Another year has gone by! The ELI would like to wish all our new and returning students a Happy New Year 2015 and a warm welcome to our Institute! We currently have over 150 students registered and attending our intensive English program. We also have our Community program, which hosts students in the intermediate levels. Here at the ELI, faculty and staff pride themselves in helping our students both in and outside of the classroom. We cater to our students both academically and recreationally. Our students receive an education unparalleled. We cheer our students on to succeed to their maximum potential. Recreationally speaking, we keep our students entertained. Every week, our activities coordinator, Elaine Cordova, creates events and outings for our students to participate in. From enjoying a nice dinner to going bowling, our students are always taking part in fun activities. In other words, there is never a dull moment at the ELI! If you are looking for a program where you can learn and improve your English as well as make friends from all over the world, look no further: the English Language Institute at FIU is your number one choice. You won’t be disappointed!

Laura Lamour
English language learners seek one particular thing; they all want a magic pill that will allow them to speak English fluently, overnight! I have good news and bad news. Bad news is the following! It’s not going to happen! The good news is that it’s a process that is bound to happen over time. While you are on your journey to learning and mastering the English skills, here are some things that may slow your progress.

The first thing is don’t be ashamed to speak or the fact that you have an accent. Remember that practice makes perfect. Here at the ELI, learning is done together, so don’t be shy.

The second thing you shouldn’t do is tied into the first reason. Don’t be afraid of making mistakes. “To err is human,” as Shakespeare once said. If we didn’t fail, how else would we appreciate the rewards of success? As Mr. Sanchez says: Here at the ELI, we are not laughing at you; we are laughing with you”.

The next thing you shouldn’t do is get frustrated with yourself. Almost everyone who learns English goes through this phase. It’s a natural part of the learning process. The only way to overcome this process is practice, practice, practice!

To continue, don’t be discouraged when people say: “eh?” or “what?” when you speak. Don’t take it personal! Due to the fact that there are a large numbers of English speakers in the world, there are many different kinds of accents, some of which are difficult to understand. Realize that every learner has had different experiences learning English. Not everyone has had the same journey or level. Be patient.

Comparing yourself to other English learners is the last item on our list of don’ts. According to Dwight Edwards, “comparison is the thief of joy”. No matter your level, be proud of what you have accomplished thus far. Everybody is different. Some people learn languages much more easily than others. Additionally, some just put in a lot of effort and studying time to improve their English. Whatever your case may be, know that you have given it your all and continue on through your language journey.

Here is one final thought: whatever you do: don’t say: “I can’t do it” because that will become a reality. Through your journey of acquiring English, always keep an open mind to the endless opportunities to improve and never give up on yourself.

Laura Lamour
Community Service Events!

This semester, students will be able to actively partake in helping in the community by volunteering their time and effort. Here is a breakdown of all the community service programs for this semester:

There are four organizations where students can get involved: Habitat for Humanity, Prints of Hope, Ronald McDonald House, and Urban Paradise Guild. The head of this organization is Alexandra Castillo, a former ELI student who attended in 2010.

Students who participate will be given some extra credit for their participation and involvement. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved in the community and most importantly practice their English.

Snapchat Corner

Let’s be honest: how many selfies have you taken so far this year? A lot! Snapchat is a new App available for smartphones that allows users to take pictures and videos to capture special moments. What’s interesting about this App is that the pictures and videos will not be saved to your phone unless you select to do so for those really priceless pictures that you absolutely must have. One or two Snapchats will be selected and featured in the Newsletter, so go ahead and Snapchat away! Here’s the latest one of students at the Welcome Breakfast.

Academic News

Are you interested in applying at FIU for an undergraduate or graduate degree? If you are interested in obtaining a bachelor’s degree or transferring to FIU, you must attend this session. If you are interested in obtaining a master’s degree or PhD, you must also attend this session.

All your questions will be answered at this Admission Sessions, which will be help on February 11th for undergraduates and February 12th for graduates. These sessions will be held at 12pm in room LC 110. Be there!
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 email any suggestions to Laura Lamour at: lauralamour@gmail.com