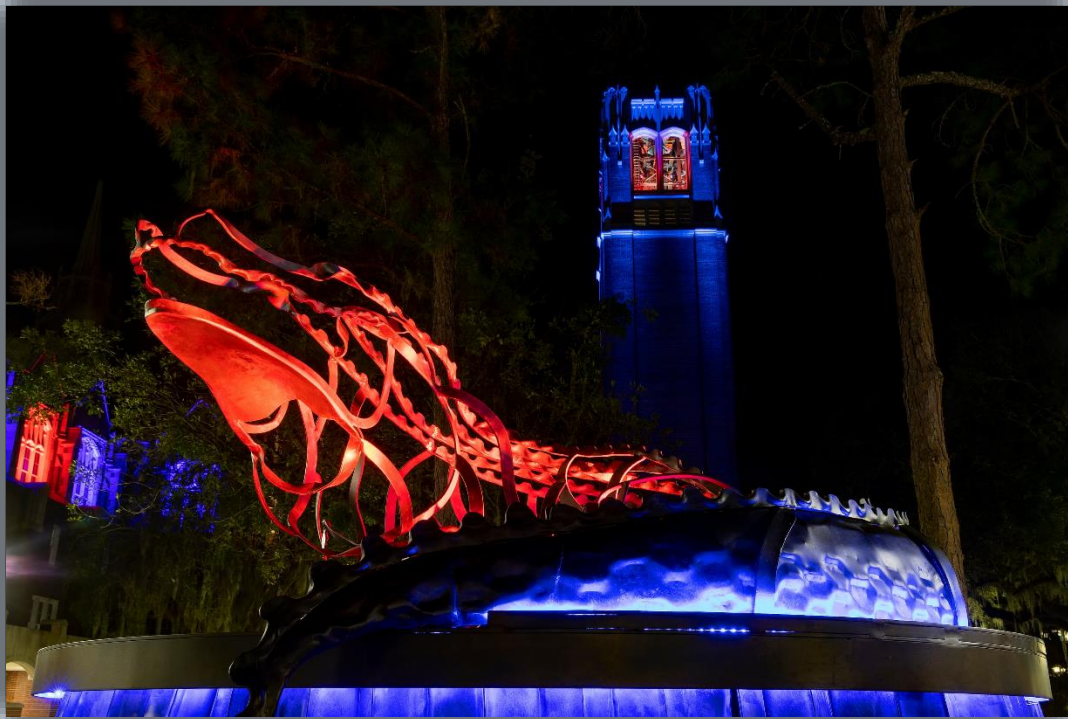

Fall 2021

Volume 25, Issue 3

UF | UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA



ELI STUDENT VOICES

A Message from the Editor



Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the ELI Student Voices. First of all, thank you to all the students who wrote and were brave enough to share their wonderful writing pieces with us. Thank you to all the ELI teachers who encouraged, helped, and supported the students to develop and polish their writing skills.

Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging prizes for the winners and to our judges: Lynne Clark, Thomas Dolce, Victoria Dolce, Melina Jimenez, Patrick Klager, Jennifer Vann, and Christine Voigt who took time to read the submissions and select the winning pieces.

Have fun reading this edition and keep writing!

-Olga Moody

Winning Pieces

First Place

"The old woman and her cats," by Arwa Alzahrani

Second Place

"Studying abroad," by Irene Lopez

Cover photo credit –

<https://news.ufl.edu/media/newsufledu/images/2021/11/Holiday-gator-body.jpeg>

First Place

Arwa Alzahrani

RW30

The old woman and her cats

On October 31st, 1920, Sara and her family went camping near the Egyptian pyramids. That night was a full moon night, and it was the last night for Sara with her family. At 9:00 p.m., when Sara's mother prepared dinner and the family gathered for dinner, a creepy old woman with 13 cats appeared at the campsite and asked Sara's family to join them for dinner. Although the family was scared, they welcomed her to eat and sleep with them. The old woman was nice and gave Sara a candy and let her play with the cats. At midnight, the cats started moaning loudly and the moon light disappeared and all the place became so dark. A few minutes later, the campsite became quiet. Sara's parents were terrified, and they looked for Sara and the old woman, but they couldn't find them. The police came and looked for Sara, but they couldn't find her. On October 31st, 1921, in the same campsite, people reported a missing girl and they said, "a creepy old woman with 14 cats kidnapped her."

Second Place

Irene Lopez

RW 52

Studying abroad

Let's start your adventure

Are you ever think about studying abroad? In my life experience, I have studied in different countries: Spain, France, Canada, and now in the United States. All I can tell you is that the experience of studying abroad is unique. When I started my studies in the Veterinary School of Medicine at the University of Cordoba, I remember my older brother told me about Erasmus program. It is a scholarship which allows students to study at universities in the Europe member states for set periods of time. My brother was studying in Rome for one year. He always said that Erasmus program is a powerful experience. Thus, years later I went to study in Paris, and this is where my adventure began. It is obvious that studying abroad offers many advantages, such as learning a new language, meeting new people, or traveling. However, it is much more than this because you can reach unexpected knowledge. If you are thinking about studying in another country, definitively I encourage you to do it. In my opinion, all students should experience study abroad a least one semester of their undergraduate or university education.

One of the primary reasons is improving your personal development. According to the article "The Benefits of Study Abroad" by Dwyer, Mary and Peters (2004), in a long-term study of 3400 students, 96% of students said that studying abroad had an impact in their world view and 76% of students increased their self-confidence. Leaving your country requires you to be independent, without the safety of your home comforts. As a result, you have to adapt to a new situation every day. There is nothing quite like being on your own in a foreign country. You learn how to solve your own problem, overcome adversity, and handle difficult circumstances. Throwing yourself into a completely new environment will help you to figure out what you are good at, as

well as what you are not so good at. In other words, it is the opportunity to discover yourself. All kind of things that maybe you cannot learn in classes. A simple routine action, like for example to order a coffee, can be a challenge. Finally, when you manage to overcome an adversity, you feel confident and it increases your self-esteem. In conclusion going abroad is a huge boost for your mind, spirit and self-confidence.

Moreover, attending education overseas allows students to be immersed in a new culture. While tourism only involves spending a few days visiting, studying abroad means that you are part of this country. Consequently, this experience allows you to integrate in a new culture. The best way to experience another culture is to immerse yourself in it by a firsthand experience. You will find a brand-new world with incredible new outlooks, customs, traditions, and social atmospheres. You will find that you have a better understanding and appreciation for the nation's people and history. In addition, you will meet new friends from different backgrounds. While attending a language course in another country, you will meet natives, but also students from other countries. This gives you the opportunity to really get to know and create lasting relationships with your fellow students. Your exposure to many different people gives you a more in-depth knowledge of others. As a result, it makes you more tolerant, permissive, and open-minded, making you not fall into stereotypes.

Additionally, people who have experimented in studying abroad will be better prepared for today's world. Nowadays, the world is more connected because of the rise of the Internet, international business, and the ease of global travel. It essential that people learn how to surf in a modern world by exploring new countries. Students will be more successful because they have enough experiences to face their life in the future. One of the goals is to train future global leaders who will respect other cultures and political and economic systems and care about the world's welfare. For example, my classmate Ali is from Niger, he dreams to become the president in his country. Furthermore, studying abroad can help launch your career and make you more competitive in the workforce. It gives you the opportunity to show future and current employers that you have the open mind, resourcefulness, and drive needed to adapt to a different environment making you more versatile in the workplace. Most employers

think that an international experience is important. Also, if you are thinking about working in your own country, you always can come back. Having an outside experience will make your curriculum more attractive. We live in an increasingly globalized world. Thus, to successfully compete in the global marketplace, multinational and small businesses need employees with cross-cultural competence.

Though studying abroad offers many advantages, sometimes is difficult to leave your home, your family, and your friends. Even if you might regret leaving home a little bit, According to "Upon a time an Erasmus" all the people who were asked this question said the same: "Friends and loved ones were the most difficult to leave behind.". Nevertheless, friends can always travel to visit you, so don't be worried about the distance! Do not think how many miles divide you from your dear ones. Instead, think of how many funny stories you will have for them as soon as you get back home.

There is no doubt that studying abroad will change your life. It means a lot of adventure, you get in touch with other cultures and persons from all over the world. Considering that inside all of us we have a natural instinct to explore, let yourself go on. Studying trough different countries taught me a lot about myself and gave me a worldview I would not have without this experience. This is a lesson that I could not have learned in the classroom. Thus, I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Jinoh Ryu**RW 52**

Although I have spent great times on ELI weekend activities, I also spent great times when I traveled around by myself. In October, I went a trip to Atlanta to meet my friend who lives in Marietta. I stayed one night at my friend's house. And the next day, me and my friend went on a trip to Appalachia. We enjoyed camping and hiking in Appalachia.



