EBUS Newsletter

Fall 2012



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A Letter from the EBUS Instructional Coordinator

Dear Xiangjiang Students,

I hope your summer was wonderful!

Do you remember me? I was at your school in May. I had a great time watching your classes and meeting with you all. I found that you were a special group of people. I saw you working long and hard days to improve your communication skills in English. I especially enjoyed meeting some of you personally.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the new EFL instructors and talk briefly about your EFL program offered by EBUS - Coastline Community College. First of all, you will have two new instructors named Thomas Elliot and Jonathan



Chris Mefford EBUS Instructional Coordinator

Ogden. Both of them are experienced and dedicated teachers of English. They have also worked at universities in China. Their excellent record and training will help you improve your academic English skills. They are also very nice guys!! Secondly, I would like to tell you of the exciting plans we have for your English studies. Although some of the study materials will be similar to Spring, we have a very structured and solid plan for our EFL classes. I can assure you that our instructors will be using a variety of useful tasks and activities to teach and help you learn academic English. One of the main components of the curriculum will be a focus on the Academic Word List (AWL). You will learn to recognize, use and later master these word families. This will help you get better scores on your TOEFL or IELTS exams and, more importantly, prepare you to function successfully at a University in the United States.

If you would like to contact me with any questions about the English program please feel free to email me at: cmefford@coastline.edu

Let's all look forward to a productive Fall 2012!

All the best,

Christopher Mefford

EFL/Instructional Coordinator

EBUS – Coastline Community College



Please Join Us in Welcoming The English Teaching Staff to XJHS...

Dr. Jonathan Ogden

Dr. Ogden has a wide and varied background which brings a broad and vast breadth of experiences.

He most recently was a faculty member of The School of Foreign Languages at Beijing Normal University in Zhuhai, China, teaching Business Law, International Finance, International Trade, Advertising and English as a Second Language.

Jonathan Ogden was the Managing Director of Express Yourself, a Mexican Corporation, located in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico that provided English as a Foreign Language (EFL) training and personal coaching. Before moving to Mexico he served as an EFL Teacher in the South Korean public school district at the elementary and middle school level. Jonathan was the President of Creative Results LLC, a Southern California financial management and consulting company before moving to South Korea.

Prior to starting his own business Jonathan served as the Director of Human Resources and Finance for Hines Horticulture Inc. Fallbrook, the Chief Operating Officer for a San Diego nonprofit organization, the Chief Executive Officer for a local American Red Cross Chapter and the CEO of a local YWCA. Jonathan is a veteran of the United States Navy and proudly served his country for nine years as a Chaplain and a Personnel Mobilization Officer. He obtained the rank of commander.

Jonathan has presented at many conferences on leadership and personal development. He also was a contributing author for the Amazon bestselling book



Dr. Ogden most recently taught at Beijing Normal University in Zhuhai.

Wake Up...Live the Life You Love. His vision is to inspire and empower people to realize their dreams and achieve them. Jonathan's career has always centered on people, teaching and mentoring.

Dr. Ogden received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Education from Point Loma Nazarene University, his Master's of Science degree in Global and International Education from Drexel University and his Doctorate of Ministry in Administration degree from California Graduate School of Theology.

Thomas Elliott

Thomas Elliott is a 32 year-old professional EFL instructor. He graduated from high school in the small town of Washington, Kansas in 1998. From 2000-2004, he attended Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in Hays, Kansas, where he received his BA in English. After that, he worked for Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) for one year as a grant writer.

In 2006, he moved to Shenyang, China, where he worked for Shenyang Normal University and the affiliated school for one year. He taught Oral English, Beginning English Composition, and Middle School Comprehensive English. He also taught English to grades 1, 2 and 3 in primary school, and worked as an English and TOEFL tutor in his spare time.

FHSU has a partnership with Shenyang Normal, and in 2007, Mr. Elliott decided to begin working on his master's degree and apply for a teaching position with FHSU in Shenyang. From 2007 until 2011, he taught English Composition 1 and 2. In 2010 and 2011, he was the director of the Writing Center for the SNU/FHSU College of International Business.

In 2011, Tom returned to Kansas to finish his master's degree and spend some time with his family in the USA. During this time, he worked as a substitute teacher in a high school, and worked on getting his TEFL Certificate. In June 2012, he completed his Master's of Liberal Studies in Social Sciences degree and accepted a position with the Coastline Community College/EBUS program for the 2012-2013 school year.

Thomas has given lectures and recorded audio textbooks for the international training school Fei Yue Jiao Yu. He has organized and participated in English Corners for several different universities and high schools, and has judged English competitions on several occasions. In 2008, he was invited to take part in the Liaoning New Years Evening



Mr. Elliott is very excited to be returning to China to teach English again.

