

Spring/Summer 2011

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The rewards of learning...

by Ernesto Murillo
RCLC Learner
Tutor: Oliver Walker

Thanks to the RCLC, "Volunteers for Adult Literacy," that are working hard, Carol Round, Executive Director, and Mike Gardner, President. They gave to me a tutor that has helped me to prepare for my citizenship and naturalization test. I started working with him in September 2010. Before that I do not know anything English. Now I can read, write, and speak some of English.

On November 18, I did my interview with an officer of Immigration and Naturalization services. I passed the test of English, U. S. history and government with good results and I took the oath of allegiance on March 18.

I want to give Gracias Especiales, "special thanks," to my tutor and friend, Oliver Walker. He helped me so much with his patience and enthusiasm. He gave to me his time and knowledge.



Photo: Ernesto Murillo & Oliver Walker

...and teaching

by Oliver Walker
RCLC Tutor
Learner: Ernesto Murillo

Rarely do my accomplishments exceed my expectations. When it was suggested that I volunteer my services at the local library, I was skeptical, wondering if I could really make a difference. My lifetime love affair with books, writing, speaking, and the English language in general, gave me the incentive to try to help if I could. I had little knowledge of the extent of illiteracy in my own community, and even less knowledge of the number of legal immigrants who want very much to learn Basic English.

My first student, Ernesto Murillo, is from Manuel Doblado, a small town in central Mexico. In November 2010, Ernesto was summoned to the federal building in Oklahoma City for a formal interview with an immigration official. After passing the test and interview, he was ready to take the oath of allegiance. I was present on that special day when Ernesto took the oath in Muskogee. I shook his hand and was proud to call him my fellow American. It was one of those rare occasions when our accomplishment exceeded my expectation. I wish to thank Ernesto and everyone at the RCLC for their help and support.

Tutor teaches others about Irlen Syndrome

by Bob Hinds
RCLC Tutor

I took a Microcomputer Applications Course at Rogers State University in 2010. A portion of that course required I prepare a PowerPoint presentation. For my topic, I chose Irlen Syndrome.

I became aware of Irlen Syndrome while working with my first student, Jason Harrison. I met with various people who worked with children as teachers or have been around the public school system, curious to see if they were aware of Irlen Syndrome. To my amazement very few had ever heard of it.




Scientifically termed "Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome," Irlen Syndrome refers to a visual problem – a perceptual dysfunction principally affecting reading- and writing-based activities. Some of the symptoms of Irlen Syndrome include light sensitivity, problems with white paper/black print, inefficient reading, slow reading rate, attention deficit, eye strain, fatigue, sleepiness, headaches, and poor depth perception.

"At the beginning of my presentation, I asked the students and the instructor to raise their hands if any had ever heard of the term. No one raised a hand."

Helen Irlen, an American psychologist, published a paper in 1983 of diagnostic techniques and patented a set of colored overlays and colored lenses/filters. Olive Mears, a teacher in a New Zealand reading clinic, was the first person to publish a report in 1980 about the use of tinted overlays to assist with reading difficulties. A few of the visual effects individuals see when looking at written text include the washout effect, the halo effect, the rivers effect, the shaky effect, the blurry effect, and the seesaw effect. (*Printed examples of these are available from Bob Hinds or from the RCLC office.*)




After my presentation, two fellow students wanted a copy of the information for family members who experienced similar symptoms. Another student was interested to learn about the effects of fluorescent lighting on eye strain because he had experienced it at work. Since he had been unable to pinpoint the cause, he wondered if it was part of his problem.

The following websites are very informative:

-  www.readingandlight.com - Irlen Syndrome: A Teen's Summary - A good reference in lay language
-  www.migraine-dyslexia.com/Mears-Irlen-Syndrome.htm - Mears-Irlen Syndrome - Definition, symptoms and treatment with coloured tinted lenses
-  <http://irlen.com> - The Irlen Method - The home page has an option for different colored backgrounds to see how the change may assist a person see the page better.