That was a really good experience for me. I enjoyed camping when I was in Korea, but I had never gone a camping in the U.S. before. Also, I saw a very unfamiliar scene that I had never seen before. On a hiking trail, I met some people who were riding horses on a trail. When I was in South Korea, I really enjoyed going hiking, but I had never seen horse riders on a hiking trail. I was curious about it, so I asked my friend "Are there many people in the U.S. who enjoy riding horses on a hiking trail?". My friend told me that there are many people who enjoy horses on a hiking trail. He told me that some horses were private horses, but I can rent a horse for a reasonable price if I want to ride a horse on a trail. I didn't try riding a horse at that time, but if I have more opportunities to enjoy hiking in the U.S. If there are students who want to make special experiences except Disney or

Universal, I think it can be a special experience for those students. I think there are plenty of things that I can enjoy in the U.S. There are probably more things that I don't know yet.

Aminata Salim Kouyate

RW 30

Scary story

A long, long time ago, just after midnight 6 friends having fun in a haunted house, but they didn't know that the house was hunted.

The big black cat and a large snake lived in this house, when the 6 friends having fun touched the door, they saw the big black cat on the table. The big black jumped and come to the 6 friends and scared the 6 friends, but the 6 friends didn't know that the large snake lived there.

Finally, the large snake was hungry, and he come out of his hiding place and circled the six friends and swallowed the 6 friends.

Manal Almalki

RW 20

Costume Day

On the last Friday in October, I learned about Halloween in America. My teacher, Zoe, encouraged us to dress up that day. I was so shy because it was the first time for me to come to class dressed for Halloween. Then I suggested to my husband that he could wear a mask and come to class but to enter before me so that no one would know and everyone would be surprised, literally; the plan worked. We all had fun that day. All of the students wore fancy dress (even our teacher), and she brought extra costumes for those who couldn't dress up. We also enjoyed competitions and learned new words through some games. I had heard about Halloween before, but, this day, I was with the revelers in it, and I got know one of the most famous celebrations in the United States.

Kwon, Sinyoung

Hi! My name is Hidy.

I really like to make and taste delicious food.

I want to let you know a recipe about amazing Oreos ice cream.

I know it's too cold to enjoy ice cream, but it is the definitely nice recipe.

Ingredient of this recipe is pretty simple.

Oreos 10~14 pieces (the more is the better)

Whipping cream 500g (you should buy already whipped one)

milk 400ml

sugar 4 tsp (If you want, you can put more)

That's all!

You have to break Oreos into small pieces.

Use plastic bag!

First step is putting sugar in milk, and stirring until it melts

Second step is putting whipping cream in well-made sugar milk.

Third step is putting Oreos in your milk!

Finally, freeze it!

After 3 hours since you started freezing, you should check it and stir briefly one time.

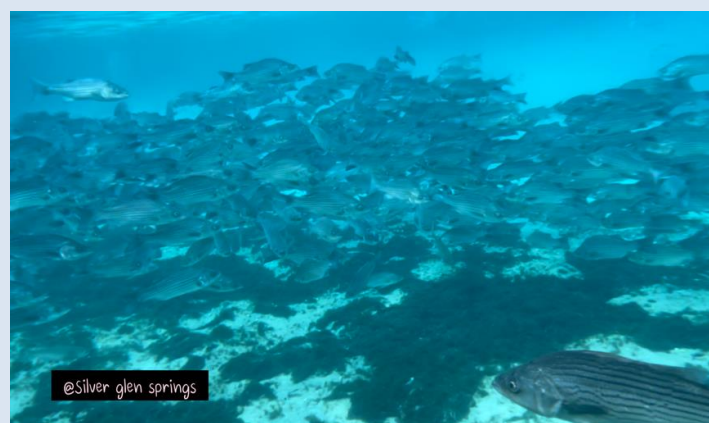
Enjoy your dessert time!

Chulalak Lueangthuwapranit**GM 31****My first time in America**

When I was young, I was living in Thailand. I had a dream. I wanted to go to a foreign country. But I was unable to speak English. I gave up about it. When I got married on November 2020, I had to come to the USA with my husband because he was studying in UF. I think I will have new experience.

I came to Gainesville, Florida in June 2021. The US looked more different than I thought. I didn't see tall buildings, but I saw many trees. I thought the US had big city. In summer the weather in Gainesville is just as hot as Thailand. But It's colder than Thailand in winter. I like winter. Florida has many springs. It has clear and cold water. I can snorkel in springs. I saw a lot of fishes in Florida springs, but I didn't see in Thailand spring.

Today I live in US around 5 months I like everything in Florida. I have plan to travel every spring in Florida and anywhere in US.



Alanoud Alhejaili

RW40

The Stress

Do you think stress is harmful and effect on your health and life? Stress is our body's response to pressure that causes negative effect on our physical and mental health. Many people in the world suffer from stress caused by many of the conditions around us. This causes many effects such as: lack of sleep, conflicts with people, and bad academic grades.

The most common effect is lack of sleep. Sleep and mood are closely connected, so that healthy sleep affected by the quality and duration. Based on the expert's recommendation, people should sleep for 7-9 hours in the night, depending on their age and other factors. So, try to do some activities before bed that may help to enhance your sleep.

Another effect of the stress is the conflicts with people. Stress can affect us emotionally by causing us to get involved in bad and negative behavior with people that may lead them to avoid us. And while it is a part of stressed people's life, we should manage and recognize it to reduce it and have strong relationships.

In addition to lack of sleep and conflicts with people, bad academic grades is another effect of the stress. Stress may have a negative effect on a student learning and academic performance. The student's mentality suffers and is always under pressure, which leads to a drop in grades and education.

Overall, stress is a normal human reaction that happens to everyone. But long-term stress can cause much of unhealthy behaviors that effect our relationships and lifestyle. We should try relieving and managing the stress using simple habits and strategies. And always be calm and ask yourself, is this stress worth it?

Georgina Castelli

RW40

Maracaibo vs. Gainesville

Have you ever thought how different Maracaibo and Gainesville is? Both share the same weather, currency and quantity of population. So, is there any difference? Maracaibo is a city in Venezuela where most of the population are elderly people. Gainesville is a city in Florida, a small one, where most of the population are students. Following a statement from Baglieri (2021) *"Maracaibo is the commercial and cultural center of Venezuela whereas Gainesville is known for the University of Florida and its*

student population” Even though both cities share many similarities, the differences seem to be more interesting to explore.

Maracaibo and Gainesville share plenty of similarities. The weather can vary in each city depending on the season. However, most of the time the weather is around 30C – 32C in each city. In addition, another similarity is the currency. Following a statement from Avendano (2020) *“The currency in Maracaibo is Bolivar. However, because of the economic situation, all the country pays with the dollar coin”*. Since in Gainesville the currency is the dollar and in Maracaibo people pay with the dollar coin, both cities share the same currency. Also, even though Maracaibo is bigger than Gainesville, they both share the same quantities of people, according to the statement from Rossetti (2019) *“The population in Gainesville is around 200,000 people while in Maracaibo is around 230,000”* The similar numbers here are because of the situation that Venezuela is going through that most people have emigrated.

However, Maracaibo and Gainesville have some differences too. Both cities are located in different countries. While Maracaibo is in the south part of Venezuela, Gainesville is in the north part of Florida. Also, most of the population from Maracaibo are elderly people while in Gainesville they are students. This is because Gainesville has one of the best public universities in the United States while Maracaibo is a historical city. In addition, the biggest difference is the transportation. While in Maracaibo students use their cars, in Gainesville most of the students use the bus. The question here is: why? Following a recent study from Ruiz (2021) mentioned that *“Student buses in Maracaibo doesn't work as well as in Gainesville because of the political and economic situation that Venezuela is going through”*. Student buses in Maracaibo aren't in good condition, so people are seen safer using their cars while in Gainesville is the otherwise.

Overall, Maracaibo and Gainesville share plenty of similarities. However, their differences seem to be more interesting. Both cities are similar because of their weather, quantity of people and currency. But they are different because of their location, the characteristic of the people and transportation. Knowing all the differences and similarities from each city, which one would you rather go to?

ALVARO HERRERA FERNANDEZ**RW 40****GATOR CITY = GAINESVILLE**

Gainesville is a small city in North Florida that is also known as Gator city. It is a city surrounded by the university environment. Having one of the best public universities in the country, the University of Florida.



Within the university, apart from studying, you can carry out different activities: culture, nature, sports, leisure, etc. In the cultural zone, the museums of Florida stand out. The science museum and the art museum. In these museums you can find the history,

science, art and nature that is part of Florida and Gainesville. Inside the science museum there is a spectacular exhibition of butterflies of different colors.



The university has a lovely nature. You can enjoy its lakes and landscapes. Where the house of bats stands out. From time to time you can find a gator in the lakes of the university. These animals are the main icon of the city,



and for them they are nicknamed the gator city.



You can also do sports within the university, going for a run, doing weights in the gyms, swimming in the pool or exercising in the football stadium. To recover from exercise you have to drink the energy drink Gatorade, the most important invention in the city.



There are different activities to enjoy your free time, such as bowling, attending gator nights, cheering on the different teams at the university, or watching the homecoming parade. The homecoming parade takes place once a year, where all the representative symbols of the city parade and the citizens cheer them on and enjoy the show.



Outside of the university there are also many activities to do and places to visit. For example, the city center has many restaurants for dinner or discos for partying. On the other hand, if you like nature, I recommend several places. Depot park is an ideal place to play sports, go with the children or walk the dog. If you want to find typical Florida animals, including gators, you have to visit Sweetwater Wetlands Park. If in addition to enjoying nature and animals, you like to walk, I recommend Paynes Prairie.



