ELI Pre-registration Schedule
Fall 2017

If you plan to study at the ELI next term, you must pre-register with Stacy at your assigned time in room M22. If you do not pre-register with Stacy, the ELI cannot guarantee your place for the fall term. If you plan to take a vacation term, you must see Stacy to register, too.

Sections 2A, 3F, 4J:
Monday, June 26: 1:00-2:00
or Tuesday, June 27: 1:00-2:00

Sections 5P, 5Q, 6T, 6U:
Thursday, June 29: 1:00-2:00
or Friday, June 30: 1:00-2:00

What do you like to do?

By Brianne Harrison

If you like to cook, play tennis, take pictures—or anything at all—Brianne can help you connect with others at the University or in the Pittsburgh community that share your interests. E-mail her today at elicomm@pitt.edu if you are interested in joining a student group at Pitt or a community group in the area.

ELI Activity:
ELI Picnic
Wednesday, June 28
3 pm – 7 pm

Mark your calendars! The ELI Picnic is Wednesday, June 28, from 3 pm – 7 pm in Highland Park. ELI teachers will cook food on a grill. There will be hot dogs (beef, kosher, halal, and vegetarian), watermelon, s’mores, and other picnic foods, as well as traditional picnic games. The ELI will provide the food; we’re relying on ELI students to provide the fun!!! We’ll be at the Maple Grove picnic shelter in Highland Park, about 15-20 minutes away by bus. (Take the 71A or 71B outbound and get off at the corner of N. Euclid and Bunkerhill. Look for the tall apartment building.)

You must sign up and pay in advance by Monday, June 25. It’s very important that you register in advance so that we can make sure buy enough food. You can register and pay in the main office only Mon-Fri from 9-12 and 1-4. ELI students will be asked to make a $5 deposit at that time. ELI students who show up at the picnic will be returned their $5. If you do not show up at the picnic, that money will be used to compensate the ELI for food that was purchased. If you would like to bring friends or guests, they are welcome to join us, but they will be charged $5 each for adults, $3 for children, and you must register and pay for them in advance.

We don’t want to exclude anyone! When you sign up, please let the main office know about any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, kosher, halal, no pork, etc) or allergies you may have when you sign up. A separate grill and utensils will be used to prepare all halal foods.

Reminder:
American Independence Day!

The ELI will have a slight change to our regular schedule for the week of July 4th. We will not have classes on Monday, July 3 or Tuesday, July 4, to celebrate the July 4th holiday! The ELI will hold classes on Wednesday, July 5 to make up for this day off! Please be prepared to attend classes on Wednesday, July 5.

Independence Day, commonly also known as “The Fourth of July” or “July 4th” is a very important holiday to many citizens of the United States. Americans celebrate this day because on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed and approved by our Congress. This document declared that the original 13 member states of the United States of America would become a separate nation from Great Britain, and no longer be one of its colonies.

Today, the Fourth of July is celebrated with everything from picnics to barbecues to parades, but the most famous part of any July 4th celebration is the fireworks! Many cities put on elaborate displays of light, sound, and color for everyone to see, and Pittsburgh is no exception. The largest display will be held at Point State Park in Downtown Pittsburgh at 9:35 PM, but you can find smaller, local fireworks displays as well by checking your local newspaper. Enjoy the break!
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.

**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.**

**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.

**Volunteer at the Bloomfield Saturday Market: June 24**

By Brianne Harrison

The Bloomfield Saturday Market is a weekly farmer’s market that feels like a festival. The Market has been hugely successful and has become a popular destination in the neighborhood. This success is due in large part to the volunteers that support the Market each week. As a Bloomfield Saturday Market volunteer, you get to see the inner workings of a busy Market, be outside and in the community, and meet great people. There are many volunteer opportunities available at the Market, including: set up or tear down, staffing an information booth or supporting entertainers/activities/food demonstrations. We plan to volunteer as a group on the morning/early afternoon of June 24. If you are interested, please email Brianne at eli_comm@pitt.edu.

**Sponsored Students and Final Exams**

By Stacy Ranson

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.

**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.

**ELI Calendar Online**

When does vacation start? When is the Closing Ceremony? 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://eli.pitt.edu/calendar/index.html
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.

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 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.

• 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.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: [http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html](http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html)
ELI Activity:
**Trip to Kennywood**

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](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 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/](https://www.kennywood.com/)

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**Pittsburgh Public Pools Now Open**

One way to stay cool as it gets warmer this summer is to visit one of the public pools in the city of Pittsburgh. Pools opened for the season on June 12 and will stay open through September 5. A daily pass is available to adults for $5 and for children ages 3 to 15 for $3. Season passes are also available for families and individuals.

There are 18 public pools in the city. The pools in Schenley Park, Greenfield, Highland Park, and Bloomfield are likely the most convenient for most ELI students. Pools are open on weekdays from 1:00 – 7:45 pm and on weekends from 1:00 – 5:45 pm.

Small children may also enjoy visiting one of the Spray Parks in the city. These public parks have sprayers and fountains built for children of all ages. The nearest Spray Park is located at Mellon Park in Shadyside. More information is available here: [http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/spray-parks](http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/spray-parks).

For more information, including pool addresses, visit the CitiParks Swimming website at: [http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/swimming-home](http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/swimming-home).

Remember, ELI students with a valid student ID card can access the swimming pools in Trees Hall and Bellefield Hall. For more information about the fitness centers at Pitt available to students, please visit: [http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/IR_Facilities](http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/IR_Facilities).

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**SkyWatch**

During the summertime months, the Carnegie Science Center opens up its observatory to guests on certain days so they can watch the nighttime sky. Tomorrow, June 23, is one of those days.

SkyWatch begins with a tour of the night sky in the Buhl Planetarium, followed by the chance to look through the observatory’s telescope and talk with some of the expert star-gazers that will be in attendance, as well as some of Pittsburgh’s amateur astronomers.

The cost is $4 per person. You can also purchase tickets as an add-on to general admission to the Science Center, which is $19.95 per person. Admission to the Science Center includes access to all four floors, SportsWorks, and the USS Requiem, a US submarine. It will also give you access to all planetarium shows and live demonstrations, but Omnimax shows and the laser show are extra.

The Carnegie Science Center is a great place to visit if you love science, and is also super fun and entertaining for kids! The hands-on exhibits let children come face-to-face with many science concepts, without them even knowing they’re learning something in the process. Skywatch and the Science Center are a great way to explore your science and astronomy interests, as well as to practice your English.

During the Fall and Spring semesters, admission to the Science Center will be free with your Pitt student ID!

For more information about events in Pittsburgh’s parks this summer, check out the CitiParks Summer Guide 2017: [http://pittsburghpa.gov](http://pittsburghpa.gov)

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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? Would you like to teach us something about your culture? If so, please email your submissions to us at elipitt@pitt.edu. All levels are welcome!