Friend Speak, another local ESL class resource

If you read and speak English but need to improve your conversational skills, the Church of Christ, 315 E. Blue Starr, is offering free one-on-one assistance using the book of Luke in the Bible. Although there is no charge for the one-hour sessions, there is a one-time workbook fee of \$10. Volunteers are available at the following times to work with individuals who wish to work on their speaking skills:

-  Sunday 8 - 9a.m. & 3:45 - 4:45p.m.
-  Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - noon & 1 - 2p.m.
-  Wednesday 7 - 8p.m.

For more information, call 918-858-5499.

Learner stories submitted for publication

Two RCLC learners' stories have been submitted to the Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office to be considered for their annual publication, "Our Journeys." Silvia Reyes and Charles DeHart prepared the following:

Third of May, Day of the Holy Cross



by Silvia Reyes
RCLC Learner
Tutor: Jane Wallace

In my town, Cd Manuel Doblado Gto, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. The feast starts on April 25.

Inside the church is a statue of our Father Jesus. The priest takes the statue down from the neche and puts it on the side of the altar where it stays for the next nine days. During this time, people are coming from neighboring towns, along with the people of my town. We meet at the outskirts and then we walk to the church.

When all the people arrive at the church, mass begins. We celebrate the feast of our Father Jesus for nine days. On the last three days, May first, second, and third, we have music outside the church and we also celebrate with quema de castillo. This is similar to fireworks, a tall wooden structure with different figures. At night the quema de Castillo is lit for everybody to see.

There are also food stands, games and people sell clothes and also amusement rides. On the last day when all is over we finish the feast with dancing.

I have lived in U S for 14 years and I still miss my traditions.

My Son

by Charles DeHart
RCLC Learner
Tutor: Patti Glaze

The best thing that I have every done is my son. He is the greatest gift that God has ever given to me. I thank God everyday for giving him to me.

I do my best to teach my son about God, people, and how life can be. Also, I teach him to set good goals in his life and to think very carefully about his future. I have also taught him to be very careful with whom he makes friends with and whom he loves. That will all come in good time.

For now, I am teaching him to set some good expectations for himself, his loved ones and his friends. However, I do not want him to set them too high because life can change for everybody. The smartest thing to do, I tell him, is to keep God in his life no matter what happens. I tell him that he should not lie to himself, God, his family and most of all to know his Dad will always love him.

Learning tools for check out

The audio "Leap Pads" are available for checkout by ESL learners and tutors. A gift from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Literacy Resource Office, the six Leap Pads have microphone systems to be used with the *Sed de Saber English for Everyone* program.

Each theme-based lesson is designed to develop vocabulary and communicative phrases. Activities, such as roleplaying, read aloud and interactive games, accompany the crucial voice record-and-compare feature. Spanish translations of all text are another invaluable feature for both students and teachers.

These research-based, portable Pads can be checked out to students to be used at home to practice their English. Since practice makes perfect, students will progress at a faster pace to acquire conversational skills to function in an English-speaking world.

See Cindy Robertson's
ESL class story on
page 4

New ESL class growing



by Cindy Robertson
RCLC Tutor

Two Hispanic women wanted to learn English.

Four of us met for our first class in March:

Josefina, Teresa, Rose, and me. Rose, an English-

speaking neighbor of one of the women, was raised in a Spanish-speaking home and graduated from American schools. She comes to class as an assistant to learn how to help Teresa practice at home as

well as to refresh her Spanish-speaking skills. One by one, new members have joined the class. We now have a total of 12 in our class: nine students and two English-speaking neighbors/assistants, plus me.

Josefina has lived in the United States for 12 years. She knows limited English but did not read or write English. She now has adult children and grandchildren who speak English. She wants to understand their conversations. Teresa is an at-home mother of a preschooler. Three of the newer students have lived in the USA for 2-4 years but, like Josefina, do not read, write, or speak much English. One student has a goal of learning to fill out forms at doctors' offices on his own and to be able to read and understand the labels on his prescription bottles.

