

# ELI STUDENT VOICES

## A Different Way to Live It

Florencia Baudean | RW61 | First Place

There are a lot of challenges to confront in this new experience and it is not just on an academic point of view. It hurts to say goodbye to those who stay waiting in your country but it is nice to open yourself up to meet different people around the world with different beliefs, behaviors, and ways to see life.

You just must choose the perfect moment to leave your country and start to learn about the global world, because sometimes you find the exact time to change the air that you were breathing and open your mind so much. And then, at the end or also while your experience is going, you are going to realize that you were right, you are not going to regret this. There are also going to be some grey days while you are there, alone, sometimes lonely, and sometimes you are going to feel the intense feeling of wanting to hug so strong someone there, on the other side of the world. Some people, commonly friends and family, which are waiting for you. There are going to be days that nobody, even you, can understand you, and you are going to feel frustrated and sad, and sometimes you will see this goal as impossible. Sometimes you will miss so much and you are going to want to go back very quickly and will not care about all your expectations that you wanted to achieve.

Even if you want to go home as soon as possible, to be there, you need to think that someone who wants to realize all of his or her goals needs make a big effort sometimes. Achieving another language will open

new doors in your life. There are long-range effects like getting a diploma or being able to communicate with people who do not know your native language. You will meet wonderful friends that if you had not decided to learn this, you would not have met.

Because it's Thanksgiving and because I'm leaving soon, here I wrote my advice that it is a mix between my experience in Gainesville and the deep emotions that I'm feeling now. At the beginning, this was all unexpected. This city, which for most people is small, where I come from, is so big. The map that comes attached with other helpful information at the beginning of class was my best friend when I arrived. I almost lost my patience and my force because I felt lost, but I met someone who helped me a lot. Between other people who also touched my life, we became such close friends. This was my first Intercultural-relationship, also I wasn't good with the American technology (she created my snapchat, rider, uber..). Well that was the beginning, and there were a lot of people while I was living here who really touched my heart. But one of the most important things that I could realize was that if some of the people that I met here from any part of the world would have grown with me, we would have been best friends.

While you are enjoying and trying this new life, just appreciate any specific moments when Gainesville

## WINNING PIECES

### First Place

"A Different Way to Live It" by  
Florencia Baudean

### Second Place

"The Destiny that Became a  
Profession" by Fawaz Almalki

steals from you a smile. Maybe it's one of its beautiful places, one song while you are in the car with some friends, a flavor of one specific restaurant. It could be the smell of Chipotle when you leave Matherly at midday (lunchtime).

Also, you aren't going to regret if you open your mind to meet people (and not only those who cover your first necessities and speak in your own language); spend your time listening to some stories, try to understand why the people around the world are different. Hear about their childhood, their customs, and you are gonna be impressed with how many things you find similar with people who maybe have a different religion, culture, or ethnicity. You will have very close new friends that I can guarantee you will feel are going to be for the rest of your life.

Enjoy each path, from your last class until your bus stop; enjoy the campus, the different students running all day to arrive to class or enjoying an hammock on the Plaza of the Americas. Take pictures with your eyes and keep some of the best memories which are going to make you smile in the future. If you get a chance, take it! Take all the advantages that this opportunity could bring you, and if you are as lucky as me you can also find the love of your life.

## The Destiny that Became a Profession!

*Fawaz Alakmani | RW49 | Second Place*

Since the early stages of my life, my environment and my experiences gradually contributed to the formation of my desire to become a social worker my childhood was not easy, one way or another, I dealt with hardships that made my life revolve around social work. Those hardships made me face many difficulties was a strong practical motivation in a future orientation to be a man with a social dimension and a specialist with a human dimension.

One of those sore experiences that was exceptionally painful is that in my childhood - in the nineties of the last century - I suffered from a weird disease that no one from my village had experienced which disease caused me to lose my ability to move and talk. That child who was racing against the wind was no longer able to move his small toe or call his mother to help him clean himself. The people in the village speculated about the reasons for the disease : we angered God or my family hit the damn, my parents heard. We suffered a lot in order to have a treatment for this disease and foremost for people looks That worsened my pain and increased the load on the shoulders of my parents. As a poor family, my father was forced to sell some of his cattle and some of his farms to be able to provide the costs of treatment, and in a race against time.

My father asked about the best doctor, who may be able to remove my misery and my pain of course, all the answers he got from neighbors and relatives were limited, but there always a light at the end of the tunnel; on a scorching summer day he got an answer to his question.

The village sheikh who used to recite verses from the Quran and blow air in my face because he believed in

demons and thought they chose me to be one of them this time his visit was not repugnant like its predecessors he did not come to bring me back to the human's world, he came to bring hope back, he came to tell my father that there was a person who can help, he was a doctor who lived far away. "It does not matter, at least we can help Fawaz", my father said.

The day ended, but the questions started flying in my father's mind to the extent that it prevented him from sleeping; how we will get to that doctor? Who will stay with the rest of the six children? These questions extinguished his smile, and those roses that were born in his heart withered, how can it not so, the distance to the doctor a distance of 10 kilometers on foot because we didn't have a car or enough money to rent one. The next morning, when my mom finished packaging our clothes, she went to my father to tell him that everything was done, he profoundly grief and turned to my mother to tell her about his pain because of thinking about how we can go to the doctor, as a mother with a heart of a feared lioness she attracted him from his chest and screamed in his face: What is fatigue if we lose our son? What life if we have to live with the pain of a ruthless society that criticise us for no reason? I do not care if I will walk thousands of miles on my feet.

At six o'clock, we were heading to the doctor's house. The road filled with stories of sudden death and bandits, But nevertheless my parents determined to go ahead. During the way my mother barely fell from those dangerous slopes. We continued walking, and I still remember how my father was

binding his waist with my mother's with a rope to protect her of falling this rope shortly, injured my father's kidney. Sometimes, we were about to fell and then stood up, we were in a state of terror throughout our trip, my parents afraid of losing me or losing one of them in those deadly slopes.

