



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

# Intensive English Institute Newsletter



## IEI Faculty Superstars:

Of course, ALL of your IEI teachers are passionate about their chosen career. But the following teachers are going above and beyond in the months of March and April by attending and presenting at various professional conferences around the country:



**Julieta Fernandez** and **Aziz Yuldashev** will give a presentation titled "IM (instant messaging) in the Classroom". **Aziz** also has a presentation on coherence in writing.



**Julieta Fernandez**, **Silva Dushku** and Marie Daniel have been researching the use of weblogs for English speaking fluency and listening development.



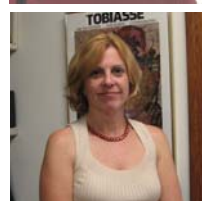
**Luann Sorenson** will be attending AAAL so that she can apply the latest language acquisition theory to teaching writing at the IEI.



**Lisa Pierce** (*not pictured*) and a colleague will be presenting their work on the construction of a speech database of ESL learners. Their project represents an initial step in developing an automatic pronunciation assessment system for English language learners.



**Kate Curry** and **Kristin Bouton** have two projects on which they will give presentations: one about verbal peer feedback, and the other about popular media in listening and speaking classes.



**Bek Nurmukhamedov**, **Susan Fassler**, and a UIUC professor, Dr. Randall Sadler have been researching the use of the 3-D environment Second Life in language classrooms. **Bek** will also give a talk this month about teacher feedback on student writing.



The conferences your teachers are attending include AALL, *American Association for Applied Linguistics*, in Washington, D.C.; CALICO, *The Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium*, in San Francisco; TESOL, *Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages*, in Illinois; and the national TESOL conference in New York. Be sure to ask your teachers about their trips to these professional conferences!

## Upcoming IEI Events

Don't miss these great events coming up soon!

For more upcoming events, see <http://www.iei.uiuc.edu/calendar.htm>

- **IEI Ice Skating Party**

Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, UIUC Ice Arena  
Cost: free entry and \$1 for skate rental with your student ID  
Located at 406 E. Armory Avenue



- **Spring Break**

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>  
See the information in this newsletter about Spring Break housing and travel

*Reminder! Daylight Saving Time is this SUNDAY, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

### SOME DAYLIGHT SAVING TRIVIA:

1. On the second Sunday in March at 2:00 AM (or simply before you go to bed on Saturday night), should you change your clock one hour forward or one hour back?
2. True or False: All U.S. states follow Daylight Saving Time.
3. True or False: Daylight Saving Time was introduced by the same man that appears on the \$100 bill.
4. What does the Fire Department want you to do on the same day that you change your clocks?

**Answers:** 1. Forward 2. False - Arizona and Hawaii do not 3. True. (And that man is Benjamin Franklin)  
4. You should change the batteries in all of the smoke detectors in your home.



# Random Acts of Kindness

ran·dom *-adjective.*

Unpredictable, having no specific pattern, purpose, or objective



An act of kindness is “random” when it is unexpected, done for no particular reason and without the expectation of reward or recognition. When you enter the IEI, you’ll see that Section 4T shared their own experiences with random acts of kindness on the large bulletin board. Each week a new section will share their own Random Acts of Kindness project. Check it out! And perhaps you will be inspired to commit your own random acts of kindness. Here are a few ideas for you from [www.helpothers.org](http://www.helpothers.org):

## SEVEN GREATEST GIFTS:

Gift of **service**: Donate your time to a good cause

Gift of **affection**: Be generous with hugs, kisses, and pats on the back

Gift of **laughter**: Clip cartoons, share funny stories

Gift of **appreciation**: Send a ‘thank you’ note, write a letter to an old friend

Gift of a **compliment**: A simple ‘you look great today’, or a sincere ‘thank you for a wonderful meal’

Gift of **listening**: No interrupting, no daydreaming, just listening to a friend

Gift of **solitude**: Spend some time in silence, help others spend some time in silence

## IMPORTANT SPRING BREAK NOTICES:



**ARE YOU PLANNING SPRING BREAK TRAVEL?** If you are traveling **OUTSIDE** the U.S. during spring break, please see Rhonda in the front office during the week of March 10<sup>th</sup> to request a letter of attendance to carry with you to ensure safe reentry into the U.S. Keep the letter with your I-20 and passport when you travel

## **DO YOU LIVE IN AN UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL?**

The Undergraduate University Residence Halls close on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 3pm and open Sunday, March 23, 2008 at noon. If you wish to stay in your dorm, a reservation is required. You will need to submit a break housing contract to 100 Clark Hall (open 8am- 5pm, Monday through Friday) by **Friday, March 7, 2008** at 12:00 noon. The cost for a full break package is \$100.00 per person regardless of length of stay. Residents may also request to stay one night Saturday, March 15 or Saturday, March 22 at a cost of \$20 per night. The non-refundable charge will be billed to your student account unless the reservation is cancelled by Thursday, March 13, 2008.

You may pick up a break housing contract at the IEI Main Office or you can go online and download a copy at: [http://www.housing.uiuc.edu/online/fineprint/spring\\_break\\_contract.pdf](http://www.housing.uiuc.edu/online/fineprint/spring_break_contract.pdf)



## Featured UIUC Events



- **Free Jazz Concert**

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM, Krannert Center Lobby

Join the IEI interns for this free event which includes a wine tasting and performance by Briggs Houchin Jazz, a dynamic duo presenting jazzy blues. For more Krannert Center events, visit <http://www.krannertcenter.com/>

- **Spa Night**

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, CIRCE

Haircuts, facials, chair massages, nutrition information, free group fitness classes, a live D.J., Wellness zone assessments, sleep hygiene, men's health information...and so much more!! Sign-ups begin at 6pm and will be handled on a first come first serve basis.



- **Engineering Open House**

Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 103C Engineering Hall, 1308 W Green Street, Urbana, IL

This free two day event will showcase the latest in science and technology from the university's professors, students, and sponsoring corporations. EOH annually attracts over 20,000 visitors to learn, experiment, and play with science. There will be more than 200 exhibits ranging from Concrete Crushing (a process to test the strength of construction material in an shattering way...) to a Liquid Nitrogen Table (take everyday objects and place them in -350F liquid nitrogen and see what happens to them). Events will be held at various venues, so be sure to visit the website at <http://eoh.ec.uiuc.edu/index.php> to decide which events you wish to attend.

- **Other Guys Spring Concert**

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, *time to be announced*, Foellinger Auditorium

The Other Guys are an a cappella group. That means no instruments, just vocal performance. They are part of a long tradition of musicianship, comedic spontaneity, and time-honored dignity. They perform at 100 different venues a year, including of course, their home at the U of I. Tickets will be sold at the Illini Box Office. Learn more about this musical group at <https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/OtherGuys/>

