



The ESL Parrot

Your ARC newsletter for and by ESL students

Issue # 5

Spring 2006

Interview with Innocent Subiza ESL Student

Tell me a little about yourself. Where were you born? Did you go to school in Rwanda?

I was born in Rwanda (Cyangugu, the Eastern Province of Rwanda, Africa) in 1965. My parents had 8 children. I was in the middle. I went to school in Rwanda. After my high school, I went to a major seminary and I studied philosophy for three years. Then I studied theology for four years. Afterwards, I was ordained to the title of Catholic priest.

Why did you choose to study these subjects and to later become a priest?

It is my vocation. Some people choose to be a teacher or a mechanic; that is what they want to do. I chose to study philosophy and theology and then to become a priest.

How long have you been serving as a priest?

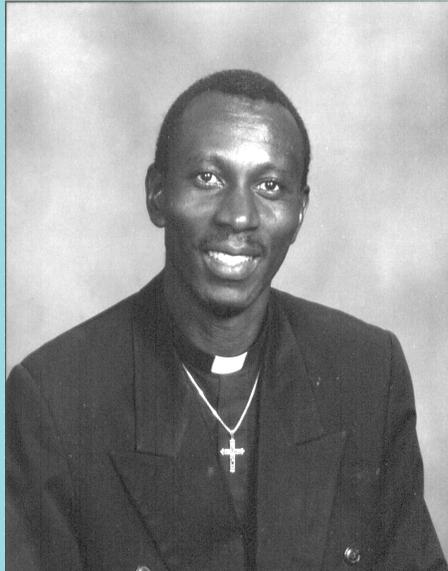
Almost 6 years now. I worked for about four years in my country and then I came here to the United States of America and continued to exercise my priesthood, or my vocation, in this country.

What made you come to the US?

I had some friends from Rwanda here in the US, and we asked the diocese to send me an invitation so that I

could come here and continue my vocation here. I came here in September, 2004.

And of course the church for us is universal. Wherever the church is, the priest has work to do. It was a great opportunity for me to experience a



new culture and to work in the same church but in a different country. I am happy to work for the church here.

Are you enjoying your experience here, Innocent?

Yes, definitely, because people here are friendly. I received a warm welcome here and people here helped me to learn English and to get acquainted with the new culture. So far, I'm really enjoying my life here. People are so nice, kind, and friendly. Of course, when I compare here to my country, there is a big difference.

What is this difference? Could you give an example?

Here people enjoy freedom and peace. But in Africa they are always fighting each other, killing each other; there's always hatred. There is really no true democracy. But here people can enjoy the values that come with democracy. But if I take an example of my country, there are two ethnic groups which need reconciliation. In 1994, there was a genocide where extremist Hutus killed Tutsis and moderate Hutus. That situation created tension between both groups. With reconciliation, we could maybe enjoy the values that I mentioned above that come with democracy, peace, and unity.

Do you come to ARC to learn English?

Yes. I take just ESL 97.

I've been taking classes here at ARC for one year. Before, I was in Davis attending English as a Second Language classes for ten weeks.

Do you like studying English here?

Yes, I like studying English here. There are very good, helpful teachers at the ESL center. Of course, the teachers give you the best they can and encourage you but you have to find ways to challenge yourself and to improve the skills you have learned.

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand."

Native American Proverb



American River College
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Do you give sermons in English?

Yes, I give sermons in English only. At the beginning, of course, it was very tough. I started 5 months after arriving here. People told me that at the beginning it was hard for me, of course, and hard for them to understand some phrases and sentences I was saying. But now they follow me very well. They say that I have improved greatly and they appreciate my efforts. For me it is encouragement and I appreciate it.

Do you plan to go back to Rwanda?

I course. I have my family in Rwanda and one day I plan to visit them.

Zhanna Karpukhina

Student Chirpings

Student at the Bakery

I had a very embarrassing and, at the same time, a very interesting experience. When I was a child of about seven and my older sister was nine, we lived in a small city, Chisinau, Moldova, but the buildings were big and tall. We lived in one of those big buildings, and ours had nine stories; we were on the top floor.

One beautiful day, my sister and I were playing outside together; it was about 5 p.m. We were getting very hungry, and near our house was a grocery store. We loved the cookies that were in that store, but we had a little problem: we didn't have money with us to buy any cookies at that

moment! However, the cookies looked so delicious that we couldn't resist them.

