



The Parrot

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

Issue # 75 Fall 2013

I.A. Marianne Sala Grows on the Job

Parrot: Hi, Marianne Sala, may I ask you a few questions?

Marianne: OK

Parrot: You have been at ARC for a while, right? Tell me how you got here.

Marianne: I started working at American River College about four years ago. I was in the computer lab on a day off trying to work on my homework, my class project, and I was taking a little break from the actual computer lab and I was looking through



the ARC website and I happened to find a job posting for a horticulture instructional assistant.

Parrot: Wow!

Marianne: That's how I found the job.

Parrot: You're lucky! Describe your job, Marianne.

Marianne: I am the instructional assistant for the horticulture department. I have an awesome job, and what I do

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The Real-Life Mr Happy Unable to Feel Sadness after Stroke Hits his Grumpy Side

Meet the real life Mr Happy who is smiling better after recovering from a major stroke which left him unable to feel sadness.

Chirpy Malcolm Myatt is never down in the dumps as a result of the illness hitting the frontal lobe of his brain that controls emotions.



The 68-year-old, from Cannock, Staffordshire, England suffered the stroke in 2004 and spent 19 weeks in hospital.

He was left with little feeling in his left side but Malcolm and wife Kath soon noticed that he was extremely upbeat too.

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Student Chirpings

The Best Thing in my House

I love to sleep, and To Sleep loves me too, but The Morning doesn't let us be together. When I was younger and had a great deal of energy, I could sleep, if I needed it, almost anywhere: in an armchair, on a balcony when it was hot, or in a sleeping bag with mosquitoes and wild bears around. However, I'm getting older at the age of twenty nine, and I have little, hyper children who don't let me relax, neither on an airplane, nor in the bath (we have one bathroom, and they always need it when I'm taking a shower). The only place where I can find a piece of peace is located in my bedroom. My Sweetie-Beddy is my favorite thing in my house.

My beautiful queen-size bed has four legs and a wonderful, comfortable, soft leather-brown headboard. Evaluating the price I paid for it, I'm not sure the leather is real, but I don't want to humiliate my lovely bed for this tiny blemish; I prefer to think about it as my leather-headboard bed. And, by the way, the smell of leather, real or not, can't equal the smell of silence and calm which my bed emits. There is no footboard on it, but I don't need it at all; otherwise, I would have more bruises, because it's not so easy for me to pass a piece of furniture without bumping into it. There is also nothing that blocks the view of the softest-in-the-world turquoise comforter and matching pillows, which make my bed even more beautiful.

There is a great set of mattresses on my bed. The top mattress is not very soft, but I haven't ever had a back pain in the morning. The foam mattress has a nice, beige bedskirt on it that matches the bedding. The blanket and pillows are filled with down and make you feel as comfortable in the hot summer as on a cold, rainy night in winter.



My bed is also a great place to do my homework. It's more comfortable than any armchair or desk. The only drawback is that you can fall asleep before your essay is done! On the other hand, it has never happened while I read. I don't even know how many tens of books my bed has seen, and, because Mr.Gamber advised us to read out loud in English, it has already heard almost four books in English!

In short, my Beddy is the smartest, warmest, and most comfortable object in my house. However, not only do I like it; each morning, at around six, our children come to my husband and me, and our family greets the morning together in bed.

Svetlana Guseva
ESLW50

Dirty City

Can you imagine living in a dirty city, where a lot of dogs are without their owners and garbage is all over the place? I find this to be disgusting and irresponsible. People should clean up after themselves all the time. They should also pay attention where they throw their garbage. In my opinion, if there is no trash can around, take your garbage with you home and throw it in your own garbage can. People must think of the environment. However, my hometown in Moldova can't be a good example. One of the biggest problems in my hometown Cahul is that Cahul is very dirty. From my point of view, there are several solutions to the problem which will make the city of Cahul a cleaner, brighter place for people living there.

The first solution to the garbage problem is to provide people with trash cans in the parks, on the streets and at private homes. If the mayor of Cahul would take care of that, there would be less garbage around the city and people would enjoy being out with their kids more. When I was in Cahul last year in the park, I remember that a lady that was walking next to me threw an ice cream wrapper on the ground because she didn't have a trash can around. I was astonished by her carelessness about the park. Another man drank a can of soda, and left it next to the bench. Dogs can poop in the park and no one cares to pick it up.

The second solution to the problem of dirty streets is for people to rebel against the authority of Cahul. In order to make authority move and do something helpful for the city, people must contribute to that. They need to require more cleaning trucks around the city, and more persons to sweep the streets. In addition, planting as many trees as they can and

building new parks is a good idea. When I was in Romania for a week, people there had a general strike. When I came home to Cahul, I understood that our people in the city are too relaxed. They are missing a dose of cultural and general ambition to change our city into a better, more beautiful place to live. They need less politics and more actual deeds.

The third solution to the problem of trash-filled streets is to consider the homeless dogs in Cahul. They may die in the streets or cars may hit them. The number of homeless dogs is too great. Sometimes they even attack people because they are hungry and angry. The dogs have different illnesses and this may affect people in the future if the government doesn't do anything. People themselves may catch an illness and die from it. A few years ago, our dog was caught and killed. I think the people who shot Greta thought she was a homeless dog. I was very sad because the



truth is people should prevent true homeless dogs from breeding before killing someone's dog. In my opinion, every person must have permission from the government to keep a dog. That way Cahul may be free of homeless dogs and children won't be afraid to walk to school by themselves.

In conclusion, I hope one day Cahul will be a better and cleaner place to live and raise kids, free of garbage, and free of homeless dogs. There needs to be more trash cans around the city for people to throw their garbage in.

*Olesea Diacenco
ESLW50*

Types of Attractions in My City

When people find Cambodia on the map, they might say that Cambodia is smaller than other nations in Asia. It is true, but it has a lot of things to see, and it might surprise people with its beauty. This nation, Cambodia, is divided into twenty-four provinces and cities. Each province has its own identity; my hometown is Preah Vihear Province or city. It is located in the north of the country and shares a border with Thailand and Laos. There are a lot of different things to see there, and people visiting would never forget their experiences from this city. So, what types of attractions are there that make people never forget this northern city of Cambodia? I can classify the attractions in my city, Preah Vihear Province, into three types: touristic attractions, outdoor market attractions, and the diverse peoples.

