



# ELI NEWS

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

10-08-20, Volume 63 Issue 6  
elipitt@pitt.edu

## ELI Activity

### ELI Virtual Movie Night



**Saturday, October 10  
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Join your ELI classmates and teachers for the ELI's first virtual movie night this semester! We will be watching [The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) (2012), an emotional, coming-of-age movie **filmed in Pittsburgh** and based on the best-selling book of the same name written by **Pittsburgh author** Stephen Chbosky. The film stars Emma Watson, Ezra Miller, and Logan Lerman and follows socially awkward teen Charlie and his mentors who help Charlie discover the joys of friendship, first love, and much more.

We will watch the movie via [Netflix Party](#) on Saturday, October 10. This is a great opportunity to hang out with your classmates and ELI teachers, enjoy an award-winning American movie, and practice English all at the same time. We'll take short breaks occasionally to talk about what happened and answer questions about cultural references. Please note that this movie is rated PG-13, meaning that

some material may not be suitable for children under 13 years of age.

Please [register in advance](#) on Zoom for this activity. Everyone who registers will be emailed instructions for how to set up Netflix Party. Please note that in order to participate in this activity, you must have:

- a subscription to [Netflix](#) (If you don't have a paid subscription, you can get sign up for a free 30-day trial.)
- the free [Netflix Party](#) extension downloaded on your laptop or computer
- the [Google Chrome browser](#) on your laptop or computer

Netflix Party only runs on laptop and desktop computers. It is NOT yet available for iOS, Android, tablets, smart TVs, gaming consoles, or other devices.

If you are outside of the US, you should also check to see that *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is available on Netflix in your country.

Have your popcorn and snacks ready! If you have any questions, feel free to contact ELI instructor [Rob Mucklo](#).

### ELI Writing Contest

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (4,5,6), and the winners will be announced at the ELI 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 know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Thursday, November 12, at 12:00 pm.

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

Good luck!

### Daily Covid-19 Health Check

Anytime you will be on Pitt's campus you will need to fill out the Daily Covid-19 Health Check before you leave your home. It does not matter how long or short the visit, the University of Pittsburgh requires you to fill it out before stepping foot onto campus. Please do it the same day you plan to visit campus. If you have any questions, you can email [ELI@pitt.edu](#).



## Pick-up Your Free Pitt Face Masks

If you could not pick up your Pitt Face Masks on September 23, you have another chance to get your masks! On **Thursday, October 8**, stop by the ELI to pick-up your 2 free, reusable Pitt face masks. If you have already have your 2 free Pitt face masks, you cannot pick-up masks on this date. The ELI only has enough masks so that each student receives two.

To allow for proper social distancing, masks will be distributed outside. Students can pick-up their masks in front of the Parkvale building on Forbes Avenue during their assigned time frame below:

3:30 – 4 pm	A – E
4 – 4:30 pm	F – Z

When you pick-up your masks, please [take all necessary safety precautions](#). Wear your mask properly covering your nose and mouth. Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet away from others.

Thank you for showing your Pitt pride and keeping the Pitt Community safe.

## Advice to Homesick Students

By: Ahmed Alkhan, former ELI Student

These days a lot of students are thinking about homesickness. Homesickness is a difficult feeling. It really makes you feel like you're alone in this world. Some students don't know what to do when they feel homesickness, but I have some suggestions for fighting homesickness: keep in touch with your family and friends, make a lot of new friends, and participate in school activities.

You should keep in touch with your family and friends at least twice a

week. There are a lot of things that can help you connect with your family and friends and make you feel that you're near to them. For example, you could use Skype. You can talk and speak with them clearly. It's really good software. Also, you could use your cell phone. The important thing is to keep in touch with your family and friends.

You should also make a lot of friends so that you won't stay alone in your home for a long time and feel homesick. With your friends, you can hang out and see the country that you live in currently. Also, you might have friends from different countries, so you'll learn about their cultures, which is interesting.

Moreover, you ought to participate in ELI activities. It's one of the best ways to fight homesickness. Some of these activities will give you a chance to improve some of your skills. For instance, I was involved in a conversation partner activity this past spring term in the ELI, and I liked it. It was an amazing feeling, and it really gave me the motivation to participate in many other activities in the ELI. Also, it gave me an opportunity to meet other American people who are interested in knowing about different international cultures, such as Saudi Arabian culture. Also, other activities might teach you new things that you have never learned before. "Enjoyable" is the best word to describe participation in ELI activities.

