After a 23-hour long flight, I arrived in Miami with hopes and expectations in January 2015. Coming to the United States alone has been a big adventure for me. I worried a lot before I came because I knew I would be alone in a foreign country where English is the language spoken.

Fortunately, I met my big adoptive family here at the ELI. From the moment I walked into the building to register, I felt right at home. It’s already been two months. How time flies! I still remember the orientation day. Mr. Sanchez, just like a father would his child, told us a lot of important information about our visas, classes, insurance, and safety. He circled some areas on the FIU map where we should not to go.

At the ELI, studying is not a boring thing at all. There are many excellent teachers. Laura is our beautiful and intelligent teacher. She likes to surprise us, which makes the class very funny. John is our interesting global teacher. He can speak many languages, so we usually can hear Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and Italian in his class. That is amazing, just like in a global class. Olga is a patient and responsible teacher. She always teaches us a lot of new information without a textbook. If you have questions in the lab, just ask Nancy. She is a very nice teacher with a beautiful smile and patience.

The ELI is like a family for me. There are many parties and games for us. When Elaine and Daniel come to our classrooms, there must be some funny parties waiting for us. During this semester, we have gone skating, bowling, dancing, and so on. These events have made our lives at the ELI more colorful.

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Students here are just like brothers and sisters. I have learned some Spanish words from my classmates who are from South America such as “gracias”, “de nada”, “yo soy de china”. They have taught me how to spell and how to read. I have also learned several Arabic and Italian words from other students. I have taught them to speak some Chinese. That is very funny when we try to learn each others’ languages. The only language we have in common is English. I don’t feel alone anymore because students at the ELI help each other. I enjoy the experience that I have had at the ELI.

The ELI is my big family in Miami. I have learned a lot and acquired some precious friendships here. Life in the United States starts here; at the ELI!

Student Spotlight Cont’d: Su Shu

It is always interesting to learn about where the students at the ELI come from. Mark Roldan, at the registrar’s office was kind enough to pull a report and share this information. There are 29 countries represented at the ELI this semester, the biggest representation being from Kuwait with 34 ras, Italy, Republic of Korea, students and Venezuela with 39 Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, students. Following are Colombia (15), Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia (15), and China (13). Here is a list of the remaining countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Cote D’Ivore, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guyana, Honduras, United Arab Emirates, United States, and Vietnam.

Can you guess how many countries are represented in the picture on the right?
Fun Things to do St. Patrick’s Day 🍀

Looking for ways to celebrate and have a good time on St. Patrick’s day? Here are 10 fun things to do in Miami.

The first place on the list is World of Beer because naturally, they’ll have lots of Irish beers on tap, from Wexford Irish Cream to Harp to Guinness and more. Admission is free, and they are open from 3pm to 1am.

Next stop is downtown. Once a year, Brickell becomes an ode to all things green and Gaelic with this jam-packed street party. Headquartered at Finnegan’s River, the party starts at midnight on St. Pat’s and stays strong for 24 hours straight. Admission is $30.

To continue, there is a six-stop bar crawl in Brickell located on Tobacco Road featuring places like Red Bar, Havana 1957, and Blue Martini. The crawl runs from 5pm to 4 am. Tickets are just a whopping $10.

Lastly, John Martin’s Irish Pub hosts an extravaganza that lasts 2 days. The festivities begin with a Sunday brunch from 10 am to 2 pm. This event is free of charge.

The ELI Soccer Team

Check out the ELI’s soccer teams! We currently have two teams: the Venezuelan team and the Arab team. Anyone interested in being part of a team can see Daniel Ramos so that he/she can be added to the list. Games are usually held on Fridays at 1pm on the Soccer Field. If playing is not your thing, you are more than welcome to come and watch and cheer on your fellow ELI classmates. Don’t miss out on an afternoon of fun and friendly rivalry!
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

On March 5th the Blue, White, Gold, and Black team competed in tug-of-war, potatoes sac races, three legged race, and a relay race to see who is the better team! After some rigorous competition, the Black and Gold team tied! Abdelaziz was MVP of the games due to his very high participation and energy when starting each event. The players were then rewarded with some pizza and medals.