ELI Activity:

Student Speaker Event

**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
**Time:** 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.  
**Link:** [https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrdOusqjwoE9dfJLj-3SXwTazAjkUTB](https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrdOusqjwoE9dfJLj-3SXwTazAjkUTB)  
**Password:** PittSpring

**Speaker:** Greta Ruperto  
**Topic:** A Virtual Tour of the Calabria Region of Italy

In the past year, the Covid-19 Pandemic has made traveling difficult, if not impossible. Therefore, for those of us who enjoy experiencing the food, scenery, holidays and culture of other places, the ELI invites you to attend the first Student Speaker Event of Spring Term 2021. The ELI is pleased to announce that former ELI student, Greta Ruperto, will join us to talk about her home in the Calabria Region of Southern Italy. Greta will provide a short presentation followed by a Q & A session. Please feel free to have your lunch while listening to the presentation – just make sure your microphone is on mute!!

If you are interested in preparing a Student Speaker Presentation, please contact Heather (hlm44@pitt.edu) to work out the details for your own presentation. You can improve your speaking skills in English while you share information with your classmates, teachers and friends about your hobby, profession, culture, holidays or any other topic that is close to your heart. Please register for the event using this link.

ELI Activity:

Make Friends Fast: Virtual International Speed Friending

If you are looking for a fun way to make friends fast, practice your English, and have fun while achieving your goals of improving your English, then join the ELI for Virtual International Speed Friending!

If you’ve ever heard of “Speed Dating,” this is similar, but this is not for dating! The objective of Speed Friending is to make friends! On Wednesday, March 10, from 7-8:30 p.m., ELI students and other international students at Pitt will have the opportunity to meet American students at Pitt, and vice versa.

We’ll be using a platform called “Icebreaker.” Students will be put into breakout rooms to play a card game of questions on a variety of topics to get to know each other. After 7 minutes, a timer will go off and the students will be assigned to another breakout room to talk with someone else. At the end of the event, students anonymously decide if they’d like to exchange contact information.

You must register in advance for this event by Sunday, March 7, but space is limited, so don’t delay. Reserve your spot today! Don’t be reluctant to do this. You have nothing to lose and will gain practice with English and maybe even make some new friends! For more information about this event, contact Ece Ulus at ecu4@pitt.edu.

ELI IEP Activity:

Virtual Jackbox Video Game Party!

**Saturday, February 27, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Do you like playing interactive, exciting games with friends? If so, come join us for an **ELI Jackbox Game Party**! Jackbox Games are online party video games that are played via a smartphone or digital device. These aren’t typical video games! These games are both fun and funny, and will get us talking and keep us laughing.

Don’t spend another Saturday afternoon bored or watching TV! Join Pitt student and ELI Activities Intern Michael Whitaker on Zoom.
on Saturday, February 27, to have some fun, hang out with your ELI classmates, and use your English outside of the classroom. We’ll start at 1:00 p.m., but you can join us at any time between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. and stay for one game, two games, or the entire hour.

You must register in advance for this activity. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Rob Mucklo.

ELI Conversation Partners and Talk Time Leaders Awarded Fulbright Scholarships

Former ELI Conversation Partners and Talk Time leaders Maya Best and Madelyn Ferdock were recently awarded the prestigious U.S. Fulbright Scholarship for 2020 to study, teach and make an impact around the world. The Fulbright Scholarships will allow Maya to do research in Japan and Madelyn to teach English in South Korea.

Maya and Madelyn were among 15 recipients of the Fulbright scholarship at Pitt this year, the most ever in the University of Pittsburgh’s history. This is the 10th time in 11 years that Pitt is one of the nation’s top institutions for producing Fulbright students.

The ELI is proud to offer opportunities for degree-seeking students at Pitt to gain valuable experience working with international students, and we’re grateful for the enrichment that volunteers like Maya and Madelyn provide to ELI students.

ELI IEP:

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.

ELI IEP:

Midterm Grade Reports

On Wednesday, February 24, 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 One Drive folder that contains a digital copy of your midterm grade report on Monday, March 1. 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 due to the pandemic we are all facing 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:

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. An ELI teacher will even help you with corrections, so this is a good chance to improve your English and have your writing published. All levels are welcome!

ELI IEP:

ELI Emergency Phone Number

The ELI has an emergency phone number for students to use in medical or legal emergencies. The number is 412-420-9539. Please take a moment to add this to the

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
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: 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
• 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!

ELI IEP: 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
• 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.

University Fitness Centers Open for In-Person Activities

The University of Pittsburgh Campus Recreation has several facilities open for in-person fitness activities, including group fitness classes and individual workouts. Students must book a time slot and be respectful of the start and end times of their reservation. Equipment must be disinfected before and after use, and masks must be worn at all times for all activities, including outdoor fitness. All Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and required guidelines are listed on the Campus Recreation home page (linked above).

