



# ELI NEWS

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

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## Change in Summer Schedule

by Stacy Ranson



Many of you know that the Fourth of July is a holiday in the US, and most schools, including the ELI, are closed. On this day each year, Americans celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which formally cut U.S. ties with Britain. People celebrate this holiday with picnics, parades, and fireworks.

We want to give you early notice about a small change in the schedule for the summer term. This year, the Fourth of July falls on Tuesday. The ELI knows that many of you may want to take a long weekend to celebrate, so we have decided to have class on Wednesday, July 5, and to take both Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, off for the holiday. Please plan to attend your normal classes next Wednesday, July 5. The ELI Main Office will be **open** until 12:00 PM on Monday, July 3, but will close after that until 8:30 AM on Wednesday.

## I-20 Expiration Dates for F-1 Students

By Stacy Ranson

The end of the semester is coming soon! If you are an F-1 student, please check the expiration date on your I-20. On page 1 of your I-20, under #5, you will see a beginning date for your studies and a completion date for your studies. Remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that your I-20 does not expire. If your I-20 will expire at the end of this semester, you must see Stacy Ranson if you want to extend your time at the ELI. It is too late to request an extension after your

I-20 has expired, so please take a moment to check now.

ELI Activity:

## Trip to Niagara Falls

We'll visit Niagara Falls, New York, Saturday, July 22 to Sunday, July 23. Our private bus (with very comfortable seats



and a bathroom) will depart Pittsburgh promptly at 8:00 am. The drive to Niagara Falls is approximately four hours, but we'll stop along the way for a lunch break and to stretch our legs. We'll arrive in Niagara Falls, NY, around 1 pm and check into our hotel. Once in Niagara Falls, we'll take a stroll in Niagara Falls State Park, take a ride on the Maid of the Mist (a 30-minute boat ride down by the Falls) and visit the Cave of the Winds (a walking tour that takes us down to the bottom of the Falls where we can actually touch them!). **You will NOT be permitted to cross the border to Canada** due to time limitations and visa restrictions. We'll leave Niagara Falls on Sunday, July 23 at 12:30 pm and go to lunch at Anchor Bar in Buffalo New York. Anchor Bar is the place where buffalo wings were invented! We should arrive back in Pittsburgh around 7:30 pm.

The price of this trip is \$225 per person and includes round trip private transportation, hotel room (based on 4 students per room, 2 per bed), admission to Cave of the Winds and Maid of the Mist, and lunch at Anchor Bar. There are no refunds.

Feel free to invite family or friends, however children are not permitted. Sign up and pay in the ELI Main Office, Room M13, by 4:45 pm on Thursday,

June 29. We must have 24 students in order to guarantee our group discount. If you pay after that time, we cannot guarantee that a hotel room will be available or that the price will be the same.

ELI Activity:

## ELI NIGHT

Wednesday, July 19

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on Wednesday, July 19 from 4-7 pm in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. ELI Night is a potluck dinner for ELI students and teachers, Talk Time leaders, conversation partners, and their families and friends. At a potluck dinner, everyone brings a dish to share. The dish should be enough to feed you and your guests and approximately 6-8 others. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!



To compensate guests for their hard work preparing food, after dinner, ELI students and teachers perform. If you'd like to sing, dance, or play an instrument for us, please let Rob know as soon as possible so that he can plan accordingly. If you are too timid to perform alone, get your classmates together and perform something as a group. This year, we'll also be doing karaoke! Karaoke is a form of entertainment in which people sing along to music. You see the words on a TV screen, and you sing the words. If you have a song you'd like us to sing at karaoke at ELI Night, you must let Rob know in advance. Again, if you'd like to perform in any way at ELI Night, please email Rob at Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu if you are interested in performing. He will respond to confirm your performance.

## Change! FI 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.

## Pre-registration for Next Term

If you are planning to continue in the ELI and you have not seen Stacy, you must visit her during her office hours by July 31 to sign up for classes.

Remember, the ELI enrollment is very full. If you want to participate in classes, you must pre-register. If you want to return to the ELI next semester and you have not talked to Stacy yet, you must see her soon.

