Student Storytellers
May Alghamdi
“Pushing the Boundaries”

There have been several stories in the news lately about women in Saudi Arabia. ELI student May Alghamdi will talk about her own experiences and the important and dynamic (changing) role of women in her country.

Date: Today, October 26, 2017
Time: 1:00 – 1:20 pm
Place: ELI Conference Room, M-15

Everyone is welcome!

ELI Halloween Party
Bring a Pumpkin

One of the most popular Halloween activities is carving a pumpkin. There will be a space at the party to carve pumpkins; however, you must bring your own pumpkin. The ELI will provide tools and some stencils for you to use. You can also find and print out your own stencils. One of the websites where you can find stencils is http://www.pumpkinpiles.com/, but there are many other sites. The pumpkin should be at least the size of a soccer ball. Pumpkins smaller than that size are very difficult to carve.

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

ELI Halloween Party
Tomorrow

Get ready for the Halloween Party! The party is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 27, from 6:00-9:00 pm. There will be pizza, snacks, candy, pumpkin carving, traditional Halloween games, prizes for the best Halloween costumes, and more!

The deadline to pay only $5 was yesterday, Wednesday, Oct. 25. Tickets are now $10 each. This will help compensate for the cost of renting the hall, food, candy and prizes. There are no refunds. The main office will collect money until 2:00 pm on Friday, October 27. If you don’t get a ticket by that time, you can also pay the $10 fee at the party.

Don’t forget to dress up! Costumes are not required, but it’s fun! The ELI understands that you might want to use the restrooms at the party to change into your costume; however, if you are not helping with setup, please do not arrive at the party before 5:30pm. Also, if you are using the restrooms at the party for changing or applying makeup, please clean up after yourself and make sure the restrooms are the same way as you found them.

The ELI Halloween Party will be held in the basement hall of First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh at 159 North Bellefield Ave. Check the maps posted next to the Halloween flyers. We are using the church’s space because they have a large kitchen we can use for carving pumpkins and a stage we can use for the costume contest. Halloween and Halloween parties are not religious activities. If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

ELI Activity:

ELI NIGHT
New Date!

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! 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 between North Oakland and Shadyside.

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. ELI teachers will prepare traditional Thanksgiving dishes – turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and more. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!

You should plan to arrive at 5pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm. 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.
ELI Activity:

**Language Music Club: Halloween Edition**

Join the Language Music Club on Tuesday, October 31 to enjoy and practice some Halloween-themed music! Even though the ELI Halloween Party is tomorrow, the actual day of Halloween is Tuesday, October 31.

The Language Music Club meets every Tuesday at 4pm in Room 104. We have had four fun-filled meetings so far, but if you missed them, don’t worry! You can drop in anytime! You don’t have to be a good singer to participate. No musical talent is required. All you need is a desire to improve your English! For more information or to make song suggestions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

**ELI Writing Contest**

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (2, 3, 4, 5, 6), and the winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.

If you have written a good composition in your writing class this semester, you should tell your writing teacher that you would like to enter it in the writing contest. Your teacher will then submit your paper for you. Your entry will be read anonymously by judges (your name will be removed from the paper, so they won’t not know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, November 28 at 4:30 pm.

If you are in level 4, 5, or 6, your entry must be an essay that you wrote in class this semester. If you are in level 2 or 3, your entry can be a shorter composition, even a single paragraph. Each student can enter only one composition.

Good luck!

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**English Language Institute
Final Exam Schedule
Fall 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.

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<th>Friday, December 1</th>
<th>Monday, December 4</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing final</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaking final</strong></td>
<td>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Listening final</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grammar final</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reading final</strong></td>
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**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.

**Motown the Musical**

Join the ELI as we go to see Motown the Musical at the Benedum Center downtown on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30pm. A musical is a performance that is similar to a theater play but with the addition of singing and dancing.

Motown the Musical follows the story of Berry Gordy, a featherweight boxer who overcame great obstacles to become a heavyweight music mogul. He is responsible for launching the careers of several famous musicians, who are still well-known today. Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and Smokey Robinson are just a few of these artists, but there were many more. This musical includes many of the famous songs of Motown as well as some original music.

The music of Motown began during a significant period of American history. It was the 1960s and the middle of the civil rights movement. This was a difficult and turbulent time for African Americans who were fighting segregation and racial prejudice. Despite these stressful circumstances, most of the Motown music is upbeat and happy. You can’t help but tap your toe and sing along! According to the website of Motown the Musical, “Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives and made us all move to the same beat”.

If you would like to “move to the same beat” with the ELI, you must pay the main office by 4:30pm on Friday, November 3. Discounted tickets are $27 each. We need at least 10 people for this price. The main office will begin collecting money on Monday, October 30. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
Therapy Dog Tuesdays: Halloween Party!

