

# Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 110, Issue 10  
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## Volunteer Day

*Help others while helping yourself!*

This Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our next **Volunteer Day** of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

**Emeritus Retirement Home**— Come give manicures, play piano, go bowling, and talk with the elderly at Summerville! Practice speaking English while making new friends. Meet us at the Cabana Beach Rental Office at 10am, and we will return around 2pm.

**Neutral Gators** — Learn about new green technology and help to retrofit houses to be more efficient. We will meet at Norman Garage at 9:30am and return around 3:30pm.

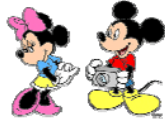
**Downtown Arts Festival** – Come and help children be creative with arts and crafts at the arts festival. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 8:30am and return around 1:30pm.

**St Francis House**—Help us paint and work on a project to improve homeless shelters. Be sure to wear clothes that can get dirty. We will meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am and return around 1pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

### Class Photo

The ELI Class picture for Fall, 2009 will be taken at the front of Tigert Hall on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:45pm. We will walk over together from Norman Hall at 12:25 from L/S Classes or LA hours. For classes not in Norman Hall, please gauge your time to arrive at Tigert Hall by 2:45. For any and all students not taking Listening/Speaking classes, as well as all other teachers, LAs, and any other ELI personnel who wants to participate, we very much would like to encourage you to come and join us for the picture.



### B-Term Countries

We have a very large number of countries represented among our B-Term Students! The following is our representation,

based on the countries of students' passports:

Brazil	Peru
Burkina Faso	Saudi Arabia
Bolivia	Taiwan
Colombia	Turkey
Côte d'Ivoire	UAE
Iraq	US
Korea	Venezuela
Kuwait	Vietnam
	Yemen

### Notes from the Office

➤ **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**—ELI Classes will end at 12:35pm on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no afternoon classes for you on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> (The day before Thanksgiving). **All other ELI Classes will meet as normal on this day.**

### The Next Trip

Our next activity will be the **ELI Thanksgiving Potluck** on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.



## Birthdays

The following are the ELI Birthdays for the period November 13-19:

Students:

November 16: Abdulla Al Emadi

November 16: Hye Lin Lee

November 18: Amnah Aldaihani

November 18: Pipat Chusuwanprateep

November 19: Daniela Benaim

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why is it incorrect to call my teacher "teacher"?*

A: Every society has different rules and customs for what to call people in positions of authority.

In US society, we only address our teachers as "teacher" when we are very

young children, if at all. Otherwise, we call our teachers by Mr. or Ms. and the family name. In college, when many teachers hold doctoral degrees, we address them as Dr. or Professor along with the last name.

Here at the ELI, we do want to foster a more collegial and team atmosphere. Most of the teachers here do not have Doctorates; the Masters is considered the high degree for teaching ESL. Use of the first name here is considered a preferred choice.

*Q: In my country, I can't wear flip-flops to school, but here it is obviously common. Why?*

A: And you'll find that it's even different from place to place here in the US. Fashion and what is/is not acceptable at school is a very regional thing here. For example, your Manners Columnist is a teacher here at the ELI, and I wear shorts most every day. In some universities in northern, cooler climates, this would be very unusual. However, here in Gainesville, fashion is different because it follows the warmer weather patterns, and it's a good thing...because most days, I'd

probably come to class drenched in sweat otherwise!

The same convention applies to footwear. Gainesville and a great deal of Florida (with the exception of some private schools) just have different rules regarding the appropriateness of various fashion trends.

## Grammar

*Q: When can I use "get" instead of "go", as in, "I get to work," vs. "I go to work"?*

A: Rarely, actually. This structure simply means, "arrive". It's usually used when we want to indicate that nothing is going to happen until after the arrival, as in, "I'll do it as soon as I get to work."

## Quote of the Week

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

*Whoopi Goldberg*

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