



# ELI NEWS

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

07-12-18, Volume 56 Issue 10  
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## Social Media Focus Group with ELI Students

The ELI is conducting a focus group to learn how students use social media in their home countries. A focus group is a group of people who share their opinions on a product or topic. We want to hear directly from students about the social media platforms that are the most popular in different parts of the world (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, WeChat), and how they are used for social, academic or professional use. Please see below for details.

**What:** Volunteer to participate in the ELI Social Media Focus Group. Each student will be asked to complete a short survey at the beginning of the focus group. A discussion will then be led by Erica.

**When:** Friday, July 20 at 9 a.m.

**Why:** We value your insight as a student and want to learn in greater detail how you first learned about the ELI. The discussion will help continue to guide our recruiting and marketing strategy.

To sign-up, stop by the front office or email Erica at [elr93@pitt.edu](mailto:elr93@pitt.edu) or [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). The focus group will take place in the conference room next to the front office.

A light breakfast of **coffee** and **bagels** will be provided to those who participate!

**The deadline to sign-up  
is Tuesday, July 17!**

**Please note, attendance is  
limited to 10 students.  
Sign-up today to secure  
your spot!**

ELI Activity:

## ELI Trip to Niagara Falls New Deadline!



Join the ELI on **Sat., July 28**, for a trip to Niagara Falls, New York! Niagara Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the largest waterfall in the United States.

We will depart the University on **Saturday, July 28 at 7:45 am** and return the same day **around 11:45 pm**. We have a few more spaces left on the bus! The cost of this trip is **\$120** and includes:

- Roundtrip bus transportation
- Boat ride at the bottom of the Falls on the Maid of the Mist

It takes approximately 5 hours to reach Niagara Falls from Pittsburgh. We will stop on the way to Niagara Falls for lunch and we will stop on the way back for dinner. These meals are **not** included in the cost of the trip. You are welcome to invite a friend, but no children please. We will be walking A LOT.

The new deadline for payment is **4:30 pm on Thursday, July 19**. Payment is by cash only and there are no refunds. Email Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you have any questions.

ELI Activity:



**Make a New Memory.**

Tickets for Pitt Day at Kennywood are **sold out!** ELI teacher Heather has two extra tickets. The cost is \$25 per ticket. See Heather in her office, M18, if you would like to purchase them from her - first come, first served!

If you bought a ticket for Pitt Day at Kennywood, **please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Vault**. If you bought additional tickets for guests, write the number of guests and indicate if you will be taking the bus with us.

We will meet in the lobby of the ELI **at 10 am on Sunday, July 15**, and take the 61C bus to Kennywood together. The bus will pick us up at 10:20 am, so don't be late. Gates open at 10:30 am and the park closes at 10 pm. You are free to meet us at the park, but let Ece know. Ece will stay at the park until 6 pm, but you can leave the park anytime you wish.

Don't forget that your Pitt Day at Kennywood ticket includes a picnic lunch. This year the lunch includes pulled-pork barbecue, hot dogs, barbecued chicken, vegetarian baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon and tossed salad. We will meet **at Pavilion 5 at 1 pm** to have lunch together. In addition to lunch, there will be games, raffles, and a DJ!

For more details about Pitt Day, visit <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-games-menu-planned>. For information about Kennywood, visit [www.kennywood.com/](http://www.kennywood.com/).

ELI Activity:

## ELI NIGHT Please sign up!

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on **Saturday, July 21** from 5-8 pm in the basement hall of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh at 159 North Bellefield Ave.

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!

**Please let us know if you are planning to attend.** You can do this online at <https://tinyurl.com/ENSummer2018>. Let us know if you are coming and how many guests (family members, conversation partners, Talk Time leaders, friends) will be coming with you. We want to make sure that we have enough tables and chairs for everyone!

To compensate guests for their hard work preparing food, after dinner, ELI students and teachers sometimes perform. If you'd like to sing, dance, or play an instrument for us at ELI Night, please let Ece know **by today, Thursday, July 12**, so that she can plan accordingly. If you are too timid to perform alone, get your classmates together and perform something as a group! Email Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you are interested in performing. She will respond to confirm your performance.

