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# CIES Nole News

*The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies*



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## Let's Go to the Beach

*Spending a beautiful day at the beach with friends*

On Friday, we will take a CIES trip to beautiful St. George Island. There is no class on this day, so hopefully many of you can participate in this trip.

Meet at 8am here at CIES. We will take a bus to the beach. You should bring anything you might need for spending time out on the beach. We recommend that you bring sunscreen, bottled water, sunglasses, snacks, and money for a meal at a cool **seafood** restaurant! (When you go to the beach, it is always fun to eat seafood.)

You can find out more information on Facebook, or see the student activity board for more details.

### Final Exam Dates!

Time to study, study, study! Final Exams are coming up at CIES. Please remember that final exams cannot be made up. If you are not present for the day of your final exam, your teacher does not have to give you a makeup exam. Please plan for the following exam dates:

Thursday April 7: TOEFL in Composition

Monday April 11: Speaking Final

Tuesday April 12: Listening Final

Wednesday April 13: Grammar Final

Thursday April 14: Reading Final

### Opportunities at the Student Union

We sometimes hear from students that they don't know what is available here at FSU. If you ever are bored and looking for things to do, talk to your teachers or conversation partners and they can always give you tips.

One place to go is the Oglesby Student Union. There you will find many things to do. As most of you know there are a variety of restaurants at the student union. You can also find a bowling alley which can be a good activity for you to do after class sometimes.

A particularly popular place is called Club Downunder. This is a place where you can find entertainment several days a week. There is karaoke, poetry, concerts, and dance performances regularly. You can check out the website [union.fsu.edu](http://union.fsu.edu) to find out about all of the events at the Oglesby Student Union. Remember, it is very important to take advantage of your time here at FSU and to try to get the full university experience.

### International Dinner Ahead

The last day of class this session is Thursday April 14, but please remember that the **International Dinner is on Friday April 15.** This is best tradition that we have at CIES, and it is always a very memorable event.

The event is a **potluck**, and it will feature food from all over the world. Please bring a dish that represents your culture or heritage.

We will start at 6pm and we will stay until about 10pm. Please try to arrive on time so that you will be able to try all of the different types of food we have.

After dinner, we will present certificates to the CIES Voices winners and to those students who are leaving. We have many students leaving this session, so this is a very special time to say goodbye to the friends that you have made here at CIES.

### Notes from the Office

\* Several students have very low attendance for this session. If you have missed many classes, it is important that you go on myCIES and check your attendance percentages. Some students who are on probation may get terminated due to attendance, and there are several students who will be on probation next session due to their low attendance. Please see the student handbook for information about the CIES attendance policy.

\*\* A few weeks ago every CIES student completed their future plans survey in reading class. If there are any changes to your plans, please let the front desk know as soon as possible.

## CIES Voices next week!

Don't forget that the deadline for the CIES Voices writing competition is this upcoming Monday. We have already received several entries, but we hope to receive many more. Please remember: your writing **does not have to be perfect**. Write about something you're interested in and that shows your originality and creativity. You can submit your entry to your composition teacher or to Andrew Wilson ([acwilson@fsu.edu](mailto:acwilson@fsu.edu)).

## Happy Birthday!

We have a couple of CIES birthdays this week. Don't forget to wish these students a happy birthday!

**Xiaolei Guo (April 10)**

**Raul Vasquez (April 10)**

## Culture Question

*Question: Why is bread in the United States so terrible?*

Answer: Many people who visit America often complain about the quality of the bread. One reason that American bread may taste different is that there are often **preservatives** in the bread which are designed to make it last longer. Most bread that is bought in the US is designed to last

10 days or more. Preservatives in bread make it last longer, but they also affect the taste.

However, the main reason that it tastes bad to so many people is that there is MUCH more sugar in bread in the United States than almost anywhere else. Perhaps Americans just like it that way. If you really don't like the bread, you can try some specialty bread shops (such as Au Pêché Mignon) to find real bread.

*Question: Why do restaurants in America give free refills?*

Answer: This is a great question with a variety of answers. The first answer is cultural, Americans are used to eating large amounts of food and this often goes with large amounts of liquid.

A better answer to this question involves economics. Restaurants buy sodas and beverages in large **quantities**, so it doesn't cost them much money to give more soda. Drinks that are more expensive to make (café lattes, cappuccinos, beer, and wine) are not offered with refills. In most sit-down restaurants and fast-food restaurants, you can get refills on coffee. However, in most coffee shops, you cannot. The reason for this is that in most restaurants, you do not stay for a long period of time. At coffee shops, people tend to stay for a while and free refills would only encourage people to stay even longer. Whatever the

reason, we hope you enjoy the free refills here in the United States!

## Language Question

*Question: What's the difference between 'ground' and 'floor'? Are the two words synonyms?*

Answer: These words are similar, but they're not exactly synonyms. A simple way to remember these two words is that 'floor' is predominantly used indoors whereas 'ground' refers to outdoors. Ground literally means the solid surface of the earth. After a rainstorm, you might say that "the ground is wet." By contrast, floors are not supposed to be wet. A floor would only be wet if someone **spilled** something. Also, when you refer to taller buildings, you describe them as having multiple floors. What gets a bit confusing is that the level of the building that is closest to the earth is called the 'ground floor.' In some elevators you might see a button that says "G" – that is an abbreviation for the floor closest to the ground.

## Quote of the Week

**Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.**

- Rumi



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This week's vocabulary:

seafood (noun) – food that comes from the ocean or bodies of water (fish, shrimp, etc.)

potluck (noun) – a type of meal where everyone brings their own dish to share

preservative (noun) – chemicals or substances that are put in food to make food last longer

quantity (noun) – amount of something

spill (verb) – to cause liquid to fall out of a container onto the floor or ground