



The ELI Weekly

Out and About: The Whale Highway in Timor-Leste Seas

The sea area in my country, Timor-Leste, is bigger than the land area. The sea covers about 610,000 km² (235,000 square miles) whereas the land has around 14,950 square kilometers (5,770 sq. mi). All of this ocean provides a watery 'highway' for different species of whales and dolphins. Every October to November, many people from all over the world especially scientists and underwater photographers participate in the whale watching events. Amazing giant marine mammals, such as blue whales, are moving from South West Australia heading toward the Banda Sea. Here are some amazing facts about blue whales:

by Jake Lasi, RW 51



Photo credit: Dreamers Dive Academy

- Blue whales can grow to over 33 meters (around 100ft) in length, which is over twice as long as a T-Rex dinosaur – and makes them the largest animal species on Earth!
- The calf of a blue whale is around 7 meters in length, around the same as an adult African elephant.
- The largest blue whales found have weighed around 200 tons.
- The heart of a blue whale can weigh 450kg, the same size of a piano.
- They have loud, deep voices and can communicate with other whales hundreds of miles away.

For those of you who haven't seen this gigantic aquatic animal, please put Timor-Leste and its whale highway on your bucket list. You may see them from the shore, and it is possible to see from 5 -20 blue whales in a day. It costs \$280 - \$350 to get on board, and you may swim with them if you make sure to follow the whale watching policy. You might also see other cetaceans, like sperm whales, orca whales, pygmy blue whales, melon-headed whales, spinner dolphin, Risso's dolphin, and more.

CIP Weekday Activities

Monday, October 21st – Coffee Talk – 6:30-9:00pm



Socialize with LAs and ELI friends at the **Panera on Archer Road!** Play games, speak English, and drink a coffee or get dinner at the restaurants nearby! Take bus 1, 12, or 34.

Address: 3443 SW Archer Rd Suite 1A, Gainesville, FL 32608

Tuesday, October 22nd – Volleyball – 6:30-9:00pm



Play volleyball and hang out at **Lexington Crossing Apartments Phase 2 Volleyball Courts!** No experience necessary! You can also socialize on the side if you're not interested in playing. Take bus 35.

Address: 3700 SW 27th St, Gainesville, FL 32608

Wednesday, October 23rd – Soccer—6:30-9:00pm



Come play soccer at **Flavet Field** on campus! No experience necessary! You can also socialize on the side if you're not interested in playing.

Address: Woodlawn Dr, Gainesville, FL 32603

Thursday, October 24th – Pumpkin Painting at the Bat Houses – 5:00-7:30pm



Get into the Halloween spirit and paint pumpkins! Pumpkin carving and painting are an American and Halloween tradition you will want to try here! The spooky vibes continue at sunset when we watch the bats, a symbol of the Halloween season, fly out at night from the houses on campus! Meet in front of Lake Alice at 5pm. Take bus 20 or 21. Pumpkins may run out so be on time.

Address: Museum Rd, Gainesville, FL 32611, United States

Friday, October 25th – Reitz Game Room/Gator Nights – 6:30-9:00pm



Hang out with friends in the **Reitz Game Room!** You can go bowling, play pool, and play board games! Bring your Gator1 ID for cheaper rates. See all the fun activities the Reitz has planned for the Gator Nights! Make sure to bring your ID and check in. Meet in the Game Room then go around the Reitz for all the activities.

Address: 655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611

WEEKEND EVENT - TWO EVENTS THIS WEEK

Saturday, October 26th - Micanopy Fall Festival - 9:30am to 12:30pm



See the small historic town of Micanopy just outside Gainesville as they celebrate the Fall season with food, vendors, crafts, auctions, music, and more! Shop for gifts, art, food, and other local goods during this annual tradition with ELI friends.

Meet at Norman Parking Garage.

You must sign up to attend this event. Car spaces are limited:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4BA9A823A02-52324555-micanopy>

Saturday, October 26th - Haunted Houses at Kirby Farms - 6:15pm to 10:30pm

Experience the spooky fun of Halloween with some local haunted houses and other scary, immersive experiences with friends! Have a scream and a laugh and check out all the scary costumes and sets that this local farm has created just for this season!

