



ELI NEWS

English Language Institute • University of Pittsburgh
Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave • Pittsburgh PA 15260

02-07-19, Volume 58 Issue 5
elipitt@pitt.edu

ELI Activity:

Ring It On! Handbell Workshop Advance Registration Required

The University Handbell Ensemble is offering a free workshop for University of Pittsburgh students, faculty, and staff on **Sunday, March 3** from 4-5:30 pm. If you have ever wanted to learn a new musical instrument, you will definitely enjoy this event! In this unique introduction to the art of handbell ringing, you will learn the basics of music notation and ringing as well as enjoy a short performance by the Ensemble.

Advance registration is required! This event is hosted by the Center for Creativity at Pitt (<https://www.creative.pitt.edu/>). Their events sell out very quickly, so please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu as soon as possible. She will complete the registration for you and email you after the registration is complete. If you do not register in advance, you will not be able to attend the workshop. If you change your mind after registration, please let Ece know as soon as possible so that someone else can have the chance to attend. On Sunday, March 3, we will meet at the ELI at 3:30 pm and walk to the Center for Creativity together.

You can check out some videos of the Ensemble's performances at <https://pitthandbell.weebly.com/videos.html>.

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is one of the world's most colorful and exuberant events and triggers celebrations all across the globe. Unlike our festivities, which always take place at midnight between December 31 and January 1, Lunar New Year varies each year. Lunar New Year takes place on a different date each year because it is based on the lunar calendar. New Year's Day normally falls between January 21 and February 20.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated with an explosion of light and sound, involving lighting firecrackers, bell ringing, and watching traditional lion dances. Families gather together for a reunion dinner on New Year's Eve, and clean their houses to sweep away bad fortune on New Year's Day. Traditionally, kids would be given red envelopes stuffed with 'lucky money' and positive wishes on New Year's Day.



This year is the Year of the Pig. According to Asian astrology, your year of birth - and the animal this represents - determines a lot about your personality traits. Anyone born in an Earth Pig year will be communicative, popular among their friends, and have a strong sense of time keeping. The choice of animals is significant - the ox, horse, goat, rooster, pig, and dog are six of the main domestic animals raised by people. Other animals include the rat, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake and monkey. The twelve animals were separated into two categories - yin and yang - depending on whether they have an odd or even number of claws, toes or hooves. They were then arranged into an alternating yin and yang sequence.

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/pig.htm>

Sign-Up for Pitt's Emergency Notification Service (ENS)

All Pitt students are signed up to receive **email** alerts from ENS. You can also sign up to receive text and voice message alerts. Pitt will contact you if classes are canceled, or if there is an emergency on campus:

1. Log in to <https://pi.tt/alerts> (You can also log in to <https://accounts.pitt.edu> and click **Emergency Notification System**). **Note:** You will be prompted to accept the Terms of Use the first time you log in. Read the terms of use, click the box next to **I have read and agree to the Rave Terms of Use**, and click **Submit**.
2. Click **Add** next to **Mobile Phones** and enter your phone number.
3. If you want to receive both text and voice alerts, leave the box checked next to **Enable Voice Message Delivery**. If you only want to receive text alerts, uncheck this box. Click **Continue**.
4. Select your carrier from the drop-down menu. Click **Continue**.
5. The system will send a confirmation code to your mobile phone. Enter the code in the **Confirmation Code** field and click **Continue**.
6. A confirmation window displays indicating your phone number has been subscribed. A confirmation text message is also sent.

You can also subscribe by texting "**pitt sub yourusername ens**" to **41411**. For example, if your University Computing Account username is **jd0e99**, you would text "**pitt sub jd0e99 ens**" to **41411**.

Pitt Student Health Service – No Show Fee

If you are sick, you can schedule an appointment with Pitt's Student Health Service. Call 412-383-1800 to schedule an appointment. If you no longer need your appointment, you must cancel it at least 2 hours before your appointment time. If you do not cancel your appointment at least 2 hours before your time, your Pitt account will be charged a \$10 No Show Fee. Please remember to cancel your appointments at the Student Health Service if you do not need them.

ELI Activity:

The Phantom of the Opera

Join the ELI on Thursday, **February 28**, as we go to see the award-winning musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. A musical is a performance that is similar to a theater play, in which characters are portrayed by actors, but with the addition of singing and dancing. The performance is at the Benedum Center downtown and runs from 7:30 pm to approximately 10 pm.

The Phantom of the Opera follows the story of a masked composer who haunts the Paris Opera House. He falls in love with a chorus girl, Christine, and begins to tutor her to enhance her musical capability. At the same time, the Phantom makes increasing demands of the Opera House to make Christine the star of the opera. The managers of the Opera House think these demands are nonsense, but the tenacious Phantom won't stop until he gets what he wants. Will he succeed? Come to the musical and find out!

This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. You are welcome to bring guests who are not ELI students, but children under the age of 3 years are not allowed. This show is recommended for children ages 8 and up.

