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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 116, Special
October 28, 2011



Welcome!

New and returning students alike, we're glad to see you!

Our Director, **Megan Forbes**, has a message for you:

Welcome students!

On behalf of the faculty, language assistants, staff and administration, I would like to welcome you to the University of Florida English Language Institute. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are a new student, we hope you come to love UF as much as we all do. We hope you soon become proud to be a member of the "Gator Nation."

We hope that in our classes our many years of experience combined with the new research found at an AAU university can help you achieve your goal of learning English. You should know that each and every one of our teachers and language assistants will be doing everything they can to help you achieve your goals. I hope you can tell how much everyone enjoys teaching and learning here. But, no matter how strong a program we have, we can always find ways to improve it. If you have suggestions, please share them with us. We want you to love the classes here as much as we do.

Of course, you are not here simply to attend class – you could have stayed home to do that! The great benefit to studying English in the US is that you are surrounded by English every day. Here at the ELI we provide you with every opportunity to practice English. We have two language assistants (LAs) to help with every level. We have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. We have afternoon activities with LAs every single day after class. We have a conversation partner program. We

regularly volunteer in the community. We publish the *Student Voices* each semester and the *ELI Weekly* each week. In short, we try to provide every opportunity possible for you to use the language you are learning.

I urge you to take advantage of all of these opportunities. I promise, if you were to speak to all of your friends studying English at other universities, you would not find any program which provides the number of hours of English language practice we have here at the ELI. Please don't waste this opportunity – get involved outside of class!

So, in closing, Welcome! And always remember...

Speak English and Go Gators!

Deadlines

Please turn in all the required paperwork by **Tuesday, November 1st** or you may not be allowed to attend classes.

Tuition: Tuition will be due before **1:30pm**. See Judith Strack in Room 315 Norman for any questions you have about your tuition.

Drop/Add: The last opportunity to add or drop class is by 4:30pm.

Immunization: Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm.

Health Insurance: Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm. No exceptions

Questions

We want all of you to feel as comfortable as possible while you are studying with us here at the ELI. If you have any questions, your teachers, your Language Assistants, our staff members or administrators are here to help you, so please ask us anything.

For specific questions about I-20s and other immigration matters, or university or community college admissions, please see **Daryl Bish**, our Admissions Coordinator in 315 Norman. For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, see **Emily Kirby**, the Student Life Coordinator in 316 Norman.

The Next Trip: Saturday

This week, on Saturday, October 29th, we will be enjoying **The Welcome Picnic**.

WHEN: Saturday, October 29th at 11:00 am.

WHERE: At Broward Beach across 13th Street from the ELI.

COST: This trip is completely FREE!

The Next Trip: Monday

The ELI invites you to come to our **Halloween Costume Party** on Monday, October 31st, the night of Halloween.

When: The Halloween party will be from 6:30pm to 9:30 pm.

WHERE: Gainesville Place Clubhouse at 2800 SW 35th Place Gainesville, FL 32608

COST: This trip is completely FREE as well!

Notes from the Office

Phone Home: If you haven't called home to let your family know you are here, please try to do it as soon as possible.

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.

Feeling Sick? You may send your teachers an email from home or talk to them when you get back. If you are going to be out for 3 or more days, please call the office and let us know.

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.

Smoking: There is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. This means you should not be smoking anywhere on campus, including the courtyard inside Norman Hall, the private property surrounding Norman Hall, or any other building on the UF campus.

Fire Drills/Alarms: Please remember, whenever you hear a fire alarm, whether in Norman Hall or in any other building, you need to leave the building quickly and quietly. Getting out in an orderly and expedient fashion may well save your life. Also, please note that the fire alarms must never, ever be pulled by anyone other than building management unless there is an actual emergency. Falsely pulling a fire alarm is against the law.

Student Mailbox: Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have. 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 in the office.

Lost and Found: If you lose personal items in Norman Hall, be sure to check in the ELI Main Office. If you lose personal items in other buildings, check with the main office of the building; they might have saved it.

Birthdays

Each week, this section of the *ELI Weekly* will list all of the birthdays for our students and staff that occur during the week.

REMEMBER: in the US, the birth date is written month/day/year. If you submitted yours as day/month/year on your forms, then it will appear wrong in the *Weekly*. For those of you that this may happen to, we apologize in advance.

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 28- November 3:

Students:

October 28: Abdullah Alshemali
October 31: Dongmin Choi
November 1: Faisal Alajmi
November 1: Mohammed Albalawi

Staff:

October 28: Judith Strack
November 3: Marpessa Reitbergen

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Student Voices

Every semester, we publish a collection of works written by **you**, our students in the *ELI Student Voices*, edited by **Steve Flocks**. You may submit anything of your work that you wish. Past submissions have included essays, poetry, creative stories, class projects, and other interesting works on a variety of topics. If you want to turn something in for publication, simply give it to your teacher, or e-mail Steve at sflocks@ufl.edu. Include your name and class on your submission. Teachers,

this makes for a great project for **all** classes-- not just Reading/Writing.

Let's see what you can do!

Sports and Activities

The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, are holding regular sports and activities each evening of the week. We also have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. Details will be on the Activities Board outside Room 315 and in each week's *Weekly*.

Manners, Culture, and Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Melina Jimenez. You will receive the *Weekly* each week during your Reading/Writing class.

Each week, the *ELI Weekly* answers **your** questions. If you want to know how Americans behave in certain situations or why they do the things they do, ask me. If you want to know how to say something correctly or why we say things the way we do, ask me. You may ask me in person (Room 331E), email me at evestar@ufl.edu, or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, Room 315, box marked **Jimenez**) anytime the office is open.

Teachers and Language Assistants, make this an activity to get your students thinking. I need more questions!

If you missed an issue of the *Weekly*, you can find it in the ELI Homepage at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

Quote of the Week

A smile is the universal welcome.

– Max Eastman