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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Midterms

*Study time!*

There is no scheduled ELI Trip this weekend because we will be holding our Midterm Exams over the next week. Good luck on your exams!

### The Thursday Activity

Join us this Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, for the SweetBerries Social at SweetBerries Eatery and Frozen Custard. Eat dinner or try frozen custard, play games and interact with LAs, classmates, and friends! We will meet SweetBerries at 505 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street at 6:30pm and stay until around 9:30pm.

### The Friday Activity

This Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, we will not be having Café Friday. Instead, we will be attending the Gator Gymnastics Link to Pink event. Join us for the competition against Alabama's team. Wear pink to raise awareness for breast cancer research. We will meet at the O'Connell Center Gate 3 at 6:15pm.

### The Next Trip

We won't have a weekend activity on February 22<sup>nd</sup> since it is the start of midterms week. We also won't have an activity on February 29<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's Weekly.

### US Federal Tax Forms

Taxes are due on April 15<sup>th</sup> this year. If you don't earn money in the U.S., you won't owe taxes; however, all international students who studied in the US in 2019 must send a document to the IRS. If you do not file, it may impact future visa applications.

If you are on an F-1 or J visa, did not earn income in the US in 2019, and have been in this country for less than 5 years, you need to fill out Form 8843:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

Fill out the information under Part I and Part III. In 9 and 10, you need to include the information about the academic institution that you attended in 2019. You'll find that on the back of this *Weekly* at the bottom of the page. The name of the director of the ELI is Megan Forbes.

Mail your completed form to this address:  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Austin, TX 73301

If you have questions about filing form 8843 with the IRS, you should make an appointment to ask **Daryl** or someone in the ELI administration group for help. If you had on campus employment in 2019, you earned taxable and reportable income and must submit form 8843 and a 2019 Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ to the IRS. You will need a W-2 from your employer. Make an appointment with **Daryl** if you have questions about filing a 2019 Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ.

You can also find answers to some questions on the UF International Center tax page:  
<https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/international-students-scholars/additional-information/taxes>. ELI students cannot access GLACIER Tax Prep services offered by the UF International Center. Helpful links are also posted on the ELI Facebook page.

### 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.

## Student Voices

The student voices deadline isn't far away! Be thinking about making a submission. You can email it to Lynne (clarklhr@ufl.edu) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Don't wait: submit early!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 19 to February 25:

Students:

February 19: Mohammed Almukhlifi

February 20: Ponnicha Niyaylub

February 20: Luis Echeverria Reyes

February 21: Yeonjun Kim

February 25: Zeyad Alharbi.

Staff:

February 25: Olga Moody

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why is it not illegal to buy a gun in the US?*

A: When the country was first founded, the writers of the Constitution included the right to carry a gun as one of the rights that Americans should have.

*Q: What do Americans do after retirement?*

A: Lots of different things. Some people travel, some play a lot of golf, some rest, and some go to live at Disney World. With the current economy, however, many retirees have had to get part-time or even full-time jobs, or move in with their children.

*Q: What is Presidents' Day?*

A: It's a combined holiday, actually. We used to have holidays for George Washington's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. These two are generally considered to be our greatest presidents. Both birthdays are in February, so the federal government decided that it was a good idea to make the Monday between them into a holiday to make a long weekend. However, UF and ELI students still have/ had class on Monday!

## Grammar

*Q: What's the difference between until and 'til?*

A: It's the same word, just shortened. We use the short form usually in conversation. We use the full word in formal writing or formal speech. Interestingly, there is also a newer written form of 'til that is becoming more acceptable: *till*.

*Conversational:* I have to stay 'til 4pm.

*Academic:* I have to stay until 4pm.

## Quote of the Week

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt



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