

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 105, Issue 14  
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## Commencement

*Can you believe it's already here?*

Congratulations, everyone. It's been a long and tough semester, and you should all be proud of the excellent work you have done in all of your classes. This coming week is very busy with testing and end-of-semester activities, so please read this issue of the ELI Weekly carefully to make sure you know about all of the things you need to do to wrap up the term. This will be the last issue of the Weekly for the Spring Term, 2008.

The ELI Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All students and staff are welcome to attend. You are encouraged to invite your friends and relatives as well. Students will receive their grades and class photos after the ceremony. Everyone is encouraged to dress up for the occasion!

### TOEFL Walkover

On TOEFL Day, we will meet in front of the Norman Hall Garage at 1pm and walk you over to the Communicore at Shands.

### Exit Test Schedule

On Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be giving the CELT, our exit test, during

extended Reading/Writing Class Hours. **There will be no late exams and no late students admitted to the exams.** All ELI students are required to attend and take the test in order to receive a certificate of completion from the ELI. **Please remember to be on time.** If you arrive late to the test, you will not be permitted to take it, and you will not receive a certificate of completion from the ELI. The schedule is as follows; sections refer to Reading/Writing classes. We will hold the test in your Reading/Writing classes, but with extended times. Morning Reading/Writing classes will take the test from **8:15am until 10:30am.** Afternoon Reading/Writing classes will take the test from **3pm until 5:15pm.**

**Note: Reading/Writing 60 will test in Norman Hall Room 313.**

Part-timers not taking Reading/Writing, please see Scott in the ELI Main Office to receive a test assignment.

### The Weekend Trip

This Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our **End of Semester Barbecue at Ginnie Springs!**

**WHAT:** Food, soccer, swimming, tubing, volleyball, and much more! All

at beautiful Ginnie Springs. Lunch will be catered by Sonny's Barbecue and will be served around 12:30 PM.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Norman Garage at 11:00 AM. You can come back to Gainesville whenever your car chooses to return, probably around 4 PM. If it is raining on Saturday, call 392-3354 ext. 230 after 9 AM and listen to the message to find out if the trip has been moved to Sunday.

**COST:** Entrance into the park is \$10.00 plus tax (this is a discount!!!) and the barbecue is FREE and delicious! Tube rental is \$6 plus tax and we can share tubes. Canoes can also be rented.

**TRANSPORTATION:** This is a carpool trip. Ginnie Springs is about a 45-minute drive from Gainesville. You **MUST SIGN UP** on the Activities Board by 4 PM Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. *If you are driving your own car- you must sign up on the activities board so we can order food for you!! Also, sign up any friends and family members that you are bringing with you!*

**WHAT TO BRING:** Wear your bathing suit and bring a towel!!! Also bring sunscreen. If you want to rent a tube or canoe you will also need an ID and credit card. Most importantly, bring an appetite for good food and fun!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why do Americans seem so surprised when someone says hello and touches their back?*

A: We adopted many of our customs early on from English customs. In England, as in most of Northern Europe, there is less physical contact than there is in much of Mediterranean Europe. We might give a handshake to someone we are meeting for the first time as a sign of respect, but that's about it for a lot of us. Of course, when you grow up not being used to being touched in greetings, it can be startling when somebody does touch you.

*Q: Why do you have the electoral system instead of directly electing your president?*

A: Wow. You guys really do pay attention! This is a question that a lot of Americans are asking, too. The main issue when our country was created was one of fairness in the division of the states. The current electoral system allows for smaller states (in population) to have a slightly larger voice within the party system. Each state gets a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress.

The number is 2 Senators from each state, and then Representatives based on population. And then, in the election, most of the states give ALL of the electoral votes to the party that gets even a simple majority.

*Q: Why don't Americans try to discover more about other cultures instead of developing such ridiculous stereotypes?*

A: That's a very good question. The only answer I have is that, as with so many habits that many of us consider negative, it's easier to be complacent and ignorant.

## Grammar

*Q: Why are there so many silent letters in English words?*

A: English is a combination of many different language influences. One of the main languages that influenced English vocabulary and spelling over the centuries was French. French arguably has more silent letters than most Western languages (they kept a lot of the Latin letters that they stopped pronouncing). A lot of the words that we imported, we didn't make many changes to; also, we adopted quite a

few spelling patterns from the French language. English spelling wasn't actually standardized until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the period April 18-May 8:

Students:

April 22: Haya Alrajab

April 27: Wilasinee Ngamdarnongkiat

April 29: Sangmi Lee

April 29: Ebtisam Binhussein

April 30: Min Park

Staff:

April 19: David Stephen

April 23: Josh Nantz

May 3: Jen Ramos

May 8: Karen Owens

## Quote of the Week

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

*Lily Tomlin*



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