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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, September 22nd, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the summer term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet and head to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, September 20th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Family Fishing Day at UF Ponds— Come help families enjoy catch-and-release fishing at the UF ponds! This event is free and open to fishermen and non-fishermen alike! There will be a hot dog lunch and a free raffle for kids for some fishing prizes. There will also be a casting competition in which every participant gets a prize. There are seven stocked ponds with channel catfish, bream, and largemouth bass!

Meet at Norman Hall at 9:00am and we will drive together. We will return around 12noon.

North Florida Rehab Center— Come and play Bingo and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time!! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 1:45pm and return around 3pm.

Gator Plunge-- Gator Plunge is a community-wide service event in which over 500 UF students, faculty and staff volunteer with over 20 different community agencies to make a difference. You will arrive at the Plaza of the Americas at 8am for a FREE breakfast. From breakfast you will go to your preferred service project and then return to the Plaza of the Americas for a FREE lunch during the afternoon. Meet at the Century Tower at 7:45am. We will be done around 12noon.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chanelle in the CIP Office, Room 318.

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the 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.
- **Student Mailbox**—Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will headed to beautiful **Cedar Key**, an island on the Gulf Coast. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 21-27:

Students:
September 23: Ruslan Petrukhin
September 24: Su-Ran Lee
Staff:
None this week!

Manners and Culture

Folks, this is all I've currently got from students, and then we're out of questions! Teachers?

Q: Why can't you drink at 18 but you can buy a gun or serve in the military at that age?

A: Have you thought of going into politics? That's a really good question. The answers are probably more political than anything else. We raised the drinking age all across the US when we raised the speed limit back up from 55 a number of years ago. It was a political compromise that was supposed to reduce the number of drinking and driving accidents. On the other hand, it's very difficult in the US to make gun

sales more restrictive. The mood among the US population is usually against it.

Q: Why do nightclubs close so early?

A: In Florida, local governments can set the time for closing of establishments that serve alcohol. The Gainesville city government decided that it was safer to try to get drinkers off the road earlier. Whether or not this is actually effective is still a subject for debate.

Grammar

Q: I'm confused. I thought that the past participle of "get" was "gotten", yet I hear people say, "have got".

A: You're right. The use of "have got" is different from "have gotten". "Have got" is the standard present tense form (there is no "had got") in British English for possession. In American English, it's optional, though we do tend to use it quite a bit in conversation and in informal use. Notice, coincidentally, over on the other side of this page that I used it in the first sentence!

Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

--Robin Williams

UF English Language Institute
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

English Language Institute

PO Box 117051

315 Norman Hall

Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA

Phone: (352) 392-2070

Fax: (352) 392-3744

Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu

Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu