion.

The Parrot: Do you have any difficulties regarding online teaching?

Professor Sanchez: Yes, I think it's a challenge for everybody and the challenge for me in particular is the interpersonal connection. Talking with students, I think it's very much a job in which I can learn from my students as much as they learn from me. That sort of dynamic, that relationship is really hard to recreate in an online environment only. I try my best by having the discussion boards, trying to come up with interesting examples and questions, and getting really involved in the discussion boards. As a student, you may think, "It's OK, I have



to participate in the discussion boards.” Not that interesting. But if you see the instructor is replying to what you’re saying and is actually reading, I think that may be more motivating to actually participate in those discussions. That’s what I’m seeing in my classes. They’ve been, for the most part, successful in trying to recreate that semblance of a learning community. Aside from that, I think a lot of people in a lot of different areas—instructors, students, administrators—see that online cheating as a very big issue. I can see how that is a problem, but no more so than it is in a regular setting I think. The most important thing here right now is to just be mindful of our context. We’re only online because of this pandemic. If we’re online because of the pandemic, everybody has a lot of different and new stresses in their lives. Then the best we can do is to be empathetic, and to try to treat each other the way we want to be treated. I try to express that as much as possible with my students. I will extend them the grace and patience that I wish they would extend to me. If I’m a little late with posting things on canvas and they’re a little late with submitting assignments, that’s not a big deal.

The Parrot: Did you have any fun situations with students?

Professor Sanchez: Well, it was almost a year ago, near the end of the semester. I like to do reviews using Kahoot! I would do questions that are similar to the ones they might see on that exam, and I got them into groups. For the most part, I let them choose their groups. That was really fun because they got to pick their names, all sorts of wacky names, like one group was called The Group. They tried to claim that they were the import one, like they were the only valid one in the room, so all the points needed to go to them. There were other groups. In those groups, there would be one person who would always answer. Their hand would shoot right up as soon as the question went out. I’d ask them, “Did you actually read the question?” Sometimes they would sit there like, “Oh! I guess I should read the question.” Those are the kinds of situations that would occur with the quizzes.

The Parrot: Did you have any students who used to sleep during your class?

Professor Sanchez: I have a feeling you may be asking for somebody specific.

The Parrot: No, I was the type of student who sleeps during class time. I love math a lot. But in biocalculus II, I used to sleep during the class. I didn’t know why.

Professor Sanchez: Well, if it makes you feel better, when I was at UC Santa Barbara, I had an 8:00 a.m. physics class. It was cold and I would have to bike from my apartment all the way to the campus. It wasn’t very far, just a mile. When I’d get there, I’d have to find a seat. Whenever possible, I’d sit in the front because I would think it would motivate me to stay awake. But the professor caught me sleeping on more than one occasion. There was a time when I wanted to answer a question. From the time I had my hands up to the time he picked me to answer the question, I was asleep. The worst thing is it was actually a really interesting class. I didn’t want to fall asleep, but it was just so early in the morning that I couldn’t help it. I don’t try to call out students who fall asleep because I understand. The more semesters, the more years I spend in this career, the more I realize we are all battling a lot of different things. I know students who are working more than one full-time job, or are parents, or maybe are taking care of sick family members, so I totally understand. But it is still a classroom, so I try to make it as interactive as possible.

The Parrot: You are working with many students. Some are very good at math, but some are struggling with math. What advice do you have available for struggling students?

