Multiculture Conversation Cafe Time

CONVERSATION
Cafe

Fall 2014 / Winter 2015
Issue No: 1
FREE
FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

CAREER GOALS P4-5
EXCITEMENT AT CONVERSATION CAFE P16-17
GOOD MEMORIES AT THE CAFE P20-21
INTERVIEWS P28-29
FUN GAMES P30-35

A NEW MAGAZINE IS HERE!

You are welcome to join us on Fridays for the Conversation Cafe at PCC Southeast Campus.

The Conversation Cafe volunteers and ESOL students have fun together. Behind them is the new PCC Southeast Campus building.
ACADEMIC CALENDAR
WINTER 2015  JAN-MAR

THU JAN 1
COLLEGE CLOSED: HOLIDAY

FRI JAN 2
LAST DAY TO CHOOSE FINANCIAL AID
REFUND OPTION: SEE MYREFUNDS

MON JAN 5
BEGINNING OF TERM

FRI JAN 9
LAST DAY TO SELECT AUDIT GRADE:
SEE GRADING OPTIONS

SAT JAN 10
LAST DAY TO DROP 8-12 WEEK CLASSES:
SEE HOW TO DROP

TUE JAN 13
LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES

MON JAN 19
COLLEGE CLOSED: HOLIDAY

SAT FEB 28
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM 11-12 WEEK CLASSES:
SEE HOW TO WITHDRAW

SAT FEB 28
LAST DAY TO CHANGE GRADE OPTION:
SEE GRADING OPTIONS

SUN MAR 1
PCC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

MON MAR 16 - SUN MAR 22
FINAL EXAMS

SUN MAR 22
END OF TERM

TUE MAR 24
GRADES AVAILABLE: SEE MYPCC

Calendar designed by On & Lewis

Academic Reading 6 students
in Nicole Morales' class discussed questions
about their magazine project with Conversation
Cafe Supervisor Tanya Batazhan
(pictured in the middle).
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the Editors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masthead</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRONT OF BOOK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Goals</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halloween’s Meaning as Told by and for My PCC Friends</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Facts about Conversation Cafe</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in My New Life</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Students</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEATURES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Conversation Cafe</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excitement at Conversation Cafe</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Memories at Conversation Cafe</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Experience at Conversation Cafe</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Are the Benefits We Can Get by Attending Conversation Cafe?</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Will the Conversation Cafe of the Future Look and Sound Like?</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BACK OF BOOK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riddles</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proverbs</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comic</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Match</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scramble &amp; Maze</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Puzzle</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness Is poem</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Letter</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter from the Editors

We love the environment at Portland Community College. It's a wonderful place for people to study and exchange knowledge with each other. But some students think PCC is just a place where serious teachers challenge them educationally. That's why we would love to create a stronger and more active link between the students and the college.

Our idea was reached by creating a new magazine. This magazine can help everyone on campus better understand each other. Conversation Cafe at PCC Southeast is trying to do this, but with a magazine, this will be more easily done.

There are some useful activities at Conversation Cafe to help students learn more about each other. One thing we know well is how much the Cafe has helped to connect students when on campus.

Any student who has a question or concern about studying here is welcome to join other students at the Cafe. They can share with them their experiences, advice, and other concerns. Furthermore, students in ESOL who use Conversation Cafe can improve their language skills like general communication, how to better present ideas in public, and to understand the importance of patience when talking.

In Fall 2014, we worked together to make a magazine. We wrote articles that are of interest to students in ESOL. They include subjects such as Ebola, career goals, and the traditions of Halloween. There are many pictures and fun games too!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed ideas to our magazine about the Conversation Cafe. We would love to see everyone at PCC experience the Conversation Cafe. It will help make our campus even better.

— Students in ESOL Reading 6, Fall 2014
The *Conversation Cafe: Multicultural Conversation Cafe Time* magazine is an academic ESOL student-produced project. The project had three objectives: to incorporate community-based learning in an ESOL classroom; to practice 21st Century skills in an ESOL classroom; and to collaborate with and promote the Conversation Cafe community. Reading 6 Students completed the project in three phases over the course of 10 weeks in Fall 2014.

Project questions can be emailed to nicole.morales@pcc.edu

Conversation Cafe questions can be emailed to conversation.cafe@pcc.edu

**Special Thank You**

Tanya Batazhan

*Conversation Cafe: Multicultural Conversation Cafe Time* is not an official Portland Community College publication. The opinions herein do not represent Portland Community College nor the Conversation Cafe at PCC Southeast. Contents have not been approved or endorsed by Portland Community College.

