ELI Activity:  
**Let’s Make Macaroni and Cheese!**  
Fri., Feb. 5, 5:00-6:00 pm

Join ELI Instructor and Associate Director Rob Mucklo on Zoom this Friday as he teaches you how to make his favorite recipe for creamy macaroni and cheese. Macaroni and cheese, also called “mac and cheese” or “mac n cheese,” is an easy-to-make dish comprised of pasta and a cheese sauce made of cheese, milk, and butter. It’s a favorite with children and one of the top 10 comfort foods for adults in the US!

The recipe used for this activity is absolutely delicious and requires no special equipment or machines. You can join this activity to watch and learn how to make macaroni and cheese, watch and prepare your own macaroni and cheese at the same time, or hang out and practice your listening and speaking skills in English. We’ll have lots of opportunities to learn new words and practice English!

You must register in advance for this activity. If you have any questions, feel free to email Rob at rom17@pitt.edu.

As always, please follow all COVID-19 safety and health guidelines to protect yourself if you choose to go out shopping for ingredients, and use all necessary safety precautions when cooking or baking.

ELI Activity:  
**ELI Virtual Reading Club Short Story**

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 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, for the ELI’s Virtual Reading Club!

The purpose of the Reading Club is to stimulate an enjoyment of reading. On Saturday, we will read a compelling short story. What is the short story about? Come to the meeting and find out!

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 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6. Use the same password that you use for your ELI classes.

Talk Time Conversation Groups – Final Registration Opportunity! 
Suzanne Meyer

In the Talk Time program, an English speaker meets with a small group of ELI students for fun and informal communication (not a class). Meeting times are once weekly during lunch or after ELI classes end on Mondays or Thursdays. You can register for day and time that fits your schedule.

If you want to join a Talk Time conversation group, it’s not too late: REGISTER TODAY, Thursday, February 4!

Send the following information to elicomm@pitt.edu:

1) your full name  
2) the best session for you to meet:  
   a. Monday at 12:00 p.m.  
   b. Monday at 3:00 p.m.  
   c. Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

You can also email elicomm@pitt.edu if you need more information or have questions about Talk Time.

Talk Time groups start meeting next week, so it’s the last chance to sign up!

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
Conversation Partners
Registration is OPEN
Suzanne Meyer

If you would like a Conversation Partner this term, register now! Online registration for conversation partners is open through Sunday, February 7. Sign up at: https://tinyurl.com/CLEPSignUp-SP21. (Click on “Proceed to this site” to get to the survey from the first site.)

Please note: Late requests are not accepted. Only ELI students in the IEP are paired.

E-mail the Community Outreach Coordinator at elicomm@pitt.edu if you have questions or need more information about Conversation Partners.

F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S.

If you complete study at the ELI before taking level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

Please note that the grace period is different for students who transfer to a new program. If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. You are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months before beginning the first available term of your new program, however. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

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.

Title IX Policy

Title IX is a U.S. law that gives you the right to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University, have the University investigate what happened, and have your complaint resolved.

Sexual misconduct is sexual contact that you do not want:

- Someone speaking to you in a sexual way or asking you for sex when you aren’t interested.
- Someone forcing you to have sexual contact.
- Relationship violence: Spouse/partner speaking to you or treating you in an abusive or violent way.
- Stalking: Someone repeatedly following or threatening you, including by phone, text, email, mail, and/or social media.

You can report sexual misconduct to ELI officials or to the police. The ELI will help you report the issue to the University. Please note: If you report an issue to an ELI staff or faculty member, the ELI is required to report the issue to the University Title IX office. The ELI cannot maintain complete confidentiality. In other words, if you tell any teacher or staff member in the ELI, they must report it to the university. If you want to speak to a confidential advisor, the ELI can help you find a counselor at the University Counseling Center. In almost all cases, this counselor will not inform other people about what you tell them.

University Counseling Center
119 University Place
Nordenberg Hall
412-648-7930

If you experience any type of sexual misconduct, harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, please talk to the ELI Student Advisor or an ELI teacher immediately.

New I-20’s for F1 Students

If you are a new F1 student in the ELI, you will receive an e-copy of your new I-20 from Stacy soon. This new copy of the I-20 shows that you have registered for classes and are living in the US legally. This is the document that proves that you have enrolled in school, so you must have it for your records. Usually, the I-20 must be a paper copy, but SEVP is allowing schools to issue e-copies during the
COVID-19 shutdown. When the ELI opens again, you should request a paper copy of this document, as well. Please be sure to check your Pitt email every day for instructions on how to access your new I-20.

