

# The IEI Reporter

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## Birthdays

Ryota Yamamoto

Nov. 11

Jose Rene Zamora

Nov. 13

Sang Eun Shin

Nov. 13

Majar Koko

Nov. 15

Mayara Vespero

Nov. 16

Soledad Espejo

Nov. 20

Nov. 19

Injeong Jo

Marcus Crooks

Nov. 21

Marta Luz Perez

Montoya Nov. 22

Wen yu Ding

Nov. 24

Myong Hong Nov.

25

Carmen Paredes

Nov. 25

Derek Chin Nov.

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**IEI REPORTERS:** Naoki Onoda, Hazem Othman, Marta Luz Perez Montoya, Neira Rodriguez, Chakarin Ruephanit, Ryota Yamaoto, Yu Yoshida  
**Editor:** Rebecca Tieman

## My Important Girlfriend and I By: Ryota

I got my girlfriend after a long time about one month ago. She is an American girl and younger than me. The reason why I could meet her is that actually she has learned Japanese for several years and she goes to the JLT (Japanese Language Table) every Friday. Because I was interested in it, I joined it every week. Of course I do even now. Sometimes I teach her Japanese and sometimes she teaches me English. We met almost everyday to enjoy conversation with each other. When I noticed her, I liked her. She invited me to her house several times and after I went to her house five times, I told her how I felt. She said "I feel the same way." And I responded "Thank you." But my mind was almost crazy. I felt so happy that I wanted to shout, but I had never done such a thing before, so I was pretty embarrassed.

Although it has been more than one month, we still have a good relationship. We went to a mall, a zoo, a restaurant, and to each other's houses, and other places. She speaks English very fast, so she frequently asks me "Does it make sense?" I usually answer "No." And I make her repeat it. We are always like this, but somehow we can have fun with our conversation. Of course I don't want to make her repeat again and again what she says, but she understands me who can't communicate in English well, so I can always listen to her once more and speak English without hesitation in front of her. And also I learn various expressions and vocabulary words from her everyday. What I love about her the most is her inside, that is, her personality. I suppose it's the first time for me to be with a girl who has a beautiful mind like her, so though I have been with four girlfriends before, it won't be an exaggeration to say that she is my first girlfriend. That's why I have a desire to live in the U.S. much longer.

## *What are your plans after IEI?*

*Take a vacation. Hazem*

*Take some regular classes at the U of M. Go back to my country and study more English. Ryota*

*Get into graduate school. Bank*

*Work in special education. Marta*

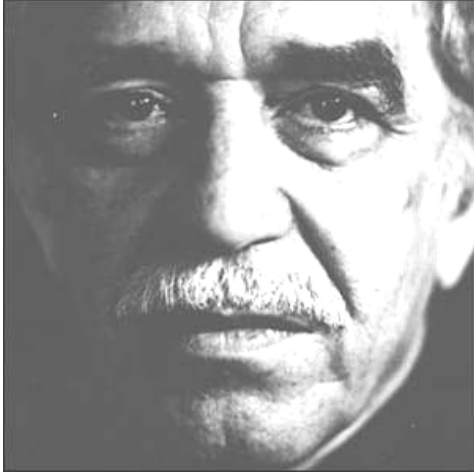
*Work in the human resources department. Neira*

*Go back to Japan and graduate from my university and work, beginning next April. Yoshi*

*Participate in a club activity to provide foreign food. Naoki*



## Garcia Marquez: The Colombian Nobel Prize Winner



By: Marta Luz

A famous Colombian writer gave glory to a whole nation and won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1982. Gabriel Garcia Marquez was born in 1928 in the small town of Aracataca near a sea in Colombia. He lived with his maternal grandparents. He went to a Jesuit college and began to study law, but his studies were soon broken off for his work as a journalist. He won his Nobel Prize for his novels, and between them, his most famous book was “One Hundred Years of Solitudes” that he wrote in 1967. In Colombia many students have read this literature piece for generations. His novels are a combination of reality and imagination. Gabriel Garcia Marquez describes in his writings the life of the nation. His most important novels are:

- . Leaf Storm.
- . No One Writes to the Colonel.
- . Love in the Time of Cholera.
- . The General in his Labyrinth.
- . Notice of a Kidnapping.

## US Open Racquetball Championship

By: Yoshi

Racquetball’s biggest tournament is coming soon!! The “US Open Racquetball Championship” will be from November 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in Memphis. More than 600 people will join the tournament. There are four main courts, and U of M is one of them! The tournament is not only singles, but doubles as well. For many leveled people, there are many divisions like “Women’s Doubles A” or “Men’s Age over 35 B”. I will join two divisions, “Men’s Age under 24 A” and “Men’s Singles A”. I will try to do my best!

Every division is interesting, but the best one for me is “Men’s Singles Pro”. Pro players’ shots are too fast to keep up with. And their movement is incredible! They move before the opponent hits the ball and dive for the ball wonderfully! The top ranking player, “Jack Huczek”, is only 24 years old. I’m 23 years old, so he is only one year older than me! He has been very famous since he was a junior player. He will probably show us many fantastic games in this tournament!



