



# ELI NEWS

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

09-19-19, Volume 60 Issue 3  
elipitt@pitt.edu

ELI Activity:

## Deadline to Pay is Today!



Join the ELI as we cheer for the Pittsburgh Pirates

when they take on the Cincinnati Reds on **Sunday, September 29**, at 3:05 pm.

This game is significant because it is Pitt Family Weekend! That means that the ballpark will be filled with other Pitt students, faculty, staff, and their families and friends. In addition, everyone in our group will get a Pirates baseball cap!

Tickets are \$21 each. Our seats will be in the Upper Level Grandstand (with a view of the game and the skyline!). You must sign up and pay the main office by **4:30 pm on Thursday, September 19**. Please bring the exact amount, cash only. You are welcome to buy tickets for guests, including children. All guests pay the same price.

On the day of the game, we will meet at the ELI at **1:00 pm** and take the bus downtown together. Then we will walk across the bridge to the ballpark. You are free to leave the game anytime.

There are no cancellations or refunds. Even if it rains, we will still go to the game. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather.



[www.facebook.com/PittELI](https://www.facebook.com/PittELI)

ELI Activity:

## Deadline to pay is TODAY at 2 pm!



The main office will collect payments

until 2:00 pm today (Thurs., Sept. 19). Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds.

On Tues., Sept. 24, we'll go to see the live musical production of Disney's *The Lion King* at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Our group tickets are \$45 each (\$35.00 plus \$10 for tax and service fees). Our seats will be in the upper balcony in rows Q to W. Feel free to invite your family and friends! Because this is so popular, there are no student discounts for the cheapest seats available and the pricing varies and fluctuates depending on demand.

On the day of the performance, we will meet at the ELI at 6:00 pm, then take the bus downtown together. The performance starts at 7:30 pm, but we will need to arrive early to go through security. Join us for this special opportunity to see the world's #1 musical!

## Talk Time Conversation Groups – Final Registration Opportunity!

By: Suzanne Meyer

If you want to join a Talk Time Conversation Group, it's not too late: you can register on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:15-12:45 in room 113. Or

you can register from 1:00-1:30 in room 111.

In the Talk Time Program, a native English speaker meets with a group of 4-5 students for fun and informal communication (not a class). Groups are scheduled in ELI classrooms, and meeting times are once weekly at 1:00 or 4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays, depending on when you register.

Talk Time groups will start meeting Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, so it's the last chance to sign up!

E-mail [elicomm@pitt.edu](mailto:elicomm@pitt.edu) if you would have questions or need more information about Talk Time. Note that CCC students may register for Talk Time; however, ELI students in the intensive program will have priority when making group assignments. to the Benedum Center stage!

## Conversation Partners Registration is OPEN

By: Suzanne Meyer

If you would like a conversation partner this term, register now! Online registration for conversation partners is open until Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

To sign up, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/CLEP-ELISsFA19>.

Sorry, late requests will not be accepted. Please note that only ELI students in the intensive program will be paired.

E-mail [elicomm@pitt.edu](mailto:elicomm@pitt.edu) if you have questions or need more information about Conversation Partners.

ELI Activity:

## ELI Trip to Niagara Falls



Join the ELI on **Sun., Oct. 13**, for a trip to Niagara Falls, New York! Niagara Falls is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the largest waterfall in the United States.

Our private bus will depart the University on **Sunday, October 13, at 7:45 am** and return the same day **around 11:00 pm**. The cost of this trip is **\$135** and includes:

- Roundtrip private bus transportation
- Boat ride at the bottom of the Falls on the Maid of the Mist

It takes approximately 5 hours to reach Niagara Falls from Pittsburgh. We will stop on the way to Niagara Falls for lunch and stop on the way back to Pittsburgh for dinner. These meals are **not** included in the cost of the trip. You are welcome to invite a friend, but children under the age of 18 are not permitted. We need at least 25 students to participate in this activity in order to reserve a bus.

The deadline for payment is **4:30 pm on September, 27**. Payment is by cash only and there are no refunds. Email Rob at [rom17@pitt.edu](mailto:rom17@pitt.edu) if you have any questions.

## Title IX Policy

Title IX is a U.S. law that gives you the right to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University, have the University investigate what happened, and have your complaint resolved.

- Sexual misconduct is sexual contact that you do not want:
- Someone speaking to you in a sexual way or asking you for sex when you aren't interested.
- Someone forcing you to have sexual contact.

