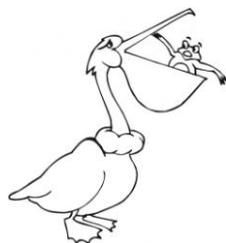


## Highlights

- Cedar Key
- Volunteering
- ELI Video Competition
- Notes from the Office

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 117, Issue 6  
February 20, 2012*



## Cedar Key

*Come relax with us!*

The next trip will be to Cedar Key on Saturday, February 25th. It will be a relaxing event where everyone can walk on the beach, visit local shops and restaurants, and see some wild animals like pelicans and possibly dolphins.

**When:** Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00pm to 5:30pm.

**Where:** We will be meeting at Norman Garage at 12:00pm and returning around 5:30pm.

**Cost:** The trip is free but bring money for food and shopping.

**What to bring:** Also, bring comfortable shoes, water, and your camera.

Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## The Next Trip

For the next two weekends, there will be no scheduled activities due to midterms and Spring Break. Our next activity, the following weekend, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, will be our Welcome Picnic for the new B-Term students. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in that week's *Weekly*.

## Volunteering

We're going to be volunteering with Project Makeover at Chester Shell Elementary School. Come prepared to work outside, get dirty, and have fun (Oh yeah!). Activities will include painting interactive murals, landscaping, and participating in other activities to renovate the public school. Project Makeovers is a completely student-run organization devoted to bettering the low-income learning environment of Gainesville.

**When:** Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. We will meet at Norman Garage at 5:00pm.

**When:** Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We will meet at Norman Garage at 8:00am.

Please sign up on the activities board by Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and please, please, be on time or they may not let us participate!

Don't forget to join our new Facebook group "ELI Volunteer Opportunities" to get the most up-to-date information.

## ELI Video Competition

This is completely separate from the ELI promotional video. This is a video made by you!

What does the ELI mean to you? The ELI is giving you a chance to show us! The video should represent your personal experience but should also represent the ELI as a whole. The winner's video project will be shown at Commencement at the end of the semester, and some submissions will be uploaded on the ELI YouTube channel. Be creative and immortalize your experience at the ELI!

Stop by the CIP office in Norman 315 to get more information.

## Notes from the Office

**Sickness:** Remember to sneeze and cough into your elbow. If you sneeze into your hand and then shake hands with your classmates or teacher, you could spread your sickness to them.

### Immunizations & Insurance:

All of our students are required to have certain immunizations and adequate health insurance in order to attend class. We do this because UF requires it and

because we care about you and don't want you to infect each other with tuberculosis or get sick and not have insurance. So please remember to take care of your insurance and immunization as soon as possible. **You will not be allowed to attend class until you do.**

**Travel and I-20s:** If you plan to travel outside the country during Spring Break, including the Bahamas, Mexico, and Canada, remember that you will need to get your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office before you go, in order to get back into the country when the break is over!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 20 to February 26:

Students:

February 21: Rawan Alakeel

February 22: Cruz Hernandez Escalona

February 23: Saeed A Alghamdi

February 26: Euryn Quijada Rivera

Staff:

February 25: Olga Moody

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?*

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

*Q: Some of my classmates don't use deodorant and the classroom smells strong sometimes. Is it okay if I tell them?*

A: No, but it's okay if I do here. This is always something of a problem for us, given the multicultural nature of the ELI and the fact that deodorant use isn't common in some countries, while it's very common or even basically socially required in others. If you come from a culture that doesn't use it, please be aware that you probably smell pretty strong to your classmates and maybe even to some of your teachers. If you are aware and you don't want to do anything about it, that's your right, of course, but people are probably talking about it. Now, with all that having been said, I would also tell you that if you have a very, very good friend who might come from a non-deodorant culture and who has a very strong aroma, and you think that people are in fact talking about them without their knowledge, then it's probably okay to go ahead *in extreme private* to let them know.

Likewise, if you use a lot of perfume or cologne, please be aware that some people might be allergic and might choose not to sit near you for this reason.

## Grammar

*Q: What form should I use after the word 'any', single or plural form, for example, "Do you have any question?" or "Do you have any questions?"*

A: We use 'any' for plural nouns and for count nouns, so "Do you have any questions?" is correct. Here are some more examples.

- Noncount: Is there any milk?
- Plural count: Are there any cookies?

*Q: What is the difference in using "Among" and "Between"?*

A: "Between" is for only two things and "among" is for more than two things.

- What's the difference between PC and Apple?
- What's the difference among the different computers?

## Quote of the Week

Food for the body is not enough. There must be food for the soul.

Dorothy Day

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