



ELI NEWS

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

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Thanksgiving Break



Remember that **all classes** are **canceled** for the Thanksgiving holiday! The ELI will be closed Thursday, November 24-Sunday, November 27.

The ELI Main Office will remain open on Wednesday, November 23. Classes will be held as normal on Monday, November 28. Have a great break!

ELI Activity:

ELI NIGHT

Saturday, November 19
Please sign up!



Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on Saturday, November 19 from 5-

8pm in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. ELI Night is a potluck dinner for ELI students and teachers, Talk Time leaders, conversation partners, and their families and friends. At a potluck dinner, everyone brings a dish to share. The dish should be enough to feed you and your guests and approximately 6-8 others. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!

Please let us know if you will be attending. You can do this online at <http://tinyurl.com/ENFall2016>. Let us know if you are coming and how many guests (homestay family members, conversation partners, Talk Time leaders, friends) will be coming with you. We want to make sure that we have enough tables and chairs for everyone!

You should plan to arrive at the Union at 5pm. Do not arrive early unless you would like to assist with setting up. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm. If you arrive after this time, you will miss out on a great deal of delicious food! At 7pm, ELI teachers, students, and their guests will have the pleasure of watching a dance performance by several ELI students. You don't want to miss it!

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. 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. 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. Please, your feedback helps us to be better. We can't do it without you!

The surveys will be available starting Monday, November 14. Please respond by Thursday, December 1. The survey will not be available after December 1. Please be sure to respond before that day. If you have any questions, ask any or all of your teachers.

Scholarship for International Students



If you are studying on an F1 visa and have been accepted to an eligible college or university undergraduate or graduate program for the 2016/2017 academic year, you may be eligible for the SelfScore scholarship. You must score in the top 15% on a standardized U.S. college entrance exam, such as SAT or GRE, and you must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from your previous studies. Check out the following website to see if you qualify:

<https://www.selfscore.com/scholarship>

Stacy's Office Hours Term Break

I know that some of you may need to see me after the ELI term ends. Remember, if you are planning to leave the U.S. and return to the ELI next semester, I must sign your I-20 before you go. If you need me for this, or for any other reason, please note the following dates and times.

I will be available in my office (M22) during the hours below. I will not be available any other time during the break, and I will not write letters of recommendation or review statements of purpose over the break, so please plan carefully.

Monday, December 12	Tuesday, December 13	Wednesday, December 14
9:00-10:00 pm	12:00-1:00 pm	12:00- 1:00 pm

ELI Writing Contest



Have you written a composition that you are proud of this semester? Did your writing teacher give you a good grade or praise one of your compositions?

If you answered "yes," then you should enter your composition in the ELI Writing Contest!

This contest is for students in all writing classes. Students can submit one composition that they have written for their writing class this semester. There will be 5 winners, one for each level, and the winners will be announced at the closing ceremony on December 8.

Students in levels 4, 5 and 6 must submit an essay if they want to enter the contest. Students in levels 2 and 3 can submit a shorter composition. All students who want to enter should notify their writing teacher and submit their entry through their writing teacher. Two judges will read the compositions and choose a winner for each level.

The deadline for entering is Monday, November 28, at 4:00 pm.

Pre-registration for Next Term

If you are planning to continue in the ELI and you have not seen Stacy, you must visit her during her office hours by December 1 to sign up for classes.

Remember, the ELI enrollment is very full. If you want to participate in classes, you must pre-register. If you want to return to the ELI next semester and you have not talked to Stacy yet, you must see her soon.

Statement of Purpose Information Session

When you apply to academic programs in the US, most universities ask for a statement of purpose. Many people believe that the statement of purpose is the most important piece of a college application. Your statement of purpose is your chance to tell the admissions

committee who you really are. Do you know what to include in your statement? Just as important, do you know what not to include?

If you would like tips on how to write an effective and clear statement of purpose, come to the statement of purpose session on Tuesday, November 29 from 4:00-5:00 pm in Room 111. You must sign up for this presentation. See Stacy in room M22 or email her at sar72@pitt.edu to reserve your space. Hope to see you there!

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Fall 2016

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

Friday, December 2	Monday, December 5	Tuesday, December 6
Writing final 10:00-12:00	Grammar final 10:00-12:00	Reading final 10:00-12:00
Speaking final 1:00-3:00	Listening final 2:00-4:00	

Free Global Ties Thanksgiving Dinner at Pitt!

