



End of Summer Fun: ORT Participates in Polish Picnics



Fall 2010

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The ORT booth is open! Staff and student volunteers are hard at work ready to recruit future students.

To increase ORT's presence in the Polish community, ORT attended the Polish Radio Picnic and the Friends of Cracow Society Picnic in the summer of 2010.

Wioletta Tarasek, Polish outreach student coordinator, along with other ORT staff and students represented the school at both picnics.

The Polish Radio Picnic represents "ORT's re-entrance into the Polish community. This was the first event when ORT advertised to the Polish community for a few years. We wanted to let the Polish community know about what programs we offer," Tarasek said.

Under ORT's blue tent, picnic-goers picked up brochures with information about every program, a discount off tuition for new students, ORT postcards, a copy of the ORT newsletter, and delicious candy.

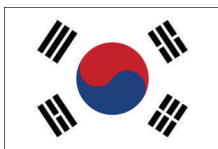
ORT's picnic participation generated phone calls inquiring about ORT programs. There was interest in the technical programs, especially computer programs from individuals at the Polish Radio Picnic, while more phone calls came in about the ESL program from the Friends of Cracow Society Picnic.

"Students currently enrolled

in different schools were asking about ORT and plan to transfer when their current program ends," Tarasek said.

ORT looks forward to welcoming more Polish students to the abundant diversity at ORT.

"Polish people are ambitious and will try to continue their education. With an increased Polish population, we'll have the opportunity to further develop the ESL program by adding higher levels," said Tarasek.



The entire group of Korean International students smiles with ORT staff.

Korean International Student Reflects on ORT and her New American Life

In the summer of 2010, a group of government-sponsored Korean international students came to ORT to study English and a technical program. A few months later, one of those students, Hana Chu, reflects on her experience in ORT and in the U.S. so far.

ESL student Hana Chu said "I like ORT so far because the teachers are very supportive. I like the

way my class is taught. My favorite thing about ORT is going to Sargon (in the Learning Center). He always helps me in my studies and is very kind, like all the teachers here. I feel comfortable at ORT."

Chu is equally impressed with the city of Chicago. "I live downtown, so the distance to school is far, but I love exploring the multiple attractions in the city.

"The Art Institute of Chicago is my

favorite museum," Chu said. "I've been there three times! I like looking at their photography exhibits."

Chu found that Chicagoans are always ready to lend a helping hand. "Most people who live in Chicago are kind to strangers. They treat me like family," said Chu. "On my first day at ORT, I got lost and I was frustrated, but a stranger I asked helped

me find my way to school."

The only thing Chu doesn't like about Chicago: "The only thing I'm worried about is winter in Chicago. I don't know how cold it will be!" she said.

ORT is happy that Chu's experience with the school and with the city has been great. We hope all of the Korean International students share her positive feelings.

ORT's ACCET Re-Accreditation

ACCET is ORT's accrediting organization. In order to provide students with financial aid, a school must be accredited. ORT is pleased to report that it has been reaccredited for three years.

According to ORT associate director Lisa Burnstein, the re-accreditation process involves every department of ORT. The school prepares a self-study report that discusses issues such as financial stability, policies for administrative and academic departments, and curriculum. It takes months to prepare the self-study.

After the self-study is received, a team of evaluators comes to the school and observes the classes and the work of various departments.

They talk with staff, faculty, and students. They also spend time in the Career Services department to make sure that students are getting jobs after they complete their studies.

Then, the school receives a report by the visiting team. ORT's observation team reported that ORT has very happy students. All the students they spoke to had positive things to say about their teachers, programs, and the school.

After the re-accreditation process, ORT director Marina Chudnovsky and Associate Director Lisa Burnstein hosted a party for the entire ORT staff to thank them for the hard work they put into the re-accreditation process.



During the party, ORT Director Marina Chudnovsky toasts the success of the entire staff throughout the ACCET reaccreditation process.

Students Participate in Health Fair



ORT Medical Assistant students smile at the Korean Community Health Fair at Swedish Covenant Hospital located in Chicago.

Volunteering is good for one's heart and for one's resume! This was the conclusion that ORT Medical Assistant (MA) students reached after volunteering for the Korean Health Fair at Swedish Covenant Hospital.

Korean government-sponsored ORT MA students Han A Cho, Yujin Shin, Jaemin Lee, Sujeong Han, Hyejung Lee, Sang Mi Han, Seonhwa Seo, Hyo Sook Ko, and Myung Hyun Kim represented ORT at this health fair hosted by Korean American Community Services on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 12-6 p.m.

The MA students assisted in examining patients' medical histories and guiding patients to examination rooms.

The MA students relished the opportunity to participate in this event because they learned clinical skills from physicians and other medical professionals and helped raise awareness about the importance of community healthcare.

Student volunteers also got an opportunity to network with health professionals and develop a database of potential employers after graduation.

Overall, volunteering at the health fair was a very motivating experience for the MA students and made each participant excited about his/her future career in the medical industry.

Shopping for School Success:

ORT Participates in Lord and Taylor's Shop Smart, Do Good Fundraiser

What's better than getting a great deal while shopping? Getting a great deal and benefitting ORT at the same time.

Fall 2010 marked ORT's first time participating in Lord and Taylor's Shop Smart, Do Good fundraiser.

ORT, along with other local non-profit organizations, sold coupons

offering great discounts at Lord and Taylor. Each coupon cost \$5, and all the money raised from coupons' sales went directly to ORT.

Selling coupons became a faculty and staff-wide endeavor as everyone who wished to help was given a pack of coupons

Many people sold coupons to

fashionable family and friends while others took advantage of their connections and left a stack of coupons with friends working in offices, salons, and other locations.

ORT hopes to participate in the next Lord and Taylor fundraiser and work towards expanding its own fundraising efforts.



Career services outreach Irma Krasnopolskaya sells Lord and Taylor coupons.

ORT Faculty, Staff, and Students Welcome New ESL Teacher Bonnie Sweetman



"I wish that all the students' hopes and dreams are fulfilled. I hope that they are able to adapt to and embrace a new culture and achieve the goals they are striving for. With their hard work, they deserve it!"

The ORT faculty is rapidly growing to accommodate all of the students wishing to study at ORT. The latest addition to ORT is Bonnie Sweetman, an ESL level three teacher.

Bonnie was born and educated across the Atlantic in London, England. Upon moving to Chicago, she attended Roosevelt University and received a B.A. in Anthropology.

"More recently," said Sweetman, "I was accepted into the Graduate School at Northeastern Illinois University to earn a Master's degree in TEFL/ TESOL. However, with my cur-

rent teaching schedule, I've had to put that plan on hold."

Sweetman became a teacher because she was "ready for a change and wanted something more personally rewarding," she said.

Besides teaching at ORT, she currently teaches Intermediate Conversation at Triton College. Sweetman is also a part of the adjunct faculty at Oakton Community College and at Morton College.

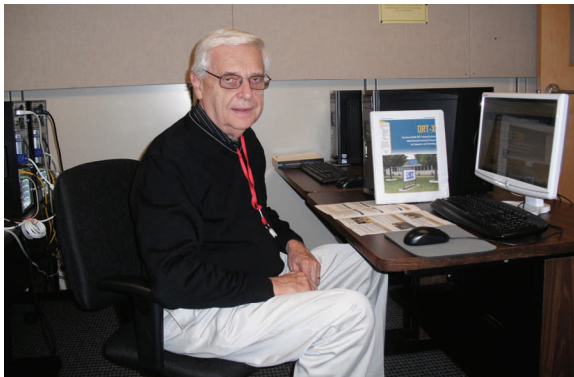
With such a busy teaching schedule already in place, why did Sweetman choose to add

ORT to her repertoire of schools? "I like the concept of students being inundated with the English language every day," she said. "This surely must produce the best results in terms of language learning, both for the students and the school."

ORT's collaborative environment has proved very agreeable with Sweetman's teaching style. "My fellow teachers and staff have been extremely helpful," she reflected. "The students in that class are wonderful. They are motivated and eager to learn, anxious to please. I will miss them when they move on to the next level!"

New ORT-X Program; Classes Debut in 2011

ORT-X



ORT-X program creator Frank Mills reviews the ORT-X course prospectus in a computer lab that will soon host ORT-X students.

Beginning in January 2011, ORT is opening its doors to new students and debuting its new ORT Extension (ORT-X) program.

The ORT-X program will consist of various beginner, novice, and advanced computer/technology classes dealing with a range of topics from email and Google search to digital photography and advanced Microsoft Office.

ORT-X classes are for native-English speakers and will be held from 1:30-5:30 p.m. on weekdays.

ORT-X brochures and other marketing materials are currently dispersed throughout the local Chicago-land community. ORT will host an open house for prospective ORT-X students on Friday Dec. 10.

ORT adjunct faculty and, creator of ORT-X, Frank Mills said, "ORT is dedicated to teaching skills that can be used at work and in daily activity. We understand the needs of ORT-X students. In a way, we're teaching not how the car works, but how to work the car."

Career Services Success Story: Medical Assistant Nicoleta Leonte

The Career Services staff at ORT is comprised of dedicated individuals working together to help students attain employment in their fields of study as soon as possible.