Later on, we arrived in the doctor village but no one recognized us because we were looked like dead people: torn clothes and blood all over my parents foets. My father was unconsciously laying as well as my mom, but in mom case she was laying because she lost a huge amount of blood because she deeply injured her toes. This deep wound injury type of mold which led to her gangrene that cause to cut some of her toes. While we were laying on the ground the neighbors came out to carry us into the doctor's home. The doctor shouted as well as his neighbors, "get up, get up". Finally I woke up but unfortunately, I saw my beloved parents injured and could not move, it was shocking. I could not believe my eyes, were these are my father and my mother whom I love? I got my self together, and I touched my mom's hands to check if she was still alive.

Despite the measurable situation that we were in, I realised that the only thing that was still intact is the rope that keep my father waist and my mother's together: it rejects defeatism. Likewise, love and sacrifice inseparable until death. After a while, the doctor was trying to wake my parents up, so my parents woke up and started shouting and crying "Fawaz...Fawaz", stammeringly I replied, yes I spoke: "Mom Dad...I'm here".

*Continued on next page...*

*("Destiny" continued)*

My father smiled and thanked God, while my mom tried to get up more than once, but with each attempt she fell, so she crawled on her hands toward me where I was lying on the opposite side and hugged me and started crying: " Oh my beloved I was afraid to lose you. Thanks to God, who protect you", she said.

During the next three days, I passed a state of unbearable pain which included several cauterised sessions with hot sharp tools placed down on my stomach. It was an unbelievable.

I have learned from these difficulties to appreciate life, patience, and to give with unlimitedly. By living this intolerable situation, this convinced me later on to be helpful to others and to be beside others who need help. I had other hardships in my life but this was the most rememberable situation. I saw how my parents gave sacrificed for me. This thought me how to give. Social work is helping profession; the essential role of social work is to enhance communities and individuals in order to gain a better life. Thus, I decided to be social worker to help, give and learn.

## The Graveyard of St. Martin

*Magali Zoungrana | RW44*

The Graveyard of St Martin is very old, located in the west of Tampa. Built before the second World War, the Graveyard of St Martin was a place of ritual for the Native American. Graveyard of St Martin is now a peaceful place, where all the war heroes and all our lost lie. That is what I was thinking until this day.

I will never forget on October 28, 2016; this date is print in my mind. It was this day that I discovered the truth about death! On October 27,2016, the day before the fateful day, my best friend promised to give me 100 dollars if I stayed in the Graveyard of St Martin overnight. Of course I said "yes! For 100 dollars I can even sleep in a grave".

On October 28, 2016, I went to the graveyard of St Martin at 8 P.M. and I was supposed to go back at 5 A.M. Nothing happened between 8 P.M. and 9 P.M. but at 9:40 P.M. I heard some strange sound, some kind of screaming and growling. Of course at this period of my life I was thinking that I was a gangster so I did not pay attention, also because of the 100 dollars! After this sound nothing happened so I concluded that the noise was in my

imagination. At 12:40 P.M. I saw the ghost of some Native Americans. They were doing some ritual and when I saw them I was terrified, but I saw that they were not maleficent. Then I realized that they were trying to contain something bigger, and I heard again something growling. One second after, I saw a Minotaur. He was very big about twenty meters taller and three hundred kilograms. He was like in the movies, with half of bull and half of man; his eyes were red. I was terrified, so I started running. Then I noticed that the minotaur did not run after me. At this moment I understood everything. The spirits of the Natives Americans were protecting our world from this scourge.

This day I understood that we were not allowed in this world and after the death there is an odder world. I never told this story to anybody not even my best friend because I want to preserve this world from our world.

So on October 29, 2016, I got my 100 dollars, but above all I inherited a big secret, and since this day I am fighting to protect the supernatural world.

## Six-Word Stories

*Collected from students in RW44*

*Shanna Pinto*

I traveled, my friend was happy.

*Willmer Lyon*

One girl. One phone. One call.

*Johnny Hwang*

take photo with a lion; be caught

*Nadel Kassuoa*

One boy. One Girl. One trip.

*Magali Zoungrana*

Car on road. There's a fight!

*Geanpiero Race*

New country. New language.  
Along.

*Jose Armando Sanchez*

I miss the penalty shot in the final  
game

## My First Day at the ELI

Mohammed Saleh | RW33

One of my best memories is of my first day at the ELI. It happened three months ago on August 30, 2016. I was just new in the United States from Kuwait. That morning, I went to the Orientation in Reitz Union with my friend Moaaz. We signed a lot of papers, and they asked us a lot of questions. I was so nervous and I could not wait anymore to do my tests.

After we signed all those papers, they said we should go to Matherly Hall. Actually, we didn't know how to reach this place, and the tests were going to happen soon. Just before the test started, we entered the classroom, and the teacher gave us the test and she said to us "Don't be nervous, just

relax." I felt good after her words. When I saw the writing test, I was thinking, "How can I write all these paragraphs in 1 hour?" The time was running out, but I did everything on time. The whole test afternoon took a lot of time, probably 3 hours or more. Everyone felt tired and somebody wanted to eat but, the test was very simple and I did

Well. I was very excited about this.

The best thing is that Orientation was not so difficult. This event is very important for me now because it was my first day at the ELI, and it was the beginning of my new life outside my country.

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## Ayton Senna – For Brazilians, a Genuine Hero

Cristianne Borges de Aguiar | RW50

A hero can be characterized by extreme ability to keep under control in adverse situations, overcoming extreme challenging obstacles and doing things for the benefit of others and not himself. That's how we can describe Ayton Senna. He was a Brazilian racing driver that won three Formula One World Championship and is known as one of the greatest racing drivers of all time. Senna, as he was called, was much more than the best racing driver in the world; he was an example of determination and overcoming, he had a character who inspire people, and he was a model for Brazilian society.

