International Week

International Week aims to expand the awareness of and interest in global learning opportunities by celebrating the intercultural diversity on campus. This annual event also promotes collaboration of various divisions and departments as well as student groups on campus and strengthens the University of Pittsburgh as a center for international education.

Beginning more than 15 years ago with a single event called the “International Fair on the Lawn”, then organized by the Study Abroad Office and the OIS, the event aimed to celebrate and promote multiculturalism and study abroad opportunities at Pitt. Over time a number of other departments across campus had contributed a variety of other events to International Week in order to:

- promote the international educational opportunities at Pitt;
- increase the multicultural awareness of the University population; and
- celebrate the accomplishments of both the University and the community in the international arena.

International Week is now held in November to coincide with International Education Week, a joint initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. Details about the scheduled events can be found on the Pitt International Week website or on pages 2—3 of this newsletter.
INTERNATIONAL WEEK: Featured Events

NOVEMBER 12 — NOVEMBER 20

Study Abroad Photo Contest
Kimbo Art Gallery, William Pitt Union, 10am — 5pm
30 Finalist photos from recent study abroad students will be displayed. Attendees will be able to vote for their favorites.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Unveiling the Korean Heritage Classroom and Korean Cultural Festival
Dedication Ceremony, Heinz Memorial Chapel, 2:30pm
Korean Cultural Festival, Commons Room, Cathedral of Learning, 3:30pm
The Korean Heritage Room is the 30th Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

50th Anniversary Celebration of Pitt Department of Slavic Languages
602 Cathedral of Learning, 2pm
Join the Slavic Department in its celebration with featured guest Sergey Gandlevsky (Poet/Writer)

International Food Day
Market Central, All Day
Special menu items will be served in Market Central.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Pitt Business Study Abroad Fair
Sennott Square, 10am — 2pm
Come learn more about study abroad opportunities.

Conversations on Europe
4217 Posvar Hall, 12pm
Virtual roundtable discussion about the responses to Europe’s migration crisis.

An American Thanksgiving
224 William Pitt Union, 3pm
The story of the first American Thanksgiving with a discussion of dining etiquette with family and employers.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Peace Corps Diversity Panel
Ballroom, William Pitt Union, 12pm
Learn about the Peace Corps from returnees who are LGBTQIA individuals, married couples, multicultural individuals, etc.
INTERNATIONAL WEEK: Featured Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 (continued)

Talking about Asia: Akiko Hashimoto, The Long Defeat: Cultural Trauma, Memory, & Identity in Japan
4130 Posvar Hall, 12pm
Discussion about after effects of WWII defeat, Japan's “history problem”, how war memories lie at the root of Japanese politics.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Study Abroad Fair
Ballroom, William Pitt Union, 11am — 2pm
Come learn more about study abroad opportunities.

Asia on Screen: We Jung Yi
4130 Posvar Hall, 3pm
The Pleasure of Mourning: Korean War Blockbusters in Post-Cold War South Korea, this talk will center on how the Korean War blockbuster serves as remembrance of the unfinished war on the Korean Peninsula, in combination with globalization there.

Global Ties Cultural Carnival
William Pitt Union, 6pm
A celebration with booths, snacks, and performances.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

International Student Career Success Day (International Students ONLY)
Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union, 10am
Advice and information on how to perform in the US employer pool as an international student. This event includes discussions and activities with food and beverages.

Panoramas Latin American Roundtable
Teplitz Memorial Moot Courtroom, Law Building, 2pm
Discussion about current Latino issues in Pennsylvania with Representative Leslie Acosta.

Mixture of Traditional Chinese Games
Posvar Hall, 2:30pm
Leaders will teach how to play the games and small groups of people will play the game of their choice. There will also be Chinese music.

Golden Dragon Acrobats presented by Chinese American Students Association
Bellefield Auditorium, 7pm
Night of performances by Chinese acrobatic troupe. Free for students, $10 for non-Pitt students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the International Week website: www.internationalweek.pitt.edu.
INTERNATIONAL WEEK: CDPA Events

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2015 CDPA EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Three Rivers Re-Entry Conference, Saturday, November 14th, 8-5pm, O’Hara Student Center—*For students who’ve been abroad only!*
Conference will feature a continental breakfast, two plenary speakers, a Networking & Opportunities Fair, Global Table Topics, Poster Fair, Photo Contest, Lunch with a film screening of Le Retour [The Homecoming], three breakout sessions with four options/each, an afternoon cookie refreshment, raffle, and presentation of photo contest and poster proposal winners. To register on Eventbrite, click here: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lessons-from-abroad-three-rivers-re-entry-conference-tickets-16901227025?aff=ehomesaved and “like” our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/3riversconference/