First, Preah Vihear City is known for tourism and there are many tourist attractions in this city. There are many old temples around this city. Some temples are located close to the city, such as Koh Ker Temple, Bakan or Preah Khan Kampong Svay Temple, and Noreay Temple. It takes two to three hours to get to them. People can get there by either cab or motorbike. Moreover, some century-old temples are located inside the city, such as Kork Beng temple, which tells tourist about the history of Preah Vihear Province. Once, for example, my history class and I went to learn about our provincial history at this temple when I was in high school. Besides all of these temples, the Preah Vihear Temple, which was recently accepted by the World Heritage on July 7, 2008, stands on the top of a high mountain that is the border between Thailand and Cambodia. In addition, there are many waterfalls that are covered by jungle and green views. Two are Tbeang Meanchey Waterfall and Wat Dambokmao Waterfall. Tourists can find nice cottages, food, and other services any time. The security throughout this city is also stable. Besides temples and waterfalls, Preah Vihear has plenty of wild animals, such as dholes, Asian elephants, leopards, cats, and birds. In short, Preah Vi-



hear City has almost everything for tourists all over the world to see and enjoy.

Another type of attraction in my city, Preah Vihear Province, is outdoor markets. Because this province shares a border with Thailand and Laos, the local economy is better than in other provinces throughout the country. The Triangle Border is a spot where these three nations connect to each other. In addition, The Triangle Border is known as a busy getaway in this region because it is open twenty-four-seven. For example, all Preah Vihear residents can take their products to sell in Thailand and Laos, and Thai and Lao people can also bring their products to sell in Cambodia. People can find almost every Asian product there, such as rice, food, and materials that we use every day.

From my experience, Preah Vihear residents can make more money than people in other cities because everybody has a job. Moreover, these residents have a lot of opportunities to make a living easily. For example, the residents in Preah Vihear faced a lot of problems, such as food, security, health care, robbery, and crime before The Triangle Border was

opened. Since 2001, this province has developed more than other provinces in the region. Since 2013, this city has become bigger and bigger because a lot of people want to live there. In brief, the activity of outdoor markets is one of many attractions in Preah Vihear City.

A final type of attraction of Preah Vihear Province is the colorful people. There is a wide diversity of culture and ethnicities. Visitors might have plenty of questions about this province when they get there because the residents there can speak Cambodian, Thai, Laotian and other minority languages. Those minority languages include Vietnamese, Cham, several dialects of Chinese, and the languages of the various Hill Tribes. In addition, this city's residential lifestyles are similar to Thai and Laotian lifestyles. The people wear similar patterns of clothes and consume similar products. More-

over, some people who come from other provinces or cities find it hard to distinguish the Preah Vihear residents from the Thai and Lao unless they speak Cambodian. For example, I invited my college classmates, who came from other cities in Cambodia, to visit my hometown during Khmer New Year four years ago. They wondered why people live differently from people in their provinces. In summary, visitor can find different kinds of people, traditions, and languages throughout Preah Vihear City.

In conclusion, Preah Vihear Province is the city where I lived for more than a decade. It has a variety of things to show and attract the world, showing it is the best city in Cambodia. The attractions of my city can be cat-

egorized into three types: the first type of attraction of this city is touristic attractions. Tourist can enjoy themselves with historical temples, waterfalls, jungles, and wild life. Another type of attraction is outdoor trades. Most products can be seen there because this province shares a border with Thailand and Laos. The last type of attraction of my city is people who are hard to find in other provinces throughout Cambodia because they have a mixed culture among Cambodian, Thai and Laotian. I propose people all over the world visit this province, and I hope that they will find a lot of interesting attractions which are difficult to find in other nations around the world.

Bora Hourt
ESLW50

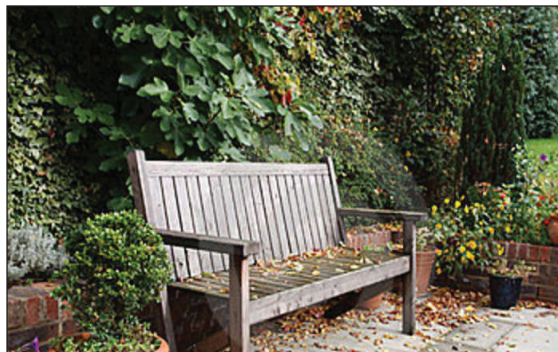
My Magic Place

When I got married and moved to Russia, I felt very lonely. I was far from my home, Ukraine, from everything that was so meaningful and important for me. I missed my family very much and missed an environment so familiar to me. There, in a foreign country, I felt embarrassed. There was only one place where I felt like I was home: a place in my backyard.

In my backyard there was a very small, cozy place. Grapes grew there. The long gray powerful branches reached to the blue sky. There were so many green leaves that the sun, only with difficulty, could come through them. Under the grapes, there was a wooden bench. I liked to go there early mornings and read books. When I was sitting on the bench, I could hear the melodic songs of birds. It seemed as if every leaf of the grapevines became silent and listened to the songs, too. At that moment I forgot that I was far from my home. I closed my eyes and heard the songs of the birds as if in my native country.

I could breathe in the fresh air and juicy sweet smell of berries. Like at my old home's backyard, there were blackberries and red raspberries growing all the way along the fence to the right of the grapes. The sweet-smelling, fruity berries were so delicious! They tasted

the same as the berries at my old home. In front of the bench was a tall, thin plum tree. As I remember, there were always small green plums. I never saw a ripe plum on this tree. It seemed as if the tree was shy to have big black watery plums. I wondered if the tree would become a big one with a bountiful harvest.



On the left side of the bench was a huge elegant apple tree. Heavy branches were rich with apples. When I saw different colors of apples, such as red, orange, and yellow, I remembered the apple tree from my old back yard in my country. The sweet apples tasted the same as the apples from the tree I knew from my childhood.