In conclusion, students should fight feeling homesick while they are studying abroad. It'll affect their studying and lives there if they don't. They should connect with their families and friends, make a lot of new friends, and participate in ELI activities to fight this feeling. Also, I think students must be patient while achieving their goals after traveling and leaving their families.

This article was written by former **ELI Student, Ahmed Alkhan, in 2015**. With his permission, we are sharing the article again with you.

## Write for the ELI News

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](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu).

You can ask your ELI teachers or Jean in the Main Office for help with corrections, so this is a good chance to improve your English and have your writing published. All levels are welcome!

## Free Software and Apps for Pitt Students



As a student at the University of Pittsburgh, you are eligible to download free and discounted software and apps through Pitt's Information Technology office, including:

- Office 365 ProPlus and Office 2016 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, and more)
- Microsoft Office apps for smart phones and devices
- Antivirus and Anti-Malware software
- Cloud storage on Box
- KeePass password safe
- And [more!](#)



To view a complete list or to download software or apps, visit Pitt's [Student Software website](#).

## Pittsburgh Treats: Pittsburgh Bakeries

No matter the time of day, bakeries offer you a selection of treats to make it better. Whether you are looking for croissants, cakes, or bread, Pittsburgh has plenty of bakeries for you to choose from. Below are some of our favorites, including ones that are known across the country.

### [La Gourmandine](#) (Click for Google Map Locations)

[La Gourmandine Bakery](#) describes itself on their website as, “a little taste of France in Pittsburgh.” A French couple began this bakery in Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood in 2010. Since then, Pittsburgh has become addicted to their authentic and delicious croissants, quiches, baguettes, and more. Now, La Gourmandine has several locations in the city. In addition to Lawrenceville, La Gourmandine is also located in Hazelwood, Mount Lebanon, and Downtown. Associate Director, Rob Mucklo, recommends that you get a choux a la crème. The pastry is rich but not too sweet. Try one and tell us how you like it!

### [The Butterwood Bake Consortium](#) (Click for Google Map Location)

Located in Lawrenceville, [The Butterwood Bake Consortium](#) offers creative and beautiful cakes that are almost too pretty to eat. Locally known as Butterwood, the bakery



uses local ingredients whenever possible to bake their cakes. Cake flavors at Butterwood are very unique and change often. Some great flavors are coconut cake with matcha buttercream icing and almond blood orange cake with almond icing. We recommend ordering your cake online and picking it up at the bakery. The bakery is as beautiful as the cakes.

### [Gluteny](#) (Click for Google Map Location)

Many people have trouble eating foods with wheat, gluten, and dairy. Thankfully, Pittsburgh has an award-winning bakery to cater to their diets. [Gluteny](#), located in Squirrel Hill, has been baking delicious, homemade treats since 2007. One of the bakery’s best sellers is the red velvet gob. A gob is an American dessert that was invented in 1926. This dessert has two cookies that are baked from cake batter with a soft icing in the middle.

### [Prantl’s Bakery](#) (Click for Google Map Locations)

Prantl’s Bakery is the pride and joy of Pittsburgh bakeries. Their Burnt Almond Torte was named the [Best Cake in America by the Huffington Post in 2014](#). However, citizens of Pittsburgh have loved this cake for 50 years. This light and airy cake is layered with custard, and its sides are dusted with sugared almond slivers. In addition to the famed Burnt Almond Torte, Prantl’s has a variety of tasty pastries, pies, and strudels.

Before visiting a recommended bakery, check with the local ordinances to make sure it is safe. Follow all CDC safety guidelines such as staying 6 feet away from others, properly wearing a face mask, and washing hands for at least 20 seconds.

*Pictured here is a beautiful cake from The Butterwood Bake Consortium. For more photos, check out their Instagram, @thebutterwoodbakeconsortium*

## Midterm Grade Reports

On **Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**, your teachers will submit your midterm grades. 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. Remember, not all graded activities can be made up. Although these are not the final grades, they do show you how well you are doing so far 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 email your teacher or request a Zoom meeting outside of class.

You will receive a link to a Box folder that contains a digital copy of your midterm grade report on **Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

Finally, remember that we are all facing new and challenging circumstances in many aspects of our lives. Studying English in a completely online environment is not easy. Teachers and students alike are all trying to balance our responsibilities at home with the expectations of our classes. We are doing the best we can and learning as much as possible. Don’t be too hard on yourself if your grades are not as high as they might usually be. Focus on what you have learned and the progress you are making.



## ELI Emergency Phone Number

The ELI has an emergency phone number for students to use in medical or legal emergencies. The number is (412) 228-0625. Please take a moment to add this to the contacts in your phone. This number is only to be used evenings and weekends, during times that the ELI main office is closed. Please note that this is an *emergency* number. You should only call this number if you have a serious medical or legal issue, and you need help. It is also possible that Stacy may not be able to answer the phone immediately when you call. If you get the voicemail, leave a clear message with your name, phone number, and emergency. Stacy will return your call.