Gainesville also has places to enjoy with friends with different leisure activities. You can go shopping at different places like oak mall or celebration point. Also at celebration

point you can go to the movies. Although the favorite place for recreational games is Dave & Buster.



All of these sites I have discovered in Gainesville this semester. A wonderful city with its own charm. I hope they can help you.

Diaz, Juliana

GM1

Goliath, My Dog

Goliath is the name of my dog, it is a strong and noble dog. Actually, he is bigger than I. Its race is a Fila Brasileiro, as its name says its race comes from Brazil, and it has been recognized one of the most faithful dogs.

Before the pandemic came, I wasn't a dog person, but now I am!!! Like a meme says "Anyone that survived 2020-2021 without having a baby, buying a new pet, or investing airfryer, raise your hand".

Goliath loves the nature and large wooden sticks. While Goliath is playing, it is enjoying the life. Every day, as soon as it goes out to the park, it runs like flash. It loves runs for mountains and swim in the river and scare birds.

Goliath is the best friend of my husband and my heart shines when I see them. When it came to my house it was like a hurricane, and it became the joy for us.

As soon as I come to my country, I will hug my dog and cry to joy.

Manal Almalki**RW 20****Good Times Pass Quickly**

Who can believe we are nearing the end of the semester? I still remember the week of preparing to study, the institute administration's instructions, and receiving my study schedule. Then, the days passed between studies, tests, presentations, and activities; and, during that time, our relationships with our teachers, our friends and the administrative body strengthened. Now we are occupied with thoughts about the final exams and preparing for them. In addition to thinking about our friends, we will bid farewell to the hope of meeting them one day, and we will continue to communicate with them and know their news after they return to their countries. Life continues between a meeting and a farewell, but the good trail and beautiful memories remain.

Alvaro Herrera Fernandez**RW40****GLOBAL WARMING IN THE NORTH POLE**

Can you imagine that the North Pole disappears on earth? Global warming is causing the disappearance of the North Pole. Water level increase, polar bears disappear and Santa Claus losing his house are possible effects of global warming at the North Pole.

Scientists have found that the water level is increasing. The increase in temperatures as a result of climate changes, produces the melting of the poles into water. The water level of the seas increased by 5% in recent years, produced by burning fossils, increasing carbon dioxide, and industrial development. This will cause the disappearance of several coasts and islands, contamination of drinking water, the possible occurrence of hurricanes and typhoons, and put the ecosystem of many species at risk.

Along with the increase in the water level, polar bears will disappear. 10% of the ice at the poles has disappeared in the last century. The ice is part of the polar bear habitat. Another influencing factor is that the main prey for the polar bear, the seals, look

for new cold habitats, causing the death of the polar bear due to malnutrition. A study from the University of Florida estimated that the polar bear could be extinct by the year 2100. Polar bears are beginning to become endangered.

Linking the water level increase and the disappearance of polar bears, Santa Claus could lose his house. With the melting of the ice and the disappearance of the polar bears, Santa Claus will lose his home. Santa Claus has a house with 2000 hectares where he makes gifts with his helpers, the elves. Part of the thaw affected his land. He has to fire several of his elves. The disappearance of the polar bears means that Santa Claus would lose his gift carrying animals. He can't deliver the Christmas gifts on time.

In the end, we need to help against possible effects of global warming at the North Pole, like water level increase, polar bears disappear and Santa Claus losing his house. Maybe Santa Claus will give you more presents at Christmas if you help him. It is our responsibility to help against global warming.



http://media.nj.com/hudson_voices_impact/photo/9144447-large.jpg

Lin Muli

RW 30

A Trick Game

It was a dark and stormy night. A black cat was abandoned in front of a house. The people in the house were having a Halloween party. Tom and his 6 friends were having fun at the party. They drank a lot of wine, and they were playing a trick game. Whoever lost had to kiss someone they meet outside the door. Tom lost. He opened the door and met a black cat. Yes! He had to kiss the cat. He was glad to kiss the cat and kissed the black cat. Suddenly, Tom couldn't speak. He felt dizzy. He tried to speak, but just said "meow"!

Gayeong Seo**RW 40****Man-Made Causes of Global Warming**

Global warming is the increase in the earth's average temperature due to the release of several greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by humans. In general, a healthy Earth maintains an average temperature of 15°C with a certain amount of greenhouse gases. However, if the Earth has more greenhouse gases than necessary due to humans, the average global temperature will rise. The reason for the warming phenomenon is that there is too much greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, which widens the space between the ozone layers and creates this hole in the ozone layer. If sunlight enters the earth directly through this hole without being caught through the ozone layer, it causes global warming. The three main causes of global warming are the use of fossil fuel, non-recycling, and reckless deforestation.

With Industrial development, the use of fossil fuels such as oil and coal has increased the impact of the greenhouse effect. According to the Government IPCC on Climate Change, natural activity caused warming until the first half of the 20th century, but human activity has caused warming since the late 20th century. When humans use petroleum products such as plastics and fossil fuel, this emits carbon dioxide. This accelerates the Earth's greenhouse effect more than usual. As a result, carbon dioxide is the most produced greenhouse gas in human activities, such as the use of petrochemicals, causing global warming.

Increase in waste and improper recycling also cause global warming. We produce a lot of garbage in our daily lives and do not separate it properly, so we dispose of it just as it is. Plastic bags used all over the world are consumed at 5 trillion sheets a year, and garbage such as plastic and polystyrene cannot decompose naturally, causing environmental pollution. This is because a large amount of methane, which is a type toward greenhouse gas, is generated in the process of decomposing garbage. Therefore, the attitude of garbage should place more importance on the inconvenience of throwing away rather than convenience of use. It is the attitude of

thinking about the process of throwing away trash and the harmful effects when ordering food for delivery, purchasing goods, and packaging.

Another cause of global warming is reckless deforestation. Forest, which is exploited for two purposes: securing timber and expanding agricultural land, acts as the lungs of the Earth. However, when forests are cleared, carbon dioxide is emitted. As forests are reduced, the natural effect of absorbing greenhouse gases decreases. It is estimated that 11% of global warming gas emissions are due to deforestation. Forests are essential for food, water and livelihoods. Whether we know it or not, deforestation affects global warming.

If global warming continues due to the use of fossil fuels and increased waste, desertification will occur or abnormal climates will come, which will harm us. Therefore, in order to protect the earth from global warming, we should start with small actions such as recycling and saving energy and resources one by one. Let's always remember that the resources and energy we have spent carelessly for our convenience can come back to us as inconvenience.

Hanbyeol Jang

RW 40

Convenience in our daily lives destroys our daily lives

Recently, in the Germany 59 people died and 70 people disappeared because of the flood. Heavy rain in 100 years is due to climate change. It threatens our lives now. The damages caused by global warming are increasing rapidly. There are three reason for accelerating global warming: reckless use of fossil, not recycling and forest destruction due to development.

Reckless use of fossil fuels is the main reason of global warming. As of 2017, fossil fuels accounted for 74.9% of Korea's energy consumption. Fossil fuels account for large amounts of fuel used in various fields such as heating and transportation. Fossil fuels use produce greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gasses interfere with the Earth's heat release, causing the Earth's average temperature to rise. So, we need to use

alternative energy. Like solar energy, hydrogen energy and biomass energy. An amusement park, Lotte World Tower, in Korea uses a water-powered heating and cooling system. The principle of the system utilizes the temperature difference between water and the atmosphere to enable cooling and heating. The water flowing into the energy center located on 6th basement floor of Lotte World Tower passes through facilities such as create energy. It is said that the generated energy is used cooling and heating.

Not recycling helps accelerate global warming. During the process of making disposable items, it needs lots of water and releases carbon. We should use sustainable items. For example, use a tumbler instead of a plastic cup when you buy some coffee in café. And buy secondhand clothes. Clothes take excessive amounts of water to produce, not to mention the fuel burned in transportation, or the amount of waste that ends up in landfill when bell sleeves are declared out of fashion. So, you should develop a habit of distributing unnecessary clothes around you or buying clothes at a secondhand shop.

Forest destruction due to development reduces oxygen. In addition, releases a lot of carbon. The Amazon rainforest makes up 20% of the earth's oxygen and is named the "Earth's lungs". However, the amazon rainforest is disappointing. The biggest causes are fires, illegal mining, and illegal logging caused by people, not nature causes. It releases a lot of carbon, can be the cause of greenhouse effect. There is a need to enact laws to limit forest destruction, like deciding the amount that can be cut down or set up a green belt.

Does it feel like it has nothing to do with you? That's a big misunderstanding. It threatens our lives now. To prevent global warming, we need to a lot of efforts. And it saves our lives. We must start acting to reduce greenhouse gasses like carbon right now.

Alanoud Alhejaili**RW40****Riyadh & Gainesville**

Have you ever had the option of settling in Riyadh or Gainesville? What did you choose? And why? Riyadh city is the capital of [Saudi Arabia](#) and the largest city on the [Arabian Peninsula](#). And the other city is Gainesville. It is the largest city in Alachua County in Florida State, United States. These two cities have many differences that show the beauty of one city over the other, such as the difference in city size, weather, and tourism places.