Professor Sanchez: I think there’s a lot of different flavors to that. They have been maybe away from education for a while. I know I’ve had students who come back to school after many years off. They’ve had families or they’ve had jobs. They actually want to finish their degree. For them, it may be a matter of being away for so long that they need a refresher. For those students, I think it’s a matter of knowing where to find the answers. So these are usually highly motivated students. The best thing I can do is to provide them with the resources. I would say it’s great that we live in this day and age because we have so much information at our fingertips. You-



Tube has thousands upon thousands if not millions of videos created by teachers, tutors, and professors. Those are actually pretty good, and really solid quality videos that can help you understand topics. They range from a lot of different topics, so that is a fantastic resource. Second, I suggest that they ask questions. I think probably for historical reasons, students tend to be scared to ask the professor questions like, "Oh, I don't remember this or I just I don't feel secure in my knowledge about this sort of topic." Some-

times there can be pushback. I know that especially in math, we tend to have this reputation of staying on schedule. We need to cover a certain amount of material in a certain amount of time. But part of that work is working individually with each student. My advice is ask questions because if you

don't ask questions, your instructor will never know unless they're really engaged with each student's progress through the class. Otherwise, nobody will know you are struggling if you don't ask for help.

The Parrot: Do you have a favorite number?

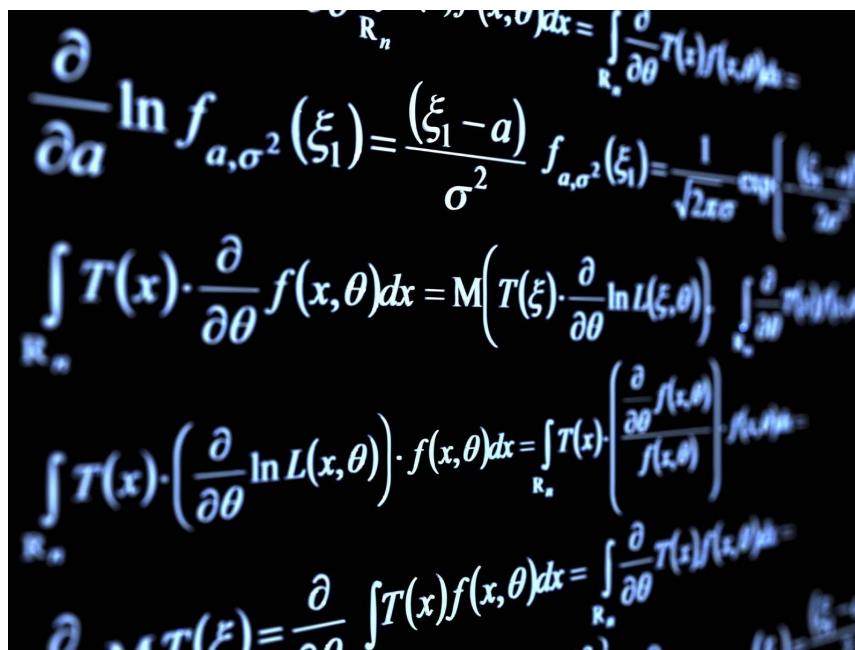
Professor Sanchez: Yeah. Actually 42. And I love 42 because it's two times twenty one and twenty one is my birth date.

The Parrot: What is one of your favorite books?

Professor Sanchez: One of my favorite books? One of my regrets about the way I live right now is that I want to read a lot more than I do. I think one of my favorite books would have to be "Crime and Punishment". I read that book for the first time when I was in high school. I remember I stayed up all night reading it like I just didn't go to sleep because I was so immersed in the novel. Every once in a while I

go back and I read it again. I've always been a fan of Russian literature in particular. I don't know why that is, but I've always found it very interesting. Then a close second might have to be "The Martian Chronicles" by Ray Bradbury. If you're not familiar with *The Martian Chronicles*. It is not a very long read. It reads like an anthology, like a collection of short stories, and they're fictional. Reality where people started colonizing Mars. The stories are really fascinating because they touch on that theme

of colonization. It happened here on this planet where entire continents were inhabited by people who were already living there. Their reality and their civilizations were so shifted and impacted by other people coming. You know, the act of discovery right now, which is just colonization and conquest, is very interesting. I think



my favorite short story in there is about when everybody has left Mars. For some reason, everybody had to leave Mars, but there's just one person who likes doing his own thing, going from town to town and hearing somebody over the radio. He starts having conversations with them. I won't say anything more because I don't want to spoil it.

