

- Wakulla River Trip
- ITA program
- Notes from the Office
- Teacher information signs
- Culture and Language Questions

# CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



Volume 3, Issue 3



## Friday on the River

*CIES Canoeing Trip*

The Wakulla River is a peaceful river located about an hour from Tallahassee. During the summer, many people gather there to go canoeing and enjoy other water activities. The Wakulla River flows into the Gulf of Mexico in a part of the state called "Florida's Forgotten Coast." The region got this name because the Gulf Coast near Tallahassee is very peaceful and not very developed. This is different from other areas of the Florida coast that are very busy (places such as Miami, St. Petersburg, Daytona, etc.).

CIES will be taking a canoeing trip to the Wakulla River **this Friday July 10**. We will all meet at **12:30 as soon as classes are over**. We will meet in front of CIES and transportation will be provided to Wakulla Springs. Please bring a snack (in case you get hungry) as well as things like sunscreen, sunglasses, and clothes you don't mind getting wet.

If you are interested, please **put your name on the signup sheet** down on the bulletin board in the lobby. Happy Canoeing everybody!

### International Teaching Assistant Program

When most of you think of CIES, you think about a place where international students come to learn English before enrolling at a university. Although this is correct, there are many other parts of CIES that you may not know about. One of the most important people here at CIES is Dr. Maria Beatriz

Mendoza. (Her office is at the top of the stairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.) She is the director of the International Teaching Assistant program. This program works with international students that are already enrolled in graduate school at FSU. These students come from a variety of different majors such as engineering, education, sciences, and social sciences. A large percentage of graduate students in the US are expected to teach



classes to undergraduate students. Since students in the ITA program are from many countries all over the world, some of them are very nervous about teaching large classes of native English speakers! However, the ITA program here at CIES helps these graduate students to become better teachers and, at the same time, better graduate students. Miguel Macias Contreras, a doctoral student in Chemistry, said "I'm glad I didn't pass the SPEAK test; otherwise, I wouldn't have taken the ITA class. I learned so much. My English has improved, and I feel more confident about teaching American students." After the ITA program, students are able to teach classes, conduct research, train other teachers, and present at academic conferences both in America and **abroad**. As you can see, there are many things going on here at CIES. If you ever meet one of the ITA students, you should try to start a conversation. Their journey to graduate school teaching will be a true **inspiration** for you!

### Notes from the office

- If you plan to **go home during the summer break** (August 1 to August 23), you must see Lacey and get your I-20 signed. She doesn't need to see a plane ticket, but it is necessary to get her signature.
- If you plan to **transfer to another college/institution**, you have to continue to attend classes here at CIES. You must not stop classes until you achieve your goal TOEFL/IELTS score.
- If you plan to **start university in January (Spring semester 2016)**, you cannot stay in the United States. Any break of more than five months requires a new visa. Please talk to Lacey if you have any questions or concerns about this.

### What do you know about your teachers?

Claire Sipple has been working very hard the last couple of weeks updating the teacher **biography** signs hanging in the stairwell. We have a large staff here at CIES, and there are many people that you may not know. Next time you are going up or down the stairs, take a moment to read about some of your teachers. CIES teachers have travelled throughout every part of the world. Which teacher worked in Bahrain? Who spent several years in Ukraine? Who worked in Denmark and studied Danish in Copenhagen? Who studied at a university in southern Africa? If you know the answer to each of these questions, let your Nole News editor or reading teacher know!

## Happy Birthday

Lisa McClellan (July 10)  
Maria Beatriz Mendoza (July 14)

## Culture Question

*Question: Why are so many of my friends and classmates at CIES fasting?*

A: There are a large number of students who are fasting this session during Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and it is a very holy month for Muslims. During this time, Muslims do not eat or drink anything between sunrise and sunset. In addition to this, Ramadan is a month for extra prayer, reflection, giving alms and food to the poor, and trying to avoid any bad behavior (such as arguing with your family or using bad language). This month lasts for approximately 29 or 30 days and ends whenever a new moon is sighted to start Eid. Eid is one of the most important holidays of the year for Muslims, and we will talk more about it in next week's newsletter. Many of you might think that fasting is something that Muslims do not like to do. Actually, most Muslims consider it an honor to fast. This is a time of year of special importance, and it is a proud duty to be able to fast. If you have any classmates who are fasting, you should ask them about Ramadan and let them share some of their traditions and customs with you.

## Language Question

*Question: Do you always switch (invert) the subject and verb after a WH-word?*

Answer: Nope! Not always.

Anytime you are trying to find out specific information in English, you ask questions that start with a WH-word. Some examples are who, what, when, where, why, and how. After these question words, you will switch the order of the subject and auxiliary verb. Auxiliary verbs include modals, the verb 'be', and they also include 'do/does/did' which are used with questions.

### Statements:

*I went to the park.*

*Vicky is typing a textbook.*

### Questions:

*Where did I go?*

*What is Vicky typing?*

However, you can only have one question in any given sentence!! For example, take this sentence:

*Could you tell me where can I find the bathroom?*

Is this sentence correct or incorrect?

**It is incorrect.** The words that make this sentence a question are 'could you' – the second question is an **embedded question**

and DOES NOT INVERT the subject and the verb.

The correct way to write this sentence:

*Could you tell me where I can find the bathroom?*

Also, if your sentence is a statement (and not a question) you do not invert the subject and verb.

These sentences are all incorrect:

- 1 - I wonder what can I eat for dinner tonight.
- 2 - I need to figure out where am I going for vacation.
- 3 - Can you tell me who is my teacher?

Write the correct sentences below:

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -

## Quote of the Week

Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.

- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

## Center for Intensive English Studies

634 West Call Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1125

Phone: (850) 644-4797

Fax: (850) 644-7417

cies@admin.fsu.edu

www.cies.fsu.edu

[www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU](http://www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU)

Nole News Editor: Andrew Wilson



### This week's vocabulary:

- developed (adjective)** – describing an area that is built-up & containing many homes and businesses
- abroad (noun)** – in another (foreign) country (often overseas)
- inspiration (noun)** – something that gives you motivation or excites; something that strengthens your beliefs
- biography (noun)** – a story (or list) with information about a person's life and history
- alms (noun)** – money given to the poor and needy (often used in a religious context)
- invert (verb)** – to reverse the position or order of two things; to change to the opposite