The first difference is the city size. The city of Riyadh was a small city, and due to its historical, political, commercial, economic, and cultural importance, it expanded to host many large projects. Now, it is considered one of the fastest expanding cities in the world. On the other hand, Gainesville city is ten times smaller than Riyadh city, even though it is the largest city in Alachua County. So, I like Riyadh city with its vastness and large size more than Gainesville city.

Second, the weather. In Riyadh, the summers are long, sweltering, and arid; the winters are cool and dry; and it is mostly clear year-round. In Gainesville, the summers are long, hot, oppressive, and mostly cloudy; the winters are short, cool, and partly cloudy; and it is wet year-round. So, I prefer Gainesville city with its beautiful weather and nature more than Riyadh city.

Third, the tourist places. In Riyadh, there are a lot of places and activities that you can visit and explore. Whether it is Riyadh's history, shopping, Saudi cuisine restaurants, or a lot of amazing places. In Gainesville, there are international museums, performing arts, live music, exploring parks, hiking, cooling off in freshwater springs, and many inspired local restaurants. Since I prefer calm and relax more than hustle of big cities, I think Gainesville city will be more suitable for me than Riyadh city.

In conclusion, after taking the differences between Riyadh and Gainesville city, I think it is hard to decide and make a decision, especially since each city has something that distinguishes it from the other. So, decision making depends on need, desire, and preference. And you, what do you think?

Jooyeon Jeon

RW40

Gwangju and Gainesville

Have you ever imagined living in Gwangju or Gainesville? These two cities are not capital cities, so someone might not know at all. Gwangju is a city located in the southwest of Korea. There are many things like department store or amusement park in the Gwangju. Gainesville is a small city in southern Florida in the United State. There are various things where you can watch huge football games and cute alligator in Gainesville. There are several differences and similarities between Gwangju and Gainesville such as facilities, traffic and age range.

First, Gwangju and Gainesville have differences and similarity in facilities. It is easy to access facilities such as brand store, department stores and amusement parks in the Gwangju. Because these facilities exist everywhere, you can go anytime without spending a lot of time. For example, if you want to go to an amusement park in Gwangju, you can go for a little time. There is an amusement park in Gwangju. However, if you want to go to an amusement park in Gainesville, you should go to Orlando. There is not an amusement park in Gainesville. However, Gwangju and Gainesville have some similarity about facility. The mart like Walmart or Publix where you can buy groceries is very accessible for both Gwangju and Gainesville. We can get anything that we want.

Another difference thing is traffic between Gwangju and Gainesville. People living in Gwangju feel more crowded and busier than Gainesville. In Gwangju, many people experience traffic jams during rush hour. Many people who get in the car wait for the traffic signal to change from red to green on the road. They waste much time in the car. And there are so many people on the bus when you go to school. Also, there are too many cars in the city, the air becomes dirtier. But I have never experienced this situation in Gainesville. There seems to be no traffic jam in Gainesville. We don't have to waste our time in the car because there aren't many cars on the road. Also, the air in Gainesville is much cleaner than in Gwangju. You can stay there in peace while breathing fresh air. But there are some similarities. If you don't have own car, there is a means of

transportation that can replace the car. And when you are very young or old, the fare is free if you take the bus.

The final differences you can find is the diverse age range. More young people live in Gwangju than old people. Young people live in Gwangju for their jobs because they have more opportunity than country. They live together in a competitive and passionate atmosphere. On the other hand, there are various age groups in Gainesville. There are as many old people as young people. Wherever you go, you will be able to meet different age groups. The atmosphere here peaceful and calm. It is good for people who want to relax. You can feel two completely different atmosphere.

In conclusion, we can see that Gwangju and Gainesville have various differences and similarities. Though these, we were able to feel the interesting things like facilities, traffic and age range. It is intriguing to see how people live in different ways in two areas. If you can live in a place with a completely different lifestyle than where you are now, make sure to live. This experience will make your life more fun and help you have lot of experiences.

Edmundo Caballero Espinosa

RW 30

The Man with Hat

Many years ago, at the cemetery of Hawthorn, every year, October 31, appeared one man with a hat. One Day on Halloween, when Jose and Javier walked your house just after midnight, this man appear. The man asked Jose and Javier if they wanted to have all the riches in the world. Jose decided to accept the man's proposal and Javier did not. The next day Jose won the lottery and Javier was surprised. But the following week the man with a hat appeared again to Jose. He was scared because the man told Jose that he had to take it away. Jose never appeared again.

Juan Grados Belandria

RW40

Puerto Ordaz and Gainesville

Each city around the world could be different even if it is on the same continent. In some cases, issues like public transportation might be the same, but in terms of climate or location issues could be different. In this essay, I would like to write about Puerto Ordaz, which is the city I grew up, and Gainesville, where I am living now. There are many differences and similarities between these attractive and popular cities.

First, Gainesville is similar to Puerto Ordaz in many aspects. One of the similarities is that they are on same continent which is America. In addition, both have the same time zone, for example, if it is eight o'clock in the morning in Gainesville, it is the same in Puerto Ordaz. Therefore, they have the same kind of vegetation that is tropical with good conditions to live.

In contrast, these amazing cities are different in many ways. It is almost always raining in Gainesville, whereas in Puerto Ordaz rain is not common, so I would say that the climate is one of the differences. Additionally, Gainesville is located in the United States and Puerto Ordaz is in Venezuela, so the location is different too. Another difference could be the transportation, In Puerto Ordaz there aren't buses while in Gainesville there are.

Overall, the differences are more important than the similarities between these incredible cities. In terms of weather, the way you move from one place to another, and the geographic location could be different wherever you are, in this case Gainesville and Puerto Ordaz. I really recommend visiting both of these spectacular and appealing places where there is nothing you cannot do.

Layla Lee**RW40****Things that threaten our homes**

Have you ever felt global warming yourself? According to the NIFC (National Intermediate Fire Center), there are 96 major fires in the United States alone, and these fires are burning close to 1,883,541 Acres. Global warming is worse than we thought. Climatologist Peter Stott said, "What we've been predicting for 20 year has become a reality, and natural disasters such as weather(heat) and floods that we are currently experiencing are worse than we predicted before," As such, the Earth is experiencing sea level rise, natural disasters increase, and ecosystem changes due to global warming. Then, what are the causes of such serious global warming?

The main cause of global warming is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Carbon dioxide is most often generated when fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal are burned. Oil is widely used not only in thermal power plants, steel factories, and cement factories, but also in household heating and automobile operations, generating a large amount of carbon dioxide. Since carbon dioxide or methane is originally solid, it must be buried deep in the Earth in the form of fossil fuels. However, people continued to take out fossil fuels and use them as energy, making them the atmosphere on Earth. In fact, the cause of global warming is humans. This is because all activities on Earth generate greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. These greenhouse gases are the main drivers of greenhouse effects, and as the amount of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere increases, the Earth's temperature rises. We need an appropriate amount of greenhouse gas on Earth. This is because if there is no greenhouse gas, the Earth will be too cold. But the problem is that the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere on Earth is increasing too much as a result of human activity.

Global warming has brought high temperatures to the North and South Poles, melting snow and ice. This does not simply mean that the lives of polar bears and penguins become dangerous. Surprisingly, rising sea levels are the cause of forest fires. The rise in sea temperature increases the humidity of the atmosphere, creating

tremendous heavy rain and typhoons. Therefore, In the past, Australia's worst forest fire cause was rising water temperature in seawater. At that time, seawater temperatures in the Indian Ocean rose sharply, affecting the surrounding barometer, which caused the forest fire to dry toward Australia and create a high temperature in the family. Wildfires can also cause a vicious cycle of warming by destroying forests that emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide and absorb carbon dioxide.

Did you know that meat eating promotes global warming? Most of the Earth's farmland is used as grazing land for cattle and sheep, and 34% of the grain cultivated land is used to produce livestock feed. Methane is generated in food waste, livestock waste, and burps. This methane is about 23 times more greenhouse-like than carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gases generated by the livestock industry account for about a quarter of the total. Carbon dioxide is emitted in the process of igniting tropical forests. When the forest disappears, the function of the forest that converts carbon dioxide into oxygen disappears, so the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases further. However, the Amazon was destroyed by the loss of forests burned to secure farmland. The destruction of the Amazon promoted global warming. Rainforests account for only 7% of the Earth's land area, but due to their high density of life, more than a third of Earth's life is based on rainforests. It also plays a major role in maintaining the oxygen concentration in the atmosphere by generating oxygen from global warming with huge amounts of photosynthesis.

The main causes of global warming are carbon dioxide and sea level rise and carnivorous (forest destruction). Since we know the seriousness and cause of global warming, we may be able to solve global warming together. In fact, it is impossible to stop global warming. However, if we work little by little in our daily lives for global warming, we will be able to get out of the danger of global warming by slowing it down.

Mariana Alfonzo**RW40****Caracas Vs. Gainesville**

Do you know what are the differences and similarities between Caracas and Gainesville? Each city has something that characterizes it by differences, such as parties, the issue of what age you can start drinking alcohol, and the issue of finishing school and going to the other side of the country. There are also several similarities such as, for example, on Halloween the superstition of the black cat, working for your dreams, and finally being respectful.

