International Week: History & Purpose

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 fifteen years ago with a single event called the “International Fair on the Lawn”, then organized by the Study Abroad Office and the Office of International Services, the event, held in September, aimed to celebrate and promote multiculturalism and study abroad opportunities at Pitt.

When benchmarking its events with other Universities, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) saw the possibility of increasing the celebration from a single event to a week-long celebration. Therefore, UCIS incorporated the Fair and International Day (UCIS sponsored) with a variety of events in order to promote the international educational opportunities at Pitt; to increase the multicultural awareness of the University population; and to celebrate the accomplishments of both the University and the community in the international arena. UCIS partnered with several offices including Student Affairs, the Athletic Department, PittArts, and Sodexho Services. With these partnerships, the Week offered a variety of events including the Fair, the Latin American Festival, foreign film showings, coffeehouses, and a soccer tournament.

In 2006, UCIS passed the organization of International Week to the Global Studies Center. The organizing themes of the week were based on the Global Studies Center’s main themes of Global Economy, Global Security, Global Health, and Global Society.

International Week at Pitt 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. The Week, celebrated at Pitt November 11th—17th, 2013, has been planned by a collaborative committee composed of members from the Global Studies Center, the African Studies Center, the Study Abroad Office, the Center for Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development, the English Language Institute, and the Office of International Services has planned several major International Week events to the theme of Discover the World. The events will include a Study Abroad Fair, a World Dance Showcase, an International Photo Contest, an International Speed-Friending Event, and a Discover Careers Day! Check the Pitt International Week website for more info and details!
International Week: Get Involved!

International Week (Nov 11-15, 2013) is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare students at the University of Pittsburgh for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

If you are involved in a student organization at the University of Pittsburgh and have an event that you are planning to host during International Education Week, please email Megan Horan (mrh66@pitt.edu) with promotional information and we can advertise your event on the International Week website. We will need your event name, date, location, and a brief description. A JPEG flyer for the event and link to your website is optional, but recommended.

Please note that student organizations are responsible for their own event coordination, finances, and tech responsibilities. The International Week committee only agrees to post your program’s information on our website.

International Week: Calendar at a Glance

The theme for International Week 2013 is “Discover The World”!

Each day is also themed in a way to enable you to Discover more.

*Monday, November 11th, Discover Friendship Day*, will feature an International Speed-Friending Event

*Tuesday, November 12th, Discover Culture Day*, will feature a student organization fair and a World Dance Showcase

*Wednesday, November 13, Discover Careers Day*, will feature a Career Symposium with various topics relating to internationally-minded careers, in the US or abroad

*Thursday, November 14, Discover Education Abroad Day*, will feature a Study Abroad Fair and will culminate the week with an International Awards Ceremony

Additional events and event details, times and locations will be announced via the International Week website.
Get Involved Pittsburgh: RADical Days

RADical Days is an annual Pittsburgh event celebrating all of the wonderful arts, music, parks and recreation available to Pittsburgh residents. RADical Days allows people living in Pittsburgh to visit a variety of museums, parks, and other local attractions with FREE ADMISSION. Each of the participating organizations typically only offers one or two days where you can get in for free as a part of RADical Days, so be sure to check their schedule of events to find the day of your favorite sight to see. Many events are family friendly, but read the descriptions carefully to make sure they are appropriate for your children’s ages. You should also plan for some of these events to be very popular, so you might want to arrive early. Last year, the line for the free day at the Children’s Museum was around the block before the museum opened. Even more people came to the free day at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, however there is plenty of space at the zoo, so it barely felt crowded.

Plan ahead and HAVE FUN!
Halloween is a holiday celebrated annually on October 31st. This holiday is also known as ‘All Hallows Eve’ and has developed over time from European harvest festivals, festivals of the dead, and feasts prior to All Saints Day (November 1). Today, Halloween is celebrated with costume parties, carving pumpkins, watching horror movies, visiting haunted houses, and trick-or-treating. If you are new to the U.S., you may see people walking around in random costumes, playing pranks, and lots of candy! Trick-or-treating consists of children walking around their neighborhood at a designated time, stopping at houses to pick out candy if the porch light is on. Your neighborhood might pass out fliers for trick-or-treating in your neighborhood, so if you are interested in participating, make sure to be equipped with candy and have your porch light on!

There are lots of ways to enjoy the Halloween festivities in Pittsburgh. Our suggestions:

**PITT GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS:** Creepy Carnival Ball at O’Hara Student Center (4024 O’Hara St.) on Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00 pm - University of Pittsburgh graduate and professional students are welcome to this formal event consisting of food, drinks, a live band, carnival games -- along with the unexpected and the spooky. Presented by GPSG. For more information, contact programming.pittgpsg@gmail.com

**CHINESE STUDENTS & SCHOLARS:** Pitt & CMU CSSA Halloween Party, Friday, November 1st at 7 PM in WPU Assembly Room

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Halloween Mayhem at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave) on Saturday October 26th from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Zombies, a costume parade, puppets, live performances, games and more! (FREE EVENT)

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Halloween Happenings at Phipps Conservatory on Friday, October 25th from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. Bring costumed kids for a spooktacular time in the gardens as Phipps hosts of fun family activities and healthy snacks. All activities are free with Conservatory admission.

Associate Director Genevieve Cook’s children (Olivia and Aiden) in their Halloween costumes.
Pitt Makes a Difference Day (PMADD) is October 26

This year will be the 6th Pitt Makes a Difference Day (PMADD) where thousands of students go into different Pittsburgh neighborhoods and participate in community service. These projects can range from painting rooms in a community center to preparing food for homeless shelters to picking up garbage on the street. All of the communities served by PMADD are incredibly grateful to the time and energy given by our Pitt students. We will be meeting at the William Pitt Union at 9am to load the buses and go to our volunteer locations. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in joining PMADD this year, please use their Student PMADD Registration website.

You will meet many new students, have fun, see more of Pittsburgh, and make a difference: that sounds like a great day!

Talk About It: Helping Students Get Help

Some conversations are difficult to start. “I need help” can be a scary thing to say. And “Do you need help?” is a question that many people are afraid to ask a friend. Pitt’s depression awareness campaign, “Give Depression a Voice: Talk About It,” is one way that Pitt is making its campus a safe, supportive place where conversations like this can happen more easily.

Getting involved with Talk About It is fun and easy.
- Attend one of our social or educational meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 8:45pm.
- Become part of our planning and leadership committee.
- Help us at tabling and outreach events.
- Or attend our peer mentoring outreach on Tuesday, October 15 at 8:45 PM in WPU 837.

For more information, email Deanna Burkett at dlb85@pitt.edu, follow us on Twitter @Pitt_TAI.

And if you see us tabling, please stop by and say hello!
With the fall season upon us, it is a beautiful time to take a stroll through Schenley Park to see leaves changing colors. At the corner of Schenley Drive and Panther Hollow Road sits a hidden gem, Schenley Park Café. It’s an easy walk from Pitt campus past Phipps Conservatory and Flagstaff Hill to reach the Café and definitely worthwhile! The menu is simple, but offers a nice variety of sandwiches, salads, and quiches. I absolutely loved the atmosphere with lots of windows facing the park, adorable plant themed chairs and an airy feel. The Café has free wireless and is a comfortable spot to enjoy lunch. I chose the Tempeh balsamic tomato hummus sandwich and I was very pleased. I had never tried tempeh before, which I learned it is a soy product and a good vegetarian source of protein. The sandwich was prepared Panini-style and the roasted tomatoes and balsamic reduction complemented the tempeh patty nicely with multigrain bread. All sandwiches came with a side of couscous salad, fresh greens, and a honeydew slice. The presentation was very nice and friendly service. I highly recommend this café for a nice lunch!

UPDATE YOUR I-94 RECORD

If you entered the United States recently and have a new I-94 record, you need to upload a copy of the record to My OIS (Biographical Information > Update Immigration Documents). If you have an I-94 card, you need to upload the front and back. If you have an electronic I-94 record, you need to visit the CBP website to access your I-94.

It is VITAL that you access your electronic I-94 soon after entering the United States because you need to make sure the information entered on your I-94 is accurate. The faster you find errors, the faster they can be resolved.

Please take care of this as soon as possible.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PITT?

Plan to tell us in early November when you complete the OIS International Student Survey! You will help Pitt better serve the international community. OIS will seek survey respondents via Pitt email, Facebook and Twitter.

You could win an iPad or iPod!!!

Alcohol Awareness Week

Did you know that the legal drinking age of 21 in Pennsylvania applies to all individuals – including people from countries where the drinking age is different? The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Health Education and Promotion is sponsoring activities and events throughout National College Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) from October 21-25. Your fellow Panthers will be tabling in the Towers Lobby with a variety of interactive activities that explore alcohol myths, alcohol emergencies, safer party tips and more! Stop by and learn about alcohol education services that Pitt offers, and for the chance to play games for free prizes! Or if you’re looking for something to do at night, you can stop by the Non-Alcoholic Mix-Off, sponsored by the Resident Student Association on Tuesday, October 22, from 8-10pm in the Quad. Keep an eye out for the Red Solo Cup on campus for additional opportunities to learn more and a chance to win a free t-shirt!
Effect of the Government Shutdown on Immigration

The shutdown of the federal government will impact certain components of the U.S. immigration system. Based on currently available information, the following is an overview of how the shutdown will affect various processes.

**U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services**: the processing of petitions and applications at USCIS is expected to continue uninterrupted, as the agency is funded by user fees and is not dependent on federal appropriations.

**Department of Labor**: the Office of Foreign Labor Certifications, which has oversight over most immigration-related processes, is effectively closed. Consequently, DOL will neither accept nor process any applications or materials relating to Labor Condition Applications (LCAs), Prevailing Wage Determinations, or Applications for Permanent Employment Certification (i.e. the PERM system). The operational status of DOL impacts the ability to file petitions with USCIS that require a certified LCA (such as requests for H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 classification). Historically, in instances where it was not possible to obtain a certified LCA, USCIS temporarily created an exemption to the LCA requirement. To date, however, no such exemption has been announced. Similarly, the DOL’s status may impact the structured timing requirements of PERM applications. We anticipate receiving future guidance on these issues, and will continue to provide updates.

**Department of State**: the issuance of visas, as well as related Consular operations, will remain operational for the present time. However, the Department of State has indicated that if current funds are exhausted, Consular services may be reduced or halted. Applicants for visas are advised to monitor the website of the Consulate at which they intend to apply for the latest information.

**Customs & Border Protection**: individuals entering the U.S. with a valid visa should not encounter any issues at airports or land border crossings, and the electronic I-94 retrieval system is operational. However, individuals who seek to apply for an immigration benefit at a port-of-entry or a pre-clearance facility (such as TN and L-1 applications for Canadian nationals) are advised to confirm the operational status of the location at which they intend to apply for the latest information.

**E-Verify**: the E-Verify system is unavailable during the government shutdown. As a result, E-Verify employers will not be able to verify employment eligibility or take any other action that requires access to an E-Verify account. The three-day rule for E-Verify cases is suspended, and the time period during which employees may resolve Tentative Nonconfirmations will be extended. Employers are not permitted to take any adverse action against an employee whose query is in an extended interim case status due to the government shutdown. Once the information is released, we will provide further information on how to address situations that cannot adhere to traditional E-Verify deadlines. Importantly, the interruption of E-Verify does not affect the Form I-9 obligation.

Information provided by Klasko, Immigration and Nationality Law

As information changes, OIS will do its best to keep you informed. Please read all OIS emails for any applicable updates.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

1st – Chinese National Day
3rd – Experience America Event – American Football & Soccer
14th – Fall break – no classes for students & Columbus Day
18th-20th – Family Weekend
19th – Pitt Football Game vs. Old Dominion
24th – Sara Jones’ Birthday!
26th – Pitt Make a Difference Day
28th – Spring term enrollment begins
31st – Halloween

November

7th – Experience America Event – Winter in Pittsburgh and Staying Healthy
7th – Lauren Panetti’s Birthday!
9th – Pitt Football Game vs. Notre Dame
13th-15th – NAFSA Conference, limited OIS services
16th – Pitt Football Game vs. UNC
27th – 29th – no classes, University closed 28th – 29th
28th – Thanksgiving
29th – Pitt Football Game vs. Miami

ONGOING

• First Sunday of every month— International Market Days in the Strip District 10AM-4PM.
• Every Friday we host a session on Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 2PM-3PM. Register on our OIS website.