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Many people have career goals in their lives. They want to accomplish those goals. They want their goals to become true. When it becomes true, they will be successful and happy. This is especially true for students because they study hard to accomplish their dream. There are many reasons about why they want their careers to become true.

First of all, they want to support their family. They want their family to have a better life, so it is a motivation for them to achieve their dream. Furthermore, they want to learn new things from this world. They want to get more experience when they still have an opportunity to have it. For example, some of them go to school and try to learn very hard because they want to explore new things in school. They never give up on their dream about their career goal because it is for their own life. They think that to give up their career goal is like to give up their wonderful future, so they don't want their dream to be extinguished. Finally, they want to make money to live better than now. They don't want to become a poor person in their society, and they don't want their family and their friends to feel disappointed about them. They want to be a successful and proud person.

When we went to the Conversation Cafe, we met a lot of people who are from different countries. Each of them has their own career goal in their lives. They shared with us things about themselves. Here are some of their career goals they have told us.

“Hello, I am Qiuni Wei. I am from China. My career goal is to work in a good hotel because I studied hotel management when I was in China. Also, I like to work in a hotel, and I hope I can become a hotel manager in the future.”
“Hi, my name is Ali Dirie. I am from Somalia. My career goal is customer service and management. I like these fields because they provide good knowledge and you can get a job easily.”

Suzuno Taira

“Hello, I’m Suzuno Taira. I’m from Japan. I haven’t chosen my career goal yet. I am studying English, but in the future I want to get a job that will help me use English everyday.”

“Hi, my name is Kasuba Safari. I am from DR Congo. In the future, I want to be a lawyer because I want to help innocent people.”

Kasuba Safari

“Hello, my name is Tasuku Shimabukuto. I am from Japan. My career goal is to work in the fashion industry because I love fashion.”

Tasuku Shimabukuto
EBOLA

Humans’ health is getting worse because of global warming, working, and caring less about themselves. Therefore, many people do not know how to prevent disease, and their bodies cannot fight with the disease.

In the middle of 2014, Ebola virus created a new history of human disease in the United States. The first case of Ebola in the United States was found in a man in Dallas, Texas. He traveled from Liberia. Then the virus spread to two nurses who had been taking care of the man.

The first case treatment of Ebola in the U.S. failed on the man, but the second case was a success on the Vietnamese woman who was one of the nurses. Therefore, scientists cannot guarantee that they will treat every case of the Ebola virus.

Ebola is not a common disease like the flu, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, or shingles because it strongly leads humans to death. Currently, scientists cannot create vaccines or medications that can help humans against the virus.

This virus cannot spread to other people. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Ebola cannot spread to other people though water, food, air, or mosquitoes, but it will go through by contacting blood and body fluids of a person with Ebola.

People with Ebola will have fever, headache, muscle pain, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and bleeding or bruising. The average time for symptoms is between 8 to 10 days.

By Thuong Van
Kasuba Safari  
From DR Congo  
Student at PCC

Kasuba is from DR Congo, Central Africa and has been in Portland a couple of years. Kasuba is PCC ESOL student. When he hears that about Ebola, he is really sad because he feels a broken heart for people who live in Africa. He hopes that they can kill Ebola. The Ebola virus has made an epidemic in West Africa. Thousands of people there died and are sick.

Fariya Omar  
From Kenya  
Student at PCC

Fariya is from Kenya in East Africa. She has been here 11 years. She is a new PCC student. She was really scared when she heard that about Ebola. She has family who live in Africa close to West Africa and Ebola is there. She is worried about her family. She hopes that no one gets it. People think bats have Ebola first before it goes to humans through food and contact.

Tasuku Shimabukuro  
From Japan  
International student at PCC

Tasuku is from Japan. He thinks Ebola is one of the scariest viruses in the world because whoever gets it, means the person is going to die. He is feeling so sorry for the people who live in West Africa, Ebola is easy to get. Let’s support organizations working in West Africa so they can stop the disease and save their lives.
Halloween’s Meaning as Told by and for My PCC Friends

By Chau Le

I talked to Adula, one of the international students at PCC who is from Saudi Arabia, about Halloween night in the United States. He said one of his interesting memories about Halloween was to see, at midnight, some people in his home neighborhood wearing scary costumes. “I never saw any activities like this, especially in my country. I love the way the children knock on doors to ask for candy.”

Most of the international students at PCC don’t know much about Halloween. That’s why I am so excited to share with them the meaning of this special night.

