



ELI NEWS

English Language Institute • University of Pittsburgh

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Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave • Pittsburgh PA 15260

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ELI Activity:

ELI Trip to Niagara Falls Deadline Tuesday!



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

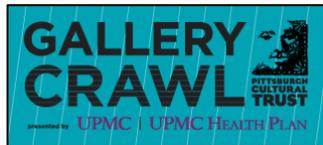
It takes approximately 5 hours to reach Niagara Falls from Pittsburgh. We will stop on the way to Niagara Falls for lunch and stop on the way back to Pittsburgh for dinner. These meals are **not** included in the cost of the trip. You are welcome to invite a friend, but children under the age of 18 are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

The deadline for payment is **2:00 pm on September 27**. Payment is by cash only and there are no refunds. Email Rob at rom17@pitt.edu if you have any questions.



www.facebook.com/PittELI

Art. Music. Dance. Fun. FREE!



Pittsburgh is a booming city with a thriving arts and cultural scene. To experience this aspect of life in Pittsburgh, check out the free events that are part of The Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District downtown this Fri., Sept. 27, from 5:30 – 10 pm.

The Gallery Crawl includes over 35 activities featuring artwork, music, dance, and more. Highlights include:

- art exhibitions at various galleries
- live music
- salsa dancing
- comedy shows
- free henna
- and much more!

All events are FREE and open to the public. Pittsburgh's Downtown Cultural District is a fourteen-square block area bordered by the Allegheny River on the north, Tenth Street on the east, Stanwix Street on the west, and Liberty Avenue on the south.

For more information, visit <https://crawl.trustarts.org/>.

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 12:00 or 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 ELI 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.

Keeping the ELI Clean

We try to create a nice environment for our ELI students, and part of that is providing a neat and tidy environment for you. Please help us to keep your classrooms and The Vault (ELI student lounge) clean by throwing away any garbage in the appropriate trash cans. Please don't leave any water bottles, cups, papers, or any other trash on desks, on the floor, or in the hallway after you have finished with them. Also, please do not scrape food into the sink when you rinse your dishes.

Scrape food into the trash can so that the sink will stay clear and drain properly. There are trashcans in the student kitchen, in every classroom, and in each hallway.

Shakespeare in the Parks: *Julius Caesar*

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:

September 28th and 29th
Frick Park, Blue Slide Playground
in Squirrel Hill
2 PM * rain or shine

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

Admission is FREE. Donations of \$15 are encouraged, but any amount is welcome. Donations support free Shakespeare in Pittsburgh city parks. Please make donations in advance:
<https://www.pittsburghshakespeare.com/donate.html>.

If you have questions, visit our website at www.pittsburghshakespeare.org or see ELI instructor Jennifer Tober. Jen is the founder of the company!

Personal Belongings in Classrooms

We have noticed that many students leave their personal belongings in

ELI classrooms during the lunch break each day. The ELI cannot guarantee the safety of your bags, laptops, or other items. Remember that it is always safest to keep your personal belongings with you, or locked in your ELI locker.

If you leave your things in an ELI classroom during the lunch break, you are taking a chance that you may lose them. The classroom door may be locked when you leave, but please remember that many people have keys to those doors. The ELI cannot guarantee that the classroom will remain locked until you return.

In addition, you should never leave your belongings alone in the ELI hallways, on a restaurant table, or in any other public place. It only takes a second for someone to take what is yours, so please be careful! If you would like to sign up for a locker, see the ELI main office.

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.

Foliage means "leaves from a plant or tree." Pennsylvania is known for its fall foliage. The beautiful trees in our state change color from green to red, gold, and orange in the fall. This change begins in September and lasts through November.

Pennsylvania's fall foliage season is longer than anywhere else in the world, and has more color variations. This is because Pennsylvania is in Eastern North America. Our location supports trees from the south and the north. We have 134 species of trees, plus vines and shrubs that also change color.

More information and maps can be found at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3v7scz2>.

In October, the ELI will do a nature walk in a nearby park to enjoy the fall foliage. Look for more information in upcoming editions of the ELI News. Don't wait for us, though! The next weekend you have some free time, take a hike through a nearby park or drive through the forests of Pennsylvania and enjoy Mother Nature's fall foliage show!

