

BIR Sunrise

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Summer Adventures at BIR

By Marianna Benkova

Summer days in Chicago are gorgeous. If you didn't take any vacation from studying, you might have enjoyed adventurous field trips last mini-term.

One of the teachers, Ms. Stephanie Feldmann said, "It gives us all a chance to be a little more casual and to see students in a different environment. The field trips were well organized." As she said, "It is great for teachers to see their students excited, and it gives students the chance to practice their English skills in everyday social situations."

Exploring the Adler Planetarium

This year, Ms. Feldman took her class to Adler Planetarium. The weather was just perfect for a whole class to walk to the Museum Campus, where the planetarium is located. Did you know that it takes only 25 minutes walking from the Loop campus to get there?

The students were then divided into two groups as they worked on their scavenger hunt in the museum.

All the students worked diligently on their scavenger hunt. They were not timid to ask foreign visitors to pose



Advanced English class, posing in the front of Adler Planetarium. From left to right: Fiona, Montree, Ann, Ana, Su-Mi, Stephanie, Muhanad, Patryk, Tatam and Claudio.

While working on trivia questions, students learned that the gravity of the Moon is about one-third of Earth's gravity, as opposed to Jupiter's gravity, which is 2.5 times greater than Earth. Moreover, they experienced simulated jumping on the moon. They also found out that they would be much older on Venus.

with them in pictures, to ask them to show them their country of origin currency, or even, using their charm, to propose to a random woman, as Italian student Claudio did.

Continued

"It gives us all a chance to be little more casual and to see students in a different environment."

"I have never seen such a big telescope in my life, neither could I have imagined how a real telescope looks like," says Ana from Brazil about a replica of Alvan Clark Dearborn Telescope. "Now I know that you can look through the original Dearborn Observatory Telescope in Northwestern University in Evanston every Friday night of the week," she continues.

Ayumi from Japan liked the playground in the planetarium, "It is such a good idea to have a playground for kids. It is very interactive, so kids can play and learn at the same time."

Fiona from China says, "The time we had for the whole museum was not enough. I could only finish my scavenger hunt questions and did not really have time for my own exploration. I must go here some other time." Tatum from Thailand says, "Today's trip showed me how little I know about the whole universe."

What others say...

Ms. Jennifer Kerrigan took her students to the Chicago Botanical Garden this year and for the Architectural Foundation River Boat Cruise.

She intended to take her students from Devon campus to visit Bahai' Temple, but as she says, "I wanted to give students a feel for the

city" and so took her students from Devon campus to the river cruise instead.

As she states, "you get to know students a little more personally on the fieldtrips. In the classroom, students do not develop such good relationships as on the fieldtrips."

This is one of the reasons Ms. Kerrigan would like to incorporate the fieldtrips into all of her classes for the whole academic year. It seems that students like that idea. Tasha from Thailand says "the fieldtrips are a good idea, but I think that these fieldtrips shouldn't only take place in the summer, especially for the students who take summer term off, and would like to experience them, too. In the winter, for example, we can go ice-skating with a whole class."

It is evident how students like the fieldtrips. Ana from Poland was with Ms. Agila's class in Chinatown for the first time. "I liked everything," she says, "the architecture, food and moreover, it gave us students the opportunity to talk in English to other people from the class, because not many students have the opportunity to speak English at home."

Many students agreed that these trips would be an excellent idea for the whole year. Maybe, combining the classes for the fieldtrips, or even to create a touring club outside of the classrooms? I think, it would be excellent for BIR students, particularly new-coming students.

THE FOOD CORNER

Friendly Service at Siam Pasta Thai restaurant

By *Tammasorn Sunsanguan*

Location 7416 N. western Ave. Chicago IL 60645

When I walk into this Thai restaurant, I always order Pad Thai for the meal and order Thai ice tea for a drink. Pad Thai is made from thin noodles, stirfried and mixed with tofu, meat, PadThai sauce, and beansprout. It's a good smell and good taste.

This Thai restaurant has great service. Because Thailand is the "land of smiles," the servers are always friendly. If you come to Siam Pasta Thai restaurant, you will feel like you're staying in Thailand. This restaurant has been open more than 17 years. I think it's good for everyone to try original Thai food. I really recommend this restaurant.

Philly's Best: Simple but Delicious

By *Yasin Mertoglu*

Location: 775 W. Jackson Blvd
907 W. Belmont
2436 N. Milwaukee

The first thing I want to say about Philly's Best Restaurant is that it is so simple but the food is unbelievably delicious. I ate a Philly cheese steak. It was so delicious. After I finished my steak, I had some questions like what kind of meat and what kind of sauce are you using to the chef. He said it has a special sauce inside and first they cook the meat and then it waits in the special sauce one day. After, they use this meat with an onion, a tomato, a mushroom and a pepper, and they serve between the bread.

When you give an order, you first pay and they give you a number. Also there is no waiter inside.

To sum up I have ever eaten junk food at Philly's Best Restaurant. There is not any special decor inside, but you should try the steaks.

How difficult is to achieve your dream?

By Ana Paula Gomes

Many believe that while living out of your country, it will be possible to get more experience for your life, find a great job, save mon-

Brazilian Leticia de Fatima Rodrigues has lived in the USA almost six years. In the beginning, when she arrived in Chicago, it was so hard adapting to her American life. According to her, speaking in English was more difficult, even though she studied many years in Brazil. "I didn't understand because the people spoke so fast and used some slang too.

