

OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is sent to all active participants in the American Immigration Council J-1 Training Program. Please review the information below and remember to always contact the Council if you have questions or concerns about your training program or non-immigrant status. If you are no longer participating in our program, please notify us. If you have a question for the Council, please do not reply to this message, but instead send your question to exchange@immcouncil.org.

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The International Exchange Center is on Facebook!

If you are already on Facebook, look up our page “**International Exchange Center**” and Like it.

The IEC page is updated frequently with interesting information including a city spotlight every other week. You can also use this space to connect with other trainees and interns in your area!

Find us at www.facebook.com. It's free and easy to join. Plus you will never know who you might meet or the experiences you could share.

facebook

Don't Forget the IEC Photo Contest!

The International Exchange Center is holding a photo contest! The subject for this contest will focus on your experience while living in the United States. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble bookstore. The winning photo and photographer will also be featured in the IEC Newsletter.

To enter the contest, simply upload your best photos, with caption (limit two) from your time here to the IEC Facebook page. Be sure to include your name and the phrase “Photo Contest Entry”.

The contest rules are:

- 1) Photos must have been taken in the United States and be your own work.
- 2) Limit 2 entries per person.
- 3) Must be posted by midnight on October 31, 2010.

EXCHANGE VISITOR OF THE MONTH

Working Together for a Common Good



The International Exchange Center is proud to announce Josue Jeanty as this month's Exchange Visitor of the Month. Each month, we select an exchange visitor who has made an effort to get involved in his/her community and explore American culture.

Josue came to the United States from Haiti in August of this year. Holding a degree in Environmental Science from his home university, Josue is doing his internship with Custom Polymers, a plastic recycling company in North Carolina. He hopes to be able to use what he learns about recycling to improve the pollution situation in Haiti, a country which currently does not have a recycling system.

Through his internship in

North Carolina, Josue has learned the ins and outs of the plastic recycling process; everything from distinguishing between plastic types to plastic grinding, washing and baling. “All those things shaped my mind to how to use them in my country”. Josue will finish his internship by visiting Custom Polymers' Alabama plant to see the very beginning stages of the plastic recycling process.

The idea for this internship was born when friends of Josue's supervisor went to Haiti to help after the earthquake earlier this year. Josue was their translator. They got to know him over their time there and could see that he had a heart for helping his country. Upon returning home they contacted their friends at Custom Poly-

mers to tell them about Josue, and the rest is history. You can read more about Josue's inspiring story in this article from the Charlotte Observer newspaper: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/10/02/1734211/new-hope-for-haiti-via-charlotte.html>

When not at his internship Josue has enjoyed getting to know American culture. One of these activities is learning to appreciate American football. “I used to watch football on TV in my country but I could not understand it and I used to turn the TV off. Now I have another point of view about it and I really like watching it now.” He also shares his home culture with his coworkers and friends, teaching them about the languages spoken (French and Creole) the music, and the food!

The main aim of coming to the US on a J-1 visa is to foster an exchange of ideas and culture. Josue has embraced this goal saying what makes a successful program “is the implementation of what [you] have learned from US in [your] home country to create something that has not existed before.”

Would you like to be featured as our next Exchange Visitor of the Month? Let us know what you are doing -- send us an email with your story and a picture to J1Program@immcouncil.org.

American Literature Gets Spooky



Halloween weekend is upon us, and a great way to get in the spirit is to read a scary story. There are many examples of these stories in American literature, written by some of the most famous early American writers all the way up to the present day authors.

Washington Irving lived and wrote in the first half of the 19th century. He was an early pioneer of American fiction writing. Two of his spookier stories, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle* were both set in New York's Hudson Valley. Both

of these short stories are part of a larger work titled *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon*. These two stories rely on mystery and intrigue to cast their spooky tale without ever directly giving away the answers to their mysteries. Both of these stories have been adapted for film multiple times and also for a variety of ages. For a more hands on approach you can go visit the places mentioned in these stories. The village of Sleepy Hollow, NY holds many fun and spooky events on Halloween weekend based around

the Irving story.

Edgar Allen Poe, a contemporary of Irving, wrote some of the most famous early American fiction dealing the mysterious or macabre. In 1845 Poe produced *The Raven*, a poem that gained quick popularity among readers. Through this narrative poem, the story of a mysterious talking raven and the narrator who is in mourning is told. Also among Poe's poetic pieces are *The Bells* and *Anabel Lee*. Beyond his poetry Poe was also an accomplished writer of short stories and fiction.

His descriptive style makes the readers heart pound as if they were in the story, wondering what will happen next. Some of the best examples of Poe's scary stories are *The Cask of Amontillado*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Pit and the Pendulum* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

If you would like to dig into something a little more modern check out novels by author Stephen King. Works such as *Carrie* and *The Shining* written in the 1970's have become best sellers and were both adapted to film versions. King has written over 40 novels from the '70's to the present, many of which fall into the horror and suspense categories.

So this weekend, before you put on your Halloween costume and go to a party or trick-or-treating, take some time to get to know these pieces of spooky American literature. You won't regret it!

What if I Run into a Problem at my Host Company?

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The world economy is changing every day. As career fields grow in different directions, we see a change in the applications for J-1 sponsorship. Two years ago, applications were dominated by business, finance, and banking. Today, trainees and interns are coming here to work on "green technology," engineering and social marketing.

As American companies try to anticipate the changing economic picture, some are finding a need to focus on new directions and allot their resources very differently than had been previously planned. On occasion, this has resulted in training programs being disrupted. What happens if your host company is unable to provide the training agreed to on your DS-7002 form?

1.) For minor changes to the training plan, we can sign a new DS-7002. This would cover changes when a segment of the training is no longer available and must be replaced with

some other related training. Remember, your DS-7002 details what you can do with your host company. So, if the training changes, contact the American Immigration Council to discuss how your DS-7002 needs to be amended.

2.) In the situation where your host company is no longer able to provide training, have your supervisor contact us about other options for you. While the DS-7002 is site specific, we have the ability to consider transferring your training to a different site when the original company is unable to continue a training program. We do so on a case by case basis.

Your host company signed an agreement with the American Immigration Council to provide a training or internship for you. You are not an "employee at will." This means that the host company has an obligation to call us before making changes to your training. If the company is unable to continue the program, we will work with you on what options may be available.

Chances are that you will have a great training or internship experience with your host company. 98% of all our J-1 participants do. But, if you discover you are one of the 2% for whom things do not go as planned, make sure your first call is to Kim, Samya, or Lois at the American Immigration Council.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The best way to contact us with address changes, questions or suggestions is via email. Please send your message to exchange@immcouncil.org. We welcome any and all newsletter suggestions or comments.

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