## ELI Absence Policy

There have been many questions about excused absences in the ELI. It is true that if you are sick, it is crucial that you rest to get well. Please note, though, that the ELI attendance policy states that “there is no such thing as an excused absence” in the ELI. Even if you are sick, the absence must be counted as an absence according to the ELI rules.

According to the ELI absence policy, if you miss over 8 classes, you will not receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the term. If you miss over 12, you may not be invited back to the ELI next term. If you are an F-1 student and you miss over 15 classes, your visa may be terminated. Please see the online Student Handbook for more information on the ELI attendance policy. In addition, please remember that sponsored students have attendance rules from their sponsors, as well.

Remember that if you do not do the work in your classes and the homework, this will affect your

grade. If you want to make progress with your language learning, it is important that you attend class on time, regularly, with your homework complete. Please see Stacy if you have any questions or concerns about attendance in the ELI.

## Pitt Master of Laws for Foreign-Trained Lawyers Program (LLM)

The University of Pittsburgh offers a Master of Laws (LLM) degree that provides lawyers who have already completed a law degree outside the U.S. with training in common law legal tradition and the U.S. legal system. This is a one-year program with an average of 15 students each year. It is offered by the School of Law’s Center for International Legal Education. For acceptance to this program, TOEFL and IELTS scores are waived for students who have completed all classes at ELI Level 5 or 6 with at least 85% final grades in each class. Applicants must also have a recommendation from the ELI Student Advisor. See Stacy if you have questions, or find out more about getting your LLM at Pitt Law School by visiting the LLM program website at <http://law.pitt.edu/llm> or call 412-648-7023.

## U.S. Alcohol Laws

All ELI students and employees of the University must fully obey the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the possession and consumption of alcohol. These laws prohibit providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 or to anyone visibly intoxicated. Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages under any circumstances, and anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from being on licensed premises where alcohol is served,

unless under proper supervision. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about these laws.

## Pitt Emergency Alert System

By Stacy Ranson

It is very important that ELI students know when there is an emergency regarding the University of Pittsburgh. 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 regarding the University.

When there is an emergency, you should follow the directions from the system notification.

To subscribe to the Pitt Emergency Notification System:

- Log in to [my.pitt.edu](http://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”

It is very easy to sign up and only takes a minute. Please sign up today!

## Happening at Pitt

Each week the ELI rounds up a selection of University of Pittsburgh events for you to check out.

### Exploring Adobe Illustrator:

October 8 @ 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join Dan Kaple, DSS, as he teaches a beginner-level [Exploring Adobe Illustrator](#) class. This class is presented as an in-process livestream and not a structured workshop. Dan will introduce you to the tools, techniques, tips and tricks to using this digital creation software.

**Archiving and Preservation Workshop for Hispanic Heritage Month:** October 8 @ 1:00-2:30 p.m. Learn how to preserve photographs, papers, and even digital files for future generations. Participants in this [Archiving and Preservation Workshop](#) are encouraged (but not required) to have a photograph, letter, or other important item from your own collection to share on screen. This workshop will feature preservation of Hispanic culture, but the techniques and instructions apply to everyone interested in building a family and cultural archive.

**One Hour Painting:** October 8 @ 3:00-4:00 p.m. The Center for Creativity presents [One Hour Painting](#) facilitated by Mike Campbell. [Pre-registration](#) is required. Learn how to start and finish an acrylic painting in one hour, featuring wet-on-wet painting techniques, mixing colors, perspective, and various tools. Click on the link for a full list of required materials.

**Horror Genre as Social Force Information Session:** October 9 @ 4:00 p.m. (no end time listed). Join professor of English and Film/Media Studies Adam Lowenstein for an informational session on the “[Horror Genre as Social Force](#)” scholar community on Pitt’s campus. A member of the [George A. Romero](#) Foundation will also be in attendance. No previous experience is needed.

**PhD Comprehensive Recital:** October 9 @ 7:00 p.m. (no end time listed). Pitt’s Jazz Studies Program is proud to present the [PhD Comprehensive Recital for Bassist/Composer Lee Caplan](#). Caplan will perform original compositions, accompanied by guitarist John Bagnato (PhD 2018) and pianist Samuel Boateng (current PhD candidate), covering styles such as bebop, funk, and more. This [program will be livestreamed](#) on the Music at Pitt YouTube channel.

**Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment:** October 12 @ 2:00-2:30 p.m. Pause your hectic Monday schedule for a half-hour of meditation with the [Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment](#). It’ll be the breath of fresh air to renew your mind and body for the Monday afternoon crush.

**Physician Assistant Studies Information Session:** October 13 @ 12:00-1:00 p.m. Interested in learning more about Pitt’s Physician Assistant program? [RSVP](#) to the [Physician Assistant Studies Information Session](#) to get information and talk with both current students and faculty members about the program and admission requirements.

**Archives of the Living Dead:** October 13 @ 7:00-8:00 p.m. It’s no secret that Pittsburgh has a reputation in the horror genre of films. After all, [George A. Romero](#) filmed his [Night of the Living Dead](#) here. Recently, New York Times bestselling author Dan Kraus collaborated posthumously (after his death) with Romero. Kraus will join Ben Rubin (Pitt Horror Studies Collection Coordinator) and Adam Hart (Visiting Librarian) for a conversation about Kraus’s collaboration and the George A. Romero archive. [Registration](#) is required for the [Archives of the Living Dead](#).

**Student Self-Care Day:** October 14 (no times listed). The University Counseling Center, other campus partners, Citrone 33/EMBRACE Pittsburgh, and JED Campus invite you to a day of live, interactive events and activities aimed at helping you discover and develop self-care practices. There will also be chances to win prizes. Join us for [Student Self-Care Day](#), because your mind and heart deserve just a much care and attention as your body.

**Open Mic, Open Minds:** October 14 @ 9:00-10:00 p.m. “Open Mic”

means that the microphone and stage are open to whoever wishes to perform. [Open Mic, Open Minds](#) is part of Mental Health Awareness Month and focuses on creative responses to and experiences of mental health and illness. All performance genres are welcome. [Register](#) in advance for your ticket.

## Happening in Pittsburgh

A round-up of Pittsburgh-area events. Please take all COVID-19 precautions for in-person events.

### Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Front Row Virtual Experience:

One of Pittsburgh’s greatest treasures is the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO). Since music plays a vital role in culture as well as stress relief, arts, humanities, and our everyday lives, PSO is presenting the [Front Row the PSO Virtual Experience](#) beginning in October. Five digital episodes of music, history, background information and more that connect communities in the Pittsburgh area. PSO is definitely a Pittsburgh experience you don’t want to miss, even if you can’t dress up and enter the historic theatres of the Cultural District.

**October RADical Days:** The RADical Days events continue in October. These events are free to the public.

- [Self-Guided Art Tour of Pittsburgh’s Cultural District:](#) October 9. If you’re interested in exploring downtown Pittsburgh on foot, you can take the RADical Days Self-Guided Art Tour of the Cultural District. This 14-block neighborhood features some of Pittsburgh’s best theatres as well as public art pieces. Exercise and learn about Pittsburgh at the same time. Please take all COVID-19 precautions and wear your mask properly. Feel free to tag us in any selfies posted to social

media (we've listed our social media at the end of this article).

- [National Aviary](#): October 11, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. One of Pittsburgh's best-known treasures is the National Aviary (like a zoo for birds). RADical Days is offering a limited quantity of free tickets. These tickets are timed, and you must observe all safety protocols. Please note that at the aviary, most of the birds roam freely, and the experience is called "immersive," which means that it completely surrounds you as if you are diving into deep water.
- [Heinz History Center](#): October 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Tickets must be reserved and are limited to 4 per household). Heinz History Center is a fabulous museum dedicated to Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania history. Bursting at the seams with historical treasures and information, this awesome museum is located in the Strip District, which includes many unique Pittsburgh shops and multicultural restaurants. Remember to wear your mask properly at all times.

### **Pittsburgh Humanities Festival**

**@Home:** Co-produced by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Humanities Center at Carnegie Mellon University, the [Pittsburgh Humanities Festival @Home](#) features live-streamed interviews with artists, academics, and "movers-and-shakers" (an expression that means "people who make things happen"). Conversations will cover a range of important and timely topics. Prepare for some deep conversations. October 9 features Staycee Pearl in an episode entitled *Dance Maker: Blackness in White Spaces*, discussing her work as a dancer, choreographer and artist director. October 10's episode is *Cutting Through the Noise: Teen Changemakers*, featuring teens discussing activism, making progress, and getting their voices

heard. This is a great chance to practice listening skills and dig deeper into the more serious side of American culture.

