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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Commencement

Can you believe it's already here?

Congratulations, everyone. It's been a long and tough semester, and you should all be proud of the excellent work you have done in all of your classes. This coming week is very busy with testing and end-of-semester activities, so please read this issue of the ELI Weekly carefully to make sure you know about all of the things you need to do to wrap up the term. This will be the last issue of the Weekly for the Spring Term, 2011.

The Spring C Commencement will be held in Room G101 in the Health Professions Nursing and Pharmacy Building on Friday, April 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All students and staff are welcome to attend. You are encouraged to invite your friends and relatives as well. Students will receive their grades and class photos after the ceremony. Everyone is encouraged to dress up for the occasion!

Exit Test Schedule

On Thursday, April 21st, we will be giving our exit test. **There will be no late exams and no late students admitted to the exams.** All ELI students are required to attend and take the test in order to receive a certificate of completion from the ELI.

Please remember to be on time. The test is EARLY. Missing the bus and sleeping through your alarm are NOT acceptable excuses. If you arrive late to the test, you will not be permitted to take it, and you will not receive a certificate of completion from the ELI.

The schedule is as follows; sections refer to Reading/Writing classes:

8:15to 10:15
CELT 1 & 2:
260 NRN: RW 21, 30, 3
270 NRN: RW 20, 43
278 NRN: RW 40, 41
288 NRN: RW 42, 31

11:00 to 1:00
CELT 1 & 2:
260 NRN: RW 50, 52
270 NRN: RW 51, 60, 4
278 NRN: RW 1, 2
288 NRN: RW 32, Part-time Students not taking RW

The Weekend Trip

This Saturday, April 16th, we are holding our **End of Semester Barbecue at Ginnie Springs!**

WHAT: Food, swimming, tubing, volleyball, Frisbee, and much more! All

at beautiful Ginnie Springs. Lunch will be catered by Sonny's Barbecue and will be served around 12:30pm.

WHEN: Saturday, April 16th. We will meet at Norman Garage at 10:30am. You can come back to Gainesville whenever your car chooses to return, probably around 4pm.

COST: Entrance into the park is \$10.00 plus tax and the barbecue is FREE and delicious! Tube rental is \$6 plus tax and we can share tubes. Canoes can also be rented.

TRANSPORTATION: This is a carpool trip. Ginnie Springs is about a 45-minute drive from Gainesville. You **MUST SIGN UP** on the Activities Board by 4pm Thursday, April 14th. *If you are driving your own car- you must sign up on the activities board so we can order food for you!! Also, sign up any friends and family members that you are bringing with you!*

WHAT TO BRING: Wear your bathing suit and bring a towel!!! Also bring sunscreen. If you want to rent a tube or canoe you will also need an ID and credit card. Most importantly, bring an appetite for good food and fun!

WHAT NOT TO BRING: No Pets. Also please remember that there is NO alcohol at ELI events.

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans seem so surprised when someone says hello and touches their back?

A: We adopted many of our customs early on from English customs. In England, as in most of Northern Europe, there is less physical contact than there is in much of Mediterranean Europe. We might give a handshake to someone we are meeting for the first time as a sign of respect, but that's about it for a lot of us. Of course, when you grow up not being used to being touched in greetings, it can be startling when somebody does touch you.

Q: What is the origin of the word "buck" when it means "dollar"?

A: There are a lot of ideas about this, but the one that seems to have the most credibility is that it comes from a time when furs were used for trading. 1 buckskin (the fur from a male deer) was shortened to 1 "buck".

Grammar

Q: Why are there so many silent letters in English words?

A: English is a combination of many different language influences. One of the main languages that influenced English vocabulary and spelling over the centuries was French. French arguably has more silent letters than most Western languages (they kept a lot of the Latin letters that they stopped pronouncing). A lot of the words that we imported, we didn't make many changes to; also, we adopted quite a few spelling patterns from the French language. English spelling wasn't actually standardized until the middle of the 19th Century!

Q: What does "though" mean at the end of a sentence?

A: It doesn't really have any synonyms. Basically, it is used in conversation when we want to indicate that we're

adding a potential last-minute contrast to the ideas that came before.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the period April 15-April 30:

Students:

April 15: Jea Sum Lee
April 22: Khulood Alazwary
April 23: Ghanem Al-Kazem
April 25: Ana Sevarolli
April 27: Hyunmin Choi
April 29: Wafa Almutairi

Staff:

April 25: Daryl Bish
April 27: Gisele Canova

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Quote of the Week

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

Lily Tomlin



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