



ELI NEWS

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

03-16-17, Volume 51 Issue 9
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ELI Pre-registration Summer 2017

If you plan to study at the ELI next term, you must pre-register with Stacy at your assigned time in room M22. If you do not pre-register with Stacy, the ELI cannot guarantee your place for next term. If you plan to take a vacation term, you must see Stacy to register, too.

Summer 2017 Pre-Registration Schedule

Sections 2A, 3F, 4J, 5P:

Monday, March 13: 1:00-2:00 pm
or

Thursday, March 16: 1:00-2:00 pm

Sections 4K, 5Q, 6T, 6U:

Tuesday, March 14: 1:00-2:00 pm
or

Friday, March 17: 1:00-2:00 pm

Statement of Purpose Information Session

When you apply to academic programs in the US, most universities ask for a statement of purpose. Many people believe that the statement of purpose is the most important piece of a college application. Your statement of purpose is your chance to tell the admissions committee who you really are. Do you know what to include in your statement? Just as important, do you know what not to include?

If you would like tips on how to write an effective and clear statement of purpose, come to the statement of purpose session on Thursday, March 30 from 4:00-5:00 pm in Room 111. You must sign up for this presentation. See Stacy in room M22 or email her at sar72@pitt.edu to reserve your space. Hope to see you there!

F1 Students and Part Time Study

Students with F1 visas have the benefit of taking a vacation term for part time study. If you have studied full time at the ELI for two semesters, you can choose to take a break next semester or to study part time.

Please remember that you must **pre-register** for this benefit, though. You cannot change to part time or to a vacation term after the term starts. There are no exceptions to this rule. The deadline for choosing a vacation term or part time study for F1 students is April 10, 2017.

Also, please remember that Saudi and Kuwaiti students who are sponsored by their governments are not allowed to study part time because of sponsor rules. If you are a sponsored student and would like to study part time, you must provide a letter of permission from your sponsor before April 10. This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

First Day of Next Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is May 12, 2017. If you arrive at the ELI after the first day of official attendance, you will be counted absent for each day that you miss. If you cannot arrive by Friday, May 19, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by May 19.

Coffee Talk on Fridays!
4:00 – 6:00 PM at
Panera Bread
(3800 Forbes Ave.)



English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Spring 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, April 7	Monday, April 10	Tuesday, April 11
Writing final 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Grammar final 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Reading final 10:00am- 12:00 pm
Speaking final 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm	Listening final 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm	

Continuing Students: New Schedules for Summer 2017 Term

By Stacy Ranson

Please note that you can pick up your schedules for next semester any time after 12:00 on Thursday, May 11 at M13 Meyran. Classes will start Friday, May 12. Remember that attendance is taken beginning on the first day of class, so if you return late, you will be marked absent. Also, you must return from your break by Friday, May 19, or you will not be able to attend the ELI for the spring term.

Transfer Process

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must see Stacy to complete the transfer. You must bring a copy of the acceptance letter and the transfer form from the new school. You may transfer at any time during the term, but you must complete this process to remain in legal status. Remember that after you complete your final term of study at the ELI, you have a 60-day grace period. During that time, you may stay in the U.S. without studying, and you may request a transfer at any time during that 60-day period. If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of the 60 days, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

ELI Activity:

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Reminder



There are 10 of us going to Heinz Hall on Friday, March 17 to enjoy a performance by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. At this performance, we will enjoy Offenbach's *La Gaîté Parisienne*, Ravel's *Boléro*, and Stravinsky's *Pétrushka*.

We will meet in the ELI lobby at 6:45 pm to take the bus downtown together. The performance begins at 8 pm. Alternatively, you can get your ticket from Ece and meet us inside Heinz Hall. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Friday, March 17: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Wednesday, March 29: ELI Night
Tuesday, April 11: Pirates Baseball Game

Change! 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

ELI Activity:

ELI Storytellers Series: Abdullah Alwaleedi

Abdullah Alwaleedi, your ELI classmate, will be the first speaker of the ELI Storytellers Series this term. Abdullah will give a talk about his hometown, Alnamas, Saudi Arabia. His presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. Abdullah will present on Thursday, March 23 at 1:05 pm in room M15. Bring your lunch and enjoy some extra speaking and listening practice!

ELI Night Last call for performers!