You should plan to arrive at the church at 5 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. If you arrive after this time, you will miss out on a great deal of delicious food! If you have any questions, please contact Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu).

## 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 if you complete your final term of study at level 6 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 complete level 6, you have a 2-week grace period, and you must request a transfer within that time.

If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of your grace period, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

## F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires 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.

## English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Summer 2018



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. Role Play finals in Speaking are graded with another Speaking teacher. Writing finals are graded by a teacher from another class with input from your teacher.

Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Friday, July 27	Monday, July 30	Tuesday, July 31
<b>Writing final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm	<b>Grammar final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm	<b>Reading final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm
<b>Speaking final</b> 1:00pm- 3:00pm	<b>Listening final</b> 2:00pm- 4:00pm	

## 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 in the fall term. If you want to participate in classes, you must pre-register. If you want to take a vacation term, you must pre-register for that, too. If you want to return to the ELI next semester and you have not talked to Stacy yet, you must see her soon.

## I am a Firework Stories from Writing 6



In Writing 6, students were asked to write short stories with core vocabulary in small groups. Although both of the stories are related to fireworks on the Fourth of July, their plots continue very differently. Do the stories have conclusive endings? If not, what do you think will happen next?

### I Am a Firework

By **Mohamed Alshehhi, Hyunsook (Stella) Kim, and Sha Ouyang**

I am a firework. I spent my whole life waiting to be set off on the Fourth of July. However, right before the big fireworks display, waking up from my sound sleep in a huge box, I surprisingly found myself in the hand of a lovely boy, facing a cup of water. He was so excited to see fireworks displayed in the sky, he jumped! Oh, I felt the spilled water on my fuse. At that moment, no words could comfort me in my disappointment! I had waited for this moment my whole life!

When I was feeling miserable because of my adverse fate, I heard the cry of the little boy. He screamed, "It can't be lit!" A sharp pain pulled me from my nightmare. The dad was cutting the wet side of my fuse off, which inspired my hope of exploding in the air - the most beautiful moment of my life! My god, the boy was a timid one! He cried again: "Dad, I am afraid of it." I felt compelled to push his hand close to my fuse! Luckily, the dad grabbed the boy's hand and brought it closer and closer to me! They made my whole life's dream come true: I was one of the fireworks bursting in the air! How happy I was to celebrate the independence of the great United States.

## I Am a Firework

By **Hanna Lee and Siming Yin**

I am a firework. I spent my whole life waiting to be set off on the Fourth of July. However, right before the big fireworks display, I was nervous and decided to switch places with my friend at the back of the line. I am always timid, but my friends are inclined to be ignited. When I saw my friends being ignited and getting ready to fly up, I felt a compelling desire to overcome my adversity. I presumed that I am a brave firework, and I walked to the fire zone and set fire to my fuse. I tried my best to explode, and finally, I realized that I would have to burn myself to provide beautiful scenery for the human beings.

## Your Name on Your ELI Certificate

Each term, we award certificates for students who attend their classes. The way we print your name on your certificate is the same it was printed on the midterm grade report you recently received. If you would like to make any changes, please email the ELI Main Office at [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). Common changes including: adding a hyphen (Ji-young instead of Jiyoung), adding a capital letter (Ji-Young instead of Ji-young), or adding a middle name. Please let the main office know if you would like a change to your name by **Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**.

## First Day of Fall 2018 Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday, September 7, 2018. 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 Monday, September 17, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you have any questions.

### Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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



## Short Class Schedule for August 2

Classes beginning at...	meet...
10:00 am	10:45-11:00 am
11:00 am	11:05-11:20 am
12:00 noon	11:25-11:40 am
2:00 pm	11:45-12:00 pm
3:00 pm	12:05-12:20pm
Closing Ceremony	1:00-3:00 pm

## Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities



Sunday, July 15: Pitt Day at Kennywood  
Saturday, July 21: ELI Night  
Saturday, July 28: ELI Trip to Niagara Falls

## FREE Sundays at Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History

Pitt students already get free admission to many museums in the city by showing their valid Pitt ID from September to April. What about your family and friends though? What if you want to go in the summer? The Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History are now offering FREE admission to everyone on the third Sunday of every month in 2018. Take advantage of this free opportunity to visit the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History with your family and friends.

