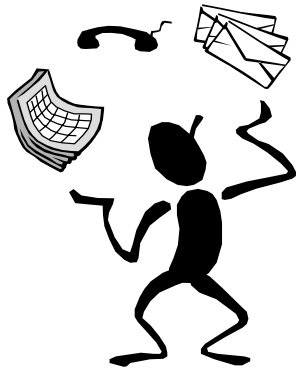


ELP STUDENT NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2005

Academic Success Program For International Students



FREE to all VCU students!

- International student workshops held on the last Tuesday of each month
- Free food will be provided at the end of each workshop session
- See page 2 for workshops being offered

How to Improve Your English in a Short Time at ELP

By: Hui-Min Hsieh, Taiwan

The English Language Program provides students with classes that improve writing, reading, listening, speaking and pronunciation. You may be worried about how fast you are leaning English as I used to be. Let me give you some tips about how to improve your English proficiency in a short time.

Tip 1: Don't miss ELP classes.

You have a good opportunity to improve when you go to class and no matter what you say or how you express yourself, you will improve faster if you attend class regularly. Go to class and practice talking and learning. It is best to go to class because the teachers can give you good advice on how to improve your English skills. If you stay involved in your classes, your English will get better more quickly.

Tip 2: Turn in your homework on time.

This is a good way to push yourself to keep learning English when you are not sitting in ELP class. Concentrate and think about how to do the assignments correctly, and start working on homework assignments early. When the time comes to turn in your homework, you will be ready.

Tip 3: Watch TV or listen to the radio at home.

In my opinion, watching TV and listening to the radio are good ways to practice listening and pronunciation. Listen and report what you hear to your friends and classmates. Look at the reporters lips when they are talking and learn or practice speaking in the same way.

Tip 4: Don't just talk to friends from your country.

The majority of students who do not improve their English skills fast spend most of their time outside of class talking and thinking in their native language. Avoid spending too much time with friends who always speak you native language. Try to use English as your main conversation language.

These four tips have been really good for me to improve my English at ELP, and I have improved a lot in just one month. If I can do it, I believe you can do it too. Just follow these tips and see for yourself.

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Fall 2005 Academic Success Program Workshop Schedule

All workshops are held on Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30
in the Engineering Building (room #101)

October	3, 5	Test-Taking Know-How (Multiple choice, True/false, Essays)
	10, 12	Memorize your way to an "A"
	17, 19	Managing Life in College (and Beyond)
	24, 26	Note-Taking Know-How: Lectures & Tests
	31	Excelling in Science
November	2	Excelling in Science
	7, 9	Large Classroom Learning
	14, 16	Say It Right: Successfully Speaking
	21, 23	THANKSGIVING WEEK - No Workshops
	28, 30	Classroom Decorum
December	5, 7	The Conscientious Learner (AKA Good Student)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WORKSHOPS

- WHAT:** Receive practical advice, information and tips to help you succeed in your classes.
- WHEN:** Last Tuesday of every month during the Fall 2005 semester from 4:00 - 5:00 pm.
- WHERE:** Commons Forum Room (First floor of the Student Commons)

September 27	Presentation Skills
October 25	Organizing & Writing Papers
November 29	Test-taking Skills

For more information on these workshops, call
Jinhee Kang, Ph.D. at 828-6200 or email jkang@vcu.edu.

Conversation Practice VCU's International (INTL) 101 and ELP speaking students meet to talk

This fall, many ELP students have had the opportunity to meet and have conversation with students taking VCU's International 101. Most of the ELP students meet with the INTL students during their Speaking class.

"This is a great opportunity for ELP students to practice having conversations with American college student!" says Barbara Russell, the coordinator for this program. Both the ELP and the INTL 101 students have said that meeting and talking to each other has been an interesting and satisfying experience. Many INTL students say that they have never had this chance before.

TRIPS & ACTIVITIES FALL 2005

October 15-16: We will go camping and hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains, enjoy dinner and conversation around the campfire and roast marshmallows.

November 24: Students are invited to spend Thanksgiving Day with American families. Thanksgiving Day is one of the most important American holidays when families gather together to enjoy a huge feast (lots of food). Students will have the opportunity to learn more about American culture and make new friends.

December 16: Holiday Party. Celebrate the end of exams by gathering together in a home with other international students and lots of food, fun and games.

Please contact or Pam Haney (pohaney@vcu.edu) or Bob Wood (rawood@vcu.edu) or call us at 828-0808.



My first impression

By: Sara Sritevarit, Thailand

My name is Sara, and I have been here for two years. I have been studying at the English Language Program at Virginia Commonwealth University, and I want to tell you about my first impression here.

I met the Student Services coordinators, Pam and Bob, when I came to Richmond the first time. They gave me some good suggestions about living in the USA. They showed me some of the sights like Washington, D.C. and Maymont Park. When I first arrived, I did not have any Thai friends at that time and it seemed that nobody took the time to get to know me. That's why I am so glad to know Pam and Bob. I think that ELP students and the university are very lucky to have them. They are really concerned about the international students that need help and they really try to help.

Are you nervous about speaking English? Coffee Hour is a good place to get more confidence using English.

Are you nervous about talking to "Americans"? Then you should go to the International Student Coffee Hour on Wednesdays. At Coffee Hour, you'll have the chance to talk to Americans or other International students. All of the students, instructors, and people who go there are very friendly and are interested in learning about your culture, experiences of living abroad. So don't be nervous. Go. Eat. Practice English. Have fun!

