



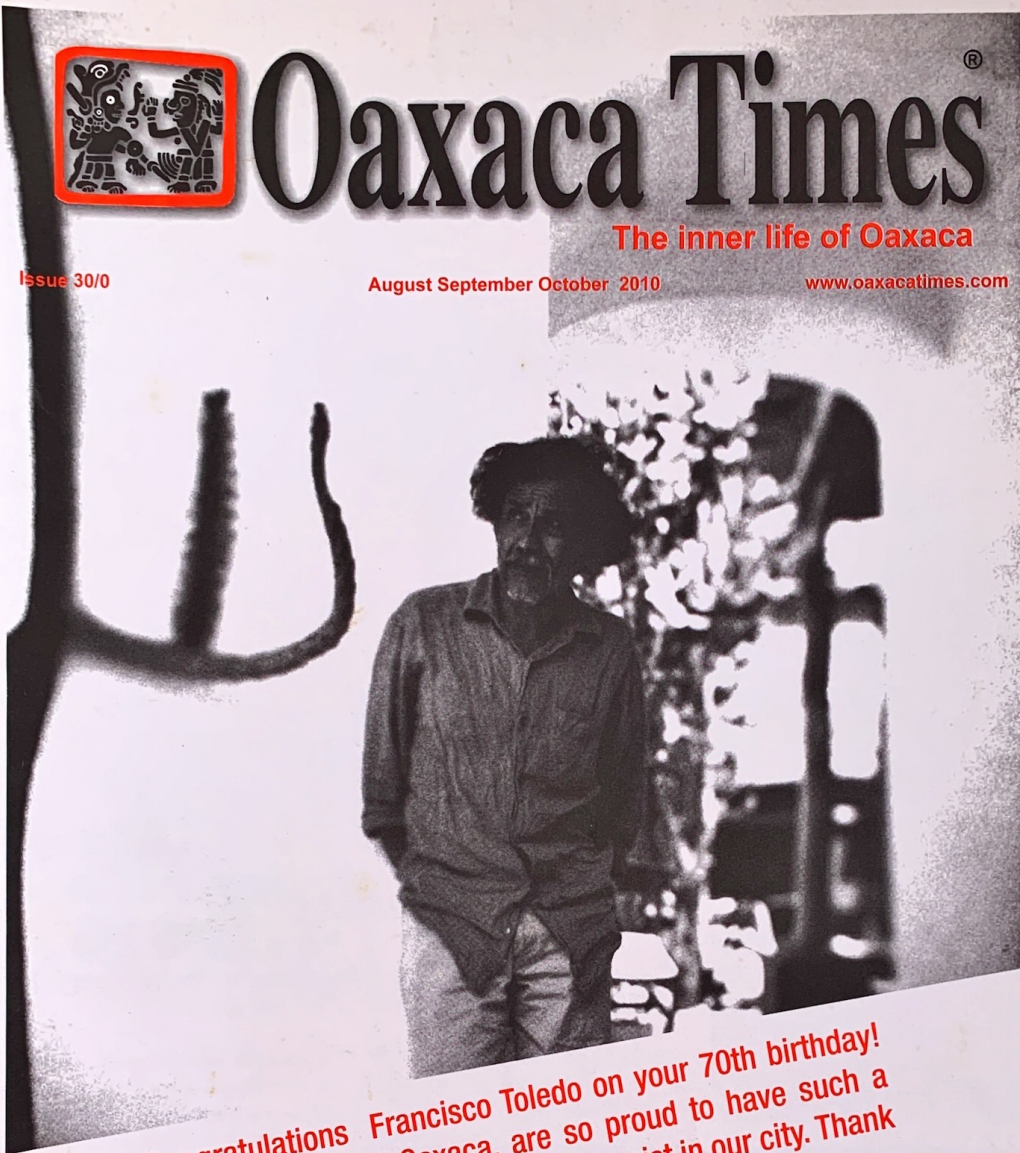
Oaxaca Times[®]

The inner life of Oaxaca

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Congratulations Francisco Toledo on your 70th birthday! We, the people of Oaxaca, are so proud to have such a world renowned artist and philanthropist in our city. Thank you for all you have done for Oaxaca.

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Learn Spanish at the ICC

—It's Fast, Fun & Effective

three
REASONS TO
CHOOSE THE ICC:

1. THE INSTRUCTORS have advanced academic credentials to teach Spanish as a second language and are carefully selected and supervised. Other schools train individuals from the community, regardless of education.

2. THE TEACHING APPROACH uses advanced techniques to go beyond the grammar and structure of Spanish and includes a more functional and communicative approach to learning. The focus is on "speaking" Spanish.