Health and Wellness Resources at Pitt

Your health is very important, especially during stressful times, but there are many free resources available to students to stay healthy both physically and emotionally:

- Pitt Fitness Centers and Gyms
- Be Fit Pitt (live streaming and online exercise and fitness)
- Healthy Ride (free bike rental for Pitt students and employees)
- Wellness Workshops from the Pitt Counseling Center
- The Stress Free Zone
- University Counseling Center
- Student Health Services

In addition, students in the ELI’s Intensive English Program can also contact the ELI Student Services Supervisor, Stacy Ranson, for additional support.

Follow Us on Twitter!
Follow us on Twitter at @PITT_ELI

Happening at Pitt

Here are some highlights from the Pitt Events Calendar for you to check out.

Thursday, February 4

Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment: 2:00-2:30 p.m. Calm your mind and restore your inner peace just in time for afternoon Zoom classes. Registration required.

The City Game Virtual Trivia Bowl: starts at 3:00 p.m. Watch as Pitt students face off with Duquesne University students in a virtual trivia game. Watch live on YouTube.

"George Romero & Pittsburgh: The Early Years” Screening and Discussion: 7:00-8:30 p.m. George Romero is a Pittsburgh filmmaker best known for Night of the Living Dead series, often filmed on Pittsburgh locations. This documentary about his early years was created by Pitt students and mentors, who persevered in making it despite a pandemic. Come learn about the man who nearly single-handedly brought the zombie movie and horror movie genre both into mainstream entertainment. A great chance to practice listening skills and learn about American zombie/horror culture. Registration required.

Friday, February 5

Picture a Scientist Virtual Viewing: 7:00 p.m. (available through 10:00 p.m. February 8). This film documentary follows biologist Nancy Hopkins, chemist Rachelle Burks, and geologist Jane Willenbring through their experiences in the sciences. These experiences include harassment and other types of negative reactions towards women in the sciences. The film provides new points of view on how to diversify science and make it accessible and equitable to everyone. Register in advance for the screening.

RICE &… Series (Uzbek Plov): 12:00-1:00 p.m. The Center for Russian, East Europe, and Eurasian Studies and Pitt Global Hub bring back their popular “RICE &…” series with a demonstration on how to make the Uzbek dish called “plov.” Registration required.

Introduction to Photoshop: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Have you ever wanted to learn Adobe Photoshop to create gorgeous photographs and prints? This interactive workshop will cover the basics and give you a good foundation for operating Photoshop and learning more of its tools and techniques in future Digital Creation Series workshops. Registration and Adobe Photoshop required (available through the Pitt Virtual Computing Lab.)

Happening in and around Pittsburgh

February 4

I Got Life, The Music of Nina Simone: starts at 8:00 p.m. Two jazz and soul legends, bassist Gerald Veasley and vocalist Carol Riddick, team up to celebrate the music of Nina Simone through the four aspects of Simone’s songbook: Quest, Passion, Fury and Hope. Concert run time is approximately 90 minutes. This online event requires a ticket purchase.

February 8

Monday Night Magic (Live Online): starts at 8:00 p.m. This magic show is Off-Broadway’s longest-running, and is now live-streamed on your device, wherever you are. Each Monday night, two performers and a great host will entertain you with all kinds of stage and street magic. Video On Demand options are available, as is a “Front Row Experience” that includes a live Question-and-Answer segment after the livestream. Tickets are $20. Click on the link to select tickets for the night you wish to join in the magical fun. Brought to you by Liberty Magic from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

February 14

Songs from the Heart (A Valentine from Pittsburgh Opera): starts at 5:30 p.m. The Pittsburgh Opera presents a livestream on Facebook and YouTube featuring arias, duets, and other romantic opera segments from the Great American Songbook. As a bonus, the public can gift customizable video-grams to loved ones that also include a Valentine’s Day treat from Edward Marc Chocolatier. Register here for the
concert and Valentine gift options. Concert run time is approximately 45 minutes.

**Valentine’s Day in Schenley Plaza:** starts at 9:00 a.m. Celebrate Valentine’s Day with fresh air and special events at Schenley Plaza. Walk-through luminaries start on February 12, the rest of the events take place on Valentine’s Day. **T-Swirl Crepe** will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., and you can receive a 15% discount when you mention Pittsburgh Park Conservancy (they’re sponsoring the event). **Porch** restaurant is offering live music from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and a special Valentine’s Day dinner menu that starts at 4:30 p.m.

**More Fun Things to Do**

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

- ELI Activities Calendar online
- Pitt Events Calendar
- Pitt Program Council
- Pitt Student Organizations and Clubs
- Pitt Global Ties
- Pitt International Community Facebook Group
- Pitt Serves (volunteer opportunities)
- Pitt Center for Creativity

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to use English outside of the classroom, make friends with students in degree programs at Pitt, and have fun, too!