The first difference is the theme of the parties. Life in Gainesville I consider to be very quiet. According to what I understand, the clubs are open on Thursday since many people do not have classes on Fridays and take the opportunity to party. On the other hand, in Caracas we take every opportunity we can to go out to the party; it does not matter if it is a weekday or not. The second difference is the issue of the alcohol. Not only in Gainesville but throughout the United State, drinking legally is after 21 and from what I have notice, young people do comply whit that rule. In Caracas, things are very different. The legal age to drink alcohol is 18 but many children start drinking from 14 or 15 years, which seems to me a bad thing. The last difference is to go to the other side of country. Suppose you live in Gainesville, upon graduating from school, students normally decide to go to California, for example, to study. I feel like they try to get as far away from their family as possible, although it sounds bit ugly. In Caracas, it is different, we usually try to stay in our city studying, but for example many people like me look for a better study option. That is why I had to leave my country, although without a doubt I would have liked to stay in my country if, conditions had been optional.

We could see that there are many differences, but without a doubt there also many similarities. The first is, the superstition of the black cat on Halloween. In both cities, Caracas and Gainesville people believe that if a black cat passes in front of you, it means that you are going to have bad luck. The second similarity is working for your dreams, I have realized that both the people of Venezuela, and the United States, are very hard-working and fight every day to fulfill their goals and dreams. Although it is not

easy, every day they put a grain of salt of sand to be fulfilled. The third and last similarity is being respectful people. Both in Caracas and in Gainesville, people are very respectful. That has made me feel at home here.

To conclude, I have realized that each has city something that distinguishes and something in which they are alike. But if you doubt each city is unique and if I had to choose a city, I will not know what to say since I am in love with these two cities that have made me feel very comfortable living in both cities, despite having differences such as those named above.

Victor Gonzalez

RW 30



My friends and I had no idea what to do on Thanksgiving, but the Monday before we decided to go by road to New York and we did so on Tuesday afternoon, we traveled until midnight and rested to continue the next day, we left With dawn and 9 hours later we were in the middle of Times Square impressed by the number of people and the intensity of the lights, that night and during the next day we visited all the iconic places for tourism, we tried street food and we attended the macys parade, Thursday night we celebrated Thanksgiving with an Argentine barbecue and so on Friday afternoon we took 15 hours back from the beautiful scenic route of Highway 95.

A very crazy and fun trip, despite being at temperatures below 30 ° F, I think that because of the distance I will do it again but if I recommend it to do some time in life.



Abdul, Aziz**RW 20****My Best School**

My best school is University of Florida (ELI). The ELI building is beautiful. There are very clean and good classrooms, so I feel cozy. There are several services for wheelchairs. In my class, there is a computer on the desk. There is a big board on the wall, so I can see what my teacher writes on the board. All classrooms have something, but my class is better because I have Zoe as my teacher. Matherly Hall is in a good location because there are many restaurants near to it, and I can eat lunch when I have a break. There are several markets in the same area, so I can find everything I want. When I feel sleepy, I buy coffee. University of Florida is the best place for me.

Mariemilia Avendano Ruiz**RW40****Differences and Similarities between Maracaibo and Gainesville**

How all of us know Venezuela and United States are different countries in many ways, starting for the language, the culture and the lifestyle price. Did you know that United States has over 41 million people who speak Spanish? Making Spanish the second most spoken language in the United States.

One of the most remarkable differences between Maracaibo and Gainesville is the language. In Venezuela almost all the population speaks Spanish and just about nobody speaks or understands English. This is different from the United States where a big part of the population even when their first language is English speak Spanish.

People in Maracaibo are really energetic and friendly and it's not usual to respect the personal space. For example, when you are meeting a person for the first time you should greet with a kiss on the cheek. In contrast in Gainesville people are more distant, shy and they appreciate personal space. They just share it with close friends and family.

Even when Venezuela is going through a big crisis and poverty, living in Maracaibo is equal or even more expensive than living in Gainesville. I was in Maracaibo three months ago and I can definitely say that going to a restaurant is more expensive than visiting one in Gainesville. Also I went shopping and I could say that is 50% more expensive than Gainesville.

In addition to the fact that these countries are different in many ways, they also have some similitudes, for example: being rich in natural resources, exporting and importing oil, celebrating traditional and memorial days. Also, the weather is very similar too, because both countries have the four seasons of the year. So even when the differences are more notable than the similarities we can say both countries offer us beauty and warmth and a lot of fun. Visiting Venezuela and Unites States will never be a waste of time!!

Valeria Lopez

RW 40

International students at UF

Do you know the effects of being an international student? The ELI has is the program from UF that teaches English to international students it is more than 60 years and has 112 students in this 2021. If you are an international student this can have several effects on yourself and in your lifestyle, such as getting to know new cultures, being independent, and learning English.

When they are an international student at UF, you make a lot of new friends from other countries. In addition, they from your same country but another city. Since the English is a universal language you can use it for communicating with people that don't speak your language. At the ELI, that is how you start to know new cultures.

The change of being independent in the United States as a student at UF you have to change in yourself and in your lifestyle like cook, do everything, and solve problems. When I was in Venezuela my grandparents always cooked for me. I didn't need to do a lot of the thing I do right now because someone helped me or did that

thing for me. Of course, now if something happens, I need to solve because I don't have anyone else.

When you learn English, you have double the opportunities in a lot of ways such as in communication, employment and relationships. For communication we can more opportunities like talking with people for other countries. In the area of employment, you can have 20% percent more opportunities now for more than two languages. In the case of relationships, you can have more opportunities to have more friends from other countries because you have a language in common.

In conclusion, being an international student at UF has many good effects on yourself such as getting know new cultures, being independent and, learning English. If you are thinking in be an international student at UF, don't think about that twice.

Adriana Lopez

RW40

Caracas and Gainesville

Have you ever heard about Caracas and Gainesville? Do you know what things they have in common and what they don't? Gainesville is a city in USA and Caracas is a city in Venezuela. Both cities share some similarities, but in the same way, there are several differences between Caracas city and Gainesville city, such as location, public transportation and climate.

First of all, Caracas and Gainesville have a similar location given that both cities are in America. Gainesville is located in North America and Caracas is located in South America. Also, both cities have the same time zone. This means that, for example, in Caracas when it is 8:00 in the morning, in Gainesville it will also be 8:00 in the morning. So, for this reason we can notice that despite the fact that both cities are extremely different and have a long distance between them, we can find certain similarities.

Secondly, alongside the first difference we have the public transportation. Many years ago, in Caracas the public transportation worked very well, but now, for political reasons the public transportation works very badly. On the other hand, in Gainesville

the public transportation is very good. There are many buses around the city of Gainesville so that people can move to different places during their day. So, in this way we can realize that the public transportation works very different in both cities, in Caracas city it was good but not anymore and in Gainesville city it is pretty good currently.

Just like the public transportation, another difference is the climate. Caracas' climate is tropical, the annual temperature is 21.1 Centigrade, in addition, the climate is mild with stable temperatures in all seasons of the year. In contrast, in Gainesville the climate is hot and long in the summer, and cold and short in winter, furthermore Gainesville has a wet climate all year and the annual temperature varies from 44 to 90 Fahrenheit. To close with this idea, we can say that thanks to this data we can realize that both cities have a completely different climate.

Finally, through the location, the public transportation and the climate, we were able to realize the things that Gainesville and Caracas have in common and the things that they don't. So now you've heard a little bit about these two amazing cities, and the differences and similarities there are between them. In my opinion both cities are incredible and beautiful, for this, I really recommend that you visit both cities and read more about their similarities and differences to get to know them better.

Jiho Lee

RW 51

<The Responsibility of University>

In the article "UF, Student Government have no plans to bring back 24-hour library despite demand," Camila Pereira states that "As UF's libraries tend to be at the highest capacity during midterms and finals, students are asking for a 24-hour library on campus." It doesn't make sense for a university to give students assignments to study but not to give them an environment to study. Every university is responsible for their students. Therefore, at least one UF library should be open 24 hours per day, four days per week.

A university is an institution where students study for degrees and where academic research is done. As the definition, people go to the university because they want to study their major in-depth. Studying is the main duty of students, and universities have the obligation to offer students a better environment in which to study. According to the article, "Contrary to popular belief, not everyone wants campus libraries open 24/7", the author, Abigail Hasebroock, argued that "I know some want those spaces open so they can cram all night for exams or assignments. But maybe we should prioritize student employees, many of whom need the money to pay for crucial living expenses, before we prioritize students who can't manage their time well." This argument is questionable because not all students who study at dawn can't manage their time well. Every student has their lifestyle, schedule and personal issues; for example, there are some students who need to study late at night because they have to work part-time and study simultaneously. Just because some students don't manage their time efficiently, it doesn't mean a university doesn't have to care about other hard-working students' right to study. All students paid a lot of money to enter the university; to make a fair transaction between the university and the students, the students must receive benefits commensurate with the tuition.