To reserve a time slot for an individual workout, click on the provided link and choose which facility you wish to use. Time slots are for 45 minutes, and start at the top of the hour (ex: 9:00-9:45 a.m.). and you are allowed to sign up for 5 time slots in a row. These reservations can be made 5 days in advance. Remember to only sign up for the times slots you know you can commit to, because if you do not show up for your reservation 3 times over a 7-day period, you will not be allowed to book a time slot for 7 days. Cancelations can be made up to 1 hour before the start of your booked time slot to avoid a “no-show.”

Group Fitness registration is done on a by-class basis and the number of spots available in each class is capped (stopped at a certain number) to allow for physical distancing. Click on the class to register. If you have any questions regarding classes, contact Kevin Sciullo, Wellness Coordinator (kls150@pitt.edu).

To enter fitness facilities, bring your Pitt ID to swipe at the check-in desk. If you need a towel, mat, or similar items you will need to bring them yourself. Locker rooms are open but masks and proper physical distancing must be observed at all times.

ELI IEP: Student Activities Fairs: Meet Your Match

Pitt’s Student Affairs is hosting a variety of mini Activities Fairs to help you find an organization that matches your interests. This is a great way to become more involved in the Pitt community and meet new people. All students of the Intensive English Program are eligible to join Pitt’s Student Organizations, activities and events.

These mini fairs will take place virtually every day through February 25. Thursday’s fairs feature Arts and Literature Organizations and Spiritual and Faith-Based Organizations. Directions on how to access the fairs are listed on the Student Activities Fairs webpage hosted by Pitt Student Affairs (scroll towards the bottom). For a full listing of all
of Pitt’s student organizations, visit the Student Organization Directory. Questions can be emailed to sorc@pitt.edu.

Happening at Pitt

A weekly selection of highlights from the Pitt Events Calendar.

Thursday, February 25

Dance Around the World (Group Fitness): 6:00-7:00 p.m. Campus Recreation brings you Dance Around the World, where each week fitness instructors will teach you dances from a different country. Learn the routines, exercise, and get a multicultural experience. More dates available through April. This event is held in the Trees Hall Gymnasium, and registration is required up to two days in advance.

Voices (Celebrating the Beauty and Diversity of America’s Literary Landscape): starts at 8:00 p.m. All Pitt campus are welcome to participate in Pitt-Greensburg’s new reading series featuring a diverse group of accomplished authors and poets. Student writers from Pitt-Greensburg may also share their work too. This week’s Voices forum features short stories, poems, spoken word and more. This is an excellent opportunity to practice listening skills with different kinds of literature and styles of reading/performing.

Friday, February 26

Introduction Adobe Photoshop: 10:00-11:30 a.m. Want to learn how to edit good photos into great pictures to share with friends and family? Or how to perfect that great selfie before posting it on Instagram? This course will take beginners through hands-on skills practice with the image-editing software Adobe Photoshop. Emphasis will be on basics, common workflows and becoming familiar with beginning-to-end projects. Introduction to Image Editing: Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator is strongly recommended first. Both sessions can be attended in sequence. Registration required.

Tie Dye with Campus Recreation: 12:00-4:00 p.m. Sign up for a timeslot and pop over to the Trees Hall Gymnasium to learn how to tie-dye a t-shirt and participate in other workshops. Proper Covid-19 precautions such as mask-wearing and social distancing are required.

ELI IEP:

Pittsburgh’s Museums Offer Great Activities

Many of Pittsburgh’s museums and historical venues have a lot to offer both in-person and virtually. If you attend an event in-person, please take all Covid-19 precautions.

The Westmoreland Museum of American Art offers loads of virtual entertainment for all age groups and a variety of artistic interests. Every Saturday they offer a “Virtual Children’s Saturday Studio,” where children learn to create a specific piece of art, such as a sculpture or painting. Supplies can be picked up or mailed. There is also a “Singing for Self Care” webinar, a Drag Queen Art Critique, and a quilting showcase coming up, among a whole host of other activities.

Fallingwater, the famously gorgeous Frank Lloyd Wright house designed for the Kaufman family, offers Fallingwater from Home. You can take a virtual tour, watch an animation of how the house was built, attend free webinars and get your kids learning about nature and cooking.

Also remember that your Pitt ID will get you free entrance into the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, the Andy Warhol Museum, and the Heinz History Center. You must purchase time slots and adhere to all Covid-19 restrictions. Anyone without a Pitt ID will need to pay. Most of The Frick is free to the public, though some special exhibits may require payment.

ELI IEP:

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!

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news