Hello everyone.

How time flies! It feels like just a couple of days ago I was welcoming you to the program.

I hope you had a wonderful, educational summer at Hopkins and in Baltimore.

I am sure you learned a tremendous amount during a short period of time. You may not see progress immediately, but the things you learned this summer will provide a basis for your further improvement in the language over time. Hopefully you gained the tools you will need to engage language learning as a lifelong endeavor. I also hope that you made lots of friends from different parts of the world, and it would be great if you can stay in touch with them. Technology makes it easy, so even if you cannot meet in person, you can stay in touch with your Facebook friends, Skype contacts, and such.

As you already know, becoming proficient in the language is more than just mastering the syntax. There are so many other factors essential to communicating appropriately and smoothly, and if you are aware of these points in English, you will become a better communicator in many ways.

And… we were all truly amazed by the performance you demonstrated at the Certificate Ceremony! Those were the talents that we could not observe during class period. Thank you so much for spending time to get ready for the event. We will remember you all!

I hope to see your progress even after you leave the ESL Program. Please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing. It will be even better if we could see you again next year.

Have a wonderful rest of summer 2014!

Sincerely,
Yuki Johnson, Ph.D.
Director of CLE

Dr. Yuki Johnson

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A Special ‘Thank-You’ to Our Instructors by Carol Young

There are many characteristics of a great teacher. A great teacher respects students, creates a sense of community in the classroom, is warm, accessible, enthusiastic and caring, and sets high expectations for all students... just to name a few.

During this intensive month of learning, our instructors have worked tirelessly to create a challenging and encouraging environment for their students, and because faculty impact the lives of our ESL students in so many ways, we would like to say a special “thank you” to them for a great summer!

We hope you stay in touch with them and if you have the opportunity to let your instructor know the ways they have influenced you, enhanced your future possibilities, or just to say ‘hi’, they are merely an email away!

Retrospective on the ESL Summer Program By Julia Friedrich

Because of this, I sincerely loved sharing stories and having conversation during our Tuesday and Thursday lunches and during the ESL Pizza Party. It was so much fun to talk to Hana and her sister about the cats they have back at home in Syria, to cheer on the Orioles when they put up a good fight against the Yankees, to laugh about mispronouncing the new words added to your vocabularies, and even trying to duck out of the frame when Leon tried to take a selfie during the ESL Ceremony! I had such a great summer with you and I will miss seeing you and doing my best to help you every day!

So many of you are determined to pursue your dreams and goals in the U.S., and a strong grasp of the English language is crucial to the success of your aspirations. And yet, despite the difficulties of your challenges, you all had a positive worldview and wonderful outlook on your lives. I know without a doubt that you will not only master the English language but also find yourselves in the careers, schools, and places that you want most to be in.

You have completed two journeys now: one from your home country, and one towards a brighter future because of how much you’ve grown in your English skills. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors, and we hope that you stay in touch with each other and let us know how you are doing whether you are going back to your jobs, schools in your home countries, or beginning your studies here in Baltimore at the Johns Hopkins University.
The next two pages of the newsletter contain written work submitted by our ESL students to their teachers and show just how much they learned and progressed!

On this page, students in 370.022 Reading and Writing 2 learned different rhetorical styles of writing and practiced grammar, sentence structure and mechanics. For one assignment, students drew from personal experience to write a cause-effect paragraph. As a culmination of their writing during the class, some of the students developed their paragraph into an essay. The writing process required diligence and a great deal of time from students, however, the reward came at the end when they had a piece of writing they were not only proud of, but also paid tribute to meaningful people and experiences in their lives.

The Effects of an Industrial Engineering Degree by Thanaporn Thonguthai

Since I was a child I have wanted to be like my father. My father is a civil engineer and a building construction consultant. He was my inspiration when I pursued a degree in Industrial Engineering. Studying for my bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering has had three effects in my life.

First of all, I have had to learn many subjects in my major. My favorite subject was statistics. This is the study of collecting, organizing, and presenting data. Statistics make data more reliable and I think I can apply this to my daily life as an industrial engineer.

Second, I have had to improve my English skill because I recognized that English is important for my career. For this reason, I decided to join the ESL Summer Program at Johns Hopkins University. My classes were Listening and Speaking, Reading and Writing, and Accent Reduction. My teachers were generous and they realized problems Asian people have with learning English. Therefore, I felt better about learning English.

Lastly, to complete my bachelor’s degree I had to do an internship for two months at CPF public company in Thailand. This gave me many experiences. For example, I have learned how to organize steps before starting a project. One example of this is when I had to learn how to start a work relationship with a coworker.

In the future, I believe that the three effects of pursuing my bachelor’s degree will become invaluable experience. I hope my study of statistics, my attempt to improve my English, and the internship I completed in Thailand will help me to be successful in my career.

Working in a University By Jamal Alomari

Before I became a professor, I worked as a public school teacher. I chose to become a professor because of the benefits of teaching at a university. Working as a professor has affected my life in three ways. First, it changed my family’s social status and finances. For example, my work has increased my level of financial income. Second, it has changed the nature of my work. As I have worked with graduate students, I have developed new obligations in the academic community. Lastly, my work as a professor has allowed me to complete scientific research and voluntary community service.

Furthermore, I am developing my skills to master the English language. In summary, working as a professor has positively affected my life in changing my family’s financial situation, changing the nature of my work and allowing me to teach and do wonderful research and community service work. I very much enjoy my job as a professor and I hope to continue to improve my skills.
I Am From... a poem by Hanni Li

I am from a cartoon.
From Winnie the Pooh’s best love.
I am from a little white house which is commodious and tidy.
It tasted like mint chocolate.
I am from the sunflower, turning towards the sunshine, and blowing with the wind.
I’m from dumplings on Spring Festival Eve and closely connected family.
From Daddy and Mommy and younger bro Chuan.
I’m from the “night night” lullaby papa sang every night and lovely kisses before we left home.
From mom’s warning, “Playing with fire will cause bed wetting!” and “Be honest to family and friends”.
I’m from honesty and bravery which my parents taught me; responsibility and persistence that I will teach my children.
I’m from the hometown of Peking Opera, and the green city Shenzhen.
From ice candy hawthorns and Beijing Roast duck along with Shiu Mai and moon cakes.
From practicing ballet movements using my Dad’s arm as a balancing bar and touching a piano key for the first time under Mum’s hands.
I am from the sweetest home where we all believe that even when we depart, we are together.

Inner Harbor Outing By Sarah Xu

One of the greatest attractions in Baltimore is the Inner Harbor, home of the National Aquarium. A few weeks back, our summer ESL students got a taste of Baltimore living as they explored the Harbor, along with neighboring district Fells Point. Students and teachers met up in front of Ripley’s Believe It or Not, a museum dedicated to showcasing the craziest (true) facts. After getting lunch in the Harborplace food shops, groups split up to go see the places that interested them the most.

Some groups took the Water Taxi across the harbor to Fort McHenry, a coastal star-shaped fort best known for defending Baltimore Harbor in the War of 1812. Others perused the shopping district lining the Harbor, as well as the adjacent mall. The nearby Fells Point is a small shopping and dining district filled with unique boutique stores and eateries.

The sunny day spent at and around the Harbor was the perfect time for students and teachers to get to know each other and their families. It was also a great opportunity for students to practice their English in a casual conversational setting outside of the classroom!
A Month of Learning, Cultural Experiences, New Friendships, and just plain Fun!