We Went to the FDR and Vanderbilt Estates

FDR home (top) and Vanderbilt Mansion lawn (bottom)  Photos by Norbert Hellmann
The Difference in Culture between Vietnam and the United States
by Khanh Dao

Have you ever thought about the difference in behavior between your country and others countries? As we know, each country has their own culture as well as behavior. Specifically, Vietnam and the US have a lot of disparities in ways that people get in line, hold the door, and clean up after a meal.

Firstly, the behavior of getting in line between Vietnam and the US is not the same. In Vietnam, when people go to the theater, the stadium, or even the shop, they usually cut in line. For example, when they go to buy tickets, they push others and want to be the fastest person who has a ticket. The reason are their ambition which want the ticket and they don’t want to wait for a long time. Meanwhile in the US, when people go to buy tickets in the movie theaters as well as the stadium, they always get in line and stand in the polite way. They do this because they can always keep calm and respect each other.

Secondly, the behavior about holding the door between Vietnam and the US is also different. On the one hand, students in Vietnam don’t hold the door for each other unless they know each other. They don’t care about other students and they just want to hurry to go to class or the cafeteria. On the other hand, in schools of the US, students usually hold the door for the next person who come after. They even say “thank you” for the person who holds that door. That’s so polite.

Finally, the behavior of cleaning the meal between Vietnam and the US is opposite. In Vietnam, when people eat in the restaurant as well as the cafeteria, after they finish their meal, they don’t have to clean or throw away their dish. This is because it is part of the service, the restaurant cleans for customers. However, in the cafeteria of the US, after students finish their dish, they have to bring it to the dish washers to clean (Vietnam’s schools don’t have this). That’s called self-service, because the service is not part of the meal they pay for.

As we have seen, there is a variety of different behavior between the US and Vietnam. It has disparities in the way people hold the door for each other, the way they clean their meal and the way they get in line. For me, I’m studying in the US and I really like the US culture, and I will try to adapt to their culture.
Hyde Park Trip
by Dandan Lin

Twenty-six of our ESL students and our professors Sarah Elia, James Phillips and Norbert Hellmann went to Hyde Park on October 5th. It was a very fine October day, clear, sunny and breezy. We visited the home of one of the greatest American presidents: Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We also visited Vanderbilt Mansion. The most impressive place was Vanderbilt Mansion. The home design style is totally different. Roosevelt's house was designed in the Dutch Colonial style, but Vanderbilt Mansion design mainly in Gilded Age style. The area overflows with comfortable countryside scenery around Vanderbilt Mansion.

We had a pleasant trip this time, we took lots of photos and had fun there. It became an impressive memory in New Paltz.

Photos by Norbert Hellmann
October Conversation Table
by Xuanwei Chen

This Thursday, I joined the Conversation Table in VH Annex Gym. There were many international students and some American students and teachers in this party. Everyone was talking and laughing accompanied by the music. We exchanged views on the different topics meanwhile we enjoyed delicious food.

At the Conversation Table, I had a wonderful lunch time and I liked it. I support that it is a good chance for me to communicate with other international students. In addition, I can practice speaking. I would like to share the feeling of the activity with everyone. I hope that more and more students can take part in it.

Woodbury Common Trip
by Sayo Kato

The ESL students went to Woodbury Common on October 12. Woodbury Common is a huge outlet shopping mall. This mall is surrounded by beautiful nature, so we did not only enjoy shopping but also the beautiful scene. There are many kinds of shops at Woodbury. It took much time to go around Woodbury because of the huge area. Besides, the cost is cheaper than the ordinary shops. So, we were excited and could enjoy shopping. We saw a lot of pretty clothes, shoes and bags. Also, there are a lot of food shops at Woodbury. So when we were tired, we could take a rest there. Unfortunately, I couldn’t go around to all shops but I could enjoy it with my ESL friends! We usually have no opportunity to go shopping, so we could refresh and enjoy ourselves at Woodbury Common.

A Favorite Recipe by the Level 1 Reading/Writing Class

Chinese Dumplings (Main Dish)
by Xin Jiang

Items needed:
Large bowl
whisk
Rolling pin
knife

Ingredients needed:
5 cups of flour
3 pieces of meat
1 cabbage
pepper, salt, chicken powder and ginger

Directions:
First, you should use the knife to cut the meat and let it become meat stuffing.
Then, you should use the knife to cut the cabbage and mix it into the meat stuffing.
Next, you should put water in the flour and use the rolling pin to make it become dumpling wrappers.
After that, you should put meat stuffing into the dumpling wrappers.
Finally, you should put dumplings into the boiling water about 15 minutes. Then you can eat.
Game Club

by Winnie Hung

When I heard there will be a Game Club on October 12, I very looked forward to it. Because I like to play games very much, no matter which kinds of games. After having free lunch, Sarah paired us off two teams and Pablo introduced us how to play the game. This time we learned the game called Running Charades.

Each team needed one person to see the topic from Sarah and Pablo and then ran back to their team using his/her body language to show their associates the topic without saying words. The associates needed to guess what the topic was and another person ran back to Sarah and Pablo and told them the right answer. If the answer was right, Sarah and Pablo will tell the person the next topic. We followed this order one by one. Whichever team performed all the topics first was the winner. Each team could interfere with other teams but there was an extra rule that we cannot be too violent. This rule made this game more interesting. Every performer’s face was so vivid and funny. The intruders tried various ways to interfere with the other team. It is so interesting and competitive.

I had to play this game before so it was easy for me to know what’s going on but it’s hard for me to express the meaning to my associates. I had a good time there and when the game had finished, I already expected the next Game Club!
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• Do you feel nervous or shy when you speak English in front of a group?
• Do you want to feel more confident and comfortable speaking English in your classes?
• Do you want extra practice to improve your listening skills in English?

Then come to SPEAK OUT, the speaking club for ESL students. No grades and no pressure, but a chance to improve your English, meet other students and have fun! We meet alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays. See ESL Facebook announcements for details!

End of Semester TOEFL will be given on December 14, 2012. This test is optional. If you want to take it, you must register in VH 201 between October 29 and November 9 and pay the $30 cash fee.

Important Reminder: Final Exams are REQUIRED for all classes. Do NOT make travel plans that would prevent you from taking your finals on the assigned dates and times. Instructors will not let you take exams on a different day. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.