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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
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Busch Gardens

Theme Park Fun!

Busch Gardens is a theme park in Tampa. It is famous for its roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the roller coasters is "Sheikra", which has two 90 degree angle drops making it the first coaster of its kind in the Americas and only the third in the world. This is one of the most popular trips of the semester; don't buy your bus pass early!

For more information visit their website at www.buschgardens.com

When: Saturday, February 14th. We will meet at the Norman Hall garage at 9:00am. The park will be open until 7:00pm. Depending on the group decision, we may return to Gainesville as late as 9:00pm. We will go rain or shine.

Transportation: This is a bus trip so you must purchase a pass from the CIP.

Cost: To ride the bus, go to Norman 318 between 9:00am and 12:30pm Monday through Thursday to reserve your spot with \$20 exact change in cash and your Gator 1 card. The bus passes do not include the price of admission to Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens admission tickets for Florida residents are \$95. **Bring your Gator 1 card or Florida driver's license to prove that you are a Florida resident.** Also bring money for food and souvenirs.

You can buy your admission ticket to Busch Gardens now and use it as many times as you want until December 31, 2015.

Valentina Komaniecka

We regretfully announce the loss of a special member of the ELI family. Valentina (or Tina) spent her professional life in the field of international education. She held degrees in political philosophy, Latin American studies, and higher education administration. She worked at the university level with international faculty members and foreign students as well as with US study abroad students. At the ELI, Tina served in a variety of teaching and administrative roles. Her ESL classes blended language learning with an introduction to US culture. Tina studied, worked, and lived abroad in Latin America. She also traveled within this country, in Europe and in Asia.

Dr. Valentina Komaniecka died bravely in the presence of loving family and friends at Haven Hospice on December 17, 2014. Tina loved holidays and one of her favorites was Valentine's Day. Please think of her this Valentine's Day.

The Next Trip

We won't have a weekend activity on February 21st since it is the start of midterms week. We won't have an activity on February 28th since many of you will be traveling for the summer break.

However, we expect you back for the Midterm Picnic on Saturday, March 7th. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's Weekly.

Notes from your Teachers

Do you feel lost in class? Maybe your teacher is talking too fast or the explanation is unclear. Talk to your teachers. We're here to help you. Talk to the other students. If they understand, they can help you understand it, too. Here are some phrases to use:

- Could you speak a little slower?
- Could you repeat that?
- Could you explain that again?
- Could you explain this to me after class?

Do you feel homesick? Are you missing class because you feel lonely and you miss your family? This is normal. The best thing to do is talk to your teachers, talk to your classmates, and talk to your roommates. Friends can help the loneliness go away. Here are some more tips:

- Commit to doing at least one CIP activity per week, every week
- Go to an open-air farmers' market on Wednesday or Saturday
- Sign up for story hour with your children at the public library
- Join a free exercise class at the public library <http://www.aclib.us/>

Class Attendance: Your teachers are inputting your missed classes every week. We're also taking note of every time you speak something other than English. These things are preventing you from getting the scholarship and more importantly from really learning English.

Notes from the Office

New ELI Students on F-1 Visas: If you're a new student and you haven't received an active I-20, please stop by the office.

Immunization: If you got a note from Emily to get your immunizations done, please get them done. You won't be allowed in class until you do. Every day that you procrastinate is another day of absences.

Observations: You may notice visitors in your classes. Don't worry; they're just there to observe your teacher. They're studying to be ESL teachers so they're learning good methods from your instructors before they get into a classroom.

Free GRE classes: The Teaching Center here at UF is offering free GRE review classes Feb. 16 – 18. You can sign up online, but will need to have a Gatorlink account.

<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring/standardized-test-prep/>

Bathroom Etiquette

Sinks are for **hand washing only**. Please do **not** wash any other part of your body in the sink. A possible alternative are wet wipes but they **cannot** be flushed down the toilet. Remember, only toilet paper should go in the toilet.

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: What do Americans do for Valentine's Day?

A: Many people go out to eat for Valentine's Day. However, the restaurants will be very busy and many have special menus that are much more expensive. Some people go to the movies or have dinner at home. Small children exchange little cards and candy at school.

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of "to be" or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it. There are varieties of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it's necessary.

Standard English: Where are you at?

Non-standard variety: Where you at?

Word of the Week

Fill in the blanks and look for the word in this *Weekly!*

prevent (____) - _____

Word forms: prevention, preventable

Collocates: disease, injury, violence, crime

Quote of the Week

I like nonsense -- it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope...and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities.

Stanislaw J. Lem



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