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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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our second **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 and head to the different sites.

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

**Habitat for Humanity:** Help build houses and do some construction for needy families! Meet at Norman Garage at 7:30am.

**Guardian Angels Service Dogs:** Clean dog crates and socialize with the dogs. Meet at Norman Garage at 8am

**Gainesville Rabbit Rescue:** Clean rabbit cages, groom rabbits, and socialize. Meet at Norman Garage at 9am

**Ronald McDonald House:** Clean the area outside by weeding, laying mulch, planting flowers. Meet at Norman Garage at 9:30am.

**Emeritus:** Interact with elderly residents by speak with them, playing games, singing songs or playing instruments, Meet at the Norman Garage at 2pm if you need a ride. If you live close to Emeritus, meet us there at 2:30pm.

**Wilmot Gardens:** *Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>*  
Help with various gardening activities. Students will be picked up at home.

Please check the board as there may be more opportunities later in the week.

Remember to sign up for the volunteer activity of your choice by Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm and arrive **ON TIME** at Norman Garage! Please don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chris in the CIP Office, Room 318.

## Halloween Coffee Talk



The ELI will be having a special Halloween Coffee Talk! We will have face painting, pumpkins, ghost stories, and candy! Please invite your

family members, friends, and conversation partners!

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

**Where:** The Reitz Union Amphitheater

**Cost:** Totally free!

**What to Bring:** Remember to wear a Halloween costume!!! Make sure to keep your costumes family-friendly.

Come enjoy one of America's spookiest and enjoyable holidays! We can't promise you'll ever be the same again.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Homecoming Parade and Gator Growl!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Class Photo

The ELI Class picture for Fall 2012 will be taken in front of **Tigert Hall** on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1:45pm. Classes will walk over together toward the end of the first Listening/Speaking hour. Please gauge your time to arrive by 1:45. If it is raining on Tuesday, we will hold the picture on Wednesday at the same time.

For any and all students not taking Listening/Speaking classes, as well as all other teachers, LAs, and any other ELI personnel who want to participate, please join us for the picture!

Please leave your backpacks on the floor by the bushes. Don't sit on the edges or the floor in front of the stairs. Move towards the back of the steps and squeeze together as much as possible. The more you squeeze, the better you'll fit in the picture!

## University Admissions Workshop

The ELI will be having a workshop to help students learn about the undergraduate and graduate school admissions process for universities and colleges in the US. Representatives from the University of Florida Graduate School and Santa Fe College will be available to help you learn about opportunities in their programs. Please sign up for the event on the ELI Announcement Bulletin Board, across the hall from the Activities Board.

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30pm

**Where:** Norman 137

## ELI Talent Show

Remember to sign up for the Talent Show by Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. You'll need a sponsor, a family-appropriate act, and just a hint of courage!

## Notes from the Office

**Trash:** Please throw your water bottles, chocolate wrappers, and used tissues in the trash. Let's leave the rooms clean!

**Financial Issues:** Judith Strack will be out from November 14<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please take care of ALL of your financial problems before she leaves. If you need help after she leaves, you can make an appointment with Karen Owens.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 29 to November 4.

Students:

October 30: Paola Lisboa Yanez

October 31: Haldun Yaçinkaya

November 3: Maria Ballesteros Lopez

Staff:

November 3: Beverly Weiss

Happy birthday, you groovy ghouls!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: What's Halloween and why is it such a popular holiday in the US?*

A: It's actually a combination of ancient Celtic and early Christian traditions. In Europe, All Hallows Eve (the night before All Saints' Day—November 1 on the calendar) was said to be a night when ghosts and spirits would roam the earth; people carved scary faces in vegetables and left them out to scare the spirits away. This tradition is carried on in modern times with the carved pumpkins. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it became a popular holiday for children. And, so many of us remember fun at Halloween as kids that it has gradually become a holiday that adults enjoy as well!

*Q: Where can I get a cheap Halloween costume?*

A: The absolute best place to shop is in your own house. Be creative! Use things you already own to make clever costumes. If you own a red and white striped shirt and blue pants, you can be Waldo.

## Grammar

*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 in the world. 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. Then one day, I found her under \_\_\_\_ porch of \_\_\_\_ new house!

## Quote of the Week

Kindness is the one commodity of which you should spend more than you earn.

T.N. Tiemeyer

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