The author, Abigail Hasebroock, claimed that "The dreaded graveyard shifts are back, which means FWS students (The FWS is a program that provides students with part-time employment to meet the costs of college) must work shifts from 1:30 to 7:30." However, there is another option; UF libraries can hire part-timers who are not university students. It also can increase employment opportunities and help students who do not have time to study during the day. In the article, "UF, Student Government have no plans to bring back 24-hour library despite demand," Patrick Reakes, UF Libraries Senior Associate Dean, Scholarly Resources and Services, said, "The cost to keep any of the libraries open 24 hours is about \$250,000 each year." It is not a low cost, but every year, 52,218 UF students pay \$28,659 tuition on average, so UF must be able to afford the cost. Also, if UF opens only one library 24/7, it would cost less.

In the article, "UF, Student Government have no plans to bring back 24-hour library despite demand," traditionally, Library West was a 24-hour library, but "the 24-hour schedule came to halt once COVID-19 hit, and it never came back." COVID-19

isn't over yet, but people are getting the vaccine and things are getting better than before. Face-to-face classes, gyms, and swimming pools are now available again, so why can't the 24-hour library come back?

Valeria Pena Sanchez

RW40

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UF

Do you know how the life of the international students at UF is? Do you want to study at UF? Students from different countries always come to UF because it is a really good option. Being an international students at UF has many goods effects such as learning English, knowing people and having better opportunities.

English is the most important language for business. If you need to learn English you need to go to UF. The English Language Institute offers intensive English programs that prepare students for using English in the real world. For example, you can use English to travel around the world, and you can use English to talk with people. You can use English for everything because it is the universal language.

If you go to UF you can know new people. The best way to meet people is to talk to them in your classes. You have a 99% chance to make new friends at UF. You can meet people of different countries like Venezuela, Colombia, China, India, and many more and you can know their cultures. In my class I have classmates from South Korea, from South Arabia and from Spain, and is really fun.

If you study at UF you have better opportunities to be a good professional. For example, you can be a excellent doctor, engineer or whatever you want to be. UF is one of the most important universities in the US. UF is in the 6th place in the best public universities in US. Graduating from UF makes you a professional.

In conclusion, being an international student at UF has many good effects on our lives. You can learn English at ELI, you can know new people from different countries and you have a better opportunities in the business world.

Adrian Bigott Garcia

RW42

My Amazing Trip to Boston

Today, I want to tell the story of when I traveled to Boston. I did this trip 3 years ago when I was sixteen. The main reason for this trip was because my brother was coming to the USA to start his English studies. I was very excited about traveling to Boston because it was my first time.

When I arrived in Boston, my first impression was that it was a very large city, one of the largest I have ever visited. The first activity we did was walk and get to know a little about the city, at that time it was Christmas, so everything was set like that, we had to wear quite heavy clothes since it was temperatures below minus 20.

Of all the places that I knew walking around Boston my favorite is the one of the little “Italia” because it had many Italian food restaurants, which is one of my favorite types of food, and a gelato place which for me is one of the best desserts created, but the part that I enjoyed the most of that trip was to melt the snow for the first time because I had never seen it in my life, and finally to have been able to a skier, which was another of my dreams.

In conclusion, this trip was quite important for me because I was able to discover a completely new place in which I could have new experiences and knowledge, moments that I will never forget.

Faisal Alsabi

RW 42

Travel to Paris

I have visited a lot of places around the world. Traveling is fun to me and its very interesting to me as well. But Paris in France is special for me. I love it more anywhere, every time I discover new places. Also, this country has old history associated with the important location. There are a lot of reason I recommend visiting Paris at least once in

a lifetime. In Paris you will find museums and shopping malls, landscapes in cities and suburbs, and restaurants and dessert.

First, when you visit Paris, you have to go to museums and shopping malls. One of distinctive museum is the Louvre. It was established in 1793, and it's one of the most famous museums in the world .Also, I like to take pictures beside the Eiffel Tower. Whoever built this tower has good mental and visual processes. It also has one of the most famous streets in the world, the Champs Elysees Street, and there is also the Arc de Triomphe. Furthermore, the shopping in Paris is amazing. They are specialist in fashion and perfumes. I like to visit Galeries Lafayette Mall because it has unique stores in one place, and it has many parades. Paris is my favorite place because it has a lot of options.

A second reason I recommend visiting Paris is landscape in cities and suburb. Paris has a lot of national parks. What I loved there was the view of the mountains and natural waterfalls .In the south of Paris there are many rose farms from which perfumes are made. And in the suburbs in the north of Paris, there are many chocolate factories .

Finally. Paris is distinguished by many good restaurants. For example, Entrecote Steak is one of my favorite seafood restaurants. In addition, One of the most famous French sweets is Macron and Crème Brûlée.

In conclusion, traveling around the world has many benefits, like to switch your subjective views while you are looking to the history in museums, discover the natural view around the city or eating different types of food and dessert. What is interesting about where you travel?

Malak Alzahrani

RW42

The educational journey is different from one person to another. Education is important for everyone who has goals and passion in his/her life. Additionally, education is not related to a specific age. I have learned at least one lesson new every day, and I'm able to increase my knowledge and information. My education started

when I was 5 years old, and I'm still learning till this moment. I faced many challenging situations during my long educational journey. In my Bachelor's life I went through several phases. First, I had to choose my major, then work hard during clinical stage, and finally graduate.

The first phase in my educational journey was choosing my major. Actually, my dream was to be a doctor since my early childhood and my passion grew with me. My father facilitated so many challenges for me and also, I had encouragement from my family to achieve my goals. For example, my father provided me a medical books and computer in early stage of my life. Furthermore, I love to help people and create happiness to them. This was the main reason for choosing dental surgery as a major.

Working hard during my clinical stage is another phase in my educational journey. Studying in medical field requires long hours of working hard. For example, many days I spent more than 12 hours in studying without time out. Furthermore, I had many patients and appointments every day. However, many times I was feeling tired and I wanted to give up and not complete this major, but I remembered my dream, so I attracted positive energy to myself and kept going to my planned dream. To be more specific, without working hard you can't achieve your goals

Yousef Alenezi

RW 40

Possible extinction

What do you know about koalas? Polar bears? These animals and others like them are facing possible extinction. There are many ways to help these animals and what is easy to do. On the other hand, there are other ways that causing animals extinction like: Global warming, natural disasters and forest fires.

First, global warming started to be a major problem less than 100 years ago. Factories smoke, cars pollution and materials burning are what causes global warming which affects the world badly. This action damaged polar bears in the North

Pole and Siberian tigers in china. To stop these animals becoming extinct, we must stop burning oil in factories and use solar power instead.

Also, another factor of possible extinction is natural disasters. Hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes are destroying animals' habitats. The wetlands are an example of destroyed animals' habitat. More than 50% of wetlands in the U.S was destroyed in the past 200 years. Human causes are also another factor of habitat destruction. Building in the woods is caused by human. To solve this problem, we need to provide new shelter for the endangered animals and provide health care to them.

In addition to global warming and natural disasters, forest fires are another cause of animal's extinction. Nowadays, forest fires is the major cause of this problem. Australian koalas started to become extinct by forest fires. In February 2020, more than 330,000 koalas perished in the fires. In California, more than 4 million acres have burned and caused many species death. A piece of advice, next time when you camp in a forest, put out your fire when you are finished.

In conclusion, the powerful ways to end these animals' life are increasing all the time. Global warming, natural disasters and forest fires are what causes the animals extinction. We need to act together, stop polluting and save the animals.

Ana Franzoi Simi Marson

RW42

Santa Catarina

Santa Catarina is a southern state that is very successful for its stunning beaches. The coastline of the state is one of the most beautiful in Brazil with beaches for all tastes, either for surfing or for enjoying the crystal clear sea. Those who like all kinds of weather will love this state because it has well defined seasons. The capital of the state is Florianopolis and is the leader in quality of life in the whole country.

Tourism is very strong, beaches, mountains, typical festivals and the largest theme park in Brazil called Beto Carrero World move tourism in the state all year round. Santa Catarina has the lowest unemployment rate and education has several schools

and universities with high level of study, in Santa Catarina we have one of the best public colleges in the country called UFSC.

The capital of the state is Florianopolis, which is an island with more than 100 beaches, known for being a city of happy and receptive people. The historical centers and the communities of Azorean origin enchant us with their culture, architecture and gastronomy. It is a great place to raise your children because of the many leisure options, beach, parks, trails and sports

Florianopolis is the city with the highest number of start ups per number of inhabitants in the country, being considered the most entrepreneurial city in the country. It is not at random that the city is called "Magic Island". Who comes to Santa Catarina never forgets its natural beauty and the receptivity of the people who live in this beautiful island blessed by God.

Camilla Darias Perez

RW42

Tucacas

Tucacas is a northern coastal town of Venezuela. It is the capital city of the Jose Laurencio Silva Municipality, located in the state of Falcon. It is mainly known for their beaches and landscapes. The Morrocoy National Park is located in the city, which represents one of the main tourist attractions in the country.

The best part of Tucacas is the Morrocoy National Park. It is the best place to take some vacations with your family or friends. Furthermore, it is also a good place to fish for those people who love to fish. In addition, one of the best keys of Tucacas that I love the most is called "Los Juanes" because it is a key without a shore. You are only surrounded by water with many boats around and a lot of people with music all day and night.

In conclusion, Tucacas is one of many places to visit in Venezuela, a place for a short or long vacation. This is one of the best places in Venezuela to spend time with your friends or family and to meet people from other cities.

Nadrah, Hisham M.

GM 1

The Memorable Day of My life

The memorable day was a day that means a lot for you. Either in a happy or sad way, such events, moments, experiences, or anything that has left a memory for you. Surely everyone has a special memorable day that they will never forget, and here is the most memorable day of my life. When my son came into my world. My wife and I were very excited at that moment. Before my wife delivered my little one, we decided to name him Abdulmalik. He came to us as a gift from God after that he brought happiness to us. I asked God to protect and give him a good life. We still remember that day each year when we celebrate his birthday. After that we thank God for all joy and happiness, he brings. Finally, life is full of memories. Try to remember everything makes you happy and push yourself to keep going in your life

Daniela De Gouveia Exposito

RW42

Salto Angel

Have you ever heard about the highest waterfall in the world?

If my ELI friends ask me for a recommendation about what places they would visit in Venezuela I wouldn't think too much, because I really have the perfect one and for me it is the most beautiful place that my country has, however, there are many incredible places in Venezuela that are indispensable to visit.

Angel Falls is the tallest uninterrupted waterfall in the world. The waterfall is different from the other ones for the undescribable features that it has. It has a height of 3,212 ft and plunge of 2,648 ft. It's located in the Canaima National Park in Gran Sabana, Bolivar. UNESCO named this natural creation as a world heritage.

This natural heritage was discovered by a U.S. aviator named Jimmie Angel. He discovered it while he was flying over the waterfall. The name originated for the person who was the first to explore it, nevertheless, many years later the president wanted to adjust the name for Kerepacupai-meru is a unique and strange name instead of Angel Falls, but that was never changed officially because the real name of how the people have notion of this place is by the first one.

This sector of Venezuela has a lot of protection, because it forms part of Venezuela's economy given that it is one of the most visited places for tourists all over the world. Many people from other countries have the desire to go there and visit for many reasons, such as, to learn new cultures; because the place where this waterfall is located has an extensive diversity, a lot of trips that are made for tourists and for investigations. Also, this place has many distinctive species from other countries, however, many of them are threatened. For that reason many people make plans to try to enforce the rules to keep the place safe and try to reverse the situation of the animals.

In conclusion, Angel Falls is one of the most successful places that the world has, and also has a lot of cultural immersion. Furthermore, it is extremely important that this place keeps it safe for more people in future to enjoy this beautiful place.

Jaden (Kukhyun Kim)

RW42

If I were a bird, I could fly to you

Have you ever dreamt of flying? "If I were a bird, I could fly to you." If you had studied the grammar of the subjective mood, you must have heard this sentence at least once. This is no longer a dream for me. I was a bird for a while because I went skydiving last month.

Skydiving has been on my bucket list since I was young. But I had never tried it because there is no place to skydive in South Korea, and I was so scared about it.

Fortunately, there are a lot of beautiful places to skydive. So I decided that I am going to go skydive with my friends. I tried to convince my friends and made it.

We went skydiving near Jacksonville on October 23rd. We skydived at 13500 feet and we freefell for 60 second, at 120+mph. To be honest, I was really worried before I jumped, but after skydiving, I could feel free with warm windy and see the beautiful landscape. I was able to experience 100% adrenaline while skydiving. When I came down to the ground, I couldn't control my excitement, so I jumped and ran around. I won't forget this experience and I was the most hyped I had in entire my life.

Do you want to have the most interesting experiences in your life? There is no reason not to make a reservation right now.

Maria Segura Navarro

RW 30

How to be Respectful and Patient

Have you ever had a disrespectful or impatient moment? So, tell us about your experience. On the other hand, I had a reason why I become respectful with every person. Now I'm going to tell you about it. It happened when I was eight years old. A neighbour who was an old man used to bother me all the time but he was not disrespectful. But one day he told me something that I didn't like. Also, I wasn't very patient, so I was very rude with him. He told my sister-in-law about it, and she scolded me and gave me some advice that marks me forever. Since that time, I have never been disrespectful with no reason. To the end I learned whatever happens with same adult be calm and just let it to go.

Lizbeth Chamorro

RW42

newborn bird

You there
Come down
The final leap of faith is futile
You are no newborn bird with a chance to fly
You will but fall
Surrender yourself to us, but never surrender to the unknown
Shine your light upon us and let us shine our own light upon your face
Look closely into our eyes
You will see fear and if you look deeper
You will see the same desire to know the unknown
Still though we stay grounded and wish for you to join us on the ground
Where we walk talk and think
Yet we can never attempt the final leap of faith like a newborn bird.

Bertha Lucia Rodriguez Pena

RW 42

Life in United State vs. Colombia

Waking up one day and seeing that people ate a lot of fast food for lunch surprised me, because in Colombia fast food is not consumed more than one day a week, and we are used to having dishes prepared with potatoes, rice and meat for lunch. I am Colombian, I lived a large part of my life in Bogota, I studied accounting and did a specialization in taxes and worked for more than 15 years in companies of the oil sector, but in 2016 with the fall in the price of oil, companies closed their operations and reduced their staff, as was the case of Petrobras that laid off 200 employees and this caused crucial economic and family difficulties. My family was affected by this situation because we depended on this income to live. For this reason, I decided to emigrate to the United States and start a new life here. I came to the United States four years ago, and I found there are several differences between living in the

United States and living in Colombia, such as language, distances, work, food and interpersonal relationships.

The first difference of living in the United States vs Colombia is the language because in Colombia the language is Spanish while in the United States it is English, this difference is strong because how people are going to communicate if they do not understand each other. However, even if you have some knowledge of English, it is difficult because the pronunciation is different and if we add that people feel insecure to speak it, this is a great limitation when one travels. *For example*, in my case when I arrived at the Miami airport, I did not understand anything and I felt insecure and shy. I can answer some basic questions, but when they asked me where I was staying, I did not know how to pronounce the address. With great luck a Cuban officer approached, and he helped me. This is very difficult, because if you decide to come to live you must be willing to learn the language. That is the most basic of the process of living in the United States because if you cannot communicate you will feel frustrated, isolated and limited that is why I decided to study at ELI, to improve my knowledge of English.

The second difference of living in the United States vs Colombia is the distances because in the United States to go to the supermarket, the drugstore or the cafeteria you must go by car. Most cars are automatic and the traffic signals are handled differently. *For example*, at the stop sign you must completely stop the vehicle, and when you are near a school bus you must stop your vehicle, different from Colombia that everything is close. *For example*, supermarkets, drugstores, cafeterias, people can go walking, most cars are mechanical, and stop sign you slow down, look at your surroundings for safety and continue. If you are near a school bus you drive carefully but do not stop. This also impacted me because I was driving in Colombia but when I arrived in the United States, I decided to take the course to drive and learn about traffic laws and even learn to drive an automatic car, which is much easier.

Another difference of living in the United States vs Colombia are the ways of working because in the United States you work 40 or 20 hours a week depend if you have a full time or a part time. In contrast, in Colombia people work 48 hours a week but there are activities that are constant and demand a lot of time and dedication. In

my case I worked in the accounting department and, for example, at the end of the month or the end of the year it took more than 48 hours because many records had to be made and all the reports had to be submitted to the headquarters and this took a long time.

Furthermore, food is another different of living in the United States vs Colombia, because in the United States you find many fast-food establishments and people very often eat a hamburger or pizza and soda for lunch. Whereas, in Colombia always a complete meal for lunch. for example, you eat two carbohydrates, protein, beans, do not eat much salad and people drink juice. In my house I taught my children to eat salad too, and fast food were for the weekend or for something special, this generated a way to eat for my family.

Finally interpersonal relationships are another difference between living in the United States vs Colombia. In the United States, people say hello, how are you for greeting and there is no physical contact. People are independent and careful not to be too close to other people, they only talk to people they know or friends, and they become independent from their parents at 18. Whereas in Colombia, for example, the family or friends' group, women greet with kisses and me, shake hands and sometimes hug each other, the mother is always greeted with a kiss and a hug. When a new member arrives in the family or to the group of friends that member introduces himself to each one individually with a greeting and not in a general way. Family and friends are close and take care of what happens to the other, and provide support. People all over the country greet strangers, and conversations are struck with the bus driver, the owner of the cafeteria, and the neighbor, and sometimes very close friendships emerge. Young people become independent at 25 years or more, and they always have the family for what they need. They are independent but they always have the family if they need something not only material, but also advice. In my family I am a widow and I have two children, and my children are independent, but all three of us support each other permanently to get ahead, we support each other financially and we also share things when things are not going well, we give each other advice and we are always there to support each other and to encourage us.

In conclusion, living in the United States vs Colombia has many differences such as the way of communicating, the distances, the time dedicated to work and the possibility of having two jobs, also the difference in the meals and the way of relating to relatives, and friends, but we also find great similarities in these two countries such as respect for the human being, they like sports like soccer, the game is different but they are passionate about watching soccer matches. I am very happy to live in the United States, and although I am a mature woman, I have had a great learning experience, and I hope to continue learning and living in the United States for many years.