Pitt Program Council Events & Activities

Just like the ELI plans activities for our students, the Pitt Program Council (PPC) plans activities for ALL students at Pitt. Some of the activities they have planned include:

Oct. 3 – speaker Dr. Yusef Salaam
Oct. 5 – Cedar Point Amusement Park
Oct. 8 – The Pitt Factor competition
Oct. 13 – Fall Fest Music Festival

Please note that ONLY Pitt students with a valid ID are allowed to participate in PPC activities. Guests, friends, and family who are not Pitt students are not permitted.

Also, keep in mind that there are over 27,000 students at the University of Pittsburgh. These activities and events sell out fast!!!

To be the first to know about Pitt Program Council events, follow them on Facebook at



<https://www.facebook.com/pittprogramcouncil/>.

Quote Corner

“Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.”

From: Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson
Source: Brainy Quote

SOUND OFF: What is the difference between **success** and **greatness**? Discuss it with friends or a teacher! This is a great opportunity to practice the “consistent hard work” that leads to success!

ELI Activity:



Baseball Game Reminders

If you purchased a Pirates ticket, you must pick up your ticket from Rob in M20 **from 12:00-2:00 pm on Friday, September 27**. If you cannot pick up your ticket during that time, please email Rob at rom17@pitt.edu to make other arrangements.

On Sunday, September 29, we’ll meet at 1:30 pm in the lobby of the ELI building and take the bus downtown together. The game starts at 3:05 pm, but we must leave early because there will probably be traffic and we want to arrive on time. You can also go on your own if you prefer, but please tell Rob when you pick up your ticket. You can enter the ballpark anytime during the game, but not all entrances will be open.

No big bags are permitted. Soft bags are permitted; hard briefcase type bags are not. Bags that are larger than 16”x16”x8” are NOT permitted. All bags are subject to search upon entry and within the ballpark. Keep in mind that the ELI is closed on Saturday and Sunday. You will not be able to access the building until Monday if you leave your belongings in the locker room.

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.

Lastly, guests are allowed to bring food and bottled water into the park.

Water bottles must be sealed, never opened, and may NOT be larger than 24 oz. Alcoholic beverages, cans, glass bottles, open water bottles, and thermoses are **not** permitted.

For more information about security at PNC Park, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5gwv4j>.

FREE Activities



From Sept. 19 to Oct. 13, celebrate “RADical Days” in Pittsburgh. “RADical Days” is an annual event celebrating the valuable cultural assets of Pittsburgh with almost one month’s worth of free activities -- including free opera performances, free museum admission, free symphony performance, free zoo admission, and so much more!

“RAD” stands for “Regional Assets Development.” Their goal is to develop and promote the cultural resources of Pittsburgh. The RADical Days activities are a way that the city says “thank you” to people in Pittsburgh for supporting the city throughout the year. For a list of ALL the free activities offered, go to www.radworkshere.org/pages/radical-days-2019.



This past Monday, September 23, the fall season officially began. Sometimes called autumn, this season is our transition from the warmth and sunshine of summer to the cold and snow of winter. As you may have already noticed, the sun begins to set earlier in fall, the nights are cooler, and in this area of the US the leaves begin to change colors and fall off the branches. Change is an inherent part of fall. Because of the passing of summer and all of these changes, fall is sometimes associated with a feeling of melancholy (sadness). Don’t be sad though!!! Fall brings the beautiful colors of the leaves, Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations, football and basketball season, and lots of fun.

If you need help with feelings of extreme melancholy, sadness or depression for any reason, please talk with Stacy or your ELI teachers. They can provide you with contacts who can help you deal with these feelings. You can also make an appointment to talk with a professional at the University of Pittsburgh’s Counseling Center. This service is free and confidential, but you must make an appointment. For more information about the Counseling Center’s services or to make an appointment, visit www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cc/.

ELI Activity:

English-Chinese Language Social Hour

The Asian Studies Center in the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) has partnered with the ELI to offer various Language Social Hours as a way for international students at Pitt to meet and hang out with domestic students at Pitt who are interested in learning about their language and culture. The second event this term is:

English-Chinese Language Social Hour
Friday, October 4 * 4:30 to 5:30
Posvar Hall, Room 4130

Refreshments will be served. There will also be an English-Korean language social hour and other events happening this term. Look for more information in upcoming issues of the ELI News. For questions about these Language Social Hours, email asia@pitt.edu.

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.

“under the weather”

(informal) slightly ill

Examples:

- You look a bit under the weather.
- I feel under the weather today, so I will go to sleep early tonight.

Source: www.idoceanline.com

Banned Books Week

It might surprise you to learn that some books are banned or prohibited in some schools and libraries in some states in the US. This is because the US Federal Government allows each state some control over its education system. States that ban certain books do so because their state governments judged the content of the book to be inappropriate. This is controversial because of the 1st Amendment, which guarantees freedom of expression.

Banned Books Week is an annual awareness campaign by the American Library Association and Amnesty International that celebrates the freedom to read. It always occurs during the last week of September. Books are banned or challenged due to state laws regarding the appropriateness of political, legal, religious, moral or commercial issues about or contained inside the book. You can

easily find a list of banned books online.

The University of Pittsburgh will celebrate Banned Book Week in America with a series of events. This week, on Thursday, September 26th, you can stop in at the Hillman Library for a Pop-Up by City of Asylum and a Censorship & Intellectual Freedom Panel Discussion. More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yybfomq2>

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has an excellent article explaining why certain books are banned here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2hle5uc>

Immunization Records

The University of Pittsburgh requires all students to submit records of their immunization. Please make sure that you do this **before October 1, 2019**. Since many of your immunization records are not in English, please **download the Student Health Service Data and Immunization Record Form** (<https://tinyurl.com/y63caaj9>) and print it out. Fill out the form and take it and a printed copy of your immunization records to Student Health Services **in person**. The address is:

University of Pittsburgh
Student Health Services
Nordenberg Hall—Wellness Center
119 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

If you Immunization Records are not compliant with the University of Pittsburgh's Minimum Requirements (found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3efkmbg>), you can receive updated vaccinations during the Student Health Services walk-in clinics Monday-Friday from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Student Activities with Pitt GlobalTies

GlobalTies is a student organization at Pitt whose mission is to welcome international students into Pitt's campus community and fostering a

true sense of belonging and support. Just like the ELI plans activities for our students, GlobalTies plans activities for all international students at Pitt and American students who want to meet international students. They have many exciting activities and events coming up that you might be interested in. These are all great ways to have fun, make friends with other students at Pitt, and practice your English:

Free Pitt Family Weekend Events: Sept. 27-28

Family Weekend is a part of university culture in which the university will host a variety of fun events, such as games and movies, for students to attend with their parents. Because this might be difficult for international students since they are far away from home, Global Ties would like to invite international students to attend some of the Family Weekend events with Global Ties Mentors.

- Family Dessert Reception - Fri., Sept. 27, 9:00 pm, William Pitt Union, Assembly Room
- Nordy's Game of Games - Fri., Sept. 27, 10:00 pm, William Pitt Union, Nordy's Café
- Trivia - Sat., Sept. 28, 8:30 pm, William Pitt Union, Lower Lounge
- Movie: Avengers Endgame - Sat., Sept. 28, 9:00 pm, Alumni Hall Auditorium

Please register in advance to participate in any or all of the Family Weekend events above at <https://tinyurl.com/y6bjs6vw>.

Frick Mansion Tour: October 5

This event includes a High Tea and a guided tour of a beautiful 19th century Victorian Era home. Tickets are \$10. Sign up and pay for this event on the 6th floor of the William Pitt Union by Friday, September 27 at 4 pm.

Global Getaway: October 11-12

This event is a getaway or retreat at Camp Laurelville where students will build cross cultural connections, enjoy campsite activities, and participate in a drum circle led by a member of the band Rusted Root! Tickets are \$25 which covers all transportation, food, and housing. ELI students participate in this

activity every year and always have a great time! Registration for Global Getaway closes September 30th so sign up while you can! Sign up and pay for this event on the 6th floor of the William Pitt Union.

These activities are only open to Pitt students with a valid Pitt ID; family and friends who do not have a valid Pitt ID are not permitted. For more information about these events and other GlobalTies events, visit www.facebook.com/pg/Pitt.GlobalTies/events. To join their email list, go to <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cld/international/> and enter your email address in the "Subscribe" box at the bottom of the page.

For questions about any of these events, email Kyoungah Lee, International Programming Coordinator and Advisor at kyoungahlee@pitt.edu.

ELI Important Dates Reminder

Some very important dates are coming up at the University of Pittsburgh English Language Institute! Please keep these dates in mind as you plan your activities and trips!

OCTOBER 14, 2019: ELI Fall Break! Enjoy a Monday free of classes!

NOVEMBER 25-29, 2019: Thanksgiving Break! No classes!

We will have more information about Thanksgiving in upcoming issues, so let us know if you have any questions. We'll be happy to include them in our future article!