THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Student Spotlight
New Photo Contest!
Important Travel Information
Explore Pittsburgh: Lawrenceville
Culture Corner: The Holiday Season
OIS December/January Calendar
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Office of International Services (OIS)
708 William Pitt Union
ois.pitt.edu

Walk in hours:
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday:
1-4 PM

Do you have ideas for the Global Perspective or know a student who deserves to be featured? Email us at ois@pitt.edu!
OFFICE CLOSINGS DURING WINTER BREAK

Please keep in mind that the University is closed from December 22 through January 2.

(Some offices on campus may close a few hours early on Thursday, December 21, so please plan accordingly.)

OIS will re-open on Tuesday, January 2. If you have a question, you may email us at ois@pitt.edu. Someone will monitor that account, and send a response if your matter is truly urgent. All other questions will be answered upon our return to work in January.

Best wishes for a wonderful winter break and stay warm!
During the holiday season when celebrations and social gatherings are at their peak, it is a good time to remind everyone of the dangers of drinking and driving. Not only is it unsafe for the driver, passengers and anyone encountered on the roadway, it is also a major risk for international students, scholars and employees. While a conviction of a DUI (driving under the influence) or DWI (driving while intoxicated) has always been a potential reason for a visa denial at the US Consulates abroad, even an arrest for either can now lead to visa revocation.

In April 2016, the Department of State (DOS) issued guidance instructing consular officers to revoke visas for individuals in the US who have been charged with a DUI-related offense. Arrests for DUI-related offenses trigger an NCIC (National Criminal Information Center) hit. Both DHS and DOS have access to this database. Therefore, both a change of status application made to USCIS and a visa application with DOS will result in questions related to the DUI event which at a minimum will delay the application and in the worst case, result in a denial of the change of status or a denial of the visa.

It is important to note that if the F-1, J-1 or H-1B’s visa is revoked any dependents’ visas will be revoked as well. This means that the next time anyone travels outside of the United States, a visa interview will be required to obtain a new valid entry visa. Individuals with a DUI-related arrest or conviction within the prior 5 years will be referred to a Panel Physician who makes an assessment regarding alcoholism or drug abuse. If cleared by the Panel Physician, the visa application continues. To prepare for the CBP entry at the US border, individuals should have all of the DUI-related paperwork in their carry-on luggage. This documentation would only be necessary should further inquiries be made by the CBP officer.
In summary, while it may be uncomfortable to discuss, it is important that you alert your Immigration Specialist in OIS of any DUI-related arrest or conviction. If we are filing a Change of Status application on your behalf, this incident will come up. If you travel after the incident, you will need a new visa. And, in rare instances, it is possible that ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) will be informed and decide that removal is warranted. If you are arrested, it is recommended to consult both a criminal attorney and an immigration attorney for representation on both areas of concern.

Finally, driving under the influence of alcohol is a crime that is taken seriously in the United States. To avoid this situation, plan your transportation to and from social events in advance. Use a designated driver, Uber, Lyft or taxi. Be responsible. Please follow all laws for safe driving. **Do not drink and drive.**

**DISCLAIMER: OIS does not intend this information as legal advice. By providing this information, we are not acting as a lawyer. If you need legal advice, you should contact a lawyer.**

**Did you Know...?**

- PA’s legal limit of alcohol is .08. This is the Blood Alcohol Content level that triggers the arrest for a DUI.
- Impairment is not determined by the type of drink, but rather the amount of alcohol over a period of time
- Standard drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or a 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits
- Only time will sober up a person
- On average, 2 out of 3 people will be involved in a drunk-driving crash in their lifetime
- DUIs are not limited to alcohol, drivers can also be under the influence of drugs (illicit as well as prescription)
Meet the New OIS Staff!

Eric Higgins is one of our new student workers. He is a junior at Pitt and is originally from Erie, PA. He’s studying Linguistics with certificates in Arabic and Asian Studies. After graduation, he hopes to work with documenting endangered languages.

Originally from Delaware, Nicole Cochran is studying Political Science, Communication, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s studies. She hopes to get her PhD in Sociology, and do research on women, families, cultures, and expressions and sites of power and dominance. She loves to read, exercise (especially cycling!), and come up with new healthy recipes! She has been rock climbing, parasailing, and skydiving, and hopes to try bungee jumping someday. Nicole also works at the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid as a tour guide and a member of the Pitt Pathfinders! Next semester she will study abroad in Athens, Prague, and Dublin. While abroad she will be doing a service learning project with LGBTQ+ teens.
TRAVEL TIPS FOR F-1 & J-1 STUDENTS

- Make sure to have all required documents: most recent I-20s or DS-2019s signed for travel, valid Passports, valid visas, and EAD cards if you are on OPT.

- We recommend also traveling with proof of financial support and proof of enrollment (transcript and an enrollment verification letter from the Registrar).