My older sister had a genius idea. She proposed getting some cookies by simply eating them in the store. We thought, "This way we are not stealing." While we were eating all the cookies, the manager of that store was watching us the whole time. In fact, he had seen us from the beginning when we were planning to do that. The store manager knew our parents. He recognized us

immediately. It was kind of strange for him to see us alone. When we were done with the cookies, we were ready to leave.

Suddenly, we almost bumped right into the store manager. He was standing



there very angry and very unhappy with what my sister and I had done. He was very disappointed. The first question that he asked was, "Where are your parents?" We started thinking that probably he knew something, but we didn't think that he had seen everything. We were very embarrassed and scared.

I told him that we were playing; but he didn't believe us, so I just said the first thing that came into my head, "I'll run home quickly, get some money, and be back with the money. While I run

home, you can keep my sister, Svetlana, so that way we cannot run away without paying you."

The store manager smiled, looked at us, and asked us a second question, "Why did such nice, beautiful, smart girls do that?" Well! We told him the truth: we were too lazy to go all the way upstairs to the top floor to get money from our parents. However, we knew that wasn't a good excuse, and the manager called our parents. Our parents came immediately, so we were embarrassed in front of everybody. We paid for the cookies, we said we were sorry, and we promised not to do that again. Our parents were very upset. They talked to us and explained everything with love.

In conclusion, I realized for the rest of my life that I could not take or eat something in the store or in any other place without paying or getting permission first. That was a very good lesson, and I am glad that happened because from mistakes people learn to be better. Of course, it's better when we learn from other people's mistakes!

Olga Fedorcea, ESL W50

Parrot Warblings



Make Ends Meet

Have or earn enough (often only enough) money to live.

If you **make ends meet**, you get enough money to pay for something you need, especially in order to live.

Example:

With five children at home and 2 living away to attend college, the parents struggled to **make ends meet**, but somehow they managed.

When she was a poor student, she had to work 5 hours a day late at night to **make ends meet**.



Grappling with Grammar

Gerunds (-ing)

When a verb ends in -ing, it may be a gerund or a present participle. It is important to understand that they are not the same. When we use a verb in -ing form more like a noun, it is usually a gerund:

Fishing is fun.

When we use a verb in -ing form more like a **verb** or an **adjective**, it is usually a present participle:

- Anthony **is fishing**.
- I have a **boring** teacher.

Seven Secrets to Learn English

Secret #3: LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN!



Students sometimes say: "I don't listen to the BBC news on the radio because it's too fast for me and I can't understand it."

That's a pity! When it's too fast for you, when you can't understand it, that is exactly when you **NEED** to listen to it!!!

How can you improve if you don't listen and practice?

When you were a baby, did you understand your own language? When you were 3 weeks old, or 2 months, or 1 year, did you understand everything? Of course not! But you **learned** to understand by **listening**. Think about it. You learned to understand your own language by listening, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. After that, you learned to speak. Then you learned to read. And then you learned to write. **But listening came first!**

ESL WEB LINKS

*Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab
Mostly conversational-style dialogues
<http://www.esl-lab.com/>

*English Listening Room
Listen to songs and fill in the blanks.
<http://www.manythings.org/el/>



Reading Tips

For most people, it is easy to learn to read faster. Your reading rate is often just a matter of habit. But to begin, you may need to try to change some habits and try these tips:

1. Pay attention

- *Look over the title of the chapter.
- *Look at all the headings, subheadings and marked, italic, or dark print.
- *Look at any pictures or illustrations, charts, or graphs.
- *Quickly skim over the passage, reading the first and last paragraph and glancing at the first sentence of every other paragraph.
- *Close the book and ask yourself:
 - What is the main idea?
 - What kind of writing is it?
 - What is the author's purpose?

2. **Stop talking to yourself when you read.** People talk to themselves in 2 ways, by:

- *Vocalizing, which is the actual moving of your lips as you read, and
- *Subvocalizing, which is talking to yourself in your head as you silently read.

3. **Read in thought groups.** Our eyes must make small stops along the line.

4. **Don't keep re-reading the same phrases.** A single careful, attentive reading may not be enough for full comprehension, but it is best to work on paying closer attention the first time through.

5. **Vary your reading rate** to suit the difficulty and type of writing of the text.



Out of the Cage

All Day Resume Evaluation

Looking for part-time or full-time employment? If you have a resume and would like for someone to evaluate (critique) it, bring it by ARC's Career Center, located in the Student Services building. No appointment necessary.

April 18, 12:00 pm -- 7:00 pm, and
April 19, 9:00 am – 7pm
Questions? Call- 484-8492.



Word Soup Faculty Reading

The annual Word Soup literary reading presents a fifty-minute hour of prose and poetry by two of the accomplished writers in our midst, Tina Royer from English and John Aubert from Geography. Everyone is invited to share in this inspiring and entertaining campus event, sponsored by the Creative Writing Committee of the English Area and the Center for Teaching and Learning.

April 20, 12:25 – 1:20 pm
Raef Hall, Room 162



Dedication of Learning Resource Center

Ceremonies to mark the dedication of the new Learning Resource Center.

April 20, 2:30 pm – 3:00

Questions / Comments?

Please let us know what

*we can do to improve
"The ESL Parrot".*

*We appreciate any and
all feedback you are
willing to give us.*

*Send us an e-mail, call,
or just drop by Profes-
sor Bracco's office
D387 (at Davis Hall)
(916) 484-8988*

"Job Connection"/Job Search

This workshop will demonstrate how to access the most recent job openings on our new online job placement program
JOB CONNECTIONS

Register for this free one-hour workshop offered by ARC's Career Center by calling 484-8492. Participants may enter a monthly raffle to win a \$50.00 gift certificate from Office Depot.

April 26 , 1:30 -2:30 pm

ARC Applied Music Student Recital

The ARC Music Department is proud to present our Applied Music Students in recital. April 20 beginning at 12:20 pm, and April 24 beginning at 8:00 pm in room 512 of the music department portables.

Admission is free to this event.



Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Survivor Speaks

Renee was just a teenager when she and her mother were rounded up by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz as part of Hitler's "Final Solution." She and her mother survived, but six million or more perished. Ms. Tully has told her story many times, and we are pleased to host her again as we remember the horror, knowing that we must learn from the past so it never happens again.



April 25, 12:25 – 1:20 pm
Raef Hall, Room 160

Interview Information & Techniques

This workshop includes: Researching the organization; reviewing the anticipated questions; making a professional presentation, and body language and presentation.

April 25, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, and April 26, 12:00-1:00 pm
ARC's Career Center
For more info, call 484-8492

Dear Granny Noetal, Dear Ton Sil,

My counselor (my older brother) said I don't need any more listening/speaking classes since I'm finishing L50. The fact is I like talking but not listening. What do you think?



You've got a listening problem. You're listening to the wrong people. Everyone knows "talk is cheap" but "listening is priceless" (OK, I just made that last quote up). Still, the truth is that the best counselor may be a **real** ARC counselor or one of your ESL professors. They'll give you straight talk about how necessary it is to learn to listen in an academic classroom. Learning **how** to listen in your second language is what you will learn in any ESL listening class. Your experience will influence your speaking and writing in English and help you, not only in your academic classes, but also in any career.

Signed,

Ton Sil Sor L-50

offers to do the dishes; other than that, I suggest **you** become **his** counselor. Here's what one person says about listening:

Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.
Jimi Hendrix



Word Search
Food Web

D I P A R A S I T E J M V J Y K G R
H X N M D H J K L O S D E W C N R F
I R V D F F J F S C C B W I V S A V
N F B S P H U N T A H W P V K N Z W
F Z W I N S E C T I V O R E S B E B
O H Y V L D L Q J F W W O H D E M T
O E E O G J D E C O M P O S E R S N
D H Q R T R U R Y M G B N F Y E Y X
C G T A B D O E Y X E R F Y V C U C
H A E R H I R W T W O F G R L R Q A
A T A S A O V H D T M R A H N D L R
I H D F V P G O A G E H U M T R X N
N E P I C I O D R N P C J O J B H I
Z R N L L F E R E E R P X B T U V V
I M J N A R S C A V E N G E R Y C O
O G U S P N B K J M Y D N Z D Q K R
M S F B G P T R Z E J C A T C H F E
F I L T E R F E E D E R O B X O S E

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| carnivore | food chain | insectivore | scavenger |
| catch | food web | omnivore | sunlight |
| decomposer | graze | parasite | trap |
| eat | grow | pick | gather |
| energy | harvest | plant | |
| filter | herbivore | predator | |
| feeder | hunt | prey | |



What did the mayonnaise say to the fridge?



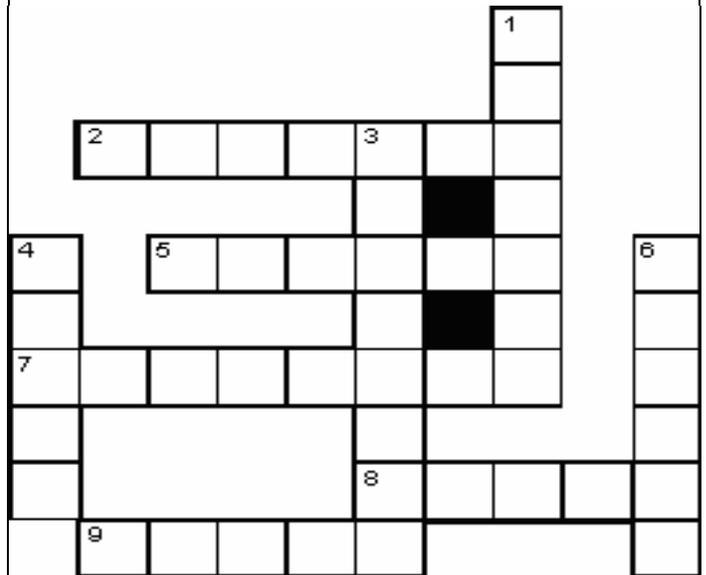
Close the door; I'm dressing.

Across

- 2. Someone who saw a crime.
- 5. People who catch criminals.
- 7. Not guilty.
- 8. The place where a trial is held.
- 9. The head of a court.

Down

- 1. Someone the police think may have done a crime.
- 3. Things or facts used to show that someone is guilty.
- 4. A story used to show someone is innocent.



WHAT'S NEW IN THEATERS



The Wild
April 14

A father-and-son pair of lions, along with their wacky group of friends, venture outside the zoo in this endearing animated tale.



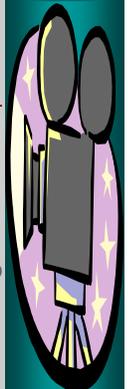
Akeelah and the Bee
April 28

In this heart-warming and compelling movie, an inner-city kid with a gift for words overcomes obstacles on her way to the National Spelling Bee.



RV
April 28

One modern family plus an RV plus a road trip adds up to lots of laughs in this family comedy



“How can I get my students to speak English in the classroom?”
Responses to *Exasperated Educator* — The ESL Parrot, Issue 3

Dear Exasperated Educator,

I'm an ESL student and I know a good remedy to students speaking other languages in the ESL class. By the way, it's the only way to solve the problem. You have to have a heavy stick and hit the students' heads who speak other languages. It helps a lot. If the stick is heavy enough, they will forget how to speak in any languages. In my native country, teachers often used this simple and effective method.

Anonymous R40

Dear Exasperated,

I could give you an answer because I know and like to speak in my native language during the lesson. Sometimes it is very boring so I talk to my neighbours in our language. So I would suggest to make the lesson more interesting.

On the other hand, I cannot follow the lesson because it is very difficult to understand so I ask my friend to help me. I would suggest to mix up the people so that native speakers don't sit together. Then they would try to ask the teacher if they don't understand. Hopefully my suggestions can help you.

Sincerely,

Nina R30

Dear Exasperated,

Suggestions:
Speak English
Reading and tell them to forget their languages, especially if they are in the class
Tell them to concentrate on English.
Keep up the good work!

From,
Filipino who was in jail last year and was paroled last month!

SMILE!!!

Dear Granny,

Separate all students that speak the same language. Do not let them talk in any other languages, and keep them busy doing interesting things.
Make them feel that only one language for them is best, is English.

Student whose name Mr. Bracco forgot ESL 97

If student can't speak English very well he feel not good. But teacher may ask students to speak English. Teacher can take away points from student who speak native language. Or, if student talk native language he must do something: sing a song, read text, or something.

