

# The ELI Weekly



## 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 Fall 2019 semester! If you are a new student, I am so happy you are joining us this August. 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 Fall 2019 semester. We are glad you are here!

## Weekend Activity

On Saturday, August 31, at noon we will be enjoying the **Welcome Picnic**. Please join us for food, games, and conversation! Bring your friends and family!

**Where:** Plaza of the Americas, in front of Library West

**When:** August 31<sup>st</sup>, at 12 p.m.

**It is completely FREE!**

## 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 Assistant Director, in Matherly 223.

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

## Deadlines

As a new student, you must submit many important documents. Please turn in all required paperwork on time or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See the office staff in Matherly 223 if you have any questions.

- **Tuition is due on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.** If you're paying with a bank check or money order, please pay before 1:30 p.m. If you're paying with a credit card online, please pay before midnight.
- The last opportunity to **add or drop a class** is **Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> by 4:30 p.m.**
- **Proof of health insurance is due Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, by 4:30 p.m.**
- **Proof of immunizations is due Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, by 4:30 p.m.**

## Important Reminders

**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.

**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!

**Sports and 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 posted outside of MAT 211 and in each week's *Weekly*.

## Manners, Culture, & Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Todd Allen. 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 in my office (MAT 221), email me at [toddy33@ufl.edu](mailto:toddy33@ufl.edu), or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, MAT 223, box marked *Allen*) anytime the office is open.

## 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 Todd know!

## Notes from the Office

**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.

**Stay informed:** Check your email/junk mail 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.

## 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 anything of your work that you wish to see published. It can be from any class or something you have written on your own, but ask your teachers for help editing! You can email it to me ([toddy33@ufl.edu](mailto:toddy33@ufl.edu)) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. Don't wait: submit early!

## Quote of the Week

Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country.

Anaïs Nin



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