We started with the alphabet, numbers, colors, days of the week, months of the year, seasons of the year, words that start questions, long and short vowels sounds, and basic phrases such as, "my name is . . ." The first students learned the "A-B-C Song" which one mother can sing with her preschool son, and the others can sing with their grandchildren. The long and short vowel charts found at the beginning of Challenger Book 1 (Lessons 1-3) have been helpful for review. "How to Tell Time Worksheets" may be downloaded at www.time-for-time.com/worksheetmaster.htm. A highlight for the students is learning to read Dr. Seuss' book, A-B-C. It helps them to practice their pronunciation and reading skills while learning to read a book that they can share with their children and grandchildren.



To increase their vocabulary, we are using the series, English: No Problem, which includes a student book and a workbook. The students are also using the Sed de Saber Kits (Leap Pads) – an electronic device where they point to a picture or a sentence with a stylus and a voice reads it to them in English. Then they record their voice and compare their pronunciation with the pre-recorded voice. They can also practice basic phrases and greetings, how to tell time, and vocabulary with the Leap Pads.

My undergraduate degree is in Business and Spanish. Since moving to Oklahoma in 1995, I have not had opportunity to make use of my Spanish. The Hispanic people and culture have a special place in my heart. For those who live in the USA, learning English will benefit their communication with neighbors, friends, family, work, school, healthcare, and more. When I contacted Carol Round at the Literacy Office and asked if there was any need for someone to assist with teaching English to Spanish-speaking individuals in the Claremore area the answer was, "Yes!" It is my hope that the skills the students learn in the ESL class will enrich their lives. They, in turn, enrich my life.

Website going live

RCLC is launching its new website in June. The site was developed by Emily Field, a May 2011 graduate from the EAST program (Environmental And Spatial Technology) at Northeast Technology Center-Claremore Campus.

Brooke Easton, the program facilitator at NTC, matched Emily with RCLC in January. Emily's course of study was web development; RCLC's need was for a well-designed site to provide an online information source for tutors, learners, or anyone interested in reading help or becoming a tutor. The resulting site is both attractive and functional. The address is <http://www.rocoread.org>. Please visit us and send your comments.

Meeting Times and Place:
Claremore First United Methodist Church
Mondays and Fridays
6:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.
To learn more about the class,
call RCLC at 918-277-4331.

Letter from the President



Carol Round
Outgoing RCLC
Executive Director

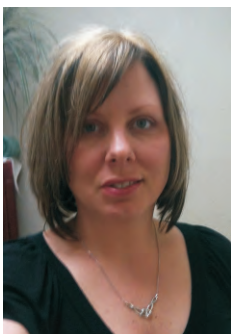
June 2011

Change is coming to RCLC. Carol Round, our Executive Director for two and a half years, has decided to resign her position to focus on her writing. For those who don't know, Carol writes a popular syndicated weekly column for 12 newspapers around the country, the Claremore Daily Progress among them. Her inspirational faith-based stories are a blend of the stuff Carol herself is made of: bull-dog dedication, imagination, introspection, friendly openness, and a liberal splash of quirky humor. Many of these columns have been compiled and published in book form – Carol currently has two books on the market, a third in development, and a fourth on the back burner.

In addition to her RCLC duties, her column, and her book writing, she's a regular volunteer at her church, a frequent mission worker, and an earnest grandmother. I suspect she never sleeps.

On behalf of the Board and the Literacy Council, I give her our heart felt thanks for working so diligently and bringing the RCLC forward. Each director has brought a unique vision and energy to the position. Carol's will be large shoes to fill.

Michael Gardner



Cara Carroll
Incoming RCLC
Executive Director

Cara Carroll has been tapped to replace Carol Round as Executive Director of RCLC. Cara has an Elementary Education degree from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and taught Special Education in both Broken Arrow and Claremore schools.