Some only know “Trick or Treat” as the main activity of most children and some teenagers in the USA on Halloween night. The word “Trick” means cheat. The world “Treat” is more friendly and positive, meaning to give kind treatment to another person.

On Halloween night, children are in masks and costumes and have lights to go trick or treat. They knock on doors and say “Trick or Treat” to get candy.

The trick means, “If you don’t want us to play a trick, you have to give us a treat.” Of course, it is a fun game and not a real trick.

When I shared with Adula and some of my international student friends, such as Lee Chang and Le Hoa, some of the Halloween tradition, they were so surprised. It’s a very new story for them. Many foreigners may know the general idea of Halloween, but not so many know the meaning or story.

In Ireland where Halloween may have started, the story is about a man named Jack. He died, but his soul could not go to paradise because he was a bad person. He was stingy, greedy, and hid money.

Jack did not help people. He was mean. His soul could not be taken away because he made a friendship with the devil. So, Jack’s life is like a lesson for young people.

The story about Jack is about good and evil. A person should not be stingy, greedy, and selfish. They must have a good heart and always help the poor.
7 Facts about Conversation Cafe

1. The Conversation Cafe began in September 2011.

2. The Conversation Cafe is funded by the EL Civics Grant.

3. The Conversation Cafe helps students in ESOL.

4. The Conversation Cafe staff work with many people at PCC.

5. The Conversation Cafe is on Fridays.

6. The Conversation Cafe is free.

7. You can make friends and special experiences at Conversation Cafe.

By T.   Photographs courtesy of Conversation Cafe Facebook
The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program has eight levels of English to learn. The level 1 to level 4 program can improve English to help with daily communication, and the level 4 to level 8 program can help the needs of professional personnel working or training in the US. The program helps students to achieve their various English goals. Such as me, I had to learn English to meet my daily communication needs. Now I am learning English to improve my professional knowledge.

I have deep emotion for and memories of Portland Community College Southeast. Fifteen years ago, it was located in Southeast Portland on 82nd Avenue between Powell Boulevard and Division Street. In my memories, it was just a building with two hallways. I still remember the classrooms and the tables and a small dark computer room where I used the computer to connect with parents and friends. I even remember the instructors who taught me English. In my new life, I seemed like a newborn baby who had to learn everything from the beginning, including speaking. I started to learn English; it seemed like my new life was going to start.

I felt full of tension and expectations during my first ESL class. When I had just immigrated here, I heard the name ESL at PCC many times. People kept telling me, “You should take an ESL class; it will help you to get a good job in America in the future.” So, I thought that if I wanted to have a good easy life in America, I had to learn English.
I took an ESL class at PCC where there were many people who came from different countries, and they spoke strange languages. I was worried and nervous because I didn't know how to answer when people said, “How are you?” to me in my first class. The idea of a good life helped me go on. After the first term, my English had improved somewhat, and I was very happy. I imagined after one year, I could make new friends in America. Unfortunately, my family schedule changed. I had to stop my ESL class, and I was sad.

After two years, I was excited to come back to the PCC ESL program. I decided to finish ESL classes A, B, C, and D levels, and I was going to continue to a credit program: English as a Non-Native Language (ENNL). In the morning, I dropped off my daughter at school, and I took the bus to PCC. After my ESL class, I went to work for two hours, and then I brought my daughter back home. I ran this schedule for one year. It was hard, but I was happy. Once again, the idea of a good life supported me to go on. However, I couldn't continue the ENNL program when I had finished all ESL levels. Because it was an expensive program, I couldn't pay for it. I had to stop my English studies at PCC again, and I was lost.

I have a dream. I want to get a degree in America. Although I have a graphic design degree from China, I know my original knowledge is insufficient in this modern world. I have to learn about more graphic design, and I want to have other degrees from different countries. After ten years, the idea of a good life wasn't the

only reason to go back to PCC. I also thought this was a good time for me because my daughter was going to college, and I had saved some money for me to achieve this dream.

I came back to the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. I couldn't believe the federally and state funded program called Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) helps me to pay for my class fee when I take credit classes. Now, I don't have any reason to stop going to classes. I will cherish this opportunity to go forward with my dream. I want to get a graphic design degree from PCC to increase my professional knowledge.

