

The ELI Weekly

Midterm/B-term Welcome Picnic



This Saturday will be a fun day in the sun to welcome the new ELI students. All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited to the Midterm/B-term Welcome picnic at Norman Lawn. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

When: Saturday, October 21st at 12 p.m.

Where: In front of Norman Hall by the tunnel on 13th Street

What to Bring: This activity is free. Wear comfortable clothes and sunblock. We will provide the food, so come hungry!!

IMPORTANT: Fall C students need to sign up on the Activities Board near MAT 211. Everyone is welcome, but we need to know how many people to expect!

A Special Message from the ELI

Dear Students,

On Thursday, October 19th, a person named Richard Spencer is scheduled to speak at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts. Spencer is known for his racist speech. UF President Fuchs says "The values of our universities are not shared by Mr. Spencer... Our campuses are places where people from all races, origins and religions are valued equally, welcomed and treated with love, not hate" (freespeech.ufl.edu). The University of Florida strongly disagrees with Spencer, but US law requires us to let him speak.

Because Spencer's speeches have a history of causing violence, UF, Gainesville, and Alachua County will have many police on campus on Thursday to help protect students and faculty. Still, many teachers and students are worried about coming to campus on Thursday. Because teachers and students are worried, the Dean of the College has given teachers permission to cancel classes if they have make-up assignments for students.

The ELI does not agree with the racist messages of Spencer. We do not want this person's hate to change the way we do things. However, the most important thing to us is that you feel safe. For this reason, **the ELI will not hold any classes on campus on Thursday, October 19th. All ELI students should stay home on Thursday, October 19th.**

We will not have afternoon activities on Thursday, October 19th.

If you want more information on the event, you can visit the FAQ section of freespeech.ufl.edu.

If you or your parents have any questions or concerns, please speak to me, Victoria, or the main office.

Peace,

Megan

Dr. Megan Forbes

Director, English Language Institute

Important information for this week:

Carry your UF ID with you on campus. The police will be asking students and teachers to show their UF IDs when they are on campus this week, especially on Thursday. You should not worry if the police ask you to show your ID. It will be very common for them to ask many students to show their ID. If you do not have a UF ID, please have your I-20 and/or ELI class schedule with you along with a valid ID, like your passport.

Download the GatorSafe App. You should already have the GatorSafe App. If you do not, you should download it now. UF will use the app to send any new information, for example, if they will close buildings or want students to leave campus.

(more information on the next page)

Important Information Continued...

Stay away from protests. We know our students do not agree with the racist speech of Spencer. You may see many other UF students protesting Spencer. However, because you are not 100% familiar with US culture, it will be difficult for you to judge a situation exactly. For this reason, even if you are very angry with Spencer, you should stay away from the protests.

Expect the media on campus. It is possible that many people from the media (newspapers, TV, etc.) may be on campus this week. Remember, you do not have to talk to the media if they ask you questions. It is okay to say you don't want to answer questions.

Take care of each other and ask for help if you need it. Please be kind to each other and help one another. If you are very concerned or stressed, please come speak to Victoria or Megan so we can help you find help. If you think one of your friends is very concerned or stressed, please bring them to speak to Victoria or Megan, also.

Important Information for Thursday:

Stay home. There is no reason for you to come to campus or travel around Gainesville. This is a good day to work on your class assignments, study for the IELTS, and clean your apartment.

Expect many police on and around campus. There will be many more police on campus. In addition to UF Police, you will see Gainesville Police, the Alachua County Sheriff's office, and possibly other national police, like the FBI.

Some buildings on campus will be closed. For example, the museums and the Southwest Recreation Center will be closed. Other buildings, like the Reitz Union, will require an ID for entrance. You can find a complete and updated list of closed buildings at freespeech.ufl.edu.

Some streets will be closed and some bus routes will be cancelled or changed. If you must leave your apartment, you should check with RTS to see if your bus is running and where it is. If you drive your car, you can expect roads around campus to be closed. You can find a complete list of closed roads at freespeech.ufl.edu. Parking on campus will be very difficult on Thursday.

Upcoming Activities

On Saturday, October 28th, the ELI will be going to the Micanopy Fall Festival and Cornfield Maze. More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Student Voices: You have been writing a lot this semester, and now it's time to start sending your *Student Voices* submissions to Christine at christinevoigt@ufl.edu. The final due date is Friday, November 17th, but the earlier you submit, the better!

Remember to include your name, class number, and a title for your piece. All of the submissions are entered to win a gift card to the University of Florida bookstore, so your name is very important!

Fall B Students: If you see the new Fall B students, make sure to say hello! They will be doing their required seminars this week and their classes start next week. Keep in mind, the office might be a little more crowded than usual, so please be patient!

Midterms: Midterm exams are this week and you will receive your midterm grade reports next week. Do your best and good luck!

Food Drive: The ELI is participating in the Field and Fork Pantry Food Drive to collect food for students and others in need at UF. If you have any non-perishable food items (like canned food) or toiletries, bring them to the main office, MAT 223. We will be collecting items until November 6th. If you have any questions, you can ask Tiffany in the office.

Birthdays!

Students:

October 20: Andrea Navarro Moreno

Staff

October 18: Nate Bloemke



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