## FI Students and Part Time Study

Students with FI 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 FI students is July 31, 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 July 31. This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

## Letters of Recommendation

Many of you will need to ask Stacy for a letter of recommendation if you are applying to other institutions. There are two important things to remember when making a request for a letter. The first factor is that letters of recommendation are based on your performance at the ELI. Stacy uses your grade reports as a resource for information about your performance. If you miss a lot of classes and don't do your work, your letter of recommendation will not be very strong.

The second important factor is time. Please remember that it takes approximately one week to receive a letter of recommendation. Stacy has many letters to write, and she cannot provide them immediately when you ask for them. **This means that if you need a letter before the semester break in August, you should request it by Monday, July 31. If you request a letter after this date, or during the break, you will have to wait until after the fall term begins.** Please plan ahead when making your requests.

### Coffee Talk on Fridays!

4:00 – 6:00 pm Panera  
(3800 Forbes Ave.)



## First Day of Fall 2017 Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday,



September 8, 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, September 15, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by September 15.

## Lunch Space Available

We know that the Vault can get very busy during lunch hour at the ELI. For this reason, the ELI will offer Room M 15 to students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1:00-1:45 pm as an extra room for lunch. This is the conference room next to Stacy's office. Please see Stacy or the ELI Main Office to unlock the door.



### Please note the following rules:

- Room M-15 must be completely clean every day after lunch. Please wipe any spills and throw away all garbage in an appropriate garbage can.
- Students may not use the kitchen on floor M. This kitchen is for staff and faculty only. Students must use the refrigerator, microwave, and sink in the kitchen on the ground floor.
- Students must be quiet when using M-15. It is ok to have conversation at a normal level. Please remember that ELI offices are very close, though, and people are working nearby.
- Please do not use M-15 for prayer.

**If any of these rules are broken, M-15 will no longer be available for the lunch hour.**

ELI Activity:

## Trip to Kennywood



Make a New Memory.

Do you like roller coasters and thrill rides? If you do, then mark your calendars and join the ELI as we go to Kennywood Amusement Park on Sunday, July 16 for Pitt Day! This is a special day for Pitt employees, their families, and their friends. The teachers and staff of the ELI would love for our students to join us.

Regular admission to the park is \$44.99, but the University of Pittsburgh has a limited number of tickets available for only \$22 (plus \$3 handling fee and tax)! (Children under 2 are free; seniors 55 and over are \$17.00.) The special Pitt Day tickets get you admission to the park for Pitt Day on July 16 and a catered picnic lunch. In addition to the special price and lunch, there will also be prizes, bingo, and activities for kids! Pitt Day tickets are available on a first come first served basis online at <https://www.kennywood.com/pitt>.

If you would like to go with the ELI group, you must purchase your tickets online by Friday, June 30. Keep in mind that the sooner you buy your tickets the better. There are only a limited number of tickets available at the discounted price. Tickets can only be purchased online, and you will print your ticket. This special price is not available at the ticket office at Kennywood. You can buy up to 10 tickets, so invite your family and friends! There are no refunds. Once you have purchased your ticket, please email Rob at [Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu](mailto:Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu) to let him know you will be attending.

The 61C bus will drop us off at Kennywood, so it's even easy to get there! We will meet in the lobby of the ELI at 9:30 am on Sunday, July 16, and take the 61C bus to Kennywood together. The park opens at 10:30 am and the park closes at 10 pm. Rob will stay at the park until 6 pm, but you can leave the park anytime you wish.

For more information about Kennywood, visit <https://www.kennywood.com/>

## 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 plants, animals, insects, or any 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](mailto:sar72@pitt.edu).
- The deadline for submission is Friday, July 7 by 12:00 pm.

### Contest Rules:

- 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.

## ELI Storytellers Series



One of the benefits of studying at the ELI is the chance to meet and to learn from people with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ELI Storytellers Series gives students the opportunity to share their stories with classmates. Speakers give a 10-15 minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The talks are scheduled during the 1:00 lunch break. The series is open to all ELI students, and it is a great way to get extra speaking and listening practice outside of class.

How about you? Do you have an interest or a skill you would like to tell us about? Have you accomplished something special or done something fun and exciting? Would you like to share information about your culture or hometown? What is your story? If you are interested in giving a short presentation, or if you know someone who should, email Stacy at [sar72@pitt.edu](mailto:sar72@pitt.edu)

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## Writers Wanted!