PCC starts a stage of my new life, and I believe my dream will come true. I immigrated to the USA fifteen years ago. Learning is important in my daily life. I remember from the first time of the ESL class to the ESOL class. It has changed my life. Some good news was that PCC SE became a campus in 2014, and it moved to a new location on Southeast 82nd Avenue and Division Street. You just need to take a 5-minute walk from the old location to the new location. Now, PCC is bigger. There are several big buildings, many classes, computer labs, instructors, and a Student Learning Center in the library. It is totally different than the old one. I miss the old one, yet I appreciate the new one.
Every year more students from different countries decide to continue their studies in the U.S. This brings to the international students a new experience that changes their life. Portland Community College keeps increasing its number of international students from 70 different countries every year. PCC helps international students to reach their educational objectives such as improving their English through its ESOL program.

Each international student has their own history such as Tin Huynh. A couple months ago, he decided to leave Vietnam and come to the U.S. to continue with his studies. It was a hard decision to make for him because he didn't have any family in the U.S., but his desire to continue his career in a new country helped him move to the U.S.

Tin's family and some family friends helped him to decide which academic institution would be the best option for him. After they researched different colleges in the Northwest, they thought PCC was the best option for him. The high quality of its academic programs and affordable price made PCC the new academic home for him.

Tin is in his first term at PCC, and he is enrolled in the ESOL program. He likes PCC because it has different activities that help international students feel part of this academic community. The Conversation Cafe is one of his favorite activities at PCC because he can practice his English with other ESOL students every Friday.

"I made a good decision coming to PCC because this institution is helping me to achieve my career goal. The teachers are helping me to improve more my English and I love being part of PCC."

Tin Huynh
History of Conversation Cafe

By Tuan Nguyen, Photographs courtesy of Conversation Cafe Facebook

There are many organizations that help people learn English in the United States of America. One of them is the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education supports many projects to help people who need to learn how to read and write. They provide grants to organizations to open some classes where the students don’t have to pay to learn. One of many projects is the EL Civics Grant.

The Conversation Cafe at PCC Southeast Campus is funded by the EL Civics Grant. Since 2011, the Conversation Cafe has become a popular and nice place for many students.
The Conversation Cafe has an interesting history. The Conversation Cafe was founded September 19, 2011 by a group of people who work with the ESOL program at the PCC Southeast Campus. They are Sharon Hennessy, Ann Kopel, Jennifer Hall, Sue Moser, Laura Horani, and Tanya Batazhan. In the beginning, many classes received grant money from EL Civics. The teachers showed movies for students to watch, and they also had popcorn and drinks for students to eat. The classes looked like a movie theater. The students studied English through the films. That was a good idea, but there had been too many classes like that. So, the ESOL teachers wanted to make something new and more interesting for students. They had a sit-in together, and they had a brainstorm. They had a lot of ideas; they also had a very hard time choosing one idea. At last, the teachers decided to choose the Conversation Cafe. Even though they chose a new idea, they didn't change their original purpose, which was to help ESOL students practice English out of classes.

"Conversation Cafe at PCC Southeast Campus is a social event for ESOL students to use English in a fun, casual setting outside of class. Participants meet people, team build, and get informed about U.S. life topics like government, health, employment, and recreation" (Conversation Cafe description).
The first day the Conversation Cafe opened was October 21, 2011. When the Conversation started, the facilitator was Monica Wolfe, and the promoter was Bonnie Young. These two people are very important in the beginning activities; they started the first activities in the cafe.

**The first day** of Conversation Cafe had a lot of difficulty. They used a part of the library for even every Friday because the PCC Southeast Campus was much smaller back then. Today, we have more conveniences as a campus, so Tabor 140 became the place for almost all of the Conversation Cafe activities in 2014.

When it first started, the Conversation Cafe was new for all students, so just a few students attended the classes. Day by day, the Conversation Cafe became better and more abundant, so it attracted many students. Today, the Cafe welcomes twenty to thirty students every Friday. Looking back over the last three years, Conversation Cafe has had a certain success. Although it didn't succeed very much in the beginning, people still came and learned some English.

The Conversation Cafe is a good place for you to study English outside of classes. If you feel interested in that, please join us every Friday in the mornings. We welcome all people. If you still feel shy and want to know more about us before you come, please visit us at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conversation-Cafe-at-PCC](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conversation-Cafe-at-PCC) or contact us by email at [conversation.cafe@pcc.edu](mailto:conversation.cafe@pcc.edu). With your attention, the Conversation Cafe will be more successful.
Excitement at Conversation Cafe

Many people go to Portland Community College. Some of them join a lot of programs there. The reason they join the programs is because they want to learn new things that support their future goals. However, they don’t want to waste their time.

