

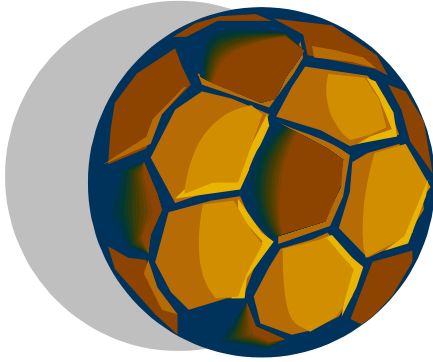
ELP STUDENT NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2006

ELP Soccer Club

Play! Watch! Relax! Have fun!



Because you need to have some fun!

- International students studying at ELP have decided to have FUN on Sunday afternoons.
- Sign-up to play! Games will begin soon.
- See page 4 for more details.

Opportunity Highway

Some ways to improve your English

By: Joanna Sosnkowska, Poland

To succeed in American society means that you need to travel the road to higher education. The English Language Program at VCU provides an opportunity for all international students to improve their writing, reading, speaking, and pronunciation. ELP helps international students on the highway to an American university.

While ELP helps to refine and improve our abilities to succeed in university classes, many international students want to know how to improve their day-to-day English skills. There are a variety of ways to improve your English. Along with attending ELP classes, here are three of my favorite things that have helped me improve my English.

Talk to everyone! Talk to the postman, the “Barista” at Starbucks, and anyone else you meet. Talking really helps focus our minds for the moment, and since we are talking to a real person who is waiting for a reply to what they said – we have to think quickly! Being able to think quickly in English takes practice. Don’t worry about grammar or correct pronunciation. It seems to me that I am able to use facial expressions and hand gestures to help with explanations in about 60 percent of live conversations. Try it and you will see what I mean!

Don’t read one word at a time with a dictionary next to you. Try to find meaning from the context of the reading. By reading slowly, you will forget what the text is about. If you have to absolutely use a dictionary, make sure that it is an English to English dictionary so as to help you to understand the meaning of the words in an English context. Someday, you will find that even though you might not know the word, you do understand the meaning. You can practice this way of reading in English by reading news on the Internet or going through the newspapers at Cabell Library. To check to see if you understand the main idea of the news, you can look up the article in your language. This way of reading has really helped me a lot.

Finally, watching television is a good way to practice your English listening and speaking skills. I watch “Soap Operas” as these use basic plots that are easy to follow without knowing the language. The conversations are simple and accompanied with emotional reactions. Seeing these simple conversation skills have helped me improve.

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Spring 2006 Academic Success Program Workshop Schedule

Workshops are *FREE!* You must register: <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/academicsuccess/>

Workshops are held on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 in the Forum Room in the Commons

February	7	Textbook Comprehension
	14	Main Ideas
	21	Learning/Teaching Styles
	28	Procrastination and Time Management
March	7	Preparing for Mid-Terms
	14	*****Spring Break*****
	21	Memory and Concentration
	28	Communicating with Professors
April	4	Writing for College Success
	11	How to Study for Math & Science
	18	Critical Thinking
	25	Stress Relief

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WORKSHOPS

WHAT: Receive useful advice, information and tips to help you succeed in your classes.

WHEN: Last Tuesday of each month during the Spring 2006 semester from 4 - 5 pm.

WHERE: Virginia Room B (Second floor of the Student Commons)

February 28 ***Powerful Note Taking***

March 28 ***Successful Career Preparation***

April 25 ***Performance Enhancement - Deep Relaxation***

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

TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

Spring & Summer 2006

February 4: Skiing the Virginia mountains

We will go to the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains to Wintergreen Ski Resort to have some winter fun. Dress warmly and don't worry about equipment. The resort has ski's, snow boards, and tubes for rent.

March 10-13: New York City trip

ELP students will go to visit New York City, or "The Big Apple" as many Americans call it. Be sure to sign up early for this very popular trip to one of the USA's most popular travel destinations.

April 22: Country Cookout

Come to the countryside to get out of the city, relax, and have fun. Play volleyball, take a leisurely walk and then have dinner with friends.

July 4: Independence Day at Jamestown and Williamsburg

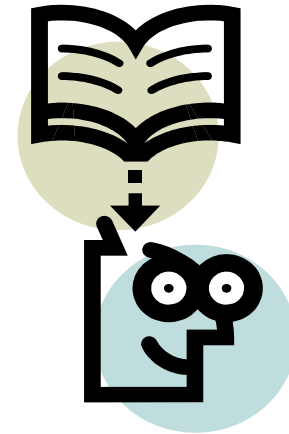
We will visit Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the United States, begun in 1607. Learn about the hardships faced by these brave settlers as you tour the ships and an English fort. Observe daily life of 17th century Native American Indians at work in their village. After a picnic dinner along the James River, we will walk through Colonial Williamsburg and enjoy the evening **fireworks** as we celebrate the United States' birthday.