Do you have plans for this year's Thanksgiving? If not, you might be interested in the FREE dinner on Wednesday, November 23, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the William Pitt Union.



Pitt Global Ties is providing the free meal for University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate and Graduate students. However, if you have a friend or family member who is not a Pitt student, they may also attend for a fee of \$30 per person and \$10 each for children under 12. The dinner will be

hosted by Dr. Kenyon Bonner who is the Vice Provost and Dean of Students at the University of Pittsburgh.

If you are interested in attending this free Thanksgiving dinner, sign up before Friday, November 18 at the William Pitt Union ticket office, Mon-Fri, from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. You must show your Pitt ID when you register. The deadline to sign up is Friday, November 18 at 5:00 PM, or when tickets are sold out. Space is limited! Please note: If you register for this event but do not show up your Pitt account will be charged for each person on the reservation that does not show up. See the event page on Facebook for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1235268243171138/>

Short Classes, December 8

The final day of classes in the ELI is a day for you to receive feedback from your teachers on your work and to review your final exams. On this day, the ELI holds shorter classes, so you will meet at a slightly different time. Your class will meet in your usual room. Check the schedule below for the times of short classes December 8:

If your class begins at...	then your short class on Dec. 8 meets from...
9:00 am	10:10 – 10:25 am
10:00 am	10:30 – 10:45 am
11:00 am	10:50 – 11:05 am
12:00 noon	11:10 – 11:25 am
1:00 pm	11:30 – 11:45 am
2:00 pm	11:50 – 12:05 pm
3:00 pm	12:10 – 12:25 pm
1:00 – 3:00 Closing Ceremony Dining Room, O'Hara Student Center	

Coffee Talk on Fridays!

4:00 – 6:00 pm
Panera (3800 Forbes Ave.)



Study Room Available

The ELI can offer Room 102 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1:00-1:45 pm for a quiet place to study.



Please note the following rules:

- No food in classrooms
- No drinks in classrooms unless using a spill-proof cup
- No noise: These classrooms are for students who want to study
- Use the Vault for socializing

If the rules are broken, the study room will be removed from the schedule.

Continuing Students: New Schedules for Spring 2017 Term

By Stacy Ranson

Please note that you can pick up your schedules for next semester anytime after 12:00 pm on Thursday, January 12 in the ELI Main Office. Classes will start Friday, January 13. Remember that attendance is taken beginning on the first day of class, so if you return late, you will be marked absent. Also, you must return from your break by Friday, January 20, or you will not be able to attend the ELI for the spring term.

This Weekend! Downtown Pittsburgh's Light Up Night

The Biggest Party on the Biggest Night of the Year!



Kick off the holiday season here in Pittsburgh with the 56th annual Light Up Night in downtown Pittsburgh! The highlight of the evening

is the lighting of Christmas trees around the city for the first time in 2016.

The tree in PPG Plaza—the glass castle-looking building—will be lit at 5:30, while the “Unity Tree” at the corner of Stanwix St. and Penn Ave. will be lit at 7:00. A rooftop fireworks presentation will accompany the lighting of the “Unity Tree,” and there are performances and activities throughout the entire day! For more information, visit the website of WTAE, a local news station:

<http://www.wtae.com/article/light-up-night-is-back-celebration-begins-in-downtown-pittsburgh/7475390>

ELI Closing Ceremony

by Stacy Ranson

The ELI would like to invite you to the Closing Ceremony for this semester. The ceremony will be on December 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Dining Room of the O'Hara Student Center. We'll take pictures, have some refreshments, and hand out attendance certificates at the ceremony. You all have played a big role in making this semester great—we hope you'll come celebrate with us!

F1 Students and Part Time Study

Students with F1 visas have the benefit of taking a vacation term. If you have studied full time at the ELI for two semesters, you can choose to take a break next semester.

Please remember that you must **pre-register** for this benefit, though. You cannot change to a vacation term after the term starts. There are no exceptions to this rule. The deadline for choosing a vacation term for F1 students is December 5, 2016

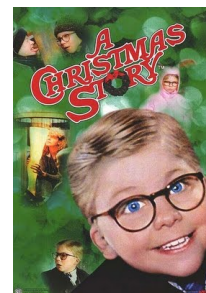
Also, please remember that students who are sponsored by their governments are not usually allowed to take vacation terms because of sponsor rules. If you are a sponsored student and would like to take a vacation term, you must provide a letter of permission from your sponsor before December 5. This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself. There is no extension to this deadline.