- Relationship violence: Spouse/partner speaking to you or treating you in an abusive or violent way.
- Stalking: Someone repeatedly following or threatening you, including by phone/text/email/mail/social media.

You can report sexual misconduct to ELI officials or to the police. The ELI will help you report the issue to the University. Please note: If you report an issue to an ELI staff or faculty member, the ELI is required to report the issue to the University Title IX office. The ELI cannot maintain complete confidentiality. In other words, if you tell any teacher or staff member in the ELI, they must report it to the university. If you want to speak to a confidential advisor, the ELI can help you find a counselor at the University Counseling Center. In almost all cases, this counselor will not inform other people about what you tell them.

University Counseling Center  
119 University Place  
Nordenberg Hall  
412-648-7930

If you experience any type of sexual misconduct, harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, please talk to the ELI Student Advisor or an ELI teacher immediately.

## Prayer Room Change

The ELI can provide the following room for prayer:

Room 112  
1:00-1:45 pm,  
Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

If you plan to use this room, you must read and follow the rules below. Please note that if any of these rules are broken, the prayer room will no longer be available.

- Rooms are available only for the times listed.
- Students must finish prayer at the times listed. The teachers of the 1:00 and 2:00 classes must be

able to prepare before the class begins. If the teacher ever has to wait for students to finish praying, rooms will be removed from the schedule immediately.

- Students may not pray in the hallways, locker room, or anywhere in the ELI building.

## Repeating Level 6 at the ELI

Many of you are making plans for your academic future here in the U.S. Please remember that ELI students are allowed to take only two semesters at level 6. After you complete two terms at level 6, you must transfer to another program if you want to stay in the U.S. The ELI cannot make exceptions to this rule, so please plan carefully.

Please note: If you are sponsored by SACM, you may not repeat courses that you have already passed. Therefore, if you pass level 6 courses once, you may not repeat them in order to take an extra term at the end of your study. This is a SACM rule, and the ELI cannot make exceptions to it.

## FI Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S.

If you complete study at the ELI before taking level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

Please note that the grace period is different for students who transfer to a new program. If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. You are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months

before beginning the first available term of your new program, however. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

## ELI Absence Policy

There have been many questions about excused absences in the ELI. It is true that if you are sick, it is not appropriate for you to come to school—you may infect others, and it is crucial that you rest to get well. Please note, though, that the ELI attendance policy states that “there is no such thing as an excused absence” in the ELI. Even if you are sick, the absence must be counted as an absence according to the ELI rules.

According to the ELI absence policy, if you miss over 8 classes, you will not receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the term. If you miss over 12, you may not be invited back to the ELI next term. If you are an F-1 student and you miss over 15 classes, your visa may be terminated. Please see the online Student Handbook for more information on the ELI attendance policy. In addition, please remember that sponsored students have attendance rules from their sponsors, as well.

Remember that if you do not do the work in your classes and the homework, this will affect your grade. If you want to make progress with your language learning, it is important that you attend class on time, regularly, with your homework complete. Please see Stacy if you have any questions or concerns about attendance in the ELI.



**Follow Us on Twitter!**

Follow us on Twitter at @UPITT\_ELI

## ELI F1 Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with F1 visas do not have permission to work in the U.S. This includes both on-campus and off-campus jobs. Working without permission is a very serious violation of immigration rules, and ELI F1 students who work without SEVP approval will be terminated in SEVIS. Termination for unauthorized

employment does not include a grace period, and students are required to leave the U.S. immediately. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this rule.

## Rules for SACM Students

The ELI has been informed of special rules for students who are sponsored by SACM. Please note that SACM has made these rules, and the ELI cannot make exceptions to them.

1. Students may not study part time.
2. Students may not repeat a course that they have passed.
3. Students may repeat a failed course only one time.

This means that SACM students who pass Level 6 courses at the ELI will not be able to repeat Level 6. Please plan accordingly.

## U.S. Alcohol Laws

All ELI students and employees of the University must fully obey the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the possession and consumption of alcohol. These laws prohibit providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 or to anyone visibly intoxicated. Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages under any circumstances, and anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from being on licensed premises where alcohol is served, unless under proper supervision. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about these laws.

## Fire Alarms at the ELI

Please be careful about setting off false fire alarms because this causes problems with the fire department. We would not want to have fire trucks at our building for a false alarm when they might be needed for a real emergency somewhere else. Please remember the following:

- There are several square red alarms on the walls in our building. They call the fire

department, and they are sensitive. Do not lean on the wall next to them or touch them unless there is a fire.

