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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, March 12th, we are holding our second major **Volunteer Day** of the spring term. This is your chance to give back to the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Remember to take pictures to share on the ELI Facebook page! Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this Saturday.

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

Alachua County Humane Society

Thrift Shop: Help out in the thrift shop by organizing donated items and working with customers. Afterwards, visit the dogs and cats living in the shelter! An LA will pick you up from your home at 9:15am.

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens: Help us keep the gardens beautiful! We will be helping mulch, weed and water the plants in the garden – bring gloves if you have them! An LA will pick you up from your home at 8:15am.

Mill Creek Horse Farm: Clean up and work on projects around the farm then interact with the retired horses who live there. An LA will pick you up from your home at 8:15am.

St. Francis House Homeless Shelter:

Prepare and serve food to the guests at St. Francis House. St. Francis helps feed and house the poor and hungry of Gainesville. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am, then take the bus with the LAs to get downtown.

Great American Cleanup: Help make Gainesville more beautiful! Clean up the city with hundreds of other volunteers. An LA will pick you up from your home at 8:30am.

Please check the board as there may be more opportunities later in the week. Remember to sign up for the volunteer activity of your choice by Thursday, March 10th at 4pm and be ready for your activity **ON TIME!** Please don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Greg in the CIP Office, Matherly 211.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, Saturday, March 19th, is the **Gator Baseball Game vs. Missouri!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Daylight Savings

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on March 13th.

If you forget, you'll be an hour late to class on Monday! You can check www.time.gov to make sure your time is correct.

Daylight Savings Time (DST) was started during World War I as a way to save energy by making evenings have more sunlight. It is controversial and not all parts of the U.S. observe DST. Some opponents of DST argue that it actually costs more money. Other countries, such as Australia, Great Britain, and Canada also observe DST, although some places within those countries do not.

Prayer/Meditation Rooms on Campus

If you are looking for a place to pray or meditate on campus, here are some suggestions:

- The **Broward Serenity Room** is a multi-faith, nondenominational prayer room located in Broward Hall. It has chairs, lots of floor space, and privacy screens. In addition, the renovated restroom next to the Serenity Room includes a foot bath.
- The **multipurpose room** in Library West is another option. Just ask for a key at the second floor Information Desk. If the key is unavailable, go to the first floor and the multipurpose room there should be open.
- The **hallway to the left** of the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom is also a good location.

If you would like more information or have questions, please talk to Emily in 223 Matherly.

Student Corner

This week, we feature a column written by former ELI student Francisco Lourenco who is currently attending Santa Fe Community College. Francisco has some helpful advice to offer any students who plan to attend a U.S. university after leaving the ELI.

If you would like to email him additional questions, his email address is franciscoulourenco14@gmail.com.

Are You Going to College in the US? Here Are Five Tips from a Former ELI Student:

1. **Do not take your ELI classes for granted.** Many students at the ELI do not work as hard as they could and they end up taking ESL classes when they start college, which delays their whole education plan unnecessarily.
2. **There are many college scholarships for international students.** ELI can certainly help you filling competitive applications. Take advantage of the volunteer opportunities, get involved, make connections, and have your professors write good letters of recommendation for you. It is all about enriching your resume and maximizing your time at ELI.
3. Reading and Writing 60 is equivalent to English Composition (ENC1101) in college. If you do well in the first, you will do well in both. The same applies to Listening and Speaking 60, being exactly equal to Introduction to Public Speaking (SPC2608). **Do well in ELI and you will not only start college right away (without ESL classes), but you will also start with straight A's.**
4. Prof. Matt Goode once told me: **“College in the US is a game and in order to be successful, you must know how to play it.”** Well, he was more than correct. Building

an academic plan is purely a game that you have got to know how to play it well. It is all about selecting the best classes with the best professors at the best times for the best results. Have your Conversation Partner or any college student advise you in your first steps in college.

5. Ultimately, as a former ELI student, my biggest advice for you is to **take advantage of your time to the utmost.** The ELI can either be the key that will open the doors for a wonderful career in the U.S. or just a mediocre English course. It depends on you to make it great so enjoy it, and use your time here the best way you can!

Student Voices Deadline

Have you been writing a lot in your classes? Submit your paragraphs, essays, stories, poems, and anything else that you'd like to see in print to *Student Voices*! The deadline is **Friday, April 1st**. Please remember to include your name, class number, and title for the piece. Email your entries for the *Voices* to my email address, christinevoigt@ufl.edu.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from March 7 to March 13:

Students:
March 7: Ammar Batwa
March 7: Ali Ozdemir
March 7: Yao Sun
March 10: Alper Kesriklioglu
March 11: Ibrahim Albishan
March 11: Yexicz Lora Alvarez
March 13: Fahad Alzamel

Staff:
March 7: Meaghan Chin

Happy Birthday, y'all!

Manners and Culture

Q: How can I avoid people handing out flyers when I walk around campus?

A: If there are people handing out flyers that you don't want, there are a few things you can do. Politely say "No thanks" and keep walking, or just take the flyer and throw it away later. If you really don't want to be bothered, wear headphones and don't make eye contact when you walk past - then most people will leave you alone.

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between do not have and have no?

A: There is no big difference between the two but we generally use *do not have any* more.

Conversational: I don't have any food.
Academic: I have no food.

Phrase of the Week

Look for this phrase in this Weekly! What do you think it means?

give back to the community _____

Quote of the Week

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life round.

Leo Buscaglia

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