

ELP STUDENT NEWS

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Letter from the Editor

Brian T. Arnold, Editor, "ELP Student News"

Welcome to the second issue of Virginia Commonwealth University's English Language Program "ELP Student News." The "ELP Student News" is an Internet newsletter that can be accessed from the ELP website at www.vcu.edu/oie/elp.

Q: What can I do to help create a newsletter?

A: The "ELP Student News" needs photographers, interviewers, movie reviewers, sports reviewers, class reviewers, etc. What would you like to do?

If you or someone you know that is studying at VCU would like to help with the newsletter, then contact me at btarnold@vcu.edu. I will be happy to sit down and discuss your ideas and help you get started on a project!

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue...Brian

Our Latest ELP Electives!

Conversation and Current Events—Join in the Fun!
By Julie Hulett, ELP Instructor

Conversation and Current Events is a relatively new course at the ELP that gives students the opportunity to talk about what's happening in the world today. As a group, the students in this course pick weekly topics to investigate. In the past, these topics have ranged from very serious "hard news" topics, such as the Middle East crisis, to lighter topics, such as the latest Hollywood blockbuster film. The good part about doing it this way is that the interests of all students in the class are explored.



As part of this course, students can expect a variety of activities, including: speaking in large and small groups about current events, watching and commenting on news clips, interviewing Americans about their opinions on current events, and summarizing and discussing news articles. In addition, students pick one topic of special interest to them to investigate more thoroughly. At the end of the course, students present what they've learned from the research and organize a class discussion around it.

Some past topics include: World Cup Soccer; Steven Spielberg Movies; the Situation with Iraq; National Parks of the U.S.; Starbucks; Modern Medical Technology; Country Music in America; and What Do Richmonders Do for Fun?

Whether you're interested in the news or just wanting more conversation, this is a good course for you. One thing is for sure: this course will give you a lot of opportunity to practice speaking English!

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Communication is more than just words: Readers' Theatre 2

by Rebecca Jones

There is a new elective being offered by the ELP this year called ***Readers' Theatre 2***. The purpose of the class is to help students understand that much of the communication that takes place in American culture is communicated with more than just words. We talk about intonation, facial expression, gestures, and body language. We use the word "paralanguage" to describe all of these things.

Students in the class read a play and then choose scenes from the play to act out. The course is called "Readers' Theatre" because students **read their scenes**, but they don't have to memorize them. Students also write and perform short scenes of their own to show things like how the same words can mean two different things depending on the facial expression.

Several students who are currently taking ***Readers' Theatre 2*** were interviewed last week. Here is what they had to say about the class.

Vicky said, "It helps you to express yourself with more than words. You use expression."

Tae-Hyung said, "It's fun. When we combine paralanguage with English words, it's more efficient to express our feelings. When I first started this class, I didn't know how to put my feelings into words. But as time goes by, now I think I can put over 50% of my feelings into words."

Romain said, "One word has many meanings. This class helps us to be more confident to speak with American people because you can say more things and say what you want to say."

Gi-Yong said, "Because of the class, we understand American culture. I talked to an American and understood him better."

If you would like to learn more English and have fun at the same time, come and join us!



Student's Corner

ELP Students were recently given the opportunity to work with VCU anthropology students in the "co-class project." This project allowed American and International students the chance to exchange some different ideas and beliefs.

Communicating in America

By: Anh Pham, ELP student from Vietnam

Communicating and learning about different cultures will be required when we enter mainstream academic classes at VCU. In Reading Academic Texts (RAT) class, the teacher assigned us to work on the Co-Class Project. At first, I did not want to do the extra work, but now I see the benefits. By working with Dr. Turner's Anthropology students, I feel that my communication and study skills have improved.