- If the fire alarm goes off, leave the building and turn right on Meyran.
- Move calmly but quickly to the parking lot on the corner of Meyran and Sennott. Walk on the sidewalks.
- Do not stand in the hallways or the in the middle of the street.
- Wait outside until a firefighter says it is ok to reenter the building.

## Sponsored Students and Final Exams

Please note that if you are a sponsored student, and you miss your final exam for any reason, or if you fail the final exam, your sponsor will be notified immediately. Final exams in the ELI are worth 30% of the overall final grade, and both the ELI and your sponsors expect you to take the exams and to perform as well as you can on them. Remember, too, that satisfactory academic progress is a requirement of the F1 visa. If you fail courses, your F1 visa may be revoked. Please check the posted schedules for ELI final exams and plan your schedule accordingly.

## Silence of the Lambs Exhibit & Party at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

One of Pittsburgh's most famous movie props returns home in time for Halloween! The local haunted attraction Hundred Acres Manor has re-created Hannibal Lecter's cage from the famous movie. Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall—where a famous scene from the movie was filmed—will play host to the cage for Halloween. Actors from Hundred Acres Manor will act out famous movie scenes during the party. There will also be face-painting. You are encouraged to wear a costume, too! See the link for restrictions on masks. The event include: caricature drawings, tarot readings, a special guest and popcorn. Some of these activities cost

extra, so please come with cash. This event is on October 4, 2019 and is for adults only, 21 years old and up. Find more information and tickets here: <https://soldiersandsailorshall.org/event/special-exhibit-silence-of-the-lambs/>

## Probation at the ELI

As you know, consistent attendance, homework, and participation in classroom activities are all important for successful language learning. If you do not attend classes regularly and do the assigned work, your progress may be slow, and your grades may suffer.

In addition, students who do not make a good effort in their work will be put on probation. Students on probation must improve their effort during the probation term, or they may be expelled from the ELI. Sponsors will be notified of probation, as well. There are three ways to be put on probation at the ELI:

1. Having failing final grades in two or more classes
2. Having over 8 absences in two or more classes
3. Having over 15 absences in one or more classes

If you had poor grades and/or attendance last term, you will receive a probation letter. If you are sponsored, your sponsor will be notified that you are on probation, as well. If you have any questions about the probation policy at the ELI, please see Stacy.

## Medical Emergencies in the ELI

It is the ELI policy that any time an ELI student shows signs of a serious medical issue, ELI staff and faculty must call 911 for medical assistance. For example, if a student complains of the symptoms of a heart attack, the ELI will call an ambulance. In a medical emergency, the first priority of the ELI is always the well-being of its students, and 911 will be called even if the ill student protests or is not insured. Ambulance rides can cost from \$400 to over \$1000, depending on the kind of care the crew must provide and the

distance traveled. Patients are responsible for the cost, and patients without health insurance will be responsible for the entire cost of ambulance service. This means that you-not the ELI- must pay for the ambulance, even if an ELI teacher or employee called for the ambulance. The ELI requires that students buy health insurance, which may pay for part of the ambulance service, depending on your coverage.

## Scam Phone Calls

Sometimes international students 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.

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.

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

By: Jennifer Tober

Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks is presenting the play JULIUS CAESAR in

Pittsburgh city parks each weekend in September. Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks has been bringing free theatre to Pittsburgh residents for 15 years!

This production is unique because it features an all-female cast. In Shakespeare's time, 400 years ago, all of the characters were played by men! If you would like to attend, bring a blanket or folding chairs to sit on, and arrive a little bit early to get a good seat. You are welcome to bring a picnic, kids, and even dogs! (Dogs seem to love Shakespeare.)

Here's the schedule:

Saturday & Sunday September 21-22nd  
Arsenal Park, Lawrenceville 2 PM

Saturday & Sunday September 28-29th  
Frick Park, Blue Slide playground,  
Squirrel Hill 2 PM

There are pre-show acting workshops, activities for kids, and a short story version of Julius Caesar for your extra enjoyment.

If you have questions, visit our website at [www.pittsburghshakespeare.org](http://www.pittsburghshakespeare.org) or see the ELI instructor Jennifer Tober--she is the founder of the company!

## 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.

### “Lose your cool”

to stop being calm in an annoying or frightening situation

Kenneth finally lost his cool with a photographer, and threatened to hit him.

Source: [www.ldoceonline.com](http://www.ldoceonline.com)

Instead of losing her cool when the class continued not to do homework, the teacher gave a quiz about it every day that week.

*Follow the ELI on Instagram  
@eli.pitt*

