



The Summer is Done...Or is it?

Hello Host Families! We had an extremely busy summer! Within a month span alone, I placed 98 students and I absolutely could not have done it without all of the amazing host families who worked hard, recommended new host families and who were extremely supportive and understanding to boot! I just want to say thank you so much and let all of you know that your hard work does not go unappreciated by any means.

Now, A Surprise! There are more Korean Teachers (these ones are called GIFL, not MOE as some of you have hosted before). They are at a much higher English level and are here for teacher training. We are trying to not place them in the same room as we did with MOE however.

ACE is expanding its horizons and we have begun to invest in short term programs all year round, not just in summer and winter. So for families who wish to host but do not wish to commit to a long term student, these programs are perfect for you. Please feel free to contact me and let

me know your availability. A quick review for up coming programs include:

GIFL: 15 students from Sept. 16th to Oct. 15th, 2007 (leaving early morning)

GIFL2: 2nd teacher group coming on Oct 15th in the afternoon (as one astute host mom mentioned just enough time to change the sheets!) until November 15th. There will also be about 15 of them.

MOE: Sometime in January, most likely early and staying for about a month. We are expecting between 25-30 and will be doubling them up in bedrooms.



ACE has Hired a New Director!

Alicia Brown Forbes, our director here at ACE for nine years, has moved on. She is still acting as an accreditation consultant as well as director support, but she is now happy and in Texas.

Starting late July our new Director is Sally Thomas, who is highly qualified and we are very happy to have her. Sally started out her ESL career in Guam teaching young children English. She then came

back to the States and took over as director at University Presbyterian church for six years. She taught refugees English and helped them find tutors. She then spent two years in Russia on a Fulbright Scholarship teaching Russian ESL teachers how to teach English.

Welcome Sally!

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Thank you to all of my wonderful host families who pulled through for all of our home stay students this summer! Host families change lives.

Cleaning Up and Cleaning Out

At the request of our students, we are cleaning out our student resource room. We would like to be able to offer our students the very best. As part of refurbishing we are looking for quite a few different things. If you are planning of getting rid of the following, please consider donating them to Ace for our student's use instead (tax write-off!). Thank you so much and please email Dennis Broll at dennisb@cultural.org about tech. stuff or call Alicia 206-217-2183 about furniture and the like. The following are what we are looking for but if you have something that is not on the list it is possible we will want it anyway and just don't know it yet!

Computers (no more than four years old, no smaller than a 17" screen)

T.V.

VCR/DVD player

Books (young adult/ children, are good for ESL students)

Movies (VCR or DVD)

Couches

Chairs

Microwave

Mini Fridge

Printers/laser printers

Sports equipment

Pillow/couch pillows

Books on Tape (with Book to follow along?)

Updated posters about Pacific Northwest , maps etc.

Board games/cards (good for language learning)

Pictures are appreciated e-mail: aliciajo@cultural.org

Cultural Sensitivity

I just wanted to make note that we have had a few incidences over the past year dealing with cultural sensitivity. Most of the occasions arose in honest mistakes and were completely accidental. We did, however, encounter a few issues of general insensitivity that should have been avoided.

I take great pride in my host families; yet we are human and we all make mistakes. I am very aware of this, having made, and learned from, many of my own. My host families have been understanding and helpful in regards to these mistakes, and I will return the favour to all of you as well. If something happens please know that I will *always* give you the benefit of the doubt; but if a student complains about something, it is my responsibility to find out what happened and why. I want to hear your side of the story so



What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other?" _George Eliot

I can make appropriate accommodations for both you and the student. Following these occurrences I would just like to make a couple quick reminders:

What seems to be "common sense" (inherent) to us is actually culturally derived. Your student, being of another culture does not have the same type of "common sense" and vice versa. Please keep this in mind in times where patience is a virtue and explaining why Americans do things the way we do.

If you don't know: Ask. Encourage your student to do the same.

Don't be afraid to say you're sorry and let the student know it is okay to make some mistakes too. Let

them know that you will forgive them (where reasonable of course).

- ◆ Do not say rude things about other cultures even if it is not the culture of your student. They will wonder what you say about them when they are not around.

"I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead and some come from behind. But I have bought a big bat. I'm all ready you see. Now my troubles are going to have trouble with me!" DR. SEUSS

Student Programs and Activities at A.C.E.

Hello to all our amazing host families! Having stayed with a host family in France when I studied abroad, I can tell you what an amazing thing this is for our students. Thanks!

I think a few of you have met me, but for those who haven't, my name is Colin Knight (English name, German origins) and I'm the new Program Coordinator at A.C.E. Over the summer I handled the activities, including the big camping trip. Thanks to all of you who lent sleeping bags to your students. They really enjoyed Lake Wenatchee and rafting, despite the ravenous mosquitoes.

I started out at A.C.E. as a tutor in 2004 and just recently got back from a year teaching in Japan. When I returned to A.C.E. this summer I started out doing activities; organizing the tutoring program; setting up and conducting the Student Council; and doing exit interviews for students. I think my job title should probably be 'student staff,' or something. I'm always ready to help students find what they need, whether a bus schedule or a pair of sunglasses and I pride myself in learning all our students' names from the first day they arrive.

The tutoring program is truly unique to A.C.E. In essence we provide students with the opportunity to meet with a native speaker daily for conversation practice, grammar review, essay writing or whatever the student feels he needs to work on. It's particularly rewarding to see how quickly lower level students

progress when they join the tutoring program.