Cara's work and life experiences give her a head start with her new responsibilities at RCLC. She will be testing new potential learners for their reading capabilities and retesting existing learners for progress. Her duties will also include assisting tutors and collecting statistical information about our program to report to the Board of Directors, to RCLC funders, and ProLiteracy – a national support/advocacy organization which champions literacy for adults and children.

Another "buzzing" success



It was another buzzing success when RCLC hosted our annual "To Bee or Not to Bee" spelling bee and silent auction on Saturday, April 2 at NTC. With the support of the individuals, businesses, and organizations below, approximately \$3,800 was raised for literacy in Rogers County.

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| <p>Amy Lieberman, Take a Seat
Asiana Buffet
Aubrey's Old Fashioned Burgers
Bailey Dabney, Claremore Daily Progress
Bill Baird, Hammett House
Bob McQuistian, Bob's Printing
Brian Ipock, Claremore Flowers
Cara Cowan-Watts
Carla Gardner
Carol Round
Cat Rahmeier
Cheryl Dowden-Parrott
Cheryl Garrison, Bead-azzled
Christie Ballard
Cindy Mooney-Rickard, Emily's Playhouse
Claremore Hospital Auxiliary
Claremore Physicians Immediate Care
Clarice & Mike Doyle
Dan Schiedel, RSU Radio/TV
Dave Chaussard, Claremore Regional Hospital
Dell Davis, Chamber of Commerce
Don Freed, Grand Bank
Donna Grabow, Safenet
Doug Goodhue
Drs. Larry & Judy Riley
Ed McGehee
El Azteca
Emily Bushyhead, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Faye Cowan</p> | <p>Felicia Lanquist, Chics on 66
Friends of the Library
Green Valley Nursery
Gripado's
Jane Wallace
Janie Howard, Usborne Books and More
Jill Inman, Riley & Riley
Joanna Guadagno
Jodie Seitz & Robin Chase, Girl Scout Troop #641
John Hall, Property Managers of Claremore
Jon & Sharon Douthitt
Kathy Rock, Natalie's Clothes
Kathy Wilken, Belvidere
Ken & Jerry Jones
Larry Rock, NAPA Auto Parks
Leslie Gelders, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Lindel Stephens, WalMart
Lorraine Garrison
Margo Stewart, The Pink House
Marie Park
Marsha & Gary Butler, Summerside Vineyard and Winery
Marsha Chisum
Marty Marsh, Kate & Ella's
Marty Quinn
Mary Bransford, Value News
Melinda Tipton
Mickey Perry
MidAmerican Grill, Pryor
Mike Gardner
Molly's Landing</p> | <p>Morgan Dowell, Morgan Dowell's BBQ Joint
Myrtle Prather, RCB Bank
Nathan Meier, Advance Auto Parts
Norma Graham
Northeastern OK Technology Center
Office Everything
Pam & Charlie Zirix
Pecan Porch
Peggy Armstrong
Pete Anderson
Pete Roth, Quik Trip
Phyllis & Ron Stearnes
Pizza Hut
Ree Drummond
Renee Wilson, Make It Special
Roger Evans, RCB Bank
Rogers County United Way
Ryan Parham, Radio Shack
Scott Walton, Rogers County Sherrif
Sherry Beach, Will Rogers Library
Susan Raasch
Taylor, Burrage, Foster, Mallet, Downs & Ramsey
Teresa McIlroy, Strength of Mind & Body Wellness
The Book Exchange (Pryor)
Toby Keith's I Love this Bar & Grill
Tracy Patton, All About Animals
Trecia Bickford, A Place of Grace
Vicki Venable
Vicky Pelky, Claremore Regional Hospital</p> |
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And the winners are...



Senile Seniors
Linda Leonard
Linda Howard
Faye Cowan



ZeeBees
Craig Butler
Lori Butler
Kylie Butler



"Bee" - ch Bums
Retha Cook
Vicki Pelky
Mary Taylor

This Hospital-sponsored team has been in the finals all three years!