

# The ELI Weekly



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

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 tell how much

## Welcome Students!

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

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 7th, at noon we will be enjoying the **Welcome Picnic**. Please join us for food, games, and conversation! Bring your friends and family!

**Where:** Lawn in front of Norman Hall

**When:** September 7th at 12 p.m.

**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 Bishop**, our Admissions Coordinator, in Matherly 223.

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

## Deadlines

**Thursday, September 7th** 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 Matherly 223 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.

**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.

**Food:** If you haven't gone grocery shopping yet, this weekend is a great time to go. Make sure to get lots of healthy snacks that you can eat between classes!

**Sports and Activities:** The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, will have 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 Matherly 211 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.

## Birthdays!

Each week, this section of the *ELI Weekly* will list all of the birthdays for our students and staff that occur during the week.

**REMEMBER:** in the US, the birth date is written month/day/year. If you submitted yours as day/month/year on your forms, then it will appear wrong in the *Weekly*. Please let the office know so it can be fixed on your forms.

If you don't want your birthday listed, let Christine V know!

## Notes from the Office

**Labor Day:** Monday, September 4th, 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 5th.

**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

## Student Voices

We love to see our students writing, but more than that, we like to see the writing in print.

Every semester, we take your writing and publish it in *Student Voices*. Past submissions have included paragraphs, essays, creative stories, recipes, letters, obituaries, poetry, creative stories, class projects, and other interesting works on a variety of topics. I 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 me ([christinevoigt@ufl.edu](mailto:christinevoigt@ufl.edu)) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, November 17th**. Don't wait: submit early!



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