OIS Coffee Hour Featuring
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Alberta Sbragia

Alberta Sbragia is passionate about international education. Having studied and researched abroad during two separate segments of her education in political science, she brings a unique perspective to the University of Pittsburgh. She has been a member of the faculty at Pitt since the completion of her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, although she also served as a visiting Professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Business Administration in the early 1980s. She has been recognized as a teacher and mentor, both internationally and within the University: named by the European Union as Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in recognition of her teaching and research related to the European Union and as the inaugural holder of the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair, as well as A UCIS Research Professor. For the rest of Dr. Sbragia’s Bio, click here.

Join Dr. Sbragia and OIS to discuss your experience in the US and your plans in Academia at a coffee hour on Monday, February 11th from 3 until 5 PM in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union. Light refreshments will be served.

Important Update about 2012 Tax Information

Any individual present in the US in F-1 or J-1 status (and their dependents) during any part of 2012 must submit at least one tax form even if he/she did not work and did not earn income. The required form is Form 8843, titled “Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals With a Medical Condition.” If you earned income during 2012, you must also prepare US Federal, Pennsylvania State (and/or the state in which you lived/worked) and Local Tax Forms.

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2012 Tax Information (Continued)

If you receive “important tax documents” or documents numbered “W-2”, “1042-S” or “1098-T”, keep these documents until you are ready to prepare your tax paperwork for 2012. Form 1042-S for the 2012 calendar year may not be distributed to you until mid-March 2013. You should NOT prepare your tax return until you receive your 1042-S. Visit OIS’ Tax Website for definitions of these forms.

OIS provides a great deal of information on our Tax Website including a table to determine if you are a resident or nonresident for tax purposes. Your residency status for tax purposes may be different from your immigration status. Additionally, we have forms, definition of filing requirements, and information about GLACIER Tax Prep, a software designed to assist nonresidents for tax purposes to prepare their federal tax returns and Forms 8843. You will access GLACIER Tax Prep (GTP) via the Pitt Portal (https://my.pitt.edu). Find information about the software here. Access to GTP will be available by February 10, 2013 or before.

Tax Assistance and Resources:

OIS staff cannot provide in-person assistance with ANY tax questions, including printing or explaining forms. Staff in OIS are not tax professionals. Please see the website for recommendations for tax professionals.

Questions about Tax Requirements for Nonresidents for Tax Purposes?

Visit OIS’s Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the Taxes website.

Additionally, two available tax workshops, presented by Cohen and Grigsby, P.C., are designed to help inform you about requirements for nonresidents for tax purposes. The sessions will not provide direct assistance with completion of your forms.

- Monday, February 25, 2013, 10 AM—12 PM, African Room, 3rd Floor, Duquesne Union, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh. Pitt students are welcome to and invited to attend.

- Monday, March 18, 2013, 4 PM—6 PM, Ballroom, William Pitt Union.

Deadline for mailing all tax documents for the 2012 year is April 15, 2013.
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For more information about the above-listed programs, visit the following webpages:
- [Experience America](#)
- [Internship / Employment Information for J-1 Students](#)
- [Coffee Hour with the Vice Provost](#)
- [Internship / Employment Information for F-1 Students](#)
- [Taxes for Non-Residents](#)
- [Optional Practical Training](#)
- [Other OIS Events](#)
Understanding Volunteering versus Employment

Volunteering
• An activity that is personal interest or that you enjoy doing.
• Part of a volunteer program.
• Something for which you are not compensated.
• Typical examples include:
  • Volunteering with your church or other religious organization (i.e. singing in the choir)
  • Volunteering at a hospital (i.e. visiting sick children)
• Authorization is not required for these volunteer opportunities.

