The ELI News!

Welcome to Fall Semester 2017! This term we will do lots of fun activities and visit many exciting places where we can practice English, make friends and have fun!

The ELI News is a weekly newsletter published by the ELI. It is usually given to students every Thursday in their first class. The ELI News contains important information and announcements that you’ll need. You will also do activities with the ELI News in your Reading classes and perhaps other classes as well.

If you don’t have a 10 am class or are absent on a Thursday, you can get a copy of the ELI News in classrooms, on the shelf outside the main office in M13, and on the ELI web site at http://www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news.

ELI Activity:

Food, Fun, and Friends!

Join us after classes on Monday for snacks and a chance to get to know your classmates and teachers. The ELI will buy snacks, but students must pay for their own drinks. We will meet at 4:00 pm in the lobby of the Parkvale Building and walk over to the University Club. The University Club is a members only social club for faculty and staff of the University of Pittsburgh. As students, you will be very special guests of the ELI. If you’d like to join us after 4 pm, the University Club is located at 123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. We’ll be on the rooftop terrace relaxing, making new friends, and enjoying the view.

ELI Online Calendar

When does vacation start? When is Fall Break? When are our final exams? If you have questions about the ELI schedule for this term or future terms, remember to check the ELI calendar online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/calendar/activities-and-events-calendar.

ELI Activity:

Tour of Downtown, Station Square and Mt. Washington

Let’s explore the city! We’ll meet in the main lobby at the ELI at 11 am on Saturday, September 9, and take the bus downtown where we’ll walk through the Cultural District and Market Square. We’ll have lunch at Market Square (everyone buys their own lunch) and then we’ll catch the train to Station Square, a former train station that is now a shopping and entertainment complex. From there, we’ll take the incline up to the top of Mt. Washington where we’ll get some of the best city views you’ll ever see. We should be back to campus around 4:00 pm, but you’re free to leave any time you wish. Don’t forget, the bus, the train, and the incline are all free with your Pitt student ID card!

If it’s raining, we’ll go to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden. Rainy days are the perfect opportunity to go inside and enjoy the warmth and beauty of the gardens at Phipps. There’s also a beautiful Butterfly Forest filled with hundreds of colorful butterflies. Whether we go for a tour of the city or a stroll through the indoor gardens, you’ll get to know your new classmates and start your new adventures in Pittsburgh.

New Student Checklist

Did you remember to:

☐ Activate your Pitt email address?
☐ Download the Duo Mobile security app so that you can access your Pitt email?
☐ Get your student ID card?
☐ Update your mailing address with the main office?
☐ 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:**

**ELI Trip to Niagara Falls**

Join the ELI on September 30 to October 1 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, September 30 at 9 am and return on Sunday, October 1 around 7 pm. We need at least 30 students for this trip. The tour includes:

- Round-trip bus transportation
- One night at a hotel near the Falls (4 students per room, 2 students per bed)
- Tour of the Cave of the Winds at the Falls
- Boat ride at the bottom of the Falls on the Maid of the Mist
- Buffet lunch at Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York (the home of the original buffalo chicken wings) (other meals during the trip are not included in the price)

You are welcome to invite a friend, but no children please. We will be walking A LOT.

The deadline for payment is Thursday, September 14, by 2 pm. Payments can be made in the main office, cash only. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds. Email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you have any questions.

**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.

**Payment Deadlines in the ELI**

by Abe Balestra

If you are a new student that registered this week, the last day to pay your tuition is **September 17**.

If you are a continuing student who registered before last term ended, the deadline to pay your tuition is **September 17**.

Payment can be made by cash, check, or money order by visiting the Student Payment Center in Room G-7 Thackeray Hall. Credit cards or debit cards are not accepted there. Remember, you may pay by eCheck online for free. This is an online transfer from a U.S. checking account into your Pitt account. To do this, log on to my.pitt.edu and select PittPay and click “Make Payment”. Students may also transfer money via Flywire. Online payments by credit card are available, but a 2.75% fee is assessed.

