On behalf of all of us at the ELI, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning students. We are very pleased that you have chosen to study with us this term and that you are here to enjoy all that we have to offer you in terms of curriculum, technology, and extracurricular activities.

This term we have made some changes to our schedule and curriculum. We have arranged our schedule to offer writing classes from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. - earlier than before. This change was made at the request of our students. In addition, new writing texts for levels 1 & 3 have been added to provide new writing challenges to our classes, thereby making those classes more pleasant for our students. Also, our conversation classes are now using a new edition of our communication textbooks. Our level six grammar is also using a new online component. Levels two, three, four, and five will soon follow.

In terms of technology, this term will bring great changes to the ELI. In the next two weeks, all our classrooms will boast the latest technology available to make classroom teaching/learning a truly interactive experience. Our laboratory will also undergo great changes: new programs and new learning software.

Our term would not be complete without our extracurricular activities. Vicky, ELI Event Coordinator, has scheduled many fun activities to make your stay with us fun and enjoyable. After all, we do want you to study hard, but we also want you to enjoy yourselves and make friends from all over the world.

Again, thank you for choosing the ELI at FIU. We hope that you will learn a lot and enjoy your time with us. Have a great term!

Mr. Luis Sanchez
Photo Gallery: Welcome Breakfast
Valentine’s Day is quickly approaching. This holiday is considered one of the most celebrated around the world. Why? The answer is one simple word: love. We, as human beings, love to show our affection to our loved ones. I asked this question to my Reading/Vocabulary 4 class this past Tuesday and, for the most part, students said that this day seemed rather commercialized. Furthermore, the idea of showing love and affection only on one particular day in the year seemed artificial for them. Love is an action that should be shown on a daily basis. It is not something that should be compartmentalized.

Another question I asked my students was the following: how can you show love and affection to your loved ones? Answers varied from: cooking a nice romantic dinner and watching a movie afterwards to cleaning the house from top to bottom.

The main idea to remember is that we must show love and affection in our actions, and this is something that must be done daily. If you have a bad memory, set up a reminder in your very expensive smart phone. It will remind you!

As stated on page 1 of this edition, the ELI students first priority is to learn English.

However, I must be honest with you: the most important aspect of being in a foreign country besides learning a new language also is to forming new friendships/relationships. Many of the students who began their journey here at the ELI ended up forming friendships that will last them a lifetime. Here are two couples that exemplify all of the above.

Joaquim Marques and Virginia Melendez, who are both in level 5, started dating last semester. Here’s what they had to say:

“We met here at the ELI last semester. We had most of our classes together, so we saw quite a bit of each other during the day. As a result, we started hanging out outside of the ELI, and we got to know each other better. We think that we have a good connection and our relationship is getting better everyday. We are really happy together.”

Here is another lovely couple whose union happened right here at the ELI: Luis Betancourt and Kyomin Kim.

“We first met in Level 1. We didn't know each other very well, but I made an effort and asked Kyomin to hang out with me on South Beach one day and she agreed. From that day on, we started hanging out almost every day. Eventually we became exclusive. Even though we are from different parts of the world, we are learning a lot about each other’s culture. It’s been six months since we started dating, and we are both extremely happy.
A word from our Event Coordinator, Vicky

Well, by this time most of you guys have found out that this is not a vacation program and that you have to work hard! However, as the ELI Activity Coordinator I’m here to tell you that at the ELI we play harder than we study, and we have planned some awesome events for you, but you must participate in them in order for me to continue holding them. This also includes you becoming a fan of our Facebook page.

As you know, we already held our first event: the Welcome Back Breakfast and our International Dinner at Kobe in Dolphin Mall. However, the best is yet to come, including our world famous Valentine’s Day Dance Party.

This is just the beginning! There are lots of more activities coming our way! Our Facebook page is great, and I would like you to become a fan.

Just go to: http://www.facebook.com/groups/9556863942/

We are happy to announce that we are currently on Flicker and Instagram. Follow us and we will follow you back. The ELI’s username for Instagram is ELIFIU, so make sure to add us!

Remember that anything you post must be in English! If not, I will delete it!!!

Don’t be shy! Participate!

The ELI Poll

We asked students at the ELI if they preferred to be with someone who makes them laugh or someone who stimulates their mind with interesting and meaningful conversation. Here’s what Professor Michelle Hosang had to say: “Laughter is what life is all about. If you’re happy, that means you feel good, you are in good health, and you have great energy.” Jose Yrazabal, a Level 6 student, had a hard time deciding between the two. “I would prefer a balance of the two because you can have meaningful conversation while having a great laugh at the same time.” The results are in and it’s clear that meaningful conversation is the winner.

1. Laughter: 33%
2. Conversation: 66%