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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, November 7<sup>th</sup>, our activity is 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 Yulee Pit. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 12noon. **Even though this is not a carpool trip, you must sign up on the activities board by 4:00 PM on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> so we know how much food to order. Guests are welcome, but please be sure to sign them up, too!**

**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 for sports and activities. We will provide the food so come hungry!!

Everyone is Welcome!

## Prayer Rooms

Unfortunately, because of the arrival of our B semester students, the ELI will no longer be able to provide dedicated prayer rooms this semester. A list of the other dedicated prayer rooms on campus can be seen at [www.islamoncampus.com](http://www.islamoncampus.com) under "resources".

## Class Photo

The ELI Class picture for Fall, 2009 will be taken at the front of Tigert Hall on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:45pm. We will walk over together from Norman Hall at 2:35 from L/S Classes or LA hours. For classes not in Norman Hall, please gauge your time to arrive at Tigert Hall by 2:45. For any and all students not taking

Listening/Speaking classes, as well as all other teachers, LAs, and any other ELI personnel who wants to participate, we very much would like to encourage you to come and join us for the picture.

## 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.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our second **Volunteer Day** of the Fall Semester! Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of November 6-12:

Students:

November 6: Philipp Baires Herrera

November 6: Sadik Topal

November 7: Diego Salazar

November 7: Hamad Heyab Alketbi

November 8: Chien-Chih Chao

Staff:

November 9: Lia Brenneman

Happy Birthday one and all!

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 also 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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