Party, and in 2009 and 2010 he was interviewed for the Shenyang TV station's Dragon Boat Festival TV special.

Thomas and his Chinese wife and their 2 year old daughter are excited about returning to China. They have travelled to Guangdong province twice before, and really love the friendly people and the beautiful scenery. He is looking forward to the new school and new friends at XJHS, and is ready to begin preparing the students for their bright futures!



Sociology 100 with Dr. Lee Ellis

Dr. Lee Ellis grew up on a farm in southeastern Kansas before moving to North Dakota where he was a professor of Sociology at Minot State University for 32 years. In 2009, he was offered a Visiting Professorship at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. There he taught in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology until early this year. He has taught numerous subjects including Social Research Methods, Criminology, Social Stratification. Anthropology and Sociobiology.

Lee is the author of several books on Criminology and Research Methodology as well as more than one hundred journal articles and book chapters. He has worked on more than a dozen Grant projects performing Behavioral and Social research for more than twenty years, and has been the recipient of 16 awards and appointments thought his career.

Since returning to the U.S., Lee devotes his time to his family at his home in Murrieta, California but also finds time to pursue a variety of research interests.

Dr. Ellis received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Sociology from Pittsburg State University with minors in Psychology and Philosophy, and he received his Ph.D. in Criminology from Florida State University.



Dr. Ellis recently returned from a three year visiting Professorship at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

U.S. University Entrance Requirements and Admission Rates

With all the private and state universities and colleges in the U.S. there are tremendous variations when it comes to entrance requirements and processes, but they *all* use multiple criteria.

Example:

University of California, Irvine (UCI) Entrance Requirements and Admissions Rates:

- Quality of High School—rigor of academic program
- High School GPA
- TOEFL score minimum of 550
- SAT entrance exam score ideally 600+
- Work experience, service learning, extracurricular activities
- Letter of Recommendation
- Application essay

Approximately 60% who apply are not accepted.

These admission criteria from UCI represent just one example but a fairly typical one for universities. Notice there are seven different items that are considered for admission. This is in stark contrast with the single Asian University entrance requirement – the admissions test. In fact, U.S. top exam scorers are not necessarily given admission priority. U.S. statistics show that among those who score full marks in the American college entrance exam, the SAT, and apply to Harvard University, as much as 61% are rejected. It also happens at Yale, Stanford and other prestigious US universities. Therefore, it is important to realize that

the SAT score is just one part of the application. A perfect score of 800 will not guarantee University admission if other parts of the application are weak. Admissions officers want to see a strong academic record, an excellent essay, meaningful extracurricular activities and strong letters of recommendation. Test scores are never the only factor involved, and depending on the school, they may not even be particularly important.

Not only are there a variety of entrance requirements for US universities, but acceptance rates vary substantially as well. UCI accepts about 40% of applicants while *Harvard and Stanford last year accepted only 6% of first time freshman applicants*. All these variations can be very confusing for American Students, let alone for cultures with a single entrance requirement – the admissions test.

US Higher Education Credits and the Community College

In US colleges and universities, credits are granted based on students spending two hours outside of class on homework for every hour in class. This is not the case in Asian schools and that time commitment is very important for students and parents to understand.

A US Bachelor degree requires 110-130 total credits and, as in Asia, usually takes about four years to earn. The Bachelor degree is comprised of classes that fall into three categories: classes in one's chosen major, electives, and general education courses

To obtain a Bachelor degree you must declare a major and acquire between 35-55 credits within that major field of study by completing 8-14 mandatory classes.

Usually about 30 elective credits are required to complete the Bachelor degree and although EBUS is primarily a general education program, we do at times offer elective credits as well (like our Counseling 105: Strategies for Student Success). We offer the counseling course because we think it provides an important foundation for our international students by providing them the study skills and strategies necessary to become successful college students in America. What is significant here is that these courses count toward the Bachelor degree just as much as the major courses and the general education courses. All students will have elective courses on their transcripts for graduation. These are an equally important part of the Bachelor degree.

Students must also complete approximately 50 credits from general education courses to obtain a U.S. Bachelor degree. The idea behind the general education courses is to provide a broad foundation of knowledge for a well rounded education. It is important for students and their parents to understand the value of these classes. Our EBUS program concentrates on providing these required classes.

According to a recent article in US News and World Report (September 14, 2011):

Starting out at a community college offers other advantages when the time comes to apply to a four-year school. For instance, roughly two thirds of transfer students accepted by Amherst College in Massachusetts come from community colleges. At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the figure is more than 30 percent.

The community college system both offers affordable education, when compared to four-year universities, but it also provides a high quality education. For example, in California, several research studies have been undertaken which monitor transfer students from California community colleges who transfer into the four-year university system. These studies have shown that students who start at a community college do as well, if not better, than the students that originally begin at the four-year institution in terms of both grades and graduation rates.

