

EDUCATION TIMES



Catherine McAuley Center

THE CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTER | ADULT BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT | FY13 | JUNE & JULY 2013

THANK YOU AMBER & LAUREN!!!



Lauren Kramer graduated from MMU in May.



Amber Goostree will study English & Creative Writing at UNI this fall.

The CMC Education Department staff would like to thank Amber Goostree and Lauren Kramer for their work this past spring. Amber and Lauren are both students at Mount Mercy University. They worked at CMC through Mount Mercy's federal work-study program.

Lauren graduated from Mount Mercy in May with a degree in secondary education. Lauren did her student teaching last fall in the Marion High School English classroom of

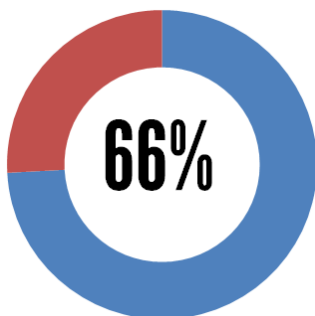
CMC's Sherryl Gaffney-Paige. Lauren spent her spring semester at CMC teaching and doing administrative work. We wish her the best in her future career as a teacher.

Amber is finishing up her junior year of college at Mount Mercy. She will transfer to the University of Northern Iowa to study English and Creative Writing in the fall. Amber was the childcare guru in the evening at CMC. We wish her the best as she continues her studies in Cedar Falls.

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FAST FACTS ON IMMIGRATION & ADULT LITERACY



OF LOW-WAGE IMMIGRANT WORKERS DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH PROFICIENTLY.

IMMIGRANTS WHO SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY MAY EARN



17% MORE \$\$\$

THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT,

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE.

ESL TUTORING TIPS

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION PROBLEMS

Your student's English mispronunciations might frustrate you. But their mispronunciation is natural and will improve with time.

English mispronunciations often originate from a lack of those sounds in the student's native language.

In Spanish, the "b" and the "v" are pronounced the same. "Vamos," Spanish for "we go," can be pronounced "bamos." When a Spanish-speaker learns English, differentiating between the names of the letters "b" and "v" presents s/he with challenges. If you ask your Spanish-speaking student to spell "boat," they might write "voat," since the "b" and "v" are the same in Spanish.

Spanish-speakers learning English also struggle with "th." In English, we have both a voiced "th," as in "the," and an unvoiced "th," as in "thought." Spanish has neither of these sounds. So when Spanish-speakers say "the," it may sound like "duh." When Spanish-speaker say "thought," it may sound like "taught." This mispronunciation is simply the product of never having made the English "th" sounds before.

A common pronunciation problem for speakers of Kirundi (language of

Burundi) and Asian languages is differentiating "L" and "R." We make the "L" sound in English by placing the tongue behind the top front teeth and vocalizing. We make the "R" sound in English by placing the tongue on the roof of the mouth and vocalizing. Linguists call these sounds "liquids or liquid consonants."

Kirundi and many Asian language speakers tend to have trouble differentiating or making these sounds because their language only has one. This can make "light" sound like "right," or vice versa.

Speakers of tonal languages also struggle to perfect their pronunciation. Vietnamese, Lao, Chinese, and other languages are tonal, which means that many vowels are pronounced in ways that alter the meaning of a word. Vietnamese vowels, for instance, have six tones. The six distinct pronunciations of the Vietnamese word "ma" each mean something totally different. Tonal language speakers have difficulty mastering "tone-less" English pronunciation. Here is a list of suggestions:

- Growing up speaking a language physically forms the mus-

Vietnamese	English
Pronunciation	Definition
ma	Ghost
mà	But
má	Cheek, mother (North Vietnam)
mả	Tomb, grave
mã	Horse, code
mạ	Rice seedling

cles of the mouth to make the sounds common to that language.

- Teaching one's mouth to make new sounds as an adult can prove difficult.
- Better pronunciation comes with practice and time.
- It is best not to constantly correct students' pronunciation unless their pronunciation changes the meaning of the word.
- Hyper-focusing on pronunciation only causes anxiety and stress for students.
- You should not expect lower level students to have perfect pronunciation.
- Higher level students should have better pronunciation.
- As a general rule, only correct your student's pronunciation if it is unintelligible.
- Students will imitate correct pronunciation from tutors.
- Patience is the best method of teaching pronunciation.

**THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO CAME TO THE VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION ON MAY 1!
WE APPRECIATE ALL VOLUNTEERS!**



JUNE 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 New Tutor Orientation 6 pm - 8 pm	6	7 New Tutor Orientation 10 am - 12 pm	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS						
30						

JULY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS / NO CLASS						
7	8	9	10 New Tutor Orientation 6 pm - 8 pm	11	12 New Tutor Orientation 10 am - 12 pm	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**CLASS
RESUMES**