For more information about payment options, please visit the “Making Payments” page on the Student Payment Center’s website: [http://www.payments.pitt.edu/makingpayments.html](http://www.payments.pitt.edu/makingpayments.html). You may also ask Abe or Anthony in the ELI Main Office if you have any questions about registration or payment.

**Withdrawal and Refund Policy**

If you wish to drop one or more of your classes, you should immediately inform Abe Balestra in the ELI Main Office and the ELI Student Advisor, Stacy Ranson, in M22.

If you drop courses before the end of the ELI Add/Drop period on **Friday, September 15**, you will receive a full refund. This check will be mailed to your home mailing address. This takes approximately 2 weeks.

If you drop courses after the ELI Add/Drop period on September 15, you will NOT receive a refund.

**Health Insurance Requirements**

The ELI requires all students to show proof of health insurance coverage. The ELI does not recommend or offer specific health insurance plans. Students may choose any hospital insurance plan they like, and the ELI will request a copy of the insurance card with the student’s name. Students who do not provide proof of health insurance for the Spring 2017 term by 12:00 pm on Friday, September 15 will not be permitted to register for classes. Please see Stacy if you have any questions or need help finding insurance.

**Medical Emergencies in the ELI**

It is the ELI policy that any time an ELI student shows signs of a serious medical issue, ELI staff and faculty must call 911 for medical assistance. For example, if a student complains of the symptoms of a heart attack, the ELI will call an ambulance. In a medical emergency, the first priority of the ELI is always the well-being of its students, and 911 will be called even if the ill student protests or is not insured. Ambulance rides can cost from $400 to over $1000, depending on the kind of care the crew must provide and the distance traveled. Patients are responsible for the cost. This means that you—not the ELI—must pay for the ambulance, even if an ELI teacher or employee called for the ambulance. Please keep this in mind when you are considering your health insurance options in the United States.
Pitt Emergency Alert System
By Stacy Ranson

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. 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”

Smoking Near the Parkvale Building

Please note, smoking is not allowed in front of the Parkvale Building doors. Signs outside say “No smoking within 15 feet of the entrance to this building”, and ELI students are expected to follow this rule. The smoke carries into the building and disturbs other students and offices. Moreover, it is illegal to smoke within 15 feet (approximately 4.5 meters) of a university building entrance. There is an ashtray in the alley for students to use, between the Parkvale Building and the Meyran Ave. parking garage.

Please remember to be a good neighbor and throw away your trash and your cigarette butts.

TOEFL Prep Course at the ELI

Do you find yourself bored with nothing to do on Wednesdays? Are you worrying about that upcoming TOEFL exam? Well, the ELI has the perfect solution for both of these common problems: the ELI TOEFL Preparation Course!

The TOEFL Preparation Course is an intensive class that will meet on Wednesdays from 1:10 pm to 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The class covers all aspects of the test. Module 1 covers Reading and Writing, and Module 2 covers Listening and Speaking. Each module is six weeks long. Space is limited. Sign up in the ELI Main Office by October 3. The cost is $165 per module for students in the ELI’s intensive program and $200 per module for non-ELI students.

Please Note: The TOEFL Prep Class is open to anyone in Pittsburgh, but individuals wishing to take the TOEFL Prep Class must be in Levels 5 or 6 in the ELI (or have the equivalent fluency). For a complete description of these courses, along with textbook information and information about other special courses being offered this term, visit the ELI’s web site at http://www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-preparation-course.

I-94 Numbers Required

Each student must give the ELI Main Office his or her I-94 admission number by 4:00 pm Friday, September 15. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:

Each ELI student must give the ELI Main Office his or her I-94 admission number by 4:00 pm, Friday, September 15. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:

1. Go to:
2. https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home
3. Click “Get Most Recent I-94”
4. Click “Consent & Continue”
5. Enter information exactly as it is on your visa
6. Print the page with your admission number
7. Bring printed page to ELI main office by 4:00 pm, September 15.

What Can You Do With a Student ID Card?

