There’s a Party Downtown!
Celebrate Fall in Tallahassee with Downtown Getdown

There is a tradition every fall in Tallahassee. Before every home football game, there is a party in downtown Tallahassee. There is music, dancing, food, and games for people to play. People of all ages attend this celebration. This year there are six home football games; there will be a ‘Downtown Getdown’ before every FSU home game. There is something for people of all ages at Downtown Getdown, so you should bring your entire family! The dates for this fall are:

- September: Friday September 9 & Friday September 30
- October: Friday October 14 & Friday October 28
- November: Friday November 25

This Friday September 9, CIES will be out partying. Meet at CIES on Friday at 6 pm. Bring comfortable walking shoes and money for food. If you cannot attend this Friday, you should try to attend a future Downtown Getdown (see dates above). Angel Rios will be in charge of this event, and he will be walking with everyone downtown. Please ask him if you have any questions.

Hermine Aftermath

Hurricane Hermine hit Tallahassee in the early morning hours of Friday, September 2. This storm caused damage throughout Florida and throughout other parts of the eastern United States.

Thankfully, there were no major injuries or fatalities due to this storm in Tallahassee. We must be thankful that everyone is safe and not harmed!

However, the aftermath of this hurricane has affected many people. The majority of people in Tallahassee lost power. (The newspaper in Tallahassee said that 80% to 90% of people here lost electricity.) Some people regained power quickly, but there are still some people now without electricity. The lack of cellphones, electronic devices, and air-conditioning has been difficult for many. Having all the food in your refrigerator spoil as well as not being able to prepare food is even worse for many people. The city of Tallahassee has helped many people who have lost electricity, and this is also a time where friends and family have helped each other.

Thankfully, Hecht House did not receive any damage. However, a large tree fell in the parking lot next to Hecht House, and it completely destroyed the CIES van. This van has been with CIES for many years, and it has helped us create many memories. The van has been to the beach, museums, parks, and all over Tallahassee and north Florida. All of the teachers and staff have great memories of the van; the van was a good way to keep CIES involved in the community.

CIES will rent a van in the near future, and we will get a new van in the next year or two. In the meantime, we are glad all of you are safe.

On a final note, it is important to be prepared in case there are any more storms or bad weather here in Tallahassee. A couple of things to have:

- You can buy a portable charger for your cellphone. This can help you communicate and charge your phone in the event of a power outage.
- Have a storm radio (a battery radio) that can tell you if there is really bad weather!

Birthdays

Ghady Bahathiq (September 12)

Quote of the Week

If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine.

- Morris West
Eid Mubarak!

Next Monday/Tuesday, September 12th/13th (date may vary) is an important holiday for many Muslims. It is called Eid al Adha. It is celebrated on the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah. On this day, important ancient traditions are remembered, and there is usually a sacrifice of an animal. The meat from the sacrificed animal is shared with friends, family, as well as those who are poor and do not have food to eat.

Additionally, this holiday is important because it marks the end of the Hajj period. This is a ten day period every year when millions of Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca. This is one of the most important times in a Muslim’s life, and Eid al-Adha is an especially important holiday for those returning from Hajj and their friends and family. To our many Muslim students, we wish you Eid Mubarak!

Culture Question

Question: I see many people all around Tallahassee wearing Florida State shirts and caps. Are all of these people FSU alumni?

Answer: No. Although there are tens of thousands of FSU alumni in Florida and throughout the USA (and world), a large number of people who are FSU fans have never even attended the university.

It is important to remember that in many places in America, college sports are like professional sports. College sports, especially football and basketball games, will draw many thousands of people to cheer on their teams. Some college football stadiums can sit over 100,000 fans! (This is bigger than most pro-soccer leagues in the world.) By comparison, the stadium that Real Madrid plays in only sits 80,000.

In a nutshell, college sports in America are very similar to professional sports in almost any other country. This is particularly true in the southeastern United States, and it is yet another reason why you should show your Seminole pride this session!

Language Question

Question: When do I use the word ‘ago’ and when do I use the word ‘before’?

Answer: This is an important question for many of you. We use ‘ago’ to refer to a past event that we can count backwards to. For example, you can say: “I bought a new car two months ago” You are counting backwards two months from the present. Before is used when one event or action occurs at an earlier time than another. Another easy way to remember is that ‘ago’ often occurs at the end of a phrase or sentence, whereas before is usually found closer to the beginning and has another word (or words) after it. Select the correct word in the sentences below:

(1) I first moved to Tallahassee two years ago / before.
(2) I went to the park yesterday ago / before I gave my friend a ride to the mall.
(3) One month ago / before I graduated from high school, my parents bought me a car.
(4) About two months ago / before, I twisted my ankle trying to do a cartwheel.

This week’s vocabulary:

- fatality (noun) – a death due to a major event or disaster
- aftermath (noun) – what is left or the damage caused by a major event or disaster
- power (noun) – electricity
- lack (noun) – nothing or not enough; an insufficient amount
- spoil/spoiled (verb/adjective) – to go bad or become rotten or unable to be eaten
- portable (adjective) – able to be carried many places (not requiring cords)
- pilgrimage (noun) – a voyage or trip to a holy, religious, or sacred place
- alumni (plural noun) – people who have attended a university, college, or educational institution