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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## I-75 Super Flea Market

*Shop 'til you drop!*

This weekend, on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are headed to the **I-75 Super Flea Market** in Ocala.

Flea Markets are very popular in the United States. At the I-75 Super Flea Market in Ocala, there are approximately 1000 different vendors selling stuff... everything from music, to vegetables, to jewelry. This will be a great chance to buy some inexpensive gifts for people, to see a very interesting part of U.S. culture, and to practice your English!

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, meet at 10:00am at Norman Garage. We will return to Gainesville around 3:00pm. Please sign up on the activities board by 5:00pm Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COST:** **FREE!** However, bring money for anything you plan to buy and for lunch. The amount of money you should bring depends on what you want to buy...most stuff at flea markets is less expensive when compared to regular stores.

## Student List-serv

The Cultural Immersion Program is announcing a new student e-mail list-serv to let you know more about activities on campus. We will begin sending out a CIP list-serv this week. It will include non-

sponsored and sponsored CIP activities and events at UF and Gainesville. The first e-mail will be sent out on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> (to all ELI students). If, for some reason, you do not wish to receive these messages, you will be able to opt out after the first message.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of March 2-8:

Students:  
March 3: Jue Young Hong

Staff:  
March 3: Barbara Hess Earp  
March 6: Debbie Kellerman  
March 6: Sonja Pealer

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why don't women in Gainesville wear makeup?*

A: Many do. Gainesville is not necessarily any different from anyplace else as far as makeup use is concerned. It's a matter of personal choice. Some women like to wear makeup, some women feel uncomfortable without it, some women prefer a more natural look, and some

women really hate the feeling of makeup on their faces.

*Q: Why do American men wear their jeans below the hip so that their underwear shows?*

A: Like so many things, it's a matter of fashion. It's a current fashionable trend. Many people like it. Of course, there are still many people who don't. Purely a matter of choice.

*Q: What days are holidays in the US?*

A: We have quite a few. Starting in January, there is New Year's Day. Most businesses are closed or operate on a short schedule, and there is no mail or banking. Next is Martin Luther King Day, which is a Monday holiday in which many schools are closed along with banks and government offices. Valentine's day doesn't see closures; it's just a day to tell those close to you that you love them. Presidents' Day is what we call a bank holiday; federal government offices and banks are closed, but not much else is. St. Patrick's Day, like Valentine's Day, doesn't close things down, it's just a day to celebrate the Irish spirit in America. Easter is a religious Sunday holiday. Many businesses close on that day. Also, in some places (not here in Florida), the Friday before and/or the Monday after can be holidays. Memorial Day in May is a day in which we remember people who

have died in wars. It's a Monday bank holiday, and schools are usually closed, too. In July, we celebrate Independence Day. That's a big holiday in which most schools and businesses shut down. On the first Monday in September, we celebrate Labor Day. Most schools, gov't offices, banks, and many businesses are closed. In October, there is Columbus Day, which marks Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World; it's a bank holiday. Halloween isn't a day off, but it's celebrated by nearly everyone with costumes and parties. Veteran's Day in November is the day in which we

honor people who have fought in wars; it's a bank holiday and many schools (including UF) are closed for it. Thanksgiving is our biggest family holiday; it's on the fourth Thursday in November, and we usually also have the Friday off. Finally, in December, there is Christmas. It's also a very big traditional holiday in the US, and nearly everything is closed for it.

*Q: Why do most Americans say "Bless you" when someone sneezes?*

A: Back in the Middle Ages, many people thought that sneezes were an opportunity for evil spirits to enter the body. They would say "God bless you" when people sneezed. Even though most people probably don't have the same views about evil spirits today, it's a tradition that continues.

### Quote of the Week

Nothing is worse than active ignorance.  
--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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