It is essential you come on time because there are multiple houses and experiences and there will be lines and wait times. The cost is 25 dollars at the gate, but you also can purchase your ticket online for a small discount. Bring extra money for snacks and food if you are interested!



Please note: During this event, staff at the haunted houses will try to scare you. If you do not like jump scares or scary movies, it is not a good idea to attend this event.

Meet at Norman Parking Garage.

You must sign up to attend this event. Car spaces are limited:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4BA9A823A02-52324792-kirby>

Other CIP Reminders

Conversation Partners (CPs)



Want to meet with a fluent English speaker and make a new friend? Sign up for a CP! If you choose to sign up, you must meet with your partner for one hour a week. It can take up to two weeks to get a partner from when you sign up. Please sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/CZoP2zQ7nxWD4wcA8>

Please email Rachel at conversationpartners@eli.ufl.edu for any issues, questions or concerns or visit her in the CIP Office during office hours.

CIP Passports

Don't forget to get your CIP Passport hole punched from the activity leaders AT the event (not after). **We don't hole punch passports after the event.** Redeem your completed passport for a small gift, a photo for the ELI Instagram, and your name published in the ELI weekly!

Need a new CIP Passport? Stop by the CIP Office!

Remember the CIP Pineapple is hidden in a new place every Monday in the CIP office. Stop by and find it for hole punches!

Notes from the Office

People Out: Christine is out of the office from Oct. 18-Oct. 24 and from Oct. 31-Nov. 5. Tara is out of the office from Oct. 28-Oct. 29. Please plan around these dates if you need to talk to Christine or Tara.

No Classes: Monday, October 28 is an instructor workday. There are no ELI classes, but the main office will be open, and there will be a CIP activity.

Community College Workshop: Representatives from the Santa Fe College and the College of Central Florida will speak to ELI students on Wednesday, October 30, at 5:00pm in Matherly Hall. We will announce the room number next week. This is great opportunity to learn about SF and CF, hear about the application process and timeline, and you can meet their International Student Services team.

Student Voices



Every semester, we have amazing student writers, so we take your writing and publish it in an online collection called Student Voices. In past semesters, students have written paragraphs, essays, creative stories, recipes, letters, obituaries, poetry, and more. You can see past editions of Student Voices (<https://eli.ufl.edu/news-publications/>, scroll to the bottom of the page) for inspiration.

We encourage you to submit anything of your work that you wish to see published. It can be from any class or something you have written on your own but ask your teachers for help editing! You can email it to Olga Moody (omoodu@ufl.edu) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission. The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 1st.

Photo of the Week: Reitz Game Room



Birthdays!

Students:

- Belated birthday wishes to Alwaleed Aldahery, 10/14
- Alejandra Florian Gonzalvez, 10/24
- Moatasem Gashgari, 10/24

Staff:

- none



Manners & Culture

Q: What should I do when I come to class late? I like to say hi, but my instructor didn't respond.

In US universities, when you come in late and the instructor is already talking, it is common to sit down quietly and listen. After the instructor gives the announcements and instructions, then you can ask a classmate what you missed and apologize to your instructor for being late.

Grammar

Q: Do I need a comma before a FANBOYS conjunction in all cases?

A: You need one in a compound sentence with a FANBOYS conjunction or in a series of 3 or more items, but not with only 2 items.

- I like to eat hamburgers, but my sister dislikes them.
- I eat Halloween candy for every meal, yet I do not get sick.
- I like to eat hamburger, fries, and ice cream.
- I like to eat carrots and yogurt.

Joke of the Week

Q: What is a ghost's favorite dessert?

A: I-scream!

Notes From the Editor



Come by my office (221 MAT) and help me write the *Out and About* section! There are so many topics to write about—a fun activity, an interesting place on campus, a club or hobby that you enjoy, or even tell us about a place to visit in your country. Bring a photo of your experience and put it in the Weekly.

Send stories and grammar, manners, or culture questions to Maya Shastri (mshastri@ufl.edu).



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