Does school have you stressed out? Are you an animal lover? Pitt hosts Therapy Dog Tuesdays every week in the Cathedral of Learning. Normal Therapy Dog Tuesdays are every Tuesday from 7 pm to 8 pm on the first floor of the Cathedral of Learning. But on Halloween, October 31, they will be hosting a special Halloween party! All of the dogs will be dressed up in Halloween costumes. Stop by and spend some time relaxing with all of the certified therapy dogs.

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.

Where Does Halloween Come From?

While many people believe that Halloween began as a Christian holiday, some historians say that Halloween traditions in the U.S. actually began in other religions and cultures. Wikipedia.org explains that Halloween originally comes from the Celts (a diverse tribe of people that once covered much of what is now Europe but which is typically associated with Ireland, Scotland and the surrounding areas). The Celts had a Fall festival to celebrate their Fall harvest. In addition, as part of their religion they believed that on October 31, the boundary between the living and the dead disappeared and that evil spirits could come back to earth and cause problems. They would wear costumes and masks to try to look like the evil spirits so that the evil spirits would not harm them.

The carved pumpkin, or jack-o-lantern, is probably the most recognizable symbol of Halloween. This, too, came from the Celts. The Celts believed that the head was the most powerful part of the body because it contained the spirit and knowledge. For this reason, they used the “head” of root vegetables (such as turnips and rutabagas) to scare away evil spirits. Long after the Celts, these Fall traditions were brought to what is now the US. Since pumpkins were more readily available here, the early settlers used pumpkins instead of other vegetables.

Mark your Calendars!

Upcoming ELI Activities

Friday, October 27: ELI Halloween Party
Tuesday, October 31: Language Music Club: Halloween Edition
Sunday, November 5: NBA Cavs Game
Saturday, November 11: ELI Night
Tuesday, November 21: Motown the Musical

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What Does “Halloween” Mean and What Are Jack-o-lanterns?

Where does the word “Halloween” come from? Wikipedia.org tells us that the tradition of a Celtic Fall Festival coincided with a Catholic holiday called “All Saints’ Day” or “All Hallows’ Day” on November 1. The day before “All Hallows’ Day” (October 31) was called “All Hallows’ Even.” This was an abbreviation for “All Hallows’ Evening” and “All Hallows Eve” referring to the night before All Hallows’ Day. Eventually “All Hallows’ Even” became shortened to “Halloween.” It wasn’t until the 19th century, however, when Irish immigrants began to bring their Halloween traditions to the US and adapt them to American culture that it became popular here. In fact, it wasn’t even listed as a holiday in the US until the 20th century. For such a simple and fun holiday, its origins are very complex!

Why do we carve jack-o-lanterns at Halloween? The name “jack-o-lantern” can be traced back to a Gaelic legend called “Stingy Jack.” Jack was a greedy, gambling man who drank a lot. One day he tricked the devil into climbing a tree. Then, by carving a cross on the tree he trapped the devil there. For revenge, the devil cursed Jack to roam the streets of the world at night with the only light he had in his hand — a turnip with a small candle in it. Since pumpkins are more abundant in the US, the early settlers used pumpkins instead of turnips. That’s where the term “jack-o-lantern” comes from.

Turnips were the first “jack-o-lanterns”

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 an 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. Your English doesn’t have to be perfect! This is a great opportunity to challenge yourself and share your story with your friends, teachers and classmates.

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, email Heather at him44@pitt.edu

Student Storytellers: Nanami Moriyasu

Please join us for the third Student Storyteller presentation. Nanami Moriyasu will share some of her observations about differences between Japanese and American culture. You are encouraged to attend and share your own culture so that we can learn from the diverse experiences and backgrounds of our students. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Time: 4:00 – 4:20 pm
Place: ELI Conference Room, M-15

Celebrating Halloween in Pittsburgh

If you’re looking for ways to celebrate Halloween, thankfully Pittsburgh has a lot to offer! Tomorrow, from 7:30 until 9:30, in Alumni Hall Pitt’s acapella group Pitches & Tones is hosting a Halloween themed concert featuring all of Pitt’s acapella groups, called Potions and Bones.

Saturday, October 28, is Fright Up Night in Market Square. This Halloween event includes live music, costume contests, and more.

Looking for something a bit more scary? Also on October 28, real paranormal investigators will be conducting a real ghost hunt through Carrie Furnaces, an old steel mill in Pittsburgh. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate. For more information, check http://www.ghostsnat.com/carrie-furnaces-ghost-hunt-10-28-17.html.

If you have kids, take them trick or treating in your neighborhood, and make sure you have candy to give out! Trick or treating in Pittsburgh is Tuesday, October 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. If you live outside Pittsburgh, check online for your neighborhood’s time.

Want to write for the ELI News? We’re always willing to publish articles from our students, regardless of level. Please email elipitt@pitt.edu with your submissions.

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

by Hye Young Min, former ELI Student