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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, November 12th, 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 Norman Hall Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, November 10th. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Downtown Arts Festival: 8:30am-1:30pm Come and help children be creative with arts and crafts at the arts festival.

Gainesville Rabbit Rescue: 9:30am-11:30am. Do you like rabbits? Help groom rabbits, clean their cages, and replace rugs.

Emeritus Retirement Home: 9:30am-12:00pm. Come give manicures, play piano, go bowling, and talk with the elderly! Practice speaking English while making new friends.

Alachua County Humane Society: 9:30am-12:30pm. Attend a cat-handling orientation and take care of cats as well as help out at the Thrift Store.

Wilmot Gardens: 12:30pm-5:00pm. Do various gardening activities to help restore the Wilmot Gardens at Shands. Patients and visitors will be able to sit outside to heal and recover.

Project Downtown Gainesville: 12:30pm-2:00pm Prepare and serve food to the homeless.

Have a great day, everyone!

Class Photo

The ELI Class picture for Fall, 2011 will be taken in the **Reitz Union Amphitheater** on Tuesday, November 15th, at 1:45pm between L/S classes. We will walk over together from L/S Classes or LA hours. Please gauge your time to arrive at the Amphitheater by 1:40. 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.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Friday, November 18th we will be holding our **Thanksgiving Potluck**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in the next issue of *The ELI Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Parking & Towing: Quite a number of students have been getting tickets for parking on the street near Norman Hall. Paying a fine is not the only possible outcome: these cars risk being towed as well. Take the bus! It's cheaper and greener for the environment.

Food & Drinks: Remember, food and drinks in the classrooms at the ELI and UF are strictly prohibited. Only water is allowed in the classrooms.

Veterans Day: Friday, November 11th, is a holiday. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on this day.

Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday, November 24th is Thanksgiving. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday. **Classes will meet as normal on Wednesday.**

Attendance Emails

Don't forget to sign up to get attendance emails. For those that already signed up to get the emails, we apologize; we had a problem with the website so you'll need to sign up again. Go to <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/email/inputEmailForm.htm>. In order to receive the emails you must have your UF Student ID number and a Gatorlink email address.

Birthdays

The following are the ELI Birthdays for the period November 11-17:

Students:

November 11: Maria Bustillos Brito
November 12: Dan Zhou
November 12: Chih-An Chen
November 15: Saad Alghamdi
November 15: Catherine Tou
November 16: Ahmed Aloraini
November 16: Daniel Gomez

Staff:

November 13: Robert Roberg
November 15: Dilienny Urbina Hurtado
November 17: Julie Dickson

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

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

A: It's not incorrect but it does sound strange using the word "teacher". When we are in elementary and high school, we call our teachers Mrs., Ms., or Mister plus family name. When we get to college, we call them Dr. or Professor Family name. Some professors encourage you to call them by their first names because they consider the students colleagues. This is especially true in graduate school.

Here are the ELI, we try to foster a sense of community and family. Plus, we're trying to get you comfortable using American customs (such as calling people by their first names). So if your teachers ask you repeatedly to call them by their first name, it is more respectful to do that, than to call them "teacher".

Grammar

Q: When do I use "send... to me" and "send me"?

A: When speaking, we tend to use the shorter version "send me" although you can use both. If you use "send ... to me", it really emphasizes the recipient.

- Send me the file. [No emphasis]
- Send the file to **me**. [Me is emphasized]

Q: I've tried using the three guidelines from the last Weekly but I'm still making mistakes on articles. Are there more rules to follow?

A: First of all, don't worry! When learning or mastering a new language, everything takes practice. But there are more guidelines. As a reminder, the most important rule is that all singular nouns need articles (with some exceptions). The difference between using *a/an* and using *the* depends on whether the object is specific, and new or old information. Also, you need to consider whether it's a member of a group or if there is only one of it. If it's a part of a group, it uses *a*; if there is only one of it in the world, it uses *the*. Look at the examples below, and decide whether they should take *a/an, the* or nothing.

I had __ dog when I was __ little girl. She was __ good dog but she loved to howl at __ moon. When we moved, __ dog ran away from __ home. I cried for __ week.

Quote of the Week

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop

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