



ELI NEWS

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

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ELI/IEP Activity:

ELI Virtual Reading Club Macaroni Boy

Do you feel ambivalent about reading? Perhaps you want to enjoy reading, but you become frustrated trying to understand every detail. If you want to overcome the adversity you encounter in reading, then join the ELI from 7:30-8:15 pm on Saturday, October 17, for the ELI's first virtual Reading Club this semester!

The focus of this Reading Club is to practice reading aloud. Instead of chastising you for mispronouncing words, ELI teacher Ece will provide supportive feedback on your pronunciation mistakes. In addition to practicing the pronunciation of individual sounds, you will also receive guidance on using appropriate pausing and intonation.

On Saturday we will read an excerpt from the book [Macaroni Boy](#) by Katherine Ayres. This book is a children's book, which makes it easier to read and understand; however, this compelling story, which includes several poignant moments, appeals to all ages. You don't need the book to attend and participate in this activity. The excerpt will be visible on the screen on Zoom.

By the end of this session, you will walk away with a positive attitude about reading and gain the tenacity to read more. Please [register for this activity](#) by 7:00 pm on Saturday,

October 17. Use the same password that you use for your ELI classes.

ELI/IEP Activity:

ELI Virtual Language & Music Club Activity

Date: Monday, October 19

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Place: Wherever you and your laptop are

Most people acknowledge that music has the potential to bring people together. Even though it is not feasible to be in the same physical space now, we can join together in a virtual format to enjoy learning English through songs. ELI teachers Ece and Heather insist that you join them for an evening of musical, English fun.

The theme of the night will be "Friendship" and the songs presented will be related to the close relationships that we all have but may be missing the presence of right now. While one of the purposes of the evening will be to exude confidence as we raise our voices together in song, if you are reluctant to sing into the computer mic, "Mute" is always an option in Zoom.

Please [register](#) for the activity by 7:00 pm on Monday, October 19. You will receive the handouts for the activity via your Pitt email in advance if you register by 3:00 pm on Monday. Everyone will be able to access the handouts during the activity.

Use the same password that you use for your ELI classes.

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 not 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.



Pitt's Homecoming Week

What is Homecoming Week?

"Homecoming" is an annual tradition in America when high schools, colleges and universities invite their alumni to "come home" and celebrate Fall festivities. In true Homecoming tradition, most American football games and festivities occur upon the team's

return from their longest road trip of the season, complete with their marching band and sometimes the school choir or color guard or dance teams.

The idea is to inspire pride in alumni for the communities and schools in which they've participated, and to cheer on current students as they play American football on their home turf, crown a Homecoming Queen and her Court, and sometimes attend a banquet in their honor.

After the game and half-time show by the marching band, color guard or dance teams and cheerleaders, there is usually a Homecoming Dance. This dance is typically formal or semi-formal, and is one of the most-attended dances of the academic calendar. Some students even rent limousines for that extra touch of glamor on their way to the dance!

The University of Pittsburgh's Homecoming Weekend starts on October 19 this year. Check out Pitt's Homecoming page on the website for a full list of events, and be sure to check out the "Happening at Pitt" section of the ELI News for a hand-picked selection of events that ELI students may find particularly interesting.



www.facebook.com/PittELI

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.

Museums: Free admission at the Andy Warhol Museum, The Mattress Factory, the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History and other museums in Pittsburgh.

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!

Please remember to adhere to COVID-19 protocols at all times. Protocols may vary slightly by venue, so check the website or call ahead for full details.

Free Virtual Lecture with Author Lois Lowry Sunday, October 18, 2:30 pm

Students in Reading 5 are already familiar with the work of celebrated author, [Lois Lowry](#). She is the author of *The Giver*, which is the extended reader in the Reading 5 curriculum. [Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures](#) is sponsoring a [free virtual lecture given by Lois Lowry on Sunday, October 18 at 2:30 pm](#). If you sign up for the lecture, you will be e-mailed a link to the recorded lecture on YouTube. The link will be good for one week after the event. This means that you can watch it any time during that week.