Sofia Escalante Borrego

RW42

"El Morro"

Many of ELI's students are from different parts of the world, such as Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Spain and Venezuela. I am from Venezuela, specifically from Lecheria. Lecheria is a tourist city, with beautiful beaches perfect for kayaking and swimming and also great beachfront restaurants. In addition, people usually exercise around the neighborhood in Lecheria. But definitely my favorite place in all of Lecheria is "El Morro".

Cerro el Morro is located in the state of Anzoátegui, in the municipality of Lecheria, which is the smallest municipality in Venezuela and the richest in the country. It is a large hill overlooking the ocean, with large plots of land, gardens, with perfect places to take photos. It is a place full of history where you can find "El fortín de la Magdalena," a tourist place that is almost always full of tourists, athletes, citizens who go to take photos, and learn about the history of Lecheria

"El Morro" is one of the most beautiful places that has Lecheria for its inhabitants and tourists. With incredible viewpoints, many of the people often go for a bike ride, while watching the beautiful sunset. In addition, many people often walk along the beach with their grandparents, friends or partner to exercise. Also, "El Morro" has places

where people usually go to practice driving. On the other hand, many of the couples in love go "to the Morro" to eat in the restaurants overlooking the sea.

"El Morro" is my favorite place because it gave me the best memories and brings back many memories full of nostalgia and great turning points in my life, like when I went to the viewpoint with my two grandparents to celebrate their anniversary, and also when I was cycling along the shores of the beach with my friends and we laughed a lot. I also sat in Fortín de la Magdalena to appreciate the best sunsets that Lecheria offers me.

In general, El Morro is the perfect place to go out, since it gives you several options to distract yourself in your free time, such as walking along its beautiful beaches with your partner, friends or family, also if you are more adventurous to climb, and if you are a more relaxed person there are restaurants where you can go eat. It is certain that Lecheria will remain in a special place of your heart with the beautiful memories that it will give you.

Luz Garcia Murillo

RW42

Strategies for Combatting Deforestation

Trees are vital to preserving life on Earth, but as we all know, they are also being destroyed at an alarming rate. Many of the decisions we make in our day to day when we eat, buy, or even drive, are induced by deforestation. Deforestation is the action of cutting down a forest to give it a use other than conservation, such as agriculture, pasture, livestock or any type of construction. Other causes of deforestation are mining and oil exploitation, urbanization, acid rain and forest fires. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), more than 133,000 million square meters of jungle and forest are lost annually and are responsible for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans **(Ecology and Environment, 2017)**. Deforestation also contributes to air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity, erosion, and climate change. Therefore, to combat this worldwide problem, it is necessary to

implement some strategies, such as planting new areas of forests, increasing investment in research, and applying policies and legislative measures.

A relatively simple and effective way to combat tree felling is to plant new trees. Large-scale tree planting is definitely an important part of the deforestation slowdown. The challenge with this strategy is that it is sometimes implemented with a local focus away from the affected area. For example, replacing a felled rubber tree in the Amazon with an oak tree in England has no impact on the damage on a local level. Therefore, the planting of new forests is vital, but needs to be directly targeted to the area of impact. Another alternative is to increase the areas in forest plantations with fast-growing species such as pine and eucalyptus, which reduce the pressure on natural forests to obtain wood, fodder and firewood demands, in addition to contributing with high amounts of carbon sequestration.

Furthermore, it is necessary to increase investment in research. With the development of more research, the problem, its causes and its mitigation can be better understood. There is a lack of knowledge and information in the wider community about forests and forestry. Forest managers and those who develop forest policies need a comprehensive education and need to appreciate the complexity of the ecological, economic, social, cultural interaction and political factors involved (**Chakravarty et al, 2012**). Therefore, it is necessary to improve the information base and follow up. Knowing how much forest, where it is and what it is made of seems to be straightforward, but surprisingly this most basic information is not always available. You cannot properly manage a forest ecosystem without understanding it first. In this way, specialists must carry out more research accompanied by the latest technologies and in this case detection technologies make it feasible and affordable to identify critical points of deforestation.

The ultimate strategy to combat deforestation is to implement legislative and regulatory policies and measures. Considering that a wide variety of policies have already been established, in order to protect forests, they need to be implemented effectively (**Chakravarty et al, 2012**). Of course, modifications or adjustments are required for specific site conditions. Laws, policy and legislation must be such that it

encourages local population and participation in forest management and conservation together with the protection of traditional rights and tenure of the people with a legitimate distribution of the benefits. Currently, informal enforcement and compliance mechanisms are used to prevent deforestation and environmental problems, so it is necessary to include more forceful actions to prevent deforestation such as cancellation of work orders, fines, arrests, and court action **(Chakravarty et al, 2012)**.

There is no doubt that global deforestation is a problem that affects us all and that requires urgent attention from local governments, communities and specialists on the subject, in order to carry out actions such as mass planting of trees of the appropriate species for the sites that have had the greatest impact, increase investment in research so that through greater knowledge about the causes, more effective actions can be implemented and finally the effective application of policies and legislative measures that contribute to raising awareness of the importance of forests for life on our planet. Taking into account that it is necessary to simultaneously execute all possible strategies to curb deforestation figures and that the recovery of deforested areas in the world requires a long time, it is possible that for many years we will not see the effects of these actions. However, it is vital that they are carried out immediately because otherwise the consequences would be devastating for life on earth.

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Diego Velasquez

RW 42

Living with your roommates

Certainly, most of us, at one point in our lives get to live with a roommate, maybe in a summer camp or in the most common cases at college. Furthermore, for that to be accomplished successfully, the roommates must have to establish some rules or agreements that they have to respect and fulfill, so that new partnership can preserve. There are many effects of living with roommates, such as respecting each other and an opportunity for understand people.

One of the biggest effects of living with your roommates is respect for each other. In particular, when people start to live together, they commence to share several of time together and they begin a friendship that could lead in best friends. For example, I have a friend that was setup with a random roommate and now they are great friends. Although, most people like to have company most of the time, also, some roommates have qualities that you will not like; for example, my friend Max went to a camp where people were disrespectful and not organized; as a result, Max ask for a room change because he do not want to be with these people.

Another effect of having roommates is a situation in which you get the opportunity to learn and understand the importance of negotiation. In my case, I have had rough times these few months with one of my roommates, which have actually taught me things about myself, and how I will like my home to be in the future. Besides, I have also learned to appreciate how valuable it is everything that they teach us in our houses while growing up, because that's how we represent ourselves when we move out.

To conclude, living with roommates is an experience that I consider everyone should live. Because, even though it has bad parts, for me it is actually the perfect way to understand people and get to know yourself better. If you want to live with your roommate, you should remember these two effects.

Victoria Salas Gutierrez

RW42

Los Roques: A Wonderful Place

Los Roques is one of the most beautiful places in Venezuela. The people at ELI should visit Los Roques because most of them do not know about this incredible place. Going there is a unique experience that you cannot find in any other country. The food and how the people who live there treat you when you go is incredible because you feel like home. There are a lot of good things about Los Roques but I want to talk about why this place is so important to Venezuelan people.

In Los Roques, it is normal to fish every day, and that is the food of the vast majority of people on the the archipelago. This generates the people from other parts of the country to be consumers of what is fished. Also, sports like, skydiving and water sky are very common in this area. For example, people just go to Los Roques to skydive because it has beautiful landscapes and it is incredible to see them. Additionally, this place has a lot of contrast of the social and economy sectors, the majority of the population here is poor but what is does is such a magical place is that it is a lifestyle in which is based on the simplicity and they are used to live of the tourism and they make the people who visit them feel in their maximum comfort.

In conclusion, I think Los Roques is a place where anyone should visit at some point in their life. The feeling when you go there is inexplicable and a large majority of the tourism there are people from other countries. That is why I recommend the people at the ELI to go. It is an incredible experience since you can do many activities in one place and get to know new places.

Yun Sun Chang**RW42****Hidden travel destinations in Korea**

When traveling, do you like to relax while looking at the wonderful natural scenery, or do you like to do various hands-on activities? I prefer both. For those like me, I would like to introduce you to a wonderful travel destination in Korea where you can enjoy various activities with wonderful natural scenery.

This is a place called Yeongwol-si, Gangwon-do. Gangwon-do is the northernmost state in South Korea, with a lot of snow and mountains. Because there are many mountains, you can feel a cool valley in summer and enjoy the ski resort in winter. And there are wonderful nature and fun activities.

The most beautiful natural scenery in Yeongwol is the land that resembles the topography of the Korean Peninsula. It looks exactly like the Korean Peninsula, and it is also fun to see different landscapes from season to season. Looking at this place, I felt like I was looking at a small Korean Peninsula on the Korean Peninsula, so it was very interesting. And it was nice to be able to smell the fresh air while looking at the green trees.

Recommended activities include lifting in the valley. It is an activity that goes down the valley while boarding in one boat together. You can feel the cool wind in the valley, and you can enjoy boarding and enjoying it by exercising cooperation with your friends and family. But friends and family can drop you into the valley, so be careful.

Yeongwol is not a famous tourist destination in Korea abroad, but it is the best destination with beautiful nature and fun activities. If you haven't been there, I recommend that you go there, and if your foreign friends come to Korea, I hope you can see and experience it.



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