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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, 2009.

The ELI Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Friday, April 24th, 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 23rd, we will be giving our exit test. **New this semester:** the writing portion of the test will be given next week, on Wednesday, April 22nd, in the first hour of all Reading/Writing classes. If you are not taking Reading/Writing this semester, the writing portion of the test

is not required. However, if you wish to take the Reading/Writing portion of the exam, then please see Patti as soon as possible.

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. 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:

Thursday, April 23rd

8:15-9:45am:

Room 270 NRN: Sections 10, 20

Room 278 NRN: Sections 30, 31

Room 288 NRN: Sections 40, 41

10:30am-12noon:

Room 270 NRN: Sections 42, 50, 51

Room 278 NRN: Sections 1, 2

Room 288 NRN: Sections 60, 3, and part-time students not taking R/W

The Weekend Trip

This Saturday, April 18th, we are holding our **End of Semester Barbecue at Ginnie Springs!**

WHAT: Food, soccer, swimming, tubing, volleyball, and much more! All at beautiful Ginnie Springs. Lunch will be catered by Sonny's Barbecue and will be served around 12:30 PM.

WHEN: Saturday, April 18th. We will meet at Norman Garage at 11:00 AM. You can come back to Gainesville whenever your car chooses to return, probably around 4 PM.

COST: Entrance into the park is \$10.00 plus tax (this is a discount!!!) 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 4 PM Thursday, April 16th. *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!

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: Why do you have the electoral system instead of directly electing your president?

A: Wow. You guys really do pay attention! This is a question that a lot of Americans are asking, too. The main issue when our country was created was one of fairness in the division of the states. The current electoral system allows for smaller states (in population) to have a slightly larger voice within the party system.

Each state gets a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress. The number is 2 Senators from each state, and then Representatives based on population. And then, in the election, most of the states give ALL of the electoral votes to the party that gets even a simple majority.

Q: Why don't Americans try to discover more about other cultures instead of developing such ridiculous stereotypes?

A: That's a very good question. The only answer I have is that, as with so many habits that many of us consider negative, it's easier to be complacent and ignorant.

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!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the period April 17-May 8:

Students:

April 17: Hector Cortes
April 17: Severine Ilboudo
April 18: Yu Cheng Lin
April 26: Seung Hei Cho
April 26: Lucas Machado
April 27: Khalid Aljowaid
April 28: German Perez
April 28: Veronica Perez

Staff:

May 3: Jen Ramos
May 8: Karen Owens

Quote of the Week

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

Lily Tomlin



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