Since his childhood, he wanted to be racing driver, but in Brazil, we didn't have tradition in this expensive sport, and it wasn't very well known among Brazilians. But he chased his dream, and he succeeded. He was an example of determination and overcoming. Moreover, he always pushed himself to be better and to do better. One of his remarkable quotes was "I continuously go further and further learning about my own limitations, my body limitation, psychological limitations. It's a way of life for me." These teaching, to follow your dream,

be determined and overcome your limits, has passed through generations of racing drivers and also between athletes in other sports.

Senna was very quiet and introverted, but he had a character who inspire people. His eloquence when speaking was one of his remarkable characteristics. When he explained bad things that happened to him, they wouldn't seem to be that bad. He used to see the good side of each problem and to learn a lesson from this. He managed to turn a bad fact in a good story. Although he came from a wealthy family, like a Brazilian, he experienced the poverty and illiteracy of our people, which leads to crime and more poverty. He believed that the best way to stop the cycle of crime and inequality was to give proper education to children. As a hero, he thought of others instead of himself and donated a large portion of his personal fortune to this cause. He created an organization called "Instituto Ayrton Senna" that helps over 2 million Brazilian children to be well educated.

Ayrton Senna became an archetype of what Brazilians were capable of;

he was a model for our society, a symbol. Our people has an inferiority complex; Brazilian always think that everything outside is better than ours, we don't use to believe in ourselves and don't see how many good things we have in our country. And Senna showed that was possible to win and to be successful as Brazilian. Every Sunday morning that he would win it was a kind of energy passed through people, the sensation of positivity was contagious. There is a music which was played when he used to win called victory's theme. Even today this music is played when good things happen in Brazil, or in other sports when Brazil's team win. He was able to show us that we can, it is possible to achieve our dreams it doesn't matter what.

Everyone loves a winner, and that's what Ayrton Senna was, a winner. He taught us to believe in ourselves, to follow our dreams, to work hard to achieve goals, to think about others and not just in ourselves. He taught by example and doing this he was able to touch an all nation inspiring his people to be better. He is remarkable and is considered our big hero.

## The Internet

Sakinah Alyousif | RW49

Internet is a significant part in the modern life. We have been depending on the Internet more and more in the recent time. It makes our lives easier and faster. We need it in many aspects in our lives such as to apply to a college, to find a job, to do research, to study, to communicate with other people, and for many other main things in our lives. Although the Internet has huge advantages, it still has bad aspects.

First of all, the Internet has been used in education a lot. Many colleges provide online courses, which are able to be seen when students are free to see it. For example, some people suppose to study and work in the same period of time, so they take online classes to be capable to exploit the time by working and studying after the work. Some people face problems in studying because of the responsibility that they have of the family and children. As result, they cannot be regular students when they decide to study. In contrast, they choose alternative learning such as taking online courses, so they can see the lecture and study whenever they available. Online courses are great ways to deal with these people who have other responsibilities in their lives. Also scientists use many statistics from the Internet to improve the knowledge. For example, when a scientist wants to test new thing they search in the Internet to see experiments from other scientists and the results of them, so they can support their theory or it could help them to create something new depending of the other experiments.

A lot of people use the Internet to communicate with global world. In our modern lives all of us use the Internet when we want to travel. We need the Internet to see the airlines

and the available reservations of the flight, and we use it to make the reservation as well. The Internet is a good way to search for the countries and the cities that have a nice places for tourism and relaxation, and also to know more about the prices in countries that we think about visiting or about living in by searching in Google and reading in many different websites and see other's people's opinions. People who are thinking to study outside of their countries, of course they will search in the Internet to find the suitable place for them which has the safety, cheap prices, maybe transportation, good weather, and about the people there, and other things which depend on person and the advantages that he/she looking for.

Internet has become a way to make money. Many companies create online stories that sale products with cheap prices, so they can attract people to buy from them as well as gaining a lot of money since it's only online, and only few costs will be paid for the laborers since few laborers are working there. A lot of Individuals make their own businesses in many programs such as in Instagram and Snapchat. Some of them sell food that they made and they post pictures of their cooking in their profile. They also put the communication information in their profile, so other people can call and buy from them. Many people try to get a big number of followers in their page, or in their online channel so they can gain money. When they get more followers, the companies offer them money to promote their stores or restaurants or whatever is. Also, when people are famous on social media, their chance of making more money increases. As an example of that, Justin Bieber is a famous singer now because of video that he posted in the YouTube when he was a

young boy, and after a lot of people watched it, someone adopts his talent and helps him to improve his talent; then he begin to be famous and very rich after that. When many chefs begin to cook in their home and sell their food by sharing the pictures of their food in their online profiles, they open their own restaurant after many months since they started their businesses, especially when a lot of people like their food.

Online websites can be an effective way for some people to deal with their social issue. Many websites assist people in finding their partners like PARSHIP. It might be easier and faster for some people to use these websites than to do it by themselves; It allows the visitors to choose the gender that they want, the age, and the characteristics of the partner then they find the partner. It works for some people and it might not work for other people. Also some websites give us a chance to contact with other people from different countries, and it's usually to learn new things from other cultures or to practice using another language. People like to try this way when they don't have chance to learn the language from the country that speak the same language.

Although there are many advantages of the Internet, there are still some disadvantages. Some people use the Internet in a bad way such as stealing; it could be stealing information or money. People who steal money through the Internet do it by hacking other people's bank accounts. After they hack the account, they can control money that is in that account and take it. This is an example of a serious problem that came from Internet. People who have a good expertise in the Internet can hack easily. Also some students hack some governmental websites to change their grades or to steal test's questions, so they have

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*("The Internet" continued)*

chance to graduate or chance to get accepted in a college. Bullying is another example of the disadvantages. Some people don't care about other people's feeling or they didn't learn who to respect other people's opinion and other people's cultures, so when they see someone on the Internet posting a video with his family, they can see a different life between them and between the other person. They may not like it or accept it, so they start writing bad comment about him and his family which considered as a bullying. There is a story about a girl who tried to kill herself because she read a lot of bad comments in her online page, and that's mean bullying in the Internet can lead to a serious problem such as psychology problems.