For more information, visit <https://carnegiemuseums.org/plan-a-visit/>. For more information about free museum visits for Pitt students, visit <http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts/freemuseum/>.

## Pitt Program Council Trip to Cedar Point Tickets go on sale July 2!

Join the Pitt Program Council for a Pitt trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, on **Saturday, July 21**. Cedar Point is a 364-acre amusement park that features 16 roller coasters and 74 thrill rides... That's a world record! With roller coasters that travel at speeds of 120 mph and have 80-degree drops, it's no wonder that Cedar Point is called the Roller Coaster Capital of the World. It's also the second oldest amusement park in the US and has been named "Best Amusement Park in the World" from Amusement Today for the past fourteen years!

Tickets are \$40 can be purchased in **M-30 William Pitt Union beginning July 2**. Credit/debit card is not accepted – cash only. Please remember to bring your Pitt student ID! Your \$40 ticket includes your entrance pass, transportation to and from the park as well as a drink band good for unlimited water and soda for the entire day! (Regular admission to Cedar Point is \$49 plus tax and handling when purchased online). This trip always sells out quickly, so be sure to get your tickets as early as possible on July 2. The William Pitt Union ticket office is open from 8:30 am – 5 pm, Mon.-Fri.

More information regarding departure times and other important details will be available from the Pitt Program Council very soon ([www.facebook.com/pitt.programcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/pitt.programcouncil) or <https://ppc.pitt.edu/>).

Please note that this event is ticketed as a TRIP ONLY. In order to receive passes to the park, students must use the transportation provided. After you purchase your ticket from the Pitt Program Council, if you'd like to purchase a "Fast Lane Pass" to allow you to go the front of the lines at the park, that is an additional cost. "Fast Lane" passes can only be purchased online in advance or at the park. For more info, visit <https://www.cedarpoint.com/things-to-do/fast-lane>. Please note that the Fast

Lane Pass is in addition to the admission charge to the park. Fast Lane passes cannot be purchased at the William Pitt Union.

Please be aware that this activity is organized by the Pitt Program Council and **not** the ELL. Teachers cannot go on this trip and guests are not allowed.

For more information about Cedar Point, visit their web site at [www.cedarpoint.com](http://www.cedarpoint.com). For a complete list of their roller coasters and their "thrill" ratings, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar\\_Point](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar_Point).

## Haunted Pittsburgh Ghost Tour

Looking for a fun (and slightly scary) way to spend your Friday or Saturday night? Check out Haunted Pittsburgh's walking ghost tour of Pittsburgh! Tours are held every Friday and Saturday in the summertime and run through early November. Tours begin at 7 p.m. and usually lasts until 9 p.m. This is a great way to learn about the history of Pittsburgh, intermingled with ghost stories. The tour begins in Downtown Pittsburgh at the City-County Building (414 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Tours go rain or shine! The price of an adult ticket is \$17.

The price for kids 12 years of age and under is \$10. You may only purchase tickets from their website at

[www.hauntedpittsburghtours.com](http://www.hauntedpittsburghtours.com).



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## Scam Phone Calls

Several international students in the Pittsburgh area have received phone calls from people who say they are FBI agents, government officials, police officers, or other people of authority. The callers ask the international students for large amounts of money. Government officials, bank employees, and police officers will never ask you for money. **The people making these calls are NOT authorized to ask you for information.** They often have some personal information about you that seems to be accurate, and so they can sound very convincing. They are also very threatening and usually demand that a large amount of cash be withdrawn from the student's bank account and sent via PayPal.

If you receive one of these phone calls, please take the following steps:

1. End the call, no matter how threatening the caller may seem. **Do not withdraw money from your bank account or give the caller any information about yourself, your address, or your finances.**
2. See Stacy right away, and she will help you report the call to the police.

Pitt Police suggest that you write down the incoming number, if possible. Pitt Police also warns students not to release any personal information concerning your identity.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Stacy.

## ELI Calendar Online

When and where is the next ELI activity? When is the Closing Ceremony? When are final exams? If you have questions about the ELI schedule this term or future terms, remember to check the ELI calendar online!

[www.eli.pitt.edu/academic-calendar](http://www.eli.pitt.edu/academic-calendar)