Many students have found successful careers with the help of Career Services, here is the story of one such student:

Nicoleta Leonte came to the U.S. from Romania ten years ago with a background in law.

She enrolled in ORT's evening Medical Assistant program because she "used to volunteer in a hospital and thought it [medical assistant] would be a good career," said Leonte.

At ORT, she found teachers dedicated to helping her learn her new trade and a Career Services staff that gladly guided her through each step of the job search and application process.

"The biggest challenge was learning to juggle my home life and school while I was a student at ORT," said Leonte.

Despite difficulties, Leonte found the right balance and completed her program at ORT.

Career Services was there to help her find employment as a medical assistant.

"I am very thankful to the teachers and Career Services staff who helped me through this job hunting process. They helped me with my resume and job search. They gave me hands-on guidance...and now I found a medical assistant job in a doctor's office located inside a hospital near my home."

Nicoleta's story is just one of the many success stories from Career Services. To start your own success story, visit the Career Services department.

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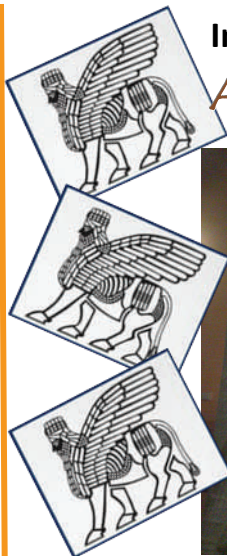
ORT on the Web

www.zg-ort.edu

Find ORT on 

In the Classroom...

A Trip to the Oriental Institute



Student Symond Eisho stands in front of the human-headed winged bull from Khorsabad . This artifact stood in the throne-room façade inside the palace of the Assyrian King, Sargon II.

On June 25, 2010 Marge Molzahn's level 5 students and Bob Foster's level 1 students boarded the ORT van and cruised down Lakeshore Drive to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. Along the drive, students enjoyed beautiful views of the skyscrapers in Chicago's downtown area and of Buckingham Fountain.

At the museum, Students learned about the history, art, and archaeology of the ancient Near East and viewed artifacts recovered by the museum's excavations. These objects are displayed in permanent galleries devoted to empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel. These are new galleries that have just opened in the museum this year.

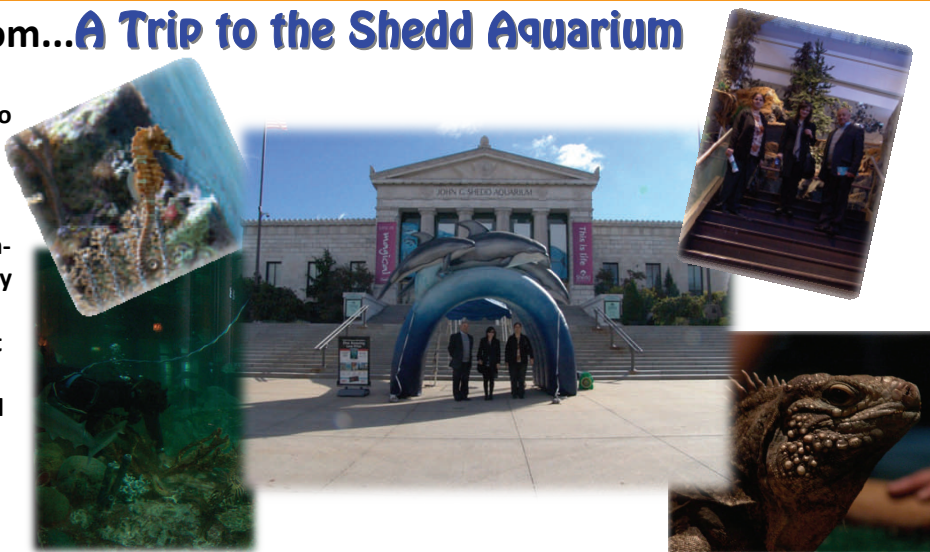
Many of the students were really eager to see objects from their own cultures that their parents and teachers had told them about when they were children, and it was especially memorable to see artifacts from places in the Middle East that the students had experienced firsthand.

In the Classroom...A Trip to the Shedd Aquarium

On Monday October 4, 2010, ESL level 2 teacher Irina Krel took her class downtown to enjoy a day at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

The students marveled at the diversity of aquatic life swimming and slithering throughout the exhibits. The group was captivated by a 16-foot long anaconda wrapped around a submerged tree branch. Upon learning that the anaconda eats a whole chicken every Wednesday, students joked that they would bring it lunch one day.

ESL student Delcho Mitev documented the trip —all photos here are by him.



Editor and Writer

Irina Krel

Contributors

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