In conclusion, there are good sides and bad sides of the Internet, but in general it plays an important part in our lives. We are depending on the Internet more and more these days and we will depend on it more in the future.

## Advice for Visiting My Country

*Collected from students in GM40*

*Antonio Leite*

Hi, my name is Antonio Leite, I live in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. My country is a beautiful place with amazing nature. If somebody is interested in visiting Brazil I guarantee they will have fun. However, I can give some advice to make sure they fully enjoy the trip. First of all, if there is no time to visit many cities, they must choose Rio de Janeiro, the most famous city in Brazil.

The visitors should go to Rio de Janeiro during the summer, when we have New Year's Eve or Carnival. However, they should bring the sun block, flip flops, and light clothes. The weather during the summer is very hot; it's an invitation to go the beach where people can relax and have fun.

Unfortunately, like a many others big cities across the world, Rio de Janeiro is not 100% safe. Because of that, tourists must be careful and they must pay attention to my following tips to avoid being robbed. Visitors should leave valuable things in their hotel, and must not carry too much cash in their pockets. They should avoid going to empty places at night. Finally, they might ask the hotel's front desk which are the dangerous areas and do not go there. Being informed is always a good idea. If they follow this advice, they won't have any problems.

There are tourists who came to Brazil alone. That is ok, because people from Brazil are very friendly and cozy. That might be a good chance opportunity to make new friends. In that case, I suggest they should go to hostels, where they can easily interact to others and enjoy their trip.

Last but not least, Brazilian food. I don't know any foreign visitor who didn't fall in love with some kind of Brazilian dishes like "Feijoada" or "Barbecue" and our specialty beverage "caipirinha". In Rio de Janeiro, you can find some places where you can have juices with tropical fresh fruits.

I strongly recommend go there and try "acai" after one day long on the beach. I am glad to share my expertise and I hope this information could help anyone who intend to visit the "wonderful city".

*Sara Almousa*

I have some advice for you when you visit my country. The most beautiful season in Saudi Arabia is winter. You should come in December because it will be cold. Also, we have some interesting places, such as beach, restaurants and malls. You have to go to the beach in Jedda because it is a wonderful beach in Saudi Arabia. If you like shopping, you can go to kingdom tower. Also, you ought to go to perfect Arabic restaurants, such as Aldeera restaurant. You could visit a mountain in Asser area because it is a popular place.

*Mohammed Almohsen*

Americans who decide to visit Saudi Arabia should start with Riyadh because it is the capital of Saudi Arabia. It has diverse restaurants; visitors can find different food from around the world, for instance, Indian, Chinese, Mexican, and more different types of food. Also, they are supposed to try domestic food. Moreover, Americans should visit parks especially that has samples of famous buildings and historic places such as the Eiffel Tower. Americans should visit the Kingdom and Alfaisalia towers. Finally, Americans had better visit Jeddah before leaving Saudi Arabia. They should try seafood caught in the Red Sea. It is one of most delicious sea food around the world.

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*("Advice" continued)**Manal Alduwailah*

I have some advice for you when you visit my country. First, the most beautiful weather in my country is winter. You should come in December .Second, we have a lot of places to visit. You have to go to Avenues mall which is one of the biggest malls in Kuwait. If you like delicious foods, you can visit Mourooj and you should eat in b+f restaurant; it's my favorite. Also, if you have time you can visit our traditional places, such as Mubarkya and Kuwait tower.

*Mansour Alajmi*

Undoubtedly, few Americans people know about Kuwait. But most don't have any idea about it. I will tell you what you can do if you visit my country. We have a lot of things you can do in my country such as you can visit the Palm Beach and you could ride the camels in the desert. In addition, you are able to spend time in a camp in the desert to see how the old Arabic people lived in the past. You should drink Arabic coffee because it is delicious taste and Arabic tea. You had better try traditional food such as Kabsa and Baryane chicken or meat but you must be careful because it is so spicy. In Kuwait you don't have to stay in your home because you have a lot of things you can do.

*Abdulkarim Alfaez*

Tourists who think about visiting Saudi Arabia should visit it between December and February because the weather will be temperate. They ought to visit Riyadh as a capital city of Saudi Arabia. They are supposed to camp in the desert which is called Althmamah. They should go to the street that is called Altahleah where there are several restaurants and cafes. They might walk in the old city where there are stores to buy traditional things. They must visit the skyscraper which is called The Kingdom Tower and the can see the city from the top. They must visit me to have some coffee and dinner.

*Hazim Aloraini*

I would recommend you visit Riyadh. First of all, you must visit Kingdom Tower to have a panoramic view of the city. You'd better come to the city in winter season to enjoy the events that are held during that time such as safari and climbing sand hills. Also, you have to visit historical landmarks like Almusmak. You are supposed to visit a place called Edge of the World which is located 120 km out of the city where you have a beautiful view on the verge of Najd Hill especially at sunset.

## One of the Most Diverse Campuses in All this Nation

*Santiago Espinosa | RW50*

Since I arrived to Gainesville I knew that I have to take advantage of my time here. Because the ELI is a unique experience, I know that I'm at probably one of the most diverse campus in all the country due to the big amount of international students that are able to study here. There's also all the cultural events that UF provides to all the students that make being here special. Here I'm living the real American college experience because I take advantage of all the facilities that UF and Gainesville provide to me so in order to take advantage of my time here. I used all the different sources that the university has to help me as a student like, for example, the research that I did with Theresa antes comparing some idioms that native English speakers say with what the international students like myself understand and say. The university helps me because of the different libraries where I usually study and where I can met my new friends. I enjoy being a Florida gator so that's why I went to the cultural activities and opportunities that UF creates like soulfest, gatorgrowl, the tailgate, the Florida gators game and others. Being able to see speakers like Captain Scott Kelly and other interesting people is also something I enjoy. It is great to have this space to show what I think about being a Florida gator and also this helps me to improve even more my English level.

## My First Time Bowling

*Faris Alharbi | RW33*

One day I will always remember is the first time I went bowling. It was on Monday, October 24, 2016, and it was a CIP Activity in the Reitz Union. I did it with my friends and the LAs.

