Summer Session Has Arrived!
Welcoming new and returning students for a new session

For those of you that are new to CIES this session – welcome! We usually have fewer students here during the summer session, so this is an excellent time to get to know everybody and to make the most of your experience learning English. No matter what level or group you are in, it is important to try to speak English as much as possible. No matter what your interests are, there will be a group of people here in Tallahassee who you could spend your time with. Talk with your tutor or conversation partner and find ways to really go out and learn about Tallahassee.

Also, we have a couple of summer session tips for you. One tip is to come to class every day! Our sessions are short, so missing one or two days can really affect how much you will learn over the session. A second piece of advice is to dress in layers! Over the next few weeks, the temperature outside will get hotter and hotter. However, the temperature inside the building may get colder and colder. As a result, you may find that here at FSU (and many places in Tallahassee) you might need a small or light jacket even on the hottest days of the year.

Disc golf this week!

On Friday we have a very unique event planned. We will be going to Tom Brown Park to play disc golf. You may be wondering what disc golf is. Disc golf is where you take a disc (similar to a Frisbee) and try to throw it into a basket. The goal is to try to hit the basket in as few throws as possible. Like a golf course, there are many different baskets – some are easier to hit than others!

We will be leaving this Friday (May 6) after listening class. Transportation will be provided. We should return to CIES no later than 5pm. Space is limited, so please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby if you’re interested in going. If you have any questions, please ask Michelle at the front desk.

And the winners are...

Last session, we had many students submit quality writing samples into the CIES Voices competition. The judges had difficulty choosing two winners, but they eventually chose both a 1st place and 2nd place winner. The winner of the writing competition is Mr. Eddie Kabore from Burkina Faso, and the 2nd place winner is Ms. Esra Alabduljabbar from Saudi Arabia. Congratulations to these two excellent writers! Their entries will be made available on the CIES website in a few weeks.

Perfect Attendance Spring II 2016

There are signs in every classroom that will tell you how important it is to attend every class here at CIES! We would like to commend the following students for having perfect students during the Spring II session.

Ahmed Alshammari
Silvia Garcia
Eddie Kabore
Younghawn Park
Fadia Shuaib
Jiafeng Zhang

Happy Birthday!

Since there was no Nole News last week, the following students have birthdays either last week or this week. Be sure to wish a happy (or happy late) birthday to:

Abdourahamane Boukari Ado (April 28)
Hamed Alosaimi (April 29)
Ageel Alenezi (May 1)
Ramin Yazdanpanah (May 6)
Eddie Kabore (May 10)
This week's vocabulary:
tip (noun) – a small piece of advice
layer(s) (noun) – having multiple things covering another (such as an onion, or many clothes on top of other clothes)
transportation (noun) – a way of getting from one place to another (bus, train, car, etc.)
commend (verb) – to tell someone that they’ve done a good job
appreciation (noun) – a show of thankfulness; gratitude; showing that you like someone or something
interchangeable / interchangeably (adjective/adverb) – two things can be used in place of each other; two words with the same meanings or functions

Culture Questions

Question: Do most FSU students study during the summer?

Answer: Many FSU students do study during summer semester, but there are fewer students here on campus during the summer.

A lot of FSU students graduate at the end of spring semester in April or May, but most new students don't start FSU until fall semester in August. As a result, there are fewer students around during the summer. Also, many FSU students will return home during the summer or use the time to study abroad or do an internship. Even though there are still a large number of undergraduate classes being offered, there are very few graduate school classes offered. As a result of the decreased enrollment, there are often fewer activities on campus. However, having fewer students around might make it easier to join organizations or to meet people!

There are always FSU newspapers available on the front desk at CIES. Be sure to pick up one of these newspapers and find out what is going on around campus. You can try to make some friends in the summer and that way you’ll be prepared to meet even more friends in the fall.

Question: Is Mother's Day an important holiday in the US?

A: Yes! Mother's Day is a holiday celebrated this Sunday, May 8. Although this is not an official holiday, it is a day that has become an important part of American life. People buy their mothers special gifts and usually try to have a special meal with their mother. Some people will even travel from far away to see their mom. Additionally, a man will often give a special gift to his wife on Mother's Day to thank her for the many things she does for the family. Even if this holiday isn't celebrated in your country, you should make a point to call your mother to show her your appreciation.

Language Question

Question: What's the difference between under and underneath?

Answer: This is a good question. Very often, both under and underneath can be used interchangeably. For example:
The box is under my desk.
The box is underneath my desk.
Both of the sentences mean the exact same thing. However, sometimes underneath can mean something that is covered or hidden by another thing. With this being said, you can probably use both ‘under’ and ‘underneath’ to describe this.

One thing to remember is that you cannot end a sentence with the preposition under, but it is sometimes acceptable to end a sentence with underneath.

I wore a jacket with a sweater under. (INCORRECT)
I wore a jacket with a sweater underneath. (GOOD SENTENCE)

Also, in case you’re curious, ‘beneath’ can be used instead of ‘under’ or ‘underneath,’ but beneath is considered much more formal and literary – it isn’t really used in casual spoken English.

Quote of the Week

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
- Francis of Assisi