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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
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Busch Gardens

Theme Park Fun!

Busch Gardens is a theme park in Tampa. It is famous for its roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the roller coasters is "Sheikra", that has two 90 degree angle drops making it the first coaster of its kind in the Americas and only the third in the world. This is one of the most popular trips of the semester, don't miss it!

For more information visit their website at www.buschgardens.com

WHEN: Saturday, February 5th. We will meet at the Norman Hall garage at 9:30am. The park will be open until 10:00pm. Depending on the group decision, we may return to Gainesville as late as 12:00midnight. We will go rain or shine.

TRANSPORTATION: This is a van trip so you must have already purchased a pass from the CIP.

COST: The cost of transportation is \$20 for a seat in the van. Busch Gardens admission tickets for Florida residents are \$77.99. **Bring your Gator 1 card or Florida driver's license to prove that you are a Florida resident.**

You can buy your admission ticket to Busch Gardens now and use it as many times as you want until December 31, 2011.

Bring money for food and souvenirs.

Notes from the Office

- **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.
- **Student Mailbox**--Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.
- **ELI T-Shirts**--Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Sonja in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

Stair Sitting

The ELI has received a request to ask you to please not block the

small sets of stairs in front of 331 as it could be a safety hazard.

Please try to avoid sitting on these stairs and, if you are sitting on them when someone needs to pass, please move out of the way.

Thanks for your help with this!

Correction

It has been brought to our attention that when we published the names of countries and areas represented at the ELI week before last, we inadvertently left out **Iraq**. We regret the error!

Gatorlink Accounts

To help ELI's ability to communicate with students quickly and efficiently, all students are required to open a UF Gatorlink email account. This is important for two main reasons:

1. All communication from ELI teachers and administration will be sent to your UF Gatorlink account.

2. In order to use the UF computer labs, you must open a Gatorlink account.

It will be important for you to check your email account regularly. To open a Gatorlink account, you will need to follow these steps:

1. Pay tuition and be issued a UFID number from the ELI main office.
2. Get your UFID card from Gator 1 Central located in Room G071 in the welcome center at the J.W. Reitz Union
3. Go online – Navigate to <http://my.ufl.edu> and click on Gatorlink Account Creation to create your account.

Or

Go in person – The UF Computing Help desk can help you create your Gatorlink ID. Please bring your Gator 1 card.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Saturday, February 12th, we will be holding a **Valentine's Day Party**. Details about the party will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 4-10:

Students:

February 4: Mohammad Jassam
February 5: Jee Yun Khu

February 7: Abdullah Albahouth
February 7: Abdullah Ashkanani

Staff:

February 4: Scott Challgren

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why are American people so quiet all of the time?

A: Depends on your perspective. For people from some cultures, such as the Latino or Arab cultures, we are relatively quiet. For people of other cultures, such as Chinese, Japanese, or Korean, we talk quite a bit.

Q: Should I say, "Excuse me" or "Pardon me" if people are blocking my way?

A: Both are perfectly acceptable.

Q: When someone invites you to an American house what is the best way to be polite with the hosts?

A: By showing up on time. Unlike many other cultures, when we give a time for you to come to our house, that is actually the time that we expect you. Also, you may take a small gift, such as chocolate, flowers, or (only if you know your hosts drink alcohol) wine. This part is not required, however. It's appreciated, but not expected.

Q: Can you tell me how to greet people in a group of different ages in the US?

A: "Hi."

We don't make age distinctions in English the way that some languages do.

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between "ought to", "should", and "must"?

A: There is no difference in meaning between "ought to" and "should" in a positive statement. "Ought to" isn't used much in negative statements or questions, and it's not used in formal writing. Both of them mean that something is advisable, but you have a choice. "Must" means that you don't have a choice.

Q: If we only use the article "the" in front of country names, why do we say, "The United Kingdom"?

A: Because the plural isn't the whole story. We use the definite article in front of countries that represent groups, as well as republics and anything that uses an "of" phrase. So, we used to say (when it existed), "the Soviet Union," and we say, "the Dominican Republic".

Quote of the Week

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

--Benjamin Lee Whorf

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