

# The ELI Weekly

## Clearwater Beach

Come spend the day with the ELI at beautiful Clearwater Beach this Saturday! We will visit the beach in the afternoon and see the sunset on the pier.

**When:** Meet at Norman Garage on Saturday, September 30th, at 9:30 a.m. The bus will return to Gainesville around 10:30 p.m.

**How:** To buy a bus pass, bring \$20 cash and your Gator1 ID card to Nate in Matherly 211 Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



**What to Bring:** Extra money for meals and shopping (at least \$20), comfortable shoes and clothes, a bathing suit, a towel, sunscreen, your Gator1 ID card, and your yellow bus pass!

## Upcoming Activities

This week's Thursday afternoon activity is a conversation partner social! We will meet at Blaze Pizza on Archer Road from 7:00-9:30 p.m. to eat pizza and hang out. Bring your conversation partner!

On Friday, October 6th, the ELI will get together to enjoy a day off classes and watch the UF Homecoming Parade! More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## UF Email Addresses

Students, if you created a Gatorlink account, you have a UF email address! You should check it everyday for important message from the university!

To check your email, go to [outlook.com/ufl.edu](https://outlook.com/ufl.edu) and login using your Gatorlink user ID and password. Your email address will be your Gatorlink ID "@ufl.edu" If you have questions or need help, come to the ELI Main Office, MAT 223, or ask your teachers or LAs for help.

## Notes from the Office

**Immunizations:** If you got a note from Victoria about problems with immunizations, please take care of it immediately or come to the office to talk to her. You should check your email for a message about what you need to do. If there is a problem, you might not be able to attend class until it is fixed. Every day that you wait is another day of absences.

**Tuition:** If you were given an extension to pay your tuition or owe a late fee you need to do this as soon as possible! You will not be able to attend class until you do. If you have questions, talk to Jennifer Vann in the main office, MAT 223.

**Tardies:** We know that some students have a long walk between their classroom buildings, but it is still important that you be responsible and get to class as quickly as you can.

If you know you have a long walk, your teachers can give you some extra time, but don't stop to get coffee or have lunch on the way! Remember that being late to class 3 times counts as an absence and it is disruptive to the other students. If you are late, try to come in quickly and quietly to join in to the lesson.

**Student Health Care Center Charges:** If you visit the student health care center on campus, you might still need to pay a fee. You can pay this online yourself, or talk to Victoria in the main office, MAT 223, if you have a question or need help. Victoria can also help you if you are not sure where to go when you are sick.

## Research Corner

Sometimes researchers at UF need help from non-English speaking students, so they ask the ELI for volunteers. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and practice your English!

Your class may have a visit from Nhi Le, an exchange student working on a research project. To participate, you will need to complete an online survey that takes about 20 minutes. If you are interested in participating, you can follow the instructions she gives in your class.

## Manners & Culture

*Q: I'm homesick and sad. I don't know what to do to feel better.*

*A:* Don't worry! This is natural when you move to another country. The best thing you can do is to keep active: participate in class, go to the CIP activities, and chat with friends. You can also talk to someone about how you feel. New students are going through the same thing and probably need your support, too. Returning students went through the same thing in their first semester and will have good advice for you. Your teachers and Language Assistants are also there for you. The person who talks most, adjusts the best.

Make local connections, with your own culture and the host culture. Did you know that UF has many student organizations including international student organizations? You can make friends with UF students who speak English but who are also from your country. You can find links to them on the ELI website:

<http://www.eli.ufl.edu/firsttime/university.htm>

If you do all these things and you still feel sad, talk to Victoria. She is in her office in Matherly 223 and can listen to you or refer you to a counselor who can help more.

## Birthdays!

Students:

September 25: Amanda Linares Velazco  
September 27: Barbara Trujillo Fernandez  
September 28: Yuli Arias Rodriguez

Staff:

None this week

## Grammar

*Q: How can I use the contraction "ain't"? I've been a student at the ELI for many semesters and have never learned about this in my grammar class!*

*A:* "Ain't" is a contraction of *am not*, *is not*, or *are not*. Using "ain't" is viewed by some people to be uneducated or incorrect, but you will still hear it used in spoken informal English, especially in the southern United States. Historically, "ain't" was considered formally correct, until the British began to associate the contraction with the lower classes. After that, it was labeled improper English. However, it is a very useful contraction. For example, which one of these would sound more natural when you are speaking?

- *Am I not?*
- *Amn't I?*
- *Ain't I?*

For that reason, many people like to use "ain't" even though it is not technically considered correct, but many of your teachers might choose not cover it in grammar class.



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