Global Panel—Tuesday, November 17th, WPU 548, 12noon-1pm
- Domestic & International students discussing their completed internships and/or global experiences with either U.S. companies or abroad. Snacks & Refreshments provided. *Open to all students!*

An American Thanksgiving: Traditions & Etiquette, Tuesday, November 17th, WPU 224, 3-4pm
- Telling the story of the 1st Thanksgiving in the U.S. followed by a discussion on dining etiquette with families and employers (with a handout as a takeaway) and two varieties of pie and drinks will be served! *Open to all students!*

Peace Corps Diversity Panel—Wednesday, November 18th, WPU Ballroom, Noon-1pm
- Come learn from a diverse panel of Peace Corps returnees including those who identify as LGBTQIA, married couples, multicultural, and more!

International Student Career Success Day, Friday, November 20th, 9:30am-2:30pm, WPU Ballroom & Kurtzmann Room *FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY! Light Breakfast and Lunch provided!*
Tentative Itinerary
**Students can register here:** https://ippt.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV ООv80p4a7Agv
ARRIVE AT 9:30AM
9:30-10am—Breakfast
10 am-10:45am—OPT/CPT session with OIS
10: 45-11am—Break
11am-11:30am—Gaining Experience as an International Student at Pitt
11:30-12:30pm—International Student Panel and Lunch
12:30-12:45—Break
12:45-1:30pm—Employer Panel
1:30-1:45pm—Break
1:45-2:15pm—Speed Networking and/or High-Top Table Networking
2:15-2:30pm Wrap-up (Evals)
GOODBYE TO MELISSA REINERT

Thank you, Melissa!

Immigration Specialist Melissa Reinert has decided to stay at home with her two boys while they are still young, and so she will not be returning to work in the Office of International Services. We wish Melissa the best of luck, and thank her for all of the time and energy that she put into her work in OIS. She will be truly missed. Other members of the OIS Student Team will cover her casework and appointments until we are able to fill her position. Please see below.

Temporary Assignments until OIS vacancy is filled:
- School of Information Sciences – Sara Jones
- Graduate School of Public Health – Alice Zdrale
- School of Health & Rehabilitation Science – Richard Sherman
- School of Medicine – Richard Sherman
- School of Dental Medicine – Alice Zdrale
- School of Law – Alice Zdrale

MELISSA’S GOODBYE MESSAGE

Dear Pitt international community,

It is with a bittersweet message that I write you today. As many of you know, I had been on maternity leave after welcoming our second son Owen into our family this past August. Being the mother to two wonderful, charming and vibrant boys has helped me to realize that I want to spend as much time with them as possible now that they are small, for I know they will not stay that way for long! And so for that reason, I resigned my position as an Immigration Specialist in OIS to become a stay at home mom. My last day with OIS was October 23rd.

I will definitely miss interacting with each of you and getting to hear about your exciting research or degree objectives, learning about an interesting tradition from back home, or cheering with you when you landed a great internship or job after graduation. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors! Hail to Pitt!

Melissa
DEB PRVANOVIC WON A KENT STATE ALUMNI AWARD

Deb Prvanovic was recently awarded a prestigious Kent State Alumni Award — The College of Education, Health and Human Services Diversity Alumni Award. The Diversity Alumni Award recognizes a graduate who has made significant contributions to enhancing diversity and diversity initiatives within the fields of education, health, and human services through outreach, volunteerism, and/or advocacy. The recipient actively helps underrepresented populations gain access to education and/or human and health services and serves as an advocate for diversity programming and initiatives for underrepresented populations in their local community and/or Kent State University.

In the speech given by a peer, Deb was described as having “great passion, selfless dedication, and a keen mind. She always led by example, by who she is — a person of compassion and integrity... Kind, intuitive, professional, and sharp, she will get to the heart of the matter immediately and find a solution that balances institutional responsibilities and liability with advocacy for foreign students, scholars, and their dependents... She befriends people. Yesterday, it was a Serbian graduate student and her family who spent New Year’s Eve with the Prvanovic family. Today it’s a J-1 Research Scholar from Germany who she supplied with baby items for their little girl. Tomorrow it will be giving a ride a student, his wife, and baby.”

OIS and our international community are truly lucky to have such a dedicated advocate working at the University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations, Deb and thank you for everything!

DEB PRVANOVIC IS THE NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN OIS

The Office of International Services named Deb Prvanovic as our new Assistant Director! The Assistant Director has a number of important functions in OIS. Deb will lead the Employment Team of Immigration Specialists which works with our international scholars and employees as well as the Pitt department administrators and other offices across campus to provide the best service to our international professional community. In addition, Deb will help guide initiatives and efforts to advocate for international scholars and employees. Finally, as the Assistant Director, Deb is helping to shape how the OIS staff can best educate the Pitt community on cross-cultural matters.

As seen above, Deb is a tremendous professional with a passion for working with international visitors. She has experience in both international education and the private sector. Deb has a strong reputation for going above and beyond and OIS is very lucky to have her join us. If you want to learn more about Deb (and the glowing words about her in the above article weren’t enough) you can read her blog entries, see her official OIS staff bio, or stop by to see how great she is in person. Welcome to OIS, Deb!
CHANGES TO THE OIS WEBSITE

There are a number of changes that have been made to the OIS website. All of these changes are designed to help you better engage with OIS. Here are some of the main changes you will see the next time you visit www.ois.pitt.edu.

Events Calendar

Our Events Calendar will now show you all of the upcoming OIS events and you can search those events by type. These events will include orientation events, informational sessions, Experience America and more.

Outreach

In the Outreach section, you will now find all the different ways to connect with OIS. Including our social media outreach, our past Global Perspectives, Experience America information, and our Blog.

Dependents

We now have an entire section of our website devoted to the needs and resources for dependents of our students, scholars, and employees. In addition to the Dependents section, please remember that the Experience America series is also designed to help family members become more connected with Pitt, the city of Pittsburgh, and each other.

OIS Annual Report

Many people have asked about the statistics of our international populations and our 2015 Annual Report is now available to answer your questions! There is information about our international community and the work that OIS has done throughout the year. The Annual Report can be found under About Us.

Hail 2 Pitt!

We have added a Hail 2 Pitt link on our website. This is also a link at the bottom of our OIS email signature. Every month or so, OIS will change where this link directs you, but it will always lead to a fun Pitt video or interesting piece of information. We are planning to have a great time finding where to link our Hail 2 Pitt site, but we don’t want to be the only ones having fun. If you find something that celebrates Pitt and you want to share it with OIS, please email OIS@pitt.edu and we might share it with everyone!
PITT INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

The Pitt International Network is made up of alumni volunteers around the globe that have organized themselves into a Club based on the region where they live. Currently there are three types of Clubs:

Charter Clubs
The clubs listed in this category have formal boards in place to govern the Club and provide leadership. Each of the Clubs listed below have fulfilled these requirements, meet regularly and host social events.

- Brazil Pitt Club
- China Pitt Club
- Europe Pitt Club
  - **Board Members**
    - United Kingdom
    - Amsterdam
    - Switzerland
  - **Volunteers**
    - France
    - Germany
    - Greece
    - Italy
    - Poland
- Japan Pitt Club
- Korean University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association
- 台湾匹茲堡大學校友會 PITT Alumni Association in Taiwan

Social Clubs
The clubs listed here have held social events for alumni and are working toward becoming a Chartered Club.

- Canada — Toronto Pitt Club
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Pitt Club
  - **Volunteers**
    - Dubai
    - Qatar
- Nigeria Pitt Club
- Kenya Pitt Club

Future Clubs
These countries all have some alumni that have expressed interest in forming a Pitt Club. We are working with them to help them hold their first networking night in order to grow.

- Argentina
- Australia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Egypt — Cairo
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- Philippines — Manila
- Thailand
- Turkey

Who is in the Pitt International Alumni Network?
This network is made up of alumni that loved their experiences at Pitt and want to give back to help current students. Member of the Clubs range from new graduates to CEO and current University Presidents. The members’ goal is to help each other by providing a group to network and learn new skills. For current students, this group wants to serve as a platform to help with career advice, internship opportunities and mentoring.
PITT INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

When do the Alumni Network members meet?
The clubs try to meet 2-3 three times per year. These could be around events such as a night to meet incoming students and their parents before they leave for Pittsburgh. In other cases the clubs gather for educational talks like the Pitt China Club Speakers Series in Shanghai. Other times they meet when senior administration such as the Provost or Chancellor visit to provide updates about the University. Some Clubs such as Europe, Kenya and Taiwan have standing coffee/happy hour meetings every other month for those who can get together.

Why is joining the Alumni Network important?
The reason alumni networks are so important for students to become involved with while they are on campus is because the relationships they build with very distinguished alumni could lead to internships, full time employment or interviews at companies where the alum has a connection. Pitt’s alumni are very generous with their time and love talking to students, the more that you get involved now, the more you will be able to gain from the club. Once you graduate you will already be an active member and ready to help students coming to Pitt. University rankings have a component that measures how involved alumni and alumni clubs are for your school, so participation in a Pitt Club could potentially help in the rankings.

How do I join the Alumni Network?
You need to maintain a valid email address and update your physical address whenever you move so that you can be on the mailing lists for the clubs and events. You can do that by filling out this form https://www.alumni.pitt.edu/alumni/groups/international-alumni-update-form/ or by emailing Jason Kane at jasonkane@pitt.edu.

Where do I go if I have additional questions?
If you have any questions, please email Jason Kane or stop by UCIS (4400 Posvar Hall) to speak with him.
OIS QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the American custom or behavior that has surprised you the most since you have arrived in the United States?

OIS asked you to answer this question and below you will find many responses we received, but the full list of replies can be found on the OIS blog. Some of the answers we were expecting, but others were quite surprising. Do you agree with these answers? If you want to share your thoughts on the latest Question of the Month, we love to learn from your responses!

American Behaviors

How they dress. ALL girls put on shorts during the summer. Also, they don’t dress up enough for parties.

Their love for lemonade and pizza. I get free pizza and lemonade everywhere I go!

The 50cm radius of personal space.

Their congenial nature. You’re walking on the street and you strangely see people smile at you as you cross paths. I find it very strange, but affecting.

Drinks

Put ice to any kind of drinks, I feel that’s too cold for the mouth.

It seems that people here never drink hot water! In China, kids are always told to drink hot water to keep healthy. Doctors ask patients to drink hot water to recover sooner. But here, people never drink hot water!!!!

Once I had breakfast with an American girl. I asked her where I can get some hot milk. She looked at me, surprised. "Why hot milk? We never drink hot milk." "Ok, what about hot water?" I asked. "Never. We only used that to make tea???" "Fine, I get it..."

Everything Else

Putting sneakers in the washing machine is just not acceptable for me...

I noticed that most people here like to have options. For example, they want cheese from a grocery store, they like to know their options. Is it Cheddar cheese, blue cheese, parmesan etc.. or is it shredded or is it for a sandwich?
EXPERIENCE AMERICA: Trax Farms

MOST RECENT ADVENTURE:

On October 17, the Office of International Services took a group of visiting scholars and their family members to Trax Farms, located south of Pittsburgh. Participants in the event experienced “life on the farm” for an afternoon. Visiting farms and pumpkin patches, like Trax Farms, is a traditionally American activity that takes place during the fall when the weather is cooler and the leaves are changing color. The Fall Festival at Trax Farms offers hayrides, music, and a corn maze. You can also pick your own pumpkins, which most families will take home to carve and use as decorations for the season. Our trip to Trax Farms was part of Experience America, a series of events and activities organized by OIS to help visiting scholars and their families learn more about American culture and the Pittsburgh community.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Experience America: <a href="#">Global Pittsburgh Happy Hour</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>OPT Information Session, 1:30 PM, <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>6-8</td>
<td><a href="#">West Side Story</a>, Pittsburgh Symphony, Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh Carpathian Music Ensemble, Heinz Chapel, 3 PM</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day</td>
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<td>11-22</td>
<td><a href="#">Good Kids</a>, Heymann Theatre</td>
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<td>14-20</td>
<td><a href="#">International Week</a></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><a href="#">Unveiling of the Korean Heritage Room and Korean Cultural Festival</a></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Experience America: <a href="#">Lunch and Learn — Winter in Pittsburgh</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>OPT Information Session, 1:30 PM, <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td><a href="#">Light Up Night</a>, Downtown Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td><a href="#">BNY Mellon Jazz Presents JazzLive</a>, Backstage Bar at Theater Square, 5 PM</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break for Classes Begins — No Classes</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>American Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess — all University of Pittsburgh offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><a href="#">Winter Flower and Light Garden</a> Opens, Phipps Conservatory</td>
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**Office of International Services**

708 William Pitt Union  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
Telephone: 412-624-7120  
Fax: 412-624-7105  
www.ois.pitt.edu  
ois@pitt.edu

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

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