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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Welcome!

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

Greetings, everyone!

The ELI would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students during this busy first week of the Spring C, 2008 semester! We want all of you to feel as comfortable as possible while you are studying with us here at the ELI. We strongly urge you to share any questions and/or concerns that you might have with your teachers, your Language Assistants, our staff members or administrators. We are here to help you. For questions about your I-20 or other immigration matters or for any personal problems you might experience, our Admissions Officer, **Barbara Earp** is the person to talk to. You can find her by making an appointment to see her in the ELI Main Office, 315 Norman. You may also talk to Barbara about any special concerns about university or community college admissions that you might have. Our Student Life Assistant, **Daire Seaman**, can help you with personal or housing issues you might have. Barbara and Daire will do their best to answer your questions or to point you in the right direction to someone who can. All of us here at the ELI hope that you will learn a lot in your quest to further your English education -- but remember to try to have some fun too!

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, **Todd Allen**. I hope you come to trust the *Weekly* to give you the information you need to make your experience here the best possible. You will receive the *Weekly* each week during your Reading/Writing class. In addition, each week's *Weekly* will be posted in the "News" section of the ELI Homepage at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

Director's Message

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

Welcome, new and returning ELI students.

I am pleased to greet you one and all through this message, and I look forward to meeting each of you during the semester.

I thank you personally and congratulate you for being here. It is always difficult to leave family and friends and go far away from what is familiar to study a foreign language and spend time with people we have never seen, from countries far from our own. We, whose work depends on your courage and fortitude, appreciate your presence here. We look forward to making your experience here the very best it can be. We have built programs and prepared guidelines designed specifically for your benefit. They are intended to maximize the effort you plan to furnish so that your success and our success will be one and the same.

By joining the University of Florida English Language Institute (ELI), you have become a part of a vibrant team dedicated to the highest achievements and enthusiastic about its goals. Our overriding aim is to provide you with an array of opportunities—in class and outside of class—to increase your knowledge of English as an active and living communicative system, to use linguistic and social interaction for providing you with practice, to insert you as much as possible into the local community, where English is used naturally, and to challenge you daily to extend yourself just a bit more in your English experience.

I am happy to be welcoming you to the ELI team, a team dedicated to the success of all of its members. For a team to succeed, it takes a 100% effort by everyone involved. You will, we fervently hope, take this invitation to heart and give 110% in all that you do at the ELI. The faculty, language assistants, support staff members, and administrators enjoy their work for you, are proud to be at the ELI, and care deeply about your success.

In the many opportunities taken by students, faculty, and staff to express their feelings about the ELI, one can find numerous superlatives. Everyone here takes great pride in these and delights in welcoming you, convinced that you will add yours when the time comes. For now, we thank you for being here.

Welcome to an experience of a lifetime.

Notes from the Office

Phone Home -- We have been receiving phone calls from some concerned folks back home who have not yet heard whether or not you arrived safely. If you haven't called home to let your family know you are here, please try to do it as soon as possible.

Tuition Deadline -- Tuition will be due on Wednesday, January 16th, **before 1:30pm**. Please try to pay your tuition before the deadline. For any questions you have about your tuition, see **Sonja Pealer** in the ELI Main Office, Room 315 Norman.

Immunization Deadline -- Proof of immunizations must be received by Tuesday, January 22nd, or you will not be allowed to continue to attend classes. No exceptions.

Turns -- When the office is crowded, please try to wait your turn. If everyone is patient, things move in a swifter and more orderly manner. Everyone **will** be served eventually.

Feeling Sick? -- Please don't call the office for 1- or 2-day illnesses. You may simply talk to your teachers when you get back. If, however, you are going to be out for 3 or more days, do call.

Student Mailbox -- Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have received over the last few weeks. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you will not need to ask in 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.

Fire Drills/Alarms -- Please remember, whenever you hear a fire alarm, whether in Norman Hall or in any other building, you need to leave the building quickly and quietly. Period. We do have drills occasionally to ensure that everyone knows what to do -- but you should **never** assume that the alarm you hear is only a drill. Getting out in an orderly and expedient fashion may well save your life.

