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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 129, Welcome
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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:*

Dear students!

Welcome to the University of Florida ELI Spring 2016 semester! If you are a new student, I am so happy you are joining us this January. If you are a returning student, welcome back!

All of you should know that the ELI is the Intensive English Program at the University of Florida. This means you are going to be spending a lot of time in your classes, with your teachers, with your Language Assistants, doing homework, and participating in trips and activities! We hope all of this can help you achieve your goal of learning more English.

In addition to the teachers and Language Assistants, we have many people at the ELI who are here to help you achieve your goal, and also to make your adjustment to the US and the University of Florida an easy one. If you need any help with anything, please ask! If you have any questions, or even suggestions for improvement, please let us know!

If you are a returning student at the UF ELI, I have a favor to ask of you. Please take the time to go out of your way to help our new students. You must remember how confusing your first few weeks at the ELI were and how difficult English seemed at

times. I also have a favor to ask of all students, new and returning. Please remember to speak English! The benefit of studying English in the United States is that you will hear English all of the time. So, please be sure you are not taking that experience away from your fellow students.

On behalf of everyone at the ELI, welcome again, to the Spring 2016 semester. We are glad you are here!

Speak English and Go Gators!

Deadlines

Thursday, January 21st is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all this required paperwork or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See the office staff in Room 223 Matherly for any questions.

Tuition: If you're paying with a bank check or money order, please pay before 1:30pm. If you're paying with a credit card online, please pay before midnight.

Immunization: Proof of immunizations is 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 a 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 223 Matherly.

For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, see **Emily Kirby**, the Student Life Coordinator, in 223 Matherly.

The Next Trip

This week, on Saturday, January 16th, we will be enjoying the **Welcome Picnic**. Please join us for food, games, and conversation!

When: Saturday, January 16th at 12:00 pm

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

Cost: This trip is completely FREE!

Sports and Activities

The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, will be 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 211 Matherly, in each week's *Weekly*, and on the Facebook page.

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.

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 courtyard outside of Matherly Hall, the private property surrounding any UF buildings, or any other building on the UF campus.

Food: If you haven't gone grocery shopping yet, this weekend is a great time to go. Make sure to get lots of healthy snacks that you can eat between classes!

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.

If you don't want your birthday listed, please let Christine Voigt know!

Manners, Culture, and Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Christine Voigt. 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 (220A MAT), email me at christinevoigt@ufl.edu, or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, 223 MAT, box marked **Voigt**) anytime the office is open.

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

If you miss an issue of the *Weekly*, you can pick up an extra copy in the ELI Main Office (223 Matherly) or find it online at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

Student Voices

We love to see our students writing, but more than that, we like to see the writing in print. Every semester, we take your writing and publish it in *Student Voices*. Past submissions have included paragraphs, essays, creative stories, recipes, letters, obituaries, poetry, creative stories, class projects, and other interesting works on a variety of topics. I encourage you to submit any of your work that you wish to see published. You can email it to me (christinevoigt@ufl.edu) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission. Teachers, get creative with your projects in all of the skills! You can look at previous editions online at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

The deadline for submissions is **Fri, April 1st**. Don't wait until the deadline: submit early!

Quote of the Week

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

William Arthur Ward



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