



Summer 2010, Vol. II

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**Introducing Irma:
ORT's New Career Services
Outreach**

The newest addition to ORT's career services team is Irma Krasnopolskaya, who began working in July 2010 as career services outreach.

Krasnopolskaya comes to ORT with vast experience in the arts and higher education administration. She has a bachelors degree in arts management from Columbia College Chicago as well as extensive practice in performing arts, marketing, fundraising, and arts education.

Krasnopolskaya's role in ORT includes helping students with job searches and placements. She will reach out to various ethnic business communities to help students gain and keep employment.

"I am a big supporter of education," Krasnopolskaya said. "As an immigrant I understand challenges for newcomers to the U.S. I would like to contribute what I already know from my experience in educational and business structure in hopes that the students will benefit from it."

Excitement, nervous giggles, and pride filled the air at ORT on the evening of Monday June 14, 2010. Graduates dressed in blue robes and flat hats lined up in the hallway in anticipation of marching into ORT's twentieth commencement ceremony to receive their hard-earned certificates.

A total of 243 graduates received their certificates that day for completing programs in computerized accounting, computer graphics and desktop publishing, computer support and networking technology, pharmacy technician, medical assistant, CADD, and ESL.

Honor students who attained a 4.0 GPA and 95% attendance were presented with a special yellow sash and a chance to be on the graduation stage individually recognized for their momentous accomplishment.

ORT director Marina Chud-

novsky opened the graduation ceremony by reminding graduates that this is their night to celebrate the hard work and effort required to finish their programs.

Following Chudnovsky, Dr. Ephraim Buhks, director of ORT USA Operations, spoke to the enthralled audience about how ORT's mission, established over 100 years ago, has played out today in the newly found self-sufficiency of the graduates.

After singing the Star Spangled Banner in honor of America, a speaker very near to the Assyrian students' hearts stepped to the podium.

Homer Ashurian, director of the Chicago-based Assyrian Universal Alliance, gave a moving speech in which he told all the graduates that this moment was a rebirth for them— a chance to become what they want and achieve their dreams in this

great country. Students cheered and called out 'God Bless America' throughout the speech.

Following Ashurian, three student speakers, Tomasz Grzeda, Mimi Odisho, and Hanit Kleinman, addressed their fellow graduates. Student speakers recalled long nights studying for exams as well as wonderful times shared by classmates and teachers on the road to learning.

All graduates were called one-by-one to the stage to shake the hand of Dr. Buhks and accept their certificates. Following the awarding of the certificates was a casual party with BBQ and live music for students, ORT staff, and all guests. ORT's graduation was a triumphant event for all involved.

"This graduation was a tremendous success in its organization and execution," said Chudnovsky. "Seeing students, families, and faculty glowing with pride was very rewarding."



June 14, 2010 was an important day in the lives of ORT's newest graduates. They received their hard-earned certificates and left the ceremony with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and self-sufficiency.

Seeing it Clearly: New Ultrasound Classes Part of Medical Program

ORT has taken the Medical Assistant (MA) program to the next level by offering new ultrasound classes to give students an edge in their careers as part of a new pilot program.

In the 2009 advisory board meeting, ORT healthcare coordinator Anita Johnson sat down with leaders in the medical field to discuss the future of ORT's MA program; each individual thought ultrasound instruction would be a valuable addition to the MA curriculum.

ORT's ultrasound machine was generously donated by Norman



"Ultrasound is what our competitors are not offering," said Johnson. "Now we have phlebotomy, EKG, medical billing, and ultrasound in the Medical Assistant program."

Frankel, PhD., president of the Scientific Industrial Supply Company.

Ultrasound classes are taught by Dr. Yuriy Smirnov, PhD on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5pm. Johnson and technical coordinator Sam Gabay oversee the operation of the pilot program in which students learn the theory of diagnostic ultrasound, concentrated on cardiovascular ultrasounds.

This pilot program launched June 1, 2010 with a warm reception by ORT's MA students interested in ultrasound.

"Ultrasound is what our competitors are not offering, said Johnson. "Now we have phlebotomy, EKG, medical billing, and ultrasound in the Medical Assistant program."

If the pilot program succeeds "it will be great to implement the ultrasound courses within the MA program or as a stand-alone program," said Johnson.

ORT's staff continues to think of new and innovative ways to give our students an edge in their careers; this new program is an example of that creative thinking put into practice.