Also, please note that the fire alarms must never, ever be pulled by anyone other than building management unless there is an actual emergency. Fire crews will respond, and they may be taken away from folks who need them. In addition, falsely pulling a fire alarm is against the law.

Bicycling -- Bicycle safety is very, very important -- and it will be taken very seriously here in Gainesville and on the UF campus. If you bike, be sure that you familiarize yourself with the rules of the road. If you're caught breaking them, in addition to possible injuries you might suffer, it can result in tickets and fines. Traffic violators on bicycles are subject to the same fines as violators in automobiles, \$191.50 for running a red light, \$126.50 for a moving violation, \$79.50 for a non-moving violation, and \$51.50 for a violation specific to bicycle operation.

Lost and Found -- If you lose personal items, be sure to check in the ELI Main Office. We keep a box that is usually full of things that people have left in classrooms and around the ELI. If you find something that was left behind, be sure to bring it to us. You should be sure never to leave your books and personal items unattended anywhere on the UF Campus.

Smoking -- Absolutely no smoking is allowed inside Norman Hall or any other building on the UF campus. This includes ALL areas inside buildings. This is a Florida state law that applies to all publicly owned buildings. Additionally, smoking outside must be done away from the building, at least 50 feet (about 16 meters). **Note: This policy does include the Norman Hall Courtyard; there is no smoking in this area.**

There is a designated smoking area outside by the small parking lot (right across the street from the Credit Union). You'll see the sign by the concrete picnic tables.

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. As of this point, we don't yet have the list of students' birthdays necessary to begin this column. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to remind students to be sure that your birthdays are correct with the office.

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*. For those of you that this may happen to, we apologize in advance, but since we get our printouts numerically, and most countries use the system of day first, errors are most likely going to occur from time to time.

Student Voices

For any and all students who would like to see their work in print and have an extra opportunity to take something of this experience home with you, we want to let you know about our student publication, the *ELI Student Voices*, edited by **Steve Flocks**. This publication is a collection of works written by **you**, our students. You may submit anything of your work that you wish; it will receive only minimal editing. Past submissions have included 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 place it in Steve's box (the teacher's mailbox marked **Flocks** in the ELI Main Office). Include your name and class on your submission. Teachers, as has now been done many times in the past, this makes for a great project for all classes--not just Reading/Writing. Let's see what you can do!

Sports and Activities

Once again this semester, the Cultural Immersion staff will be holding regular sports and activities each evening of the week. The activities schedule is currently being worked out. As soon as it's ready, it

will be posted in the "News" section of the ELI Webpage and the Activities Board outside Room 315. We will also publish the schedule next week here in the *Weekly*.

The Next Trip

Next week, on Saturday, January 19th, we will be playing **Paintball**. Look in next week's *Weekly* and on the Activities Board for more information.

Manners and Culture/Grammar

Each week, the *ELI Weekly* will include a culture column under the name "Manners and Culture" and a grammar column under the name "Grammar". But these columns only work when you, the students (and even teachers and staff!), participate. Questions on any topic concerning American behavior, culture, and manners, as well as any aspect of grammar are encouraged. While I cannot guarantee 100% that I will be able to answer every single question, I will do my best! So, if you are wondering about what is correct socially for you to do, if you see someone doing something that you find odd, or perhaps even rude, or if you just want to know something about the culture here in general, please feel free to ask about it! Ditto if grammar is making your brain hurt. Teachers and Language Assistants, this makes a great activity; entire batches of questions are welcome and encouraged. And individuals, if you have questions that you would like to ask and see in print, you may email them to me at toddy33@ufl.edu or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, Room 315, box marked **Allen**) anytime the office is open.

Quote of the Week

I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities.

– Whoopi Goldberg

UF English Language Institute
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
315 Norman Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-2070
Fax: (352) 392-3744
Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu