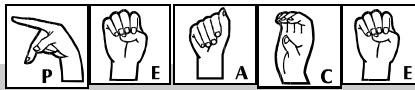




NOVEMBER 2007



SFCC DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



SFCC SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gracias Dobro došti

Diversity News

LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

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This past June the Department of World Languages at SFCC under the guidance of Debra Rivera-Sommer and Maria Cristina Lopez took a group of 26 students to Antigua, Guatemala, for an intensive Spanish study-abroad program. The students not only studied Spanish for 7 hours daily but also traveled to Lake Atitlan (considered the highest lake in the world), Chichicastenango (the worlds largest marketplace for textiles) and Tikal (the spectacular Mayan ruins). This June the Department plans to take students to Zacatecas, Mexico, not only to study Spanish, but to explore this World Heritage Site. For more information contact the World Languages Department at SFCC 428-1370.

"...over the past three decades the U.S. Department of Education has poured billions of dollars into bilingual education, mainly the transitional variety designed to replace the languages of minority children with English."
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/langpol.htm>

Chair:
Debra Rivera-Sommer
Members :
Phyllis Baca Susan Dugan
Tomas Duran Jerry Friedman
Eva Gallegos Aamna Nayyar
Karla Quintana Anna Tupler
Antonio Vlgil Consuelo Walker

"English is a West Germanic language that originated from the Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to Britain by Germanic settlers and Roman auxiliary troops from various parts of what is now northwest Germany and the Northern Netherlands. Initially, Old English was a diverse group of dialects, reflecting the varied origins of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms of England."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_language

"The Spanish language developed from vulgar Latin, with influence from Basque in the north and Arabic in the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula (see Iberian Romance languages)."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Spanish_language

On October 18 the SFCC Diversity Committee set up a display on "El Día de Los Muertos". Two films were shown on November 1 and November 2: *Michoacán: Noche de Muertos* and *Celebrating the Day of the Dead*. Students experienced a different tradition of death through the richness of another culture. Thanks to the Culinary Arts Dept. faculty and students and the Diversity Committee.



"Preserving endangered languages is a vital part of securing the culture and heritage of our rich human landscape. Language keeps traditions alive, it inspires knowledge and respect about our past and the planet on which we live, and it links communities across borders and beyond time."
<http://www.cal.org/resources/Digest/0313park.html>

SFCC NEWS



On a sad note, three of our beloved faculty members passed away this year. **Joyce Lawrence** worked as an instructor for the English as a Second Language Program. She taught for our Adult Basic Education Program for four years. She had previously taught in the Peace Corps in Kenya and Rough Rock, Arizona. Joyce was an exemplary teacher who empowered her students to use English to better their lives. She was the type of person who lit up a room with her positive energy. **Ralph Sedano** was the Program founder, Coordinator and Instructor for our Trilingual Interpreting program (AMSL, Spanish, English). Whether as a professor in college or as a minister in the local congregation he was passionate about teaching. As a strong Deaf man, Ralph longed to see other Deaf people gain the knowledge and the happiness he had found. **Shaun Murray** worked at the Fitness Center for over six years in the RTC and as an occasional Faculty Manager. Many students, faculty, and staff appreciated his friendly demeanor and helpful attitude as they used the facilities. He was also an exemplary coach for high school students, avid athlete, and participated in community activities.

"As a culturally and linguistically diverse student population is, or will soon be, the norm in most U.S. schools, developing an understanding of the ways that children are socialized at home is increasingly important."
<http://www.cal.org/resources/Digest/0313park.html>

HUMOR

One dicho or saying that might illustrate a difference between English and Spanish refers to something that costs a lot. In English we say "That cost me an arm and a leg." In Spanish we say, "Me costo un ojo de la cara." I guess the Spanish value their eyes and the English value their limbs more than the other parts of the body.

"The **Indigenous Language Institute (ILI)** recognizes the imminent loss of indigenous peoples' languages and acknowledges the individuality of indigenous communities. ILI facilitates innovative, successful community-based initiatives for language revitalization through collaboration with other appropriate groups and organizations, and promotes public awareness of this crisis." Browse their news, workshops, and featured language project— "Ohkay Owingeh: Village of the Strong People"
<http://www.indigenous-language.org>

Fifty Percent of World's Languages Have Been Lost in Last Six Years. This absolutely fascinating video lecture by a very articulate Harvard anthropologist tells you how we are losing our heritage.
http://v.mercola.com/blogs/public_blog/Fifty-Percent-of-World-s-Languages-Have-Been-Lost-in-Last-Six-Years-8661.aspx



If you have ever taken a chemistry course, the word chemistry itself originates with Arabic, as well as nitro, alkali, alcohol, calibre, antimony, arsenic.
<http://www.islamicity.com/articles/Articles.asp?ref=MM0710-3398>

Native Languages of the Americas:
Preserving and promoting American Indian languages <http://www.native-languages.org/>



Celebrating Our Cultures...we all smile in the same language.

"U.S. Census figures for 1990 show that parents characterize almost one million children between the ages of five and seven as speaking English "not well" or "not at all," representing an increase of about 25 percent over the 1980 figures. However, the estimate more than doubles when schools report their enrollments, using a variety of practical definitions of proficiency to identify students needing special language services.
<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ModStrat/pt1.html>"