As I participated in the Co-Class Project, I talked and exchanged my culture beliefs with American students. I learned that every country has a different culture belief. I was surprised to see that students in America have many of the same problems that students in Vietnam have. Students in both countries worry about money, tests, boyfriends and girlfriends, and many such things. The RAT class wanted us to see how Americans prepare for their classes and exams. I also learned more about how American students study in this experience. I think it helped me to improve my study skills.

ELP students will learn more from being "more involved" in the VCU community. The VCU community knows more ways of learning and can help you to communicate better in English to Americans. There is more to learning a language than grammar, and the only way to get better at something is to practice. The Co-Class Project gave me that opportunity.

FALL 2002 ACTIVITIES

In September, 25 students traveled to Norfolk, Virginia for a sailing adventure. The crew of *The American Rover*, a three-masted sailing ship, took us on a two hour tour around the Norfolk harbor, one of the largest ports in the United States. A singer/guitarist roamed the ship entertaining the passengers while we ate our picnic lunches. Afterward, we drove to Virginia Beach, where we explored the Virginia Marine Science Museum. After dipping our feet in the Atlantic Ocean and enjoying a leisurely walk on the beach, we headed back to VCU.

Unfortunately, our annual camping trip in the Blue Ridge Mountains was cancelled due to rain, rain, and more rain. We will try again next year.

In November, we took students ice skating at SkateNation, an ice skating rink in Richmond’s West End. For many, this was their first experience ice skating – and they did very well! We were pleased to have VCU international student, Eduardo Vidal, join us. Eduardo was Brazil’s national ice skating champion 4 times! It was a fun afternoon.

WINTER 2003 ACTIVITIES

Our first trip for the winter was to Wintergreen, a ski resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This activity has always been a popular one and provides many students with their first opportunity to ski. This year’s trip was on Saturday, February 1 and the cost was \$35.00, a very good price for an expensive sport. Many students went on the trip and we had a great time on the slopes!

SPRING 2003 ACTIVITIES

In April, we will have a picnic supper, and then go to a Richmond Kickers’ soccer game (or football, as most of you know it). When the Kickers have published their game schedule, we will give you specific information about the trip.

Questions about our activities?

Please contact Bob Wood (rawood@vcu.edu) or Pam Haney (pohaney@vcu.edu) or call 828-2551.

ELP Shout out !!

Food in Richmond: “Where can I go to eat?”

ELP students have many differing opinions, and “ELP shout out” is a column that voices what they think. In this edition of the “ELP shout out,” some ELP students were asked about their favorite restaurant in the city of Richmond. Here are some of the responses and suggestions that ELP students have to offer.

“**Chanellos Pizza**” is my personal favorite restaurant in Richmond. There is no space for seating, but you can watch how they change dough and vegetables into a delicious pizza. The pizzas at “Chanellos” are flawless because they are always well cooked and the ingredients are evenly and properly placed, and, as I prefer, the crust is soft and edible. The pizzas are categorized in beef, vegetarian, and mixed columns. The prices at this restaurant are affordable and the pizza tastes like it was made in Florenzia, Italy. 2843 W. Broad St. 358-3800

Rama Mwanundu, Kenya.



“**The Tobacco Company**,” located on East Franklin Street in Downtown Richmond, serves traditional and specialty American food. They know how to make good food and how to serve their customers. It’s open late and the atmosphere is very pleasant, even romantic. I would go to “The Tobacco Company” again without hesitation. 1201 East Cary St. 782-9555

Myeong Soo Kim, South Korea.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ELP SESSION INFORMATION

| Sessions | Placement Test Dates | Class Start – End Dates |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Spring 2003 | March 11, 2003 | March 17 – April 29, 2003 |
| Summer 2003 | June 16, 2003 | June 23 – August 1, 2003 |
| Fall I 2003 | August 13, 2003 | August 25 – October 9, 2003 |
| Fall II 2003 | October 15, 2003 | October 20 – December 5, 2003 |
| Winter 2004 | January 12, 2004 | January 20 – March 5, 2004 |

Getting to know your ELP STAFF...

