



ELI NEWS

English Language Institute • University of Pittsburgh
Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave • Pittsburgh PA 15260

05-18-17, Volume 53 Issue 2
Abram Balestra, abb79@pitt.edu

Student Advisor Office Hours

Please remember that Stacy Ranson, your Student Advisor, can help you with questions about your registration and classes, academic issues, letters of recommendation, and personal issues, as well. Feel free to stop by her office in M22 during any of her office hours. You can also email her at sar72@pitt.edu.

Stacy's office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Meeting for New F-I Students

If you are a **new** F-I student at the ELI, you **must** participate in a short meeting about your F1 visa status. The meeting will be located in the Room 111 on Tuesday, May 23 from 1:00-1:15 pm. The focus of the meeting will be:

- ❖ Rules to follow to keep your immigration status legal
- ❖ Benefits you are allowed to have as an F-I student, such as vacation term

If you are a sponsored student and you do not attend this meeting, your sponsor will be notified.

Free Lockers in the ELI

By Stacy Ranson

The ELI has a limited number of lockers available in our building. All students are eligible for free use of a locker, but

you must sign up for a locker in the ELI main office, room M13. If you put a lock on a locker that you did not register, the lock will be removed.

To sign up for a locker:

- Buy a combination lock. Remember that the lock must be 25mm-30mm. Many locks are 50mm or bigger, and these are too big for the ELI lockers.
- Bring your lock to the ELI main office and give Abe or Anthony the combination.
- You can then choose a locker.

Please remember to register for a locker if you would like to use one, because the ELI will remove locks that are not registered.

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Summer 2017

The ELI gives final exams at the end of the term. These exams are worth 30% of the final grade for each class. There are no excused absences for finals. The ELI does not give early final exams or make up exams. Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Friday, July 28	Monday, July 31	Tuesday, August 1
Writing final 10:00-12:00	Grammar final 10:00-12:00	Reading final 10:00-12:00
Speaking final 1:00-3:00	Listening final 2:00-4:00	

F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

Beginning summer, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security will require students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S.

If you complete study at the ELI before taking level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

Please note that the grace period is different for students who transfer to a new program. If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. You are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months before beginning the first available term of your new program, however. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

Friday Prayer for Muslim Students

The ELI is aware that many of our Muslim students attend mosque on Fridays at 1:10. Of course, we want to assist you with this, so teachers will allow up to 20 minutes for Muslim students to return for the 2:00 class. If you are over 20 minutes late, though, teachers will have to count you as absent. If you are having a problem returning to class within 20 minutes, please see Stacy.

Immigration Information: I-94 Admission Number

If you do not know your admission number, you must find the number and bring it to the ELI main office by 4:00 pm, Friday, May 22.

How to find your DHS I-94 admission number:

1. Go to:
<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/consent.html>
2. Click "Yes" and "Submit"
3. Enter information exactly as it is on your visa
4. Click "Get Most Recent I-94"
5. Print the page with your admission number
6. Bring printed page to ELI main office by 4:00 pm, May 22 .

Coed Group Work in the ELI



As you already know, students at the ELI work together in pairs and small groups during almost every class. Interacting in pairs and small groups is an important part of language learning. Please remember that ELI teachers will not be able to form separate groups for men and women during classroom activities. Separating men and women limits the amount of interaction that women at the ELI receive. In order to best serve all of our students and their language development, we must maximize interaction during class time. Remember, if you are planning to move on to academic work in the U.S., men and women will be expected to work together without question, so your ELI experience will be a good opportunity to practice in this situation if it makes you uncomfortable.

If you would like to talk more about this policy, please contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu or visit her in her office in M22.

"Talk Time" Conversation Groups

by Brianne Harrison

Participating in a Talk Time conversation group is a great opportunity for you to practice listening and speaking and to learn a little bit about American culture! Each group of 5 ELI students meets with a native English speaker for one hour every week for the entire term. Registration is Tuesday, May 23. Go to M-15 (next to the Main Office) during your lunch break to register. Registration is from 1:00PM to 1:45 PM, but you only need to stay for a few minutes. You must sign up during this time if you would like to join a group. Please e-mail Brianne at elicomm@pitt.edu if you would like more information about Talk Time.

ELI Activity

The Little Mermaid

On Wed., June 14 we'll go to see the live musical production of Disney's The Little Mermaid at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Discounted group tickets are \$15 each (regular \$20.75 plus tax and service fees). Our seats will be in rows P, Q, and R in the balcony. Feel free to invite your family and friends! Rob will collect money in his office in M18 until 2 pm on Thursday, May 25. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds.