The Parrot: What is your favorite math class?

Professor Sanchez: Oh, that's hard. I assume you mean one that I've taken. I took a class when I was in my master's program. It's a class called abstract algebra. If I can briefly give you an explainer, think of algebra. There are patterns to be discovered there that are way, way deeper than we ever talk about in an algebra class. When you delve into those topics, that's when you get with the topic. What I really enjoyed about that class is I took it



with a professor who taught in a way where it was kind of like a story. It was like she was teaching a novel, not like she was teaching a math subject. What made that so interesting is that I really understood where the new ideas and objects were coming from. Because she was motivating that, it was like this natural progression of playing with these math ideas. What happens if we change one of these things? What happens if we try to generalize it or make it more abstract? That kind of conversation was like a story. That way of teaching really stuck with me because something was less about the tools, like the individual, like definitions and theorems. It was more about the natural progression of how we learn math. Now math has developed over history, and that's something that has stayed with me for a while.

The Parrot: Can you tell us a math joke?

Professor Sanchez: A mathematician walks into a bar, he goes up to the bartender and he says, "Can I please have one glass of water?" The bartender pours the glass water, and gives it to him. Then another mathematician walks in. He goes up to the bartender, and he goes, "Can I please have half a cup of water?" The bartender kind of looks at him funny, but pours half a cup of water. The third mathematician comes in. She throws her book down on the counter and asks the bartender, "Can you please pour me a quarter cup of water?" At this point, the bartender realizes something is off. He's like, "OK, is there a mathematician conference going on? Why are you asking me for these really weird measurements?" Then he pours a quarter cup of water. The fourth math mathematician comes in, and the bartender goes, "Let me guess. You want an eighth of a cup of water?" The mathematician goes, "Yeah, how did you know?" The bartender is like "Just a hunch." Then more and more mathematicians pour in, eventually the poor bartender throws up his towel, and he's like, "That's it. Give all the water back. I'm just pouring two cups of water. You can split it up between the infinity of you." Well, the joke there is, you take one and then you add half and then a quarter and then an eighth. Add all those up infinitely many times and then you get two.

The Parrot: Do you usually dream about math?

Professor Sanchez: Not so much anymore. I tend to have more dreams about my family. I do get weird dreams. One time I dreamt that I had to take a math test, but it was all gibberish. I wasn't sure if it was really gibberish, or if it was just like some math I had never encountered. It was very stressful.

The Parrot: Do you have a favorite math movie?

Professor Sanchez: There's only a few that I can think of. I remember growing up with the one with Russell Crowe, *A Beautiful Mind*, about the mathematician John Nash. That one was really impactful for me. I also, for the first time, watched *Good Will Hunting* a few years ago, and that one's really good. I didn't expect that. Yeah, actually, I was really close with our high school librarian when I was in high school. I would help her over the summer with putting the books back and cleaning the library. I'm still friends with her. She was the one who said, "You really should watch this movie. In fact, I have a copy." So she lent me her copy of *Good Will Hunting*. That's a really good movie.

The Parrot: Thank you for your time.



Interviewer: Dai Nguyen



Parrot Student Voices

Here, our students tell a story from their past. Their stories may be about happy days, or sad events... but the stories are always told in their own words.

The Most Dangerous Day of My Life



"It was a car accident. It was on Friday, October 30, 2015. Me and my sister we were working together for Apple, and on that day we were coming back from my work and I was driving ..."

Moni Garanee



Click on *Moni's* photo to find out what happened next.

"That happened almost two years ago but the feeling is still in my mind when I talk about it. It was on the night of 2016 a week after my son was born around 8:00 p.m. right after finishing dinner....."

Thuy Nguyen



Click on *Thuy's* photo to find out what happened next.



"After the occupation of Iraq in 2003, our country lived in chaos. This led to the creation of militias in the killing, looting, and kidnapping people. In 2005 one militia tried to kidnap my second son....."