The ELI loves to publish articles by its students. Would you like to share your thoughts on a recent ELI activity? Would you like to write about your American experience? If so, please email

your submissions to us at [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). All levels are welcome!

## ELI FI Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with FI visas do not have permission to work in the U.S. This includes both on-campus and off-campus jobs. Working without permission is a very serious violation of immigration rules, and ELI FI students who work without SEVP approval will be terminated in SEVIS. Termination for unauthorized employment does not include a grace period, and students are required to leave the U.S. immediately. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this rule.

## Address Updates

by Abram Balestra

Remember, each time you change address, you must update your address with the University of Pittsburgh and with immigration. Please visit the ELI Main Office to update your address.

You must also change your address with the bank, your cell phone provider, and with any other company or office that is using your old address.

If you are expecting a refund from the university, the university will mail it to the address they have on file. Therefore, if you don't update your address your check may be mailed to the wrong place.



[www.facebook.com/PittELI](http://www.facebook.com/PittELI)

## The ELI Student Library

Do you like to read? Would you like some extra practice? If you're looking for a good book to read, look no further than the ELI Student Library! The library is located right outside the ELI Main Office and Stacy's office, next to the door that leads to room M-15. The library has lots of books designed for ESL students. From classics like *Pride and Prejudice* and *Dracula* to books about The Beatles and Shakespeare, the library has a lot of options for you.

In addition, many of the books are "Graded Readers", meaning that they have a number on them that shows what reading level they are meant for. So if you are a lower level reader, you may want to pick books from the Level 2 and Level 3 sections. If you are a very advanced reader, we even have books that are unabridged -- not shortened or changed to make them easier for you to read. If you want to borrow a book, you must sign out the book on the sign out sheet. When you are finished, you must return the book and sign it back in. You cannot take a book out for more than two weeks, unless you sign it out again. Please see the Main Office for more information.

## 2017 Deutschtown Music Festival

By Rachael Crabb

On Friday, July 14, and Saturday, July 15, Pittsburgh's North Side will be home to the annual Deutschtown Music Festival. Over 100 different bands and musical artists will play on over 24 different stages throughout the North Side. Performances on Friday will run from 5 p.m. to midnight, on outdoor stages such as the Allegheny Commons East Park Stage, to indoor stages in restaurants. On Saturday, even more artists will perform, starting at 11 a.m. in some venues and ending at midnight or 1:00 a.m. in others.

For a full list of all the artists performing, the venues included, and the full schedule, as well as information about transportation and sponsors of the event, check their website at <http://deutschtownmusicfestival.org>.

## Omnimax Movie Marathon!

by Anthony Verardi

If you love movies and love seeing them on the biggest screen possible, you won't want to miss this weekend-long event! Starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 8 through 5:00 PM on Sunday, July 9, the Rangos Ominimax Theater at the Carnegie Science Center will host a 31-hour marathon of movies as a farewell event for the theater.

The "Omnimax" is a massive movie theater located in the Carnegie Science Center, one of only 50 in North America. Its screen covers nearly the entire room, offering a panoramic view of the films on display.

This special event will celebrate the history of the Ominimax Theater before it closes in July for renovations. Since its grand opening almost 30 years ago, technology has continued to advance, so the Science Center has decided to upgrade the theater. In November, it will reopen as The Rangos Giant Screen Cinema.

Admission to the movie marathon is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members of the Carnegie Science Center, and includes:

- *Unlimited* Ominimax Movies
- Access to all four floors of the Science Center, as well as the nearby SportsWorks center
- *Unlimited* special live demonstrations, theater, and Planetarium shows
- A piece of *real* 70mm Ominimax film to take home with you as a souvenir
- The ability to leave and come back at any time during the 31-hour marathon (parking not included)
- Cash bar and food stations in the museum

Regular admission to just the Science Center in the Summer is \$19.95 for adults, so this is quite the deal! To register and view a full list of the movies that will be screened, visit this web page:

<http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/calendar/omnimax-details/?eventID=2705&year=2017&month=7&date=8>