That night we went to the Reitz Union and we made teams of four people. Soon it was my turn to pick up a bowling ball. My first time, it went in the gutter. I felt a shudder. The second time, it knocked down 4 pins. After that I kept hitting more pins. I was not terrible!

This was a good memory for me. It was fun. Now I go bowling every Monday, and one time I got a perfect strike!

# Technology

Sara Almousa | RW49

In the twentieth and twenty-first century a great revolution in technology occurred. Technology has largely dominated the daily life, whether in real life or scientific. Also the technology, which cannot be stopped being used, is an essential part of the life of countries and communities. The technology is the science concerned with studying a range of arts, crafts, industries and all that is related to methods and materials. The word technology is the English word, which means the performance or the science of the application, and the technology is not only on the use of computers and modern appliances. It goes beyond that to the design knowledge technology, education technology, industry, war, biotechnology technology, and modern medical science technology. Today our era is development and prosperity in all aspects, whether intellectually, socially or economically. Among the things that have evolved and flourished in our time is the modern electronic devices. There is no house without these devices, such as smartphones, televisions, laptops, the internet and social media. Many people in the world are using technology because it has many benefits, but actually, it has some negatives in our life.

The technology has great benefits in education aspect. It supports the educational process through courses, programs, and information that on the Internet. The teachers can take courses anytime on the internet that help to develop their ability in the explanation and delivery the information for students easily. There are also a large number of programs and applications that help students learn, for instance, angry words, exam time, Oxford Dictionary. Students can participate in learning activities and the exchange of information on the Internet. Angry words is a game that helps the brain exercise in a fun way. In addition, exam time application helps students to establish mind maps on the internet, flashcards and taking notes. Also, the students can translate any word and know meaning through Oxford Dictionary, so it is very useful for who want to learn the English Language. Programs help students to develop their abilities. Similarly, courses help the teachers to explain appropriate for students. The technology provides much information needed by the students and the teachers which saved time and effort. Therefore, the teachers can save rather than spend a lot of hours or days in the search for information of a specific subject; they can get it in minutes on the internet. Many universities and schools in the world replaced books to the device computer and tablet PCs in learning the process, so that helps students instead of carrying books on their back. It provides the opportunity for students to learn at homes

without go to university. Then, they can receive the lesson through the computer connected to the Internet, and the Professor explains the lecture through the picture and sound for students. Also, students can interact with the teacher and solve homework through automated correction on the internet that makes homework more enjoyable.

Technology constitutes a significant role in communication between people. People need to communicate with each other and find out news of other countries. A long time ago it was hard to communicate as there were no mobile devices, so people had to travel for months to visit their relatives. Since the development different means of communication and the invention of smartphones, the world has become closer. Technology facilitate communication between people, relatives, and friends through smartphones. Also, any person can communicate at any time through a smartphone which is small easy to carry. Smart devices have some features such as camera, video, messages. Communication is not by voice only, but can be from the video which can anyone watch it in the world. There are many applications available in free calls from any country in the world, such as Skype, Tango, and WhatsApp. These applications are possible solutions for students who cannot afford the cost of calls. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter and Instagram that linked the world together, and enabled people to communicate with each other. The social media is a way to exchange ideas, information, knowledge and learn about the culture of other peoples.

Modern technology is an important factor in develop the skills of the children. Modern technology is working to develop the skills of the children and the development of intelligence because it makes them use their minds and think. The children can use some useful applications, for instance, speaking books, Duolingo and DragonBox series. The speaking books help the children to identify the pronunciation of words correctly. Also, the Duolingo allows children to learn the English language easily and fun. The experience of learning a second language is so great that helps in brain development of the children. It is a great learning experience and should be done in a fun way. The Dragon Box series helps children learn basic skills such as mathematics, engineering. Because of these great applications, children can learn and fun at the same time. There are some applications that help in the discovery of talent in the children, such as drawing, writing, and telling story. Parents should monitor their children and put some rules to allow the children to use smartphones such as one hour in a day. The technology has some negative impacts. For this reasons, the parents should care about using it.

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*("Technology" continued)*

The technology has a lot of benefits. In contrast, it has some consequences, including addiction. Some people are facing issues from Internet addiction, who spend long hours on social media or chatting. Internet addicts suffer from some problems, such as depression anxiety, stress, and isolation. In addition, Internet addict is a person who exceeded the use of the Internet thirty-eight hours per a week. Some people spend many hours on the internet because of boredom, family problems, and escape from reality. Also Internet addiction affects children, such as social isolation, sleep disorders, and study problems. Internet addiction leads to some problems on the body, such as obesity and laziness, so a person should be careful during of using the Internet. Therefore, some children spend hours on TV or video game which is dangerous because it can cause some problem, such as stress and isolation. Internet addiction is a serious problem which needs to focuses and develop appropriate solutions.

The technology has negative effect on family relationship. Most children and teenagers spend a lot of hours on some inventions, such as video games, iPad, TV and PlayStation. When they spend most of their day on the technology, they can't stay with their family. Most The

family members in their room on the internet, so how are they communication between each other? In addition, most people communicate with their relatives through mobile or messages, but they are not meeting with each other. Because of there is no discussion between family members, it will happen weakness in the relationship.

Parents have a major role in strengthening the family relationship because they can control on family members and put some rules. Spend long hours in the internet is impotent issue of health and body. Therefore, the parents can do some ideas to enhance the relationship, such as time management, conversation, family trip and encampment.

To conclude, Technology has many of useful things in our life on the other hand, it has some negatives. We can take the advantages of the technology in many aspects, such as the economic side, educational, social and medical. There are many helpful devices and applications in educational and entertainment side. Also, spend long hours on the devices leads to obesity, psychological and social problems. The parents should care about their children because now most of the children spend most of their day on TV. In my opinion, we can try to resolve the problems in the technology by specific hours and use it correctly.

## Venezuela

*Eilin Mora Galvis | RW50*

Venezuela has been having a serious problem. Hunger is a need or desire to eat. Venezuelans cannot find basic food supplies, and food insecurity is affecting the population. This issue does not have any solution yet. However, politicians and economists say they have solutions that are going to take a long time or might even be impossible. Venezuelan people think some solutions will provide a big challenge. This problem started a long time ago and it is a lot bigger than many people think.

This problem began when Venezuelan's government started some business with Cuba. Also, Cuba's Government has been in the presidency for more than 50 years. Then, they started to do business with Venezuelan's oil. However, Venezuela has the largest dams, so Venezuela just

gave them the oil in exchange for how to create a communist country. All the same, Venezuela's government tried to take the easier way to eliminate poverty, for example they began to distribute subsidies, bonuses and free social benefits to bring that wealth quickly to the poor people. Venezuela got many debts with international suppliers, so it makes Venezuela a poor country, without future for all the population.

The first way to remedy this problem is Venezuelans have to change the model of the government, it means this government how they call it "Castro Comunista Chavista and Madurista" are thieves. The only job that government has is stealing private owned properties and ruin private property that they have already taken when all the properties are supporting the country, and doing their jobs. So it has to change for a democratic government, the

change has to give to everybody judicial security, personal security. Then these qualities are going to let Venezuelans make new investments, and then they can produce food also it is going to make new jobs, for people who are unemployed.

Another solution to this problem is industries that closed reopen their doors. Returning to the original owners the companies, estates and properties that were expropriated. So the government should make a rule that will be about restoration and guarantee to farm's owner and company owner's. Then start to generate employment and supply of products, this solution is going to make easier to hunger people get food in any supermarket, and any store.

In contrast, if the hunger is going as now, it is going to be worst for people who want to buy their food to bring in their homes for their families. For

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*("Venezuela" continued)*

example, nowadays everybody in Venezuela have an ID so the last number that it has it's the day that people are going to buy or take food in the supermarkets. Also they have some restrictions with food as they just can take only one or two kilos of rice or just two chickens, and this restriction is with everything like spaghetti, personal stuff like Listerine, toothbrush, shampoo, toilet paper and other important necessities.

The best way to approach this issue is by opening a humanitarian group, between countries that want to help Venezuela. It is going to be a group with many countries, and then they will work together to donate and help with Venezuela's recourses. This solution will be a generous challenge. But Venezuela has some rules, it says if Venezuelans are in need, the government has to put the country in emergency and automatically Venezuela is going to receive help from the US and many countries. However, the government did not do it because they do not agree that everyone knows about the situation inside the country. For example if the US knows about that immediately they are going to do some investigation about Venezuelan's government. Also, they already have some

proof that these talk about many people who are in the government are doing an illegal or corruption work.

Liberation of politicians that are in jail for wrong reasons because of it makes Venezuelan people do not feel that they do not want to work, because there is not help from politicians or government with foreign exchange. For example Leopoldo Lopez is an important politician then government took him to the jail because he was helping people to support them to keeping going. Maybe it is not the biggest problem but it makes people to do not do anything so business people start to be tired of that situation and the best solution that they have is closing their industries and leaving from Venezuela to another countries like Colombia, the US, and another countries with good economic stability.

Finally, Venezuela's situation is a big and serious problem for many people. So this country has many resources, then if government and Venezuelans start to work together will be mazing but it is impossible for many reasons that I already said. However, a lot of people around on the world do not know about this issue, so I really want to show them what is happening in Venezuela, it will be a big challenge but I can do it, and I will do it.

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## Bittersweet

*Maria Antia | RW61*

Once upon a time a girl...such a sweet and lovely girl...she was not expecting to fall in love or something like that. She was sweet, but at the same time she was cold and quiet. One day, she met a wonderful person, a lovely person, basically the person she was looking for since she started dreaming about romance. She felt so happy, she promised herself to do whatever she needed to do to keep his love for a long time. She danced for him, she spent most of her time talking with him, she wrote for him the prettiest writings she was able to write...those were written for him. She sang the most beautiful lyrics for him; she gave all she was supposed to give...wait...what about the kisses? Hugs? What about eating together? What about watching movies together? What about sleeping together? Well...it was not easy at all. They were not together; I mean, they weren't together physically, but together in the distance. She wondered: "How is possible to feel that many feelings for a person when you have not even touched that person?" Yes, 2,678 km of distance. *Are you kidding me?* No, I am not. They could not touch each other but they could at least see one another's faces by video chat. It was the same thing over and over. Each day trying to keep that wonderful love safe, fighting to not lose such an amazing love that gave her calm during the storm. "The big day is really close, the day I am coming back to see you darling, just one month my love" she said. It was too late; all his love seemed to be over...she was trying every day to do multiple things as she promised, but she could not. And it was not because she did not want to try; it was because he was already gone. He found beautiful stars in other eyes and those eyes were not hers. She kept all the songs she sang for him, all the writings she wrote for him, all the pictures she took while talking with him by video chat. She kept everything. He was gone in real life but he was not gone from her soul. She promised herself to give him all, even if that meant losing all of that. Now, she has all the memories but she doesn't have his love anymore. Now, she has nothing to give to somebody else...he took all from her. He is happy, and she is happy because of that. She takes a deep breath once in a while, she smokes a cigarette once in a while, she cries once in a while, she loves him once in a while.

## Buried Beauty in Yemen

*Mugahed AL-ameri | RW49*

Yemen is one of the oldest civilization in the world also, it abounds with the antiquities of various culture the oldest which dates back 3000 years. Yemen extends over the surface area 528,000 square kilometers that equal (240,000) mile. The current number of the population around 27,000,000. Yemen has 4 sites in UNESCO list for heritage place in the world, Shibam is home to about 7, 000 people, was listed in 1982. The local architecture of the city includes the visual impact of functional design, martial and construction model it is extremely express of Arab and Muslim culture. We can compare Shibam urbanization to famous cities since it's composed of geometric forms such us rectangular streets and optimal utilization of the space. Back in the year's old locals succeed to build very high buildings using basic materials and a solid wall around the city to secure it from conquers which can be the judge as a revolution in construction at that era (16 Century). Shibam historical value, it's beautiful design and highly standard architectural norms allow it to be listed in UNESCO for heritage place.