Basim Al Timimi



Click on *Basim's* photo to find out what happened next.



Interactive Chess Puzzles

Students often contact the Parrot with requests to resume the publication of chess puzzles. We cannot ignore the requests of students and have made chess puzzles more interesting. On this page, you can not only solve problems, but also learn interesting facts from the history of chess, improve your English, and improve your memory.

Easy Puzzle

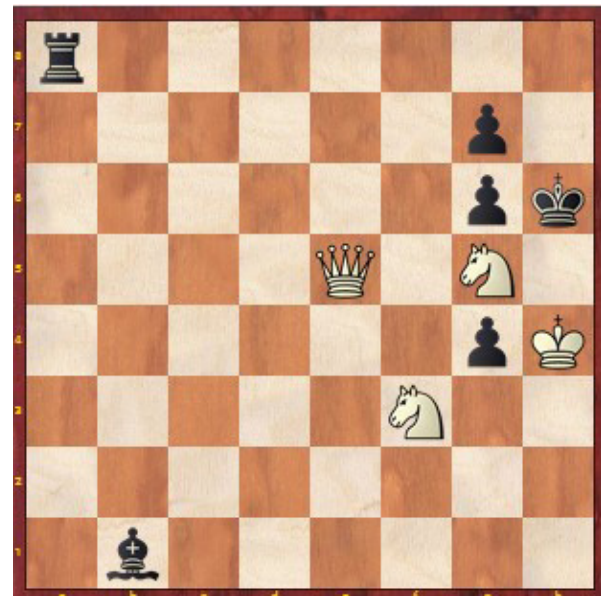
White: Mate in 2



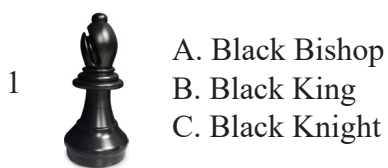
Click and Solve

Medium Puzzle

White: Mate in 6

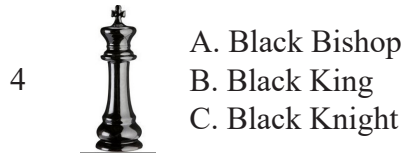


Do You Know Chess Pieces?