There are many good programs at PCC to support students. Conversation Cafe is one of those great programs PCC has created to support ESOL students. It opens most Fridays. When students go to Conversation Cafe, they experience exciting things. The Conversation Cafe is a great place to have fun. There are a lot of games and snacks. Many teachers and students meet at Conversation Cafe not to study but to learn new things.
Here are some interesting answers I heard from students when I asked them about Conversation Cafe.

“I have fun! I have friends at conversation cafe and they are awesome.”
Tasuku.

“I have fun because I can make new friends, and I can get a lot of information and gain experience.”
Kasuba.

“I have fun because everyone here is nice. Also I can meet different people from different countries and make friends with them. Conversation Cafe is a good place. I can learn lot of things.”
Qiuni.

“I have good time at Conversation Cafe because I can practice my English and meet people from different countries. There are really kind people here. Every Friday, I'm looking forward to coming here.”
Suzuno.

“Conversation Cafe is fun. The first time I went, I saw new and different faces. I talked to people and asked them questions. I asked them where they were from. Sometimes we asked each other how our cultures are different. We encouraged each other to participate at the Cafe. Also, it was Halloween. I saw many pictures made of pumpkins, which had features of human faces. I like meeting people and having conversations with them.”
Ali.
Parham, ESOL student from Iran.

I feel my English is getting better. I have new friends, especially new friends who are from Vietnam too.

Huy, ESOL student from Vietnam.

After I came to the Conversation Cafe, I improved my English pronunciation and listening during the topics discussed here. Also, I have new friends from different countries, and I am really happy about that.
Conversation is a very important part of English language study. We live in the United States of America; we need to talk to the people in English in the community, which makes the world an easier place to communicate. Conversation Café is a good place to meet new friends and practice English skills. At the Café, we have different topics every Friday. We always learn something new from the Café that relates to the community such as job searching, immigration, holiday celebrations, and health knowledge. We understand what the people say and are able to listen.

At the Café, there are many people from different countries, which is a good way to learn about different cultures. Each of us shares interesting things from our own countries. At the Café, we have many chances to meet people from different countries, so we can learn about basic things. I like to go to the Café when I am have free time on Friday.

I think it’s wonderful that PCC Southeast Campus has this program for students from different cultures. This program helps them to improve how they speak to people that are native English speakers. The Conversation Café helps students develop their social and linguistic skills. It is also fun and helps with English language.
Many ESOL students at PCC have heard about Conversation Cafe, but they have never been there before. Now I have a few things to share with these students.

The first thing is about my first impression about Conversation Cafe. I like the Cafe very much and enjoy the activities there a lot. I am very excited to make new friends from different languages and different cultures. We can share our opinions with each other.
The second thing is about what I did at the Cafe. Conversation Cafe has a different topic every week, and all the topics are very close to my life; for example, topics like job search basics, immigration, Halloween, and job training are close to my life.

The last thing is about my English language skills. I can improve my English language skills by talking in English language with my friends. Sometimes we don’t understand each other, but we can communicate without words.

I have enjoyed many things and have had fun at Conversation Cafe. I hope you too will join the Conversation Cafe soon after reading this paragraph. Just go and try one time, so you can answer for yourself: Do you like it or not?
My Experience at Conversation Cafe

Story by Hodan Abdi, Photographs courtesy of Conversation Cafe Facebook

Writing about the Conversation Cafe feels both important and a little silly. It feels important to invite everyone to come to join our conversation at the Conversation Cafe. It’s a safe, friendly place where people share ideas, concerns, questions, songs, and games. It has a welcoming atmosphere. The first time being on the campus can be an overwhelming collection of voices, directions, forms, faces, and rooms. I felt very confused and isolated during my first two weeks. I had notebooks, textbooks, and teacher’s notes to sort through and organize. I felt my head was too small for all the information and directions that I had to remember. My entire first semester was spent sorting out all these details. I barely had time to breathe. Sometime during the next term, my reading teacher mentioned a place where immigrants could gather to have a good time. It was the Conversation Cafe, so I checked it out. I was 40 minutes late, but nobody growled or grumbled at me; instead, they were happy and welcomed me. I felt good to be with people who were there to play and share good feelings with one another. The next day I happily added the Conversation Cafe to my schedule.