Employment / Paid Internships
• Jobs or internships for which you are compensated in some way.
• On-campus employment (i.e. your paycheck comes from Pitt) is permitted without additional authorization for F-1 students. J-1 students must acquire separate authorization from their sponsoring organization.
• Off-campus employment related to your major requires prior authorization before beginning work. Some types of authorization include Curricular Practical Training and Optional Practical Training for F-1 students and Academic Training for J-1 students.
• Off-campus employment unrelated to your major (i.e. retail, customer service, food delivery, restaurant employees) is not permitted for any non-immigrants in F or J status.
• You can learn more about these types of authorizations and submit requests via My OIS or on OIS’ website.

Unpaid Internships
• Unpaid opportunities in which you use your skills or are working in your field of study at Pitt.
• Typical examples include:
  • An unpaid internship with the Mayor’s Office
  • An unpaid internship with the United Nations
• Some type of employment authorization may be required, depending on the situation, unless the experience will be on campus or outside of the US.
• Seek authorization via My OIS or consult with an OIS Immigration Specialist about this type of experience.

Unpaid Work
• You must not accept an opportunity for which others (i.e. US citizens) would be or are paid but that you do for free. This is ILLEGAL and is a violation of US Labor Laws.
Student Volunteer Experience

OIS student worker, Xuehong (Shirley) Li is featured for her awesome volunteering—

Where do you volunteer?
UPMC Shadyside

How long have you been volunteering?
Almost 3 Months

Why did you decide to start volunteering?
I want to know what I am going to do with my major in the future, start to do what I can do right now and also want to enrich my experience.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?
I love talking to some patients and start to know them; also introduce my major to them and let them get to know how important nutrition is.

What is one of your favorite experiences that you had while volunteering?
I got a chance visiting the patients’ kitchen once and I was so surprised that they had to take so many nutritional supplements; different patients had to maintain a constant calorie-intake per day. But it was a really interesting thing to hear about patients complaining about their meals.

DO YOU HAVE FUN PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?

If not, check out Alternative Break, a program which offers community based projects that include a way to get involved with members of a US community and exposure to the problems, customs and culture of the region in which you are working.

Placements are available with Cumberland Trail in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee; Youth Service Opportunities Project in Washington, D.C. and Habitat for Humanity in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

To receive information about Alternative Break, send an e-mail to Alternative Break »
Type “register” in the subject line or visit the Student Volunteer Office page about Alternative Break.

Alternative Break
University of Pittsburgh
I have been very excited to try the new sushi restaurant in Oakland, Sushi Fuku. Sushi Fuku, meaning ‘lucky sushi’, offers a unique experience because the diner can create his or her own sushi dish. The coined saying ‘roll it or bowl it’ means that the entrée can be rolled (like traditional sushi), or made in a rice or salad bowl. There are suggested sushi combinations, or one can create a personal roll by choosing a protein, vegetables, and sauces. On my recent visit, I decided to create my own roll. I was intrigued with the rice flattening machine that started the sushi making process! I chose brown rice with raw tuna, asparagus, avocado, and cucumber, topped with the wasabi ginger mayo. There were so many options to choose from! The sushi was rolled just right, portioned in to 10 very decent size pieces. On the cold winter day, I also ordered a bowl of the miso soup. There were several other tempting sides, including seaweed salad, shrimp dumpling, and mochi ice cream. My lunch was delicious and I felt very satisfied. The ingredients were fresh and I loved being able to create my own roll. I felt that the price was very reasonable for the amount provided. I would highly recommend Sushi Fuku and plan to go back again and mix up a new combination! Sushi Fuku is located at 120 Oakland Ave. right off of Forbes Ave.

http://sushifuku.com/

SAVE the DATE! Pittsburgh Employment Seminar

The Office of International Services and the Career Development and Placement Assistance Office are collaborating with the Duquesne Career Office and Duquesne International Office, Carnegie Mellon University and Vibrant Pittsburgh to plan an International Career Seminar for F-1 students in Pittsburgh. The Seminar will provide F-1 students with a picture of What’s Next after graduation: An Immigration Workshop guiding students from F-1 to OPT to H-1B. The Seminar will also feature speakers from the Pittsburgh area to discuss the job market, interview skills, resume writing and will culminate with a networking session.

