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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Weekend

Help others while helping yourself!

Volunteer Seminar

Tuesday, January 22nd, we will be holding a **Volunteer Seminar** to give you information about the volunteer activities going on this weekend. You can also sign up for the activities then. Most activities will fill up at the Seminar so make sure you attend!

When: Tuesday, January 22nd at 5:00 pm
Where: Norman 250

Volunteer Weekend

Saturday, January 27th and Sunday, January 28th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Weekend** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment.

When: Saturday, January 27th, see below for meeting times.

Where: Norman Garage

Cost: Free! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

Guardian Angels: We will help clean the area inside and outside the dogs' crate. Meet at Norman Garage at 9:00am.

14th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup: Gather "air potatoes" and enjoy food and

music! Meet at the Norman Garage at 9:00am.

Project Downtown Gainesville: Join the Islamic Center and help feed the homeless in the downtown Bo' Diddle Community plaza. Meet at Norman Garage at 12:30am.

Emeritus: Interact with elderly residents, play Wii games, and practice your English. Great fun for the whole family! Meet at the Norman Garage at 2:00pm.

We also have an activity on **Sunday, Jan 27th**.

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire:

Volunteer as a member of the Hoggetowne Medieval Festival and help the staff with ticket collecting. Meet at the Norman Garage at 11:30am on Sunday, Jan. 27th.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 24th but don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. Arrive **ON TIME** at Norman Garage! If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chris in the CIP Office, Room 318.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week:

Wednesday: *Coffee Talk* at the Amphitheater at the Reitz Union, 7-10pm.

Thursday: *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 7-10pm. Free!

Friday: *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 7-10pm. Free!

Friday: *Gator Nights* at the Reitz, 6-9pm. Bring your UFID.

Notes from the Office

Libraries: UF has great libraries and you have full access to them, if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, and get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

Parking: Very important! If you drive to the ELI, you need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from Judith in 315 Norman to purchase a Park and Ride decal.

Withdrawing from the ELI or one course: Students who withdraw from a course or from the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a

grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide.

Feeling Sick? If you get sick, you should send your teachers an email from home or talk to them when you get back. If you are going to be out for 3 or more days, please call the office and let us know.

Student Mailbox: Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you will not need to ask in the office.

ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of the many places of origin of our students:

Angola	Nicaragua
Bolivia	Panama
Brazil	Peru
Burkina Faso	Qatar
Chile	Russia
China	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Senegal
India	Syria
Iran	Taiwan
Iraq	Thailand
Japan	Turkey
Kazakistan	United States
Kenya	Uzbekistan
Korea	Venezuela
Kuwait	Vietnam

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 21 to January 27:

Students:
January 21: Maria Anez

January 23: Nicole Bardawil Bortolin
January 23: Arturo Lopez Alegre
January 25: Ahmad Almeer
January 25: Tariq Alaqil
January 25: Joseph Jr Khoury
January 25: Saleh Binmuqbal
January 27: Daeun Lee

Staff:
None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why are the teachers really strict with punctuality?

A: First of all, the official ELI policy requires that the teachers be strict. In the classroom, it's hard to start class if all the students aren't there and we want to make sure we're using the time effectively. Also, being late and making people wait is considered very rude in American culture.

Q: Every UF classroom has a sign that says "Please no eating or drinking in classrooms". Does that include water?

A: You are allowed to have water bottles with a cap in the classroom.

Q: Why are teachers so strict with the use of cellphones in class, even if they were used as a dictionary?

A: We are strict because we want you to focus on learning English. Studies show that students don't learn if they're not focused. Plus, let's be honest; we know you're not always checking the dictionary but rather Facebook or a text message.

Grammar

Q: What is the most common exclamation for Americans in each emotion? When do they say it?

For example:

Surprise -> Really?

Shock -> Oh, my God!

Amazement -> Won!

Anger -> Sh__! (You know)

A: Your question is difficult to answer completely, mainly because there are so many variations, even regionally (and according to audience), as to how we express strong emotion.

Those are all good, really, though that last one by itself is more commonly used for sudden pain or clumsiness, such as situations when you hit yourself on the finger with a hammer or you drop your cup of juice all over the white carpet—and that one is very dependent on your audience. It's not something that most of us would say in front of our grandmothers, for example. Also, the use of "God", as in your shock example, is considered to be possibly offensive to some people—be careful about using that one, too!

This is a good time to mention that you might want to ask your Language Assistants in your Listening/Speaking classes about the Curse Words Activity, as well as about other idioms that we use when we want to express strong emotions!

Quote of the Week

If you can, help others; if you cannot do that, at least do not harm them.

Dalai Lama



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