

# Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Volunteer Day

*Help others while helping yourself!*

This Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our next **Volunteer Day** of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

**Summerville Retirement Home**—Come play bingo, chess, and other games with the elderly at Summerville! Practice speaking English while playing games with new friends. Meet us at the Cabana Beach Rental Office at 2:30pm, and we will return around 5pm.

**Fishing for Success** — Fishing for Success is an event put on by UF as an activity to help the underprivileged youth of Gainesville. We can catch (and release) a catfish, bluegill or sunshine bass; and soak up a little sunshine. Come get to know a few of your Gainesville neighbors. We will volunteer to help make this event a success. We will also help serve lunch to the families. We will

meet at Norman Garage at 9:15am and return around 2pm.

**Humane Society** – Come and play with animals waiting for adoption at the Alachua County Humane Society! Be sure to wear long pants and closed-toed shoes. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 9:30am and return around 3pm.

**St Francis House**—Help us paint and work on a project to improve homeless shelters. Be sure to wear clothes that can get dirty. We will meet at Norman Garage at 1:30 and return around 5pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

### Class Photo

The ELI Class picture for Fall, 2008 will be taken at the front of Tigert Hall



on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:35pm. We will walk over together from Norman Hall at 12:25 from L/S Classes or LA hours. For classes not in Norman Hall, please gauge your time to arrive at Tigert Hall by 12:35. For any and all students not taking Listening/Speaking classes, as well as all other teachers, LAs, and any other ELI personnel who wants to participate, we very much would like to encourage you to come and join us for the picture.

### B-Term Countries

We have a very large number of countries represented among our B-Term Students! The following is our representation, based on the countries of students' passports:

Brazil	Korea
Burkina Faso	Niger
Chad	Saudi Arabia
China	Spain
Colombia	Sri Lanka
Costa Rica	Syria
France	Taiwan
Guatemala	United Arab Emirates
Italy	USA
Japan	Venezuela
Jordan	Vietnam

### Notes from the Office

- **Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**—ELI Classes will end at 2:45pm on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have Reading/Writing from 3-5 in the afternoon, there will be no class for you on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> (The day before Thanksgiving). **All other ELI Classes will meet as normal on this day.**
- **Veteran's Day Holiday**—There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for the Veteran's Day Holiday. Also, there will be no RTS Bus service or mail delivery on this

day, and government offices will be closed as well.

## The Next Trip

Our next trip will be to **Busch Gardens** on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 1:50pm on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> to walk over to the TRiP Office to purchase our transportation passes. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Activity Schedule

Day/Time	Activity	Location/Cost
Monday 5:30 PM	Soccer (Stephan)	Norman Field Free
Tuesday 8:30 PM	Tea Lounge at the Hookah Hutt (Forest and Heather)	Hookah Hutt Cost Varies
Wednesday 7:00	Coffee Talk (Megan)	Starbuck's on Archer Rd. Free; bring money for coffee and food if you like
Thursday 8:00	Ultimate Frisbee (Natalie)	Meet at NRN Garage Free
Friday 6:00	Gator Nights Movies, Pool, Bowling (Nate)	Meet at Reitz Union Information Desk Movie—free Pool and bowling varies (Bring UFID)

\*Activities may be added or cancelled during the semester\*  
**See you every week!!**  
*No equipment or experience necessary!!!*

## Birthdays

The following are the ELI Birthdays for the period November 7-13:

Students:  
 November 10: Misa Hanano  
 November 10: Alejandro Ramirez

Staff:  
 November 9: Lia Breneman

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why is it incorrect to call my teacher "teacher"?*

A: Every society has different rules and customs for what to call people in positions of authority.

In US society, we only address our teachers as "teacher" when we are very young children, if at all. Otherwise, we call our teachers by Mr. or Ms. and the family name. In college, when many teachers hold doctoral degrees, we address them as Dr. or Professor along with the last name.

Here at the ELI, we do want to foster a more collegial and team atmosphere. Most of the teachers here do not have Doctorates; the Masters is considered the high degree for teaching ESL. Use of the first name here is considered a preferred choice.

*Q: In my country, I can't wear flip-flops to school, but here it is obviously common. Why?*

A: And you'll find that it's even different from place to place here in the US. Fashion and what is/is not acceptable at school is a very regional thing here. For example, your Manners Columnist is a teacher here at the ELI, and I wear shorts most every day. In some universities in northern, cooler climates, this would be very unusual. However, here in Gainesville, fashion is different because it follows the warmer weather patterns, and it's a good thing...because most days, I'd probably come to class drenched in sweat otherwise!

The same convention applies to footwear. Gainesville and a great deal of Florida (with the exception of some private schools) just have different rules regarding the appropriateness of various fashion trends.

## Grammar

*Q: When can I use "get" instead of "go", as in, "I get to work," vs. "I go to work"?*

A: Rarely, actually. This structure simply means, "arrive". It's usually used when we want to indicate that nothing is going to happen until after the arrival, as in, "I'll do it as soon as I get to work."

## Quote of the Week

I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities.  
*Whoopi Goldberg*

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