Hello everyone!

I hope that everything is going smoothly and that you are all enjoying the hot Baltimore summer! The heat may slow some things down, but not Hopkins ESL — everyone is making excellent progress and having a great time with other students.

This is the first issue of the Summer 2013 Newsletter making the 19th year of the Summer ESL Program at Hopkins. This year, we are offering 10 courses taught by experienced, dedicated, and caring faculty. We have a total of 50 students. 17 students out of 50 have flown in from Brazil, China, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and Ukraine. I hope you will develop a great friendship with all these people from different parts of the world. The 5 weeks will fly by, but your English will have improved tremendously in every aspect, and what’s more, you will have made many friends from different parts of the world.

I know that this program is only one of the paths you will take on your journey of studying English. I hope that the learning experience you encounter in the program will be deeply engraved in your mind and create a valuable foundation for furthering your English language skills.

Please continue to take advantage of other fun activities our program has planned in weeks ahead. Also, try to make it to Lunch Conversations. I am very happy that you have joined our Summer Program this year and look forward to seeing you during the upcoming activities.

With warm regards,

Yuki Johnson, Director of CLE
On Wednesday, July 10th ESL students and faculty gathered together for the first ever ESL pizza party. Morning showers drove the event indoors, but nothing could dampen the spirits of the attendees! Such is the sunny spirit of this year’s participants that it seems nothing can keep them from making the most of situations and having a great time.

The classroom was buzzing with smiles and introductions as everyone slowly trickled through the door. Students eagerly shifted seats around to make room for newcomers and include them in animated conversations about the program thus far.

Thanks to our student worker Anamaria’s quick thinking, the now-indoor pizza party transformed into a traditional American affair of “dinner and a movie.” The classic Toy Story hummed in the background as attendees feasted on pizza, chicken bites, and brownies, creating a warm and relaxed environment for making friends and memories.

As the event died down and leftover food was packed away, many students stayed behind to chat and take pictures before saying their goodbyes. But there are still plenty of opportunities left in the program to bond with your fellow classmates over a meal! Please feel free to join us for lunch conversations in the CLE lounge on the 5th floor of Krieger Hall every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 1:00PM!
Whether the topic of conversation is movies, customs, or fears I find myself absorbed in what you all have had to say. I feel that Lunch Conversations have allowed many of you to express your thoughts and by doing so learn from one another. I find value in listening to the stories of your homeland because I feel compelled to tell others what you’ve taught me about your values and traditions. Having the opportunity to spend time with you outside of the classroom has been a true delight.

We are now half way through the program, with only four Lunch Conversations left. So if you have not joined us yet, I encourage you to do so. Come share with us a laugh, or more like twenty. Come talk with other students who desire to improve their English and possibly assimilate to a new culture. Learning to feel comfortable about expressing your experiences and thoughts in a different language is a huge step towards improvement and we know you can take that step.

Lunch Conversations take place every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 12:00pm. They are held in the Center for Language Education (CLE) lounge located in front of Krieger 510. I hope to see you there!

At the Old Ball Game By Christy Waddail

Eager to experience a favorite American pastime, a group of 19 ESL students and teachers attended an Orioles baseball game at Camden Yards on Saturday, July 13th. Despite the hot and humid conditions and the Orioles’ disappointing loss to the Toronto Blue Jays, everyone had a fantastic time. Luckily, our seats were covered so we enjoyed some shady respite from the sun while we watched the game and chatted about what was happening. We talked about everything from why Orioles’ fans yell “Oh” during the “Star-Spangled Banner,” to the difference between a double and a double play. One of the highlights of the game was seeing Chris Davis hit a home-run. Davis, who leads the league in home-run hits, powered a ball over the left field wall causing fans to leap to their feet in exhilaration. Many students enjoyed the wide variety of other activities the ballpark offers, including the huge electronic screen videos and yummy stadium cuisine. Quite a few tried out the popcorn, hot dogs, and nachos! All in all, it was a wonderful way to spend a hot summer afternoon in Baltimore!