Did you know?

- California Community College students who have earned an Associate degree for Transfer are granted <u>priority admission</u> to the California State University into a baccalaureate (BA) degree program <u>with a guarantee of</u> <u>junior standing</u> as long as the student meets all prescribed admission requirements.
- In order to transfer with junior status to a University of California (UC) campus without an Associate degree a student must:
 - Complete 60 semester units of transferable college credit with a minimum GPA of 2.8 (non-resident)
 - Complete all courses required with a grade of C or better in each course:
 - (2) transferable college courses in English composition
 - (1) transferable college course in math and quantitative reasoning
 - (4) transferable college course from the following subject areas:
 - Arts and Humanities
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Physical and Biological Sciences
- In order to transfer with junior status to a California State University (CSU) campus without an Associate degree a student must:
 - Complete 60 semester units eligible for transfer to the CSU, including IGETC general education requirements
 - Earn a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all CSU-transferable coursework
 - Complete at least 18 units of coursework in a major or area of emphasis

Did you know?

- In 2011: The University of California schools admitted 70% of the CA Community College transfer students who applied.
- In 2010-2011 Coastline's sister school, Orange Coast College (OCC) transferred more students than any of the other 110 community colleges in California to UC/CSU campuses.
- In 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Education, of the more than 1,000 community colleges in America, Coastline Community College ranked 35th in student graduation rates and total number of degrees conferred.
- According to the University of California, Los Angeles: *"UCLA gives preference to students transferring from California community colleges, and International students are no exception. In fact, over 80 percent of our applicants for Fall Quarter 2010 were attending community college in California when they applied."*
- In 2010-2011: 52% of California State University graduates and 28% of all University of California graduates started at a community college.
- University Graduation Completion Rates and Grade Point Averages were equal or better than students who transferred directly from high school.
- Average Undergraduate Tuition rates for international students:

 Community College: \$6,409
 CSU: \$17,582
 UC: \$34,218

Shuyang Wang joins EBUS as the new Administrator



Hello everyone, my name is Shuyang Wang. I will be starting my new role as the EBUS Onsite Administrator at XJHS this fall. I was born in Shenzhen, but I lived in the US for almost 6 years while I earned my Master of Science in Accounting degree from California State University, Los Angeles. While I was there I worked in the university's Associated Student's office where I learned a great deal about how to help students meet their educational goals. I assisted with things like

helping students apply for scholarships and with setting up and advertising new clubs on campus.

Because of my studies and work experience in the US, I have learned a lot about American Culture and the American educational system. I look forward to meeting everyone at XJHS and sharing my experiences!



Coastline Students can always access their Final Grades by using the MyCCC online portal, here's how...

Step 1 Go to Coastline's official website: http://www.coastline.edu

Step 2 Select the "MyCCC Log in Now!" icon:

Step 3 Enter your User Name and Password. (these can be found on your Coastline College Acceptance Letter)

Step 4 Select the "Student Tab"

Step 5 Under the heading: "Other Student Resources" select "Unofficial Transcript", select "Submit"

Your final grade for each completed class will be displayed and may be printed.

EDUCATION BOUND UNITED STATES (EBUS)

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EBUS is a unique international high school-to-college program modeled after the best practices of the Coastline Early College High School program and is designed to generate a pipeline of successful international students to the Coast District and U.S. universities. The EBUS program enables high school students to effectively improve their English language skills, obtain college success skills, and take college courses while attending high school in their native country. As early as their first year in EBUS, students who achieve or have the required level of English language skills will be eligible to take college classes concurrently with their high school classes and earn credits toward transfer to U.S. universities.

Benefits of EBUS:

- Cost savings of traveling to/living in US for first 2 years of college. Students remain in their native country, allowing time for maturity, and with support of family while taking American accredited college courses by American college instructors.
- Coastline is a regionally (WASC) accredited California community college.
- A carefully guided transition period allowing students time to adjust to higher education and American style of education.
- Intensive English language courses, taught by native English speakers, preparing students for successful completion of college classes.
- Official college transcripts from an accredited California community college.
- Student services, service learning and supportive opportunities that go beyond the classroom and beyond theory by engaging in the real world and solving problems.
- A high school diploma and an official college transcript.
- A summer program (EBUS to SEE US) in the US giving students first hand college experience on a 4-year university campus.

The EBUS program is part of a global initiative in the Coast College District and is offered in collaboration with U.S. College Compass, LLC.

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Accreditation: Coastline is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, a nationally recognized regional accrediting agency Non-Discrimination Statement: The Coast Community College District does not discriminate unlowfully in providing educational or employment opportunities to any person on the basis of age, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, medical condition, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status, or genetic information.