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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Picnic!

Join us and meet your new peers!

This Saturday, October 25th, our trip is also a picnic! This will be fun day in the sun to welcome the new ELI students. All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited. This will be a picnic at Broward Beach. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

WHEN: Saturday, October 25th at 10:30 AM. If it is raining, call 392-3354 extension 230 after 10:00 AM to see if the picnic has been moved.

Even though this is not a carpool trip, you must sign up on the activities board by 4:00 PM on Thursday, October 23rd so we know how much food to order.

WHERE: Behind Broward and Yulee Halls (Across 13th Street from the ELI).

COST: This trip is completely FREE!

WHAT TO BRING: Wear tennis shoes and sun-block. We will provide the food so come hungry!!

Everyone is Welcome!

Homecoming Parade

This week, we also have a Friday activity! Come experience the Homecoming Parade, a UF tradition!

Who: All Gator Fans!

What: A parade to celebrate Homecoming! Homecoming is an exciting time when students and alumni come to Gainesville to show their Gator pride! You can see floats from different organizations within the university, Albert and Alberta, the UF marching band, the UF football team, and much more!

When: Friday, October 24th. Meet at the Norman Garage at 11am and we will walk over! The parade begins at 12pm, but we must get a good spot! Be sure to sign up by Thursday October 23 at 4pm!

Where is the parade: University Avenue...but don't forget to meet at Norman Garage!

How Much: FREE!

What to Bring: Sunscreen, water, folding chair (optional)

Notes from the Office

- **Class Attendance**—Remember, your attendance is very, very important. We have been asked to remind you that **every 3 tardies counts as 1 hour of absence, and you are limited in the number of hours you can miss.** If you have any questions about your attendance, be sure to ask your teachers as soon as possible.
- **Lost and Found**—Folks, if you lose anything in the classrooms or in the hallways of the ELI, don't forget to check in the ELI Main Office, Room 315, to see if it has been turned in. We have a box of found stuff that stays pretty full.
- **Student Mail**—Please remember to check from time to time to see if you have any mail from home or from other sources. The



student mailbox is a tray located on the shelf immediately below and on the right-hand side of the teachers' mailboxes just inside the door in the ELI Main Office.

Graduate Info Day

The Career Resource Center is hosting Graduate and Professional School Information Day from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Oct. 22, 2008 in the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union. Representatives from more than 100 college and professional programs attend GAP day each year. General graduate program representatives attend for each professional program, and other specific program representatives such as law, medicine and engineering. Students can learn about graduate school options, financial assistance and post-baccalaureate degree programs.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be getting together to watch the UF vs. Georgia Football Game! Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 24-30:

Students:

October 25: Sirowan Kwankaew
Staff:

October 29: Sonia Siegel
October 30: Fiona Lama

Manners and Culture

Q: What's Halloween and why is it such a popular holiday in the US?

A: It's actually a combination of ancient Celtic and early Christian traditions. In Europe, All Hallows Eve (the night before All Saints' Day—November 1 on the calendar) was said to be a night when ghosts and spirits would roam the earth; people carved scary faces in vegetables and left them out to scare the spirits away. This tradition is carried on in modern times with the carved pumpkins. In the 20th century, it became a popular holiday for children. And, so many of us remember fun at Halloween as kids that it has gradually become a holiday that adults enjoy as well!

Q: Why is the US a multicultural nation?

A: We've always been a nation of immigrants. From the start of American history, from the standpoint of European colonization, the American story is one of many different people coming here for many different reasons, including freedom from religious persecution, economic opportunity, and the sheer adventure of starting something new.

Q: How do people in the US visit other states other than by plane or car?

A: Well, those are the big ones. There is also the Greyhound Bus

system, which is often the least expensive option (though it can also take the longest), and many of our larger cities are also linked by Amtrak train, particularly in the Northeastern US.

Q: Why do some Americans not like to say their age?

A: Among taboo questions for us, the questions that involve numerical comparison are usually on the list. We don't like to talk about money, physical measurements, or even things like our grades in school.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "who" and "whom"?

A: Technically, "who" is a subject pronoun and "whom" is an object pronoun. The problem is, we're increasingly not using "whom" at all, particularly in spoken English. The only time it's absolutely required in spoken English is if you put a preposition first. And most people don't even do that!

Quote of the Week

The best index to a person's character is

- (a) how he treats people who can't do him any good, and
- (b) how he treats people who can't fight back.

--Abigail van Buren

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