

# ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of the English Language Institute

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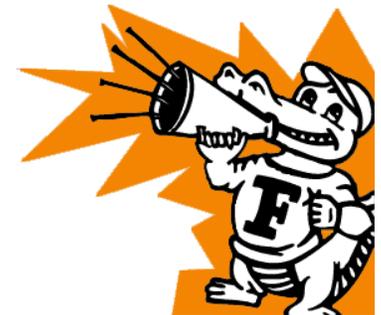
## Gator Homecoming Parade

This **Friday, October 6th** at 12pm, the University of Florida will be kicking off homecoming weekend with an amazing spectacle of school spirit—**The Homecoming Parade!** Gather with your ELI friends at the Norman Hall Garage at 11am and we will walk over together. The parade draws 100,000 people to the streets of Gainesville, so we need to arrive early to find a space. Be sure to sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 4pm. You should bring sunscreen, water, and a folding chair (optional).

Homecoming is a tradition for American colleges and universities. It's a weekend for current and former students to celebrate school spirit with friends and family. At UF, homecoming started in 1923, when the University President decided to create an event for students' fathers before a football game. It was called Dad's Day. Eventually, Dad's Day evolved into Homecoming and Gator Growl. *UF's homecoming is now the largest student-organized celebration in the country!*

This year's Homecoming events include:

- **BBQ at the O'Connell Center** – October 7th, 1pm: Good food, performances by UF cheerleaders, and festivities,
- **Gator Gallop at Percy Track Stadium**, October 6th, 11am-12pm: A 2-mile walk, run, or skate. Pets are welcome!
- **SoulFest Multicultural Extravaganza at Dickinson Hall**, October 6th, 6pm – 10pm: A celebration of diversity and culture with singing, dancing poetry, and other forms of artistic expression.



## Notes from the Office

Just a reminder: the ELI will be closed this Friday, October 6th, in celebration of Homecoming. Have fun and Go Gators!

### Inside this issue:

Homecoming | Greetings | Body Language

## Manners and Culture

If you have a question about U.S. manners and culture, please email our *ELI Weekly* editor, Jen Ramos, at [jennlej@hotmail.com](mailto:jennlej@hotmail.com), or put questions in her mailbox (marked **Ramos** in the ELI Main Office).

*Q: Should I kiss my friends when I say hello if they are girls?*



A: The issue of how to greet people is a little confusing here in the U.S. We don't have one standard form—some people hug, some people kiss, some shake hands, and others don't like to touch at all upon greeting. Maybe it's because people come from so many different cultural backgrounds. In general, however, I would say most of us do not kiss our friends when saying hello. And if we see each other everyday, we just say a friendly hi without any contact. We usually hug and kiss our family members, and give our friends a big hug if we haven't seen them in a while.

*Q: Can you explain some of American body language?*

A: I can try. Direct eye-contact, especially when listening to someone, is considered very polite and a sign of our interest in what is being said. We wave hello and goodbye with a full open palm moving from side to side. In general, women cross their legs when seated and men do not (though I've seen many exceptions to this). I've read that Americans need 30 inches of "comfort zone" or "personal space" when standing near someone. Also, most Americans do not like being touched by people they do not know or don't know well.

## Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

Oct. 5: Allison Fischman

Oct. 9: Lok-Hin Choi,  
Dohwan Kim



*If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them.*

- Sir Francis Bacon



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