

# The Communicator

A Publication of the World Languages Lab  
El Centro College

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*The one who knows two languages is worth double.  
El que sabe dos idiomas vale por dos.  
L'homme qui parle deux langues vaut deux hommes.*

## World Languages Lab Staff:

**Coordinator:** Jeff Gregory

**Dean:** Dr. Toni Pendergrass

### Lab Assistants:

Rahul Ghose

Marc McCullough

Mary Moa

Nimrod Quiroz



**The World Languages Lab -  
where technology combines with  
student effort to produce  
accelerated language acquisition**

## 7 Tips on Language Learning ...from the Coordinator

1. **Read aloud** in your target language for 10-15 minutes in the morning before you leave your home.

2. Buy a **bilingual dictionary** and use it constantly.
3. If you drive a car, **listen to CD's** in your target language.
4. **Study hard** in your coursework and textbooks. As an adult, you need to study the language *formally* with skilled instructors such as those we have at El Centro.
5. **Use your creativity** to find ways to practice your target language in your daily life. For example:
  - a. *Chat* with people in your target language in the checkout line at the store, on the bus, etc.
  - b. Most utility bills, government forms, ATM machines, etc., are in English and Spanish. Use these instruments as *teaching tools* during the day.
6. **Watch TV** 30 minutes a day or go to British Broadcasting's website, [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk), and **listen to** the video clips in your target language
7. Make time in your weekly schedule to use the **World Language Lab** resources.

**Did you know?** There are 6,912 living languages in the world. \*

\*Ethnologue, SIL

### **Special Message**

To all users of the World Languages Lab (this is posted in our lab):

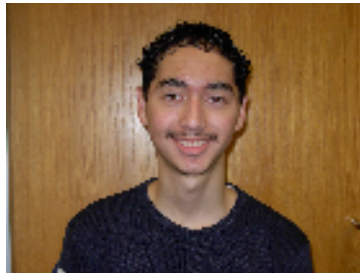


### **Do not hesitate...**

... to speak into your microphone and practice pronouncing your target language. **Oral practice is essential** in language learning. Do not worry about bothering other people around you.

### **WLL Staff**

**Let us introduce our newest lab assistant...**



**Nimrod Quiroz**

My name is Nimrod Quiroz. I was born in Honduras in a small town called Villanueva. I describe my country as a beautiful place to live, to dream, and to enjoy. I came to the United States when I was a teenager. My parents are living in Honduras, but I will stay here to help my family and help enhance our life.

I know the importance of having an education. When a person has a purpose in his or her mind, the

person will try everything to achieve that purpose. So here in the Language Lab, I can see that each student comes with a purpose to learn a language.

I want to become a person who can help another person. My plan is to have a relationship with God, an excellent career, and a family. I am very happy that I am working with students that have goals and desires to learn. It is an honor to work here with students who put a smile on my face.

### **Quick Quiz**

Which parts of your head...



...do you use when you read out loud?

See p. 6 for the answer

### **Interesting Language Facts About the Verb:**

**English** has 12 verb tenses, 5 written vowels, and about 15 separate vowel sounds.

**Spanish** has 14 verb tenses and 5 written vowels which have only 5 corresponding vowel sounds.

**French** is somewhat more difficult to classify. There are at least 20 tenses (depending on how one considers

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them), 5 written vowels, and about 19 separate vowel sounds.

Just because a language is spoken by a “primitive” tribal people does not mean it is not an advanced and intricate form of communication. One tribal language in the deep jungles of Papua New Guinea was found to have around 30 tenses of the verb.

### **Nature Walking**

by Jeff Gregory, Coordinator

The Earth is a magnificent planet and one of the best ways to experience its beauty is to walk through parts of it. Flying in an airplane gives you a high-soaring eagle’s perspective on the landscape far below. Taking a car gets you on the ground but things are speeding by too fast. Nothing beats just plain walking for getting in touch with our planet. It’s good to feel your feet firmly planted on “mother earth” and to be able to see, smell, and touch the plants and rocks and fragrant winds.



Coordinator Jeff Gregory recently walking in the desert outside of El Paso

From the high country of the Rocky Mountains to the sandy

coasts of the Gulf of Mexico, it is only by walking that we can observe the delicate plant and insect life beneath our feet. It’s by walking that we appreciate the symmetry and colors of the trees, grasses, and flowers. It’s by walking that we experience the grandeur of our planet and regain a sense of our own smallness in the grand scheme of creation. It’s a healthy perspective, a reality check. In the city we sometimes get too arrogant – our climate, our environment is controlled by man. But by walking out in nature, we get balance back in our lives, we get refreshed, we get relaxed.

Walking in nature is good for the mind and body. We can breathe deep of the crisp mountain air or the salty sea breeze. We can listen to the wind swaying the tree branches, the gurgling water in the mountain brooks, and the cries of the seagulls on the beach. Man and nature together... partners, friends... like before - life back in balance.

*Note – the above article is translated below in French and Spanish:*

### **Marcher dans la nature**

(French translation)

La terre est une planète magnifique, et l’une des meilleures façons de découvrir sa beauté est d’aller à pied en différents lieux. Survoler en avion vous apporte le regard de l’aigle en vol d’altitude avec une perspective sur le paysage bien en dessous. Utiliser une voiture vous amène au niveau du sol mais tout défile trop vite. Rien ne vaut tout simplement la marche pour être en

contact avec notre planète. Cela fait du bien de sentir ses pieds bien plantés sur la terre maternelle et d'être capable de voir, de sentir, et toucher les plantes, les rochers et les vents odorants.

Depuis les hauteurs des montagnes rocheuses jusqu'aux plages sableuses du Golfe du Mexique, ce n'est qu'en marchant que l'on peut observer les plantes délicates et la vie des insectes sous nos pieds. C'est en marchant que l'on peut apprécier la symétrie et les couleurs des arbres, de l'herbe et des fleurs. C'est en marchant que l'on peut faire l'expérience de la grandeur de notre planète et retrouver la sensation de notre petitesse dans le grand ensemble de la création. C'est une perspective saine, la validation du réel. Dans la ville nous sommes parfois un peu arrogants, notre climat, notre environnement est contrôlé par l'homme.



The coast of Brittany, NW France

Mais en marchant dans la nature, nous sommes renvoyés face à notre vie, nous sommes régénérés, nous sommes détendus. Marcher dans la nature est bon pour l'esprit et pour le

corps. Nous pouvons respirer profondément la fraîcheur de l'air de la montagne ou la brise salée de la mer. Nous pouvons entendre le bruit du vent secouant les branches des arbres, le gargouillis de l'eau dans les ruisseaux de montagne et le cri des mouettes sur la plage. L'homme et la nature ensemble ... partenaires, amis, comme auparavant, le retour à la vie.



Translated by **Frédéric Barbier**, a friend of Mr. Gregory's who lives in Brittany, on the NW coast of France.

#### Una caminata por la naturaleza (Spanish translation)

La tierra es un planeta magnífico y una de las mejores maneras de disfrutar su belleza es tomar una caminata. Volar por avión te da una perspectiva elevada que tiene un águila del entorno natural de la tierra. Viajar en auto te mantiene en el suelo pero las cosas van pasando demasiado rápido. Nada es mejor que tomar una caminata para ponerse en contacto con nuestro planeta. Es genial sentir tus pies plantados firmemente en "la madre tierra" y poder ver, oler, y tocar las plantas, las rocas y el viento fragante.

Desde los altos campos de las Montañas Rocallosas hasta las arenosas costas del Golfo de

México, solo mediante una caminata podemos observar las plantas y los insectos que están a nuestros pies. Es al tomar una caminata que podemos disfrutar de la grandeza de nuestro planeta y de esa manera retomar un sentido de nuestra pequeñez en el gran esquema de la creación. Es una perspectiva saludable, una validación de la realidad. En la ciudad, a veces somos demasiado arrogantes – nuestro clima, nuestro medio ambiente lo controla el hombre. Pero al caminar por la naturaleza, volvemos a equilibrar nuestras vidas, nos refrescamos, nos relajamos.

El caminar en la naturaleza es bueno para la mente y para el cuerpo. Podemos respirar profundo el aire vigorizante de las montañas o la brisa salada del mar. Podemos escuchar el viento moviendo las ramas de los árboles, el gorgorear del agua en los arroyuelos de las montañas, y los sonidos de las gaviotas en la playa. El hombre y la naturaleza juntos... compañeros, amigos... como antes – la vida regresa a su equilibrio .بخ



Translated by **Dr. Jose Francisco Moreno**, professor of Spanish, El Centro

**Meet this issue's featured language instructor:**



**Erin Lestrade**

**Bonjour and hello!** Kudos to all you language-learners out there – taking on a foreign language is an admirable task! It's also an important skill that you will most certainly use later. Of course, it's easier to learn a language when you learn to love it first, so I encourage you to revel in its complexities and to seek ways to incorporate it into your life – through music, movies, and using it at the automatic check-out at the grocery store!

The first time I fell in love with a language, I was 14, and I had just moved to Toulouse, France, for a school year. Even amidst adolescent woes, I appreciated the chance to learn French through immersion. In addition, the experience taught me what's needed in second-language acquisition: fearless persistence in the face of countless errors, and patience with the process. Fortunately, the reward is great! I hope that as a French and ESOL instructor here at El Centro, I will be able to help you have a positive experience.

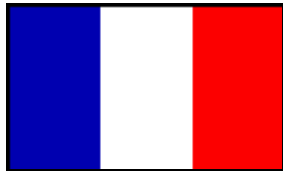
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Take advantage of every opportunity

to practice, and don't forget the World Languages Lab and the Learning Center are here to help you.

All the best!  
Erin Lestrade

*Other French instructors this spring include Kristine Bryan and Brenda Travi.*



### How Important is French?

- French as a foreign language is the second most frequently taught language in the world after English.
- France has the sixth largest economy in the world.
- 28 countries have French as an official language.\*

\*Source: Richard Shryock (Virginia Tech Univ.)

*Answer to quiz on page 2:*

Brain, eyes, ears, and voice. The bottom line: since you use more of your body parts when you read out loud than you do when you read silently, you should make oral (out loud) reading a part of your daily language learning practice.

**Winning Students**

According to our AccuTrack recording system, for the first eight weeks of the Spring semester 461 individual students (and teachers) used the World Languages Lab. Here are the student winners for number of minutes spent in the lab:

#### **ESOL Credit Students:**

- #1 - Maria Morales – 8,080
- #2 – Chih-Yen Hsu – 2,830
- #3 – Krupa Patel – 1,895

#### **ESL Continuing Education Students:**

- #1 – Jorge Abrego – 830
- #2 - Nory Neyra – 534
- #3 – Sandra Gonzalez-Lara – 510

#### **Spanish Students:**

- #1 – Tomasa Almanza – 1,148
- #2 – Joana Gonzalez – 1,136
- #3 – George Floyd – 1,097

#### **French Students:**

- #1 – Alain Compean - 895
- #2 – Maria Gabela – 847
- #3 – Belen Castillo de Molina – 673

### A Featured Language of the World: Laotian



Laos

Located between Vietnam and Thailand, the country of Laos has a population of 6.5 million people. The language, called "Lao" or "Laotian," is a tonal language. One sound can have 5 different tones, each tone being a different word. One of the largest concentrations of Lao immigrants in the U.S. is in New Iberia, Louisiana.