

Highlights

- Commencement
- Exit Testing
- End-of-Semester Barbecue
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Commencement

Can you believe it's already here?

Congratulations, everyone. It's been a long and tough semester, and you should all be proud of the excellent work you have done in all of your classes. This coming week is very busy with testing and end-of-semester activities, so please read this issue of the ELI Weekly carefully to make sure you know about all of the things you need to do to wrap up the term. This will be the last issue of the Weekly for the Summer Term, 2010.

The ELI Commencement Ceremony will be held here in Norman Hall in the Auditorium on the first floor (Room 137) on Friday, August 13th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. All students and staff are welcome to attend. You are encouraged to invite your friends and relatives as well. Students will receive their grades and class photos after the ceremony. Everyone is encouraged to dress up for the occasion!

Exit Test Schedule

On Thursday, August 12th, we will be giving our exit test. There are no regular ELI classes on this day. **There will be no late exams and no late students admitted to the exams.** All ELI students are required to attend and take the test in order to receive a semester certificate from the ELI. **Please remember to be on time.** If you arrive late to the test, you will not be permitted to take it, and you will

not receive a certificate from the ELI. The schedule is as follows; sections refer to Reading/Writing classes.

8:30am-10:30am:

219 NRN: RW2, RW3, RW41
311 NRN: RW42
313 NRN: RW30
340 NRN: RW40

11am-1pm:

2321 NRN: RW20 and RW21
311 NRN: RW1
313 NRN: RW50
340 NRN: RW60 and part-time students not taking RW

The Weekend Trip

This Saturday, August 7th, we are holding our **End of Semester Barbecue at Ginnie Springs!**

WHAT: Food, soccer, swimming, tubing, volleyball, and much more! All at beautiful Ginnie Springs. Lunch will be catered by Sonny's Barbecue.

WHEN: Saturday, August 7th. We will meet at Norman Garage at 10:30am. You can come back to Gainesville whenever your car chooses to return, probably around 4pm.

COST: Entrance into the park is \$10.00 plus tax for adults, and the barbecue is

FREE and delicious! Tube rental is \$6 plus tax and we can share tubes. You may also rent canoes.

TRANSPORTATION: This is a carpool trip. Ginnie Springs is about a 45-minute drive from Gainesville. You **MUST SIGN UP** on the Activities Board by 4pm Thursday, August 5th. *If you are driving your own car- you must sign up on the activities board so we can order food for you!! Also, sign up any friends and family members that you are bringing, and please meet us at Norman Hall.*

WHAT TO BRING: Wear your bathing suit and bring a towel!!! Also bring sunscreen. If you want to rent a tube or canoe you will also need an ID and credit card. Most importantly, bring an appetite for good food and fun!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans speak so fast?

A: We don't. Relatively speaking, English isn't nearly as fast as some other languages. However, when you are learning the language, it seems a lot faster. And, of course, your teachers often must use "teacher talk", that is, slower language, to make sure that you understand.

Q: Are private universities better than public universities? How can I know which one is best in graduate studies?

A: It depends on what field you are studying. Many private universities have much larger endowments (reserve money—usually donated by alumni or local community figures) than many public universities, which receive a lot of their money from the taxes paid to a state. For example, Harvard University, our oldest university in the US, has by far the largest endowment, and it is often considered a leader in prestigious fields like medicine and law.

Public universities have the advantage of being lower in cost than most private universities, and they often rank very high in a number of fields. In the 2010 US News and World Report rankings (considered one of the better tools for ranking colleges), the University of Florida comes in at number 47 nationally, a very high ranking. You can go to

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/national-universities> to look at individual rankings.

Grammar

Q: I understand the use of “get” as meaning “obtain” or “receive”, but can you give me an example of when it means “become” or “change into”?

A: Sure.

“It’s getting late.”

“I’ve been sick, but I’m getting better.”

“The class gets more fluent every day.”

Q: What’s the difference between, “I have read the book,” and, “I have been reading the book,” and which one is correct?

A: They’re both correct, depending on what you want to say. The first case means that you have definitely finished reading the book. The second case means that you have spent some time on the reading recently, but you probably haven’t finished the book yet.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the period August 6-31:

Students:

August 7: Samuel Toffoli

August 8: Isabel Andueza

August 11: Soyeon Shin

August 15: Abdullarif Al Makwa

August 17: Abdullatif Alsafour

August 21: Bader Alshehar

August 27: Juan Adrianza

August 30: Hana Bukhari

Staff:

August 7: Alexis Ellison

August 9: Adam McClure

August 13: Steve Flocks

August 13: Megan Forbes

August 28: Victoria Shelley

Quote of the Week

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

Lily Tomlin



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