Did you know that your Pitt student ID card gives you free access to transportation, the student computing labs, and libraries? With your valid Pitt ID you can also get discounted rates on museum visits too! Here are some of the resources available to you when you carry your Pitt student ID.


Computing Labs: Free use of the computing labs throughout campus, including Hillman Library and the Cathedral of Learning.

Transportation: Free use of Pittsburgh city buses as well as University of Pittsburgh shuttles around campus.

Other Fun Stuff: Free admission to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, as well as free rides on the Duquesne Incline and more!
**Talk Time**  
**Conversation Groups**  
By Suzanne Meyer

Talk Time is a conversation group that meets for one hour each week. Each group includes a native English speaker and a group of about 4-5 ELI students. Joining a Talk Time conversation group is a great way to practice listening and speaking as well as to learn more about culture!

Talk Time groups are for fun and informal communication; they are not classes. Groups are usually scheduled in ELI classrooms, and meeting times are typically at 1:00 (during lunch) or 4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. ELI students register for a group and meet with that group once a week.

Registration for Talk Time will take place in the Conference Room (M-15) on Thursday, September 21st from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Stop by during your lunch break! Talk Time groups will start meeting the following week. Please email the Community Outreach Coordinator (Suzanne) at elicomm@pitt.edu if you have questions or need more information about Talk Time.

**Conversation Partners**  
By Suzanne Meyer

Would you like to meet a native English speaker who wants to meet an international student? If so, you should request a conversation partner! You can learn more about each other’s cultures and hopefully become friends. At the same time, you can practice speaking English, and your partner might try your language, too.

Online registration for conversation partners will be open Thursday, September 14th until Wednesday, September 27th. To sign up, go to: http://tinyurl.com/ELI-CLEP-FA17. Sorry, late requests will not be accepted. Please note that only ELI students in the intensive program will be paired.

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**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 “My Pitt Email.”

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

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**Playing Sports at Pitt: Plan Ahead for Fall Registration!**  
by Suzanne Meyer

Playing teams sports can be a great way to exercise and keep fit. Additionally, playing sports with others can help you make new friends or develop the friendships you already have.

Pitt offers “intramural sports,” which are student sports teams (not official Pitt teams) that have a regular schedule of matches against other student teams at Pitt. According to the university website, a benefit of intramurals is that they do not require a lot of time. There aren’t any practices, and games occur on campus. Additionally, registering for and participating in an intramural team is free. The following sports will be offered in the fall: indoor soccer, volleyball, basketball, touch football and ultimate frisbee.

If you are interested in forming an ELI team, make your plans now. Contact elicomm@pitt.edu (the Community Outreach Coordinator) as soon as possible! The coordinator cannot register students directly but can help you with the registration process.

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**Welcome to Students from Chosun University and Yasuda Women’s University**

This fall the ELI is very happy to welcome students from Chosun University in Gwangju, Korea, and from the Department of English at Yasuda Women’s University in Hiroshima, Japan. They will all be studying in the ELI this term.

Please take a moment to say hello to all of your new classmates and welcome them to the ELI!

If you’d like the ELI to work with your university to coordinate special study abroad programs in the ELI, let us know. Contact Rob at Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu.

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**Flywire: International Money Transfers**

The University of Pittsburgh has partnered with Flywire to make it easier for international students to transfer money from overseas to their Pitt student accounts in order to pay tuition and fees. Flywire will allow students to transfer money in their own currencies via bank transfer (in most cases) or by credit or debit card. Flywire is available through the PittPay link on http://my.pitt.edu.

The advantages of Flywire include: no bank transfer fees; a savings on exchange rates compared to what banks offer; reducing transfer times from 2-3 weeks down to 2-3 days; and customer service available 24 hours a day 7 days a week (“24/7”). Flywire also offers chat support and its website in Korean, Chinese (Simplified), Japanese, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

International transfer via Flywire is an option in PittPAY via my.pitt.edu. Students can authorize parents or family members to pay tuition and fees for them. For more information about making a payment this way, please visit the ELI Main Office. You can also learn more at http://www.flywire.com/pitt and you can take advantage of its 24/7 customer support.

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