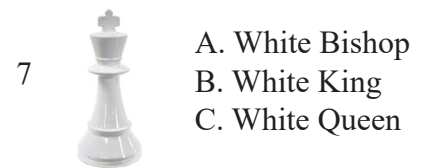
1

- A. Black Bishop
- B. Black King
- C. Black Knight



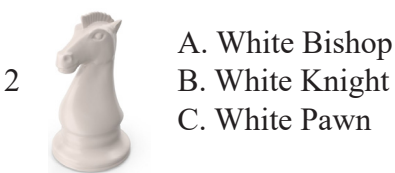
4

- A. Black Bishop
- B. Black King
- C. Black Knight



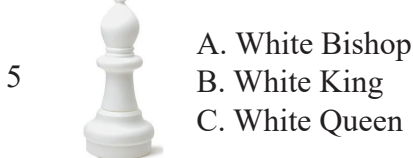
7

- A. White Bishop
- B. White King
- C. White Queen



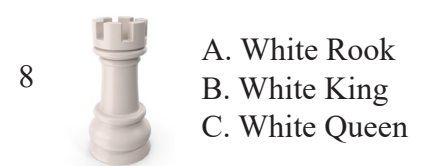
2

- A. White Bishop
- B. White Knight
- C. White Pawn



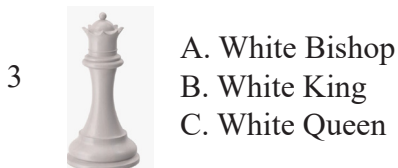
5

- A. White Bishop
- B. White King
- C. White Queen



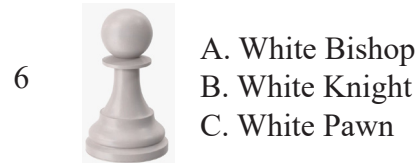
8

- A. White Rook
- B. White King
- C. White Queen



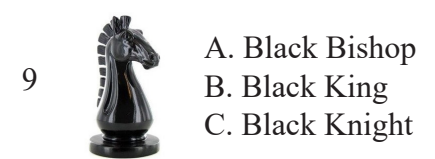
3

- A. White Bishop
- B. White King
- C. White Queen



6

- A. White Bishop
- B. White Knight
- C. White Pawn



9

- A. Black Bishop
- B. Black King
- C. Black Knight



Around the World

HANUKKAH - THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

There is an eight-day “Festival of Lights” for Jewish people celebrated in the same month as Christmas; however, it has a different history and the way people celebrate it. It’s “Hanukkah.”



Hanukkah means “dedication” in Hebrew. The history of Hanukkah began with the victory of a group of Jewish people in 164 B.C.E. Many people dedicated themselves in the fight to gain victory for the Temple as much as to gain the right to practice their religion.



At that time, people didn’t have electricity and all activities also relied on lamps. When celebrating the rededication, people only had enough oil to light the menorah in the temple one night; however, with a miracle, people had enough oil for

eight nights. That was the origin of Hanukkah with an eight night celebration.

Nowadays, Hanukkah falls on different dates from late November to late December every year because it follows the lunar calendar. People often light the Hanukkiah (also called the Hanukkah menorah), which has eight candles with with a ninth “servant candle” used to light the other, after sunset. It’s also lit in different ways from right to the left or left to the right. In this festival, Jewish people often celebrate it in the Temple or in their house with family with singing, eating fried foods, exchanging gifts, and lighting the eight candles.



The fried food in this festival is the memorial of the miracle of the oil that was enough to light for the festival in the past. The gift in Hanukkah is often money; however, items are popular as well. With a beautiful celebrated song, fried food, and shining candles are the way Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah to remember the time they won their right for religious freedom.

by Tuyet Le

Obtained information from:

<https://www.rd.com/article/hanukkah-facts/>



Remembering Susan Pezone

IN MEMORIAM SUSAN PEZONE

Professor Susan Pezone, a beloved professor of ESL, passed away in October after her brave battle against cancer. Professor Pezone was born in Queens, New York, the youngest of five children. Soon after she was born her parents moved her and her four brothers to Baldwin, New York, a suburb on Long Island. The move was for a bigger house, and a better life. Susan was an avid reader who discovered her love of foreign languages in her high school German class. In college she studied abroad at the famous Sorbonne in Paris, and for a year at the University of Würzburg in Germany. In 1980 she married the love of her life, John, and they moved to San Francisco. Susan worked as an editor for *San Francisco Magazine* and book publishers while in San Francisco. In 1987 their first daughter, Alexandra, was born, and in 1990 they moved to Sacramento so that John could pursue his legal career. In 1990 their second daughter, Clarissa, was born. Sue studied for and received a Masters in teaching English as a second language, and began her career as a professor. Susan spent more than 20 years teaching, with the last 12 as a full-time professor at ARC. Susan loved teaching. She loved helping her students learn English, and she loved what

they taught her about their cultures, their lives, their families, and dreams.

Susan loved to travel and explore. She travelled to Hawaii, France, Germany, Italy, and England. In 2006 she and her brother, Michael, travelled to Germany for the World Cup, where she connected again with her dear friend, Birgit, from her time at the University of Würzburg. One of the best things about her job at ARC was that it brought the wide world to her in every class.



Susan was a gifted writer who pursued her dreams of writing fiction even as she battled her cancer. She was a proud member of the River Rock Writers group, and was thrilled when she and the other writers published *A Collection of River Rock Writing* on Amazon. Susan's work in the anthology shows her beautiful style, her love of nature,

and her deep understanding of life.

Susan fought her cancer fiercely. Her love of her husband and daughters gave her the strength to fight. She never gave up hope. She was taken too soon, but leaves a legacy of love and courage and kindness.



