ELI Activity:

**ELI Virtual Movie Night**

![Rango poster](image)

**Saturday, June 12**

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join us for the ELI’s virtual movie night! We will be watching *Rango*, an animated comedy released in 2011 that follows the story of *Rango*, an eccentric but intelligent chameleon (a kind of lizard that can change its colors to match the colors around it). The story follows Rango as he gets lost in the desert and ends up becoming sheriff of a corrupt frontier town. Whether you enjoy animated films, a good story, or Westerns (a genre that focuses on life in the 19th century in the American West, especially the lives of “Cowboys and Indians”), you’ll love *Rango*. The film won Best Animated Feature Film in 2012 and stars Johnny Depp (star of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series) as the voice of Rango.

We will watch the movie via [Teleparty](https://teleparty.com) (formerly Netflix Party) on June 12 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to hang out with your classmates and ELI teachers, enjoy an award-winning American movie, and practice English all at the same time. We’ll take short breaks occasionally to talk about what happened and answer questions about cultural references, too.

Please [register in advance](https://zoom.us) on Zoom for this activity. Everyone who registers will be emailed instructions for how to set up Teleparty. Please note that in order to participate in this activity, you must have:

- a subscription to [Netflix](https://www.netflix.com) (If you don’t have a paid subscription, you can get sign up for a free 30-day trial.)
- the free [Teleparty](https://teleparty.com) extension downloaded on your laptop or computer
- the [Google Chrome browser](https://www.google.com/chrome) on your laptop or computer

Teleparty only runs on laptop and desktop computers. It is NOT yet available for iOS, Android, tablets, smart TVs, gaming consoles, or other devices. If you are outside of the US, you should also check to see that *Rango* is available on Netflix in your country.

Have your popcorn and snacks ready! If you have any questions, feel free to contact ELI instructor [Rob Mucklo](mailto:Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu).

**IEP: Midterm Grade Reports**

On Wednesday, June 16, 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 by Monday, June 21. 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/IEP: 
**Conversation Partners and Talk Time Groups**

Registration for Conversation Partners and Talk Time groups is now closed. If you signed up, check your Pitt email this weekend for information about your Conversation Partner and/or Talk Time group. If you have any questions, email elicomm@pitt.edu.

IEP: 
**ELI Students and Pitt Email**

ELI students MUST use Pitt email. Your teachers and the university will use ONLY your Pitt email to contact you. If you don’t check your Pitt email every day, you will miss important messages about your class work, registration, or tuition payments. To check your email, visit my.pitt.edu and click on “My Pitt Email.”

If you do not know your Pitt username or password, or you cannot access your account, call the Pitt Helpdesk at 412-624-4357.

IEP: 
**I-94 Numbers Required**

Each student must give the ELI Main Office their I-94 admission number. **If you have not submitted this number yet, you are past the deadline and must submit as soon as possible.** You should also have a copy of this number for your records. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:

1. Go to: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home
2. Click “Get Most Recent I-94”
3. Click on “Consent and Continue”
4. Enter information exactly as it appears on your visa.
5. Submit using this secure link: https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhtz0f7d2d/

IEP: 
**Health Insurance Requirements**

The ELI requires all students to show proof of health insurance coverage EVERY semester. The ELI does not recommend or offer specific health insurance plans. Students may choose any hospital insurance plan they like, and the ELI will request a copy of the insurance card with the student’s name. **If you have not submitted proof of health insurance yet, you are past the deadline.** Students who do not provide proof of health insurance may not be permitted to register for classes. Please email Stacy if you have any questions or need help finding insurance. **Do not submit the proof of insurance through email.** Please submit it using this secure link: https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhtz0f7d2d/

ELI: 
**Updated Addresses**

The ELI and the University of Pittsburgh both need to have your most up-to-date mailing address for our databases, billing information, and SEVIS regulations. **It is very important that the ELI have this information.** If you have not submitted your mailing address, you can do so with this simple survey: https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2n50OjXUrOCKKgJ

IEP: 
**Lateness**

Please remember that the ELI Attendance policy states that a student will be considered absent if the student is 5 minutes late for class. Your teachers do not have any flexibility with this policy; they must mark you absent if you are 5 or more minutes late. Please be aware of your breaks between classes and come to class on time.