The city was the bridge between Asia and Africa, it was a corner stone in trade and exchange of goods. Shibam is located between two mountains which is a natural protection from

torrents, though, flooding hit the city and left a horrible damage and reduced the population of the city by half. The flood was a massive destruction of buildings since it abolished 500 huddled buildings, but they were rebuilt again. As the solution for flood issue, the residents cooperate to make thin stone stage, that make torrents less able to jump over the stage and reach the town. The building ranging from five to 11 stories high nowadays, it continues to be a safe shelter the citizens.

The way adopted to build Shibam buildings is considered to be a secret and shared only between few trustful and wise people. All we know about the constructions that experts use animal overthrow, salt and mutt which be crazy and illogical to create such great buildings however with those basic components old Yamani's built strong beautiful houses.

People in Yemen are so friendly and hospitality is one of the common values, confirming this thought, in Shibam residents open their doors for tourists and treat them as guests; they inform them about life style customs and offer them tea and coffee. Walking in the city streets and focusing on the architecture give an idea about the identity and facilitate exploring the culture.

Sadly, in the last decade due to development people are shifting from the old way of construction and have used new materials and methodologies which badly affected

the design and the landscape of the city. Moreover, a civil war that the country is suffering from is a huge threat to the existence of Shibam because of bombing and fighting horrible consequences. I hope that war ends as soon as possible so I can come back and convince people to keep using their ancient way of building and fundraise money for maintenance I believe that the city is not Yamen heritage is a wonder and heritage for all the humanity and a symbol of innovation.

Finally, as the global community, we should keep planning the different strategy to protect as this place together, whereas; it is belonging to all humanity history not only Yemenis people. All, governments, and international organizations should be standing with locals and support them to protect this historical and valuable urban pearl. Shibam is needy now its population suffer from poverty, literacy, rare scarce resources diseases and her cultural heritage is in its way to disappear. I'm not exaggerating while writing about it the situation there is very critical I wish if I have a super power to spread the awareness and about the conditions and convince Influential international stakeholders like the United Nations, development organization to intervene and change the sad reality and we save the city from extinction because humanity without past will not have a future a failure to preserve this pearl will be an indicator of a failure for the human civilization.

## My First Time Bowling

*Taher Alnakhli | RW33*

One day I'll always remember is the first time I went bowling with my friend. It was on September 2nd of this year, at the Reitz Union, as a Gator Night activity. I had never tried to play before.

On that night, I got the shoes from the reception and we went into teams. I felt very excited when my turn came. It

was first time I held a bowling ball. It was really heavy. I threw it down the lane and it went in the gutter. I was sad but I kept on trying. Finally, I knocked down six pins.

I love this game so much. It makes me happy. Since that time, I have been there three times.

## Video Games

*Yousef Alshatti | RW49*

Many people have things to do in their life. People live for their goals. So that, nobody does have goals in the world. In my life, all my friends have things to do. The majority of them are playing video games. Video games have become a portion of people's lives. When video games began approximately 25 years ago, it was easy games, but nowadays, it has become more complex and challenging. You can play video games in many ways such as Playstation, computer, smartphones, and X-Box. In fact, companies that create video games concentrate on how to make it more exciting and more addicting games for players. They try to focus on one goal. The purpose of these companies is earning money. Also, technology has made video games more developed. It makes players more comfortable and happy. The latest generation of video games makes players who play these games more attractive by using new devices. Video games have many things such as benefits, disadvantages, my life with video games, cause addiction and how to solve addiction from video games.

Video games have some benefits. Video games are an entertaining thing to do in free times. People can enjoy in their free times by playing video games. Also, it is good for brains because we use our brains to solve some obstacles in the game. When we try to finish the game, we usually use our minds to finish it, so it makes our brains stronger and smarter. Video games can improve the response of children. For instance, children can read fast because of these games since video games have some writings. Also, it increases focusing and understanding; then we can solve problems quickly without any difficulty. Video games may remove some bad habits. The last benefit is we can contact each other by video games because now we have the internet so that we can chat with anyone in the world.

Although video games have advantages, they have many disadvantages. First, they affect your time, and it will waste it if you play a long time in it because it is an addiction. Sometimes it affects your grades in the school. Some people have obesity from video games because they do not move from the chair. Individuals who are spending a lot of their time in video games will have stress and be sick. Second, people will become isolated from the world, and they will not be in contact with their family and their friends. As a result, addiction from these games. Some video games have killing people such as shooting and killing people in these games. Therefore, these people may become furious and try to do it in real life. Few games have bad things such as they have bad words and it is bad for

kids since they will learn these bad words.

Video games in my life are the best thing I have ever seen. When I was eight years old, I began playing video games and entered video games world. 11 years ago, I had Playstation-1, which is the first generation of PS (PlayStation) and it is a console to turn on video games. It was cheap, and it was around 100 dollar. I was playing playstation-1 four years because it was interesting. There were 3 of the best video games, which are Twisted Metal, Crash and Pepsi Man. Then I bought Playstation-2. It was 200 dollar. I bought it because it was the newest version of the PS. It had many action games such as Dead to Right, Grand Theft Auto and Devil May Cry. After I had played PS2 three years, I evolved into a new generation of PS which is playstation-3. Ps3 is more expensive than PS1 and PS2 because it has many features such as the internet so you can play online with other people from the world, and it can play video games from previous versions so you can play some of PS1 and PS2 games through it. When I had PS3, I was playing Call of Duty. Finally, video games make me addicted since I play it too much.

Video games cause addiction. The boredom and leisure are the first reason. For example, if people become bored and have leisure, they will try to find something to entertain them and keep them away from boredom and leisure, so they are going to play video games. Then they will play it all the time until they will be addicted. Secondly, some people feel lonely so they go to play video games because some of the video games have multiplayer so they can play online with other people. In another hand, if they addict to video games, they will be isolated from the world, and they will forget the real life such as family and work because they are spending all their time in these games.