The main office began collecting money on Monday, February 4. You must pay by **4:30 pm on Thursday, February 14**. Discounted tickets are \$31 each. **Please bring the exact amount.** There are no refunds. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

ELI Activity:

Toastmasters Meeting Level 4, 5, and 6 Students Deadline on 2/15!



Did you know that the idea of giving a speech in public is the number one fear reported by Americans? Apparently, we are more afraid of giving a speech to a group of people than we are of snakes, high places or dying! From this information, we can extrapolate that students of English as a Second Language aren't the only ones who don't like to speak in public!

That's why Toastmasters International was created in 1924. Toastmasters is a social organization made up of people who want to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. Members learn from each other in a supportive environment. Each time you give a speech, evaluators will identify your strengths and suggest improvements.

Don't be reluctant to participate just because you are not a native speaker of English! Several former ELI students have become really involved with the Toastmasters Club in the past and loved it. No one will chastise you if you make a mistake. The objectives of this club include building confidence; improving presentation skills and helping each individual develop communication skills.

The number of members fluctuates a bit, but there are currently 350,000 members in 16,000 clubs in 143 countries... and you can be next! There are 3 clubs just on the University of Pittsburgh campus and approximately 25 in the Pittsburgh area! The ELI has made an arrangement with one of the clubs on campus so that you can attend your first meeting for **free!** After the first meeting, if you'd like to join, there is a one-time \$20 membership fee. After that, you have to pay membership dues (\$51 every 6 months).

We will attend this meeting on **Wednesday, February 20**. Because space is limited, this activity is restricted to the **first 10**

Level 4, 5, or 6 students who email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu. Please let me know **by 4 pm on Friday, February 15**, if you would like to attend. On Wednesday, February 20, we will meet at the ELI at 11:45 am to walk over to the meeting together. The meeting will finish around 1 pm.

For more information about Toastmasters International and a complete list of all Toastmasters Clubs, visit www.toastmasters.org.

Midterm Grade Reports

by Heather McNaught

On Wednesday, February 13th, your teachers will turn in your midterm grades. Although these are not your final grades, they do show you how well you are doing 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 talk directly to your teacher.

Your copy of the midterm grades will be given to you on Friday, February 15th, in your Listening class. If you are absent or do not have Listening class on Friday afternoon, you may pick up your midterm grade report in the ELI Main Office on Monday the 18th. 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. If you still have questions about grades, read p. 11 in the ELI Student Handbook!

Please Note: Students with unpaid tuition and fees on their account will not receive a grade report until they have paid.

Follow us on
Twitter
@Upitt_ELl



ELI Activity:

Let's Make Valentine Cards!

Valentine's Day is Thursday, February 14, and the ELI would like to help you celebrate this holiday. Get together with your classmates and make Valentine's cards, paper flowers, and more! You can make these items for your friends and loved ones. Wouldn't it be sweet to brighten someone's day on Valentine's Day?

The ELI will provide all the materials you need. All you have to do is show up, be creative, and have fun! There will be some valentine cards in the Vault throughout the day, but most of the materials will be in M15 from 1:00-1:45 pm. You can bring your lunch! After 1:45 pm, Ece will take all the materials to The Vault, and you can continue working on your valentines after classes until 4:45 pm.

ELI Activity:

Language Music Club



Do enjoy listening to music in English? Do want to learn more vocabulary, practice grammar, and

improve your listening and speaking skills? If you answered yes to these questions, then the Language Music Club is for you! The main objective of this club is to have fun practicing English in a musical environment! The meetings of the Language Music Club include a variety of activities, including focusing on the grammar and vocabulary used in lyrics as well as practicing pronunciation and fluency. We also have discussions on what these songs mean.

The Language Music Club meets every Tuesday from 1-1:45 pm in Room M15. This room is next to the main office. Feel free to bring your lunch! We have had two meetings so far, but you can drop in anytime! No musical talent is required. All you need is a desire to improve your English! This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. For more information or to make song suggestions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

ELI Activity:

Ice Skating

Join the ELI on **Saturday, February 16**, as we go downtown to ice skate at the MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink at PPG Place. If think you are not capable of ice skating, that's nonsense! Learning how to ice skate is not a complicated process. You can take small steps and hold on to the handrail until you gain the coordination you need to skate confidently.

We'll meet in The Vault (the ELI's student lounge) at 10:30 am and take the bus downtown together. Admission is \$10, and skate rental is an additional \$4 (plus tax). You should also bring at least two quarters (25-cent coins) so that you can put your shoes and other items in a locker.

You do not need to pre-register for this activity. You can pay for your own admission and skate rental when we arrive at the rink. This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students.

For more information about the Rink, visit www.ppgplace.com/directory/the-rink/.

