IEP:

**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 Friday, April 2, at 12:00 p.m.

ELI:

**St. Patrick’s Day, March 17**

By: Michael Whitaker, ELI Activities Intern

St. Patrick’s Day is a holiday that honors Irish culture and is celebrated on March 17 in many countries, particularly in Ireland, the UK, and the USA, and involves many different festivities and traditions. St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated in Pittsburgh as there are many Irish immigrants and Irish American who live in Pittsburgh. In fact, Pittsburgh has one of the highest percentage of the population that identifies as Irish (over 13.5%) in the US!

At first, St. Patrick’s Day was only celebrated as a religious holiday for Catholic Christians, but as time went on it became more of a celebration of Irish culture and heritage. Common activities people do for Saint Patrick’s Day in the US include wearing green, watching or attending the St Patrick’s Day parade, or eating and drinking St Patrick’s day themed food and drinks. Common drinks and foods include corned beef and cabbage; shepherd’s pie, a meat pie with mashed potatoes on top; and Irish coffee, which is a mix of coffee and a splash of whiskey.

Even though there are restrictions due to the pandemic, there are still many ways you can celebrate St. Patrick’s Day safely! Popular socially distant activities include making St. Patrick’s Day cookies, preparing Irish food, or listening to Irish music and watching Irish events online. There are many different events online, too, such as virtual tours of Ireland, a St. Patrick’s day cooking demonstration, St. Patrick’s Day Themed Virtual Bingo, and more. There are also many St. Patrick’s Day events in Pittsburgh!

To learn more about the history and traditions of St. Patrick’s Day, visit the History Channel’s website.

Enjoy St. Patrick’s Day safely!

www.facebook.com/PittELI

Time to Change Our Clocks

On Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 a.m. in the United States, we will move the time on our clocks ahead one hour. At 2:00 a.m. clocks will be changed to 3:00 a.m. Most electronics in the US, such as iPhones, will change the time automatically. This is called “Daylight Savings Time.” The practice of Daylight Savings Time is followed mostly in North America, Europe and other locations that are usually farther north of the equator. Please note that if you are a student studying remotely from outside of the US, you will need to adjust for the time change too. **This means that if you live in a place that does not follow Daylight Savings Time, your ELI classes will begin an hour earlier than usual, beginning Monday, March 15.** For example, if your Speaking class has started at 4:00 p.m. in your home country, it will start at 5:00 p.m. beginning March 15. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu.

While the exact date of Daylight Savings Time may fluctuate every year, it is not arbitrary. Daylight
Savings Time corresponds with the natural shortening of daylight time in the Fall and the natural lengthening of daylight time in the Summer. This gives us more daylight time in the summer for sports and activities outdoors. Another benefit is saving electricity and energy. However, some people have conflicting points of view on the issue of Daylight Savings Time.

You can keep track of Daylight Savings Time start and end dates on TimeAndDate.com.

Not everyone agrees with the practice. Some people feel that they are being manipulated into working longer hours in the summer. Some believe that more daylight means more exposure to the sun and therefore more possibilities of skin cancer. Other people say that the problems are more basic. They say that many people inevitably forget to change their clocks causing them problems with work and family life. What do you think?

IEP: Evaluations of Your Teachers
by Christine O’Neill

As your ELI teachers evaluate you, you have an opportunity to evaluate your teachers. Your feedback is really very important! All evaluations are now online. Please go to your Pitt email. The Office of Evaluations and Measurements (OMET) will send you an email for each teacher you have. Just click on the link and follow the instructions. You may also access each evaluation in CourseWeb. Each evaluation should take you between 5 to 15 minutes.

Research indicates that people are more likely to do online surveys if they have negative responses. However, we really hope to hear from all of you. We hope to get all feedback (positive as well as negative and in the middle too). Please, your feedback helps us to be better. We can’t do it without you!

Also, be sure to read the items in the survey carefully to be certain you are providing accurate feedback. Sometimes on surveys on a scale of 1 to 5, a “1” is very good; other times it is not good. In this survey 1 is the lowest rating.