On the day of the performance, we will meet at the ELI at 7:00 pm, then take the bus downtown together. The performance starts at 8 pm. Come fall in love with the magic for the first time—or all over again with classics such as "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," "Part of Your World" and more! Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID is produced by Pittsburgh CLO.

Proof of Health Insurance: Deadline!

All ELI students must provide proof of health insurance in order to enroll in classes. The ELI does not recommend any specific insurance plan or company; you may choose the plan and insurance company that is best for you. Many of our students use ISO insurance at www.iso.org or International Student Insurance at www.internationalstudentinsurance.com, but you may choose any company.

Bring your insurance card, or a printout from the insurance website that shows that you have bought a plan, to the ELI main office. You may also email your proof of insurance to elipitt@pitt.edu.

You must provide your proof of health insurance by 12:00 pm on Monday, May 22, or your ELI registration will be canceled. Stacy is available to help with buying insurance. Email her at sar72@pitt.edu to make an appointment if you need assistance.

Sponsorship Letters

If you have an official sponsorship letter from your government (SACM or CBIE, for example) you must submit it to Abe or Anthony in the ELI Main Office. Students must give an updated sponsor letter to the ELI and to the Student Payment Center each term. If you have any questions about this, please visit the ELI Main Office.

All sponsored students also must complete an information sheet in the ELI Main Office. The ELI must contact sponsors throughout the term, and we require updated information about the student's sponsor and advisor. Students must complete this form each semester and when their sponsor information changes.

ELI Emergency Phone Number

The ELI has an emergency phone number for students to use in medical or legal emergencies. The number is (412) 545-3541. Please take a moment to add this to the contacts in your phone. This number is only to be used evenings and weekends, during times that the ELI main office is closed. Please note that this is an emergency number. You should only call this number if you have a serious medical or legal issue, and you need help. It is also possible that Stacy may not be able to answer the phone immediately when you call. If you get the voicemail, leave a clear message with your name, phone number, and emergency. Stacy will return your call.

ELI Students and Pitt Email

ELI students MUST use Pitt email. Your teachers and the university will use ONLY Pitt email to contact you. If you don't check your Pitt email every day, you may miss important messages about your classes, registration, or tuition payments. To check your email, visit my.pitt.edu and click on "webmail".

If you do not know your Pitt username or password, or you cannot access your account, please read the orange paper in your orientation folder (or get a new orange paper in our computer lab). This will give you instructions on how to activate your email address this week.

New Student Checklist

Did you remember to:

- Activate your Pitt email address?
- Get your student ID card?
- Update your mailing address?
- Give a copy of your financial guarantee to the main office?
- Buy your textbooks?
- Register for a locker?

Please visit the ELI Main Office or talk to one of your teachers if you have any questions about these steps!

ELI Activity

Cirque Du Soleil

Join the ELI on Thursday, May 25, as we go to see the world famous "Cirque du Soleil", a dramatic and entertaining performance of acrobatics and circus arts. The performance begins at 7:30 pm. Group tickets are \$42.00 per person. We need at least 12 people for this price. If we do not have 12 people, we will not go as a group, and Rob can give you information on purchasing individual tickets. Individual ticket prices start at \$42.00. With taxes and fees, the total price comes to \$53.60 per ticket. Rob will collect money in his office in M18 until 2 pm on Friday, May 19. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds. If you do not pay by 2 pm on Friday, May 19, we cannot guarantee that you will get the group discount or that your seats will be with our group.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



ELI Student Library

The student library is on the mezzanine floor outside of Stacy's office, M22. Students can borrow 1 book at a time for two weeks. You must write your name, book title, email address, and the date that you borrow and return the book on the sign out sheet. You can access the books when the ELI is open.

Most of the books are graded readers. A graded reader is a book with limited vocabulary and grammar structures, and is often a short version of a longer book. A graded reader is a good learning resource for ELI students because you read longer, connected texts at an appropriate level. If the vocabulary and grammar are simplified, you can focus on general reading comprehension.

There are a few novels and short story collections, too. If you want to read more authentic books, become a member of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The Oakland branch is located very near the ELI. Use this link to get more information about becoming a member:

<http://www.clpgh.org/usingthelibrary/getcard.html>

Renters Insurance

Many of you rent apartments in Pittsburgh while you are studying at the ELI, and we want to strongly encourage you to buy renters insurance while you are here. Renters insurance covers personal property, so it will help you replace your items if they are lost due to theft or destruction from a fire or storm. Renters insurance can also cover damage that you may cause to your apartment. For example, if you accidentally start a fire in your apartment while you are cooking, there could be thousands of dollars worth of damage, and you may be expected to pay for the repairs. Renters insurance could cover the cost of these repairs. This type of insurance is very inexpensive, with an average cost of \$15.00 a month. You can check out some policy quotes at <https://www.geico.com/information/aboutinsurance/renters/> or at <https://www.statefarm.com/insurance/home-and-property/renters>. If you need help finding or buying insurance, please see Stacy.



