New Photo Contest!
Pitt Dhirana 2018

March Madness
Explore Pittsburgh: Aspinwall

Culture Corner: Holi

OIS March 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!
Spring Break is a North American tradition that started in the 1930s, partly to encourage college students to travel. Not everyone can afford to travel for spring break, but it is important for everyone to take a break during the semester in order to relieve stress and take care of mental health.

Sometimes it is tempting to just spend your week off to catch up on homework, watch Netflix, and stay in. However, it is important for your mental health to do some kind of physical activity and temporarily change your environment.

US Spring Break Destination Ideas

Orlando, Florida
Warm, Cheap Flights from Pittsburgh!

Nashville, Tennessee
Warm, Not bad to drive or fly

Chicago, Illinois
Not bad to drive, fly, or take a train

Miami, Florida
Warm, direct flights from Pittsburgh

Las Vegas, Nevada
Warm, cheap flights from Pittsburgh!

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Not bad to drive, fly, or take a train

New York, New York
Not bad to drive, fly, or take a train

The good news is, traveling may not be as expensive as you think, and there are lots of ways to “travel” without really leaving the area. The weather will probably be around 7—10 degrees Celsius (45-50 F), so a lot of people like to travel somewhere warmer.
WHAT IS DHIRANA?

Dhirana is the University of Pittsburgh's annual Indian classical dance competition. It is a nonprofit organization and all proceeds of the competition go to the Birmingham Free Clinic of Pittsburgh, which provides free medical care for Pittsburgh's underserved population. Pitt began the tradition of hosting a national, intercollegiate competition when Pitt Nrityamala placed first in Laasya 2011. As champions, the team won the honor of hosting Laasya 2012 on their campus. With strong support and attendance from the Pittsburgh community and enthusiastic involvement from Pitt students, Laasya 2012 was a resounding success. Unhappy to see the traveling competition leave its city, Pitt Nrityamala and University of Pittsburgh created Dhirana to foster Indian classical dance interest in their community. This competition provides collegiate classical dance teams with a platform to showcase their talents during an unforgettable weekend experience. Pitt welcomes you to its sixth annual Indian classical dance competition, Dhirana 2018!
Meet the New OIS Staff!

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 the fountain on the Bigelow side of the Cathedral of Learning.

Congratulations to Boyan Zhang, last month’s winner!
Summer Term Enrollment

If the summer semester will be your last semester (meaning that you will be graduating in August 2018), you must be enrolled during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact your Immigration Specialist.

Travel Signatures

If you will be traveling over Spring Break or any time in the near future, make sure to check your I-20 or DS-2019 to make sure that you have a valid travel signature. If you are an enrolled student, your I-20 must be signed within the past 12 months. If you are on OPT, it must be signed within the past 6 months. Your DS-2019 must be signed within the past 12 months.
CULTURE CORNER: Holi

Also known as the Festival of Colors, Holi is a Hindu springtime celebration which is celebrated in South Asia, and around the world. The festival signifies the end of winter, the victory of love, and a time to repair broken relationships.

Holi celebrations start the night before with a “Holika Dahan,” where people gather to pray and celebrate around a bonfire. The next morning is “Rangwali Holi,” where people smear themselves and others with colorful paints, using water guns, water balloons, and colored powder to color each other. People visit friends, family, and mingle with strangers, eating traditional foods and just generally celebrating.

Although Holi is a Hindu holiday that originated in India, there are Holi festivals and Holi-inspired events all around the world. In the US, one of the most common events is the “Color Run,” where participants are doused with colored powder at every kilometer checkpoint.

This year, Holi falls on March 2nd.
March Madness

There is one thing in March that everyone seems to talk about—March Madness!

**What is it?** The NCAA Division 1 Basketball tournament. All season long the players and teams prepare for the tournament and try to get the best ranking possible during the regular season to get the best spot in the tournament. It is a few week long tournament consisting of several rounds of single elimination basketball games.

**When is it?** It is always at the end of the regular basketball season. This year it starts on March 13th, ends on April 2nd.

**Why do people care?** Most people make “brackets”, betting money on who they think will win the each round, and who the winner will be. Also, people love a chance to root for their home University!

**Who is in it?** 68 teams qualify from the regular season, based on rankings.

Don’t miss a chance to watch the action, either on cable or go to a bar during any game and it will most likely be playing!
Summer Internships

If you are thinking summer employment opportunities in the United States, OIS recommends scheduling an appointment with your Immigration Specialist, specifically if you are interested in working off campus. Here are some options that are available to you this summer:

**On-Campus Employment** - During the summer semester, F-1 and J-1 students can work on-campus for more than 20 hours per week. Remember, UPMC is not on campus employment. F-1 students do not need authorization. J-1 students need on-campus work authorization and can request this in my.OIS.

**Off-Campus Employment** - Any off-campus employment activity will require work authorization. All of these opportunities must be directly related to your field of study.

- *Curricular Practical Training* - (F-1 Students) used primarily for internships that are degree requirements.
- *Pre-completion Optional Practical Training* - (F-1 Students) credit is not required.
- *Academic Training* - (J-1 Students) - credit is not required.
Located just north of the Allegheny River and across from Highland Park, the borough of Aspinwall is a small but beautiful part of Pittsburgh. Although the area is mostly residential, many students travel across the river to go shopping at Waterworks mall or visit one of Aspinwall’s unique restaurants.

Like much of Pittsburgh, Aspinwall has its foundations in the steel industry, and was a major hub for the railways. In the 1800s, many wealthy families built estates in Aspinwall which are now a part of the Sauer Buildings Historic District.

If you’re looking for a laid back brunch and some peaceful afternoon shopping, or a nice dinner and a movie, head to Aspinwall!

OIS Staff Picks:
- Spice Affair ($$, Indian)
- Burgatory ($$, American, Burgers)
- Cornerstone ($$, American, Brunch)
- Beans 'N' Cream ($, Coffee, Ice Cream)
- Ephesus ($$, Mediterranean)
- Tavern in the Wall ($$, American Bar)
- CC’s Cafe ($$, Italian)
- Caliente Drafthouse ($, Pizza)
- Luke & Mike’s Front Porch ($$, Grille)
Where is somewhere you have never traveled to, but would like to visit?

- Turkey
- India
- Mexico

Shannon O’Reilly
Immigration Specialist

Richard Sherman
Immigration Specialist

Deb Prvanovic
Assistant Director
### Dates and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Friday</th>
<th>J-1 Scholar Orientation @ OIS, 10:30-Noon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4 – 11</td>
<td>Spring Recess, no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9, Friday</td>
<td>Spring Holiday, all University offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16, Friday</td>
<td>Spring deadline for Monitored Withdrawal</td>
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<td>Mar. 23, Friday</td>
<td>Fall Term enrollment appointments begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26, Monday</td>
<td>Fall enrollment appointments for non-veteran students begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 6, Friday</td>
<td>Last day for Fall Term enrollment appointments</td>
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### Experience America Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mondays 6:30—7:45PM</th>
<th>$5 Yoga @ Irman Freeman Center for Imagination</th>
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<tbody>
<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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