We have some strategies to treat video games addiction. The first strategy is selling goals. It is important to put a plan for all days of the week So clearly defines the number allocated to the use of the Internet and play clocks. In the long-term, this person can control in the use of video games. Secondly, thinking of doing something useful to avoid the addiction such as reading books, running, swimming, walking with friends, and learning different languages. If people who are addicting in video games take advantage of free time, they can be ordinary people without addiction. The last strategy is to determine the time of use. These people should reduce and regulate hours of use for the video games. For example, if they play 30 hours per week, they should make it 15 hours. Then organize those hours distributed on a weekday at specific times of the day so as not to exceed the specified table.

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*("Video Games" continued)*

In conclusion, video games have a lot of things such as advantages, negatives, my life with video games, addiction reasons and the solution for it. By the technology, video games are becoming more complicated and more exciting. Then the advantages of video games are making our minds more intelligent, increasing the ability of children such as reading fast and raising the concentration, and talking with other players online by the internet. On the other hand, the negatives of video games are affecting grades in school because you will spend all your time in it, making some

people lonely and they will not be with another people, and some video games make people angry since these games have to kill and shooting people. In contrast, I spent a lot of my times in video games, so I have been playing video games for eleven years. Nevertheless, video games can cause addiction. The reason for addiction in video games is having a lot of free times, so they are spending all their time in video games. To solve this problem, we have some strategies such as putting goals in your mind and try to reduce hours of playing video games by having a schedule for all the week.

## An Exciting Match: FC Barcelona vs Real Madrid 2010

*Alan Zrihem | RW33*

One day I'll never forget is when Barcelona won over Madrid 5-0. This game happened six years ago and it was in Camp Nou, which is a stadium in Barcelona. I watched this game on TV with all my friends, such as Moises, Peter and Samuel. This was the first "El Clasico" game by player Cristiano Ronaldo and the coach Jose Mourinho. El Clasico means a game between the great teams Barcelona and Real Madrid.

When the match started, in the first 5 minutes Barcelona was winning 1-0. Xavi Hernández made the first goal. Twenty minutes into the game, Pedro made the second goal for Barcelona. At half time, the score was Barcelona 2, Real Madrid, 0. Fifty minutes into the game, Barcelona player David Villa made the third goal. This goal was an assist from Lionel Messi. Ten minutes later, Villa made another goal, also with an assist by Messi. 20 minutes later, Jeffren made the fifth goal with help from Messi. Messi did three assists in the game; he was the best in the match. When the game finished, my friend and I were very excited because the Barcelona won the match over the team that is their biggest rival.

The incredible thing is that nearly 6 years later, my friend and I remember every moment of that match. It was very, very good. That day was so special with the way Barcelona player. This year, the Clasico game is on December 3. I hope Barcelona wins the game!

## Differences Between the Governments in the United States and Venezuela

*Maria Eugenia Leyton | RW49*

The federal government is the common government of a federation. A federal government may have distinct powers at various levels authorized or delegated to it by its member states. The government of the United States of America is the federal government of the republic of fifty states that constitute the United States, as well as one capital district, and several other territories. Venezuela's government is analogous to United States in that they both are federal in theory, but in practice only the United States follows the constitution.

First, the United States and Venezuela

have similar structure because the chief of the country is the President. But, they differ in their branches. The United State's government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, whose powers are granted by the US Constitution in the Congress, the President, and the Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court. On the other hand, Venezuela's government is composed of five distinct branches: legislative, executive, judicial, citizens and electoral council. The Supreme Tribunal of Justice is the highest court of law in the Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela, and is the head of the judicial branch. Hugo Chavez and his allies took over the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, filling it with supporters of Chavez and made new measures so the government could dismiss justices from the Court. Venezuela's judicial systems has been deemed the most corrupt in the world by Transparency International in 2014. Despite the fact that United State's government and Venezuela's government are supposed to have similar structures, Venezuela's government is really corrupt and all the power is concentrated in only one person.

The United States and Venezuela both have elections and voting, but they differ in democracy. In The United

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*("Differences" continued)*

States, the president is elected indirectly by the people, through an Electoral College. All members of the federal legislature are directly elected. State law regulates most aspects of the election, including the eligibility of voters, the running of each state's electoral college, and the running of state and local elections. Conversely, elections in Venezuela are held at a national level for the President of Venezuela as head of state and head of government, and for a unicameral legislature. The president of Venezuela, in theory, is elected for a six-year term by direct election plurality voting, but in practice, the government cheats in every election and the same party always wins.

Finally, one country experiences

progress every year, but on the contrary the other country gets poorer annually. The United State's poverty is measured purely by household income, with a certain threshold known as the "poverty line". Moreover, as increasing inflation, decreasing wages and other factors continue to impact the purchasing power and actual lives of the poor, the poverty line becomes even more problematic. In contrast, the Venezuela government has distinctly different set of measurements to determine true poverty, including: access to education, access to clean drinking water, access to food, access to health-care, access to basic products, access to adequate housing, and other factors. Contrary from the United States, Venezuela continues

to make tremendous strides in eradicating poverty from a nation that, for decades, had been one of the poorest and most exploited in the Americas. Despite vast oil wealth and abundant resources, Venezuela was characterized by extreme poverty.

In conclusion, there are practically no similarities between the government in United States and the government in Venezuela. But notably, there are many differences between them. For example: Venezuela's poverty issues, health issues, extremely scarcity, decent jobs issues, violence and so many things that are unconsciously related to the government. The biggest difference is that, the United States government cares about their people's quality of life. In contrast, Venezuela's government only cares in being richer and stronger.

## A Message from the Editor

Thank you to all of the students who contributed for sharing your writing. I hope you enjoy reading this edition. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the ELI instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Patricia Moon, Tiffany Frison, Patrick Klager, Maya Shastri, and Olga Moody for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

*Christine Voigt*



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