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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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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

Thursday, September 13th is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all this required paperwork 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.

Immunization: Proof of immunizations and the Health Questionnaires are due by 4:30pm.

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

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

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 **Lillian Vargas**, the Interim Student Life Coordinator in 316 Norman.

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.

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.

Bicycling: Bicycle safety is very, 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, \$154 for a moving violation, \$104 for a non-moving violation, and \$52.50 for a violation specific to bicycle operation.

You should park your bike in well-lighted areas and lock it up when you park it. The best lock is a U-lock. This kind of lock looks like a U and is very difficult to cut or break. Be sure to put the lock through the bike's frame and wheel as well as the bike rack.

Also, register your bike with the University Police Department. If your bike is stolen, this will help the police find it. Registering is a very quick and simple process. Just go to the UPD building on Museum Road and ask the officer at the front desk to help you register. If your bike is stolen, call the UPD immediately. The faster you call them, the better the chance of them finding your bike.

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. Please let the office know so it can be fixed on your forms.

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*.

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 obituaries, 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!

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.

As you can see, the *ELI Weekly* gives you important news about what is happening at the ELI. The *Weekly* also 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 mpjimenez@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 pick up an extra copy in the ELI Main Office (Norman 315) or find it online at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

Quote of the Week

A smile is the universal welcome.

Max Eastman

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