Have you ever done crazy things to challenge yourself? Have you ever felt exhausted and wanted to pursue peace of mind? Have you ever tried riding in the sky? So, let us get on the bicycle and travel the world.

Travelling by bicycle is my special hobby. As we all know, China is the kingdom of bicycles. When I was a child, I learned how to ride a bicycle. I am very good at it, and I love travelling. My dream is to travel to as many places as possible while I am alive, so I combined the two hobbies. I have travelled to a lot of places by bicycle in China. I think riding bicycle is better than the other ways to travel. I can go wherever I like so that I can enjoy delightful spots rarely visited by other travelers. When I feel tired, I can sit down by the bicycle and have a good break. I don’t need to worry about train or plane schedules. Riding bicycle is slow enough to enjoy the view. If you take a train or plane, you will miss a lot of sights on the journey. Riding bicycle can help you cover more places than hiking on foot. Because of these reasons, travelling by bicycle is becoming more and more popular in China recently.

Last year, I rode my bicycle from ChengDu to Lhasa along the No. 318 national road, which is the highest road in the world. The faith which motivates me to complete this journey is a statement that says: “if you don’t do something now, you may never do it.” I learned a lot on this journey. When you enjoy the pleasure of steep drops from mountain tops, you must ride up the mountain arduously at first. When you view the fantastic scenery, which not too many people have ever seen, you must not forget the effort you have made. If you want to push your limits, you must train yourself first. This journey was the most precious experience and the toughest journey of my life. When I accomplished it, I felt that my mind and will had grown.
Student Spotlight: Natalia Valverde

Everyone must have goals to fight for. From the moment people are born, they start to set goals. I have had different goals in my life. Currently, I have a professional goal, and that is to get my master’s degree. However, to accomplish this goal, I have to achieve smaller goals first.

The first one is to learn English. For this reason, I am studying at the English Language Institute at FIU. It was a good decision to come study here because there are great professors, an excellent program to prepare students for the university, interesting classes, and a pleasant ambiance.

I think I have learned a lot, and I am also enjoying this process. I know this is a good opportunity that is not available to everyone, so I try to do my best. Also, I am grateful to my parents because they are making a big sacrifice to support me in achieving my goals.

Finally, I hope that I can reach my goal. I know that it is not easy, but if I really want it, I can do it. So, I am going to work hard for this. I think along this journey I have to remember where I come from and where I want to go. Most importantly, if I have a clear vision, I can achieve many things.

Natalia Valverde

Student Spotlight: Stephanie Castro

Hi! My name is Stephanie. I am from Venezuela, and I am going to talk about my experience at the ELI.

Since I have been here, I have met a lot of new and interesting people. Some of them are the craziest people that I have ever met. I have been having a wonderful time and spending hours laughing and laughing with friends. I have even found an old friend from Venezuela. Her name is Adriana. I met her in Venezuela, and we have known each other for a year. Now we have met again! She is currently my best friend.

I like my classes because the teachers have a lot of experience, and they have a lot of knowledge about grammar, reading and so forth. I have learned a lot. Before coming to the ELI, I had practiced my English in different parts of the U.S.

Because of the political and economic situation in my country, I decided to come here, learn English, and start studying for my major. I am planning to apply to FIU. My major is chemistry. I hope that I can reach my dream. I will start studying soon.

Stephanie Castro
Student Spotlight: Wang Ping

During my past 25 years, I think the best experience I have ever had was the period of preparation for the Chinese master’s entrance test. At the end of my university life, I faced two choices. One was finding a job. The other one was continuing my studies to get a master degree. In 2013, there were about seven million students that graduated from universities. Most of them tried to find a good job. It caused severe competition on the side of employment. Also, there are fewer than two million students who are going to take part in the Chinese master’s entrance test. However, the passing rate is very low, approximately thirty percent. For every student, it is a great challenge. Why do many Chinese students choose to get their master’s degree or PhD? I am one of these students. So for me, there are four reasons: First, you don’t have to compete with seven million students to find a good job when you graduate. Second, after you get a master degree, you can find a comparatively better job. Third, you can get a much higher salary. Fourth, the boss will give you a rapid promotion because of your educational background. How do you prepare for this test? To make the long story short, study, study and study. The time of day is not important. Every day, it is one of the things worth doing from morning to evening. Some students continue to study until midnight. The period of hardship lasts about two months. However, unfortunately, I failed this test. Some might choose to give up, but most of them are going to try again. I definitely belong to the latter group, but there is a small difference. I chose to go abroad to get my master’s degree. Although the experience was heartbreaking, it has given me a stronger character. I am not afraid of hardship whatever it may be.

Wang Ping

Important end-of-term Information

As we heard into the last part of this term, it is important for you to be aware of the following:

1. All students must take their final test.
2. If you do not take your final test, you will receive a zero averaged into your final grade.
3. There are no exceptions.
4. There are no early finals.
5. Your absences and tardiness will count.

Winter 2013 Dates

01-13-14: Testing for new students
01-14-14: Cultural Orientation for new students
01-17-14: Academic Orientation for new students

01-21-14: Classes begin

January 2014
I know. I know. Christmas is not only about buying and receiving gifts. It’s about being grateful and spending time with family, friends, and loved ones. But seriously, let’s be honest: if you’ve been a good boy or girl all year, you want to be rewarded. Am I right?? I spoke to Santa’s Elves, and they’ve given me some insight as to the most popular gift ideas for this year.

For men:
- Power tools
- Games for Xboxes/PlayStations
- Dress shirts
- GPS
- Leather Wallets
- Bathrobes
- Perfumes
- Watches

For women:
- Jewelry/watches
- Perfume
- Creams/Lotions
- Handbags
- Clothing/shoes
- Makeup brush set

For Children:
- Rainbow Loom
- Headphones
- Games
- Toys
- PS4