- You may need a visa to enter the country to which you are travelling. Please be sure to check with that country’s Embassy or Consulate in the U.S.

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials can search students’ electronic devices. CBP can deny a student entry to the US if the student fails to comply. For more information, please see here and here.

Have a great winter break and stay safe!
What do we mean when we talk about the “holiday season”? November through December is referred to as the holiday season because there are many holidays in a short amount of time! The major ones after Thanksgiving are:

**Christmas**—December 25th, a Christian holiday celebrated traditionally with gift-giving to friends and family, a “visit” from Santa, and lots of food!

**Hanukkah**—December 12th-20th (this year), a Jewish holiday celebrated by giving gifts and lighting a menorah, one candle for each night

**Kwanzaa**—December 26th– January 1st, an African festival which celebrates life

**New Years**—January 1st midnight, celebrated all over the world, but a US tradition is watching the ball drop in Times Square!
Famous Holiday Songs

One holiday tradition in the States is “Christmas caroling” where groups of children and choirs go door to door during the holiday season to sing the songs of the season. This is one way people try to spread “holiday cheer”.

You can find many of the lyrics online, but some of the most traditional songs are:

Joy to the World, Away in a Manger, Silver Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Carol of the Bells, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Silent Night, Frosty the Snowman

There are also a lot of classic songs that are made into popular culture songs. If you go to a mall during the holiday season you will be sure to hear some, if not all, of these!

Baby, It’s Cold Outside— Dean Martin
It’s Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas— Michael Buble
All I want for Christmas Is you— Mariah Carey
Last Christmas— Wham!
Congratulations to our own Kati von Lehman for receiving one of the prestigious Chancellor awards! She is the first annual recipient of the University-wide **Innovation in Advancing Administrative and Operational Efficiency Award**.

This distinction is awarded to a staff member who has made exceptional contributions to effectiveness and efficiency in the workplace, including implementing innovative approaches, improving productivity, and developing cost-saving plans.

**Kati von Lehman, Compliance Coordinator for the Office of International Services**

**Congrats Kati! We are so proud!**
Lawrenceville is located north-east of downtown, along the Allegheny river. Technically comprised of three different neighborhoods (lower, central and upper) it is known as of the “up and coming” neighborhoods. Throughout the years Lawrenceville has transformed into a hub for nightlife, trendy restaurants, hip bars and art/cultural exhibits, mostly located on Butler Street.

The Row House cinema plays movies and also have some “theme weeks.” Arsenal Bowling is a huge bowling alley, with discounted nights and theme nights, making it a perfect activity for a night out with friends or with your family (although after 9pm, the alley is 21 and over!)

If you’re looking for a quiet place to walk and enjoy some nature in the city, the Allegheny cemetery offers miles of paved paths up and down the expansive cemetery, allowing you to escape the bustle of the city!

**Fun Fact:**
The Allegheny arsenal was located in Lawrenceville during the 1800s. It was an important supply and manufacturing center for the Union Army during the American Civil War.

**OIS Staff Picks:**
- Banh Mi & Ti ($, Vietnamese)
- Barb’s Diner ($, American Breakfast)
- Dijlah Restaurant ($$, Middle Eastern)
- Piccolo Forno ($$$, Italian)
- Smoke BBQ ($$, Smokehouse)
- Patitsio ($$, Greek)
- Umami ($$, Japanese)
Student Spotlight

What is your favorite thing about winter?

- Wanling Zhu
  Engineering
  Shanghai, China
  Cold weather

- Helen Shou
  Engineering
  Shanghai, China
  Holiday season shopping and discounts!

- Andréa Hanna
  DSAS
  Kilkeel, Northern Ireland
  Meeting friends with hot coffee
OIS Photo Contest

What is this a picture of?

For your chance to be entered into a raffle; look at this zoomed in picture of someplace around the Pitt campus.

If you think you know where this picture was taken, email us at ach90@pitt.edu. Even if you aren’t sure, take a guess!

The correct answer from last month’s contest was John Woodruff’s Gold Medal in the Hillman Library.

Congratulations to Snehal Kalam, last month’s winner!
## Dates and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday</td>
<td>J-1 Scholar Orientation @ OIS, 10:30-Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 11-16</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17, Sunday</td>
<td>Residence Halls Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 22-Jan 1,</td>
<td>Most Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 31- Jan. 1</td>
<td>New Year’s Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>University (and OIS) re-opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6 Saturday</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 8, Monday</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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### Experience America Activities:

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<tr>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mondays 6:30—7:45PM</td>
<td>$5 Yoga @ Irman Freeman Center for Imagination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays 12:00-1:00PM</td>
<td>Artful Wednesday’s at Nordy’s Place (Pitt Union)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays 2:00-3:00PM</td>
<td>Arts Celebration at Carnegie Library</td>
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