

Campus acquires international flavor



Andrew Petruolo of Canada and Rehan Chowdhry of Pakistan enjoy a moment in the lounge. PHOTO: RIANNE DISCH



Man Chan and his tutor, Angela Aguiqui, meet 3 times weekly to review his assignments. PHOTO: STAFF



Man Chan, center, demonstrates his translator for ENG 090 classmates Earl Moyer and Senneca Truzys. PHOTO: ANGELA L. AGUIQUI

By RIANNE DISCH

WCC serves a large population of international students, in the English as Second Language (ESL) Program as well as in regular curriculum, according to Stephanie Hunt, ESL instructor.

Over a dozen different countries are represented in the ESL program, Hunt said.

ESL is located in The Literacy Center where many international students begin to acquire or improve their English skills.

Students hail from countries ranging from Canada and Mexico to Japan and the Philippines.

Hunt said the lab in the AH building currently serves 107 international students, who study English, helping them build their English skills until they can be placed in a conventional class setting.

Staff in the lab also decipher the equivalency grades the students bring with them from their native countries.

These 107 students represent 17 different countries: 4 students are from Bosnia, 15 from China, 16 from Korea, 1 from Yugoslavia, and 4 from Thailand.

One student is from Spain, 44 from Mexico, 2 from the Philippines, 2 from Peru, 1 from Panama, 2 from Japan.

Four are from Honduras, 3 from Guatemala, 1 from Egypt, 3 from El Salvador, and 1 from Ecuador.

Students in the curriculum programs, while having sufficient skills in English, still benefit from tutors and counseling as they adjust to American lifestyles.

Rehan Chowdhry, 20, recently moved to North Carolina from Pakistan to pursue a career in medicine.

Chowdhry said he has had difficulties adjusting to the freedom of expression between the opposite genders in the U. S.

"In Pakistan," he said, "there must be a one-foot distance between every male and female when sitting or walking together."

In Pakistan, marriages are still arranged, mostly by the wealthy families to keep the family wealthy.

Some middle class families arrange marriages, but the children have final choice about whom they marry.

Women are very oppressed in Pakistan, Chowdhry says that the girls must always wear long gowns with a shawl to cover their hair when they go out into public unless they are going out to dinner.

Then they are permitted to wear loose-fitting jeans and long-sleeved, loose-fitting shirts.

Chowdhry said that he likes life in the U.S., but that doesn't stop the homesickness.

Andrew Petruolo, 17, came to the U.S. from Montreal, Canada.

He said he is used to the bustle of Montreal and not the calm of Wayne County.

He said if he could, he would choose New York to live in because it is the most like Montreal.

His father moved his family here when he got a job at Wayne Memorial Hospital.

Petruolo said that his family likes it here, but he'd like to go home.

He said that people are much more friendly here than in Montreal: "They just walk by and say, 'Hi' without reason," and he can't get used to it.

Man Chan, 19, first came to the U.S. from China in 1993 when he and his family toured and visited his maternal aunts in New York.

Chan's father and mother decided that Chan and his sister, Manyuk, a 17-year-old at Southern Wayne High School, would have better educational opportunities in the U.S.

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