The Global Perspective

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Chart your future at the Pitt Global Hub

The Pitt Global Hub is a student lounge and resource center located in Posvar’s galleria. The Hub serves as a one-stop-shop for students to learn about all the international and global opportunities on campus.

- Discover global experiences based on your areas of study and interests.
- Watch street scenes and discover facts about countries where Pitt has a presence.
- Join a conversation group from one of the 35+ languages taught here.

And much more!

Any Pitt student, staff, or faculty member can apply to host a themed event in the space.

Email globalhub@pitt.edu to get started.

Experience America

Experience America, OIS’ continuing orientation program, is designed for international graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The program will offer information and topics to help individuals understand better and feel more comfortable participating in American culture during their time at Pitt.

The events are also a way to meet other international students / postdoctoral fellows.

An expert or guest speaker will provide a presentation on the topic of the month.

Learn more by visiting:

ois.pitt.edu/experience-america
Artful Wednesdays

Celebrate the beauty & diversity of the performing arts in our city at Artful Wednesdays!

Free Performances and lunch, Noon-1 PM
Nordy’s Place in the Lower Level of William Pitt Union.
The entire Pitt community is welcome.
Lunch is for Pitt students with a valid student ID.

Conscious Soca
October 16, 2019

Soca Plus is an acoustic ensemble that primarily presents the energized and spirited soca music of Trinidad and Tobago. Soca Plus creates and presents purely acoustic arrangements of soca music which usually features electronic music and creative sampling. This ten-piece band comes all the way from Trinidad.

Sierra Sellers and Alex Jeffe Vocal and Guitar Duo
October 23, 2019

Sierra Sellers is a neo-soul singer/songwriter whose rich and energetic voice is captivating. Gifted guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, Alex Jeffe, mixes far-reaching influences into a guitar playing style that shines.

Sweaty Already String Band
October 30, 2019

This upbeat acoustic quartet plays traditional and modern bluegrass, along with some fascinating and unexpected covers.

Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh
November 6, 2019

Dedicated to offering exceptional classical music performances, they specialize in performing pieces from the Baroque and right up to the 21st century.
Academic Year 2019–2020: The Year of Creativity

“Creativity unites all of the University of Pittsburgh’s intellectual and artistic endeavors, from neuroscience to sculpture, from legal scholarship to computer science, from music to pharmacogenomics. No single virtue better describes what humans do best than creativity.

The Year of Creativity aims to encourage the creative spark in all of us.” - Provost Ann Cudd

Events

PARK(ing) Day 2019—September 20, 10 AM—3 PM, Schenley Drive

Every September, people around the world turn metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces for a day: temporary parklets, creative interventions and social spaces. How can your department, school, or center transform an ordinary parking space? Create a stage and fill it with performances? Build a temporary interactive art installation? Design a meditative space, or a mini making studio, or a gym? The possibilities are limited only by your imagination, and by a few creative constraints.

Spring Creativity Festival—March 2020

Join us in Spring 2020 to celebrate the creative spark in all of us!

Year of Creativity Closing Celebration—April 2020

All Year of Creativity Funding Opportunity Awardees along with the University of Pittsburgh community will be invited to celebrate the Year of Creativity and highlight a year of incredible projects, programs, and events that will leave a lasting impact on the University.
MEET THE OIS STAFF

Many people get to work with different staff members in OIS, but only a small number get to meet us all. On the OIS Staff website are the professional biographies and photographs for our staff, but these are more personal details about each of us.

**Delo Blough, Director (Administration)**

I have been working in international higher education for over 20 years, having previously been an immigration attorney and conflict management specialist. I just moved to Pittsburgh in July so I am busy exploring the city. So far, I’ve enjoyed a Gateway Clipper cruise, the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a Pirates baseball game at PNC park (where I was rooting for the other team!), a few local parks, and many great restaurants. I’m looking forward to museums, theater, the Pittsburgh symphony, and so much more. Beyond that, I’m excited about the future of Office of International Services at Pitt, complete with incredibly bright, talented and energetic students. Here’s to a great year for all of us!

**Sara Jones, Associate Director (Administration, Student Team)**

I have been a part of the University of Pittsburgh community in some capacity since 1997! I attended undergraduate and graduate school here, and have worked in the Office of International Services since 2005. I adore Oakland (especially its restaurants!), and enjoy visiting the Carnegie museums and library frequently. My favorite part of the world is the Adirondack Mountains in New York State, where I have vacationed for over 20 years. Although I’ve traveled to many parts of Europe, some places I’d like to see in the future are Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Alaska. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and taking advantage of all that Pittsburgh has to offer.

**Claire Mokry, Assistant Director (Administration, Employment Team)**

I am a Midwestern girl: I spent my childhood in Indiana, attended college in Michigan and lived in Chicago where I worked at the French Consulate. As an undergraduate student, I spent a year studying and living with a French family in Nantes, France, which is when I caught the travel bug. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to visit new countries, meet people from around the world and learn about their culture and traditions. My husband and I relocated to Pittsburgh in 2012; we have really enjoyed discovering all the city has to offer! In my free time, I love cooking (and eating) all different kinds of foods, running, playing volleyball, reading and spending time with family and friends.
The Office of International Services has 3 teams to help the Pitt community:

- Administration includes OIS leadership and operations of OIS;
- Employment Team works with visiting scholars, interns, and employees at Pitt; and the
- Student Team works with incoming, current, and graduated students with active SEVIS records.

Richard Sherman, Assistant Director (Administration, Student Team)

My spouse (a Pitt graduate!) and I have lived in Pittsburgh for more than 10 years -- I have worked at OIS for the past 7 years. I love meeting new students and learning a little bit more about their home countries. I have travelled to Asia and Latin America. I was a Spanish major in college, so I like to practice my Spanish with students, too. When I’m not at OIS, I enjoy going camping with my family, running, and reading. I’m a big sports fan – I grew up in Massachusetts, so I root for the Boston Red Sox, the Boston Celtics, and the New England Patriots. I also support Borussia Dortmund and Everton in soccer (football, futbol, futebol, voetbal, etc.).

Brianna Allen, Immigration Specialist (Employment Team)

I am one of the newest staff members. I started in June of 2019 as an Immigration Specialist on the Employment Team. Prior to that, I worked as an immigration specialist in IT and technology. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon in 2009 with my BFA in Drama, specializing in monster theory and publishing on the topic of zombies. I then continued on to receive my Masters in Law from Pitt and my MBA from Point Park University. I moonlight with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Symphony and Cultural Trust. I am also a mother to two crazy girls and two crazy beagle/beagle-mix dogs.

Katy Gongaware, Immigration Coordinator (Employment Team)

I graduated from Allegheny College with a degree in Spanish and a history minor, and I’ve worked in OIS since 2012. In my free time, I enjoy sewing, reading, cooking, watching bad movies from the 1970s and 1980s (and also good ones), keeping my Spanish fresh, and working out, especially strength training. I also like spending time at the Carnegie Museums, Carnegie Library, the National Aviary, and going to see the symphony, musicals, and other performances in the Cultural District. I’m always happy to help answer questions about any of these things, so please feel free to reach out to me!

Shannon O'Reilly, Immigration Specialist (Student Team)

I am not originally from Pittsburgh, but now consider Pittsburgh home. I grew up in Connecticut and attended the University of Connecticut (UConn). After I graduated from UConn with my bachelors in Business, I moved to Berlin, Germany for two years. After completing the internship, I returned to the U.S. and earned my master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In my free time, I am usually exploring different parks around the city with my dog, Layla.
Kaylee Rush, New Student Specialist (Student Team)

I was born and raised in beautiful Pittsburgh, but my heart seemed to always favor unexplored places outside of this city. I received my Bachelor's from Pitt Johnstown in 2017, where I was an international student peer mentor and where I ultimately found my calling. Having travelled to Europe a couple times, I grew into a new person by seeing life through different cultures and perspectives. When I'm not travelling, I'm probably indulging in a classic horror film, hiking the many trails of Pennsylvania, struggling in crossfit, cuddling my cat, or eating tons and tons of pizza and/or donuts.

Branwyn Turnage, Office Coordinator (Administration)

I graduated from University of Pittsburgh in 2018 with a degree in Anthropology and a concentration on archaeology and GIS. I am originally from Northern California and has lived throughout the Pacific North West, however I have come to call Pittsburgh home for the last six years. In my free time I enjoy exploring the many local parks, fishing, gardening and practicing yoga. I volunteer for both the Fort Pitt Museum and the Carnegie Museum of natural history’s archives. I enjoy being apart of a community that really values education, history and the local cultures.

Kati Von Lehman, Compliance Coordinator (Administration)

I grew up in Pittsburgh and attended Penn State University. Over the past 20 years, I have worked at a number of different colleges and universities across the country. I love going on road trips with my family, especially to national parks (we did 13 last summer!) and quirky towns with lots of history and art. I also love attending arts festivals and seeing the amazing things people make. Finally, when I am at home I enjoy crocheting while watching my daughter draw new animation characters and my son belt out songs from musicals (“Mamma Mia! Here we go again! My, my…”).

Jean Wenner, Immigration Specialist (Employment Team)

I am originally from Pittsburgh but have lived in many different places in the United States and abroad. I love to travel all over the world to see new places and try new things. On the weekends, you’ll find me out and about with my Goldendoodle, Oswald. What I love about living in western Pennsylvania is that we get to experience all four season! Fall is my favorite for chilly days at the pumpkin patch and apple picking. My favorite places in Pittsburgh are Heinz History Center and the Phipps Conservatory. I hope that you also get to enjoy all that Pittsburgh has to offer!
Culture Corner

Mid-Autumn Festival (or Zhongqiu Festival)

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrated by Chinese and Vietnamese people. The Mooncake Festival, as it is also known, is celebrated as a public holiday in Taiwan. The Festival, also known as the Moon Festival celebrates the end of the fall harvest under the full moon of the eighth lunar month. In 2019, the holiday will be celebrated on September 13th.

Chinese people travel all over the country to return to where their family is located to celebrate together. It is the second most important holiday in the country, after Chinese New Year.

Mooncakes are a traditional pastry eaten during the festival. They can be filled with different fillings including traditional lotus-seed paste or sweet bean paste and contemporary fillings such as taro, pineapple, vegetables, meats, or nuts. The cakes are usually round- or square-shaped with ornate designs, with some including gold-plating!

Matchmaking and Social Dance are traditions used to celebrate this holiday.

Similar to other festivals, Lanterns are these celebrations, sky lanterns.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-
Pittsburgh RADical Days 2019

RADical Days is a yearly event which offers free tours, programs, admissions, and family activities to the Pittsburgh community, funded by RAD (Allegheny Regional Asset District).
See below for some of the events offered and visit www.radworkshere.org for more!

**Free Admission:**

**Friday, September 20**
10 am—4 pm: Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum

**Saturday, September 21**
10 am—5 pm: Heinz History Center
12—6 pm August Wilson African American Cultural Center

**Sunday, September 22**
10 am—5 pm Andy Warhol Museum
10 am—5pm Carnegie Science Center

**Monday, September 23**
10 am—3 pm (tours only) PPG Paints Arena

**Wednesday, October 2**
9:30 am—8 pm Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

**Friday, October 4**
10 am—9 pm Pittsburgh Glass Center
September

20 Pittsburgh Global Town Hall 9 am—6 pm, Alumni Hall Discussions will focus on climate change, gender equity, and sustainable development.

22 Pittsburgh Opera Rising Stars Concert (Free!) 6—8 pm, Pittsburgh Opera Meet Pittsburgh Opera’s 2019-20 Resident Artists in this free concert! You’ll be up close and personal in the intimate George R. White Studio at Pittsburgh Opera headquarters.

27 & 28 University of Pittsburgh Family Weekend (Even if your family can’t come, there are some great events and you can always send your family pictures!)

29 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Main (Oakland) Free Historical Tours, 1pm & 3pm, CLP Oakland Free Historical Tours: 1pm & 3pm (Part of Pittsburgh RADical Days)

October

5 & 6 33rd Head of the Ohio Regatta Washington’s Landing, Allegheny River The Head of the Ohio celebrates the beauty, majesty and energy of Pittsburgh’s rivers. This two day competition is one of Pittsburgh’s premier outdoor events, featuring teams from all over the Eastern United States competing on the city’s iconic Riverfront.

9 Open Mic Open Minds 8:30 pm, Nordy’s Place in William Pitt Union In this collaboration designed to increase awareness of and destigmatize mental illness through creativity, we invite you to share work that speaks to personal experience with mental health.

10 Majors and Minors Expo 11 am—3 pm, William Pitt Union Explore Pitt’s majors, minors and certificate programs.

For more OIS events, please visit the OIS Events page.