Welcome (and welcome back) to Fall 2017! Fall semester is the most exciting time of year at FSU. Remember that here at CIES you are an all important part of the entire FSU community. Don’t be afraid to participate in FSU activities. There are student groups and fun athletic activities all over campus. Football is the biggest sport at FSU, and there are six football games between now and November. If you go to a football game (or any FSU sporting event), you’ll be surrounded by tens of thousands of people cheering for FSU.

There may be times when you feel a little frustrated or lonely. Here at CIES we are a big family, and you should give yourself the opportunity to make friends here that will last a lifetime. We want you to be able to express yourself and not be afraid to share with us any exciting things in your life or any troubles you may have. Your teachers, Dr. Kennell, Lacey, Claire, and Peggy are all available to help you if need assistance or have any problems. We want your time here to be one of the most enriching experiences of your life.

Notes about Storms

Hurricanes (and tropical storms) are very large and powerful storms that sometimes affect Florida. Although there haven’t been many storms in the last few years, we had a hurricane in Tallahassee last September that caused the electricity to go out for many days. It is important that you read the news and pay attention to what is going on! Be sure to keep lots of water and food at your house that doesn’t require electricity to eat. Also, we recommend you get a portable cellphone charger in case you lose electricity. Last year some CIES students lost power for many days and were without a mobile phone. If you lose electricity, it’s a good time to put your cellphone away and conserve the battery.

September Birthday

- Phong Nguyen (September 4)
- Claire Sipple (September 5)
- Alex Kie (September 5)
- Jiwon Jung (September 12)
- Abdulrahman Sugati (September 16)
- Feng Sun (September 20)
- Hyun-Ki Shim (September 23)
- Aeyil Kim (September 27)

September Perfect Attendance

Lacey Moret and Dr. Kennell would like to send a special congratulations to the following students who had perfect attendance during the summer sessions:

- Saad Alburakian (Summer 1 & Summer 2)
- Eduardo Juliani (Summer 1 & Summer 2)
- Lo Chun-Chao (Summer 2)
- Mardoli Moura (Summer 1 & Summer 2)
- Basil Qasem (Summer 1)
- Gabriela Raimundo (Summer 1)
- Brigitte Tsobgny (Summer 2)
- Tingwei Yeh (Summer 1 & Summer 2)

September Activities

Tailgate Party & Football Game (September 9th)

Tailgating is a great American tradition, and you will see many thousands of people tailgating in Tallahassee before every football game. The first football game is this Saturday 9/9. Due to the hurricane, the game will now be at noon (12pm). We will gather at CIES for snacks before the game, and you will get your ticket at that time! This will be an amazing experience. Please read Facebook for all of the details and updates!

Downtown Getdown (September 15th)

On Friday nights before every home football game, there is a festival in downtown Tallahassee. There is music, lots of food, games, and fun for the entire family. This has become a big tradition in Tallahassee, and it is something that everyone should experience! CIES will be visiting the Downtown Getdown on Friday evening September 15th. Bring your family and friends and be prepared to take many pictures 😊

FSU Soccer (September 29th)

The FSU women’s soccer team is one of the best in the United States. The student athletes come from all over the world, and CIES has worked with many soccer players in the past. On September 29th, we will be playing North Carolina State University.

CIES Nole News
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• Hurricane Season
• Fun September Activities
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• Language & Culture Questions

September 2017

Fall is Here at FSU!
It’s the busiest time of the year at Florida State University.
This week’s vocabulary:

to cheer (verb) – to loudly and enthusiastically support something, to eagerly want something/someone to succeed
enriching (noun) – worthwhile, wholesome, having value or significance
conserve (verb) – to use only a little bit of something to make it last longer
tailgate (verb) – to enjoy an outdoor picnic near a sports stadium before (or during) a game
culture shock (noun) – the experience of being uncomfortable with or overwhelmed by a new culture or place
busy (adjective) – having many things to do, having lots of activities or tasks

Culture Question

Question: I really miss my home country and my home culture. What are some ways that I can reduce my culture shock?

Answer: We have many new students at CIES this session, so we thought that this would be a good question for those of you who just arrived. (Also, this might be a good reminder for those of you who have been here a while.)

When you first arrived, you probably felt very excited to be in a new place. You were experiencing new sounds, sights, smells and even tastes.

However, usually after a week or two, you might start really missing home. You might also find yourself really surprised and having trouble with the new culture around you. This is called culture shock. Here are some ways to help you feel more comfortable.

* Try to find a hobby that you enjoy from home. Tallahassee is a large town, so if there’s a particular sport or hobby that you enjoy playing, try to find a group here in Tallahassee. This will help you feel more comfortable, and it can improve your English.
* There might be times that you miss the food and culture from your home country. Try to find a small group of people from your home culture that are not CIES students. This will help give you a Tallahassee family as well as people that could offer you advice or help. Even if these people are from similar countries, they can still offer help. A community center, mosque, or church might be a good way to meet people.
* Try to participate in as many CIES activities as you can. These activities are all very fun and can help keep you busy. Keeping yourself busy is the best way to avoid culture shock.
* Ask CIES students that have been here a while or your teachers for suggestions about things to do. There are lots of fun things to do around Tallahassee; you just have to know where to find them!
* Do not spend too much time with people speaking your language. The reason why you came to the United States is so that you could be surrounded by English. The more English you speak, the faster you will learn it

Language Question

Question: When do I use the word ‘ago’ and when do I use the word ‘before’?

Answer: This is an important question for many of you. We use ‘ago’ to refer to a past event that we can count backwards to. For example, you can say: “I bought a new car two months ago.” You are counting backwards two months from the present. Before is used when one event or action occurs at an earlier time than another. Another easy way to remember is that ‘ago’ often occurs at the end of a phrase or sentence, whereas before is usually found closer to the beginning and has another word (or words) after it. Select the correct word in the sentences below:

(1) I first moved to Tallahassee two years ago / before.
(2) I went to the park yesterday ago / before I gave my friend a ride to the mall.
(3) One month ago / before I graduated from high school, my parents bought me a car.
(4) About two months ago / before, I twisted my ankle trying to do a cartwheel.

Student Quotes

This semester we will be sharing quotes from CIES students! If you would like to share a special thought or feeling, please tell Andrew Wilson (acwilson@fsu.edu).

“I’ve learned that it’s better to meet people from different countries instead of learning about them from books or social media.”

– Maria Stephany Mejia