The University of Pittsburgh is striving to make history this spring during the Give a Thread campaign. The Campaign is an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most clothing collected for the intent of donation or recycle.

Large articles (pants, shirts, jackets, suits, dresses, shorts, skirts, etc.) will be collected through the end of February, when the world record count is attempted. We are striving to collect at least 150,000 articles of clothing to bring this world record to Pittsburgh. The record is currently held in Dubai, UAE.

Articles should be clean but can be in any condition. For more information or FAQs, visit the Give a Thread website.

Drop Off Locations: (per building open times)

- W.W. Posvar Hall (Room 5801)
- Benedum Main Lobby
- Thackeray Hall Ground Floor
- William Pitt Union (Room 708, OIS)
- Information Science Building - 5th Floor
- Scaife Hall - 2nd Floor
- Parran Hall - 1st Floor lobby
TAXES: Important Update about 2014 Tax Information

Any individual present in the US in F-1 or J-1 status (and their dependents) during any part of 2014 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 2014, you must also prepare US Federal, Pennsylvania State (and/or the state in which you lived/worked) and Local Tax Forms.

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 2014. Forms 1042-S for the 2014 calendar year may not be distributed to you until mid-March 2015. 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 SPRINTAX, a software designed to assist nonresidents for tax purposes to prepare their federal tax returns and Forms 8843. More information about accessing SPRINTAX will be provided later in February via a separate email, in the March issue of Global Perspective, or online here.

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.

The deadline for mailing all tax documents for the 2014 year is April 15, 2015.
SUMMER ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI) CLASSES

Make the ELI part of your summer plans!
By Brian Deutsch, ELI Program Administrator

Are you staying in Pittsburgh this summer? Are you looking to improve your English ahead of the fall term? Are you interested in meeting new people and participating in social and cultural activities around the city? **If you answered yes to these questions, consider making the English Language Institute part of your summer plans!**

The ELI offers English courses year-round to international students in five subject areas: Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. Full- and part-time study is available, and students have a course load of between four and twenty hours of classroom instruction per week. Classes are designed for intermediate and advanced learners, and students are given schedules based on the results of the ELI placement test. A significant number of ELI students continue their undergraduate or graduate careers at American universities, including the University of Pittsburgh.

**In addition to English study, ELI students participate in regular social and cultural activities throughout Pittsburgh.** This is an ideal way for students to mix with people and places they might otherwise be too shy to meet. Popular summer activities include: the annual ELI picnic, trips to Pittsburgh Pirates baseball games, the Pittsburgh city tour, visits to musicals and plays downtown, and group trips to museums and art galleries. Each term the ELI takes a trip outside the city to places like New York City, Chicago, and Atlanta.

**The application deadline for the ELI’s summer term is March 15.** Applications are available online, at [eli.pitt.edu](http://eli.pitt.edu), and ELI staff can answer any questions you may have about the process. All students and visitors with a valid visa are welcome, and Pitt F-1 students who are currently in-status will not require an I-20 transfer.

The ELI is one of the oldest English as a Second Language institutes in the country, and has been teaching English to international students and to the Pittsburgh community since 1964. **Over 10,000 students from more than 130 countries have filled its classrooms, and this spring the ELI welcomed students from 26 different countries.** For more information about the ELI, or to take a tour of the facilities, please visit its website at [http://www.eli.pitt.edu](http://www.eli.pitt.edu) or email elipitt@pitt.edu.
A Celebration of Science & Technology Resources for Graduate Students at Pitt (and the Chinese / Korean Lunar New Year!)

Are you taking advantage of all of the resources that the University Library System has to offer? Join us for an afternoon of learning and socializing! On Thursday, February 19th, from 1 pm - 3 pm, a day that coincides with the Lunar New Year, join us for an overview of science & technology databases and services for graduate students. Learn about Scopus, Web of Science, Reaxys and other sources and how they can be useful for your research. You will also hear from the Writing Center about writing better papers, theses, and dissertations. Light refreshments will be offered.

Space is very limited. Registration for this event is required. Please reserve your space via email to Judy Brink, Engineering Library.

Chinese Magazines: Come to Read in the Library, or Check Out to Read at Home!

Do you know that now you can borrow and check out Chinese magazines and journals in addition to books? These magazines are both educational as well as entertaining, good for light reading and amusement for college students and general public. These cover literature, history, arts, film, TV drama, calligraphy, and general interests such as health, cuisine, and photography. To learn more, download this beautiful postcard.

Upcoming Library Workshops for PITT Community include:

- Box (Cloud Storage and File Sharing)
- Citation Management (EndNote and Mendeley)
- Data Visualization Tools
- Digital Portfolios (using WordPress)
- Google Books
- Google Scholar
- OpenRefine (formerly Google Refine)
- Pittcat+
- Spatial Analysis & GIS

Download Spring 2015 Workshops Schedule. Register here.
ALISON’S ZAPPA-TITE: Noodlehead

For this edition of Zappa-tite, a few OIS-ers ventured with me outside of Oakland over to 242 South Highland Ave. in Shadyside for one of my favorite spots – Noodlehead! Featuring Thai noodle dishes, Noodlehead is open for lunch and dinner and is a quick drive or bus ride on the 71B to get there.