The Conversation Cafe was a place where I felt connected with people. We played games and did short projects together. Everyone was encouraged to share their opinions with the class. I felt my opinion was respected and valued. I learned the importance of including other people’s points of view. Seldom was there one right answer; in fact, the more diverse answers created more fun. I made friends that I still see today. As the term drew to a close, we decided to have a big party celebrating everybody. We decided what kinds of games we wanted to play. Everybody volunteered to contribute food from their culture. We had a wealth of food from around the world. The dishes came from Vietnam, Mexico, Iraq, Somalia, and many more places I can think of. We played games like tug-of-war, and we tried to hit a candy-filled piñata. The food and the fun lasted for more than two hours. We also took pictures of one another and exchanged phone numbers. While we had a very sweet time, we also felt a little sad because there was no Cafe in the summer. I loved my experiences at the Conversation Cafe. I enjoyed going and in sharing. It made me feel more comfortable to be on campus. It welcomed me to PCC.
The Conversation Cafe is a very powerful but undervalued part of the PCC multicultural experience. I have some suggestions like making a personal invitation to new ESOL students at the beginning of the term. A student volunteer could share his or her experience with other ESOL students like making announcements about upcoming events or speakers.

The Conversation Cafe is open most Fridays. The topics, games, and conversations change from week to week and are posted on the Conversation Cafe Facebook page and around the campus. It is a great place to begin conversations and extend relationships. I hope to see you there.
What Are the Benefits We Can Get by Attending Conversation Cafe?

By Omar Hernandez

Attending Conversation Cafe could be more beneficial than you think.

I was invited to Conversation Cafe for the first time at last year. I didn’t go there because it didn’t sound very interesting to me, plus I didn’t have the time. I’m always busy at work and going to Conversation Cafe was going to be just a waste of time because a credit was not offered. But this year, I got an assignment in my English class that gave me the momentum to check it out. So when I went there for the first time, I was positively impressed by all the experiences I was missing out on, and it changed my opinion from a negative one to a positive one. I realized that there are a lot of interesting things that we can learn and take advantage of in the future.

Photographs courtesy of Conversation Cafe Facebook
One of the greatest things that Conversation Cafe has to offer is the opportunity to meet different people of different nationalities. It’s always good to hear stories of how people from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, or Latin America started their lives when they first came to the USA, and how they develop their learning about the cultures of Americans. This social aspect of Conversation Cafe may help ESOL students to improve their social network or even make new friends.

The second good thing, Conversation Cafe offers is the resources that you as ESOL students may be interested in. For example, they discuss different topics like jobs, immigration, scholarships, practical help, and more. This kind of information is one very important aspect.

...........Why?.............Because Conversation Cafe can be so critical for the success of English learning in college, community, or just life.

The third good thing is how the Conversation Cafe makes me feel comfortable when I’m practicing my English. At the Cafe, most of the people are trying to improve their English, so that makes me feel more self-confident instead of nervous. Many people are at the same level as me, but they speak clearly. Also, I can understand their vocabulary better. At the same time, I can learn new words. If someone speaks too much or too little, there is always a native English speaker to guide us.
What Will the Conversation Cafe of the Future Look and Sound Like?

Almost everyone on campus knows that Conversation Cafe is a place where PCC’s students connect and exchange information.

We are able to get updated news from international students and local students’ perspectives. PCC’s students love spending time at Conversation Cafe in order to make new friendships and to get more knowledge of all kinds from each other.

We consider the Conversation Cafe a place in our PCC community. We like to contribute practical activities in order to make the Conversation Cafe more popular with all students. That’s why we really care about how Conversation Cafe evolves in the future.

To guess what the Conversation Cafe will be like in the future, we had short conversations with PCC students in order to know more about what they think our community will look like in the future and what the future of the Conversation Cafe will be.

Student Taj Wortham said: “I just got back from my first Conversation Cafe and I gotta say I really loved it. I met a lot of cool people that I hope to continue to talk to. Needless to say I will be back!”

Taj’s comment indicates how interesting Conversation Cafe is in attracting students to gather there.

Ms. Le Chang, an Administration Medical major at PCC, she said she expects the Conversation Cafe to organize more activities and offer diversified topics for students to improve their soft skills and to deal with normal experiences they face both on and off the campus. She said, “I realize it happens one day per week with limited hours, but maybe it’s not enough time for international students to discuss subjects with each other in order to get the results they wish”.

Lee Chang, international student from China.
Ms. Nacho, who is also an international student from Thailand, shared with me that she used to be very shy. She didn’t dare to talk to native English speakers because of her limited English vocabulary. However, she is now more confident after having joined Conversation Cafe a few times. There she practiced her English conversation and improved her vocabulary and pronunciation skills.