ELI Storytellers Series



One of the benefits of studying at the ELI is the chance to meet and to

learn from people with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ELI Storytellers Series gives students an opportunity to share their stories with classmates. Speakers give a 10-15 minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The talks are scheduled during the 1:00 lunch break or after classes at 4:00. The series is open to all ELI students, and it is a great way to get extra speaking and listening practice outside of class. Your English doesn't have to be perfect! This is a great opportunity to challenge yourself and share your story with your friends, teachers and classmates.

How about you? Do you have an interest or a skill you would like to tell us about? Have you accomplished something special or done something fun and exciting? Would you like to share information about your culture or hometown? What is your story? If you are interested in giving a short presentation, email Heather at hlm44@pitt.edu.

ELI Activity:

ELI Trip to Fallingwater and Ohiopele

Join the ELI for a special trip to the Laurel Highlands, where we will visit Frank Lloyd Wright's world-famous Fallingwater house and the beautiful Ohiopele State Park. We will depart on **Saturday, March 30**, at **8:45 am** and return **the same day** around **8 pm**. The cost is \$50 per student and includes roundtrip transportation in a University van and a tour of the Fallingwater house. It takes approximately 2 hours to reach Fallingwater from the ELI.

When we arrive at Fallingwater, we will have a 1-hour tour of the house. A guided tour is the only way to access the inside of the house. This house is unique because it was built on top of a waterfall. This kind of architecture is far from mediocre! After the tour, we will have some time to explore the beautiful grounds and take pictures of the outside of the house. Then we will take a short drive to Ohiopele State Park, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch that you must pack yourself before leaving for the trip (not included in the cost). After enjoying the nature of Ohiopele, we will return to Pittsburgh.

Currently this trip is only open to ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program or the Evening Class. Please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you are a CCC student or if you are an ELI student who wants to bring a guest. If there is still space available after February 22, CCC students and guests of ELI students will be able to join the trip. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed.

The main office will begin collecting money for this trip on Monday, February 11. You must pay the main office by **4:30 pm on Thursday, February 22**. Please bring the exact amount (cash only). There are no refunds. Contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you have any questions.

Student Advisor Office Hours



Please remember that Stacy Ranson, your Student Advisor, can help you with questions about your registration and classes, academic issues, letters of recommendation, and personal issues, as well. Feel free to stop by her office in M22 during any of her office hours. You can also email her at sar72@pitt.edu.

Stacy's office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
1:00 pm-1:45 pm

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Spring 2019

The ELI gives final exams at the end of the term. These exams are worth 30% of the final grade for each class. There are no excused absences for finals. The ELI does not give early final exams or make up exams. Role Play finals in Speaking are graded with another Speaking teacher. Writing finals are graded by a teacher from another class with input from your teacher.

Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Fri, April 5	Mon, April 8	Tues, April 9
Writing final 10:00am-12:00pm	Grammar final 10:00am-12:00pm	Reading final 10:00am-12:00pm
Speaking final 1:00pm-3:00pm	Listening final 2:00pm-4:00pm	



Ice Skating After Dark

Join Pitt Program Council for a night in Downtown Pittsburgh for Ice Skating After Dark. Skate the night away at the Mass Mutual PPG Ice Skating Rink (Third Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222) on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00 pm-1 am. Tickets are \$5 in the William Penn Union (WPU) Ticket Office. This is sold as a complete trip only. Tickets include transportation to and from the rink, two hours of skating, ice skate rentals, and a hot chocolate voucher. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Flower Arranging



Come and create a personalized flower bouquet for a loved one, your significant other, or yourself!

Stop by anytime at the William Penn Union, Lower Lounge (3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260) between 11am-3pm on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14th) to craft your very own bouquet. The event will be open until 3pm or while supplies last. No tickets or sign-ups are needed and the event is completely free for all pitt students!

Watercolor Flowers

Roses are red, violets are blue, let's paint flowers with a beautiful hue!

Need a creative card for a special someone? Learn to paint a variety of flowers using watercolors, and create handmade, personalized notecards. On Wednesday, February 13 at 4:15 pm – 5:30pm at The Book Center, Center for Creativity: The Workshop (4000 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213).

Amateurs are welcomed!

Pre-registration required: use link to register

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-watercolor-flowers-registration-55570421627?aff=EventsCalendar>

Follow the ELI on Instagram @eli.pitt



ELI Idiom of the Week

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression whose meaning might not always be clear from the words that make it up.

“Get up on the wrong side of the bed.”

This expression is typically used to describe someone who is irritable or in a bad mood.

www.merriam-webster.com

For example: “Alex’s reaction to everyone is very negative today. It seems he **got up on the wrong side of the bed**”

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Tuesday, February 12: Language Music Club

Thursday, February 14: Make your own

valentines

Saturday, February 16: Ice Skating

Wednesday, February 20:

Toastmasters Meeting

Thursday, February 28: Phantom of the Opera

Sunday, March 3: Ring It On!

Handbell Workshop

Wednesday, March 6: Board

Games with APO

Saturday, March 23: ELI Night

Friday, March 29: Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30: ELI Trip to Fallingwater

