

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Homecoming Parade

*A big UF tradition!*

Come experience the Homecoming Parade, a UF tradition!

**Who:** All Gator Fans!

**What:** A parade to celebrate Homecoming! Homecoming is an exciting time when students and alumni come to Gainesville to show their Gator pride! You can see floats from different organizations within the university, Albert and Alberta, the UF marching band, the UF football team, and much more!

**When:** Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Norman Garage at 11am and we will walk over! The parade begins at 12pm, but we must get a good spot! Be sure to sign up by Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm!

**Where is the parade:** University Avenue...but don't forget to meet at Norman Garage!

**How Much:** FREE!

**What to Bring:** Sunscreen, water, folding chair (optional)

## Notes from the Office

- **Fake IDs-**Not that we think that our students would do such a thing, but there are occasional rumors. Once in a while we like to remind you that certain things can be more serious than some people think they might be. A couple of years ago, Florida changed its laws regarding using a fake ID to purchase alcohol and made it much, much more serious. The penalty is up to 5 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine...and a foreign student is subject to immediate deportation for a felony. It's a big, big risk!
- **Lost and Found-**Don't forget to check in the main office from time to time for lost and found items. We keep a large box with items that have been found in our classrooms and turned in.
- **Homecoming Holiday-** Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, is a celebration of UF's Homecoming. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on this day.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, there will be no trip in order to allow for you to study for any Midterm Exams your teachers may be giving you. Our next activity will be on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, to watch **Gator Football**.

## Birthdays

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

Students:

Missed one last week!

October 15: Anfal Hathah

October 21: Hamad Mohammed Alketbi

Staff:

October 18: Nate Bloemke

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why do Americans speak so fast?*

A: We don't. Relatively speaking, English isn't nearly as fast as some other languages. However, when you

are learning the language, it seems a lot faster. And, of course, your teachers often must use “teacher talk”, that is, slower language, to make sure that you understand.

*Q: Are private universities better than public universities? How can I know which one is best in graduate studies?*

A: It depends on what field you are studying. Many private universities have much larger endowments (reserve money—usually donated by alumni or local community figures) than many public universities, which receive a lot of their money from the taxes paid to a state. For example, Harvard University, our oldest university in the US, has by far the largest endowment, and it is often considered a leader in prestigious fields like medicine and law.

Public universities have the advantage of being lower in cost than most

private universities, and they often rank very high in a number of fields. In the 2009 US News and World Report rankings (considered one of the better tools for ranking colleges), the University of Florida comes in at number 47 nationally, a very high ranking. You can go to

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/national-universities>

to look at individual rankings.

### Grammar

*Q: I understand the use of “get” as meaning “obtain” or “receive”, but can you give me an example of when it means “become” or “change into”?*

A: Sure.  
“It’s getting late.”

“I’ve been sick, but I’m getting better.”

“The class gets more fluent every day.”

*Q: What’s the difference between, “I have read the book,” and, “I have been reading the book,” and which one is correct?*

A: They’re both correct, depending on what you want to say. The first case means that you have definitely finished reading the book. The second case means that you have spent some time on the reading recently, but you probably haven’t finished the book yet.

### Quote of the Week

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

--Irish Proverb

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