The Seminar will be held at Pitt in the O’Hara Student Center Ballroom on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Times and more details will be provided in the March Global Perspective!
February 3: Nordy’s Super Bowl Party (6-11pm) at Nordy’s WPU
Join Global Ties as we watch the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens battle it out in this year’s Super Bowl XLVII. Enjoy snacks, trivia, and learn why football is America’s greatest sport!
https://www.facebook.com/events/147108185445080/

February 8: KINA GRANNIS hosted by Asian Student Alliance WPU Assembly Room @ 7:30pm
Kina Grannis is a well-known singer and guitarist on YouTube. She was the winner of the Doritos Crash the Super Bowl contest and was chosen as the Best Web-Born Artist at the 2011 MTV O Music Awards.
https://www.facebook.com/events/560409287305335/

February 10: Beauty, Health, and Wellness hosted by Indian Sub-Continent Association WPU Dining Room B, 1-3:00pm
Come pamper yourself before Valentine’s Day at this relaxation Spa-type event.

February 13: Make Your Own Pepero by Korean Cultural Association (UNDERGRAD Only) WPU 6th Floor @ 7:30pm
Pepero are chocolate covered bread sticks that are usually given to friends and loved ones. Create this special treat as an unique Valentine’s Day gift!
https://www.facebook.com/events/473444366050355/

February 15: Valentine’s Social hosted by Pitt International Student Association, CSSA, MALACA, & FRESH WPU 548, 10:00pm-1:00am
Come dance around the world with PISA at this late night after Valentine’s Day party.

February 16: Snow Tubing at Allegheny County Parks (GRADUATE Only) Meet Outside William Pitt Union 2:30pm $15 Cash ONLY (RSVP 6th Floor WPU) by Feb 1st

February 16: Chinese New Year Festival hosted by Chinese American Student Association and Vietnamese Student Association O’Hara Student Center @ 5PM
Enjoy some performances, meet new people, and eat some FREE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE FOOD!

February 26: Becky Lee hosted by Korean Cultural Association and Campus Women Organization WPU Ballroom, 7:30pm
Stared in “Survivor” during the summer of 2006, Becky Lee has a national non-profit dedicated to the prevention and education of domestic violence.
https://www.facebook.com/events/409972375752206/

DEADLINE PISA Outreach Committee Application (Due: Feb 15th)
http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pisaoutreach
American Cultural Holidays

In the United States there are a number of holidays we celebrate that may be unfamiliar to you. Below you will find some of the holidays you might hear people talking about and information about the holiday and how they are observed.

February — Groundhog Day (February 2nd)

This tradition began in Pennsylvania in the 18th or 19th century and relates to folklore about a weather predicting animal called a groundhog (also called a woodchuck). On February 2nd, the groundhog comes out of his den and looks at the ground. If he sees his shadow, he goes back into hibernation for another 6 weeks of winter. If he doesn’t see his shadow, he does not go back into hibernation because spring will come early. In the United States, there is a specific groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil (from Punxsutawny, Pennsylvania) that draws large crowds of up to 40,000 people each year to witness his prediction. If you are interested in attending the Punxsutawny celebration, the town is only a 90 minute drive from Pittsburgh. On the other hand, if you prefer to be a more passive participant, you can also rent the movie *Groundhog Day* which is a comedy focusing on the event.

April — Earth Day (April 22nd)

Earth Day was created by a senator from Wisconsin who called for a day of environmental education in 1970. His idea was for a grassroots teach-in where people could attend and learn more about the environment and the dangers the earth was facing. This event is now organized each year by the international [Earth Day Network](http://www.earthday.org) and is observed in more than 175 countries. In the United States on Earth Day, Americans concerned with the state of the environment try to make a commitment to volunteer or learn more about changes we can make in our daily lives to help reduce our impact on the earth’s resources. If you are interested in getting more involved in environmental groups, as a student—you can join [Free the Planet](http://www.freetheplanet.org) and as a scholar or employee—you can find a number of organizations in Pittsburgh dedicated to urban farming, reducing pollution, environmental education and more.