Lois Lowry will not be speaking about *The Giver*, but she will be discussing her new book, *The Willoughbys Return*. This book is a sequel to her 2008 book, *The Willoughbys*. Netflix just released a cartoon movie version of *The Willoughbys* in April of 2020. Lois Lowry is the winner of many prestigious writing awards and she

has written many influential books for young people. This is a unique opportunity to hear from a treasured American author. Don't miss it!

COVID-19 Alert App for Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has released an official mobile app called the [COVID Alert PA App](#). This app uses the [Exposure Notification System](#) (ENS) to assist with contact tracing. You can opt in for exposure alerts, symptom tracking, and PA COVID updates. This free app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store to your smartphone.

As a reminder, the [University of Pittsburgh performs contact tracing](#) for students and faculty/staff. Students are to contact Student Health Service as soon as they experience symptoms or a positive test result. The Student Health Service phone number for the Oakland campus is 412-383-1800. Student Health Service may also contact you if anyone you come into contact with reports symptoms or a positive test result. If you are contacted, you will be given instructions on what to do next.

The University of Pittsburgh on Coursera

Coursera is a free online platform that provides lessons and lectures from top instructors and institutions at no cost. Coursera does not provide degrees, but may provide some industry-recognized credentials at the paid level. Coursera also provides guided projects to help you master skills.

The [University of Pittsburgh](#) is proud to join Coursera and offer a variety of guided projects and video lectures. One course provided by the University that may interest ELI students headed for careers and education in medical-related fields

is [Clinical Terminology for International and U.S. Students](#), presented by Valerie Swigart, Ph.D. R.N. and Michael Gold, Ph.D. Associate Professor Emeritus.

This platform is also a great way to gain experience with listening skills in an academic or professional environment while checking out a variety of higher-learning experiences.

Happening at Pitt

Here are some Pitt events you may be interested in checking out over the next 7 days.

Thursday, October 15

[One Minute Film Festival](#): October 15. The Center of Creativity is proud to open submissions for the One Minute Film Festival. If you have a smartphone or digital camera and a love of storytelling, this is a great opportunity to explore. All forms of moving image are accepted, including documentaries, music videos, and even stop motion animation. The challenge is to keep it all to no more than 60 seconds. Check out the [One Minute Film Festival page](#) for more details. For ELI students, this is a wonderful opportunity to practice many of your English skills in a creative way.

[Live Fluid Art Class](#): October 15 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lead by Abby Bonilla of ARBM Art, this livestreamed class will teach you this new and creative painting technique. Required materials include: 1-3 acrylic paints, water, and a painting surface. Additional materials you may wish to have on hand include: a plastic cup, protection for your non-painting surfaces, and a palette or other plastic cups for mixing paints. You must [register for the class](#) to get the Zoom link.

Saturday, October 17

[DIY Wood Sign Workshop](#): October 17 from 8:00-10:30 p.m. “DIY” means “Do It Yourself.” In this Pitt Program Council event, decorate a wooden sign for your home décor. Students will receive a kit with a wooden sign, a stencil of their choice, paint brushes, and more for this event. Students who live inside the 15213 area code will receive an email about pick-up. Students who live outside of the 15213 area code will have their kit shipped to them. [Registration required.](#)

Monday, October 19

[Needle Felting](#): October 19 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Join the Center for Creativity and assistant Nancy Kirkwood for an introduction to Needle Felting. Needle Felting is a type of fiber art that uses needles and loose wool (called “roving” wool) and a simple technique to create crafts. This event will teach you to create coasters (little pads that you put under cups to prevent any condensation or dips from getting on table surfaces). [Pre-registration is required.](#) Materials needed: roving wool, felting needles, and a foam pad. Check craft stores such as Michael’s or Joanne’s for supplies (these stores offer curbside pick-up and online ordering).