DATES TO REMEMBER

ELP SESSION INFORMATION

2006

Sessions	Placement Test Dates	Class Start – End Dates
Winter, 2006	January 9	January 17- March 2, 2006
Spring, 2006	March 14	March 20 – May 2, 2006
Summer, 2006	June 19	June 26 – August 4, 2006
Fall I, 2006	August 15&22	August 28 – October 12, 2006
Fall II, 2006	October 18	October 23 – December 3, 2006

2007

Sessions	Placement Test Dates	Class Start – End Dates
Winter, 2007	January 8	January 16 – March 3, 2007
Spring, 2007	March 13	March 19 – May 1, 2007
Summer, 2007	June 18	June 25 – August 3, 2007
Fall I, 2007	August 14&21	August 27 – October 11, 2007
Fall II, 2007	October 17	October 22 – December 7, 2007

CONTACT VCU'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL: OIE-ELP@VCU.EDU

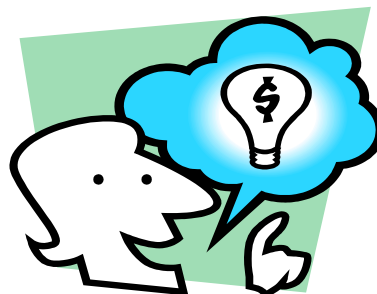
ELP Activities help International Students

By: Nevein Sabet, Egypt

VCU is a great and old university that has many different facilities. Many students come from all over the world to continue their academic studies. But, in order to start academic studies, many non native American students must learn English first. Therefore, the university has a good program to help the students to learn English called ELP. Of course, there is more to learning English than sitting in a classroom. One of the most important activities for international students is The Coffee Hour.

Since all ELP students are from different cultures and nationalities, the ELP Student Services has established a weekly meeting for all international students. This meeting is every Wednesday and is called The Coffee hour. Many different people come to be together and they communicate with one language – English. Also students get together from the same country and enjoy food and traditional music. During Coffee Hour, students have the opportunity to speak with people who are from their own country. The Coffee Hour is very helpful for students because they can make friendships and meet many different people.

Coffee Hour is where ELP students can go to be around other international students and to hear announcements that are important to ELP students. The announcements usually tell us about trips or picnics or fun things to do in Richmond. For these reasons, I think ELP students should go to Coffee Hour. An opportunity to communicate with people from other countries can open many other opportunities in our life.



What would you like to read about in the "ELP Student News"?

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

ELP Teacher Profile - Getting to know the faculty.

Nichole McVeigh

- **Born:** Long Island, New York
- **Bachelors Degree:** University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia
 - Double Major in Spanish and Education
 - "I've always liked learning about languages and different cultures, so I decided to major in Spanish. Later, I took an education class and loved it! The double major just worked well."
 - "After I finished my bachelors degrees, I taught at an elementary school in Richmond for 3 years."
- **How did you become an ESL teacher?**
 - "I returned to graduate school to finish my masters degree in Spanish education. Like I said earlier, I have always liked language and cultures. I learned about ESL and decided to switch my masters program."
 - **Masters Degree: Master of Arts in Teaching Language (MATL)**
 - University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 - "I liked Mississippi. Hattiesburg is a small town that's very close to the Gulf of Mexico."
 - "In 1997, I came to work at VCU. Richmond is a nice city, and I was happy to come back to work and live here."
- **What is your job at ELP?**
 - "Of course I teach classes, but, lately, I've been doing more office work."
 - "I'm also the Interim Testing Coordinator which means I supervise the testing of new ELP students."
- **What do you like most about working at ELP?**
 - "The students. I love teaching and working with students who are motivated to learn."
 - "I like doing the different jobs that I do at ELP. The variety of my jobs at ELP gives me more opportunities to explore the different people and cultures that come here to learn English."
- **What do you like to do for fun?**
 - "Going out with friends and playing with my dog, Zena, are my favorite things to do."
 - "I also like gardening. I've been growing herbs like oregano, basil, thyme, and rosemary."
 - "Cooking and traveling are also some of my hobbies."

One day and several countries



By: Gulnara Smith, Russia

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to visit several countries in just one day? You can experience different cultures in one place. I'm not kidding. It is possible to manage if you go to Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens is an amusement park in Williamsburg, Virginia which is about a 45 minute drive from Richmond. Don't say that you are not a child and would not like to visit such a place. Even if you don't like roller coasters, there are still so many other things to do at Busch Gardens.

This amusement park is divided into six parts, and each part represents another country. Make only a few steps, and you will be instantly transported across the Atlantic Ocean from Canada to Germany, England, France and many more countries. In each country, you can see different shows. You can enjoy watching an amazing Irish dance and feel the spirit of an old Irish castle. You will hold your breath as you behold a beautiful French acrobatic show with fantastic lights under the open sky. You may join in dance with German singers and dancers, and I'm sure you will laugh out loud when you see the animal theater.

If you have the time after all the shows and roller coaster rides, you can go shopping in the gift stores. There you find Irish crystals, German wooden wall clocks, English china dolls and many other beautiful and amazing things. Maybe, you will like to visit the ceramic shop instead where you can make your own candle or paint a pot.

And whatever you do, make sure that you come to the park hungry. There are so many kinds of food to try, like German sausages, French barbecue, and Italian pasta. If you don't know what to do next weekend, pick up some friends and experience new cultures at Busch Gardens.