

# Spring Messenger



## The Most Life-Changing Trip I Have Ever Taken by Al Amin

Could you imagine going abroad without paying any money? How can you reach your destination without a lot of money in hand? It happened to me when I got a scholarship from IIE to study in Arkansas for two months. I had never imagined going to the United States before I arrived here, but it happened and everything was paid. I didn't need any money for my departure, and I was given a lot of money. Traveling to the United States really changed my life. I had negative assumptions toward Americans, but after seeing the facts, I realized that my assumptions were totally wrong.

By the end of August, it was announced that I was chosen to be an International student by IIE and I would depart on the 15th of October. At that time, I couldn't imagine how to live here, because I had heard that Americans are individualistic, not friendly, and like war. I was afraid of coming here, but my curiosity to see the facts and experience new learning urged me to go.

After my plane arrived in Arkansas, I walked out carrying my luggage. When I entered the arrival room, many people were talking to each other, laughing at the jokes they made, offering help, and the shopkeepers were smiling. I thought that Americans aren't like what I had thought.

After a week living in Arkansas, I attended my first class, and it was really fun. When I came to the Spring International Language Center office, some people were reading books, the employees were cleaning the hall, and the lecturers were preparing their subjects. I had studied English before I arrived in Arkansas, but I got much more experience studying English here!

Coming to the United States really changed my life, I've found many new things and I am encouraged to live better because I've seen a better life here than in my country. I promise to reach my aspiration to change my life.



SILC IELSP Students on a recent trip to Eureka Springs

## Upcoming Events

### November

21—Lights of the Ozarks  
Fayetteville Square  
FREE

25-27—Thanksgiving  
Holiday  
NO SCHOOL

### December

4—Ice Skating  
Price TBA

10—Holiday Party  
Dr. Lanier's Home  
FREE

14-16—Final Exams

17—Michigan Test

18—Awards Ceremony

21—Beginning of  
Winter Break  
NO SCHOOL

### January

19—Beginning of Spring I  
for Returning  
Students

## Important Notice to All Returning Students

If you plan on travelling outside of the United States during the Winter Break, you **MUST** see Lora in her office [Room 320] as soon as possible (ASAP). If you are on a University of Arkansas I-20, you will need to sign-up for a travel appointment with the Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS). These appointments fill up quickly so you should act now!

## THANKSGIVING by Don Williams

At the end of November, Americans have a special holiday called Thanksgiving. Many people from other countries want to know why Americans have this holiday. The story of Thanksgiving is a very interesting part of American history.

In the year 1600, there was only one religion in England. If a person did not have the same religion as the king, he could be put in jail or even killed.

Some people in England did not like this idea. They wanted to have their own religion. These people were called "Puritans." The Puritans could not have their own religion in England, so in 1607 they moved to Holland (the Netherlands). There they could have their religion, but they had another problem—their children were learning to speak Dutch, not English. The Puritans were not happy in Holland.

In 1620 the Puritans asked the king to let them move to America. The eastern part of America belonged to England, but very few English people lived there. The king wanted more people to live in America, and the Puritans wanted a new place to live, so both sides were happy. On September 6, 1620, 102 Puritans left England for a new life in America.

The Puritans, who were also called "Pilgrims," wanted to go to Virginia. There were a few small English towns in Virginia. The weather was not too cold, and it was a good place to live. But when they got to America, they were too far north. They were near what today is the city of Boston, a cold and snowy place. There were no other English people there. Their leader, William Bradford, wrote these words:

"They had no friends to welcome them nor inns (hotels) to refresh their weatherbeaten bodies, no

houses or towns to repair (go) to. And the season was winter. What could they see but wilderness?"

The Puritans arrived in October, 1620. The weather was already cold. They had no fresh food, and almost half of the people died that first winter. They asked God to help them in the new land.



In the spring, the Indians who lived there helped the Puritans. They showed them new food, American food that was unknown in England: turkeys, corn, beans, and pumpkins. The Indians taught the Puritans how to hunt for turkeys and how to grow the new plants. The Puritans lived because the Indians helped them.

In the fall of 1621, the Puritans had a lot of food. They grew a lot of vegetables in their gardens and they hunted many turkeys and other animals. They decided to have a big dinner. They made lots of food, and they invited the Indians. The Indians also brought food. They brought deer meat, cranberries (a special American berry), and they even brought something new—popcorn.

The Puritans said "Thank you" to the Indians for teaching them how to live in the new land. They also said "Thank you" to God for helping them live. Because they were giving thanks to God and the Indians, they called this big dinner "Thanksgiving."

People remembered the story of the first Thanksgiving. Every year Americans remembered the story, and every year families would have their own Thanksgiving dinner. In 1941, Thanksgiving became an American holiday, the fourth Thursday in November.

Today Americans still have a big Thanksgiving dinner. They eat many of the foods the Puritans ate. The main dish is turkey, and side dishes include cranberries, beans, potatoes, and pumpkin pie for dessert. On this day, Americans think about the things that they "give thanks" for—family and friends, houses and food, jobs, freedom, and peace.

This is probably your first Thanksgiving in America. Will you have dinner with an American family? Will you eat turkey?

On Thanksgiving Day, you can think about the things you give thanks for. You have families who love you and are proud that you are learning English in America. You have friends to work and play with. You have a comfortable place to live, and you have enough food to eat. Many people in the world do not have these things. So on the fourth Thursday of November, sometime during the day, think about all the good things you have and say "Thank you!"

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Do you want to meet new people?**

**Do you want to try some yummy food?**

You should sign-up to have Thanksgiving Dinner with an American Family!

You **MUST** apply by Friday, November 20th in Jimmy's office [Room 309]

You can sign up with your spouse, your children, or your friends too! Don't miss out on this special chance to learn more about this American holiday!

## The Attraction of Baseball by Joo.Baek Kim (R/W 501)

I think most people have one or more activities to enjoy. In my case, it is baseball. There are several reasons why I enjoy baseball.

First, it is a sport which requires players to cooperate with each other. In other sports such as basketball or soccer, for instance, a player who has a very high ability can dominate a game. In baseball, however, it is impossible. Although a pitcher retires all the batters, if the batters don't score, the team cannot win the game. In contrast, it is the pitchers' and fielders' duty not to allow the opposite team to score when they lead.

Second, baseball has a very special feature, which is the mixture of dynamic and static moments in the game. Not

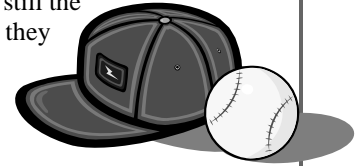
like other sports, there is no 'time out' in baseball. It is because the players don't have to keep moving when the ball is 'dead'. Therefore, baseball has a lot of pauses during the game. When, however, the ball is 'alive,' each player has to play as fast as they can so that they can score or prevent the others from doing so. The speed of the game varies constantly in baseball, which is one of the attractive elements of the sport.

Last, I think we can find the lessons of life from baseball games. There are many elements which are similar to real life in baseball. For example, no one can be sure of the result of a game until it is over. Even if one team is losing by 10 or more points in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning with

2 outs, there is still the possibility that they can make an upset. Indeed, such upsets happen

sometimes in baseball. So we can learn a lesson that we should never give up until something is really over in [our] life from baseball.

I think those three elements only are not sufficient to explain all the attraction of baseball. But, those three are the most fundamental elements that make people enjoy baseball. In summary, cooperation among players, the mixture of dynamic and static features, and lesson for life are the three main reasons why I enjoy the baseball.



## My Fifteenth Birthday Party by Jenny Rodriguez (GR/W 403)

Puerto Rico has a beautiful tradition. This tradition consists of celebrating all young ladies on her fifteenth birthday in an extravagant way. We call it "quinceañera". On November 15, 1998, my parents decided to celebrate my fifteenth birthday in Naguabo, Puerto Rico. That day was a memorable day in my life.

One day my parents were talking about my fifteenth birthday, and as a shy person I was against that idea. Days later I agreed with the idea of celebrating my fifteenth birthday. My family and I started to prepare everything for my birthday party. We made a list of everything we needed for the party. Then we went to different stores and bought everything that we needed for the big party.