July 15: Canoe and Kayak River Trip and Dinner

We'll spend a day paddling along a beautiful river, pull off the water for a picnic lunch and swim and finish with a picnic dinner at a 200 year old country home. You can also play volleyball, soccer or just sit and talk with friends.

July 22: Washington, D.C.

Spend a day in the capital of the United States. We will explore the Smithsonian museums, the famous monuments and you can have your picture taken in front of the White House.



Perfect English

By: Jassem Al-Buloushi, Kuwait

ELP lessons are a simple way to reach your goal for perfect English. There are many lessons in writing, reading and conversation and much more. The classes are your way to get through the language. It is so easy to learn English, but you have to learn it right.

It's very important to attend every class. In class, you will get many tips and strategies to overcome your language problems. If you have a problem in reading, the reading class will show you how to be a fast and good reader. Like any class, you should concentrate to be sure you get almost everything. You also should take notes and ask questions if you don't understand something.

No matter how bad you think you are in English, you will be in the right class at ELP. ELP lessons can give you what you are missing. Take me, for example. After I enrolled in writing class, I figured out that there are steps and my writing has really improved. Now, I can write about anything, anywhere.

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!

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

*THE AUGUST 15TH TEST DATE IS FOR STUDENTS ALREADY ACCEPTED TO STUDY ACADEMICS AT VCU.

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

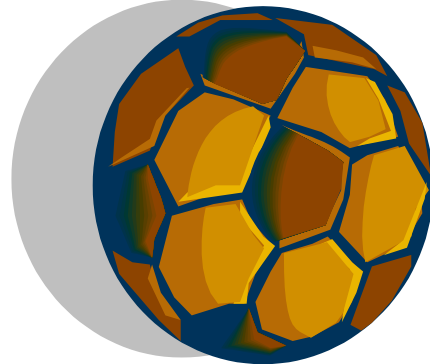
*THE AUGUST 14TH TEST DATE IS FOR STUDENTS ALREADY ACCEPTED TO STUDY ACADEMICS AT VCU.

CONTACT VCU’S ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL: OIE-ELP@VCU.EDU

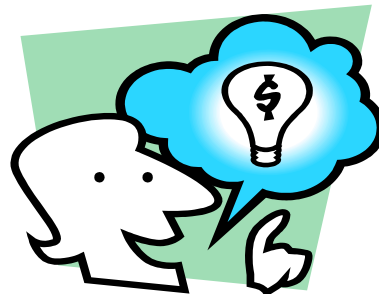
ELP Soccer Club

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Because **you** need to have some fun!

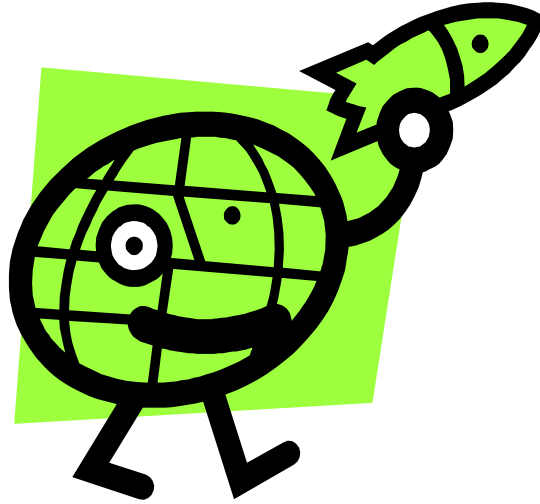
- ELP students want to have fun!
- Soccer is a great way to relax!
- Physical activity helps you learn better!
- You can play on a team or just watch.
- Games will begin in March 2006
- What **ELP needs** to have a Soccer club:
 - **YOU** – students who want to play
 - 50-60 players divided into 8 teams
- Contact Brian** to sign-up to play: btarnold@vcu.edu



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

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

Plan - Focus - Improve



By: Uloma Anyamele-Obioha, Nigeria

The path to succeed in life is to stay focused. Focusing on learning English is something that we know about as ELP students. As an ELP student, you will go to classes and learn how to focus on many English skills like reading, listening and writing. For me, writing essays is the most challenging part about learning English. Being able to comprehend how to write a clear and understandable essay like an American is very important. I learned in my advanced writing class that if I plan and focus, my writing will improve.

To focus on writing a good essay, I learned to write using steps. These steps are called the writing process and since I started using it, I am an exceptionally better writer. Before I learned the steps, I would just write down any idea that came into my head regarding a topic. The result was an essay that jumped around a lot. The idea behind the writing process is to get students to write essays that are clear and understandable.

The most important step is planning what you will say before you start to write the essay. Planning what you want to write about by making a list or an outline helps your essay to stay on focus. When you concentrate an essay on one topic you can focus your writing on proving that topic. This is a lot like life too. I believe that when I focus on doing one thing good before I try to do something else, I can improve.

**You can read
new and old
ELP Student News**

Online at

**[http://www.vcu.edu/oie/elp/
elp_student_news.html](http://www.vcu.edu/oie/elp/elp_student_news.html)**

