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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
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Volunteer Day

Help others while learning English!

This Saturday, March 21st, we are holding our second **Volunteer Day** of the spring 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 at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites. Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, March 19th.

There is no cost to volunteer.

Help groom retired horses at the **MILL CREEK HORSE FARM** from 9am-1pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:15am and wear outdoor clothes and close-toed shoes! Bring carrots if you want to feed the horses!

Do you like pets? Help clean up the yard at **GAINESVILLE PET RESCUE** from 9:45am-1pm and then play with the animals! Dress to do work outdoors and meet at Norman Garage at 9:30am.

How about some fishing? Volunteer for **FAMILY FISHING DAY AT**

THE UF PONDS from 9:45am-1pm. Go fishing with your ELI friends and then help serve lunch to the families. Meet at Norman Garage at 9am.

Want to meet new American friends and UF students? Help serve lunch to the homeless with a UF student organization called **PROJECT DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE** from 1-2:30pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 12:45pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

Next Weekend

Next weekend, on Saturday, March 29th, we will be here in Gainesville for the annual **Spring Arts Festival**. More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Student Voices Deadline

It's *ELI Student Voices* time, everyone! Steve wants us to let you know that the deadline for submissions for this semester will be on Friday, April 10th. You can give your submissions to your teacher, to Steve directly, or you may place them in Steve's mailbox (marked *Flocks*) in the ELI Main Office, Room

315. Let's see what you can come up with!

B-Term Countries

The following are the countries and places represented by our students in our new B-Term:

Brazil	Saudi Arabia
Burkina Faso	Taiwan
China	Thailand
Colombia	UAE
Korea	USA
Kuwait	Venezuela
Russia	

Welcome, new students!

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from March 20-26:

Students:

March 21: Min A Lee

March 22: Sun Hee Eo

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why is American football more important than soccer in the US?

A: Mainly, it's tradition and habit. For many, many years, since the early 20th Century, it has been a big tradition on American college campuses to cheer for your football team, and we have many well-established rivalries (such as UF vs. FSU). In the 1960s, we carried this forward logically to the professional area (that's when the Superbowl was born), and it's just been that way ever since. Even when they're internationally popular, it's difficult sometimes to replace old traditions with new ones—especially when they already have so much attention and so many resources!

Q: Why do all the clubs close at 2am?

A: Well, the official reason is that it's supposed to get people off the streets earlier. In practice, there's a lot of debate as to just how effective this is. Some people feel that it really doesn't matter what time the bars close—you're just as likely to have drunk people on the road no matter what. Gainesville is not the only place in Florida with 2am closing times; even places as large as Orlando also do this!

Q: Why do students in the US call teachers by their first names? In my country, this is impolite.

A: Most of us don't. It really depends in most cases on the personal preferences of the professors. In a regular university class, we usually use "Doctor" or "Professor" plus the person's last name. Or, if they don't have a PhD degree, we might use "Mr." or "Ms.". At the ELI, though, we are a little less formal—on purpose. We try to foster a more conversational environment in order to get students talking more.

Grammar

This week, we're addressing a procedural question that we get quite often!

Q: What's the difference between the paper TOEFL and the iBT TOEFL?

A: Well, for one thing, your institutional paper TOEFL isn't really designed for college admissions—and if you plan to use it as such, it's only accepted at the institution that administers it. This means UF in our case, but you cannot depend on your department accepting it (check with them to be sure), and you only get

ONE official score. If you need a test for admission to any other school, then you must arrange with ETS to take an iBT.

As to the substance of the tests, they're very, very different.

The paper TOEFL has three sections: Listening, Structure, and Reading. In the listening section, you cannot take any notes (it's considered cheating if you do), and the focus is mainly on academic English. We do not have a writing section on our Institutional TOEFL.

On the iBT, there is no Structure section. You have Listening, Speaking (yes, they actually record your voice!), Reading, and Writing. You may take notes freely. There are two essays—one is a traditional TOEFL essay, and the other is a synthesis of a reading and a lecture.

Quote of the Week

Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires avid faith in yourself. That is why some people with mediocre talent, but with great inner drive, go much further than people with vastly superior talent.

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