The surveys are available starting Monday, March 22. Please respond by Sunday, April 4. The survey will not be available after April 4. Please be sure to respond before that day. If you have any questions, ask any or all of your teachers.

IEP: Letters of Recommendation

Many of you will need to ask Stacy for a letter of recommendation if you are applying to other institutions. There are two important things to remember when making a request for a letter. The first factor is that letters of recommendation are based on your performance at the ELI. Stacy uses your grade reports as a resource for information about your performance. If you miss a lot of classes and don’t do your work, your letter of recommendation will not be strong. In addition, please remember that the ELI usually does not consider students below ELI Level 4 to be ready for academic work. The ELI can provide letters confirming your attendance and work ethic if you are below Level 5, but for academic readiness recommendations, you should be in Level 5 or above.

The second important factor is time. Please remember that it takes approximately one week to receive a letter of recommendation. Stacy has many letters to write, and she cannot provide them immediately when you ask for them. Please plan ahead when making your requests.

ELI: Change of Address

Have you moved since you started at the ELI? The ELI and the University of Pittsburgh both need to maintain accurate information for their records. If you do not have an accurate mailing address on file, you may miss important letters and bills. Please make sure that if your address has changed since you started at the ELI that you fill out a Change of Address form. It’s quick and easy.

ELI Email Directory

If you need to email your teacher but forgot their email address, you can always find it on the ELI website. 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.

ELI: Listening Corner

Since many of us are spending more time at home these days, listening to podcasts is a great way to learn English while you’re exercising, taking a walk or hanging out in the evenings or before class.

We’d like to recommend the All Ears English Podcast. They have podcasts for IELTS preparation, General English and Business English. The hosts, Lindsay McMahon and Gabby Wallace are from Boston. They focus the podcast on using everyday vocabulary and idioms, expressions, and phrasal verbs. It also provides...
suggestions for how to make small talk in American English. This podcast is suitable for intermediate to advanced level English-language learners (in particular, professionals or university students).

If there’s a podcast you enjoy and you would like to share with your classmates and teachers, please send the name and a link to the podcast homepage to elipitt@pitt.edu. Happy Listening!!

25% Off Downtown Restaurant Orders

The Richard King Mellon Foundation is launching a new effort to promote downtown Pittsburgh restaurants. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays only, if you order food from participating restaurants downtown, the foundation will pay 25% of your order. That’s 25% off your food order that you do not have to pay, but the local restaurant still receives. The offer is available while funding lasts, so be sure to take advantage of it soon. Please note that there may be some exceptions and this offer only applies to downtown Pittsburgh locations. See the website for more details, or practice your Speaking and Listening skills by calling the restaurant directly and speaking to a staff member.

When dinging in or picking up, remember to wear your masks properly at all times and follow all Covid-19 restrictions correctly.

And as ELI instructor Rob Mucklo found out, there are several movie and tv sets all over Pittsburgh. He recently stopped into Areppita’s to pick up a food order and found himself on the set of the new movie about Lucille Ball. You never know what will happen when you explore downtown Pittsburgh!

IEP:

St. Patrick’s Day Virtual Celebration at Pitt

Have you heard of Pitt’s famous Nationality Rooms? They are located on the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning on Pitt’s main campus. Each room features a different country’s décor and culture.

To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day safely, the Irish Room Committee is hosting a virtual celebration from Saturday, March 13-Wednesday March 17. Featured events include Ireland’s history, a virtual tour of a working Irish farm, and Ireland’s strong song and dance traditions.

St. Patrick’s Day Entertainment

Wednesday, March 17 is St. Patrick’s Day, and there will be no shortage of entertainment for this holiday.