Veronika Oselskaya L40

Dear Exasperated,

I have a few ideas. In our adult school we had some experiences with the same problem. Our teacher, Norm, called everybody who spoke another language, not English, and asked them some questions. We did not like to answer aloud in front of the class. After this we needed to say “Only English” 5 times. Sometimes he gave us candy when we spoke only English during the class. For me I think it is just impolite to speak another language if other people in the class don't understand.

Galina Oleksiyenko
ESL 97

I'm an ESL student. I came to learn more English, but I can't as much as I want because most of the students speak Russian all the time. Sometimes I don't hear what the teacher is teaching. So my advice is let that student out of the classroom and finish what they are talking about outside, and come back after they finish talking. Good luck!

“G”, R30

The teacher must be strict. Sometimes she can take away points. Maybe students must be busy in class, so they won't have free time to speak to each other. Of course, teacher must remind them to be polite, because other students don't understand them. But in other situations, students don't understand the teachers. Maybe they don't speak or explain clearly, so people in class ask each other to translate or explain.

Anonymous L40

Teacher can encourage her students to speak English in the classroom by applying a new rule that nobody in the classroom is allowed to talk to others in Russian, Chinese or Vietnamese... Just one language that is spoken in the class is English. Native languages can be used outside the class or somewhere else.

Huynh Nguyen L40

Duct tape.

Name Withheld

At the beginning of the lesson give each student a sticker. When all of the students are gathered together in the classroom they have to listen to each other.

If one of them speaks their native language, the other one gets his sticker at the end of the lesson the person who gets the most stickers wins and gets a prize.

Natallia Filistovich R30

Note: Original writing – No editing done for grammar

More Student Chirpings

English in the Classroom

All teachers experience different challenges in the classroom. Speaking a native language in the classroom is one of the problems that teachers face. Teachers can do three important things to help students understand why it is important to speak English in the class.

First of all, teachers can place students in groups and ask them to create a list of reasons why it is important to speak English in the classroom. After all groups finish their lists, the presenter from each group can explain to the class

the reasons why English is so important in the classroom.

Next, teachers can have students create a list of ways that can be used to ask others politely in class to use English. For example, students can say, "Please use English so that all of us can understand."

Finally, teachers can ask their students to create a class statement that encourages the use of English during class. Teachers can select some polite statements that students wrote and put them on a large poster that can be placed somewhere visi-

ble to all the students in the class. When the use of native language becomes a problem, teachers can bring students' attention to the poster.

This process can help students understand why it's important to speak English in the classroom, and can help teachers avoid frustration and create a pleasant "English" atmosphere.

Larist Babchuk R 310

Pressures of Being an ESL Student

One early morning a young sleepy man woke up with a terrible feeling that he was going to be late for his early English class again. Yes, he went to bed too late again. Then, inside his car he put the key in the ignition and turned it, but it did not start. "Now what am I going to do?" asked the man. "I have to take the car to a repair shop, and of course I have already spent my money on books for my English class!" His father had been right when he had said, "Patrick, the life of a student has a lot of problems such as a lack of money, sleep, and time for yourself."

First of all, Patrick decided that he needed to get some money. Not only the fixing of his poor, lifeless car needed money, but his refrigerator was getting low on food (which was very important), he needed new shoes, and his mother's birthday was in one week. Of course, he was going to deal with it somehow because he always did, but this time his

financial problem was worse than he expected.

Furthermore, that morning our Patrick did not really feel well and his mood was not the best, all because he got only five hours of sleep the night before. The previous day, Patrick had gone to bed at 1.30a.m., because after getting home from work as a cashier at a fast-food restaurant, he had a big English project to do. Today, he woke up at 6.30a.m., too late in order to get to class on time.

Most importantly, with school, Patrick's personal life had taken a deep turn. His friends never called him anymore, and he never had time to find a girlfriend. Of course, Patrick liked school and he knew the importance of it, but how could he find time for himself? All he knew at this time was school, job, and homework. "I do not think I can live like this for a long time," said Patrick sadly.

At last, Patrick decided to take action.

"Something has to change," thought Patrick. As a result, our financially unstable, almost-falling-asleep, losing himself- and-his-friends Patrick, went to his strict English teacher, "Oh, Mr. Rau, I need help!" "What's going on?" asked Mr. Rau. While Patrick was explaining his problems, he was handing in his homework to Mr. Rau. "Hmm... I do not take any excuses, and it is too late for you to hand in the homework. You can bring it to me next semester, Mr. Hoggan," said Mr. Rau. Patrick returned to his seat. He thought to himself, "A student's life is like a book, you can read it with great interest but you'll never know how the book ends until you set there."