SEESAW

Drifting on a raft down a lazy river. The sun is beaming down, but it's breezy and the cold water laps happily at the edge of the raft. I am floating on my mind's river. There are no mosquitoes, no sweating. There are ducks paddling peacefully in my mind's eye as I consciously relax my twisted neck muscles, shift to my side, raise my legs and cross my arms in a kind of fetal hug. The neighbor's dog barks once, twice, severing my thin hold on the possibility of sleep. The river thoughts vanish.

Other thoughts, rippling and monstrous, crowd into the space—a groundswell of worry, the slippery details of living. Living. Dying. Living. Dying. The seesaw I can't get off of. Which will it be? Plan a life, or plan a death?

Out of nowhere, a deep thrum of a voice occupies my skull, as loud and sonorous as a symphony: "Take a seat at the table of the living," the voice commands, taking my breath. No further explanation follows. I wait hopefully in the silent night, heart infinitely expanding, pounding. A vision of a long table floats before me. Drink the deep red wine, eat the soft, crusty bread, the cheese, the salty olives from

Tuscan farms. The shadowy figures creeping around the edges are not there for me. It is past midnight, but the chime on the clock is swaddled in cotton. To the right, Grandma unfolds a proud smile, throws a bony arm over my shoulder, tells me she's going to make an apple pie just for me. Her face shines. To the left, Mom is clasping my hand with both of hers, holding it in her lap. She is wearing a fragrant lei of purple orchids over a flowered mumu. Across the table, Dad beams at me, his only daughter, unself-consciously baring a gap next to his left upper canine. His plate is heaped with food and he has made me a cheese cracker with an olive on it, sunk into the soft pool of cheese as into a feather blanket. He holds it out. Nothing would please him more than to give me, his daughter, this bit of food. There is laughter and singing and inner quiet. There are four caring brothers, precious daughters, a loving husband, and close friends. This seat is my seat. It is only for me and me alone. Were I not to sit in it, it would remain empty. This is mine. I take my seat at the table of the living.

Susan Pezone

EDITOR'S NOTE

Professor Susan Pezone taught English as a Second Language at American River College from 1996-2020. She was also a member of the River Rock Writers, who published their work in *A Collection of River Rock Writing*. This volume represents the eight voices of this group of Sacramento-region writers who Susan gathered with weekly to write. The anthology is inspired principally by the Amherst Writers & Artists (AWA) method. These poems, stories, essays, and memories "needed to be written." The River Rock Writers find freedom in expression as they follow the AWA method's Five Essential Affirmations, as clarified by Pat Schneider:

1. Everyone has a strong, unique voice.
2. Everyone is born with creative genius.
3. Writing as an art form belongs to all people, re-

gardless of economic class or educational level.

4. The teaching of craft can be done without damage to a writer's original vice or artistic self-esteem.

5. A writer is someone who writes.

Susan passed away on Oct. 11, 2020. "Seesaw" was read at a celebration of Susan's life on October 24, 2020.

In the preface to Susan's section of *A Collection of River Rock Writing*, she wrote:

I love words, though they sometimes get the better of me. Being a writer has always been my dream. For me, writing is kind of like studying a language. I know I'll never master it, but it doesn't matter because it is so much fun along the way.

May Susan's writing inspire your writing!



Mount Langley 14026 ft / 4275 m

In the old days of The Parrot, there was Trail Mick. Mick has now given way to Alpine Alex.