Some of the apples fell from the tree onto the grass. They lay lonely in the green grass. Only ants busily crawled around the apples.

Whenever I came to this wonderful magic place, I sat down on the dusty bench. My clothes became a little bit wet because of the clean crystal dew drops from the rustling grape leaves. The bright light of the sun slowly filled everything around. When I breathed in the fresh air and sweet smell of fruits, I was filled with excitement and magic. I closed my eyes, and I was back home in my native country.

Maryna Nieshkova
ESLW50

Fast or Slow

"Please, don't read so quickly," said my uncle to me. I still remember that day. My uncle and I were sitting on the sofa in our living room where we had a very big library. The house was silent, and nobody interrupted my uncle as he was teaching me to read.

My uncle had laid his head on the back of the sofa and closed his eyes. I was sitting close to him with a book on my knees. I thought he was sleeping. However, I continued to read my book. I loved my uncle very much and admired him. He was very good to me and took good care of me. I didn't want to disappoint him. I wanted to show him how perfectly I read, so I was reading the book as fast as I could. I thought that good reading was fast reading. I was very surprised when my uncle stopped me.

"You shouldn't read so fast. Nobody will understand what you are reading," said my uncle. I was a little upset. I read very well for my 6 years. Not all adults could read as I did. I asked my uncle, "How should I read?" He explained to me that I had to make a small pause between sentences and add some emotions in my oral reading. After the explanation I started to read again. I tried to do my best and pronounced every word slowly and clearly. When I finished the first sentence, I made a pause. There was a moment

of total silence. My uncle's eyes were still closed. I was sure he was sleeping. I wasn't worried about it. Only one thought was in my head, "Is the pause long enough?"

Suddenly my uncle asked me, "Why did you stop reading?" "I'm keeping the pause as you told me," I answered. He opened his eyes and sat up. I saw a



smile on his face. His eyes were smiling as well. My uncle explained to me again how I should read. He said that I shouldn't make a very big pause. Although he had to tell me several times, he was calm and very patient. I listened to him very carefully. I tried to remember every word. On that day I understood that a good oral reading is a reading that describes or expresses feelings and emotions of a

book to listeners.

For some people reading is not important. But not for me. I'm grateful to my uncle that he not only taught me to read, he taught me to love reading. Reading has been part of my life that I don't want to lose. I hope I can teach my daughter to love reading as my uncle did for me.

Irina Li
ESLW 310

How to Read Fast



- Read books that you know you understand.
- Start reading the book(s) suitable for you.
- Read at least 5 times a week, gradually reading the book(s) faster every day.
- After a month, you would find that you would be reading rather quickly!
- Sometimes you ponder for a while on one word. Use context clues to find out what that word means.
- Then read as much as you can in a day but only by understanding it .
- Do not stop at every word; try to grasp whole sentence at a time .
- Never skim through a book as you will not understand the concept as much. Skimming will also leave you questioned of what happened making you read the book again.
- Take a pause after the full stop so you can understand the meaning better.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Read-Fast>

Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Do You Have A Twitter 'Accent'? (Radio broadcast)

With 500 million users and 500 tweets a day, the social networking site Twitter has changed the way we communicate. It also changes the way we write.

This year alone there were more than 100 Twitter-based studies. One study found that tweets often use words and spellings that are consistent with — and unique to — the user's region, reflecting local accents and terminology.

Jacob Eisenstein, who was one of the researchers, says the team is continuing its research to find out how new words, terms and acronyms move between cities.

It's **HERE AND NOW**.

And we all know that Twitter has changed the way we communicate with 500 million users, over 500 million messages a day. And tweets also have changed the way we write, forcing us to condense thoughts to 140 characters. But is Twitter also changing the way we speak? There have been more than 150 Twitter-based studies. One of them focuses on how tweets are more like speech than writing.

Jacob Eisenstein is assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech and part of the research team studying how tweets are like speech. And he joins us in the studios of Georgia Public Radio in Atlanta. And, Jacob, we know one thing you're looking at is how regionalisms are moving around through Twitter. Is there a Twitter dialect or accent?

JACOB EISENSTEIN: So there's not just one Twitter accent, but many. This is one sort of popular idea

about social media that there's a dialect of how you would write in social media. Some call it netspeak. But, in fact, what we've seen in the work that we've done with my colleagues at Carnegie Mellon and here at Georgia Tech is that the way that people write in social media, not only is it different from the way that they write otherwise, but it'll differ markedly across the United States, even more so than more traditional forms of written language would differ.

YOUNG: Give us some examples.



JACOB EISENSTEIN: So, you can think about a few different types. In some cases, it would appear that regional pronunciations, or pronunciations that reflect other types of dialect are getting transcribed into social media. So for example, a word like something could be written S-U-T-T-I-N.

What happens is the G gets dropped and TH gets stopped. So you go from something to suttin, and that's something you can see written out. Another example, or another type of word is a word that we might know from spoken language, like hella, which means very in Northern California. Can I say hella?

YOUNG: Yeah, you can. You just did.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: We know from spoken language to expect it to be centered in Northern California. In fact, that's what we see in social media, too. And then the third type are words that really seemed to be social media specific, or at least specific to computer-mediated communication. These are words like abbreviations from multiword expressions, like, you know, LOL. LOL can be used across

the United States. Well, there are alternative forms of LOL, some of which I couldn't spell out for you on the radio. Some of those are very, very geographically specific.

YOUNG: Well, you mentioned suttin. Time Magazine inaccurately attributed that to our region, up here in Boston. But you say that that actually - you could see that coming from New York. Another example, IKR, for I know, right.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: Yeah.

YOUNG: Popular in Detroit?

JACOB EISENSTEIN: The Michigan area, yeah.

YOUNG: So you can see - you can sort of track some of these were actually regionalisms. What are some of the other things you're looking at? We know you have a big study coming out, and you're not prepared to fully divulge. But we get a hint in Time Magazine that you're looking at race. You might see a word move from a city that has a large black population to another city, let's say Memphis in Tennessee, that has a black - a large black population, but not move as quickly to Nashville, which has more of a white population, which tells you that words can move racially. How do you see all these tweets?

