



EAST LOS ANGELES SKILLS CENTER BULLETIN

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ELASC website: www.eastlaskillscenter.org

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Items for publication to: Julio Melara, AP at jmelar01@lausd.net

Important Dates

June 10 – ESL Dept. Mtg.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

June 10 – Academic Dept. Mtg.

12:45 pm- 1:45 pm

June 11 – Eastside ESL Culmination

June 12 – ELASC ESL Culmination

June 13 – Last Day of Instruction

June 15 – Pupil Free Day

**Congratulations
High School**



Happy Birthday to:

Dalia Alvarado - June 3

Francisco Calero – June 4

Mariam Sidhom – June 6

Stephen Ferguson – June 21

Ed Wu – June 24



Reflection Corner

Kareem Abdul Jabbar, NBA basketball Hall of Famer, wrote a poignant article <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-05-30/dont-understand-the-protests-what-youre-seeing-is-people-pushed-to-the-edge> about the current social response to the infamous Minneapolis police brutality case, in which he calls out the “slimy underbelly of institutional racism” that permeates our society. As teachers, we must use this opportunity to teach social responsibility, critical thinking skills, and doing the right thing for the sake of social justice. Social change is necessary but it must be accomplished peacefully, through the right channels. Nothing permanent has ever been accomplished by using violence; but no real social change has ever been accomplished by submissive silence either. Let us see this to the end, not through “a rush to judgment, but a rush to justice”, as Mr. Jabbar wrote.

Teachers Corner

I have had the opportunity to visit several ESL classes during our new virtual experience. One of them was Ms. Ochoa’s Intermediate High A/B-Advanced Low class at Eastside. In addition to teaching them how to

navigate the intricacies of Zoom and other online platforms, she has in place a very interactive online classroom, where students watch videos, respond to questions, and write paragraphs that connect to the subject at hand. In this lesson, each student had selected a famous mountain to write a short paragraph and present it to their classmates. Ms. Ochoa highlighted words, corrected students’ pronunciation. They learned phrasal verbs and other expressions to describe their subject matter, all in a virtual platform that would have been alien to most adult teachers and students until recently. Great job Ms. Ochoa, and great job students for integrating all these resources into a new virtual experience.

Student Success Story

“I graduated from Chaffey College with an Associate degree in Biological Sciences in 2012 and from UCLA with a Bachelor degree in psychology in 2014. But I will always and proudly say I graduated from the ELASC Medical Assistant program, too. From the very (first) moment I came into their office, I was helped and treated respectfully. I was given a complete orientation of what I had to take to go into (my original goal), the x-ray tech program. The prerequisite was to enroll in the Medical Terminology class with Mr. Gonzalez. My end goal was to become a Physician’s Assistant and luckily, I learned that Mr. Gonzalez was a physician assistant. I intended to just complete the medical terminology class and leave since I drove from Rialto to East LA at the time. But being the great teacher that he is, Mr. Gonzalez took an interest in me and about my story and personal goals. Our conversations thankfully guided me to switch from the X-ray Tech Program to the Medical Assistant Program. I had the good fortune to have great classmates and a great teacher, despite the brutal commute from Fontana to East LA, Monday through Friday, and hitting traffic both ways. Mr. Gonzalez’s lectures were lengthy but

filled with information and stories from personal experience as a PA in the healthcare field. My classmates made it more engaging by asking questions and establishing a group discussion. This is the ideal learning environment for any student and it had been a while since I had a teacher like Mr. Gonzalez, who sincerely care and pushes his students to try and learn. He was refreshingly honest and transparent with how the healthcare field is in regards to employment and the sort of situations we might run into.

Mr. Gonzalez wrote a letter of recommendation for the Physician Assistant programs I applied to. I can guarantee his recommendation was instrumental in getting me into the interviews. And I’m happy to announce that I have been accepted to the Loma Linda University physician assistant program and will start later this year!

In this day and age, going to school is very costly, especially when you go to private schools. From the time I did my internships and worked as a medical assistant in the field, I can confidently say you get the best quality and the most for your investment at ELASC compared to other programs in the area (private schools cost between \$15K - \$19K at the time). That should go into your deciding factors when choosing ELASC.

Thanks again Mr. Gonzalez for being my Virgil to an (inquisitive) Dante (me) and guiding me through this hectic and crazy world. I wish nothing but the best for you and your students.”

