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## Hello Ehime University! - Messages from New EEC Teachers

### ANDREW STRANGE

Hello, my name is Andrew Strange. My family name is very unique so I don't think you'll forget it. In old French, estrange was a nickname meaning "the foreigner" so my ancestors must have liked to travel as well. I'm originally from a city close to Brisbane, Australia. It is a beautiful part of the world, with many different areas! Please go and explore the rainforest, dry forests, mangroves, coral reefs and sandy beaches! All in one location! Before I studied language and learning, I started off in zoology and ecology so nature is a passion of mine.



I have been living in Japan for a long time now. I first came to Imabari as an ALT and moved to Matsuyama to work at an English school. I have met so many nice people and students in Japan, I don't want to leave Ehime. Besides the people, the nature of Ehime is amazing. The mountains and forests around Ishizuchi are so beautiful. I also love the islands in the inland sea. I think Oshima and Omishima are very special.



I also have a young daughter, so I spend most of my free time doing things with my family. If you see me around campus, or outside, please say an Australian greeting, "G'day", to me.

### IAN DOWNER

Hello, my name is Ian Downer from New Zealand. Before moving to Japan with my wife and young daughter, I taught English as an ALT in Ehime and as a university teacher in New Zealand. It is really great to be back in Matsuyama and to have the opportunity to revisit some of the wonderful sights of this diverse region.



My research interests include the use of metaphor analysis to understand teacher and learner beliefs and role of reflection in teaching and learning. It is my firm belief that systematic reflection is a very important tool for helping language learners and educators to unlock their potential.



Regarding my hobbies, I am passionate about music production and performance. In the past, I have recorded and performed regularly as a member of various music ensembles and have even played on T.V from time to time back in New Zealand. I have played the drums for many years and love to communicate, as best as I can, through the instrument.

I am looking forward to meeting you.



Best regards  
Ian



### CYNTHIA GONZALEZ

Hi everyone. It's nice to meet you. My name is Cynthia, and I'm from Los Angeles, California.

It's my first time to be in Shikoku, but I've been living in Japan for awhile. I lived in Saitama for 1 year, Kobe for 2 years, and Tokyo for 10 years. Even though I love the city life, I also love being by the sea.

Although I have lived in Japan for a long time, my favorite hobby is sightseeing. There is always something new to see, do, or eat in Japan. I love taking pictures of shrines, temples, Japanese festivals, and other traditional things. Japanese culture is so different from mine and I find that extremely interesting.



I am Mexican-American. My parents are from Mexico, but I was born in the United States. Do you know anything about Mexican culture? It's known for its food (tacos, burritos, nachos, etc.), music (salsa and mariachi), and big families. My family is a little small, but I have a big extended family. I have about 30 cousins!! My favorite Mexican holiday is Dia de los Muertos. It's on November 1. It is VERY similar to Obon in Japan. We celebrate the passing of our loved ones by having a party for their spirits.

It's nice to be here, and I'm looking forward to seeing more and learning more about Shikoku. If you have any recommendations, please let me know.



Catch you later,  
Cynthia

## Now On - "Let's Enjoy English!"

Do you know "Let's Enjoy English"? It is an English conversation class with a native English speaker and (maximum) 6 students. You can get to know teacher(s) closely out of general English classes, and enjoy talking in English in a casual and friendly atmosphere for 45 minutes.

Sign up at the EEC office. First come, first served!

	M	T	W	T	F
1		Andrew	Scott		Cynthia
2			Adrian		
3	Danielle				Kristin
4			Ian		
5		Zhou		Lexi	

## Vacation in Arles, Salute to van Gogh

This first golden week in Reiwa reminds me of the vacation in Arles in another GW more than 10 years ago. Arles is a city with a long history located in southern France. The reason I visited Arles was because of Vincent van Gogh. He had lived in



Arles from 1888 ~ 1889, where he developed a new painting style and broadened his subject matter range with tremendous productivity of 187 paintings during his time there, including the masterpieces "Vincent's bedroom in Arles", "Starry night", "Cafe terrace at night" and "Self-portrait with bandaged ear", followed by a mental breakdown and the famous incident when van Gogh cut off his own ear. When I got to Arles, more than 200 years passed after van Gogh left. Many things have changed greatly, but some still remain unchanged, such as the air, the sunshine, the river Rhone, and Roman remnants. I walked around the town to see how this place gave van Gogh his marvelous inspiration and imagination.

When I arrived in Arles by TGV from Paris, it was a brightly sunny afternoon. The river Rhone ran across the city quietly beside us, real and modest. Van Gogh showed a strangling fantasy world of the river in his painting "The Starry Night over the Rhone". Through his eyes, the light and color were sensed in a completely different way from us due to the psychosis he was suffering from.



Inside of TGV

Arles welcomed us and soothed us with warm sunshine, quiet and peaceful air, the vibrant colors of South France, and nice people. I began to unconditionally love this place after a short stay where van Gogh left his legend behind. Maybe a long time ago, van Gogh came to Arles and found endless inspiration in this poetic city for the same reasons.

In the square Place de la République, I luckily saw people celebrating a new wedding party. The party was not gorgeous, even very simple compared with Japanese ones. A car was decorated with flowers and the wedding couple were dressed



## Spring SEA (Study English Abroad) Program Report

Moeka participated in a short spring program at Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland, from Feb 23 to Mar 24.

### SEA program in Ireland

- by Moeka Sato (Faculty of Law and Letters)

It was first time for me to leave Japan. I was nervous, but now I want to visit outside of Japan again. Three weeks were too short to improve my English skills, but I became courageous through this experience. I didn't have to make friends with any Japanese students in Ireland, which means I didn't have to speak Japanese. I used to explain some difficult English words in Japanese when I studied with my classmates. However, all



I could speak and listen to was English in Ireland. In the first few days, I had difficulty managing to communicate with classmates and explain what I want to say. But later I was able to communicate with them smoothly.

- by Zhou Wei

up to show that it was a wedding party. That was all. But there were many people coming from every direction and gathering in the square, smiling and blessing the young couple. The two were standing in the center, with shy and happy expressions on their faces. Sudden gaieties of laughter were heard here and there.

One of my favorites among van Gogh's paintings is "Vincent's bedroom in Arles". I chose a small hotel room with similar South France taste. In the day time, the garden deep inside



the hotel was filled with warm and bright sunshine. We spent a lazy time sitting and enjoying lunch and coffee under trees and a big sun parasol. Each evening after the sunset, the sky outside of the window turned into a clean and transparent blue, a sky I had never seen elsewhere. The last and best memory was the warm-hearted hotel manager.

He was busy all the time to make guests feel comfortable and always greeted us with a smile like the sunshine in Arles.

After a heavy and exhausting journey of visiting numerous museums in Paris, Arles welcomed us and soothed us with warm sunshine, quiet and peaceful air, the vibrant colors of South France, and nice people. I began to unconditionally love this place after a short stay where van Gogh left his legend behind. Maybe a long time ago, van Gogh came to Arles and found endless inspiration in this poetic city for the same reasons.



In a restaurant where serves bull meat (not beef!)



I got many amazing friends from all over the world. They made me motivated because all of them are conscientious. We enjoyed lectures and after school activities together. We talked about many topics like languages, culture, problems of the world and so on. I was satisfied to know a lot of different thoughts and opinions of people in different cultures.



In addition, I stayed with a wonderful host family. They were very kind, and I was happy to be with them. I learned that it's important to get used to English dialects of many people in a globalized world.

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