Community Receives Ultrasounds at ORT

Dr. Yuriy Smirnov, PhD, ultrasound teacher for ORT's Medical Assistant (MA) program, can also give ultrasounds to community members in ORT's building.

Dr. Smirnov operates his own Y.S. Diagnostic Ultrasound Mobile Service. When clients from the Chicago-land area come to Dr. Smirnov, they must bring doctor's orders [referral] for an ultrasound. Dr. Smirnov can perform any ordered ultrasound on his mobile, or at ORT.

When the ultrasounds are done

at ORT, MA students have the unique opportunity to observe professional ultrasounds done by a licensed ultrasound technician.

Only Dr. Smirnov performs ultrasounds on clients and only a client's own doctor can interpret and make a diagnosis based on the ultrasound performed by Dr. Smirnov.

This mutually beneficial arrangement helps ORT students and local community members in need of an ultrasound.



Medical Assistant students observe how to perform an ultrasound.

Independence Day at ORT



Decked out in red, white, and blue patriotic flags, banners, and balloons, the ORT van made its way through the Skokie Fourth of July 2010 Independence Day Parade.

Participation in the parade helped get ORT's name out in the community as onlookers all along the parade route saw the ORT van.

ORT receptionist Vicenta Irizarry and her children waved to the crowd as the van rolled through the streets. With good weather and fun all around, ORT plans to make the Fourth of July Parade an annual tradition and hopes that more students and staff will participate next year.

Career Services Success Story: Helping Students Help Themselves

Career services offers ORT students a special class on job hunting and follow-up. All students are welcome to attend as many sessions as they need.

Every Friday from 2-4pm in computer lab A, the career services staff assists students in job application completion, job lead follow up, and contacting employers about their application status.

Students who take advantage of this wonderful program can expect to see success in their future.

Success Story: *Melinda Molnar came from Romania to the U.S. in 2006 with an associates in economical engineering.*

Melinda studied English and in September 2009 came to ORT to study Computerized Accounting. Melinda graduated on June 24, 2010.

When Melinda started looking for a job, ESL teacher Irina Krel helped with her resume. Melinda then went to career services coordinator Jill Stern for job search help. Soon an

opportunity to work at ORT appeared.

Melinda works in ORT's business office doing filing, tuition processing, and front desk tasks. She also conducts ESL placement testing.

"I am happy I went to ORT and, happy I found the job. I want to have a full time accounting job, hope to get my associate degree at ORT, and continue on to get bachelors and become a CPA," said Melinda.

Networking to Success: ORT on Facebook

Facebook has revolutionized the way people communicate and build their social networks, and now ORT is a part of that change.

ORT launched an official Facebook page in May 2010 and it is continuously updated with information about ORT events, news, photos, and student success stories.

Students and faculty/staff currently follow ORT on Facebook and are encouraged to regularly post comments and share good news to put on the site. Facebook is a media that students and faculty/staff can both read and interact with.



"Students can tap into each other's social networks for work and play," said Krel. "Facebook is a great place to network about job openings."

"The power of Facebook to connect has benefits beyond posting photos and status updates," said Irina Krel, ORT Facebook administrator and ESL teacher. "Students can tap into each other's social networks for both work and play. Facebook is a great place to network about job openings and career tips."

ORT encourages all students, faculty/staff, and local community to follow the school on Facebook by becoming fans. Visit <http://www.zg-ort.edu> and click 'Find us on Facebook' on the lower left side of the screen.

New Feature on ORT's Website: A Student's Perspective



Student writer Anna Gogala works on another piece for *A Student's Perspective*.

ORT's website has a new feature called *A Student's Perspective* where student writers are encouraged to express their ideas in writing for the entire ORT community.

Evening ESL student Anna Gogala writes about life at ORT. Read her perspective by going to www.zg-ort.edu and clicking on 'Student Articles' in the bottom left corner. Gogala writes about student life, Chicago events, and current news.

"Talking to other students or teachers gives me the possibility to get to know them better and see their point of views," said Gogala. Seeing things from someone else's perspective can sometimes change my outlooks."

ORT is delighted to have more student writers, so if you are an ORT student and want to share your perspective online, contact ESL teacher Irina Krel for information.

ORT Becoming a Big Presence in the Local Press

"To fulfill our mission, we need to be more visible," said admissions advisor Andrew Keith. "The physical location of the building makes it more challenging to be visible to the general community."

To overcome this challenge, ORT is making an effort to become more visible in local press and increase its diverse student population.