JACOB EISENSTEIN: So what we're trying to do with that study is - and this is some work in progress - we want to see how words spread between places. So we know that it's not just static. We know it's not just the case that a word just appears in one city and never - either never leaves, or continues to exist there without spreading to other parts of the U.S. And what we believe is that by studying the way that words move between cities, we can identify some of the demographic factors that really, that shape people's perceptions of culture and similarity.

So if here in Atlanta, you know, it was found that we are more likely to adopt words from, for example, Memphis than Nashville, that would tell you something about the relationship between, you know, Memphis and Atlanta. And then we'd want to look at the demographic characteristics of those cities to explain that relationship.

YOUNG: Mm-hmm. And you might see that Memphis and Atlanta have higher African-American populations than Nashville, and that might tell you something about the tweets going back and forth.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: Yeah. So we're trying to really aggregate information across many different words whose geographical trajectories we've been able to identify and try to see what's the high-level picture that comes out in terms of the transmission of linguistic change, at least in terms of words.

YOUNG: Yeah. Well, other researchers have looked at how men and women tweet. There's a difference. Women use the word I more. Men are more likely to send links or use numbers. They looked at the difference between older and younger Twitter users. Younger users are more likely to use all caps. Dutch researchers found that younger tweeters are more likely to be very expressive, stretch out words like nice to have 10 I's in it. But what else are you looking at when you look at how different regions might share words? What else does that tell you?

JACOB EISENSTEIN: To me, it really comes back to the sense of identity. So I think language - we know this with spoken language, it's really deeply connected to people's sense of personal identity. And there's a great line of research from social linguistics focusing on speech that's shown us again and again over the last few decades that generally was thought not to be true in written language.

And I think the reason is that, until recently, written language was very constrained. So you learned to write in school. You use writing for official documents, you know, writing to your attorney or something or writing, you know, in the context of your work. So written language wasn't really free to express personal identity in the way that spoken language has been throughout history.

Now, with the advent of social media and computer-media communication generally, that's changed, and people are able to use written language as a key component of their daily social interactions. And that's, I think, the reason we're seeing this kind of variation according to geography, of all the dimensions that you mentioned - geography, age, gender

and so on.

YOUNG: Well, and in other words, people from Cleveland might never have had the reason to write a formal letter to someone in Boston or to speak to someone in Boston, but now they do, through Twitter. So whatever the language uses in Cleveland are, they're going to have a better chance of making their way to Boston than they ever did.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: Perhaps. So I think the premise of social media is that it could connect anybody anywhere. But the reality is that most people have social media networks that are actually incredibly constrained geographically. And I think if that wasn't true, it wouldn't be possible to even detect this kind of regional differences, because the change would spread so quickly.

What we're finding is that if you look over a period of two or three years - which is already perhaps half the life span of Twitter - you can see this kind of geographical differences. Some of them will change over that time period. Some of them won't. But people's networks seem to be compact enough that they can preserve some regional differences.

My personal favorite one is an abbreviation. This is - you know LOL. That stands for laugh out loud. So this one, I can't tell you what it stands for. It's CTFU. It's cracking up, and there's - you can...

YOUNG: Oh, boy. Yeah. Don't - please don't tell us what that stands for.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: So it's cracking up. It indicates that something's funny. The reason I like this one is that when we first came across this, it was 2010,

and it was popular in Cleveland - where we now know it seems to have originated - Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. And I presented this work to a group of linguists, and this was the one example that really bothered them.

The reason is if you've spoken to people from these cities, you realize that the spoken dialects are completely different across these three cities. So someone from Cleveland really has a Great Lakes accent. Someone from Philadelphia emphatically does not, and Pittsburgh is doing its own thing.

So the idea that these three cities with three different spoken dialects would share something that the rest of the country did not share in terms of social media, I think, you know, reveals the fact that, in some ways, social media is going to parallel spoken language. But in other ways, it really reflects new kinds of identity and new kinds of groups.

YOUNG: Interesting. Jacob Eisenstein, assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech. Thanks so much.

JACOB EISENSTEIN: Thank you.

YOUNG: So, Jeremy, it sounds as if Twitter is spreading regionalisms across state and city lines, but they're still staying within social and demographic groups.

JEREMY HOBSON, HOST: Yeah. You also hear about this phenomenon, Robin, with television and the idea that maybe some of the regional accents that we have around this country are disappearing because so many of the people that we watch on TV are from California.



YOUNG: Yeah.

HOBSON: And so maybe we're all going to start to sound like we're from Southern California.

YOUNG: And will social media mean more of that? Well, we just know that if you start saying wicked or the more forceful wicked pissah, it's not a bad word, parents, but it did come from here. Oh, and my tweets tomorrow will come from Mississippi. Going to visit listeners at Mississippi Public Broadcasting in Jackson. I cannot wait. I'm excited about that.

HOBSON: You'll probably have a very thick Southern

accent on Twitter.

YOUNG: When I come back.

HOBSON: From NPR and WBUR Boston, I'm Jeremy Hobson.

YOUNG: I'm Robin Young. This is HERE AND NOW. Transcript provided by NPR, Copyright NPR.

<http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2013/09/04/twitter-accent-study>

Mr. Happy (continued from page 1)

Retired trucker Malcolm said: "I am never depressed. I would rather be happy all the time than the other way round.

"Now I barely even notice that I don't feel sadness. It's only other people that give me funny looks.

"There must be a part of the brain that remembers jokes. I love telling them.

"I always have, but now I want other people to feel happy too."

Before the ordeal, Malcolm was fit and healthy and played football until he was 52. He was also a referee.

He said: "The day before the stroke I'd driven the length of the M1.

"Later, I went downstairs and made toast and coffee – but by the time I got upstairs I'd spilt half the coffee and the butter was an inch thick.

"The doctors didn't know if I was going to make it through the night – they told Kath to prepare for the worst.

"But I was still hanging around days later. I say thank

you every morning I wake up."

Kath said: "He's very childish now. It's infectious. When Malcolm starts laughing everyone in the room does.

"If he's in hysterics, everyone else is too.