IEP: 
**Transfer Process**

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must see Stacy to complete the transfer. You must bring a copy of the acceptance letter and the transfer form from the new school. You may transfer at any time during the term, but you must complete this process to remain in legal status. Remember that if you complete your final term of study at level 6 at the ELI, you have a 60-day grace period. During that time, you may stay in the U.S. without studying, and you may request a transfer at any time during that 60-day period. If you do not complete level 6, you have a 2-week grace period, and you must request a transfer within that time.

If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of your grace period, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

IEP: 
**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.

IEP: 
**Scam Phone Calls**

Sometimes international students in the Pittsburgh area receive phone calls from people who say they are...
FBI agents, government officials, police officers, or other people of authority. The callers ask the international students for large amounts of money. Government officials, bank employees, and police officers will never ask you for money. The people making these calls are NOT authorized to ask you for information. They often have some personal information about you that seems to be accurate, and so they can sound very convincing. They are also very threatening and usually demand that a large amount of cash be withdrawn from the student’s bank account and sent via PayPal.

Another common scam phone call will leave a message saying that you will be arrested if you do not call them back. This is NOT true. Please do not be worried if you receive a message like this. Save the message and play it for Stacy, but do not return the call.

If you receive one of these phone calls, please take the following steps:

1. End the call, no matter how threatening the caller may seem. Do not withdraw money from your bank account or give the caller any information about yourself, your address, or your finances.
2. See Stacy right away, and she will help you report the call to the police.

Pitt Police suggest that you write down the incoming number, if possible. Pitt Police also warns students not to release any personal information concerning your identity. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Stacy.

ELI:

How to Stay Safe, on and off Campus

The ELI wants you to feel safe exploring the University of Pittsburgh campus and the city of Pittsburgh. We want to empower you to protect yourself. Here are some tips for staying safe:

- **SAFETY IN NUMBERS.** Walking with a friend or a group makes it harder for someone to attack, because everyone can help defend each other. It’s also easier for someone to call for help.
- **STOP THE MUSIC.** One of the best tips we can give you is to put away your earbuds/headphones. If you have your ears full of music or a podcast, then you are distracted, easier to attack, and you won’t hear oncoming traffic.
- **THE BUDDY SYSTEM.** If you must walk alone, get on your cell phone. Talk to someone who can call for help, and make sure that you tell them your location every block or so. Say things like “I’ll be home soon,” and “You can expect me in a few minutes.” This will make you a bad target because your progress is being tracked by someone who is expecting you and can call for help.
- **USE PITT SHUTTLES.** If you’re crossing to different parts of campus, consider taking one of the Pitt shuttle buses instead of walking alone, especially at night.
- **WEAR LIGHT OR BRIGHT COLORS AT NIGHT.** If you have to walk at night, try to wear bright or light colors to make you easier to see. You can also buy reflective tape or clip-on LED lights for extra visibility at night, or carry a flashlight.
- **NO TEXTING AND WALKING.** If you are texting while walking, then you are not safe. You are distracted, and not watching where you are going. This means that you are an easy target for crime and car accidents.
- **STICK TO THE MAIN ROADS AND WELL-LIT AREAS.** If you can, try to walk on streets with good lighting. Stay on busier streets if you are walking at night because they usually have good streetlights and more people to help you.
- **PROGRAM YOUR PHONE.** Make sure that you add your emergency contacts list in your phone in case something happens. Program these numbers on speed dial, and label them ICE (In Case of Emergency). Consider adding this information as your phone’s background or screensaver. That way your ICE can be contacted without passwords if anything happens to you.
- **CARRY A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT.** It’s easier to replace a copy of your passport than the real passport. Carry a photocopy of it or take a picture of it with your phone. If you take any medicines, carry a list of them with you. All of this information is helpful to emergency responders if anything should happen to you.

What should you do if you feel unsafe? You can call the University of Pittsburgh campus police from on or off campus at 412-624-2121. If you do not have an emergency, but still need police assistance, you can call 412-624-4040.

