Student Voices Submissions due Friday

By now, you are probably sick of hearing about ELI Student Voices. You already know, for example, that the ELI Student Voices is the ELI’s publication of student writing. It is clear to you that the ELI Student Voices is your opportunity to publish your English writing for the rest of the ELI to read. Of course, you definitely know that the submission deadline is April 9th.

However, sometimes it is important to review things we already know. This week is your last chance to send your writing to be included in the ELI Student Voices. Please send your writing to Thomas at tomdolce@ufl.edu. With your submission, please include your name, your Reading and Writing class level, and a title for your writing.

After you submit your writing, your piece will be read by a group of ELI judges. These judges will vote on their favorite pieces. The top two pieces will be recognized at the ELI commencement ceremony on Friday, April 26th.

It is important to remember that “favorite” does not mean longest or most difficult or with the biggest range of vocabulary. The judges vote for the pieces that they enjoy the most. Because of this, everyone can win, from level 10 to level 60. We look forward to reading your writing!

ELI Food Drive—Last Week

This is the final week of the ELI food drive. As you know, the ELI is collecting food to donate to the University of Florida’s Field and Fork Pantry. This service helps UF students, faculty, and staff who are experiencing food insecurity. According to the Field and Fork Pantry’s website, food insecurity is “not having a reliable access to nutritious foods for yourself on a regular basis.”

You can donate any non-perishable food items. The most needed items include the following: tomato sauce, cereal, rice, pasta, coffee, tea, canned soup, canned meats, beans, baby formula, diapers, and toiletries.

If you want to help, bring your donations to the ELI Office and put your donations in the box by Friday, April 5th. You can also bring donations to the ELI Talent Show Friday night.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated and who is planning to donate. Your contributions help make your community a better place!

The CIP Insider

Thursday Activity—UF Bat Houses

This Thursday, come see one of the most interesting features of the University of Florida—the UF bat houses. Located on Museum Road near Lake Alice, the bat houses are home to between 450,000 to 500,000 bats! It is estimated that these bats eat 2.5 billion insects every night!

We will visit the bat house at sunset. Shortly after sunset, the bats leave the bat houses to eat. It is an amazing experience to watch them fly out of their home. Also, don’t worry. It is totally safe!

When & Where: We will meet at the Reitz Union Food Court to eat dinner at 6:00. After that, we will ride bus 20 to Lake Alice to watch the bats. The cost is free, but bring your Gator 1 ID to ride to bus to the bat house.

Friday Activity—ELI Talent Show

On Friday, April 5th, the ELI will hold its most anticipated event of the semester—the ELI Talent Show! Your ELI classmates, language assistants, and staff have been rehearsing for weeks for this event. Come watch and cheer for them as they perform their talents for you.

There will be singing, dancing, and other kinds of performances. This is a great event to invite your friends, family, or conversation partners to. Everyone is invited.

When: Friday, April 5th. Doors open at 7:00. Don’t be late!

Where: The University Auditorium. This is one of the most beautiful buildings on UF’s campus. It is located near Century Tower and across the street from Turlington Hall.
Notes from the Office

Taxes: If you studied in the United States in 2018, you must file a tax document with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) before April 15th. If you do not, it could hurt your chances to get a visa in the future.

If you are on an F-1 or J visa, did not earn income in the US in 2018, and have been in the US for less than 5 years, you need to fill out Form 8843 available on the IRS website.

If you had on-campus employment in 2018, your situation is more complicated, and you should make an appointment with Daryl to make sure you do everything properly.

Charges Due: Please remember to pay any fees to the University of Florida before the end of the semester. These fees include things like printing lab fees, infirmary fees, or late fees from the library. Please be aware that government scholarships do not pay these fees. You must pay these fees yourself.

If you do not pay your fees, you will not receive a certificate at the end of the semester. See Victoria in the office if you have any questions.

Culture Questions

Question:

Why do students in the US call teachers by their first names? In my country, this is impolite.

Answer:

Generally, we call teachers by whatever name they want to be called. In elementary, middle, and high school, it is most common for students to call their teachers mister, miss, or missus and then the teacher’s last name. In a university setting, it is common to call a professor with a Ph.D. doctor and then their last name. It is unusual to use a title like doctor with a person’s first name.

At the ELI, we try to make students feel more comfortable, so most teachers ask to be called by their first names. However, if your teacher asks you to call them something different, you should follow their instructions. Most importantly, you should not call your teacher teacher or professor. It is unusual to call someone only by their job title.

Useful Expressions of the Week

Phrase One: sick of

You are probably sick of hearing about ELI Student Voices

To be sick of something is a common phrase in English that means you are tired of something, or that something is no longer acceptable to you. For example, you might be sick of waking up early if you have a morning Reading and Writing class, or you might be sick of the weather changing from hot to cold every day.

To be sick of is followed by a noun (I am sick of my roommates) or a gerund (I am sick of doing homework every night). A similar expression is to be tired of. It has a similar meaning and is used in the same way.

Phrase Two: mister, miss, or misses

It is most common for students to call their teachers mister, miss, or missus and then the teacher’s last name.

It is difficult to know which title to call a person and how to pronounce the words. Here is a quick explanation.

Mister (Mr.) – This is used for men. Use this before a man’s last name. In some situations, it is ok to use it by itself if you do not know the man’s name (similar to the word sir).

Missus (Mrs.) - This is used for married women. Use this before a woman’s last name.

Miss (Ms.) - Miss is typically used for unmarried women. However, with the abbreviation Ms, you can refer to both married and unmarried women. Use the pronunciation “miz” to refer to all women just to be safe.

Happy Birthday!

Wish the following people a happy birthday this week!

Students:

April 3rd: Abdurazaq Alabdurazaq
April 5th: Ahmed Hamdi
April 7th: Vanessa Solari Morales
April 8th: Swati Gupta

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