

Highlights

- St. Augustine
- Student Voices
- Letters of Recommendation
- Scholarship Nominees
- Classroom Cleanliness
- Manners, Grammar, and Word

The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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St. Augustine

Visit the Nation's Oldest City!

On Saturday, April 2nd we will be going to St. Augustine which is the oldest European city in the US! St. Augustine was founded in September 1565. It was named St. Augustine after the Saint with the same name.

First, we will enjoy the beach (depending on the weather). After that, we will visit the Old City, where you can choose to enjoy the Fort and walk through the streets to see many shops, historical sites, and restaurants. Families are welcome!

When: Saturday, April 2nd. We will meet at Norman Garage at 9am. We will leave St. Augustine around 7pm and arrive back in Gainesville around 9pm.

Cost: You'll need to purchase a bus pass from Nate in Matherly 211 between 9:00am and 12:30pm before Friday, April 1st. Please bring \$20 cash, exact change, and a picture ID (like a Gator 1 ID card or a passport). Bus passes are non-refundable and first come, first serve. If passes sell out, you can be added to a waiting list.

What to bring: Your bus pass and Gator 1 ID to get on the bus. You should bring about \$40 for museums, food, and water. Bring a swim suit, towel and sunscreen for the beach! Don't forget to bring a camera!

The Next Trip

Saturday, April 9th **we will not have a weekend activity**, so you can study for final exams.

Saturday, April 16th will be our **End of Semester Barbeque**. Details about the activity will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Scholarship Nominees

Please join me in congratulating the eleven outstanding nominees of the ELI Scholarships to study in the Summer 2016 semester.

- Beatriz Pruess Custodio
- Bobae Kim
- Diana Concepcion Cadillo
- Diego Barbosa
- Eduardo Schmitz Bongiololo
- Estefania Villacis Salinas
- Khalid Alrajhi
- Napassaporn (May) Ridbua
- Saif Alsulimmani
- Soin Abdoul Kassif Baba Moussa Traore
- Yasmin Nicolao Tavares

It is very difficult to be nominated for a scholarship. This means the nominees all worked extra hard this semester and achieved the following criteria.

- Full-time C semester student at the ELI.
- Academic Excellence: The student should have a 4.0 GPA and demonstrate a high level of proficiency in at least three of the four skill areas.
- Outstanding Progress: The student should display outstanding progress in language skills as evidenced by improvements in coursework.
- Excellent Attendance: The student should miss no more than ten hours of class in the semester.
- Speak English: The student should make every effort to speak English at all times while at the ELI and at ELI-sponsored activities.
- Successful Work Strategies: The student should demonstrate personal initiative in and out of the classroom, making an effort to get involved in the ambient culture through outside activities such as regular participation in Cultural Immersion activities.

Students, if you want to win the scholarship next semester, make sure to follow the same criteria and talk to the nominees to learn how else to become an excellent student.

Student Voices

Submissions are due THIS WEEK by Friday, April 1st. You can submit your entries for the *Voices* to me at christinevoigt@ufl.edu. Include your name, class, and a title for your piece!

Classrooms Cleanliness

Students, this seems to be a continuing issue. There is absolutely NO reason that you should leave your used tissues and other garbage in, on, or under a desk. This is extremely unhygienic and can spread diseases. The UF campus has trash and recycling bins everywhere, including all of our Matherly classrooms. Please use them.

There is also no reason that anyone should draw or write on the desks and tables in UF classrooms. Remember that you are representing the both the ELI and your home country while you are here, so please act with respect and responsibility.

Letters of Recommendation

If you need a letter of recommendation, please ask your instructor first to see if she or he can write a letter for you. Please note that instructors' letters have to be an accurate description of your work and student skills so if you have a lot of absences or do not do the classwork, it will be very difficult to write a letter that will be helpful for you.

If your instructor agrees to write a letter for you, you will then have to go to the ELI main office and fill out a document request form. We will send the request to your instructor. Without this form, your instructor is not able to write a letter.

For all other requested documents, please talk to our receptionist. Documents can take from 3 days to two weeks.

When possible, please plan ahead if you need a document or letter from the main office or your instructor.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of March 28 to April 3, plus one that I missed:

Students:

March 29: Mohammed Aljuhaimi
March 29: Mohammed Kh Alshammari
March 30: Francesca Condotta
March 31: Hawra Alabbad
April 1: Weam Kaboha
April 2: Basmah Khawjah

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is April Fools'? What do people usually do this day?

A: We play practical jokes on people. A common one is to put sugar in someone's salt shaker. I'm not recommending that you do this; it's just an example!

Q: Why do some Americans get offended when someone gets scared of their dog?

A: There might be a couple reasons for this. First, Americans often think of their dog as their family member. Would you act scared of someone's child? Probably not. Also, Americans might not actually be offended. They just want to express the idea that their dog is not dangerous and that you shouldn't be afraid. If you are afraid of dogs, don't feel bad about it. You have every right to stay away from them when you are uncomfortable, just don't do anything to hurt or scare the dog.

Q: Why do teachers expect students to work in pairs or groups?

A: At universities, teachers expect students to work together on projects. Group work is also an important part of most of our work culture so your teachers are preparing you for an aspect of 'real world' in the US.

Grammar

Q: Can you end a sentence with a preposition?

A: There is a rule that says you shouldn't end sentences with a preposition. However, this rule came from Latin so it doesn't really work in English and can make sentences sound awkward. In everyday speaking, there's definitely no problem with putting them there.

Appropriate: I told you who you can talk to.

Awkward: I told you to whom you can talk.

Word of the Week

Look for this word in this *Weekly!*

Practical (___) - _____
Collocates: solution, application, provide

Quote of the Week

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.

Oscar Wilde



English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
223 Matherly Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-2070
Fax: (352) 392-3744
StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
www.eli.ufl.edu
www.facebook.com/UFLELI
www.instagram.com/UFLELI
www.twitter.com/UFLELI
www.youtube.com/UFLELI