ELI Activity:

Virtual Skribbli.io
Game Party!
Saturday, March 6 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Do you like playing fun interactive online games with friends? If so, come join us for an ELI Virtual Skribbli.io Party! Skribbli.io is an online drawing game where people draw and guess drawings via a smartphone or digital device. The name “Skribbli.io” comes from the word “scribble”, which means to write or draw something carelessly or in a hurry. That’s what the game is all about – players are given a word that they must quickly illustrate using their mouse or finger, and then other players guess the word. No artistic talent is required.

This activity is free for students and perfect for those who like drawing games or using and learning vocabulary! Don’t spend another Saturday afternoon bored or watching TV! Join ELI Activities Intern Michael Whitaker on Zoom on Saturday, March 6 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 and 2 and stay for one game, two games, or the entire hour.

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

IEP 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 7:30 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.

Pittsburgh Treats: East Asian Cuisine

In Pittsburgh, you can find restaurants serving tasty food from around the world. This week’s Pittsburgh Treats recommends Pittsburgh restaurants specializing in cuisines from East Asia.

Chengdu Gourmet (Click for Google Map Location)

Chengdu Gourmet is a small and unpretentious restaurant located in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The restaurant serves Chinese cuisine that has gained national attention for the work Executive Chef/Owner Wei Zhu. For the past three years, Executive Chef Zhu has been a James Beard...
Foundation Award semifinalist for Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic due to his outstanding Sichuan cookery. The James Beard Foundation Award honors excellence in America’s food culture. Find out how great Chef Zhu’s cooking is for yourself! You can order takeout from Chengdu Gourmet online.

**Took Took 98 (Click for Google Map Location)**

Owned by a former ELI student, Took Took 98 offers authentic Thai street food cooked using locally sourced ingredients. On the menu, you can find traditional Thai dishes like Pad See Ew (rice noodle dish), Kang Kiaw Wan (green curry), and Ba Mee Keaw Koong (shrimp wonton noodle soup). One thing you can find on Took Took 98’s menu that you won’t find on other Thai restaurant menus in Pittsburgh is brunch!

**Umami (Click for Google Map Location)**

Umami serves Japanese street food for late night eats in the popular neighborhood of Lawrenceville. You can find a selection of sushi, ramen, and small plates like fried octopus balls (takoyaki) on the menu. The menu changes regularly depending on what is freshly available in the area. Order takeout or delivery through GrubHub.

**Oishii Bento (Click for Google Map Location)**

Located in Oakland near the ELI, Oishii Bento creates authentic Korean and Japanese comfort food. Each dish is packed with flavor and nutrients. ELI Program Administrator, Rachel, recommends the Tofu Bibimbab and the Teriyaki Bento with Tofu. Service at Oishii Bento is friendly and fast. Order online for pick-up or delivery.

Before visiting a recommended restaurant, 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.

**IEP:**

**Collective Memory Tiles**

Part of the University of Pittsburgh’s International Outreach 20/20 Visions project, sponsored by the Asian Studies department, Collective Memory Tiles is inspired by artist Ik-Joong Kang’s art piece, Happy World: Scattered Crumbs. In this artwork, he uses little square canvases to illustrate his feelings and experiences living in New York City after moving from South Korea.

With this in mind, Collective Memory Tiles aims to accomplish something similar with small plywood squares on which participants will draw, paint, collage, or use other mixed media to create responses to the 20/20 Visions prompts. These squares will be hung together to create one large installation, displayed both online and in-person in the Pitt Global Hub. The intention is to create a traveling exhibition of these Collective Memory Tiles.

Registration required. If you are unable to pick up supplies from the Pitt campus, you can fill out the mailing request form and the supplies will be sent to you.

**Hindsight 20/20**

The Center for Creativity wants to know how you would describe the year 2020, with all of its challenges, trials, successes and opportunities for growth and inspiration. You are invited to express your feelings through your chosen art medium and submit it to the Hindsight 20/20 project. All submissions are entered into a bi-weekly raffle for prizes.

The name of the project is a play on words. The year was 2020, and perfect vision is 20/20. There is also the idiom: “Hindsight is 20/20,” which means that only when something is in the past can we see it objectively and perfectly.

