Breaking News!

The CMS Office, along with the English Department will be moving over the break. To learn more about who’s moving and where we’re going, see page 2 below.

KEEP CALM we're MOVING OFFICE

Announcements

- Spring 2015 registration begins Friday, Dec. 5th and goes until Dec. 18th.
- Please consult your CMS instructor(s) or come speak with an advisor in our office to determine your next course in CMS.
- Interested in taking classes over the winter session? Learn more here: [http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/winter/index.cfm](http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/winter/index.cfm)
- The next Global Connections meeting will not be held until Spring 2015.

In this issue, you will find:
- Moving Information – pg. 2
- Tutoring Opportunity – pg. 3
- Student Highlights – pg. 4
- CMS Instructor of the Month – pg. 5

Important Dates:

- LAST DAY OF CLASSES: Monday, December 15th
- FINALS WEEK: Tues. Dec. 16th - Sat. Dec. 20th
ATTENTION!

The CMS office will be moving over the winter break.

Where are you going?!

Don’t fret, we are just 3 flights of stairs away…come January 2015, you will find us on the 4th floor in the soon-to-be new main English Department suite.

Other offices that will be moving to the 4th floor:

- The main English Department Office (currently HUM 289)
- Composition Office (currently HUM 209)

The new Composition for Multilingual Students (CMS) office will be HUM 481.

We’ll see you there!
Upcoming Opportunity:

TUTOR ARAB YOUTH IN THE TENDERLOIN!

The Arab Cultural and Community Center’s Youth Empowerment Program is currently seeking volunteers to tutor low-income K-12 Arab and Arab-American youth in our after-school program Monday – Thursday 3-6pm at Mercy Housing in the Tenderloin, San Francisco. TAMKEEN in Arabic means “empowerment” and the acronym encompasses our strategic goals of Teaching And Mentoring Kids for Enrichment and Empowerment Now! We will work with schools and departments to ensure students in need of volunteer/service hours receive credit as well. Students and professionals from all majors and disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Please contact us at 415-664-2200 or TAMKEEN@arabculturalcenter.org.

Apply online at http://tinyurl.com/ACCCTAMKEEN!

Arab-Cultural and Community Center
2 Plaza St, San Francisco
http://arabculturalcenter.org
(415) 662-2200
Katherine Valle

*Year: Freshman*

*What is your home country and city?*
El Salvador, El Salvador.

*What are you studying here at SF State?*
I’m currently undeclared but I have an interest in nursing.

*How long have you been in the U.S.?*
Two years and six months.

*What brought you to SF State?*
The nursing program was a major factor, and it’s also close to some of my family members.

*What’s one interesting thing about you that your classmates don’t know?*
I’m a belly dancer. I watched YouTube videos and got inspiration from Shakira.

*What do you enjoy most about the CMS program?*
The teachers are really helpful and I enjoy the classes a lot. I was intimidated at first, but now I love my English classes.

*What do you find most challenging about the program?*
Having to talk to people in English. I’m still not very confident in English.

*What do you hope to do after you graduate?*
Nursing! I want to get experience in the U.S. and also go abroad. I’d like to go to Cuba because they have good medical programs and I speak Spanish.

*How do you think the CMS Program has helped you improve, academically / personally so far?*
My writing skills have definitely improved and I like that the teachers give me feedback so I know where to improve. The teachers care about the students and I really like that about the program.

Outside of class, Katherine tutors and volunteers at a local high school to help students improve their English and help them apply to universities.
What brought you to teaching in CMS and what makes you stay?

Everybody needs someone to show them the way. For me, that person is Lisa Heyer. I was Lisa’s TA and she was always there to help me and give me faith. I stay with CMS one, because Lisa has created a strong sense of community with a supportive and helpful staff, and two, because of the students. They are sweet and wonderful, and I love hearing their stories about why they came to the U.S. Even though I came to the U.S. many years ago, I still remember what it was like adjusting to a new country. I can relate to my students in that way, as it is something we all have come from somewhere else.

What is one of your favorite student memories?

One year I had students over at my house for Thanksgiving and it was a lot of fun. They were Chinese and had never carved a turkey before. While one of them wielded the knife, the others were online looking up carving instructions, trying to translate and read them out loud. It was also interesting to watch them try to figure out the Chinese words for all the spices they had never encountered, like nutmeg.

Have you ever been to a foreign country before? If so what did you enjoy the most?

Well, I was born in the Czech Republic and I have spent a lot of time in Europe. I always enjoy the different perspectives that you experience while traveling. The ways that different people look at the world is fascinating and really opens your eyes to a new way of thinking. I spent ten days traveling around China, which was amazing, but I would love to go back and get a chance to really know people and experience everyday life.

What’s your favorite San Francisco place to visit?

I love Lands End Trail. It is a way of getting out of the city without having to drive a long way. You can be surrounded by nature, but still be in the middle of everything.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I really like to rock climb, but am so busy grading and lesson planning that I never get to go. I enjoy listening to classical music and grew up listening to my dad playing the piano. I enjoy Czech composers such as Dvorák and Smetana.

What is your favorite kind of food?

I always crave my mom’s Czech cooking. However, because she lives in Chicago, I rarely get to eat it.

What was your favorite birthday celebration growing up?

In Slovakia, I was climbing a mountain with my cousin. Unbeknownst to me, she carried a whole watermelon all the way to the top in her backpack because she knew I loved it. We ate watermelon on a cliff at 1,000 feet up.

What is your advise for students on surviving University?

It is important for students to get to know their instructors and to go to office hours early in the semester. Even if there is no problem now but you might anticipate a problem, go talk to your professor and get support while the issue is still manageable.
Happy End-of-Semester!

Thanks for reading this month’s issue of the CMS Newsletter! As always, please contact us if you have any concerns.

Best of luck with finals!

Enjoy the holiday season and safe travels to wherever the break takes you!