Each year, the Boston-based Irish rock ‘n roll band the Dropkick Murphys holds a free concert. Last year, they didn’t let the pandemic stop them. They streamed their performance live and for free. They also held a second free charity concert called “Streaming Outta Fenway” where they performed to the empty Fenway Park baseball stadium in Boston for the benefit of Covid-19 relief. Bruce Springsteen guest-starred. This year, the band is asking for donations in any amount for the benefit of their crew and expenses. Their St. Patrick’s Day 2021 concert, “Still Locked Down,” streams live from their website (click on the band name above) or on DKMSTREAM.com. You can also check out their YouTube channel to get a taste for their content. Classic hits include: “I’m Shipping Up to Boston,” “Rose Tattoo” (with Bruce Springsteen), “Tessie,” and “The Boys Are Back.”

Appalachian Irish rock band Tuatha Dea will also host a St. Patrick’s Day concert. Tuatha Dea was last in Pittsburgh in October of 2015, performing live at the Serbian Club in the South Side. For St. Patrick’s Day 2021, they will perform in person and livestream from the Pigeon Forge, TN Hard Rock Café. See their Facebook page for details. Based in the Smokey Mountains, Tuatha Dea is as much a family as they are a band, with deep Celtic roots. Hits include classic songs like “Whiskey in a Jar” and originals such as “Granny’s Bedtime Tonic” and “The Hum and the Shiver.” You can check them out on YouTube as well as other social media.

Irish-American Celtic punk band Flogging Molly will stream live from Dublin, Ireland on St. Patrick’s Day as well. This concert is not free, however. Early bird pricing (discounted pricing for early purchase) lasts through March 12, and ticket bundles are available and include different types of merchandise and a virtual meet-and-greet with the band. Check out their YouTube channel to get a taste of their fun and unique music. Hits include “Drunken Lullabies,” “Life Is Good,” and “Salty Dog.” Instruments include guitars, a violin, an accordion, a mandolin and drums.

If livestreaming a concert is just not your thing, other great Irish bands to check out are Great Big Sea, The Dubliners, U2, The Cranberries, Clannad, The Pogues, and Snow Patrol.

IEP:

Happening at Pitt

A selection of events that might spark your interest from the Pitt Events Calendar.
Thursday, March 11

**Hindsight 20/20:** ongoing until Monday, April 12 (deadline). The past year, 2020, brought challenges and changes. Express your 2020 experience through art and submit it for a chance at prizes every other week. Questions? Contact Julia.Qian@pitt.edu and she will get back to you. Submissions due April 12.

**RICE &… Series (Risi e Bisi):**
12:00-1:00 p.m. Join the Pitt Global Hub and European Studies Center for a demonstration on how to prepare risi e bisi (Italian rice and peas). The history and context of this dish will also be discussed. Registration required.

Friday, March 12

**Noah Cyrus Virtual Concert and Q&A Session:** 8:00-9:00 p.m. The Pitt Program Council is proud to present Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter, Noah Cyrus, for a special free concert followed by a Question and Answer session. Noah Cyrus’s song “Make Me (Cry)” was #1 hit on Spotify’s Viral Global Chart within hours of release and her current single, “July,” has reached over 90 million streams all over the world. Follow the Pitt Program Council on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, as the event link will be posted to these social media accounts on March 11. Only Pitt email addresses will be accepted for event attendance.

Monday, March 15

**Combatting Anti-Asian Violence Amidst Covid-19:** 4:00-5:30 p.m. Join both local and national Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander activists for a panel on how to stand in solidarity with victims of racism and to learn about what forms of justice communities can fight for. Registration required.

Tuesday, March 16

**Junk Garden (Upcycling Plant Pots):** 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Jasmine Green, the Center for Creativity Student Ambassador, facilitates this workshop on recycling items from around your home to create container gardens. Container gardens are the perfect way to include plants in your home for looks or food purposes. Pre-registration is required.

**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.

**Joke of the Week**

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

Question: How does a scientist freshen her breath?

Answer: With experi-mints.

**Quote Corner**

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.”—Saint Augustine

Source: BrainyQuote

SOUND OFF: What have you learned through travel? How does travel teach us? What will you use what you have learned in your travels?

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**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.