Wendy Hagenow started as ELP’s new Administrative Support Manager in December 2002. She is a 2001 graduate of the VCU ‘s school of the Arts. Wendy provides support to ELP’s faculty, staff, and students to keep daily operations at ELP running smoothly.

Places visited: Greece, Italy, Germany, England, Romania.

Favorite Activities: “I love to try new foods from different cultures.”

Favorite Quote: “The best and most beautiful thing in the world cannot be seen or even touched. It must be felt by the heart.”

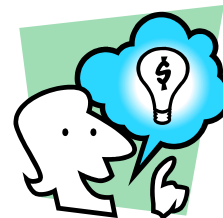
– Helen Keller

“**Denny’s**” is my favorite restaurant because the food is tasty and the atmosphere is fun! My friends and I go there and get quick service at a low price. During the day or the evening, you can go to “Bennigan’s” with your family and friends to enjoy the good food and friendly atmosphere. 6598 W. Broad St. 288-7553
Victoria Klein, Israel.

“**MeKong Restaurant**” is a Vietnamese restaurant located in Richmond. I love the food, especially the Wonton soup, and I was surprised to see so many Americans dining there! The service is very good! 6004 W. Broad St. 288-8929
Anh Pham, Vietnam

“**Bottoms Up Pizza**” is my favorite restaurant in Richmond. It is located in downtown Richmond (in the Shockoe Bottom) and they make fresh, delicious, and inexpensive pizzas. If you order a large pizza at “Bottoms Up” and you cannot finish it, they will put it in a box and you can take it home with you. It’s so cool!! I can take the leftover pizza for lunch the next day! I am sure you will like “Bottoms Up Pizza” very much. 1700 Dock St. 644-4400
Amit Triveti, India.

“**Tokyo Terriyaki**” is the restaurant that I like best in Richmond. The service is good and the atmosphere is friendly and inviting. “Tokyo Terriyaki” is located near VCU in Richmond and is very popular among VCU’s Asian students because it is one of the few restaurants in Richmond to serve a variety of both Korean and Japanese foods. 920 W. Grace St. 355-7517
Kihyun Song, South Korea.



Do you have any ideas for the next “ELP shout out” column? What do you want to know more about in Richmond?

E-mail your ideas to Brian at btarnold@vcu.edu

ELP All Over the World



VCU & ELP representatives may be visiting *your country*

Representatives of VCU have visited many countries around the world in the past several months. These visits are intended to provide interested students with information about the programs offered here at VCU and help explain what is required for international students to study in the United States.

International students face many challenges when they decide to come to the United States to study. It can be difficult to understand this complicated process, and VCU wants to help. The VCU representatives visit education fairs all over the world to advise and assist prospective students with this process. If you or someone you know would like to meet with a VCU representative, the following schedule will help you find one.

Latin America Spring 2003

| Date | Country | Location |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Monday March 31, 2003 | Mexico City, Mexico | General Presentation: 18:00-19:00 University Fair : 19:00-21:00 Hotel Galeria Plaza, Lancaster Room Hamburgo 195, Colonia Juarez |
| Thursday April 13, 2003 | San Salvador, El Salvador | 13:00-15:00 Escuela Americana Calle y Colonia La Mascota Final Pasaje 3 |
| Friday April 4, 2003 | San Jose, Costa Rica | General Presentation: 18:00-19:00 University Fair: 19:00-21:00 Centro Cultural Costarricense NorteAmericano- Cartago 100 metros Este de MetroCentro |
| Wednesday April 9, 2003 | Quito, Ecuador | General Presentation: 18:00-19:00 University Fair: 19:00-21:00 Fulbright Commission Diego de Almagro No. 25-41 y Avda. Colon |
| Friday April 11 ,2003 | Lima, Peru | General Presentation: 18:00-19:00 University Fair: 19:00-21:00 Swissotel, Lima, Paracas Room Via Central, 150, Centro Empresarial Real San Isidro |