

The ELI Weekly



Welcome Back!

Our Director, Megan Forbes, has a message for you:

Dear students,

Welcome to the University of Florida ELI Summer C 2020 semester. If you are a new student, I am so happy you are joining our program this May. If you are a

returning student, welcome back! Welcome, all, to the first-ever, completely planned, online semester at the ELI. Congratulations on being part of history!

All of you 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 online 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 new classes and a the COVID-19 world as easy as possible. If you need any help with anything, please ask. Even though we are not physically in the office, we are

available to you via phone, email, and Zoom. You are not alone!

As we continue our adventure together into the world of remote teaching and learning and online activities, I'd also like to ask for your help. Many of us started this journey together last semester and we continue to learn and grow together. If you have suggestions on how we can improve our new remote classes or online activities, please let us know as soon as you have an idea. Don't wait until the end of the semester.

Notes from the Office

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 email or call **Daryl Bish**, our Assistant Director.

For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, email or call **Victoria Dolce**, the Student Life Coordinator.

Deadlines: The deadline to drop or add a class, pay tuition, submit proof of insurance and immunizations, and turn in financial guarantees, is Wednesday, May 20th. **If you miss any of these deadlines, email Jennifer Van or Victoria Dolce right away**, or you could be removed from classes or charged a late fee! Also, students who drop a class or withdraw from the ELI after the drop/add deadline on Wednesday, May 20th will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses and their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw).

Memorial Day: Remember that Monday, May 25th is the Memorial Day holiday. UF and the ELI will be closed, and there will be reduced RTS bus service, so be sure to plan accordingly.

Weather: Remember that Florida can sometimes get dangerous weather in the summer, such as heavy rains or hurricanes, so download an app like **Gatorsafe** to receive notifications about possible danger on UF campus or any other important information.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is a requirement of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for students on the F-1 visa. It is also required by the ELI because we feel that you cannot learn English if you do not come to class regularly. To help you stay focused on your studies and to maintain your student status, the ELI has the following attendance policy:

- If you miss more than 59 hours (25%) of absences, you can no longer attend ELI classes and your I-20 will be terminated.
- If you miss more than 35 hours (15%) of classes, or fail any of your classes, you will not receive a semester certificate and you will be allowed to return to the English Language Institute the next semester ONLY on a probationary basis.
- If you miss five days in a row in all of your classes without informing the English Language Institute prior to or immediately after the five days, you can be expelled from the ELI.

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 email me at toddy33@ufl.edu anytime.

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!

CIP Activities-Stay tuned in myELI for links!

Monday - Game Night - 6:30 to 9:30-Join students and LAs for a fun game of trivia!

Wednesday - Coffee and Culture Talk - 7:30 to 9:30-Make your favorite warm drink and join us for a fun discussion on cultural theme!

Thursday - Movie Night - 6:30-9:30-Vote on which movie you want to watch with LAs and students! Use the chat feature to socialize during the movie and stay after for more discussion!

Saturday - Geographical Quiz Bowl - 7:30 to 9:30-How much geography do you know? Join us for a fun night of team quizzes!

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. We 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 Lynne (clarklhr@ufl.edu) or to your teacher. Please include your name and class on your submission.

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, July 13th**. 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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