I love this restaurant because the noodles are large portions with great flavor and a super reasonable price; the most expensive dish is $9! On my recent lunch trip to Noodlehead, I ordered one of my go-to dishes, the Kee Mao, which is big flat rice noodles, bok choy, and spicy basil sauce with tofu. I love the taste of thai basil and I order this dish at spice level of 2… Noodlehead has a scale from 0 to 5 and can definitely bring some heat! I would also recommend the Pork Belly Steam Buns appetizer. The pork has a great wholesome flavor nestled with cucumbers on 2 super soft folded buns. I love the atmosphere of this restaurant too, with dim lighting, funky furniture, and cool plants. I hope this gives you a neat place to venture to outside of Oakland and eat something nice and spicy to warm you up this winter!

OIS Staff pictured from left to right: Kati Von Lehman (Compliance Coordinator), Melissa Reinert (Immigration Specialist on the Student Team), Claire Mokry (Immigration Specialist on the Employment Team), and Jessica Hartman (Immigration Specialist on the Employment Team)
LOCAL PITTSBURGH MAGAZINES

Our region is lucky to have so many great local magazines. Here are descriptions of some of our staff’s favorite local magazines as well as those we thought you might find most helpful. Many of these descriptions also include what can be found on the publications’ websites.

PITTSBURGH MAGAZINE

Pittsburgh Magazine started as an extension of WQED, a local public television station, but now is its own entity. This is a lifestyle magazine covering many different topics in the Pittsburgh area. The articles can range from the best restaurants in Pittsburgh in the past year to new urban development projects to large events coming to the region. If you go to the Pittsburgh Magazine website, you can find the Pitt Girl blog, their favorite Twitter feeds, and the latest business news for the area. Pittsburgh Magazine even has an app you can download to take the information with you. My favorite feature of the Pittsburgh Magazine is the “Best Of” section. Each year, the magazine asks its readers to vote on the best restaurants and bars in Pittsburgh in a numbers of categories such as; best atmosphere, best outdoor space, most romantic restaurants, etc. This is a great way to try new places that local Pittsburghers think are the best we have to offer. Pittsburgh Magazine is published monthly.

EDIBLE ALLEGHENY

Edible Allegheny is one of the “Edible Communities” magazines. These are a series of magazines around the country that focus on local food, recipes, restaurants, and farms. Because of their local focus, each magazine is focused on a different city or region. On the Edible Allegheny website, you can find a recipe box, archives of their magazines, information on local food leaders, farmer’s market resources, and more. This is a great resource for people who love food (called “foodies” in America) and care about how their food is grown. Edible Allegheny is published every other month.

PITTSBURGH PARENT

Pittsburgh Parent is a magazine geared towards families. It provides family resources, information about family friendly events, and parenting advice. Coming from a different country, this magazine can help you better understand some of the cultural elements of parenting in the United States. In addition, you may be able to find activities or groups to join that will allow you to meet other parents. The Pittsburgh Parent website has a very comprehensive list of resources for families, both in the greater Pittsburgh area and in specific communities. There are also blogs and forums where parents can share information and ask questions of each other. This can be a great way to ask questions when you are not sure where to go to find information about your children. Pittsburgh Parent is a free magazine and it is published monthly.
LOCAL PITTSBURGH MAGAZINES

PITT MAGAZINE

Pitt Magazine is a great way to find out more about the University as a whole. You can read about plans and programs that different schools or departments are working on as well as the longer term goals of the University. Pitt Magazine also records the great accomplishments of the Pitt community—whether focusing on achievements of the Pitt alumni, efforts of the current Pitt students, partnerships with local companies, or discoveries from our various research projects. Because of the global focus at the University of Pittsburgh, you can often find articles about different international initiatives or studies that Pitt is involved with. The cover story for the Spring 2014 edition (pictured) was of a Haitian alumni using his experiences and education from Pitt to make a significant difference in his home country. If you visit the Pitt Magazine website, you will be able to sign up for a digital subscription and read past editions of the magazine. Pitt Magazine is published on a quarterly basis.

SHADY AVE

Shady Ave is a magazine specifically related to Pittsburgh’s East End, Fox Chapel, and Oakmont communities. It regularly features articles about resources, events, stores, and dining in those areas of Pittsburgh. This magazine also focuses on people from these communities who are making a difference in the area. There is not really a web presence for this magazine because its scope is so specific. Shady Ave is published on a quarterly basis.

WHIRL

Whirl is another lifestyle magazine in Pittsburgh, but it tends to focus more on shopping, trends, and recreation than other Pittsburgh magazines. Whirl also has a strong section on Arts and Entertainment in Pittsburgh. Whirl has 3 magazines in its brand. Whirl, Whirl at Home, and Whirl Weddings. Whirl at Home highlights different styles and stores for home decorating, while Whirl Weddings features specialized shops and resources for couples planning their wedding day. The Whirl website has a great deal of information on the Pittsburgh area and different events you can enjoy. Whirl is published monthly, Whirl at Home and Whirl Weddings are published twice a year.
GET OUT OF TOWN: Places to Enjoy Snow

Lately the weather in Pittsburgh has been cold and snowy. Take advantage of this winter weather and plan your next weekend get-away to an area ski resort. There are several ski-resorts located only hours away from Pittsburgh. Pack a suitcase full of your warmest clothing and plan a weekend trip to one of these locations. Even if you do not know how to ski, there are plenty of other activities which allow you to experience the joys of winter!

**Hidden Valley Resort**

* Driving time from Pittsburgh: 1 hour

* Activities:
  * Skiing & Snowboarding
  * Snow tubing
  * Spa Amenities

**Seven Springs Mountain Resort**

* Driving time from Pittsburgh: 1.5 hours

* Activities:
  * Skiing & Snowboarding
  * Snow tubing
  * Spa Amenities
  * Snowshoe
  * Snowmobile Tours

**Can’t leave Pittsburgh, but you would like to try skiing?**

Visit **Boyce Park** in Monroeville!

* Activities:
  * Skiing
  * Snowboarding
  * Snow tubing

Boyce Park is also the place where OIS will be hosting its February Experience America snow tubing event. Check out the OIS blog or Facebook page after February 16th for information and pictures from our day!
INTERNATIONAL LEARNING SERIES

"The Student-Centered Classroom"
with guest lecturers
Gregory J. Mizera, Ph.D & Ms. Heather McNaught of the English Language Institute

The student-centered classroom is ideal in many U.S. schools and universities. This presentation focuses on how this approach to education differs from more traditional approaches, and what is expected of both teachers and students in a student-centered classroom.

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015
Time: 6:00p.m.
Location: Academic Resource Center

"Culture Shock and Anxiety"
with speakers
Marisa Moore, Ph.D & Mihnea Vasilescu, M.A. of the University Counseling Center

Have you been overwhelmed by your transition to the United States, Pittsburgh, or the university? You are probably not alone! Join us for a workshop geared towards helping students process the emotions that come with living in a place that has a culture new or different from your own.

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Time: 6:00p.m.
Location: Academic Resource Center

"The Future is Now: How to Plan your Academic Success and Jumpstart your Career"
with lecturer
Zuzana Swigonova, Ph.D of the Department of Biological Sciences

In this presentation, we will discuss how to plan all aspects of your undergraduate career, including targeted course selection, boosting your resume through extracurricular activities, research, or internships, developing leadership and teaching skills, and networking with faculty.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Time: 6:00p.m.
Location: Academic Resource Center

For more information, visit: http://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/arc/international-learning-series
CAREER FAIR PREP
For international students

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
William Pitt Union, Room 548
4-5:30 p.m.

Get ready for the Spring 2015 Career Fair!
→ Learn what to expect from attending the career fair
→ Get tips and suggestions from a career consultant
→ Discuss OPT/CPT and other resources with an immigration specialist

Free pizza and refreshments!

SAVE THE DATE
Spring 2015 Career Fair
Noon–4 p.m.
William Pitt Union

February 19: Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, Business

www.careers.pitt.edu
ELEVATOR PITCH WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
1–2 p.m.
William Pitt Union, Room 224

Learn how to deliver an effective elevator pitch to employers and increase your chances of getting an interview!

Featuring guest speaker, Michelle Wass, alumni ambassador for the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS)

Snacks and refreshments will be provided!

careers.pitt.edu • @pittcareers
CALENDAR OF EVENTS — February

All Month! Donate used clothing to the Give a Thread Campaign! Help Pitt break a Guinness World Record and celebrate Pitt's Year of Sustainability! Check Website for drop off locations, times and other details.

5 Lecture: “The Price at the Pump: The Current Cost of Oil and the Global Economy, presented by African Studies Program, Center for Russian and East European Studies and Global Studies Center, 12:00 PM, 4217 Posvar Hall, Via UCIS Events.

5 GlobalPittsburgh First Thursdays Monthly Happy Hour for Globally-Minded People, 5-8 PM, Roland's Seafood Grill, 1904 Penn Avenue

10 Career Fair Prep Program, OIS in conjunction with CDPA, 4—5:30 PM, WPU 548, Pizza and Pop Provided!

13 Phipps Party in the Tropics, sponsored by GPSG, 7—11 PM, Phipps Conservatory, more info here

11 Priority OPT Information Session, 4:00—5:30 PM. Register here!

16 Summer Term Enrollment Begins!

18, 19 Spring Career Fair, sponsored by Career Development and Placement Assistance, More Information and Register here!

24 Lecture: International Research: Logistical and Ethical Considerations, presented by the European Studies Center and European Union Center of Excellence, 12 PM, O'Hara Student Center Ballroom, via UCIS Events

25 Artful Wednesday — City Dwelling Nature Seekers, 12 PM, Nordy’s Place, WPU, FREE

24 Priority OPT Information Session, 1:30—3:00 PM. Register here!

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Office Hours:
Monday to Friday,
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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