



Notes from the Office...

What do we do at CRLC and ESE?

- Private and group classes for children and adults in: ESL, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Sign Language, Korean, Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Latin and Portuguese!
- Offsite teaching at daycares, preschools, private schools, afterschool programs, universities and corporations
- Interpreting (select languages)
- Translating (see end of newsletter for more info)
- Cultural training
- Cultural and language events

Upcoming ESL Professional Development: **TESOL** Kim, Eileen, Robin and Linda will be in Baltimore this week for the International TESOL Convention. We'll come back with lots of exciting ideas for our programs.

New and On-going Events

- Partnership with Northshire Bookstore in Saratoga for Spanish Story Time, the 3rd Friday of every month
 - Partnership with Saratoga Library for Spanish Classes and an upcoming Chinese program - free!
 - Did you complete the March 30-Day challenge? If yes, ask CRLC staff for your reward!
 - ESE Social Committee- Need to practice your English? Join the ESE Coffee and Chat Club
- For more information call us or email us!

Spring is here!

- Be on the look out for a picnic gathering
- CRLC is planning a trip to NYC to visit Chinatown

Shensational! Great job in French and Spanish!



CRLC and ESE Staff Development - Thanks Vicki and Eileen for the Edmodo workshop!



ESE Social Committee

Do not forget to ask your ESL teachers or the office about the ESE Social Committee. Open to all of our students, even native English speakers.

The next meeting is sometime in April. Ask to join our Edmodo group to stay in touch.

Come, bring a friend, bring a treat!

Student Spotlight with Barbara

CRLC has students who have been attending our program for years! Their goal is to become fluent, and as with any language, it takes time and practice. In this short interview meet Barbara, a student who has been attending Spanish classes more than 8 years and has traveled with us to Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Q. What language are you studying and have you studied that language before?

Spanish. I never studied it before.

Q. Why did you decide to learn Spanish?

Because my son married a woman from Panama and I wanted to be able to talk to them when we visited.

Q. From your experience, how does or will knowing at least one additional language help you in life?

Being able to speak and read another language gives me a great sense of accomplishment. It also makes me appreciate the difficulties when someone is trying to speak English with me.

Q. Do you have a story you can share about speaking Spanish either while traveling or in a situation where it has helped you or someone else?

In France with my children, we were having a very difficult time understanding a waiter. Finally, my daughter realized that he was trying to practice his English! Things went more smoothly after that.

Q. How many languages do you speak and what are your goals?

If I practiced, I could speak French, but I'm really rusty. I'd like to travel and use my languages more.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add? CRLC provides a courteous and fun environment where one can laugh at her mistakes and make good progress.



Pictured here are Barbara and her husband at our Thanksgiving Around the World Event!

The March 30-Day Challenge is over!

Thank you to all of our teachers and students for participating in the March 30-Day Challenge

Adult Students- Ron, Kathy, Victoria, Jessica, Christine, Patricia, Laura, Sivaji, Miju, Barbara B, Barbara M, Shanti, Lou, Trevor, Tracy, Fantasia, Bill, Gloria, Debbie, Vicki, Sarah

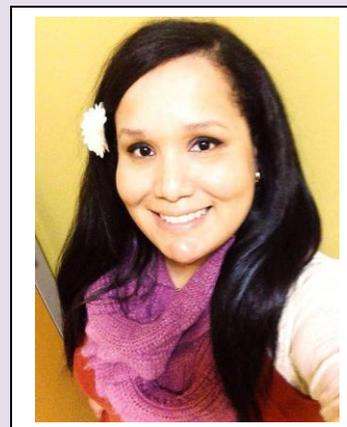
CRLC Kids- Kaveeya, Kevala, Claire, Elena, Mara, Hudson, Sydney, Alex, Aksel, Kennedy, Brooklyn, Noah, Lorianna, Donald, David, Artie, Blake, Richard

CRLC Teachers- Vicki, Maria, and Gloria

How many languages participated? 5



Teacher Spotlight with Carmen



1. Who are you and what do you teach?

I'm Carmen and I teach Spanish at CRLC. I also teach Spanish for the Languages, Literatures and Cultures Department (LLC), and a variety of courses for the Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino Studies Department (LACS) at the University at Albany, including History of Puerto Rico, Introduction to Caribbean History, and Dominicans and Puerto Ricans: Brotherhood of Two Nations.

2. Why did you become a language instructor?

I knew I wanted to be a teacher by the age of 4. Growing up bilingual and traveling between PR and US for many years kept me in contact with both languages and I always seemed to be the translator from both sides. I initially became a Spanish teacher in PR, but coming to NY for grad studies taught me a lot about SLA (Spanish Language Acquisition). As a result of these experiences, I decided to pursue a career in Spanish Linguistics; that way I'd be useful to both native speakers and learners of Spanish.

3. What do you miss most about your native country?

The love, hospitality, warmth, joy and affection of the people in PR. I miss having options for the weekend like going to the beach or visiting friends. Puerto Ricans have a different approach on life. Caribbean people, in general, having survived hurricanes and constantly overcoming poverty have learned to be much more grounded and less superficial than other places that highly depend on technology and trends as a source of happiness. Can't forget to mention the food and interaction with nature. I remember when I didn't suffer seasonal allergies...

4. What do you like most about the US?

The variety of cultures and peoples. If one of the downfalls of living in an island is being surrounded by water, living in the US exposes all of us to the genuine meanings of difference, idiosyncrasy, and the beauty of the other. I'm definitely grateful for having the opportunity of an assistantship at SUNY, since it contributed greatly to my professional growth and skills. I also like the idea of being part of the majority of the Puerto Rican population, because there's more of us here than in the island.

5. Please share your favorite teaching or travel story.

Many semesters ago, I had a single dad in one of my Spanish courses. Every now and then, he had to bring his 3 year old daughter to class because he had no one to babysit her. On the day of his final exam, his daughter happened to have pink eye, but that didn't stop him from taking the exam. While he worked on his test with his right hand, he was cradling her on his left arm. I felt lucky to have seen such a beautiful demonstration of love and determination.

BABY NEWS!

Congratulations Doro and Logan on the birth of your little boy, Theodor. Best wishes to you and your growing family.

We miss you Doro!

Reminder:

CRLC starts classes on the first week of each month.

Upcoming classes for May:

- Chinese

Stay updated by following us through our social media!

www.facebook.com/CapitalRegionLanguageCtr www.facebook.com/EmpireStateEnglish/ <http://www.iccralbany.org/> <http://crlcalbany.org/>
<http://www.northshire.com/> <http://esenglish.org/>