Art mediums include, but are not limited to: spoken word, painting, drawing, music, poetry, sculpture, etc.

The submission deadline is Monday, April 12. You can submit your work using this link. If you have questions, email Julia Qian at Julia.qian@pitt.edu.

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit.

**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.

Follow the ELI on Instagram @eli.pitt
IEP: Conditional Admission and TOEFL/IELTS Waivers for ELI Students

Did you know that ELI students at the University of Pittsburgh may be eligible for conditional admission or TOEFL/IELTS language proficiency waivers for certain degree programs? The ELI currently has partnerships with:

- University of Pittsburgh Master’s of Law (LLM)
- Robert Morris University
- Point Park University

Visit the ELI’s website for more specific information about conditional admission or TOEFL/IELTS waivers for each of these programs. We hope to add more partner programs to this list soon, so keep checking back.

IEP: Sponsorship Letters

If you have an official sponsorship letter from your government (SACM or CBIE, for example) you must submit it to the ELI and to the Student Payment Center (SPC). Students must give an updated sponsorship letter to the ELI and to the SPC each term. If you have any questions about this, please ask the ELI Main Office (phone: 412-624-5901, email: ELI@pitt.edu).

Submit the sponsorship letter to the ELI using this secure link (do not email):

Submit the sponsorship letter to the SPC by emailing PittSponsorBilling@cfo.pitt.edu. Include your full name as it appears on your passport and your 7-digit student ID number.

Follow Us on Twitter! Follow us on Twitter at @PITT-ELI

Happening at Pitt

A collection of highlights from the Pitt Events Calendar.

Thursday, March 4

Calming Your Thoughts: 4:00-5:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to help you identify unhelpful thoughts and learn how to cope with them in healthy ways. Presented by the University Counseling Center. Registration and Zoom access required. More dates available through April 15.

Film Screening and Discussion with the Director (Welcome to Chechnya): starts at 4:00 p.m. Register to attend this film screening and discussion with director David France (also known for How to Survive a Plague and The Life and Death of Marsha P. Johnson). The movie Welcome to Chechnya is a documentary about a group of activists risking their lives to confront the anti-LGBTQ+ persecution within the closed borders of Chechnya. Awards include 2020 Sundance Film Festival and the Berlinale.

Dance Around the World Group Fitness Class: 6:00-7:00 p.m. This in-person fitness class is held inside the Trees Hall Gymnasium on Pitt’s campus, and features a different country’s dances each week. A wonderful opportunity to be creative, get fit, learn about a different culture, and practice your listening skills. Mask-wearing, cleanliness, physical distancing and all Covid-19 precautions are strictly enforced at all times. Registration is required as attendance is capped and must be made up to 2 days in advance.

Friday, March 5

The Water Defenders (How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed): 12:00-1:30 p.m. In 2002, a small group of citizens in El Salvador joined the countless communities around the world rallying for clean water. The multinational mining company Pac Rim sent representatives into their home province of Cabañas, causing the El Salvadorians to fight and win a historic victory to save their water. Register for this webinar and learn how those concerned with environmental justice, public health, and democracy can work to positively change political structures that impoverish and disenfranchise communities.

Monday, March 8

CLAS Film Series Presents (The Chambermaid): starts at 6:00 p.m. Join the Center for Latin American Studies to watch The Chambermaid, a film about the day’s work of Eve, who works at a high-end Mexico City hotel. This movie salutes the invisible women caretakers and hospitality workers who are the backbone of society. Registration required no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8. The Zoom link and instructions to access the movie will be sent via email around 5:30 p.m.

Quote Corner

“I’ve learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.” -- Maya Angelou, American author and poet, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Source: Brainy Quote

SOUND OFF: This quote uses the metaphor of baseball to describe how to live your life. How is baseball like life? What does Angelou mean by “throw something back?”

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

This week’s family-friendly joke is courtesy of Red Tricycle.

Question: What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?

Answer: That hit the spot!

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!

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.

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 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Contact Jean at elipitt@pitt.edu to schedule an appointment.

Student Advisor Office Hours
Monday to Friday, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu to schedule an advising appointment.

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