ELI Activity:

**Hoopla!**
Pitt Women’s Basketball
Deadline Today!

Calling all women of the ELI! Join the Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Pitt women’s basketball team on Thursday, November 16 for Hoopla, as Pitt takes on the Duquesne Dukes. Hoopla is a special event that includes free admission to the game and a buffet dinner for all female Pitt students. Other women outside the university can attend for $5.

Even though this event is free, you must register in advance. Please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu by today, Thursday, November 9 if you would like to attend and let her know of any dietary restrictions (food allergies). If you would like to bring a female guest who is not a Pitt student, you must pay $5 in the main office by 4:30pm on Thursday, November 9.

On Thursday, November 16, we will meet in the ELI lobby at 5:10pm to walk to the Petersen Events Center together. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm and the game begins at 7:00pm. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

**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. You may only take one vacation term during your study at the ELI.

Please remember that you must pre-register for this benefit. You cannot change 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 December 4, 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 December 4. 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 December, you should request it by Monday, December 4. If you request a letter after this date, or during the break, you will have to wait until after the next term begins. Please plan ahead when making your requests.

**Coffee Talk on Fridays!**

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

Visit the ELI NEWS online: [www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news](http://www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news)
**FI 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. or request a transfer to a new program.

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

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

---

**ELI Night**

**Saturday, November 11**

**Please Sign up!**

ELI Night is just around the corner! Please let us know if you are planning to attend. You can do this online at [http://tinyurl.com/ENFall2017](http://tinyurl.com/ENFall2017). Let us know if you are coming and how many guests (homestay 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!

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!

### **ELI Night will be held on Saturday, November 11 from 5-8pm in the reception hall of the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, located at 605 Morewood Avenue, which is on the corner of Morewood Avenue and Ellsworth Avenue. You should enter the church on the Ellsworth Avenue side.**

If you are planning to drive, you can park on Morewood Avenue, Castleman Street, and the 4900 block of Ellsworth Ave. Usually these areas are permit parking only; however, the church issued a parking variance, which means we can park in those areas without a permit for our event.

---

**Address Updates**

Remember, each time that you change your 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.

---

**Follow us on Twitter**

[@Upitt_ELI](https://twitter.com/Upitt_ELI)
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 Thursday, November 16 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.

Winning photographers in each category will have their photos framed for the ELI walls.

ELI F1 Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with F1 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 F1 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.

Thanksgiving Break

Remember that all classes are canceled for the Thanksgiving holiday! The ELI will be closed Thursday, November 23-Sunday, November 26. The ELI Main Office will remain open on Wednesday, November 22. Classes will be held as normal on Monday, November 27. Have a great break!

Lose Something? Check the Lost and Found!

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.

Sponsored Students and Final Exams

Please note that if you are a sponsored student, and you miss your final exam for any reason, or if you fail the final exam, your sponsor will be notified immediately. Final exams in the ELI are worth 30% of the overall final grade, and both the ELI and your sponsors expect you to take the exams and to perform as well as you can on them. Remember, too, that satisfactory academic progress is a requirement of the F1 visa. If you fail courses, your F1 visa may be revoked. Please check the posted schedules for ELI final exams and plan your schedule accordingly.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
Global Gala
Formal Event

The Global Ties office will be holding a Global Gala for students. The Global Gala is a semi-formal event. “Formals”, as they are more commonly called, are parties held by high schools and universities that give students a chance to dress up in formal clothes and have a party at an elegant location.

The Global Gala will be held in the Hall of Sculpture at the Carnegie Museum of Art (https://cmoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/sculpture-hero.jpg). Students are encouraged to wear traditional clothing from their countries, but it is not required. If you do not wear traditional clothing from your country, you should wear semi-formal clothing. That means you do not need to wear a suit and tie, but you should dress nicely. There will be a photo booth for you take photos with your friends, too! This is a great way to experience a part of American culture, make new friends, practice English, and have fun!

Tickets are $20 each. You can also purchase a ticket for a guest who is not a Pitt student! Tickets can be purchased at the William Pitt Union Ticket Office. If you have any questions, contact the Global Ties Office at globalt@pitt.edu.

**Global Gala**
*Fri., Nov. 17, 2017
9:00 pm to 12:00 am
Carnegie Museum of Art, Hall of Sculpture
Tickets: $20 each*

Downtown Pittsburgh’s Light Up Night
The Biggest Party on the Biggest Night of the Year!

If you don’t want to go to the Global Gala, or need something to do beforehand, help us kick off the holiday season here in Pittsburgh with the annual Light Up Night in downtown Pittsburgh! This year, Light Up Night is on Friday, November 17th. The highlight of the evening is the lighting of Christmas trees around the city for the first time in 2016. The tree in PPG Plaza—the glass castle-looking building—will be lit at 5:30, while the “Unity Tree” at the corner of Stanwix St. and Penn Ave. will be lit at 7:00. A rooftop fireworks presentation will accompany the lighting of the “Unity Tree,” and there are performances and activities throughout the entire day! For a full schedule of events, go to http://www.downtownpittsburghholiday.com/light-up-night/.

Upcoming Pitt Program Council Events!

Along with the events happening around Pittsburgh, you can also take advantage of the events sponsored by Pitt Program Council! There are a few really cool events coming up soon that you can attend.

First, this Saturday, November 11, is Salsa and Shimmies. Pitt Salsa Club is hosting an event where you can learn how to salsa dance or belly dance! The event will be held in the William Pitt Union Ballroom at 10 pm. Grab your ticket at the WPU Ticket Office! Tickets for this event are $5. However, there are limited spots, so sign up soon!

Second, the Pitt Program Council is hosting an advance screening of Justice League! This advance screening means that you will get to see the movie before it comes out in theaters. The movie will be shown on Tuesday, November 14 in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room at 8:30 pm. If you’d like to see the movie, sign up through the WPU Ticket Office. Admission is free with your Pitt ID!

There are other events coming up as well, such as a yoga event, a trip to New York City, and paintball! For more information about any events hosted by Pitt Program Council, check http://ppc.pitt.edu/events-page/.

Polish and Lithuanian Festival on Sunday

The Cathedral of Learning will host a Polish and Lithuanian Festival on Sunday, November 12. The event is free, and there will be Polish and Lithuanian food, music, performances, arts, kids activities, and more. The event runs from 12 to 5 pm in the Cathedral Commons Room (the first floor lobby).

Planning Your Thanksgiving Dinner

For most Americans, Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family. In fact, because so many people are either driving or flying to visit their relatives, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year. Many ELI teachers will be spending the holiday with their families. Unfortunately that means that we are not able to spend Thanksgiving with our students.

You might want to consider planning your very own Thanksgiving dinner for you and your friends. Even though many restaurants will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, there are still a few that will be open and serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. You might also think about having your meal catered! Whatever you do, make sure that you place your orders or make your reservations early. Even though Thanksgiving isn’t until Thursday, November 23rd, you really need to start making your reservations and planning now!

If you’d like to know which restaurants will be open on Thanksgiving, you can check Pittsburgh’s local newspaper, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Here’s an article that shows which restaurants are cooking Thanksgiving dinner: http://www.post-gazette.com/life/dining/20171110/Dining-out-Thanksgiving-Pittsburgh-restaurants-2017/stories/201711080006

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news