What Do You Like to Do?

By Brianne Harrison

If you like to cook, play tennis, take pictures—or anything at all—Brianne can help you connect with others at the University or in the Pittsburgh community that share your interests. E-mail her today at elicomm@pitt.edu if you are interested in joining a student group at Pitt or a community group in the area.

ELI Reading Club: *Macaroni Boy*

By Brianne Harrison

If you would like to read more in English but want a little help, then join the ELI Reading Club! The main objective of this club is to have fun with reading. If you enjoy reading, the obvious result is that you will read even more. Why should you read more books? Extensive reading helps you to improve your reading speed and fluency, and you can learn a wider range of vocabulary.

Our first Reading Club meeting will be held on Monday, May 22, at 4pm in room M-15. We will continue to meet every Monday after that. This semester we will read a book called *Macaroni Boy* by Katherine Ayres. *Macaroni Boy* is set in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the time of the Great Depression in the United States. This novel tells the story of sixth-grader Mike Costa. His large Italian-American family owns a food warehouse, and the school bully calls him "Macaroni Boy." Mike's job at his family's business is to catch the rats in the warehouse. Lately, however, he has been catching fewer and fewer rats. Mike eventually discovers a connection between the dying rats and his grandfather's mysterious illness. For more information about the ELI Reading Club, please email Brianne at blh26@pitt.edu. See you there!

Play Soccer or Softball!

by Brianne Harrison

Meet new people, practice your English, and get some exercise all at the same time! The University of Pittsburgh's Intramural Sports Program is open to all students at Pitt—including ELI students. The sports that are offered this term are soccer and softball. If you are interested in starting a team, Brianne can show you how to begin. Registration closes soon, so contact her at elicomm@pitt.edu for assistance. For more information, go to: <http://www.imleagues.com/spa/intramural/d0682aa310d141a78e1d1b58ac087184/hom>

Coffee Talk

by Carol Harmatz

You might be reluctant to do anything after your last class of the week. You might be inclined to just go home, but **Coffee Talk** begins tomorrow! On Fridays from 4:00–6:00 PM, other individuals from the ELI participate in open conversation at Panera (on Forbes Avenue). This is a way for us to relax, build community, identify potential friends, practice English, and more.

There are just a few rules.

1. The objective of Coffee Talk is to practice English, so please do not use your native language during this activity (others will chastise you if you do)
2. Because Panera does not ask us to pay for the room, please buy something to eat or drink, even just a cup of coffee or tea (frugality is not a problem)

There is no better resource to assist you with your language progress than a place to just speak English, and Coffee Talk is your place. See you tomorrow!

Pitt Emergency Alert System

It is very important that ELI students know when there is an emergency on campus. For this reason, all ELI students must sign up for the Emergency Notification System that is provided by the University of Pittsburgh. This system will contact you by phone, email, or text, to tell you when there is an emergency on campus.

When there is an emergency, you should follow the directions from the system notification, your teacher, and any police officers in the area. Unless the alert, or a police officer, tells you to leave, you should remain in the Oakland area, even if the evacuation is long. Usually, if it is a fire alarm, we can reenter the building fairly quickly. The ELI always holds classes when the alert is finished. If you miss classes after we return to the building, you will be counted as absent. Always wait for notification that it is safe to enter the building before you come back to the building.

To subscribe to the Pitt Emergency Notification System:

- Log in to my.pitt.edu
- Click on "My Resources" at the top of the page
- Click on "Emergency Notification"
- Enter your phone number and check whether you would like a voice message or text
- Click "Submit"

It is very easy to sign up and only takes a minute. Please sign up today!

ELI Activity

Baseball Game

Join the ELI as we cheer for the Pittsburgh Pirates when they take on the Marlins on Thurs., June 8, at 7:05 pm. Everyone in our group will get a Pirates cap! Tickets are \$20 each and will be in the Grandstand (with a view of the game and the skyline!). Rob will collect money in M18. The deadline to pay is Thursday, May 25, at 2 pm. If you pay after that time., you will not be able to get the group discount and your seats will not be with our group.



Please bring the exact amount, cash only. Feel free to buy a ticket for a friend, too, even if they are not in the ELI. There are no refunds and no cancellations. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather. Even if it rains, we will still go to the game.



University of Pittsburgh

Like us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/PittELI>