Also we have a Student Council meeting each quarter where we get a sense of the students' issues and needs on campus and in the classroom. Though the Council meeting often involves student complaints and the like, each time I've been a part of it has provided interesting insight into the lives of our students.

In addition to tutoring, A.C.E. also has another unique program that I am handling: the Language Mentor Program. During the academic school year at Seattle Pacific University we arrange SPU students to meet with our students once a week for conversation practice. The result is a wonderful bit of cultural exchange between American college students and our students. Just yesterday I introduced a young freshman girl to one of our Saudi students, a mother, who was running a bit late. As we were waiting for her in the office I explained she was probably a bit behind because it's Ramadan now and she was probably praying. Her eyes got big for a second and I could tell she would get as much out of this experience, if not more, than our own student.

If I have my say, all this will just be the beginning. Regardless, any of you have questions about what's going on at A.C.E. send me an email at colink@cultural.org or just to drop by the office.

~Colin Knight, Program Coordinator

Quick but VERY Important Reminders

I want everyone to know that they are doing a wonderful job and in order for everyone to continue doing such a fantastic job, ACE wants to remind our host families of a few things that ACE stands for and expects from our families.

English ONLY should be spoken in the home at ALL times. We do not want to have to restrict our families with a "only one student from the same country is allowed" rule. The reason we have not had to do this is because of our English only policy and the great job our families are doing enforcing it.

Please inform me if an emergency cot will be used or if you plan on housing the student in your own (Master) bedroom. I know some of you have done this before as a favour to me when I was in a bind (but didn't tell me until later). But I need to be aware of this scenario so when a student comes in I can honestly say I approved it as opposed to being a little surprised. Again, I really appreciate the extra help but I need to know about it.

Dormitory style hosting is completely unacceptable. If you have any questions about what "dormitory" means please contact me. Part of the reason ACE is so special is because of our warm attentive families and casual family atmosphere here in the office. I rely on you to extend this feeling outside of the office and have faith that it is happening.

Students have certain expectations about the kind of home stay that they are going to have. This creates problems that have nothing to do with you and we do the best we can to give them a realistic home stay view. I want to remind home stay families

"A sense of duty is useful in work but offensive in personal relations. People wish to be liked, not be endured with patient resignation."

~Bertrand Russell

that they need to have a realistic view of the kinds of students that come over here too. They are not perfect, nor always highly educated, or speak clear and understandable English. Sometimes they are lonely and may be suffering from depression or

have parent issues. And sometimes they are the best human being you will ever meet. Either way be understanding in the same way that I tell your students to be understanding of the various, interesting and different home stays that we have. Yay for Diversity!

- * Please do not feed your students the same meal in a row. Leftovers are one thing but you should not be making the same meal everyday. For suggestions on cheap (but yummy!) meals please call me or visit www.allrecipe.com. Any suggestions that you may have please e-mail or write me. It would be much appreciated. We can also go over this at the host meeting but that won't be until Aprilish. Please see the back page for my contact information.

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Making the World Your Community

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Good Idea!

One of the home stay families made me a layout of her house. She marked all of her rooms with a number and did the same with the floors. It has been very useful for me. As you know I have not seen all of your houses and would love to have a layout for each of your folders. Please send them to: ACE Language Institute ATTN: Alicia 319 West Nickerson Seattle Wa 98119.

Momma Mouse and Baby Mouse

A Momma mouse and Baby mouse are walking through a dining room. Suddenly a cat jumps out from behind the table. The Momma mouse steps in front of the Baby mouse and shouts, "Bark! Bark! Bark!" The cat leaps up onto the table and runs away. The Momma mouse looks at the Baby mouse and says, "See? That is the importance of learning a second language!"

Home Stay Policy: All I am asking for is a week

Home Stay Policy: When I am setting up for the next session or short term program I make many calls. For those of you who say "maybe" I pencil you into my book. Many of you ask for a few days to decide, talk to your spouse, check with current students etc. I think that is great because I like it when the whole family is on board and I want you to be sure that you want to take a student. Once you have confirmed that you are taking a student I pen you in. To me this means I am giving you those students, and I do not have to worry about finding them a home stay anymore.

Now, I understand that life happens. People are born, people are hurt, people die, people go on vacation. And when emergencies happen we will roll with it. But please, please do not commit to me and then cancel the day before (when you could have told me a week before) or commit when you are not positive that you will have a room open. This creates a situation where the student is potentially homeless and I would appreciate it if that can be avoided in non-emergency situations.

I know that as home stay families you want to keep your homes full with all of the awesome

students that come in and out of Seattle. I want that for you too and do my best to keep you as full as you want to be (and as is acceptable). I try to support you as best as I can in that regard.

I know that I have asked you to be flexible as home stay families and I am flexible too. When a student cancels, I try to find you a replacement ASAP. When a student changes their flight date and you can't take that day off work, it is okay if you need a relative or friend to meet the student instead or even have the student hang out with me at the office for a while. If you can't pick the student up, I will arrange or help you arrange an alternative solution. If ACE is anything, we are flexible.

So, please give me some time to solve the issue: do not cancel on me the day before a student arrives on the message machine and then I do not hear from you again. Please do not confirm you have a spot but you don't actually know for sure yet. If given enough time, we can figure out anything that needs to be figured out, even if it is only a week. And that extra week, is all I am asking for.

GET FUZZY



BY DARBY CONLEY

