

Welcome Students!

New and returning students alike, we are glad you are here!

A message from ELI Director, Dr. Megan Forbes

On behalf of the faculty, language assistants, staff and administration, I would like to welcome you to the University of Florida English Language Institute. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are a new student, we hope you come to love UF as much as we all do. We hope you soon become proud to be a member of the "Gator Nation."



We hope that in our classes our many years of experience combined with the new research found at an AAU university can help you achieve your goal of learning English. You should know that each and every one of our teachers and language assistants will be doing everything they can to help you achieve your goals. I hope you can tell how much everyone enjoys teaching and learning here. But, no matter how strong a program we have, we can always find ways to improve it. If you have suggestions, please share them with us. We want you to love the classes here as much as we do.

Of course, you are not here simply to attend class – you could have stayed home to do that! The great benefit to studying English in the US is that you are surrounded by English every day. Here at the ELI we provide you with every opportunity to practice English. We have two Language Assistants (LAs) to help with every level. We have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. We have afternoon activities with LAs every single day after class. We have a conversation partner program. We regularly volunteer in the community. We publish the *Student Voices* each semester and the *ELI Weekly* each week. In short, we try to provide every opportunity possible for you to use the language you are learning.

I urge you to take advantage of all of these opportunities. I promise, if you were to speak to all of your friends studying English at other universities, you would not find any program which provides the number of hours of English language practice we have here at the ELI. Please don't waste this opportunity – get involved outside of class

So, in closing: Welcome! And always remember... *Go Gators!*

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 Assistant Director **Daryl Bish**, in Matherly 223.

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

On Saturday, September 1st, the ELI will have its **welcome picnic**. Please join us for free food, games, and conversation. You will meet your new classmates, teachers, and language assistants! Bring your friends and family and start the semester off on the right foot!

Where: Norman Hall Courtyard

When: September 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Weekend Activity

Important Deadlines

Thursday, September 6th, is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all required paperwork or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See the Tiffany, Min, or Jen in the main office, MAT 223, for 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 on September 6th.

Immunizations: Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm on September 6th.

Health Insurance: Proof of health insurance is due by 4:30p.m. on September 6th. For questions about your health insurance, see Victoria in the main office.

Drop/Add: The last opportunity to add or drop a class is by 4:30p.m. on September 6th. You can do this on the myELI website.

Reminders

Phone Home: If you haven't let your family know you are here, please do it as soon as possible.

Smoking: There is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. You should not smoke on campus, including the courtyard outside of Matherly Hall or near any other building on the UF campus. Please see Victoria in Matherly 223 if you are interesting in quitting smoking.

Activities: The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, will have 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 Matherly 211, in each week's *Weekly*, and on the myELI website.

Notes from the Office

Stay informed: Check your email/junk mail/phone for messages from the ELI! Set up your voicemail to get any important messages. Download the **GATOR SAFE** app to receive important notifications about UF.

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.

Manners, Culture, and Useful Expressions

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Thomas Dolce. You will receive the *Weekly* each week during your Reading/Writing class.

The *ELI Weekly* gives you important news about what is happening at the ELI. The *Weekly* also answers your questions. If you have questions about American culture or people, let me know! Did you hear an English expression that you don't know? Ask the *ELI Weekly*! You may ask me in person in my office (MAT 220B), email me at tomdolce@ufl.edu, or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, MAT 223, box marked Dolce) anytime the office is open.

Expression of the Week: On the first page, you read the following sentence:

Bring your friends and family and start the semester off on the right foot!

Start off is a separable phrasal verb. It means to begin or do the first step in an activity or process. In this example, we are beginning the semester. For more information about phrasal verbs, ask your grammar teacher!

On the right foot is an idiom that means to start something in a good way. Its opposite is **on the wrong foot**, which means to start something in a bad way. Do you have these expressions in your language?

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*. Please let the office know so it can be fixed on your forms.

If you don't want your birthday listed, let Thomas Dolce know!