3. THE CULTURAL INTEGRATION COMPONENT of the program helps you meet and mix with Mexicans while you get involved with Mexican culture, thus reinforcing your use of Spanish at the same time.



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ICC has a new home

The great walls surrounding the front entrance are painted to match the color of earth in Oaxaca. Past the arched, wooden doorway are an assortment of offices and classrooms with bright colors. The room opens up to tile floor and open sky. A fountain, surrounded by a dozen potted plants dominates the scene. Columns and arches line the other tree sides of the interior on the first, second and third floor. Vines stretch out from plants and hang from black, metal railings.

In the rooms above are a kitchen and liv-

ing quarters. An assortment of potted cacti dot the rooftop. Trees block out the view of all but Santo Domingo church in the city bellow.

This is the new site of the Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura, a Spanish language school up off Calle Crespo, 5 blocks off santo Domingo church, overlooking downtown Oaxaca City. The older location was now too small

When the Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura was founded in 1986 had only five teachers at the time, and between five and

ten students.

Class sizes then, as now, were very small, sometimes allowing students to work one on one with a teacher, creating an environment conforming to their needs, their strengths their weaknesses and their specific goals. Music, for example, makes an excellent tool to practice listening and interpreting a language.

Students come from all over the world, from Japan, India, Denmark, England, US, Canada, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Brazil, Alaska, as well as vari-

ICC Cultural Trips

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ous nations in Africa.

The school's director Yolanda Rosalba A. Garcia Caballero remembers one student, an 80 years old Russian doctor with a command of 5 languages already, who was able to master Spanish in just over two months of diligent practice. Though this student's achievement was somewhat extraordinary many have gained a fluent command of the Spanish language through their time at the ICC.

Valentine Watson Rodger, though known in Oaxaca as Valentina, was born in England, studied in Oxford and France, lived in the United States, and resides in Canada. She spoke English and French with native fluency when she entered the program. After taking a few classes at the ICC in 1999: phonetics with Yolanda and grammar with Hugo, she returned for 2 weeks in 2001, 2002, 2006, in 2008-9 and two months last winter.

"I now also speak Spanish quite fluently," she said. She appreciates the advantages of speaking a language when she travels.

"When I go La Unión, (a famous Zapotec town of wooden carved fantastic animals) for example," Valentina said, "I can talk to the carvers and their families and express my admiration for the work they do (instead of merely smiling till my face aches)." For her, as anyone, speaking the language makes coming to Mexico an entirely different experience.

Other students, though they enjoyed their time in Oaxaca, came with a different purpose in mind. David Baer attended the ICC in April and May of 2010.

"My wife Linda and I are both physicians and we embarked on an effort to learn Spanish several years ago," he said. "We both have sufficient Spanish speaking patients in our practice that we felt it would be a valuable skill." He won't call himself fluent in the language but admits that his Spanish skills have dramatically improved in the weeks he spent at the ICC.

Another student, Terri Holl, said the language skills she acquired helped her to get a job as the HR Director for a winery in Napa Valley, California. Though most of her work related conversations are in English it is imperative that she be able to communicate with Spanish speaking employees.

The ICC takes pride in providing teaching to students in a range of ages, abilities, and ambitions. The school provides not only teaches language but also Old organic Oaxacan cooking.

Some of the language classes are highly specialized, such as Med Spanish, www.med-spanish.com It is a comprehensive 5-prong approach that helps clinicians in the US and Canada better understand and care for their Latino patients, they immerse students in Medical and general Spanish, cultural literacy, and provide a diverse variety of

clinical experiences in México.

"The success of our school is that we are very personal," director Yolanda said. The teachers are specialized to children, adolescents, or adults of varying experience and ability.

"Children are incredible," she says, "they're like little sponges." The children have the privilege of a playground just behind the ICC. Between Spanish classes they can play and practice their newfound language skills with Oaxacan children who are simultaneously learning to speak English.


The ICC is more than its location, facilities, and range of opportunities. When asked about their best experiences in Oaxaca and the ICC former students mentioned time and again the generosity, patience, of the staff and the time they spent with them both in the classrooms and outside of it.

"Excursions have always added a special dimension to the teaching at the ICC," Valentina said. "The most recent really special one was to Santa Ana Zegache; but over the years, I have been with Yolanda or other instructors to Monte Albán, Zaachila, Cuilápam, Huayápam, Tlacoahuaya, Mitla, Etna, Ocotlán, etc. Going to a market with Yolanda means talking to the vendors, asking where and how the cheese is made, for example; being shown the breads and meats typical of the village - and tasting them too. Getting a taste of the real Oaxaca, in fact."



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