ELI NEWS

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

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Abram Balestra, abb79@pitt.edu

ELI Activity:

PIRATES

Baseball Game

There are 18 of us going to see the Pittsburgh Pirates when they take on the Marlins on Thurs., June 8, at 7:05 pm. If you purchased a ticket, you can get your ticket from Rob in M18 on June 8. We’ll meet in the ELI at 5:45 to take the bus downtown together. We’ll get our free hat at the game.

NO BIG BAGS!

Guests at PNC Park are permitted to bring one bag. Only soft bags are permitted; hard briefcase type bags are not. Bags that are larger than 16”x16”x8” are NOT permitted. All bags may be searched upon entry and within the ballpark.

NO OPEN WATER BOTTLES!

Guests are allowed to bring food and bottled water into the park. Water bottles must be sealed, never opened. Water bottles may NOT be larger than 24 oz. Alcoholic beverages, cans, glass bottles, water bottles/thermoses are not allowed to be brought in.

NO REFUNDS!

There are no refunds and no cancellations. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather. Even if it rains, we will still go to the game.

Midterm Grade Reports

by Heather McNaught

On Wednesday, June 14th, your teachers will turn in your midterm grades. You should ask your teachers whether you have any tests, homework or graded class activities that are incomplete and that you can make up before that date. Although these are not your final grades, they do show you how well you are doing in each class. Teachers also write specific comments for each student in each class, which tell you exactly what you do well and what you need to work a little harder on. Finally, if there is something you don’t understand about the grade, please talk directly to your teacher.

Your copy of the midterm grades will be given to you on Mon., June 19th, in your Speaking class. If you receive very low grades or have many absences, you will be given an appointment with the Student Advisor to discuss any problems you might have and get advice about how to improve.

If you are absent or do not have classes on Monday afternoon, you may pick up your midterm grade report in the ELI Main Office on Tuesday the 20th. If you still have questions about grades, read p. 6 in the ELI Student Handbook!

Please note: Students with unpaid tuition or fees for Summer 2017 will not receive midterm reports. You can check the status of your account by logging in to my.pitt.edu, clicking “PittPay Login”, and choosing “Current Account Details”. Students will also receive late fees each month. Please visit the ELI Main Office with any questions about your account.

Register for a Conversation Partner

by Brianne Harrison

Would you like to meet a native English speaker who wants to meet an international student? This is a great opportunity for you to practice your English—and hopefully to make a new friend, too. Online registration for conversation partners is open until tomorrow (Friday, June 9). Sorry, late requests will not be accepted. To sign up, go to: http://tinyurl.com/CP-ELI-Summer2017. At this time, I am only able to offer partners to ELI students in the intensive program. Thank you for your cooperation.

Want to know what’s happening at Pitt?

While the ELI News is specifically meant for ELI students, the University of Pittsburgh also has a weekly publication called The Pitt News. If you’d like to keep up with what’s happening around the university and not just the ELI, The Pitt News is a great place to start. While it may have some advanced vocabulary, it’s a great way to practice your reading skills in English! Look for paper copies of The Pitt News around campus, and you can also find the stories online by visiting www.pittnews.com.

Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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

Follow us on Twitter!

@Upitt_ELI

Visit the ELI NEWS online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html
Volunteer at the Carnegie Library: June 11
By Brianne Harrison

Volunteers are needed for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's annual “Summer Reading Extravaganza”! This activity will take place on Sunday, June 11, from 12pm-5pm. The Library in Oakland will feature music, crafts, games, storytelling, food trucks and more. In order to put on a successful event however, the Library needs volunteers. You must sign up to participate as a volunteer. If you are interested, email volunteers@carnegielibrary.org. If you have questions, please see Brianne in office M-06 or email her at elicomm@pitt.edu.

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.

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. Email her today at elicomm@pitt.edu if you are interested in joining a student group at Pitt or a community group in the area.

Probation at the ELI

As you know, consistent attendance, homework, and participation in classroom activities are all important for successful language learning. If you do not attend classes regularly and do the assigned work, your progress may be slow, and your grades may suffer.

In addition, students who do not make a good effort in their work will be put on probation. Students on probation must improve their effort during the probation term, or they may be expelled from the ELI. Sponsors will be notified of probation, as well. There are three ways to be put on probation at the ELI:

1. Having failing final grades in two or more classes.
2. Having over 8 absences in two or more classes.
3. Having over 15 absences in one or more classes.