[Homecoming Spirit Contest](#): October 19-24. “Homecoming” refers to a game, dance, or event held by a school where the alumni (students who have graduated) are invited to attend. It’s a big deal in American high school and college culture. This year, to keep everyone safe, Pitt is hosting a Homecoming Spirit Contest over social media. There’s a new prompt for each day. Monday is Pitt Mask Monday, Tuesday is (No) Touching Hands, Wednesday is Blue and Gold Day, Thursday is Pitt Pride day, Friday is Flashback Friday, and Saturday is Hailing from Home. Click on the link for more details, and be sure to

follow the Pitt Alumni Association on Facebook and Instagram to see and share the Hailing from Home photos. Tag them using @pitt_alumni or use the following hashtags: #PittHC20 or #HailingFromHome. Be sure to also tag the ELI on Instagram @eli.pitt and Facebook @PittELI.



**Follow Us
on Twitter!**
Follow us on Twitter at
@UPITT_ELI

Happening in Pittsburgh

Your weekly round-up of some of the best things to do in the Steel City. Remember to adhere to all COVID-19 precautions and double-check websites to confirm details prior to participating.

[Pittsburgh RADical Days](#): RADical Days continues to deliver fantastic free virtual and in-person events.

- [Fort Pitt Museum](#): October 17 and 18. Free admission from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets are limited to 4 per household and must be reserved in advance. Bring your Pitt ID for a discount on your tickets for other days.
- [The Andy Warhol Museum](#): October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [Register early to save your spot, as these tickets will go fast.](#) Bring the whole family for a unique art experience at the beloved Andy Warhol Museum. There is limited capacity and all tickets are timed, so please be courteous about visiting in a timely fashion. Tickets are regularly free with a valid Pitt ID, but take advantage of this offer to bring your family with you for free as well.

[Wild and Scenic Film Festival](#): October 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. The Pennsylvania Resources Council is proud to host the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, presented by the South Yuba River Citizens League for the sixth year in a row.

This virtual event will feature a series of films that thoughtfully explore the restoration and protection of wild lands, waters, food systems, climate change, biodiversity and more on a local, national, and global level. A unique event to assist with listening and other English skills.

[Vintage Tea Party by Doors Open Pittsburgh](#): October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Flowers in the Attic, join vintage purse collector Megan Wojcik for high tea and stories about Pittsburgh's awesome party and fashion history, including Speakeasy raids during the Prohibition Era and Hollywood Royalty. Explore why we're lovingly devoted to handbags and see 40 fantastic examples of retro purses. High tea will include 3 tea sandwiches, 1 scone and 3 tea pastries.

[Kennywood Happy Hauntings](#): October 17 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. This event is geared towards children 10 years old and younger. Dress up in Halloween costumes and explore rides suitable for families with young children. Please note that due to safety concerns, some types of costumes and accessories (ex: capes) may not be permitted on rides. Call 412-461-0500 for questions. Happy Hauntings includes a stage show performed twice a day, Kiddieland (children's rides), the Jack Rabbit and other rides.

Coming Up in October-

December: Sometimes events are so huge, we want to give you advanced notice so you don't miss out on tickets.

[Live from West Side: Women of Broadway](#): Join the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust for an unforgettable Broadway experience, livestreamed in the comfort of your own home. Three iconic women of Broadway will perform a mix of Broadway showtunes, pop songs, and share personal stories. Tony Award Winner [Pattie Lupone](#) will perform

on October 24, Tony Award Winner [Laura Benanti](#) will perform on November 14, and actress/singer [Vanessa Williams](#) will perform on December 5. This livestream will also include an additional 72 hours of on-demand viewing of a recording of each livestream, available one hour after each livestream ends. Single shows are \$30/each, the 3-show ticket package is \$75. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience American music and culture, and it's excellent listening practice, too.

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!

Follow the ELI on Instagram
@eli.pitt 

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 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 ELI@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: ELI@pitt)

Quote Corner

"I touch the future. I teach." – [Christa McAuliffe](#), first teacher in space (*Challenger* disaster, 1986)

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

SOUND OFF: How do teachers touch the future? Who has been an influential teacher in your life?

ELI Joke of the Week

Here is a Halloween-themed joke for you.

Question: What do you call a ghost's true love?

Answer: His goul-friend.

