Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

Theme Park Fun

Join us for the last of the semester's great van trips!

This Saturday, March 4\textsuperscript{th}, we will be taking a van trip to Busch Gardens. This is a theme park trip that is one of our most popular of the semester. It is most noted for its terrific roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the coasters is “Montu”, one of the world’s tallest and fastest inverted roller coasters, and the new “Sheikra”, which dives straight down at 90 degrees to the ground!

We will meet at The Outfitter at 7:30am. Since it is a van trip, you must have already purchased your transportation pass. The park will be open until 7:30pm, so we will return to Gainesville around 10pm. We will go rain or shine.

The cost to enter Busch Gardens is $51.95. For an extra $6, you may upgrade your ticket to a pass that will be good until December 31\textsuperscript{st}. You should also bring money for food and souvenirs while you are in the park.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, Saturday, March 11, there will be no scheduled ELI trip, as it will be the beginning of Spring Break. Our next trip will be on Saturday, March 18\textsuperscript{th}, for our Midterm Picnic. This will also be the Welcome Picnic for our incoming B-Term students. Come out and meet them! Details on the picnic will be on the Activities Board and in next week’s Weekly.

Notes from the Office

- **TTTTTravel and I-20s**—Don’t forget, everyone—if you are planning to leave the country during the upcoming Spring Break Holiday, you must have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office as soon as possible so that you will be able to re-enter the country!
- **Lost and found**—If you are missing any items, or if you find anything in the classroom that obviously belongs to someone, we do keep a lost and found box in the Main Office.
- **Class Attendance**—Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day. Many students are already having some issues with absence; if you’re not sure of your absences, you should check with your teachers to make sure you’re not going over the limits. Don’t wait until the last minute or the end of the semester when it’s already too late for you to do anything about it!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of March 3-9:

Students:
- March 4: Surachai Charoen Sri
- March 4: Daniel Vielma

Staff:
- March 3: Barbara Earp
- March 6: Sonja Pealer

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

**Q:** Why do American men wear their jeans below the hip so that their underwear shows?

**A:** Wow. I only had to change one word of my answer to last week’s question about tattoos! Like so many things, it’s a matter of fashion. It’s a current fashionable trend. Many people like it. Of course, there are still many people who don’t. Purely a matter of choice.

**Q:** What days are holidays in the US?

**A:** We have quite a few. Starting in January, there is New Year’s Day. Most businesses are closed or operate on a short schedule, and there is no mail or
banking. Next is Martin Luther King Day, which is a Monday holiday in which many schools are closed along with banks and government offices. Valentine’s day doesn’t see closures; it’s just a day to tell those close to you that you love them. Presidents’ Day is what we call a bank holiday; federal government offices and banks are closed, but not much else is. St. Patrick’s Day, like Valentine’s Day, doesn’t close things down, it’s just a day to celebrate the Irish spirit in America. Easter is a religious Sunday holiday. Many businesses close on that day. Also, in some places (not here in Florida), the Friday before and/or the Monday after can be holidays. Memorial Day in May is a day in which we remember people who have died in wars. It’s a Monday bank holiday, and schools are usually closed, too. In July, we celebrate Independence Day. That’s a big holiday in which most schools and businesses shut down. On the first Monday in September, we celebrate Labor Day. Most schools, gov’t offices, banks, and many businesses are closed. In October, there is Columbus Day, which marks Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the New World; it’s a bank holiday. Halloween isn’t a day off, but it’s celebrated by nearly everyone with costumes and parties. Veteran’s Day in November is the day in which we honor people who have fought in wars; it’s a bank holiday and many schools (including UF) are closed for it. Thanksgiving is our biggest family holiday; it’s on the fourth Thursday in November, and we usually also have the Friday off. Finally, in December, there is Christmas. It’s also a very big traditional holiday in the US, and nearly everything is closed for it.

**Q**: Why do most Americans say “Bless you” when someone sneezes?

**A**: Back in the Middle Ages, many people thought that sneezes were an opportunity for evil spirits to enter the body. They would say “God bless you” when people sneezed. Even though most people probably don’t have the same views about evil spirits today, it’s a tradition that continues.

**Quote of the Week**

Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.

--Winston Churchill