Carlos Santana



Our Mission: The East Los Angeles Skills Center in collaboration with community—based organizations and stakeholders will provide access to educational programs and services to students to achieve their personal and or career goals through language acquisition, academic and career pathways.

Our Vision: To be a dynamic educational and job training institution to empower students to be college prepared and career ready.



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CONGRATULATIONS

My name is Yunchang Yao. I'm from the southern part of China. I moved to Los Angeles in 2017 to be with my husband. I started in ESL level 3 at ELASC in 2018. Currently I work as a cosmetologist. I was only able to attend Ms. Leon's one hour ESL class for every day, because I had to go to work right after. Now that I have finished ESL I want to find a better job. I will probably work full time. I have two children and I have to provide for my family. I am proud of finishing ESL 6, and the ESL program. I worked very hard to get here.



My name is Ana Jimenez. I am from Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico. I came to the USA in June 1991. I enrolled in High school at grade 11 and I graduated in June 1994. Before ELASC I was a student at ELAOC. I was taking typing and graphic design classes. I had my first child in 2000 and had to leave school to raise my family. I came to ELASC in 2019 at level 5 with Ms., Leon and Ms. Giglio. Now that I have completed level 6 and the ESL program I am not sure what I want to pursue. I will decide this summer.



My name is Thanh Bao Chong and I am a student in Ms. Leon's and Ms. Giglio's ESL Intermediate High A/B, Advanced Low classes. I am originally from Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam. I came to the United States in January, 2018. I have been studying ESL for two years. I started in level 2. And I also took the VESL Health Career class. Now that I have completed ESL 6 I have two goals. One is to obtain a CNA certificate, the other is to continue in the HISET Program.



ESL

My name is Ofelia Mejia and my teachers are Ms. Leon and Ms. Giglio. I am from Mexico City, Mexico. I have studied at ELASC since August of 2018. I started in level three. At ELASC I have taken and completed the ESL mini courses, and IET Pre-Physical Therapy that I have completed. Now my goal is to continue learning English. One day I want to speak with confidence and fluidity.



My name is Xin Zhou, I am from Guangzhou, China. I came to the United States in October, 2017. I have been studying ESL since August 2018, I started in level 2. During my time at ELASC, I have taken and completed the ESL mini courses, IET-Pre-Medical Terminology. My goal is to become a dental assistant. I am so relieved to be finishing ESL 6 and the ESL program. I was supposed to finish level 6 during the winter trimester but I was in China and I had to stay under quarantine until April of this year! I thank my teachers Ms., Leon and Ms. Giglio for all of their help and support.



My name is Jessica Paulina Padilla Velasco and I'm from Jalisco, Mexico. I came to the United States in August, 2018 and started ESL in September of that year. After completing the program my goal is to become a teacher and get my credential. I was a teacher in Mexico and I miss my job very much. I know I have so much to improve and I will continue studying at Eastside Learning Center to reach my goal of eventually getting certified as a teacher in this country.



GRADUATES

My name is Norma Valladolid and I am from Durango, Mexico. I came to the United States in 2004 and started studying English as soon as I got here. But I got married, had 3 beautiful children and stopped studying to take care of my family. I came back to Eastside in 2019 and enrolled in level 3B. I thank my dear teachers, Ms. Singer, Ms. Ochoa and Mr. Wu who helped me complete this goal. This last term has been a challenge at home due to the pandemic because I have been helping my children with their school work. But I am very proud of myself for achieving this goal. I will continue learning because I want to become a Kindergarten teacher.



(Congratulations to Sung Chin and Hanzie Marin, who will hopefully be featured in our next issue, for completing level 6 in Mr. Lemus's class at Eastside Learning Center.)

Congratulations to all completers and the ESL level 6 graduates. We wish you the best of luck in all your future projects.



In Memoriam

Robe Eli Villafuerte, an ESL student at ELASC, was always ready with a quick witted joke, and always came to class with a smile, a bag of candy or fruit to share with his classmates. His presence was always calming and soothing. We are sad that one of our own was taken by this terrible pandemic. RIP Robe.



"Stop acting as if life is a rehearsal. Live this day as if it were your last. The past is over and gone. The future is not guaranteed."
Dr. Wayne Dyer