ELI Night is a tradition in the ELI. On Wed., March 29, from 5-8 pm, we'll have a potluck dinner for students and teachers, and their families and friends. In addition to bringing food, **you can also perform!**



ELI Night will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, located at 605 Morewood Avenue, which is between North Oakland and Shadyside. The space we will be using doesn't have a stage, but we will make a space for your performance. Also, there is a piano that we can use and there is a sound system, including speakers and a microphone. If you'd like to perform – sing, dance, play an instrument, anything – email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu by today, Thursday, March 16.

ELI Student Library

The student library is on the mezzanine floor outside of Stacy's office, M22. Students can borrow one 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, visit Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh and 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>

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Pitt Activity:

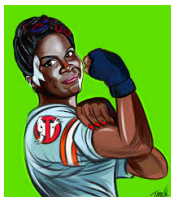
Escape Room

Join Pitt Program Council for Escape the Room – Around the World March 18 at 10 PM! Test your international knowledge at one of any of the three continental escape rooms. Solve puzzles, riddles and brainteasers about Asia, Africa, or Europe. Oh, and you have 25 minutes. Think you have what it takes? Sign up in the WPU Ticket Office for FREE!

All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Pitt Program Council at ppc@pitt.edu or by phone at 412-648-7900 for proper accommodations.

Pitt Activity:

Standup Comedy with Leslie Jones



As a part of Student Government Board's first-ever Women's Empowerment week, join Pitt Program Council for "An Evening of Comedy with Leslie Jones" on March 21st. Actress and comedian Leslie

Jones is known for her role as a cast member and writer on the hit show Saturday Night Live. She also had a starring role in the 2016 blockbuster Ghost Busters.

Leslie will be performing stand-up comedy as well as answering student questions. Tickets cost \$5 in the WPU Ticket Office. Limit of one ticket per person. A valid Pitt (Oakland) ID is required. Cash or Check ONLY, no cards will be accepted.

Tickets will only guarantee a seat until 8:15pm. A standby line will be let in at 8:15 the night of the show. Must have cash or check as well as a valid Pitt (Oakland) ID to get in.

All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Pitt Activity:

Fashion Show

Come see Pitt Program Council's 2017 Year of Diversity Fashion Show! On March 23 at 8:30 PM, this show will feature the designs of local artists and various cultural groups, including African Student Organization and the Caribbean and Latin American Student Association, here on campus. Learn about different cultures through their everyday clothes and formal wear. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.



Security at the Parkvale Building*

by Dorolyn Smith, ELI Associate Director

Like most large universities, the University of Pittsburgh has its own Police Department, whose job is to provide security and emergency help for the Pitt community. The Pitt Police have a Community Relations Officer; his name is Guy Johnson and his main job is to work with Pitt students. We have invited Officer Johnson to come to the ELI to meet our students, answer questions and offer advice on safety – the date for this will be announced later. In the meantime, you might see Officer Johnson or other Pitt police officers visiting the ELI. Don't worry - they just want to become familiar with our building and meet students. If you see a police officer in the hallway, feel free to introduce yourself and say hello to them or ask them any questions you might have. It's another good chance to practice English!

Volunteering in Pittsburgh

If you missed the PittServes Volunteer Portal Workshop but want to learn more about volunteering at the University of Pittsburgh, contact the ELI Community Outreach Coordinator (Suzanne) at elicomm@pitt.edu.

Another workshop is in the works for those interested! Attending the 20-30 minute workshop will provide you with

information about the process; you aren't required to sign up as a volunteer during the workshop.

Start volunteering and become part of the community!

Community Activity:

Nowruz (Persian New Year) Celebration!

Come and celebrate *Nowruz* with delicious food, stand up comedy, good music, and dancing! *Nowruz* is the Persian celebration of the New Year, which has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in Iran and many surrounding areas.

Comedian Maz Jobrani and DJ Armin will each perform on Saturday, March 25, from 7:00 PM-12:00 AM in the Cohon University Center, Rangos Ballroom (on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University).

The Persian Panthers (Pitt) and Persian Student Organization (CMU) will serve food, including snacks, appetizers, and a main course. There will be vegetarian options available and all foods served will be halal. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Students who want to buy discounted tickets must use their University email address. Current Pitt students can buy one discounted ticket for themselves and one for a guest! Make sure to bring your student ID with you to the event.

