

# The ELI Weekly



Our Director,  
**Megan Forbes**,  
has a message for  
you:

Welcome students!

On behalf of the faculty, language assistants, staff and administration, I would like to welcome you to the University of Florida English Language Institute. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are a new student, we hope you come to love UF as much as we all do. We hope you soon become proud to be a member of the "Gator Nation."

We hope that in our classes our many years of experience combined with the new research found at an AAU university can help you achieve your goal of learning English. You should know that each and every one of our teachers and language assistants will be doing everything they can to help you achieve your goals. I hope you can

## Welcome!

*New and returning students alike, we're glad to see you!*

tell how much everyone enjoys teaching and learning here. But, no matter how strong a program we have, we can always find ways to improve it. If you have suggestions, please share them with us. We want you to love the classes here as much as we do.

Of course, you are not here simply to attend class – you could have stayed home to do that! The great benefit to studying English in the US is that you are surrounded by English every day. Here at the ELI we provide you with every opportunity to practice English. We have two language assistants (LAs) to help with every level. We have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. We have afternoon activities with LAs every single day after class. We have a conversation partner program. We regularly volunteer in the community. We publish the *Student Voices* each semester and the *ELI Weekly* each week. In short, we try to provide every opportunity possible for you to use the language you are learning.

I urge you to take advantage of all of these opportunities. I promise, if you were to speak to all of your friends studying English at other universities, you would not find any program which provides the number of hours of English language practice we have here at the ELI. Please don't waste this opportunity – get involved outside of class!

So, in closing, Welcome! And always remember...

Speak English and Go Gators!

## Weekend Activity

On Saturday, September 3rd, at noon we will be enjoying the **Welcome Picnic**. Please join us for food, games, and conversation! Bring your friends and family!

**Where:** Norman Courtyard, in the center of Norman Hall

**It is completely FREE!**

## Questions?

We want all of you to feel as comfortable as possible while you are studying with us here at the ELI. If you have any questions, your teachers, your Language Assistants, our staff members or administrators are here to help you, so please ask us anything.

For specific questions about I-20s and other immigration matters, or university or community college admissions, please see **Daryl** **Bish**, our Admissions Coordinator, in 223 Matherly.

For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, see **Victoria** **Shelly**, the Student Life Coordinator, in 223 Matherly.

## Deadlines

Thursday, September 8th is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all required paperwork or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See the office staff in Room 223 Matherly for any questions.

**Tuition:** If you're paying with a bank check or money order, please pay before 1:30pm. If you're paying with a credit card online, please pay before midnight.

**Immunization:** Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm.

**Health Insurance:** Proof of health insurance is due by 4:30pm. No exceptions.

**Drop/Add:** The last opportunity to add or drop a class is by 4:30pm.

## Important Reminders

**Phone Home:** If you haven't called home to let your family know you are here, please try to do it as soon as possible.

**Class Attendance:** Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.

**Smoking:** There is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. This means you should not be smoking anywhere on campus, including the courtyard inside Norman Hall, the courtyard outside of Matherly Hall, the private property surrounding any UF buildings, or any other building on the UF campus.

**Sports and Activities:** The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, are holding regular sports and activities each evening of the week. We also have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. Details will be on the Activities Board outside 211 Matherly and in each week's Weekly.

## Manners, Culture, & Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Christine Voigt. You will receive the *Weekly* each week during your Reading/Writing class.

As you can see, the *ELI Weekly* gives you important news about what is happening at the ELI. The *Weekly* also answers **your** questions. If you want to know how Americans behave in certain situations or why they do the things they do, ask me. If you want to know how to say something correctly or why we say things the way we do, ask me. You may ask me in person (220A MAT), email me at [christinevoigt@ufl.edu](mailto:christinevoigt@ufl.edu), or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, 223 MAT, box marked **Voigt**) anytime the office is open.

## Quote of the Week

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

**William Arthur Ward**

## Notes From the Office

**Labor Day:** Monday, September 5th, is Labor Day. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on this day. There will be no RTS bus service this day. Classes will start on Tuesday, September 6th.

**Class Attendance:** Your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.

**Withdrawing from the ELI or one course:** Students who withdraw from a course or from the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide

## Student Voices

Every semester, we publish a collection of writing by you, our students, in the ELI Student Voices, edited by Melina Jimenez. You may submit anything of your work that you wish. Past submissions have included paragraphs, essays, poetry, creative stories, class projects, and other interesting works on a variety of topics. If you want to turn something in for publication, simply give it to your teacher, or e-mail Christine at [christinevoigt@ufl.edu](mailto:christinevoigt@ufl.edu). Include your name and class on your submission. Teachers, this makes for a great project for all classes--not just Reading/Writing.

The deadline for submissions is November 18th. Submit early!



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