In Spring 2013, ESL will offer a new course: ESL 149O, Writing Workshop for Non-Native Speakers. In this 1/2 unit lab course, students who speak English as a second language will receive individual coaching on their writing assignments for any course they are currently enrolled in, including other English or ESL courses, courses in their major, or GE courses. They can receive help with all stages of the writing process: pre-writing, organization, drafting, and proofreading. This will be a 12-week late-start course that will begin on Feb. 22nd and meet every Friday from 10:00 a.m.—12:05 p.m. There will be an orientation on Friday, Feb. 1st at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 where students can receive more information and register for the course. Students who cannot attend the orientation meeting may register online or at the Office of Admissions and Records starting on Wednesday, Feb. 13th.

If you have non-native English speaking students in your classes that you believe would benefit from additional help with their writing, please consider recommending them for this course. For more information please contact Kent Uchiyama by email at kuchiyama@chabotcollege.edu.

In addition to the Writing Workshop course, ESL offers other support courses that may be appropriate for your students. In ESL 114 (Editing for the Advanced ESL Writer), students practice editing papers to correct common ESL errors and learn strategies for editing and revising their own papers. ESL 128 (Faculty-Student Tutorial) is a self-paced course where students receive individual instruction in all language skills, and complete their work in the Language Center (Room 2351).
Adriana Sanchez-Pillot and Shareshtha Burman are two former ESL students who graduated from Chabot in 2012. We caught up with them to learn more about their experience at Chabot, and to find out where they are now. To watch Adriana & Shareshtha discuss their experiences in more detail, please see this video (http://vimeo.com/53632311), part of an on-going project with Acceleration in Context. Many thanks to Sean McFarland, Karina Contreras, and Skye Ontiveros for their work in creating this video.

Q: Why did you choose to come to Chabot?
Shareshtha: The reason I chose to come to Chabot was to continue my studies after finishing school in India. I settled down in Hayward, and my aunt told me to get admission in Chabot, and so I did.
Adriana: I enrolled in an ESL class at Chabot as soon as I came to live to the U.S., in August of 2009. My mother thought that starting at a community college and transferring to a 4 year university was the best and most affordable path I could take. Chabot College was close to my then Hayward residence, and I commuted and later biked to school for the next 3 years. Looking back, I am very grateful to my mother for sending me there. I have gone through life-changing experiences and grown so much as a person. The ESL program, along with other academic and extracurricular opportunities at Chabot, have given me the preparation and strength for a 4-year school and for the rest of my life.

Q: What do you feel you accomplished at Chabot (personally, academically, etc.)?
Shareshtha: My perspective has changed. I’ve grown up as a student and as a being. I learned a lot from being tutor; not judging others, trying to understand others’ problems, and thinking from their perspective. I gradually became comfortable talking in English. I’m grateful to have been a student of my ESL teachers who always supported me. They inspired me and always made me feel that I am capable of doing anything.
Adriana: As an ESL and English student, my English kept improving every semester. Gaining confidence as an English speaker was one of the biggest challenges and accomplishments I worked on at Chabot. Every class I took at Chabot was a valuable experience, and the professors I had had been a great inspiration and help in discovering the many things in this world I’d never seen. In these classes I could expand and push my limits in analyzing my gender, cultural, social, and political identities, in conceiving the possibilities of the future, and in learning lessons of the past. I had the opportunity to explore my drive in implementing different ideas and to participate in incredible projects.

Q: What are you doing now?
Shareshtha: I’m studying at UC Davis now and majoring in Plant Biotechnology.
Adriana: I am an anthropology junior transfer student at UC Berkeley. I have been focusing on my classes and my new lifestyle, outside my family’s house.

Q: What is your dream for the future?
Shareshtha: My dream is to continue studying, and get a job after graduating from UC. I also want to start my internship next quarter. For now, this is my goal. I don’t actually make long term plans. I try to finish things one by one. When I graduate, I’ll have a new plan to follow for sure.
Adriana: My dream for the future is to be able to contribute to the world in achieving a positive, humane, and profound change in the way we live and relate to each other locally and globally. I hope I can do this through projects and community organizing, and my studies and research from the field can help me out in learning different ways to organize as a family, as a society, and as an economy to find healthy alternatives to our actual economic and social problems.
ESL Student Spotlight:
“Voting as an American”
By Lisa Ikeda

Last week Consuelo Hyer, one of my students from the Project Excel Study Groups, came to me with a special request: to help her with the November 6 election choices. This was her second, not her first time to vote, but as she had been pressured to vote a certain way by a family member the first time, she really wanted to think independently this time. “I don’t understand the propositions,” she admitted. After discussing the electoral process in my classes and study groups, I was more than happy to help. We sat together in the ESL Office with a Voter’s Guide and I explained the propositions while trying not to show any bias toward any of them. Nevertheless, Consuelo wholeheartedly decided to support Prop 30. I also showed her, as indicated on the guide, where she would vote and how late the polls would stay open. When we finished, she enthusiastically declared, “I am proud to vote as an American!”

Project Excel

As a federally funded TRIO program, the Project Excel program at Chabot offers eligible students in-depth academic support. The program aims to ensure student success at Chabot and beyond by providing individualized academic, financial and personal counseling, as well as career exploration and cultural enrichment activities.

There are currently over 140 ESL students enrolled in Project Excel. In order to join the Project Excel program, students must complete an application to determine eligibility. For more information, please call (510) 723-7675.

For more information about ESL courses at Chabot College, please visit our website at http://www.chabotcollege.edu/LanguageArts/ESL/.