**Pumpkin Patches:** A pumpkin patch is a term used to describe a large quantity of pumpkins growing in their own special garden. Many local [Pittsburgh farms have pumpkin patches](#), where you can pick your own pumpkin or buy one already off the vine. Many of these farms also have other fall traditions, such as apple cider and apple cider donuts for sale or corn mazes (a walk-through labyrinth made of corn). [Soergel Orchards](#) and [Trax Farms](#) are popular places in Allegheny County with pumpkin patches and activities. **Please be sure to take all COVID-19 precautions, and call or check farm websites for the most updated hours and information.**

### **ELI Joke of the Week**

This week's joke is a fall-themed play on words.

Question: How do you fix a broken pumpkin?

Answer: With a pumpkin patch!



### **Quote Corner**

"There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't met yet." – William Butler Yeats, poet.

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

**SOUND OFF:** How do you make friends during these difficult times? Do the techniques change? What are some ELI or Pitt activities you can try to meet new faces?

## **Something to Think About**

By: A. Jean Linder

A woman I respect and admire recently told me: "I need to stop telling myself that I can't do things." This is a very powerful idea, and one that can prove to be a challenge during these difficult times. She was talking about giving herself permission to try new activities she had previously thought she wasn't talented enough to do, such as drawing or painting. Is there something that you've always wanted to do or try, but felt that you weren't good enough to do? Give yourself permission to do it. Your doubt is all in your head and your expectations of yourself. If you think you can't, then you won't.

If you think you can, then you will.

### **New ELI-themed Digital Backgrounds**

On Monday, September 28, the ELI Main Office sent out an email to students giving them access to three all-new [ELI-themed digital backgrounds](#) for Zoom, phones, tablets, and computers. They are free and easy to download and use. Now you can show friends, family, and classmates your ELI Pitt Pride with every virtual call, class, or meeting. For tips and tricks on how to change Zoom backgrounds, check out [Zoom's Help Center](#).

### **Student Advisor Office Hours**

Please remember that Stacy Ranson, your Student Advisor, can help you with questions about your registration and classes, academic issues, letters of recommendation, and personal issues, as well. Feel free to email her at [sar72@pitt.edu](mailto:sar72@pitt.edu) any time. She is also available by appointment for Zoom video chats. Please email Stacy if you would like to speak by Zoom during her office

hour. If you cannot meet during office hours, other arrangements can be made.

**Stacy's office hours are:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
12:00 pm-1:00 pm

## ELI Virtual Office Hours

Do you have a question for the Main Office, but want to speak to a person?

Email [ELIpitt@pitt.edu](mailto:ELIpitt@pitt.edu) to schedule a Zoom meeting with Jean Linder, the Administrative Assistant, during her Virtual Office Hours. Students can schedule 15-minute slots on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. to discuss questions about submitting important documents, transcripts, general ELI questions, and more. Please submit meeting requests no later than 2:00 p.m. the day before. Friday sessions will be "drop-in," meaning that you do not need to make a reservation.

Virtual Office Hours Drop-In Link for Fridays:  
<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/98102090044>  
(password: ELIpitt)

## More Fun Things To Do

To find out what fun activities are planned for the ELI and/or offered by the University, check out these websites:

- [ELI Activities Calendar online](#)
- [Pitt Program Council](#)
- [Pitt International Community Facebook Group](#)
- [Pitt Global Hub](#)
- [Pitt Center for Creativity](#)
- [Be Fit Pitt](#)
- [Pitt Events Calendar](#)

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to use English outside of the classroom and have fun, too!

## ELI Email Directory

If you need to email your teacher but forgot his or her email address, you can always find it on the ELI web site. Simply go to <https://www.eli.pitt.edu/people>. When you email your teachers you must use your Pitt email account. Email providers such as Naver, Hotmail, Yahoo and other free email services, often encounter problems with the Pitt email system. If you do not use your Pitt email address, your email be blocked or marked as spam.  
([www.iweek.pitt.edu](http://www.iweek.pitt.edu))

## Pennsylvania's



## Fall Foliage

*Foliage* means "leaves from a plant or tree." Pennsylvania is known for its fall foliage. The beautiful trees in our state change color from green to red, gold, and orange in the fall. This change begins in September and lasts through November.

Pennsylvania's fall foliage season is longer than anywhere else in the world, and has more color variations. This is because Pennsylvania is in Eastern North America. Our location supports trees from the south and the north. We have 134 species of trees, plus vines and shrubs that also change color.

More information and maps can be found at:  
<https://tinyclips.com/y3v7scz2>.

The next weekend you have some free time, take a hike through a nearby park or drive through the forests of Pennsylvania and enjoy Mother Nature's fall foliage show! Please take all COVID-19 precautions, including wearing your mask.