Pittsburghese Word of the week "Redd Up"

Standard English: (Verb) To Clean-To make (something or someone) free of dirt, marks, or mess, especially by washing, wiping, or brushing.

Pittsburghese Example: Yinz need to redd up this room before Mum gets home.

Below: a picture of a vacuum cleaner. This is also known as a "sweeper" in Pittsburghese.

Example: Use that sweeper to redd up.



Pitt Activity:

Pittsburgh Penguins Game



Sidney Crosby and the Penguins take on Patrick Kane and the Chicago Blackhawks at PPG Paints Arena! Tickets will include

both a complimentary hat and a 3 ft x 5 ft Penguins banner.

Tickets are on sale for \$25 on March 15th at the WPU Ticket Office at 7:30 AM. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Pitt Activity:

Trip to Washington DC



Since its opening in September 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has had over 750,000 visitors and a wait list that has extended for months. Join Pitt Program Council for an exclusive trip to this groundbreaking museum. Enjoy free time in D.C. as well; tickets are only \$10 and are available in WPU Ticket Office. This is only a one-day trip on March 19th. Buses leave at 7am from the William Pitt Union.

All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Lose Something? Check the Lost and Found!

By Abram Balestra



Did you forget a book in your classroom? Did you leave your gloves in the Vault? Do you think you left headphones in the computer lab? If you lost something at the ELI, please check the "Lost and Found" in the Main Office. Teachers and students routinely bring us things left behind in the classrooms.

And if you found something that belongs to another student, please bring it to the Main Office so we can find its owner.

ELI Photo Contest

Show us how you see the world by entering the ELI Photo Contest! We're looking for artwork for the ELI walls and to promote the ELI. We think the best source for that art is the students who make us who we are. We are looking for photos in the following categories:



Show Some Class: Take a photo that represents the experience of being a student in the ELI. Is there a certain space, person, or object in the ELI building or neighborhood that really represents the ELI for you?

In the Know: Now that you know what's cool in Oakland and Pittsburgh, why not share it with the rest of us? Snap a photo of the areas of the city that you think everyone should know about.

Active Imagination: Many of you have participated in ELI Activities this term, and we know you have lots of pictures to prove it! Do any of your photos stand out? Enter your favorite!

Get Some Fresh Air: Pittsburgh is full of beautiful parks and outdoor spaces. Get out into nature and capture a photo of other creatures that cross your path!

Pick-Me-Up: ELI students work hard every day to improve their English. With classes and homework, the schedule can be tiring. Who or what is your pick-me-up for when your energy is low? Can you capture that energy in a photo?

ELI Pride: Show off your school pride with a photo of you and your buddies wearing ELI or Pitt gear.

Participation:

- The contest is open to all current University of Pittsburgh ELI students.
- Judges will select 3 finalists from each category to be put on display at the ELI. Note: Categories must have at least 3 entries to be considered for prizes.
- ELI students and faculty will vote on their favorite photos among the finalists.
- Winning photographers in each category will have their

photos framed for the ELI walls.

- Photographers may bring entries on a flash drive to Stacy Ranson in M22, or email sar72@pitt.edu.
- The deadline for submission is **Friday, March 24 by 4:00 pm.**

Contest Rules:

- We will only accept high resolution JPEG files (1200X1600 pixels, minimum)
- No photographs incorporating alcohol or illegal activities will be considered.
- All submissions must be your own.
- Each student may enter ONE photo per category.

All photographers who enter the contest give the University of Pittsburgh the right to use their photos for promotional purposes.

Pitt Activity:

Dave and Busters

Join Pitt Program Council for a night at Dave and Buster's! Come out for a night of games and an appetizer bar with chicken sliders, mac and cheese and more!

Tickets go on sale March 15th and cost \$10.00. Enjoy \$20.00 of game credit as well!

Reminders about the ELI Building

Please remember that in our building, ELI students should only access floors I, where the classrooms are, and M, where the ELI offices are. The higher floors in the building belong to other businesses. When ELI students use the restrooms, socialize, or pray on these floors, our neighbors are not very happy with us. Also, please keep in mind that we have many students and limited restroom space. Be careful about taking up too much room with personal items or make-up, and try to keep the space neat and clean for everyone. Thanks for your cooperation!