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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Gator Basketball

Come out and cheer!

This Saturday, February 15th, we will be going to the Gator Basketball game versus Vanderbilt University. Come along with us and cheer for the Gators!

Tickets for the game cost \$18; you can purchase them from Tate in the CIP office for exact cash only with a Gator 1 ID.

Time/Place: We will be meeting at the O Dome at 7:15pm for the game that starts at 8pm.

The Thursday Activity

Join us this Thursday, February 13th, for Museum Nights: The African Diaspora at the Harn Museum, located in the southwest corner of campus. Enjoy multiple exhibitions that highlight art by African artists and the African Diaspora. We will meet at the museum entrance at 6pm and stay until about 9pm.

The Next Trip

We won't have a weekend activity on February 22nd since it is the start of midterms week. We also won't have an activity on February 29th since many of you will be traveling for the spring break.

However, we hope to see you back for the Midterm Picnic on Saturday, March 7th. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's Weekly.

Notes from your Teachers

Do you feel lost in class? Maybe your teacher is talking too fast or the explanation is unclear. Talk to your teachers. We're here to help you. Talk to the other students. If they understand, they can help you understand it, too. Here are some phrases to use:

- Could you speak a little slower?
- Could you repeat that?
- Could you explain that again?
- Could you explain this to me after class?

Do you feel homesick? Are you missing class because you feel lonely and you miss your family? This is normal. The best thing to do is talk to your teachers, talk to your classmates, and talk to your roommates. Friends can help the loneliness go away. Here are some more tips:

- Commit to doing at least one CIP activity per week, every week
- Go to an open-air farmers' market on Wednesday or Saturday

- Sign up for story hour with your children at the public library
- Join a free exercise class at the public library at <http://www.aclib.us/>

Class Attendance: Your teachers are inputting your missed classes every day. We're also taking note of every time you speak something other than English in the classroom or at ELI activities. These things are preventing you from getting the scholarship and more importantly from really learning English.

Notes from the Office

Observations: You may notice visitors in your classes. Don't worry; they're just there to observe your teacher. They're studying to be ESL teachers so they're learning good methods from your instructors before they get into a classroom.

ELI Canvas Bags: This semester, the ELI gave reusable canvas bags to all new ELI students. Now, returning students can get a free bag, too! If you are a returning student, bring your Gator 1 ID to the ELI Main Office (MAT 223) and we will give you a free bag. One bag per student, please; the number of bags is limited. Act now so you can have the coolest item of the semester!

Bathroom Etiquette

Sinks are for hand washing only. Please do not wash any other part of your body in the sink. A possible alternative is wet wipes but they **cannot** be flushed down the toilet. Remember, only toilet paper should go in the toilet.

Research Corner

Exciting Opportunities to Help Science

Students, some researchers will be visiting your classes to get participants for their study. Please consider helping forward our understanding of language usage and acquisition by participating in a study. Following is general information about each one and who to contact.

Spanish speakers: Please consider participating in a study looking at vocabulary comprehension. Your participation should take no longer than one hour. Part of the process is to respond to a brief questionnaire to make sure you are eligible and a session in which you will identify words. Please contact Gregory Bontrager (glossaphile@ufl.edu) for more details.

Arabic speakers: This is an eye-tracking study and looks at how Arabic speakers read and understand sentences in Arabic language. Arabic speakers are needed in order to compare with individuals who are learning Arabic. The study session is about one hour long and you will have to wear fancy equipment on your head!

Please contact Cloe Zeidan (czeidan@ufl.edu) for more information.

Listening/Speaking students: One of our former CIP Assistants is studying the perceived effectiveness of our listening/speaking curriculum. If you are interested in meeting with Sonia to talk about your experience, please contact Sonia Velasquez (n01313654@unf.edu) to find out more.

Make Friends in Mexico!

Any level 30 or 40 student: A teacher in Mexico would like to organize an online collaboration with her students. She would like 30 students to pair with her students and have written and oral interactions in English through a social network. She is looking for students from all cultures and language groups. Make a friend in Mexico! Please contact Jen Ramos (jenramos@ufl.edu) by February 21 to sign up.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 12 to February 18:

Students:

February 14: Hyunjung Kim
February 14: Gabriela Romero Frias
February 15: Jooae Kang
February 17: Taewon Park
February 17: Khaled Alotaibi

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of "to be" or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it. There are varieties of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it's necessary.

Standard English: What do you see?
Non-standard variety: What you see?

Quote of the Week

I like nonsense -- it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope...and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities.

Stanislaw J. Lem



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