Okay, everyone, it’s time to revisit this topic. We received a letter of complaint last week from the Dean of the College of Education, noting that many of our students are continuing to ignore the signs and the rules about smoking in the area outside the Florida Room (the stone tables between the Florida Room and the Education Library) and on the benches around the Education Library. This is a NO SMOKING AREA. Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet (about 18 meters) of the buildings at UF. Period. This rule does not change even if it’s raining or cold. Here are Norman, smoking is permitted in the area near the parking lot where there is a sign designating it.

We realize of course that it’s not only ELI students who are smoking out there. However, we also realize that many of the folks smoking out there ARE ELI students. Please, everyone, remember, that you are representing yourself, your culture, and the ELI itself when you are here on the grounds of Norman Hall.

Please, please respect the rules. Remember, we at the ELI are neighbors of the College of Education, and it’s incumbent on all of us to do our part to keep up the good relationship that we have enjoyed for decades!

Paintball!

This Saturday, February 17th, we will be playing Paintball! Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting. When: Saturday, February 17th. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:00 pm. We will return mid-afternoon. Cost: The cost is $20 for equipment and 200 paintballs. You may purchase 500 paintballs for $35. Be sure to wear clothes that can get dirty (well, okay, painted) and closed-toed shoes. Also, wear long sleeves and pants; paintballs are safe, but they can really sting on bare flesh!

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 3pm. We need 20 people to get our own field! So come and play!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, there will be no trip due to Midterm Exams. The following week, on Saturday, March 3rd, we will be going to the I-75 Super Flea Market. Details will be in the Weekly 2 weeks from now.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 16-22:

Students:

February 17: Sang Jin Hong

Staff:

February 21: Carmen Franz
Finally! We have some questions for this semester!

**Q:** Why do so many students here at the ELI speak their own languages all the time?

**A:** Oh, my. A difficult question. My answer is likely to be controversial. Over the years, I've asked this question of a lot of students. The main reason that student give is that it's easier. Others have indicated that they're afraid of what their friends will think, they have “important” things to say, or they just really don't care.

It's a huge problem here. The main reason that it's a problem is that it slows down your language learning (by a good 50%) and that of the people you're talking to, as well as speakers of your language who can't help but overhear you. We have a large population of students who don't advance at the pace they think they should, and this is the number one reason. If you don't force yourself to use English, you won't get better. Simple, isn't it?

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**Quote of the Week**

Before you do anything, think. If you do something to try and impress someone, to be loved, accepted or even to get someone's attention, stop and think. So many people are so busy trying to create an image, they die in the process.

--Salma Hayek