I was also nervous and worried seeing all the other foreign students speaking English so fluently. I was afraid that my Vietnamese accent would make it very hard to communicate with them well. But people here make me feel relaxed when talking since they are very friendly when conversing. They guide me on how to get needed information, how to access the library to borrow books, and how to find activities that are happening at PCC. Now, I even know how to communicate with people at PCC through the Conversation Cafe Facebook page, where I can ask questions that I need answered to function better at PCC. That’s good for a new student like me who is always busy with a full time job and who is the mom to a 10-month-old daughter.

In doing the survey with PCC students to understand more what they expect Conversation Cafe to look like in the future, I realized that the most common remark made by them is that PCC should organize more activities for students outside of classes so they may take part in cultural exchanges, sporting events, and discussions about social issues affecting them. That’s also what I want Conversation Cafe to become.

We are students coming from different countries in the world. When we share our knowledge to learn from each other and help each other to improve, we also build more confidence in ourselves. This will make us better able to have the positive thoughts and open mind that are needed to overcome difficulties faced in our future.

Imagine how much better the experience when a new foreign student enters PCC for the first time. He or she would suddenly see groups of students supporting the new students with information needed to help them integrate into a new environment. Those groups should be centered in the Conversation Cafe because it is the best meeting place for all kinds of PCC students.

To quote Mr. Maison, a newcomer who has been studying at PCC for two months, “People think the Conversation Cafe is simply a place where we could talk and share our daily stories. But it actually helps us day by day to be more confident, independent, friendly, and open-minded toward the other students. Those characteristics will help us a lot in our real life experiences.”
"I'm thirty years old. I'm from Mozambique. I came to the USA nine months ago. I like to travel a lot. Now I study at PCC. I want to be a physiotherapist in the future. I come to Conversation Cafe because I have fun here."

Latifo Paulo

"It's so interesting here. The Conversation Cafe made me feel so excited because I can study English in a new environment. Teachers are so nice, and new friends are so friendly and respectful. The Conversation Cafe is a wonderful place for me to learn and get more experiences in my life when I come here."

Tai Pham

"I'm twenty years old. I'm from China. I came to the USA one and half years ago. I'm a student at PCC. I come to the Conversation Cafe because I like to communicate with people. I dream to be an engineer in the future."

Guanfeng Li
“I’m Shao Chen. I have been studying at PCC on and off for many years. It always has good places where I can improve my English. Conversation Cafe is one good place that I like to go. I come here because I like to practice my English speaking skills. I have known about Conversation Cafe for a few terms. Every Friday, the Cafe has many different topics that relate to my life such as health care, immigration, and jobs. Conversation Cafe is really helpful, and it is one of the most interesting places.”

Shao Chen

"I'm twenty-one years old. I’m from China. I came to USA two years ago. I'm a student in GED at PCC. I want to be a nurse. I like so much to come to the Conversation Cafe because I learn new things here."

Qiacheng Li

“Hello, my name is Wen Zhu. I’m from China. I have been in the USA for seven months. I like to come to the Conversation Cafe. I meet new friends here. The people come from many different countries, but they are all speaking English, which makes the Cafe a nice place to practice English skills. I hope I can find a good job after my English gets better. I feel comfortable to use English as much as I know.”

Wen Zhu
Riddles

By Rasha Al Shakarchi

• What has many keys but can't open any doors?

• What has two hands and face but no arms?

• What's got a head and a tail but no body?

• If you drop a hat into the sea, what does it become?

• What travels around the United States and stays in the corner?

• What can you catch, but you cannot throw?
• Why did the man throw the water out of the window?

• What is black and white and read all over?

• I am your best friend. My wet nose sniffs for food. I have 4 legs and a tail. I have to play and chase cats. What am I?

• Do the following math without a calculator or paper – just your mind. You have 1000, add 40, add 1000, add 30, again 1000, add 20, add again 1000, and finally 10. What is the result?

• What is always coming but never arrives?

• What has a neck but no head?
Varied Proverbs from Conversation Cafe

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.  
我的敌人1-敌人就是我的朋友。  
Qiacheng Li

The early birds catch the world.  
早起赶上世界。  
Guanfeng Li

Treat others the way you want to be treated.  
Поступай с другими так, как хочешь, чтобы они поступали  
Katie

By others’ faults wise men learn.  
من أخطاء الآخرين تعلم الرجل الحكيم  
Ammar

Be positive. Everything is going to be okay.  
tudo Seja positivo vai ser ok.  
Latifo

If you want a thing done well, do it yourself.  
Nếu bạn muốn một việc gì được做得很好, hãy tự bạn làm.  
Nam

If you do a good thing, you will get a good thing back.  
If you do a good thing, you will get a good thing back.  
Tee  
By Luma Alazawi
WORD MATCH

Find similar words and phrases to fill in the blanks.

