

ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of the English Language Institute

Volume 101, Special
October 27, 2006

Helpful People

Warm greetings to all of you during this busy first week of the Fall B, 2006 semester! When questions or concerns come up, please feel free to speak with your teachers, language assistants, the ELI office staff, or administrators. We're here to help you!

For more specialized assistance you can visit our Admissions Officer, **Barbara Hess Earp**. She can answer questions about your I-20 or other immigration matters, or aid with any personal problems you might experience. Additionally, she can address your special concerns about university or community college admissions. You can make appointments to see Barbara in the ELI Main Office, 315 Norman Hall.

Food, Friends, and Fun

You're invited to the **Welcome/Midterm Picnic on Saturday, October 27th at 11:30am** at Yulee Pit (across the street from Norman Hall, by the tennis courts). There will be food and games, and you'll have the chance to meet your classmates, teachers, and language assistants. Your friends and families are invited as well. If it's raining on Saturday, the picnic will be moved to Broward Basement.

Change Your Clocks!

In the U.S., we follow Daylight Saving Time from April to October and standard time for the rest of the year. This Sunday, October 28th at 2am, we will be resuming standard time which requires everyone to turn their clocks an hour *back*. So, at 2am Sunday morning, you should change your clock to 1am.



Welcome!

From Our Director, Megan Forbes

Welcome, new and returning 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 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. This team effort is already a regular part of the employees' work, whose dedication goes unquestioned. These teachers, 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 and employees to express their feelings about this school, one can find numerous superlatives. Everyone at the ELI 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.

Inside this issue:

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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 so as soon as possible.

Tuition Deadline -- Tuition will be due on Thursday, **November 2**, before 2:30pm. 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, 315 Norman.

Immunization Deadline -- Proof of immunizations must be received by Thursday, **November 9**, 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 the office staff.

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, if you hear a fire alarm, you need to leave the building quickly and quietly. Never assume that the alarm you hear is only a drill. Getting out in an orderly and expedient fashion may well save your life.

Bicycling -- Bicycle safety is very important and it is 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: \$121.50 for a moving violation, \$77.50 for a non-moving violation, and \$49.50 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.

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). The College of Education (Norman Hall) policy is 100 feet. **This policy includes 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

Beginning next week, this section of the *ELI Weekly* will list all of the birthdays for our students and staff that occur during the week. Please make sure that your birthday is correct in the ELI office (and remember that in the US, as perhaps is different in your home country, the birth date is written month/day/year).

Student Voices

For students who would like to see their work in print, consider submitting essays, poems, stories, class projects, and other writing to our publication, the *ELI Student Voices*, edited by **Steve Flocks**. This is a collection of work written exclusively by **you**, our students, published once each semester. If you wish, give your submission to your teacher, or place it in Steve's mailbox (marked **Flocks** in the ELI Main Office). Please include your name and class on your submission.

Manners and Culture

Each week, the ELI Weekly will include a column, explaining—or at least attempting to explain—U.S. behavior, culture, and manners. But this column depends on your participation. If you see someone doing something that you find odd (or perhaps even rude), if you wonder what is socially correct in a given situation, or if you want to know something particular about U.S. culture, please email our ELI Weekly editor, Jen Ramos, at jenmlej@hotmail.com, or put questions in her mailbox (marked Ramos in the ELI Main Office).



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