"Life out of my country has not been too hard to me, but I think about how much I miss my foods and many other things that I needed to change in my life to adapt here. These are things that I never had thought about before when I decided to come to the USA", she said. To Rodrigues, the way to remember her traditional food is to cook at home or go out to dinner in restaurants that have Brazilian dishes.

But, it isn't just Leticia that decided to change her life to living in the USA. Student Tasha - her nickname - from Thailand, has been in Chicago for two years. She had a bachelor's degree in hotel management, but decided to improve her English in Chicago to study her master's degree in business. She chose the Windy City because her cousins were living

there and helped her to know about the town.

According to Tasha, the first days alone were more difficult and to try forgetting the homesickness, she started looking to find a boyfriend. "When I found one, I felt more comfortable and happy, but I didn't know how difficult it would be to me to talk in English with him. Sometimes when I went out with him and

her first time when she tried to go out with her friends.

She took the train and at the station where it was supposed to stop, realized that she had forgotten her cell phone at home. "I tried to use the public phone, but it didn't work for me. I tried so many times. I heard the woman on the recording talking, and I didn't understand anything."



Left to Right: BIR Students - Young Jin Kim, Jongu Lee, Chonwivat Surakijanurit and Yen Vo.

some friends from Thailand, I had forgotten that I needed to talk in English and spoke in my language. This was so hard for him and my relationship finished."

Another who found it tricky living out of her country was Jenny Yun. She arrived recently in Chicago. She left behind the profession of musician in Korea to improve her English. Jenny says that she will never forget about

Student Jongu Lee, from Korea, had some issues getting his driver's license. "I needed to take the test three times. I didn't understand when the instructor was talking with me and I had a lot of mistakes on the street."

Leticia is an example that it is possible to achieve dreams, even when having many troubles in the beginning. She has a good job as a nanny and in June this year, she finished her second university. "I had a bachelor's degree in Brazil and here, I decided to take the class of business management. I had a lot of difficulty when I started to study. Sometimes, I didn't understand my teacher or my friends, but I didn't give up my desire and today, I feel so happy, because I got my certificate in an American college."

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Diverse Devon! *A look at the culture and attractions of Devon Avenue*

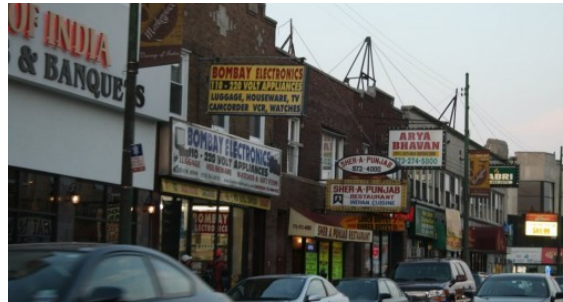
By Uzma Merchant

If I interview my Indian friends about Devon, it is obvious I could have gotten a lot of material, but I thought to ask people who do not know more about my culture.

It doesn't matter if you are or are not from India or Pakistan; you have probably still been to Chicago's Devon Avenue.

I do not know much about Devon Street, not because I do not live there, but because there is a lot to experience and you cannot do it all even if you were given a whole week.

The restaurants are endless, the lists on the menus are tempting and the clothing just takes you to another world of colors.



While I was interviewing my fellow classmates this is what they had to speak about Devon Street. The comments I received from most was about the Food; indeed the food is great. However, to get inside the restaurant you will have to park your car.

"Parking is not impossible but I have gotten a lot of tickets." BIR student Boss said.

It doesn't matter if the weather is good or not, if there is a lot of snow or bright sunshine, you can still see people walking on the

streets. Just be careful when you drive, streets are small and pedestrians do not get tickets.

But there is a lot besides eating at Devon. Student Mariana said, "I went shopping with a friend of mine from Pakistan. The

traditional outfits are so beautiful but also expensive. It was like any other shop, but the difference I found was the sales people; they are so warm and treat you like a celebrity."

If you ever visit Chicago, you will have to experience Devon; if you live in Chicago and haven't been to Devon, you still have a chance to experience the beautiful colors, delicious food and warm customer service. The doors of Devon are always open for you.

ESL: Experience Summer Through Language Project Winners

BIR students participated in a summer contest by creating original projects showing what they learned throughout the term. Students won prizes such as Lake Michigan cruises and restaurant certificates. The judges had a tough decision, but these were the top winners. Congratulations!

Beginner/Intermediate Levels:

1st place: "Millennium Park Poster" by Yu Eunhye, Majed Khalid Mijlad and Shin Hyeok Kang ABC 020 Loop; Instructor: Amy Pena

2nd place: "Dear Mom and Dad Postcard" by Kathreeya Tuntipanichtheerakul, Jutarat Suwansilsak, and You Jin Chung ABC 010 Loop; Instructor: Diane Karp

3rd place: "Haiku Poems: Pretty Chicago" by Krystian Panus, Volodymyr Nazariichuk, and Uliana Nazariichuk ABC 010 Belmont; Instructor: Bob Shirley

Advanced Levels:

1st place: "Field Trips Video" by Uzma Merchant, Alina Galanova, and Ruth Arunin ABC 050 Devon; Instructor: Victoria Tretyakova

2nd place: "Fun Thing to Do in Chicago Video" by Noprada Kanboon, Soyoung Park, and Janet Christian ABC 030 Devon; Instructor: Lilia Benenson

3rd place: "Millennium Park Poster Strip" by Nana Tsuda and Houssam Hafidi ABC 030 Loop; Instructor: Amy Pena