

ESL Summer Intensive

NEWSLETTER

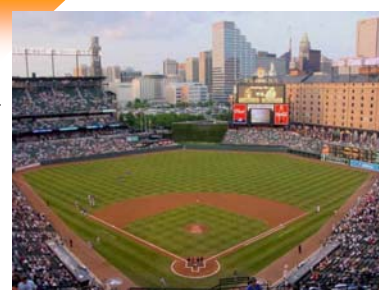
Baseball: America's Pastime

Baseball, often called the "national pastime," is a very popular sport in the United States.

Every spring and summer, millions of people throughout the country play and watch this exciting "bat and ball" game. They also like to closely follow the progress of their favorite teams and players.

Baseball as a sport began in the eastern United States in the mid 1800s. By century's end, people throughout the country were playing the game.

There are organized base-



Baseball at Camden Yards

ball teams for every age group from 8-year-olds to senior adults. The teams that attract the most interest are those of the two major leagues: the National League and the American League.

The National League, the senior circuit of baseball teams, was founded in 1876; its junior counterpart, the American League was founded in 1900. These

teams are made up of men who rank as the world's best players of the sport.

Every year, about 300 million people flock to ballparks nationwide to watch major league games.

Even more people watch these games

on television, listen to them on the radio, read about them in newspapers and dis-



Enjoying the game with friends

cuss them with their friends.

Through the years, baseball spread from the United States to other parts of the world. Today, it ranks as a major sport in such countries as Canada, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, The Netherlands, South Africa, and many Latin American nations.

Certificate Ceremony and Lunch Honors ESL Students

On Friday, August 4th, the ESL program will be holding a Certificate Ceremony and International Lunch at 11 AM in the Sherwood Room of Levering Hall.

This event is a time for students to celebrate their hard work and success with friends and family.

The Language Teaching Center will provide drinks, sandwich fixings, and a cake. Students are



Students celebrating at last year's ceremony encouraged to bring in a dish from their home country to share

with other students.

Also, we would like to ask for student volunteers to speak or perform at the ceremony. In the past we've had pianists, guitarists, violinists, singers, magicians, and writers reading compositions!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Phyllis Steiner at esl@jhu.edu to sign up.

Spotlight on ESL Classes

“American Culture class is a fantastic class”



by Barbara Gulick

“American Culture is a fantastic class.” said one American Culture student. I have been lucky to be the teacher of this class this summer. I also agree that it is a fantastic class. There are six students in the class from five different countries:

China, France, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. We are exploring different aspects of American culture such as religion, the obesity epidemic, nightlife and American’s personal space. With students from so many different countries, our discussions are lively. One student in the class said, “In American Culture class we discuss a lot and have fun.”

As we talk about American Culture, we also learn about each others’ cultures. One student said, “In American Culture class we compare American Culture with the counterpart in our own country.” I have learned a lot about their cultures, too. Did you know that the French generally stand closer in their conversations and give kisses in their greetings? Did you know that in Korea they celebrate both Christian and Buddhist holidays? I didn’t know this information until my students taught me.

For some of their homework assignments the students observe and interview Americans. One student said, “An interesting thing I’ve learned in American Culture class is how to

observe American people in their everyday life.” Here is one activity that the students did for homework: Observe people sitting in a public place where there are tables, such as a cafeteria or library. What happens when a stranger sits down at a table where a person is sitting alone? If someone sits down next to a stranger, what happens?

Through this activity we had interesting discussions about the average amount of space between many Americans when they are talking (2.5 feet) and American’s comfort zone. I encourage you to observe Americans and see what you discover about American culture.

Here are some other comments by students:

- “American culture class is very open-minded which is also the essential characteristic we must have to study a new culture. I enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere very much, meanwhile I learned what I want in the class. I’m loving it.”
- “I have learned how Americans value their life; what’s important to them.”
- “American Culture class is exciting.”

Through American Culture class, you can know the real United States. In my case, it’s a big deal!

For their final project each student has chosen a different topic from American Culture to research. They will be writing about their findings in the last newsletter. Some of the topics they are researching are: baseball in America compared to Taiwan and China, carpooling, and volunteerism. Those are just a few of the topics, so be sure to read the last edition of the newsletter to learn about these and other topics.

their role in our society. There are certainly many advantages in our modern, connected world, but we have also found some disadvantages. All in all, we feel that the positives outweigh the negatives – and we will be cautious to avoid viruses, identity theft, hackers, and bad guys!

Our current unit lets us see our ethical we are! Would you keep that twenty dollar bill you found or turn it in? Do you tell your friend that her new haircut looks bad? We’re checking out our values – and using the conditional while we’re doing it!



by Jill Williams

Intermediate Oral Communications

The Intermediate Conversation class has been discussing the influences on our personality. Which is more important: nature or nurture? Is the birth position in our family significant? Does our horoscope tell it like it is – or is it hogwash? You may be surprised by some of our discoveries!

We have also been talking about computers and the internet, specifically

Event Reminders

- The Little Italy Open-Air Film Festival will show its next film this Friday, July 28th at 9 PM at the intersection of High and Stile Streets. Screenings are free and open to the public. For more information and a list of movies, visit www.littleitalymd.com

- We still have 5 tickets available for purchase for the Orioles v. Chicago White Sox baseball game on July 29th at 4 PM. If you plan to attend, please contact esl@jhu.edu.

- Remember to come out and see *The*

Wizard of Oz this Friday as part of the JHU Outdoor Film Series. We will have a yellow balloon marking our spot on the lawn!



Enjoying a peaceful day out on the water

- Sailing was a great success! To see pictures from this event, visit www.jhu.edu/ltc/esl/eslsailing.htm

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame”

Take me out to the ballgame.
 Take me out to the crowd.
 Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks.
 I don’t care if we ever get back.
 For it’s root! Root! Root for the home team.
 If they don’t win it’s a shame.
 And it’s one! Two! Three strikes, you’re out!
 At the old ball game.

We want to hear from you!

- ▶ Send your articles or pictures for the next newsletter to esl@jhu.edu