1. Warm       ______ a. Exercise
2. Conversation ______ b. Preliminary
3. Friend      ______ c. Practical
4. First       ______ d. Speaking many languages
5. Practice    ______ e. Interlocution
6. Helpful     ______ f. Enthusiasm
7. Multilingual ______ g. Companion
8. Fun         ______ h. Have a good time
9. Excitement  ______ i. Share a common goal
10. Resonate   ______ j. Friendly

BY SHAO CHEN

Answer Key: 1j, 2e, 3a, 4b, 5a, 6c, 7d, 8h, 9f, 10h
CONVERSATION CAFE

Scramble Words related to Conversation Cafe
By Nam Nguyen

1. gtsennlteir
2. niamhsEust
3. ruCelsut
4. Treceha
5. uGset akerSep
6. cxrpineee
7. oinnaCosrtve efaC
8. nwdeeloKg
9. yrriabL
10. weN erdsiFn
11. gogharPtop
12. tEnnretemnait

Key answers: new friends/enthusiasm/experience/cultures/conversation cafe/library/interesting/teacher/knowledge/photograph/entertainment

MAZE GAME

By Vanessa Castro

These students need to find the way to get to the Conversation Cafe.
Can you help them to find it?
Crossword Puzzle
By Amina

Across:
5. the act or an instance of converting or the process of being converted.
8. a person or animal with whom one spends a lot of time or with whom one travels:
9. intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval:
12. arousing curiosity or interest; holding or catching the attention:

Down:
1. a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations.
2. enjoyment, amusement, or lighthearted pleasure
3. a periodical publication containing articles and illustrations, typically covering a particular subject or area of interest:
4. of, relating to, or constituting several cultural or ethnic groups within a society:
5. an agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions:
6. the West Germanic language of England, now widely used in many varieties throughout the world.
7. present or existing from the beginning; first or earliest
10. of short duration:
11. the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way:
Happiness Is

I am happy!
My smile is so big it fills every space on my face.
I am happy!
My smile is so warm it melts my fears.
Without tears.
I can talk to anyone, to everyone, whether
In a crowd or one to one.
We are happy.
We speak in different accents,
But in the same tongue.
We are in the same kettle of fish.
Learning to share the fun in English.
Come listen to the chatter from different lands.
Everyone is here to share lending hands.
We share each and every history.
From homelands to habit to culture.
All about our people our jobs our homes.
Our lives are the past and the future.
I am happy.
My English improves.
So, come one, come all.
Invest your words – the interest will start to build you up in your heart.
I am happy inside and out.
Because there is no stress.
Yes, I confess,
The Conversation Cafe is a safe place to be.
For you and me.

Poem by Asmamaw Misikir / Grammar assistant  Don Mustell
December 2014

Dear Readers,

Today, we write this letter because we would like to take this time to thank everyone who has worked with us on doing a wonderful Magazine in our Reading class. This is the first time we did a magazine with our classmates, so it wasn’t easy to do by ourselves without your help.

It is a pleasure for us when we can do something courtesy of your help. First of all, we want to thank all our friends who came to the Conversation Café on every Friday. You were all awesome and friendly when you shared about your opinions, your cultures, and your personalities to us at Conversation Café. You gave us an opportunity to interview, to take your pictures, and to share your information for our Magazine.

Also, we won’t forget the teachers who have helped us with our Magazine content. Thank you to all of the tutors at the Student Learning Center at Southeast Campus. You are so good-hearted and kind when you spent your time to sit with us and fix our work to make it better. It is really useful for us who are ESOL students. We will always love you and come to you when we need your help.

Finally, we want to say an especially thank to our classmates and our teacher, Nicole. You have helped us to do a lot when we were doing the Magazine. You gave us some good advice when we were losing our way. You made us feel more confident and comfortable while we were nervous about our Magazine. You reminded us each step of the way by emailing us, talking to us in class, and advising us to make our Magazine more perfect. Therefore, we couldn’t complete our Magazine if we didn’t have your help.

To sum up, your contribution has been very helpful to us to make our Magazine. This was a great chance for our learning and for professional development like when we get older and get jobs. These jobs will require us to work with new people. We are using this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude and special thanks to every group for working hard and taking time from your daily schedule.

Sincerely,

Students in ESOL Reading 6