ELI Activity:

A Christmas Story the Musical

Get your ticket!

There are 24 of us going to see A Christmas Story the Musical on Tuesday, November 22. Please pick up your ticket on Monday or Tuesday. Ece will be in her office, M06, from 12:30-1:30 pm on those days. On Tuesday, November 22, we will leave from the ELI at 6:00 pm. You can also meet us downtown if you have your ticket.



The performance is at the Benedum Center downtown and runs from approximately 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm. If you bring your backpack or other type of bag to the Benedum, make sure it is no larger than 16" x 16" x 8".

I-20 Expiration Dates for F-1 Students

By Stacy Ranson

The end of the semester is coming soon! If you are an F-1 student, please check the expiration date on your I-20. On page 1 of your I-20, under #5, you will see a beginning date for your studies and a completion date for your studies. **Remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that your I-20 does not expire!** If your I-20 will expire at the end of this semester, you must see Stacy Ranson if you want to extend your time at the ELI. **It is too late to request an extension after your I-20 has expired**, so please take a moment to check now.

ELI Calendar Online



When is the last day of classes? When does the Spring term start? When is the next vacation? Find out by checking the calendar on the ELI website:

<http://www.eli.pitt.edu/calendar/index.html>

The Best Korean Restaurant in Pittsburgh

by Eunji Kim



There are three reasons that Korea Garden is the best Korean restaurant in Pittsburgh. The first reason is that the food is awesome. Their

foods are original Korean foods, not an American-Korean style. For example, the typical Korean style of cooking has a lot of side dishes such as kimchi, fish balls, baked beans, salted radish. This restaurant does well. They have a fantastic variety of Korean food. Their menu is always changing every season, so you have various options to choose from. They also have Korean-Chinese style food. My favorite is "jjambong", Korean-Chinese style spicy noodles with seafood.

The second reason is that the service is well organized. The staff is always friendly and knowledgeable. They often ask me 'How was your dish?', 'Everything's OK?'. If I need it, they refill my drink and side dishes. This place is very small and looks old but it is very clean.

The final reason I enjoy Korea Garden is that the prices are reasonable. Not only do I love their food, but also I love their cheap prices. For instance, you can enjoy Japchae, Korean glass noodles with various vegetables for a lunch special. It's an only \$11.00. Furthermore, they give visitors gum at the end of meal. I think this is so cool.

Because of these three reasons, I recommend Korea Garden restaurant. Stop by there for some original Korean style and Korean-Chinese style food. In particular, I recommend these dishes: Bibimbab, Bulgoki, and Cold noodles. It will be a great experience for you.

Scam Phone Calls

Several international students in the Pittsburgh area have received 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.

The Pitt Police suggests that you write down the incoming number, if possible. The Pitt Police also warns students not to release any personal information concerning your identity.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Stacy.

The Best Restaurant in Pittsburgh

by Emika Maruoka

The Commoner is the best restaurant in Pittsburgh for two reasons. First of all, all kinds of food in The Commoner are delicious. For example, hamburgers are juicy meat and the cheese melts in your mouth. When one orders hamburger, the waitress asks "How would you like your steak cooked?" So, one can choose. In addition, The French fries are served when they are taken out of the deep fryer. They are hot and crispy, so one can eat a lot of them.



The second reason is that The Commoner has a luxurious atmosphere. For instance, the waiters and the waitresses are very kind and friendly. They always pay attention to guests, so they help them immediately if one has trouble. Also, it is the perfect restaurant for any significant situation, such as, birthdays, anniversaries, or dates with an important person. One

can celebrate birthdays or anniversaries because this restaurant has good service, so people were celebrating a birthday when I went to there.

Because of these two reasons, the Commoner is the best restaurant in Pittsburgh if you are looking for great food and a great atmosphere to take someone out to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries, or to go out with an important person.

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 after you complete your final term of study 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 request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of the 60 days, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

Gingerbread House-Making!

by Anthony Verardi

Join the Pitt Program Council on the evening of Thursday, December 8 at 10:00 PM for a relaxing night of decorating houses made from gingerbread!



Gingerbread is a type of traditional holiday cookie. Houses will be available to decorate in the WPU Assembly Room and the Kurtzman Room.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the WPU Ticket Office. See their website for more details:

<http://ppc.pitt.edu/events/gingerbread-house-making/>

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Saturday, November 19: ELI Night

Tuesday, November 22: A Christmas Story musical