# Black Friday

Hazem Othman

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving and is the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season in the United States. Since Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday in November, Black Friday may be as early as the 23rd and as late as the 29th day of November. Many stores open very early (typically 5 A.M.). "Black Friday" was called by this name because of the large amount of business during that day. Black Friday is known in the media as the busiest retail shopping day of the year. While it has been one of the busiest days in terms of customer traffic in terms of actual sales volume, Black Friday is usually the fifth to tenth busiest day. The busiest retail shopping day of the year in the United States according to the sales and traffic is usually the Saturday before Christmas. So many stores have big draw items. Electronics and popular toys are often the most sought after items and they are sharply discounted. Because of the huge crowds, some people choose to stay home and avoid the crowd. The local media often will cover the event, mentioning how early the shoppers began lining up at various stores and providing video of the shoppers standing in line and later leaving with their purchased items. Traditionally Black Friday sales were intended for those shopping for Christmas gifts. For some particularly popular items, some shop these sales in order to get deep discounts on items they can then resell to others.

## Introduction of my University

By: Naoki

My Japanese university is Nagoya Gakuin University in Nagoya city. So I could go to University of Memphis and study as an exchange student. This time, I would like to introduce my Japanese university to you. Because my university was in Seto city, which is in rural area until last year yet my university moved to Nagoya city, which is the fourth biggest city in Aichi prefecture. So I think my university will develop increasingly because of moving to Nagoya.

First, the attraction of my university is to provide notebook computer to each student to teach how to use e-mail, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power point, Microsoft Excel, and Internet. And, any teachers teach us information processing from freshmen for the future. So there are no students who aren't familiar with computers.

Second, my university in Nagoya has two campuses, the Shirotori and the Hibino campuses. Each campus is near to subway stations. So although we needed our car or we had to take school bus to the university, we can go there by train or bicycle after the university moved to Nagoya.

Third, a quarter of the students in my university have studied abroad in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, UK, China, Taiwan, Canada, Thailand, Korea, and the Philippines. The professors in my university help the students who want to study abroad. Particularly, in the case of the students who want to study abroad to English-Speaking-Countries, they can go to BLC (Basic Learning Center). The staffs in BLC teach how to answer TOEFL, TOEIC and a lot of things needed during study abroad. They are usually called TA (Teaching Assistants) in my university. Most of them have studied abroad in the USA or Canada. That's why they are respected by most juniors who want to study abroad. In fact, I went to BLC to study for TOEFL almost every day including summer vacation and spring vacation last year. So I could make good relationship between me and TAs. I couldn't only learn English, but also I could know how to live in good campus life, job hunting, human relationship, dream in the future, the life during study abroad and so on. Thankfully, I could study abroad to USA. I owe what I am to them I really appreciate them. So perhaps, I may teach English for TOEFL and other things to the juniors who want to study abroad after finishing this study abroad program.

Finally, most of the students in University of Memphis don't know my university and my university is not famous in Japan, too. But, I love Nagoya Gakuin University. Because there are a lot of people who helped me every time. They helped me when I was confused. So I am planning to help many juniors in my university after I go back to Japan.



## Loy Kratong Festival

By: Bank

Today I would like to introduce one of the oldest festivals in Thailand, that is the LoyKraTong Festival. Loy means floating and Kratong means the basket that is made from banana leaves. That means people will make Kratong to float on the rivers.

On the full moon of the twelfth lunar month( usually in mid November) people will decorate their houses with candles, lights and flowers. Everybody should make a Kratong and float it on the river after sun set. The Kratong are usually decorated with fresh flowers and candles. The meaning of floating this Kratong is for thanking for the mother of rivers. Because rivers are very important for the Thai people, we can not live without rivers. Thailand is an agricultural country, and the agricultural products are dependent on water and rivers. Soon after, our attention turns to the celebration. The evening's festivities consist of firework displays, folk entertainment, stage dramas and Thai dancing.

Moreover, people in my hometown believe that this festival still has a religious meaning also. We make Kom-Loi, that is a hot air balloon, to release into the night sky as an offering to the Lord Buddha.

So, during this festival, it is a good chance to remind people to think about the previous way of life and teach us about we should not forget to thank someone who had helped us before.



## The Day of Dead

By: Neira

The day of the dead is one of the most important holidays for the Mexicans and we celebrate it every year on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. On this two days we remember our relatives that have died. On November 1<sup>st</sup> the souls of the children are honored and on November 2<sup>nd</sup> the souls of the adults are remembered with a variety of rituals, according with the different states of the Mexican Republic. This celebration includes making an altar and offerings dedicated to the deceased. The altar is a table that is decorate with cempasuchil flowers, paper with bright colors, candles, candy, fruits and very traditional food like tamales, bread for the dead and hot chocolate. The celebration concludes in some parts of Mexico with people visiing cemeteries and having a festive picnic, to leave some flowers on the tomb of a relative.