If you are off-campus and have an emergency, you can always dial 9-1-1 and help will arrive from the city of Pittsburgh.

IEP:

Happening at Pitt

Your weekly highlights from the Pittsburgh. Be sure to check out the full calendar as well for more opportunities to practice your English skills.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: [www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news](http://www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news)
Thursday, June 10

“Authors and Anecdotes” Book Club Meeting: starts at 12:00 p.m. Meet author Kathleen W. Buechel and listen to a discussion of her new book *A Gift of Belief* (2021). This book tells stories of how Pittsburghers from all social and economic levels of life organized their private resources for public good. Many of us know the ways in which famous Pittsburghers such as Andrew Carnegie did this, now in this book and discussion, you can learn about less famous folks who had just as much impact on Pittsburgh people and their welfare. Registration required.

Friday, June 11

World Square: 5:00-10:00 p.m. through Sunday, June 13. This is an exciting 3-day celebration to promote and welcome international communities in and around the Pittsburgh area. You can find the full schedule of events courtesy of Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and Welcoming Pittsburgh. Businesses, artists, food, music, and more. Hours vary by day. Please take all Covid precautions. Located in downtown Pittsburgh’s Market Square and easily accessible by bus, which is free to IEP students with their Pitt ID’s.

Tuesday, June 15

Black Emancipation (A History of Celebration): 12:00-1:30 p.m. Join a panel of historians and archivists to discuss and learn about the upcoming holiday of Juneteenth, which celebrates the end of slavery in the United States and President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. Participating in this activity will give you a good background for understanding the importance of Juneteenth, which will be celebrated across the nation and in Pittsburgh next weekend (more on this next week). Registration required.

Happening in Pittsburgh

There’s always something happening in the Pittsburgh region. Here are some events that might interest you. Remember to take all Covid precautions and double-check event information before you attend.

Friday, June 11

Storytime in Schenley Park: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Join the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for a toddler-oriented story time outside in Schenley Plaza (located on campus behind the Cathedral of Learning on Forbes Avenue), followed by a free ride on the carousel (weather permitting).

Allegheny County Summer Concert Series: starts at 7:30 p.m. Hop over to the South Park Amphitheater to enjoy the sounds of *Bill Toms & Hard Rain*. Food trucks and the Hop Farm Brewing Company will start serving at 6:00 p.m. (must be 21+ years old with ID to purchase alcohol).

Saturday, June 12

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh Reopening: open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Closed Monday-Wednesday. The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is proud to announce that they are reopening with brand new exhibits and Covid precautions. Purchase timed tickets in advance and masks are required. If you have a teen or almost-teenager in your family, also consider their Youth Workshops.

Sunday, June 13

Allegheny County Summer Concert Series: starts at 7:30 p.m. The Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater will host the incredible *River City Brass* band. Started in 1981, the River City Brass was formed to entertain and educate the Pittsburgh region about American musical culture and history. Hartwood Acres Park opens at 8:00 a.m. and the Amphitheater opens at 12:00 p.m. if you’d like to come earlier and spend some of your day relaxing in the park before the performance. Food trucks and Hop Farm Brewing Company will start serving at 6:00 p.m. (must be 21+ years old with ID to purchase alcohol).

Three Rivers Arts Festival: 12:00-5:00 p.m. This is the last day for the Three Rivers Arts Festival until next year. Enjoy art, music, food, and more in Point State Park. Click the link to access the full schedule of events and entertainment.

Saturday, June 19

Virtual Japanese-English Reading Circle: 5:00-6:30 p.m. The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania holds a virtual reading circle for Japanese learners of English and English-speaking learners of Japanese. Develop reading fluency, vocabulary, and other conversation skills in a positive and friendly environment. Become a member to enjoy many benefits.

Sunday, June 20

Snowball Day: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Learn the science behind snowballs at the Carnegie Science Center. This family-friendly event is perfect for anyone who loves snow, or is curious about winter weather. You can also launch a snowball with a slingshot. Masks and other Covid precautions are required. Purchase timed tickets and spend the day exploring the other exhibits at the Carnegie Science Center. Please note that the Buhl Planetarium, Giant Cinema and some other features are not included in General Admission prices and will require separate costs.

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