"It has affected his short term memory. He can remember things he did 20 years ago but cannot remember the last week.



Malcolm Myatt and his wife Kath Caters

"Malcolm just says what he thinks, he sometimes doesn't understand that it's rude. If someone has an ugly dog, he'll tell them.

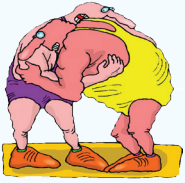
"It's worst when we go to a funeral. He'll still be smiling and telling jokes while everyone else is completely sombre.

"The doctors told me that I shouldn't apologise for him but sometimes I have to explain his situation."

The Myatts have been helped by Alzheimer's Society and will take part in one of its Memory Walks being held around Britain next month.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/real-life-mr-happy-malcolm-myatt-2158003>

Parrot Warbling



Grappling with Grammar

Present forms for the future

We use the present continuous to talk about **things that we have already arranged** to do in the future.

- *I've got my ticket. I'm leaving on Thursday.*
- *I'm seeing Julie at 5 and then I'm having dinner with Simon.*
- *He's picking me up at the airport.*
- *The company is giving everyone a bonus for Christmas.*

In many situations when we talk about future plans we can use either the present continuous or the 'going to' future. However, when we use the present continuous, there is more of a suggestion that an arrangement has already been made.

- *I'm going to see him./I'm seeing him.*
- *I'm going to do it./I'm doing it.*

We use the present simple to talk about events in the future which are '**timetabled**'. We can also use the present continuous to talk about these.

- *My plane leaves at 6 in the morning.*
- *The shop opens at 9.30.*
- *The sun rises a minute earlier tomorrow.*
- *My plane is leaving at 8.30.*
- *The shop is closing at 7.00.*
- *The sun is rising at 6.32 tomorrow.*

<http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com>

Idiom--Attic Hopping Mad



"Hey, down there! Quiet down! You're supposed to be taking your afternoon nap," Mrs K cried. "All that jumping about is making me **hopping mad**!" What Mrs K is saying is that her sweet little infant is making her **very angry**. It's not necessary to be a kangaroo to be hopping mad: simply being extremely mad will do.

<http://www.englishdaily626.com>

Beak Speak

How to improve Spoken English (Learners Experience)

Speaking the language fluently allows one to feel confident while communicating or interacting with different people. Not being fluent in English often leads to embarrassing situations for us; we feel unsure of ourselves and that only makes things worse. Here are a few ways that can help overcome the fear, and become confident in speaking English:



- **Ever wondered why you are so fluent with your mother tongue? It is because you speak and hear the language more often. What does this suggest? The first and the most crucial step to improve spoken English is to speak it as often as you can. Speak in English with friends, family, relatives, etc. Do not worry about making mistakes. In fact, encourage people around you to correct you as often as they can. This will help you speak correct English and boost your confidence.**
- Feeling underconfident forces us to speak rapidly because we stumble with words or feel unsure about the pronunciation. Do not let this happen; it shows anxiety and the other person will struggle to understand what you are saying. Speak at a comfortable pace and pronounce your words correctly. There's no reason to feel shy or intimidated. We all make mistakes and the only way to learn is to practice and have others correct us.
- **Use a dictionary to learn new words or to find out the meaning of a word you may have heard. Make a list and use these words as often as you can.**
- Read books, newspapers and magazines. This will allow you to understand the language better and help you learn new words to widen your vocabulary.
- **Watch English movies, preferably with subtitles. This, too, will aid you in understanding the language better.**
- Read one article aloud every day, and if possible ask someone to listen and correct you. Focus on speed, clarity and correct pronunciation.
- **Record your own voice and listen to it. This will help you gain confidence and work on your mistakes.**
- Try and find a partner who is also interested in improving his/her spoken English. Practice together, correct each other and learn together.
- **Think in English, instead of translating sentences from other languages that you're familiar with. Doing this leads to grammatical mistakes and deteriorates the quality of your spoken English.**
- Join an online English learning course. Such a program provides you with the right content and opportunities to practice with other users. Besides this, your answers are corrected and proper feedback is provided.

<http://www.englishleap.com>

Some More Parrot Fun Stuff

Movie Musicals Wordsearch

Find and circle all of the Movie Musicals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Movie Musical.

G	A	O	N	F	U	A	T	A	I	V	A	R	T	A	L	N	N	Y	N
R	C	G	E	T	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	I	N	N	A	T	I	V	E
E	A	A	M	H	I	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	T	E	E	W	S	N	W
A	R	C	R	G	S	I	L	K	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	S
S	O	I	A	L	L	T	H	A	T	J	A	Z	Z	Y	H	C	A	G	I
E	U	H	C	A	Y	P	M	P	T	O	S	F	R	E	Y	A	C	U	E
Y	S	C	N	M	J	O	E	A	F	O	L	O	A	T	E	L	H	O	S
D	E	N	M	D	H	A	O	C	U	A	T	E	E	M	O	A	O	R	W
A	L	O	I	A	N	B	I	T	A	S	N	I	M	B	E	M	R	N	I
L	T	T	L	P	W	T	H	L	E	F	C	T	U	A	Y	I	U	I	N
R	I	K	S	O	P	P	H	D	H	O	Y	G	A	L	C	T	S	L	G
I	O	I	H	T	A	O	I	E	S	O	S	N	L	S	B	Y	L	U	T
A	G	S	A	C	A	S	P	H	M	Y	U	O	N	R	I	J	I	O	I
F	O	O	I	W	T	T	G	Y	M	U	D	S	I	U	P	A	N	M	M
Y	L	F	D	S	A	I	E	A	R	O	S	G	E	A	F	N	E	Y	E
M	I	G	E	S	H	H	L	F	L	A	A	I	L	R	H	E	S	H	E
C	V	W	I	W	P	O	E	L	A	D	M	J	C	T	O	P	H	A	T
A	E	Y	N	G	N	E	E	U	O	I	O	T	O	M	Y	C	T	I	H
E	R	F	N	E	I	H	L	O	L	E	R	O	R	G	A	U	K	R	M
T	E	R	A	B	A	C	N	L	Y	B	L	R	I	G	Y	N	N	U	F