If you had poor grades and/or attendance last term, you will receive a probation letter. If you are sponsored, your sponsor will be notified that you are on probation, as well. If you have any questions about the probation policy at the ELI, please see Stacy.

Prayer Rooms Summer 2017

The ELI can provide the following rooms for prayer:

Rooms 110 and 111
1:00-1:45 pm, Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

If you plan to use these rooms, you must read and follow the rules below. Please note that if any of these rules are broken, the prayer room will no longer be available.

- Rooms are available only for the times listed.
- Students must finish prayer at the times listed. The teachers of the 1:00 and 2:00 classes must be able to prepare before the class begins. If the teacher ever has to wait for students to finish praying, rooms will be removed from the schedule immediately.
- Students may not pray in the hallways, locker room, or anywhere in the ELI building.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html
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.

**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 elicomm@pitt.edu.

**Fire Alarms at the ELI**

Please be careful about setting off false fire alarms because this causes problems with the fire department. We would not want to have fire trucks at our building for a false alarm when they might be needed for a real emergency somewhere else.

Please remember the following:

- There are several square red alarms on the walls in our building. They call the fire department, and they are sensitive. Please be very careful with them. Do not lean on the wall next to them or touch them unless there is actually a fire.
- If the fire alarm goes off, leave the building and turn right on Meyran. Move calmly but quickly to the parking lot on the corner of Meyran and Sennott. Walk on the sidewalks.
- Do not stand in the hallways, doorways, or the in the middle of the street.

Please wait until a fireperson says it is okay to reenter the building.

**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.

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, or if you know someone who should, email Stacy at srr72@pitt.edu.

**Steel City Comic Con!**

This weekend, Pittsburgh will host its comic and pop culture convention, Steel City Comic Con. This weekend’s convention is for people who like everything horror and scary! The convention is held in Monroeville at the Monroeville Convention Center. The event will have many guests who are horror film stars, as well as displays set up by the local haunted house, Hundred Acres Manor.

Tickets cost $23 dollars for Friday and Sunday, and $35 dollars for Saturday. There is also a 3-day pass available for $50 dollars. If you like horror movies or American Halloween, this would be a great chance to get to know some other people in the Pittsburgh area and practice your English. You’ll even have fun doing it! For more information and to buy tickets, go to their website at www.steelcitycon.com.
We will be going as a group to see “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows” on Wednesday, June 21, at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park. This movie is rated PG-13 for moderate violence. On June 21, meet Rob in the lobby of the Parkvale Building at 8:30 pm and we’ll walk over together. The movie begins at dusk, which is around 9:15 pm. Bring a blanket (or towel to sit on), some snacks, and a friend, and we’ll enjoy the free movie under the stars together! The city of Pittsburgh’s Citiparks office shows movies for free at various parks throughout the city. For a list of all the movies being shown, and for further information, go to http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/cinema-in-park. This website will also post cancellation information. Sometimes movies are canceled because of inclement weather.

Movie Ratings in the US

If you read the ELI Activity: Cinema in the Park article, you saw the PG-13 rating for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. If you’ve gone to the movie theater in the US before, this is not new to you. However, you may not know exactly what these letters mean. Here’s a short summary adapted from information from the Motion Picture Association of America’s web site at www.mpaa.org. Please keep in mind that the ratings are based on American perspectives of movie content.

**G** GENERAL AUDIENCES ADMITTED

A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that would normally offend American parents whose younger children view the motion picture. Depictions of violence are minimal. No nudity, sex scenes or drug use are present in the motion picture.

**PG** PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

A PG-rated motion picture should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend. The PG rating indicates that American parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, and parents should make that decision. There may be some profanity and some depictions of violence or brief nudity, however there is no drug use content.

**PG-13** PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

Some material may be unsuitable for children under 13.

PG-13 rating in the common or legal meaning of those words. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on violence, sex, drug abuse or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.

**NC-17** NO ONE 17 AND UNDER ADMITTED

An NC-17 rated motion picture is one that most American parents would consider way too adult for their children 17 and under. No children will be admitted, regardless of whether they are with a parent or not. NC-17 does not mean “obscene” or “pornographic” in the common or legal meaning of those words. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on violence, sex, drug abuse or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.

**R** RESTRICTED

An R-rated motion picture may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously. Children under 17 are not allowed to attend R-rated motion pictures unaccompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about R-rated motion pictures in determining their suitability for their children. Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to bring their young children with them to R-rated motion pictures.

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