Hello ARC family! The mountains have definitely been calling. Today I decided to answer the call from Mount Langley. The pandemic has made a difference in our lives. My life is no exception. My expedition to the Alps was canceled, but I did not despair and climbed another "fourteener" mountain in California. I completed this ascent at the beginning

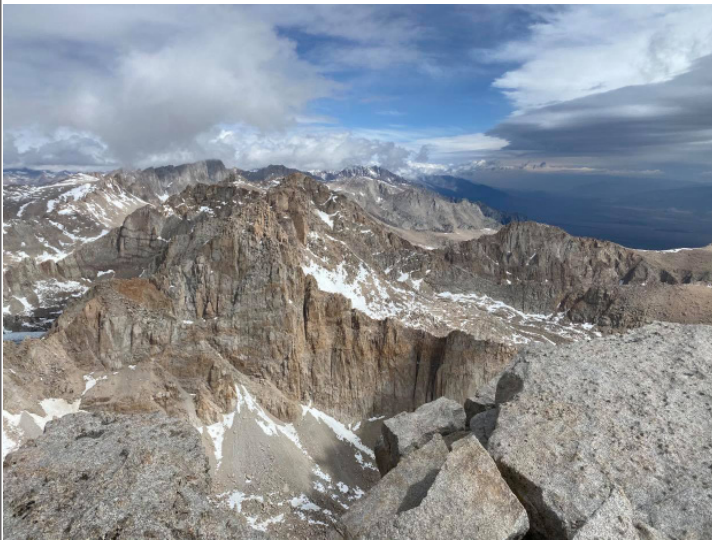


of June and thanks to the Parrot I was not alone. Mount Langley is the southernmost fourteener and the most desert-like of the Sierra Nevada fourteeners. Both The North and The South face provide excellent technical rock climbing, while Old Army Pass and the south slopes provide an easy walk-up. I took US-395 to Lone Pine, CA, and headed west on Whitney Portal Road. After a couple of miles, I

turned left at a sign to Horseshoe Meadows Road and followed it to the Cottonwood Lakes/Army Pass trailhead. The campground was closed because of the quarantine, so I parked my car along the road. Heading up to Long Lake to camp took me about 4 hours. Pretty lake, several camp spots, and a TON of mosquitos mostly in the hours before dusk. The next morning, I started the hike over the New Army Pass towards Langley summit. The New Army Pass only had a couple of easy patches of snow left. Other hikers that went up Old Army said most of the snow had melted and some parts of climbing were so hard. Then we hiked two hours along the



plateau with a lot of descending and ascending. After that, we came to the foot of Mount Langley. We had a hard time finding the actual trail here and made the mistake of scrambling up a loose, sandy boulder field. Scrambling over rocks was sketchy but reaching the top was worth it! Anyhow, we still made the summit, yay! Langley provides a great view of the southern Sierra in all directions from the summit, including the Mount Whitney group, the Great Western Divide, Olancho Peak, and Owen's Valley. But keep in mind going back on the trail back over New Army Pass you have to gain elevation again. An overnight permit is required, but you can get it for free at a ranger station. See you on the trail. Have fun and be safe!





Out of the Cage



2021



QUAWK!!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Student Editors: **Alex Grynishyn, Alaa Shatat, Tuyet Le, and Dai Nguyen**

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Contact us by e-mail, call, or drop by. Professor Travis: Davies 370, (916) 484-4524, or Travism@arc.losrios.edu; Professor Hoggan: Davies 334, (916) 312-3574, or Hogganp@arc.losrios.edu. To see previous issues of The Parrot, go to <https://arc.losrios.edu/academics/the-parrot-newsletter>

FAFSA and CA Dream Act Application Workshop

January 7, 2021 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
January 12, 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
January 20, 2021 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The SCC Financial Aid Department is offering virtual FAFSA/CADAA workshops to complete the new 2021-2022 application. The workshops will be hosted on Zoom and the link will be sent to registered students' Los Rios Gmail the day before the scheduled workshop. Sign up for a workshop on the Financial Aid website by clicking below or by calling (916) 558-2501.

Link to sign up:

<https://esars.scc.losrios.edu/esars/fa/eSARS.asp?WCI=Init&WCE=Settings>

Make sure to review the important checklist and tips before the workshop:

<https://scc.losrios.edu/student-resources/financial-aid/financial-aid-workshop-checklist-and-tips>

