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The ELI Weekly

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Spring Break

Relax! Enjoy!

This coming weekend, Saturday, February 28th, there is no scheduled ELI trip. Just in case you aren't already aware of it, our Spring Break is next week! If you do not yet have any plans for Spring Break, we have some suggestions for you.

If you are staying in Gainesville, there are lots of cool things to do!

If you like being outdoors, check out:

- Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site
- Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- Walking in Paynes Prairie
- Biking on the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail
- Canoeing on the Ichetuknee River

If you like museums, check out:

- Harn Museum of Art
- Florida Museum of Natural History
- Matheson Museum

If you want to eat some local food, try:

- Mac's Drive-Thru (burgers)
- Yummy House (Chinese)
- Humble Pie (pizza – food truck)
- Midnight Cookies (cookies)

If you have a car, make sure to check out the little towns and larger cities nearby:

Ocala	High Springs
Miami	Atlanta
Savannah	Jacksonville
Cedar Key	Orlando
Tampa	St. Petersburg

Check out some of the web links below for some information about traveling or things to do here in Florida.

www.visitgainesville.com
www.visitflorida.com

Here is a good Internet resource to help you locate last-minute hotel and flight reservations.

www.kayak.com

If you're planning on renting a car, be sure to call all of the companies in town to check on the available rates.

Reminders:

- Missing any classes on the Friday before Spring Break or the Monday after do count toward total absences.
- If you started in March 2014 or before and you plan on leaving the country, stop by the ELI Main office to get your I-20 signed.
- Canada, Mexico, anything involving cruises, and your home countries all require a signed I-20 and your passport.

Friday Activity

This Friday, we will be going to see the gymnastics team at the O'Connell Center. We'll meet outside of Gate 1 by the clock tower at 6:15. It's the Gators Link to Pink vs. Kentucky so they're giving away pink T-shirts to the first 2,000 fans. It's free but remember to bring your Gator1.

The Next Trip

Our next weekend activity will be our **Midterm Picnic**, which is also our **B-Term Welcome Picnic**, on Saturday, March 7th.

Join us in welcoming the new Spring B students to the ELI family! All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited. It will be a fun day in the sun to have a picnic at Norman Hall. There will be sports, games and great conversation!

When: Saturday, March 7th at 12:00pm

Where: At Norman Lawn, in front of Norman Hall.

What to Bring: This activity is free. Wear tennis shoes and sun-block. We will provide the food, so come hungry!!

IMPORTANT: Spring C students need to sign up on the sign-up sheet.

Everyone is Welcome!

Daylight Savings

Remember to set your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed on March 7th. If you forget, you'll be an hour late to class on Monday! You can check www.time.gov/ to make sure your time is correct. Daylight Savings Time (DST) was started during World War I as a way to save energy by making

evenings have more sunlight. It is controversial and not all parts of the US observe DST. Some opponents of DST argue that it actually costs more money. Other countries, such as Australia, Great Britain, and Canada also observe DST, although some places within those countries do not.

Special Announcement

Camilo Bernal Rodriguez, of Colombia, won the first Reading/Writing 47 Spelling Bee Gold Medal. Congratulations, Camilo. Alberto Iguaran Bolivar, also of Colombia, won the Silver Medal. Better luck next time, Alberto!

Notes from the Office

RTS: From February 28th to March 8th, RTS will have reduced city service for Spring Break. If you're staying in Gainesville, make sure to check the RTS website so you'll know when the bus is coming. www.go-rts.com

Lost and Found: We have a small collection of items in the ELI Main office. If you lost something in Matherly, please check if it's there.

Talent Show: Sign up for group acts and the art show and start practicing over the break!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the polite action when you first meet people?

A: Look them in the eyes and say, "It's nice to meet you." Older people will also shake hands but this isn't as common among younger Americans, especially in informal settings.

Q: If I look at an American for more than 5 seconds, why do they say, "Hi, how you doing?"? I don't know them so maybe it's normal.

A: There might be two reasons for this: They are being polite and really saying hello. Or maybe because you are staring at them, they are being impolite and making you aware that you are staring at them. Try not to stare at people.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between most and almost?

A: *Almost* is an adverb and *most* is an adjective. You cannot use *almost* in front of a noun.

- Correct: All students speak English
- Correct: Most students ride the bus.
- Correct: Almost all students take grammar class.

- Incorrect: Almost students take grammar class.

Q: When do I use little and few?

A: *A little* and *a few* mean a small (yet sufficient) amount. *Little* and *few* mean an amount so small that it's not enough.

- I have a little money so I can go out but I can't do much.
- I have little money so I can't go out.

Q: What's different between lots of and a lot of?

A: Very little, actually. *Lots of* is a tiny bit less formal than *a lot of*, but it's a very minor distinction. Both are more common in spoken English than *much* or *many* in a positive statement.

Word of the Week

distinction – (Adj) a difference or contrast between similar things or people

Quote of the Week

Too much work, too much vacation, too much of any one thing is unsound.

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