**Virtual Tours and Webcams from Around the United States**

The pandemic has put a halt to much of travel, but that doesn’t mean that you can’t enjoy a tour of a famous place. No matter where in the world you are, virtual tours offer you a chance to explore heritage sites, historical landmarks, and interesting museums. Here’s a selection of virtual tours from around the United States we thought would might interest you:

**Mount Vernon:** This famous estate was the home of President George Washington, even well before he became the first President of the United States. During the 18th Century, it was a plantation humming with activity. Today, it’s one of the most visited historical sites in the nation. The estate includes the mansion, gardens and landscaping designed by George Washington, the tombs of George and Martha Washington, a working farm, and more.

**Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History:** The Smithsonian institutions are renowned for their remarkable collections, knowledge, research and attention to detail. There are currently 6 tours from which to choose: Permanent Exhibits, Current Exhibits, Past Exhibits, Museum Support Center & Research Stations, A Few Other Smithsonian Tours and Narrated Tours. Be sure to check out their Virtual Tour Tips at the bottom of the page before choosing a tour.

**Yosemite National Park:** Located in California, Yosemite National Park offers webcams and other multimedia as part of the efforts to raise awareness of ecosystems and the importance of conservancy. **Webcams** offer a live glimpse into the current state of the park, and choices include Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, El Capitan and more. They also offer **Multimedia Presentations** that include video podcasts, audio podcasts, mini movies and more.

**National Park Foundation:** Choose from several different virtual tours of historical and national parks located all over the United States, including Clara Barton’s home/first headquarters for the American Red Cross, Virgin Islands National Park, Hamilton Grange National Memorial and more.

After participating in a virtual tour, you may feel inspired to tell others about what you learned. Consider writing an article about your favorite virtual tour for the ELI News, or to suggest one that we haven’t listed here.

**Pittsburgh is a Hollywood Favorite**

Pittsburgh and Hollywood share an interesting relationship that has produced some movie favorites. In fact, you might say that Pittsburgh is a bit of a Hollywood start itself. Recently, the Trib Live news published an article about the top 10 movies that star our beloved Steel City.

Why Pittsburgh? The reasons vary as to what makes Pittsburgh a popular city for filming movies. One reason is that film companies receive tax credits for filming in Pittsburgh, making it a less expensive location to film. In addition to saving money through tax credits, Pittsburgh offers filmmakers a diverse set of locations within and around its city limits. Many neighborhoods and residential areas have their own unique and dated architecture which makes filming movies set in different decades more realistic. Directly outside of the city are beautiful forests, mountains, and rivers that can make a stunning backdrop no matter the film genre. The city of Pittsburgh also makes it easy for film crews to coordinate the logistics of filming, such as street closures and cast and crew accommodations.

What are some of Pittsburgh’s favorite hometown movies?

- **Flashdance** (1983): Rated R
  This popular romantic drama stars actress Jennifer Beals as a steelworker trying to become a professional ballet dancer.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
Pittsburgh features: South Side Flats, Fineview, Smithfield Bridge, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Duquesne Incline.

- **Striking Distance** (1993): Rated R
  This action crime mystery stars actor Bruce Willis who plays a cop trying to catch a serial killer known as the Polish Hill Strangler. The twist? The killer might be a fellow police officer.
  Pittsburgh features: Bigelow Boulevard, Mount Troy Hill Road, Mount Washington, and more.

- **Inspector Gadget** (1999): Rated PG
  *Inspector Gadget* is a riveting action and adventure comedy starring Matthew Broderick. This movie brings the namesake cartoon from the 80’s to the big screen.
  Pittsburgh features: Stanwix Street, Roberto Clemente Bridge, PPG Plaza and more.

Check out the article for more filmed-in-Pittsburgh movie profiles, and see how many Pittsburgh locations you can identify. If you find a new favorite movie, you can submit a review of it to the ELI News.

**Write for the ELI News**

The ELI loves to publish articles by its students. Would you like to share your thoughts or an essay you wrote? 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. This is a good chance to improve your English and have your writing published. All levels are welcome!

**ELI Joke of the Week**

This week’s joke is featured on Ducksters.

**Question:** What falls but never hits the ground?

**Answer:** The temperature!

**Quote Corner**

“Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.” -- Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, actor, activist, philanthropist, and former wrestler

Source: Brainy Quote

SOUND OFF: What is the difference between **success** and **greatness**? Discuss it with friends or a teacher! This is a great opportunity to practice the “consistent hard work” that leads to success!

**Follow the ELI on Instagram @eli.pitt**

**ELI Office Hours**

The ELI Main Office and the ELI Student Advisor offer Zoom meetings by appointment during the following hours:

- **ELI Main Office Hours**
  Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:45 pm
  Contact Jean at elipitt@pitt.edu to schedule an appointment.

- **Student Advisor Office Hours**
  Monday to Friday, 12:00 – 4:00 pm
  Contact Stacy at SAR72@pitt.edu to schedule an advising appointment.