June — Take Your Dog to Work Day (June 21, 2013, the Friday after Father’s Day)

This holiday was created by Pet Sitters International (in the United Kingdom) to encourage more people to adopt dogs. The idea behind [Take Your Dog to Work Day](http://www.takedyourdogtowork.com) was that when people brought their friendly, four legged companions to work, their co-workers would want one too. Each year thousands of people take their dogs to work on this holiday with hundreds of companies supporting the event. There is even a photo contest with money going to the winner and their choice of animal shelter. That lucky dog!
American Cultural Holidays

September – Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19th)
This holiday was invented by two friends in Oregon when one of the men got hurt during a racquetball game and shouted “Aaaaaarrrr!” The friends then thought of the idea for Talk Like a Pirate Day. The friends then wrote a letter about their Pirate day to a humor columnist named Dave Barry who promoted the holiday in his syndicated newspaper column. The added media attention led to Talk Like a Pirate Day becoming a recognized international holiday. You can learn more about this holiday on the friends’ Talk Like a Pirate website.

October – National Coming Out Day (October 11th)
National Coming Out Day is a civil awareness day celebrating the queer community. This community includes individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT). This day was founded to celebrate people choosing to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity to others (also known as “coming out”) and to raise awareness of LGBT issues and concerns. October 11th was chosen as the date for National Coming Out Day when it was created in 1988 because it was the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. For more information about National Coming Out Day, you can visit this Human Rights Campaign website.

October – Mole Day (October 23rd)
Mole Day is named after Avogadro’s number (used in chemistry), which is $6.023 \times 10^{23}$. Avogadro’s number is a unit of measurement, similar to a dozen — only significantly larger. Because the number is multiplied by 10 to the 23rd power, this number is celebrated on 10/23 from 6:02am to 6:02pm. The holiday, mostly used by chemistry teachers in classrooms, inspired a retired high school chemistry teacher from Wisconsin to found the National Mole Day Foundation in 1991. Mole Day is now used by chemistry teachers in several countries to keep their students interested in their chemistry studies.

What are YOUR culture’s random holidays?
If you have similar folk, activism, or silly holidays in your country, we would love to hear about them! Please email OIS@pitt.edu and tell us about your favorite cultural holidays at home.
Pink the Petersen

PITT vs. G

Women’s Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 23rd @ 1pm
Petersen Events Center

FREE for all faculty, staff, & students!

- FREE pink Oakland Zoo shirt *First 1,000 students*
- Cash prizes of $500 and $250 for top two student organizations with largest attendance
- 4 loyalty points and OCC credit

$1 from every ticket sold benefits breast cancer research
To purchase tickets, visit www.pittsburghpanthers.com
or call 1-800-643-PITT (7488)
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

♦ 7th – Experience America event! Noon in Dining Room A WPU
♦ 10th – Chinese New Year
♦ 12th – Mardi Gras
♦ 14th – Valentine’s Day
♦ 18th – President’s Day & Pitt Basketball Game @ 7:00 pm Petersen Event Center
♦ 18th – Summer enrollment begins
♦ 23rd – ‘Pink the Pete’ Women’s Basketball game @ 1:00 pm Petersen Event Center
♦ 27th – Pitt Basketball Game @ 7:00 pm Petersen Event Center

March

♦ 3rd – Pitt Basketball Game @ 12:00 pm Petersen Event Center
♦ 7th – Experience America event! Noon in Dining Room A WPU
♦ 10th – Daylight Savings day
♦ 11th – 15th – Spring Break Week – No classes
♦ 15th – University closed (spring break)
♦ 25th – Fall enrollment begins
♦ 31st – Easter

ONGOING

Every Friday OIS hosts a session on Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 2PM—3PM. You can register for the OPT Info Session here.