We were ready for the party three months before the date of my fifteenth birthday party. Two months before the party, a hurricane named George hit Puerto Rico. It was a big hurricane. All the trees were on the ground, some houses the wind took

their ceilings, and rivers came up to the street. Everything was a disaster, and we did not have electricity and water for almost two months. It was sad to see almost everything on the ground. I felt depressed and discouraged because I thought my birthday party would not be possible with all those problems. My parents encouraged me and said that my birthday party was still on the same date. Thank God the same day of my birthday party in November, the electricity and water came in my town.

Finally, we could celebrate my fifteenth birthday party. First, as Christians we did a church ceremony. I had fourteen girls for my parade. They marched into the church and waited for me at the front of the church. Then the pastor started with his speech. He gave advice about my new life as a young lady and to never go away from God. Then he prayed for me and my mother sang the song of prayer. I felt very happy at that moment, because my mother sang in my ceremony. She is a great singer.

After that, we had four different ceremonies. The first one, I performed the changing of the shoes. My father changed my shoes to other shoes with heels. That meant I was passing from a little girl to a young lady. The second one, my mother took my doll from my hands and gave me a bouquet of flowers. Last of all, my mother changed my headband to a beautiful and shiny crown. Then my parents gave me a precious gift, the Bible. After a beautiful ceremony, we went to an activity center and celebrated my birthday, and we had a lot of fun.

In conclusion, my fifteenth birthday party was a great experience in my life. I felt that I was special to my family, friends and church family. They made my day happy and we had a good time together. Also I got lot of good advice that has changed my life. One part of the advice was to stay near to God. I still keep the advice of not going away from God and it has been a blessing in my life. He has helped me in all the situations in my life.

**We're on The Web!**  
[www.uark.edu/silc](http://www.uark.edu/silc)

**We're Also On..**

**facebook**

Join Our Facebook Group By  
Searching For:  
Spring International  
Language Center  
at the University of Arkansas

### Reminder!

Please give us your photos! These will be used for future newsletters and the slideshow you will see at the end of the term.

These may be given to Phillip in the computer lab in Room 323.

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## OUR MISSION

Spring International Language Center is a professional academic organization providing intensive English and cross-cultural education to international students. As an institution, we strive for excellence in an environment which treats faculty, staff and students with respect.

We attempt to understand and appreciate the students' cultural differences and to enhance their ability to function effectively in this culture. We believe in encouraging the language acquisition and personal progress of students in an atmosphere of support, openness and understanding.

### Event Highlight

## *Lights of the Ozarks*

Each year the Downtown Square in Fayetteville is transformed into a winter wonderland. The Lights of the Ozarks Parade and Lighting of the Square will take place Saturday, November 21 at 6:00 pm.

The lights will be on every night through New Year's Eve. Different vendors will be on hand each night but you can more than likely expect carriage and pony rides, and maybe even a camel too.

The square will be full of many people from around Fayetteville so make sure to take part in all the excitement!

### Random Quotations

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

- Author Unknown

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

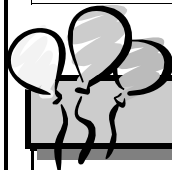
- Plato

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

"We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself."

- Lloyd Alexander



## Birthdays!

### November

Roberto Fernandez Torres (4)  
Dina Mazariegos Garcia (7)  
'Gobgab' Saleepun (13)  
Sarah Al-Romaih (14)  
Jose Reynoso Campos (14)  
Min Ji Park (16)  
Jenny Rodriguez (16)  
Alberto Ramirez Garcia (21)

'Chris' Zhao (22)  
Nguyen Phan (25)  
Wabel Bahanshal (28)

### December

'Riki' Aljunaidi (4)  
'Tim' He (4)  
Desfa Yusmaliana (7)  
'Richard' Wang (8)  
Rosario Segovia (13)  
Syauqi Wafa (15)

Desi Rosdiana (16)  
Long To (21)  
Saud Alwasel (22)  
Wenting Luo (25)  
Camila Salinas Morales (26)  
Muhammad Sofi (26)  
Muhana Alolayan (27)

Please Remember to Wish  
Them All a Happy Birthday!