Maybe you are like Patrick, with not much money, not enough sleep, and no time for yourself, but do not be afraid. Do what you can do, do your best, and you'll be happy with how your book ends even if you skipped a few chapters!

Inna Berdnik W50

Tail Feathers

Earth Day: A Brief History

While most of the world celebrates Earth Day on 21 March, the day of spring equinox, the U.S. observes it on April 22. Both holidays were born at virtually the same time and, what's more, were the inventions of citizens from one and the same country: the United States.

John McConnel, an American businessman and journalist, suggested the idea of creating a holiday to honor planet earth's life and beauty in 1969 during the National UNESCO Conference in San Francisco. That following February of 1971, then Secretary General U Thant signed the Earth Day Proclamation, beginning the United Nation's tradition of observing the holiday on the day of spring equinox by ringing the UN Peace Bell in New York City.

America, however, celebrates Earth Day one month later, in late April. This discrepancy occurred thanks to one Gaylord Nelson, often regarded as the

originator of the Earth Day movement in the United States. A U.S. senator from Wisconsin and long-time advocate of wildlife and environmental conservation, Nelson was the spark that ignited the environmental ac-

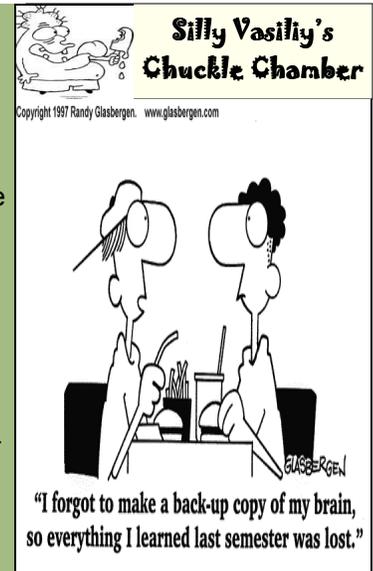


tivism fire. According to University of Missouri scholar David Webber, in 1970 Nelson came up with the idea of creating environmental teach-ins, tailored after wildly popular anti-Vietnam War teach-ins of the time, to focus the public's attention on the need to conserve natural resources. After careful preparation, including an ambitious letter

writing campaign to all 50 of the nation's governors and the mayors of prominent U.S. cities, Senator Nelson was able to capture America's collective spirit for the country's first Earth Day.

The celebration, held on April 22, 1970, turned out to be a huge success, with an estimated 20 million Americans participating in various educational activities and community events all around the nation. Even the U.S. Congress took the unprecedented measure of recessing so it, too, could observe the holiday. Senator Nelson would later be awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, in large part for his contributions to the environmental movement.

Soon after the inaugural event, federal legislation was passed revolutionizing the U.S. environmental regulatory landscape.



In July, 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency, the first federal agency of its kind in the world, was born. As its name suggests, the agency's mission is to "protect human health and the environment" for generations of Americans to come.

<http://www.washprofile.org>

Want to get your classes at the times you want?

For a successful registration, do the following:

1. Make an appointment to see a counselor *now*, because you have to make an appointment 2 weeks ahead of time.
2. Go to <http://www.arc.losrios.edu> to fill out the "Supplemental Data Form"
3. Use the list of recommended classes from your counselor to work out at least two schedules, one with the exact times that you want, and one for back up just in case one or more of your classes is/are not available
4. Take care of all of your debts to the college, i.e., library fines etc.
5. After April 17, go into the e-service website (via the ARC homepage above); check for your registration time and date.



The computer randomly assigns this appointment. You can register any time after this appointment, but NOT before)

6. Be sure to print out your class schedule so you will know when and where to go to your classes.
 - a. Every time you make changes to your schedule, print out the newest copy & keep it until you get your grade.
 - b. Pay for your classes:
 - c. On line, immediately use a credit card **OR ELSE**
 - d. No later than 10 days after you register for your classes, they will all be dropped.
 - e. Finish and pass your Spring classes!

Have a nice summer—whether or not you go to summer school!

Thuan Bui
Counselor