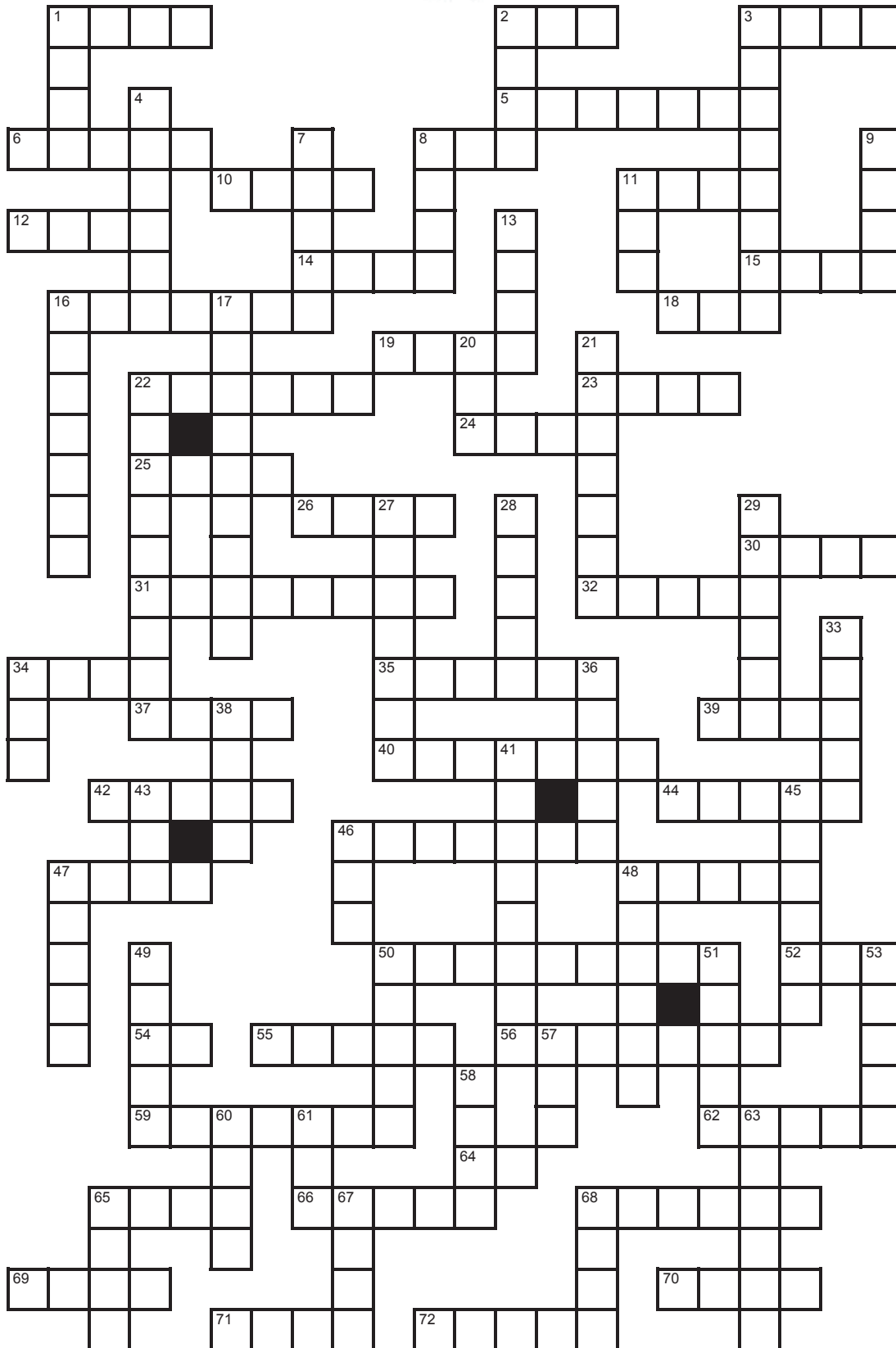
A CHORUS LINE
ALL THAT JAZZ
ANNIE
BLUE HAWAII
BRIGADOON
BUGSY MALONE
CABARET
CALAMITY JANE
CAMELOT
CARMEN
CAROUSEL

CHICAGO
EVITA
FAME
FANTASIA
FUNNY FACE
FUNNY GIRL
GIGI
GODSPELL
GREASE
GYPSY
HAIR

HELLO, DOLLY!
HIGH SOCIETY
HOLIDAY INN
JAILHOUSE ROCK
LA TRAVIATA
MARY POPPINS
MOULIN ROUGE
MY FAIR LADY
NEWSIES
OKLAHOMA!
OLIVER!

PAL JOEY
SHOW BOAT
SILK STOCKINGS
SOUTH PACIFIC
STATE FAIR
SWEET CHARITY
SWING TIME
THE MUSIC MAN
TOMMY
TOP HAT
WEST SIDE STORY

The Ultimate Opposite Crossword



The Ultimate Opposite Crossword

Across

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. low | 37. wild |
| 2. laugh | 39. far |
| 3. thick | 40. yell |
| 5. student | 42. old |
| 6. above | 44. noisy |
| 8. wet | 46. create |
| 10. start | 47. polite |
| 11. soft | 48. throw |
| 12. short | 50. safe |
| 14. float | 52. tell the truth |
| 15. narrow | 54. come |
| 16. doctor | 55. fix |
| 18. woman | 56. put away |
| 19. difficult | 59. turn on |
| 22. arrive | 62. sad |
| 23. push | 64. down |
| 24. give | 65. more |
| 25. lose | 66. ceiling |
| 26. west | 68. rough |
| 30. poor | 69. strong |
| 31. soldier | 70. front |
| 32. war | 71. bad |
| 34. empty | 72. adult |
| 35. big | |

Find the opposite of each of these words and fill in the crossword blanks on the accompanying sheet.

