

## Highlights

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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, January 30<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the fall 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, January 28<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

**Project Downtown Gainesville**— 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 12:40-2:30pm. Meet at Norman Garage.  
**Emeritus**— Play games and talk with elderly people of Gainesville from 1:45-4pm. Meet at the Cabana Beach rental office.

**St. Francis House**—Help with projects inside and outside the homeless shelter from 12:30-4pm. Meet at Norman Garage. Wear work clothes!

**Air Potato Roundup**—Help destroy invasive plants in Gainesville parks and nature areas from 8:30-11am. Meet at

Norman Garage and wear clothes that can get dirty.

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

Have a great day, everyone!

## Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**—Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one!
- **Smoking**—Remember, folks, that there is no smoking within **50 feet** of any building on campus. Here in Norman Hall, this includes the covered walkways around the library and the courtyard with the big tree—these are NO smoking areas.
- **Personal Belongings**— Unfortunately, one of our students found out the hard way last week that it's never a good idea to leave your personal belongings unattended, even if it's just for a few minutes. If you have to leave an area, such as an

empty classroom before class or your table in the library, be sure and take your stuff with you to ensure that you still have it when you return!

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from January 29-February 4:

Students:

January 30: Ho-on Seo

February 4: Suhail Al Mazrouei

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## Recreational Facilities

There has been some confusion about the use of UF recreational facilities. ELI students are able to use the pools, Lake Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell

Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts by showing their Gator 1 card.

On the other hand, ELI students do **not** have access to the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, Southwest Recreation Center and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center without paying a membership fee because these facilities are funded by UF degree-seeking student activity fees.

## ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Benin	Oman
Brazil	Panama
Burkina Faso	Paraguay
China	Peru
Colombia	Saudi Arabia
Cuba	Spain
Ecuador	Sri Lanka
Germany	Taiwan
Honduras	Turkey
Iraq	UAE
Jordan	United States
Korea	Venezuela
Kuwait	Vietnam
Mexico	Yemen
Niger	

## Manners and Culture

*Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.*

Interesting you should ask; usually, we don't have any questions yet, and I run a

tip column instead of a manners column. So, I'm going to give you my standard answer!

Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

**Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors:** 15 to 20% of the total bill

**Hotels:** Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total--sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

**Parking:** Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

**Pizza Delivery:** \$1 per pizza

**Restaurants:** 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour--less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

**Taxis:** \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly

large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

*Q: Why do Americans like beer so much?*

A: It seems that way, doesn't it? You're in a college town, and college students tend to drink more beer than a lot of the population at large. It's a fairly inexpensive way to consume alcohol. The US, though, isn't even in the top 10 when it comes to per capita beer consumption--we rank only 13<sup>th</sup>. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

## Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

## Quote of the Week

One has to get on with life and I haven't done badly. People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining.

– Stephen Hawking

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