

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Spring Break

*Relax! Enjoy!*

Just in case you aren't already aware of it, our Spring Break is next week! Since we have no scheduled trip this week and there is no major news, we thought that this week we might let you know that there are quite a few things that you can do if you don't already have plans. Even if you're staying here in town, there is a good bit that you can find right here!

If you do not yet have any plans for Spring Break, we have some suggestions for you! Within an easy day's drive from Gainesville, you will find Atlanta at one end and Miami at the other, with Savannah, Jacksonville, Cedar Key, Orlando, Tampa/St. Petersburg, and many other interesting places in between. There are a number of good Internet resources to help you locate last-minute hotel and flight reservations, notably Travelocity, Expedia, and Orbitz, found at [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), and [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com). And, if you really want good bargains and are feeling adventurous, then you can try out Priceline bidding at [www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com) or blind purchasing on Hotwire at [www.hotwire.com](http://www.hotwire.com). If you're planning on renting a car, then be sure to call all of the companies in town to check on the available rates.

If you are among those staying in Gainesville, there are lots of things to do, too! If you like museums, there are the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History, both located on the southwest side of campus. Each of these provides an afternoon of cultural enjoyment. If you like nature, check out the Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. And if you like bicycling, there is the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail—15 miles of paved cycling trail that winds through Paynes Prairie and beyond. Also, you can try the Depot Avenue/Waldo Road trail system. Also, Paynes Prairie itself has some really nice walking paths worth checking out.

If you're traveling, do please remember that missing any classes on the Friday before Spring Break or the Monday after do count toward total absences.

Check out some of the web links below for some information about traveling or things to do here in Gainesville.

[www.visitgainesville.com](http://www.visitgainesville.com)  
[www.springbreak.com](http://www.springbreak.com)  
[www.springbreaktravel.com](http://www.springbreaktravel.com)  
[www.daytonabeach.com](http://www.daytonabeach.com)  
[www.visitflorida.com](http://www.visitflorida.com)

## The Next Trip

Our next weekend activity will be our **Midterm Picnic**, which is also our **B-Term Welcome Picnic**, on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

This will be a fun day in the sun to welcome the new ELI students! Since you will not be in classes with the new students, this is your opportunity to meet and welcome them to the ELI family! All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited. This will be a picnic at Yulee Pit. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 12 at 11:30

**WHERE:** Broward Beach (Behind Broward and Yulee Halls, across 13th Street from the ELI).

**WHAT TO BRING:** This activity is free. Wear tennis shoes and sun-block. We will provide the food, so come hungry!!

**IMPORTANT: SPRING C STUDENTS NEED TO SIGN UP ON THE SIGN UP SHEET.**

Everyone is Welcome!

## Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break:** There will be no ELI classes during the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Regular classes will resume on March 14<sup>th</sup>. **Please remember that Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> are regular class days.**
- **Appointments:** Students, when you receive a note from the office asking you to make an appointment to see one of our administrators, or if you have a need to see someone, please go to our receptionist, Gisele, in the main office to make the appointment rather than going directly to the administrator. This allows for time to prepare and have an adequate amount of time to discuss whatever issues may be needed.
- **Lost and Found:** If you should lose something in the classrooms or elsewhere at the ELI, do come and check to see if it has been turned in in the Main Office, Room 315. Also, if you find something in the classrooms that got left behind, this is the place to bring it!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from March 4-17:

Students:  
March 9: Nelson Blanco

March 11: Abdulla Alqubaisi  
March 12: Fahad Shagloof  
March 12: Rafael Rivera  
March 14: Minsun Lee  
March 14: Mahmood Al Nadabi  
March 15: Marcelina Alvim

Staff:  
Missed one last week—  
February 25: Olga Moody

March 6: Debbie Kellermann  
March 17: Melina Jimenez

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why do Americans use so much plastic?*

A: Convenience and cost, mostly. Plastic is cheap and very versatile and easy to mold. We're getting wiser to the downside, though, and trying not to throw it away.

*Q: Why do many girls and guys in the US wear a lot of earrings?*

A: Fashion.

*Q: What is Presidents' Day?*

A: It's a combined holiday, actually. We used to have holidays for George Washington's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. These two are generally considered to be our greatest presidents. Both birthdays are in February, so the federal government decided that it was a good idea to make

the Monday between them into a holiday to make a long weekend.

## Grammar

*Q: When do I use "little" and "few:"?*

A: As opposed to "a little" for noncount nouns and "a few" for count nouns, "little" and "few" emphasize that there is almost none or that there is much less of something than would normally be expected.

*Q: What's the difference between "most" and "almost"?*

A: "Almost" is an adverb. You cannot use it in front of a noun. You can say, "most students" or you can say, "all students" or you can even say, "almost all students". However, you cannot ever say, "almost students".

*Q: What's the difference between "lots of" and "a lot of"?*

A: Very little, actually. "Lots of" is a tiny bit less formal than "a lot of", but it's a very minor distinction. Both are preferable in spoken English to "much" or "many" in a positive statement.

## Quote of the Week

Language is the dress of thought.

**Samuel Johnson**