Down

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. love | 43. new |
| 2. country | 45. inhale |
| 3. turn up | 46. bright |
| 4. remember | 47. left |
| 7. best | 48. raw |
| 8. light | 49. day |
| 9. false | 50. giant |
| 11. cold | 51. north |
| 13. predator | 53. late |
| 16. pick up | 57. answer |
| 17. cheap | 58. sweet |
| 20. stand | 60. work |
| 21. slow down | 61. on |
| 22. easy | 63. defend |
| 27. deep | 65. follow |
| 28. heavy | 67. borrow |
| 29. melt | 68. receive |
| 33. last | |
| 34. thin | |
| 36. friend | |
| 38. few | |
| 41. crooked | |



Solutions to crossword on page 15

Nature XXVII, Autumn

The morns are meeker than they were,
 The nuts are getting brown;
 The berry's cheek is plumper,
 The rose is out of town.
 The maple wears a gayer scarf,
 The field a scarlet gown.
 Lest I should be old-fashioned,
 I'll put a trinket on.

Emily Dickinson



Rigoberto's Riddles

All about, but cannot be seen,
 Can be captured, cannot be held,
 No throat, but can be heard.
 What is it?

Answer: The wind

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber

A business executive asked a few friends the question, "How's business?" Their answers:

Exterminator: *We're gradually getting the bugs out.*

Astronomer: *Looking up.*

Oven manufacturer: *"Grate".*

Butcher: *We're making ends "meat".*

Elevator Operator: *Up and down.*

Locksmith: *I think we found the key.*

Janitorial Service: *We're cleaning up.*

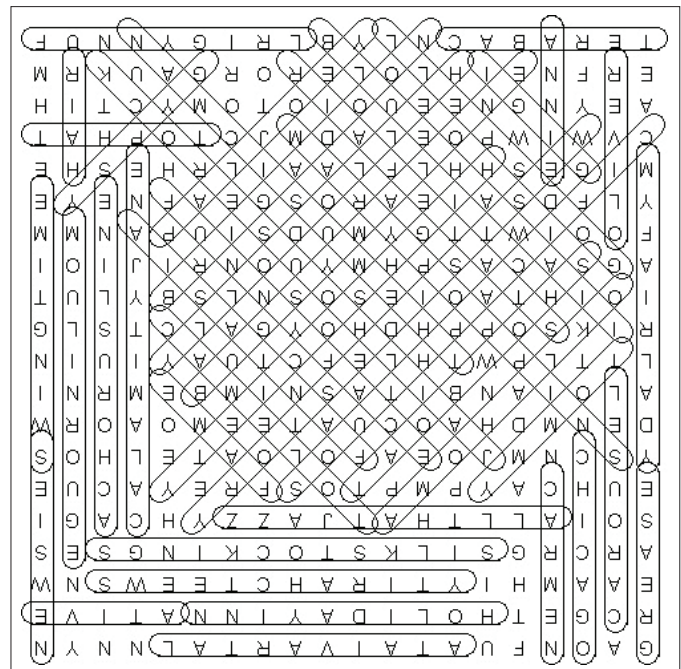
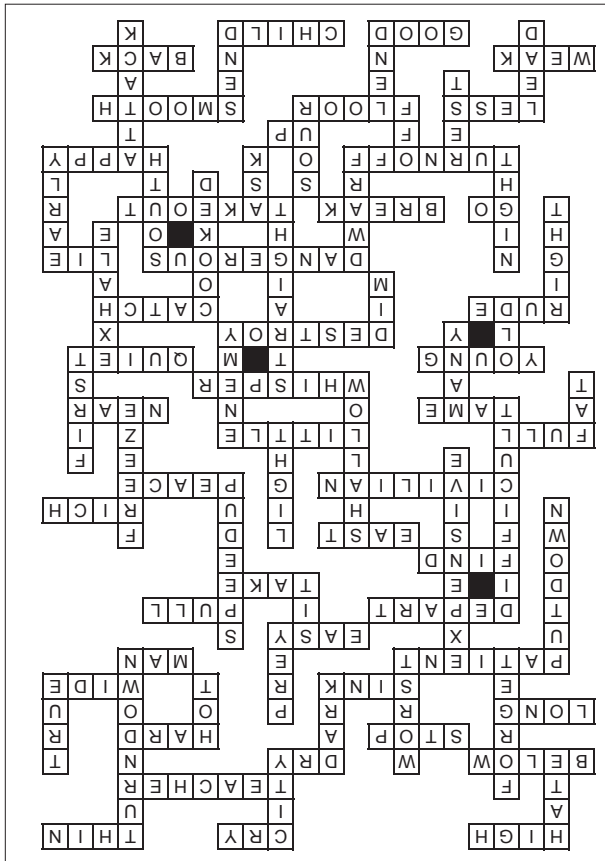
Electrician: *Got it wired.*

Author: *Mine seems to be all "write".*

TV Repair-Person: *Its in sync.*

Margarine Producer: *Couldn't be "butter".*

Accountant: *How would you LIKE it to be?*



Granny Noetal

Dear Granny Noetal,

I just read in The ARC Current an article about the bathrooms on campus, that they are dirty. You have been hanging around campus for a long time. Do you think the bathrooms are dirty? I'm from another country and the bathrooms here are cool compared to the ones at my school back home where they were outside.

K. Anarashu

Dear K.,

Just to set the record straight -- I haven't been "hanging around". I am not a bat. Have I been on campus for a long time and have I used the ARC restrooms over the years? Yes, thousands of times. I would say that the restrooms are generally well-maintained. It's like anywhere else except for maybe Buckingham Palace, where the queen probably has her own little chamber. It's all about timing. Our custodians probably have a full slate of tasks each day, clean the restrooms according to a schedule, and do a fine job. The problem is

that all you need to do is walk in after one lunkhead dirties the whole place and you get the feeling the place is always dirty. With a campus population of about 30,000, there's bound to be one student who has yet to take Bathroom 101 and could use some tutoring, not to mention "hands-on labwork", where they get to address a toilet bowl first-hand. One person can mess

it up for everyone. That's why they say all you ever need to know is what you learned in kindergarten – or maybe nursery school. As for me, next time I walk into an inviting restroom on campus, I'll seek out a custodian and thank him or her for making me feel at home away from home!