ORT currently advertises in the Russian newspaper *Reklama*, the Ukrainian newspaper *Time and Events*, one Bulgarian newspaper, two Korean newspapers, with more coming in the future.

In July, the newspaper *Chicago Review by Reklama* featured a full page article with photos about ORT written by ORT ESL teacher Irina Krel. This article focused on ORT's ties to the Russian community.

Additionally, reporter Mike Isaacs and a photographer from Pioneer Press came to ORT on July 15 and wrote a feature story on the school. His story focused on ORT's student population and the educational programs offered. ORT director Marina Chudnovsky appears on three Russian radio stations

about twice a month. Chudnovsky speaks about new developments at ORT and generates a lot of listener calls to the station asking questions about ORT.

Newspaper and radio ads generate inquiries from potential students, and ORT hopes to keep this success going. ORT's new marketing campaign includes more radio and newspaper advertising targeted at the Russian and Polish communities as well as Craigslist postings for English-speaking students.

Zarem-Golde ORT Technical Institute

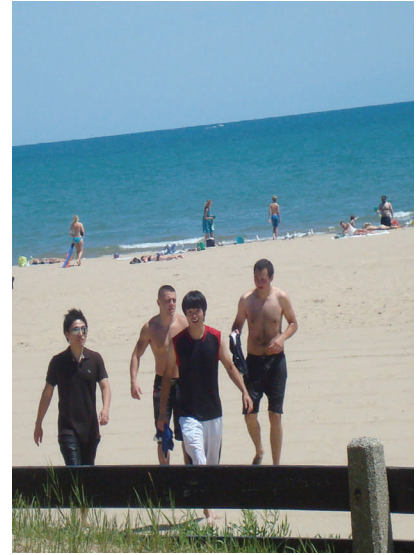
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A Day at Foster Beach by ESL Class Level 6 & 7



Tomasz, Mee Hwa, Whitney, Jay, and Hyun enjoy sitting in the warm sun while Jay, Bartek, Hyun and Tomasz emerge from a dip in the lake. A good time was had by all students on this field trip!

The day was beautiful and sunny with a soft summer breeze and shiny warm blue water. We are all students in Level 6 & 7 and Whitney is our teacher. We left at 9:00 on Thursday, July 1st and we arrived at Foster Beach at around 10. The beach was quiet and the sand was hot. We prepared lunch and cold drinks. One student brought Rueben sandwiches. A second one brought a cooler with ice and strawberries. The teacher's homemade guacamole was the best! We had several types of chips, juice and Polish dessert.

The male students were playing basketball with local players. One student got in a bike accident with another bicyclist. Fortunately nobody was hurt and the basketball was safe. The students playing basketball learned new vocabulary about playing basketball, like "shoot the ball" and "take a shot."

After lunch some students were tanning and some were swimming. Then they were playing basketball in the water—throwing it to each other at long distance and jumping to catch it in the water. They looked like seals playing with a ball. We forgot about the time because we were having fun in the water while the sun was burning our skin—like steamed lobsters—but it didn't bother us that it was hot. We felt the pain once we got home. It was a very fun and exciting experience in Chicago. And we have already planned another trip to the same place and we'd love to recommend that you visit Foster Beach with us.

ORT Goes Green: School Plants New Flowers for Student and Staff Enjoyment



Large hibiscus flowers spread their red petals in front of ORT's entrance.

Anyone entering ORT's doors has noticed the beautiful flowers, manicured lawns, and trimmed trees at the front of the building.

These improvements are a part of ORT's beautification initiative to improve the grounds of the school. ORT director Marina Chudnovsky asked Bogden, ORT's groundskeeper and handyman to beautify the building and Bogden took the initiative and went beyond the call of duty.

Bogden planted red hibiscus flowers all along ORT's walkway and other flowers by the door. He built frames around each tree and the ORT sign, and he routinely trims the trees, cuts grass, and cleans ORT's outdoor space.

"School is a place where students and staff come everyday. When the place is bright and clean, it makes their day more pleasant," Chudnovsky said. "When ORT looks good on the outside, people feel good."

Editor and Writer

Irina Krel

Contributors

Marina Chudnovsky, Lisa Burnstein, Jill Stern, Edmon Gebrael, Anita Johnson, Irma Krasnopolskaya, Whitey Tullos and her level 6 & 7 class, Layni Myers, Andrew Keith, Anna Gogala, Melinda Molnar