Student Spotlight: Daylien Castro

My name is Daylien Castro and I am 24 years old. I am from Cuba. I came to Miami about 2 years ago. In Cuba, I was studying Psychology, but since I moved here I am unsure of what I want to study. I’m thinking about studying Business Administration here at FIU; however, the distance would be great since I live in West Palm Beach.

I like living in Miami because the weather is similar to that of Cuba and all my friends reside here. Also, Miami has a great variety of cultures, and it is interesting to meet new people. The only downside about living here is that I miss my family very much, especially my twin sister. Although the distance can be unbearable at times, I know that this experience will teach me and help me in the future.

My experience at the ELI has been great! I am learning a lot, and the professors and students are awesome! I have found the place I was looking for. I appreciate this moment.

Staff Spotlight: Katrina Sanchez

Hello! I'm Katrina! I just graduated this May from the University of Florida with a Bachelors in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. I will be continuing my studies this Fall at Florida State University to receive my Master’s degree. I hope to work with children as a speech language pathologist in the near future! For now I've really enjoyed working for the English Language Institute both in the University of Florida and now here at FIU. Besides working with the students, I love traveling and meeting people of different cultures. I actually just arrived from a trip throughout western Europe, where I had so many amazing adventures. On my free time I enjoy cooking, drawing/painting, running, playing soccer, and going out on the boat with my friends and family.
Farewell to One of our very Own, Vicky!

It is with great regret that we are saying goodbye to Vicky, who has been at the ELI for 4 years. She is leaving us after many years of dedicated service and hard work. Vicky began her journey working in the registration office as assistant to the registrar. She was then promoted to Activities Coordinator and moved to the upstairs office. She has also worked diligently on the ELI website as well as the ELI Instagram and Flicker accounts. She has been in charge of recruitment, which has brought students from all over the world to the ELI.

Now a word from Vicky:

I am very sad that my time at the ELI is over, but I am glad to have made so many good friends, learned so much from my colleagues, and built a home here. I know that I will carry this experience in my heart, and I will never forget all the great times we have shared at the ELI.

Student Spotlight: Youjun Lee

Hi! My name is Youjun Lee, and I’m from South Korea. I was born in Seoul, which is the capital but moved to Busan after 13 years.

I have been living in Miami for about 4 months, and I love it! The only thing I dislike is the weather because my country has 4 seasons and I like winter more than summer. I really like coming to the ELI because the teachers are very flexible. For example, if a student wants to have a test changed from one day to another, the teacher will accommodate the students. I’m learning a lot about the American culture at the ELI, so I think it will help me a lot.

I plan to study Chemical Engineering, but I’m still undecided. Right now, I am going to focus on only learning English because it is the foundation I need to continue my studies.

My hobbies are listening to music, hanging out with my friends, and snowboarding. I used to snowboard a lot in my country, but I can’t here in Miami for obvious reasons. I plan on going to Colorado to snowboard in a few months.

My time here at the ELI has been pleasurable, and I hope to continue learning many interesting things and making more friends from all over the world.
I would like to talk to you about myself. My name is Andrea, and I am from Maracaibo, Venezuela. I am 21 years old. I consider myself to be a sociable, talkative, and outgoing girl with a strong personality. I love kids, so in my country I work with some charity foundations for those kids who really need support.

Here is some background information about my city. Maracaibo is one of the largest cities in my country. It is characterized by a special culture. It has really good and tasty food. Also, it has beautiful places to visit. One of the most important factors is the personality of its residents. They are called “maracuchos”, and they have a particular accent, which differentiates them from the rest of the Venezuelans. They have a really good sense of humor, and they are very charismatic as well.

I come from a really special family, and I don’t just say that because it’s my family. I have two brothers and a sister. Everybody has a different and distinct personality. My father is a doctor. He is very quiet, and he tried to please us in everything he does. My mother is a dentist, and she is the one with the toughest personality in the family. My brothers are polar opposites. The youngest is very disorganized and restless. The oldest one, on the other hand, is calm and serious. Finally, my sister is the oldest of the siblings. She is 25 years old, and besides being my sister, she is also my best friend.

When I was a little girl, I already knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I decided that I wanted to study psychology by the age of 14. When I finished my high school, I started my career, and I immediately loved it. After 4 years, I had finished my studies, and I decided to move to Miami to study English.

My future goals are to complete my English studies and start a Master’s in Clinical Psychology. After I finish my master’s, I would like to create a foundation for children with special needs. It is going to be a place for those children who are sick and don’t have the possibility to pay for their treatment. It will be a foundation made especially for autistic and Down syndrome children.

Right now, I’m doing my best to reach my goals and be proud of my accomplishments. I hope to finish my English courses soon and start studying towards my degree. When I start my foundation, I hope to learn a lot and help as many people as I can.
The ELI newsletter is a bi-weekly publication of the English Language Institute that updates students on upcoming events and important dates. It invites students to participate in its publication process. It also includes news, trivia, quotes and reading suggestions. You may e-mail any suggestion to Laura Lamour at: llamo001@fiu.edu. The ELI newsletter is produced by ELI instructor Laura Lamour.

Have you ever wondered why when someone yawns, the other person follows suit? Yawning is caused due to low levels of oxygen in the air, which makes the body intake large amounts of oxygen. The reason why yawning is said to be contagious is that when we do so, we are actually activating our nervous system.

Top things to do in Miami

If you are bored on weekends, here are the top things to do with your friends in Miami.

1. The most famous and most coveted place to visit is Miami Beach. Here you will find a wide selection of gourmet restaurants, glamour nightclubs, and trendy fashion stores.

2. Number 2 on the list is the Everglades. With 1.5 million acres of swamps, this national park is home to 14 rare and endangered species as well as the American Crocodile, the Florida Panther, and the West Indian Manatee just to name a few. A large portion of the park is still very primitive and explored only by adventurists and researchers. If you are brave enough, I challenge you to take a journey in this sub-tropical jungle. You have the option to either walk, camp, or canoe. The choice is yours.

3. Zoo Miami is number 3 on our list, and it is becoming one of the best in the nation. Its climate allows it to keep a wide variety of animals from Asia, Australia and Africa like no other zoo in the country. What’s more is that the exhibit is entirely cageless. Imagine that! Animals are grouped according to their geographic territory and animals that live together peacefully in the wild are placed in exhibits together.

4. Last but not least, the Miami Seaquarium is located right in the middle of the tourist area, on the causeway between downtown Miami and Key Biscayne. It's a fabulous stop where you can witness an outdoor aquarium experience that's only possible in our tropical climate. Be sure to budget enough time to spend at least half a day there!

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