Granny



Out of the Cage

ARC at the 2013 World Music & Dance Festival

On **October 6th**, the ARC team, led by Dr. Lisa Lawrenson, Dr. Oranit Limmaneeprasert, and Don Reid, once again, succeeded in celebrating diversity and reaching out to the public at the **Sacramento World Music and Dance Festival**, a diversity event held annually in Old Sacramento. Our booth, with its cultural artifacts, books about various regions, handicrafts from around the world, posters about Native Americans, Persian musical instruments and spices, and materials about ARC was the main cultural and educational center of the festival and received a great deal of attention from the festival goers. Dr. Lawrenson's collection of children's books in languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese were especially popular. Our Persian cooking demonstration, con-

ducted by Parisa Samadi, drew such a big crowd that several students had to help her hand out the samples. The Persian music by ESL students Ehsan Pooramezan and Mitra Hatefi, was a significant addition to the ARC booth. On the main stage, the ARC Latin Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Dyne Eifertsen, impressed the public with its ability and talent. Further, many visitors left our booth with course information from the ARC catalog, enrollment flyers, Career Center materials, the ARC Current, and the ESL Parrot. In brief, with support from ARC students, administrator, faculty, and staff, the ARC team had an excellent diversity and outreach event at the Sacramento World Music and Dance Festival.

Dr. Limmaneeprasert



It takes a village



and a doll



and another doll



and another doll



and some spring rolls



and some Iranian poets



and a doll



and a cruiser



and a vendor



and a smiling face



and an ARC recruit



and more smiling faces



and some more dolls



and some tunes



and some snacks



and dancing in the aisles

to have a World Fest!

I.A. Marianne Sala Grows on the Job

continued from page 1

is I take care of all the plant material in the facility for the horticulture department. I assist the instructors in setting up their labs. We do all the behind the scenes work that prepares the facility in order for the labs to be held there. It's a really great job. I really enjoy doing it. We have four greenhouses and almost three acres to our arboretum. It's a lot of work. There is a lot more work to do down there than we can actually get to, on a semester basis, but it's a great job.

Parrot: Lots of work!

Marianne: Yes, a lot of work.

Parrot: Do you think ARC is a good place to work? Why or why not?

Marianne: I definitely think ARC is a really great place to work. I think it's a very supportive environment. Also being an educational environment, I think, makes it a unique place to work and you're working with a lot of students and the students are pretty great to be around, as well as the instructors, so I think it makes a wonderful environment. I take classes periodically on the side, so that makes it very convenient.

Parrot: OK, what are you most proud of?

Marianne: I'm most proud of the students that use our program to find success for themselves and in their lives. I think that's a really great experience and we've had a few students in the last couple of years where I believe our program has made a difference in their lives and I'm really proud of that. I think that's pretty great.

Parrot: Are you proud of me too?

Marianne: Yes, absolutely!

Parrot: Here's a fun question: What advice would you give your younger self?

Marianne: To persevere. I think perseverance is really important, especially in the horticulture industry. You've got to do the work and you've just got to persevere.

Parrot: What do you like to do in your free time?

Marianne: In my free time I do some gardening and hiking and snowshoeing.

Parrot: Hiking?

Marianne: Yeah.

Parrot: Do you have a dream vacation?

Marianne: Well, I don't have one, just one dream vacation. But I enjoy, I like to travel. I enjoy going to a lot of different places. Especially if the place has some kind of historical significance and if there is a recreational activity that we can engage ourselves in while we are there. Camping out is one of the best parts of vacationing because you can be a little bit closer to and in touch with the environment that you are in.

Parrot: Marianne, if you had 10 million dollars, what would you do?

Marianne: The first thing I think I would do is make sure that my family members were all taken care of. The second thing I think I would do is make sure that my retirement was taken care of. After that I would probably pursue some education and probably do a little bit of traveling.

Parrot: Looking back to your high school and college days, would you make any changes in what you studied? If so, why?

Marianne: I don't think I would change anything. I studied horticulture and botany, geography and geology, and I loved all of it. I don't think I would change any of that.

Parrot: Which of the following items could you not live without for a year: The Internet, TV, your car, your cell phone, or your nail clipper? Why?

Marianne: My car.

Parrot: Your car?

Marianne: Yes, because it represents freedom and my ability to go places and do things.

Parrot: Yes, I can see that.

Parrot: Would you prefer to have dinner with the Pope, Lady Gaga, Hilary Clinton, or Donald Trump? Why?

Mariane: Hilary Clinton because of her worldly experience. I think she would be a very interesting lady to talk to. She would be fascinating.

Parrot: I feel the same too. I would like to have dinner with Hilary Clinton too.

Parrot: More fun! Would you prefer a luxurious two week vacation in Hawaii or two weeks trekking in the Himalayas? Why?

Marianne: I would do either one of those. I think each of those vacations has its place in your spare time and I think each one of them would have its benefits. If I needed a break and needed to relax, I think the Hawaii trip would be great. But if I wanted something more invigorating and exciting, then I would definitely do the Himalayas.

Parrot: Last question: Would you describe yourself as:

a) adventuresome or cautious?

b) ambitious and energetic or relaxed and carefree?

c) artistic and creative or scientific and practical?

Marianne: I'd describe myself as a cautious adventurer, more ambitious than energetic, more scientific and practical but I enjoy the creative. I'm both competitive and laid back; it just depends on the situation. I'm organized and I'm serious about play!

Parrot: Thank you for your time, Marianne. It was a great pleasure to talk to you.

Marianne: Thank you, too!

*Nicoleta Rista
ESLL50*

Diabetes Awareness and Prevention.

Thursday, November 21, 2013
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

In honor of Native American Heritage Month and Diabetes Awareness Month, please join ARC faculty and alums in a panel discussion about the current state of diabetes, its connection to physical activity and diet, and traditional ways to achieve a healthy lifestyle. Location: Raef Hall 160

American River Review Release Party.

Thursday, December 5, 2013
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Join staff, writers and artists of the American River Review as we unveil a sampling of the exciting student creations that will be featured in the forthcoming 2013 American River Review.

Location: Raef Hall 160

Questions/Comments?



Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail Braccop@arc.losrios.edu. To see The Parrot in color go to http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm