



Baker University Center
Suite 348
One Park Place
Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740.593.4330
Fax: 740.593.4328
www.ohiou.edu/isfs/

Winter Break Plans!

If you're spending winter break in Athens, take advantage of its local events and natural beauty to keep you entertained over the six-week hiatus from classes. Visit the Strouds Run State Park and witness the majesty of the Appalachian foothills. Hike the 15 miles of trails that snake through the park. If hiking isn't your thing, soak in the scenery with a picnic aided by one of the many picnic tables and cooking grates located at the north end of the lake. Here is a list of some events occurring over break:



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“We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.”
Quote by: Anne Frank

If you would like to add information to the International Voice, including events or announcements, e-mail Roman at rs343606@ohio.edu

International Voice
Publication Specialists
Rachel Orr
Layout & Design
Roman Suer
Copy

-Nelsonville North Pole - Fasten your ice skates and glide across the outdoor skating rink at Nelson Commons Park. Buy a ticket and climb aboard for a ride on the Santa Train or the exclusive North Pole Express Train on Weekends **beginning November 24th**. Admission to skating rink: \$3; Skate rental: \$2.

-AvalanchePizza Thanksgiving Bread Sale -Avalanche Pizza will sell numerous types of fresh breads on Thanksgiving morning and all the money from those sales will be donated to United Appeal for Athens County. The breads will be sold at the Avalanche store at 329 East State Street beginning at 6:00 a.m. on **November 26th**.

-Final Fridays on the Square - Keep your hard-earned money in the local economy by doing your holiday shopping in Nelsonville! All shops will be open 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. on **November 27th**.

-ISFS Holiday Gathering – Join ISFS in 348 Baker Center, on **Tuesday, December 1st** from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to celebrate winter break with food, music, and fun! Bring your favorite holiday cookie/treat and recipes to share with others.

-Athens Tree Lighting Festival – Enjoy wagon rides, cookie decorating, face painting, Christmas card making and more! The event will take place on Court Street in front of the Courthouse at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on **December 3rd**.

-Holiday Bazaar at the Dairy Barn - This winter event features artists and artisans from the region and is a great opportunity to find unique gifts for the holiday season. The event takes place **December 4th – 6th**.

-Communiversy Band Holiday Concert – Come listen to some great Holiday music conducted by Andrew Trachsel. The event takes place at 4:00 p.m. on **December 13th**.

More events continued on the next page!

-International Student Winter Tea –

President McDavis welcomes all international students to the Baker University Center Ballroom A from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. on **December 17th**. Spouses and children are encouraged to attend! Please respond with attendee(s) name(s) to <response@ohio.edu> by December 7th.

Attending these events would surely brighten up your winter days. Don't forget the other opportunity to visit a scenic snow-covered wonderland that's even closer to your home – The Ridges.

And on one of those restless days where you just don't know what to do with yourself, exercise your bottled-up energy at Ping Center. Ping's winter hours are 12:00 – 9:00 p.m. on November 30th – December 18th.

Support Bobcats Basketball this winter break and attend both Men's and Women's games at the Convocation Center. For a full schedule visit: <<http://www.ohiobobcats.com/ot/sport-schedules.html>>.

Aside from these events, enjoy the simple things in Athens as well. Build a snowman, go sledding, and have snowball fights with your friends and family. Go ice-skating at Bird Arena. Check out the facility's hours at <http://www.ohio.edu/recreation/bird/FACILITY_INFO.HTM>. Grab a coffee at the front room on a chilly day. Enjoy a delicious

bowl of soup at one of the many cafes and watch a movie at the Athena Cinema uptown. Regardless of whether you are staying in Athens, returning home to visit family or vacationing in some distant land, be safe – but also be spontaneous. We'll see you back in January!

ATTENTION:

- If you will be traveling outside of the U.S. over Winter Break, please make sure to get your immigration documents signed by an ISFS advisor ASAP!

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE CARD?

- All students should carry their insurance cards with them, just as they do university ID cards, driver's licenses, and other important information. The insurance company has mailed your fall quarter insurance card to you. If you have not received it, you are required to pick up your card in Hudson Hall, room 233 before the end of fall quarter on November 25. Please make sure that you have your insurance card with you by the time winter break begins!

Contact Info

740-593-4330 >> isfs@ohio.edu

>> Walk In Advising Schedule <<

Isfs Advisors will be available Monday-Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to answer your quick questions as pertaining to F-1 and J-1 immigration issues such as:

- >> Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- >> Maintaining your immigration status
- >> Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- >> Program Extensions
- >> Travel

>> I-Voice Publication Specialists <<

Rachel Orr; Layout & Design

Email: ro933806@ohio.edu

Roman Suer; Copy

Email: rs343606@ohio.edu

Email Roman if you would like to have your flag featured or if you have additional information to add to the I-Voice, including events & announcements

>> Who's Who of ISFS <<

Krista McCallum Beatty: Director

General issues, faculty & staff issues, limited student immigration assistance

Kyle McKenzie: Associate Director

Student issues, student & exchange visitor immigration assistance

Amanda Yusko: International Student Advisor

Student issues & student immigration issues, International Voice & Week

Edward Muldoon: Administrative Associate

General office issues and assistance

Beth Kaufman: Immigration Specialist

Faculty & staff immigration assistance

Erin Hari: Graduate Assistant

International Student Union

Adam Chen: Graduate Student

International Student Orientation

Phone Number: 740-593-4330

Email: isfs@ohio.edu

Immigration

Update

2009

Check the end date on your I-20 or DS-2019:

Students who have an end date of **11/25/2009** on their I-20 or DS-2019 are reminded that they must apply for a program extension if they will not complete their program this quarter. Students must complete their program extension **BEFORE 11/25/2009** in order to maintain their F-1 or J-1 status.

Optional Practical Training and Academic Training:

F-1 students who wish to apply for OPT may begin the process up to 90 days prior to their program end date and up to 60 days after their program end date. However, we recommend applying 2-3 months prior to when you want to begin working to allow for processing delays.

J-1 students wishing to apply for Academic Training **MUST** do so prior to the completion of their program of study. If you are interested in learning more, please schedule an appointment with an ISFS advisor.

Travel Signatures:

Students traveling outside of the U.S. must have their immigration documents signed prior to departure. Please bring your I-20 or DS-2019, along with all supporting documentation (for example, financial support, change in major field of study, etc.) with you when you fill out a travel signature request form. You will need to allow up to two weeks for processing, so please plan ahead. When your documents are ready, you will be notified by e-mail.

NOTE: J-1 students who are not sponsored by Ohio University must contact their program advisor for information on the procedure for having their DS-2019 signed for travel and reentry. ISFS cannot sign your DS-2019.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment with an advisor, you can stop by the ISFS Office located in 348 Baker Center Monday – Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., call 740-593-4330, or e-mail isfs@ohio.edu.

Diversity Visa Lottery

Each fiscal year (October – September), the Department of State makes available 50,000 “green cards” (for permanent residency) called Diversity Visas for foreign nationals who meet certain eligibility requirements including:

- » Applicants must have either a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; OR two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform.
- » Applicants must be citizens of a country with low immigration rates to the United States. For further instructions and a list of eligible countries, please visit:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html

Applications will be accepted electronically from October 2, 2009 – November 30, 2009 and recipients are chosen at random by a computerized lottery. The visas are distributed among six geographic regions, with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. over the period of the past five years. Within each region, no single country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

The law allows only one entry per person during each registration period – If more than one entry per applicant is received, the applicant will be disqualified regardless of who submitted the entry. There is no fee to apply, but there is a processing fee for applicants who are selected and processed for a “green card.”

Selected applicants will be notified by mail between May and July of 2010 with additional information and instructions. NOTE: Selection in the lottery process does NOT guarantee that the applicant will receive a “green card.” The Department of State will notify approximately 100,000 applicants that have been selected in the lottery, but there are only 50,000 available “green cards.”

If you are interested in applying for a Diversity Visa for the 2011 fiscal year, visit the following websites:

- » Visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/DV-2011instructions.pdf> for instructions
- » Visit <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> to apply.

Interim Housing for Winter

Ohio University will be offering interim housing in Bromley Hall Tuesday, November 24, 2009 through Sunday, January 3, 2010. Reservations are required and can be made by going to the housing web site www.ohio.edu/housing and clicking on Interim/Temporary Housing under the self service module beginning November 1, 2009.

Bromley Hall

- * \$25.00 per person, per night based on double/triple occupancy - LIMITED SPACE is available.
- * Towels and linens are available at check-in at \$5.00 per set.
- * Reservations will be accepted beginning November 1, 2009. Students should be advised that a cancellation fee may apply if their reservation is not cancelled 48 hours prior to their reservation date.
- * Services will be billed to student's account

Ohio University Inn

- * Reservations requests which exceed the maximum on-campus capacity will be referred to the Ohio University Inn: 740-593-6661
- * *Students must provide the following information when applying for a reservation:*
 - * Name
 - * Gender
 - * OU Personal Identification Number (PID#)
 - * Date of Arrival/ Departure
 - * Contact Telephone Number and/or E-Mail Address

Interim/Temporary Housing will conclude on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. when the Residence Halls open for Winter Quarter. Special arrangements will need to be made for students requiring to stay beyond January 3rd. The first meal on the board plan will be breakfast on Monday, January 4, 2010. Please feel free to call 740-566-9001 for additional information.



Flag of the Week Slovakia

Capital: Bratislava
Population: 5,423,567
Languages: Slovak and Hungarian

In 1918, the Slovaks united with the Czechs to form Czechoslovakia, which later came under Communist rule. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the two countries separated peacefully in 1993. Today, the Slovakian flag displays a distinctive coat of arms on the center hoist side: a double Christian cross set over three hills, which signifies the arrival of Christianity to the region of the Carpathian Mountains. The cross is an ancient Slovakian emblem. The colors of the Slovakian flag were adopted in 1848, at a time when Slavs wished to unite in their fight for independence against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The horizontal bands of white (top), blue (center), and red (bottom) derive from the Russian tricolor. This basic design is now found on the flags of many Eastern European countries.

Courtesy of [The Directory of Flags: A guide to flags from around the world](#) by Charlotte Greig

ISFS Layout Designer, Rachel Orr, displays the flag of Slovakia.



Tips for

Success

Travel Tips

Brought to you by: The International Student Outreach Team
Tel: 740.593.1616; website: <http://www.ohio.edu/counseling>

There are a few things you should consider if you are traveling for winter break. You have to be prepared for an assortment of things while you are away. Here are some tips to help keep you safe:

- Let someone in Athens know about your travel arrangements.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Travelers checks are a good idea.
- Do not allow yourself to be taken to an isolated location.
- Do not go out alone. It's safer to go out with friends around you.
- Know the difference between new friends and strangers.
- Try not to leave valuables in your hotel.
- Always have your ID and personal medical information with you.
- Always act and talk with confidence. Try not to look or act lost.
- If you are traveling outside of the US and in an unfamiliar country, be careful drinking the local water. Purity is not always controlled.
- Beware of pick-pockets. Robbery tops the list of crimes committed against college students on vacation (acquaintance rape is also very high on the list).
- Know the laws regarding alcohol use in your location. Be careful with alcohol use. The vast majority of traveling college students were injured while intoxicated.

We hope you will have a safe and happy holiday season! If you would like more information about how to be the best possible student, please contact CPS (Hudson Health Center 3rd floor, 740 593-1616) or email Dr. Sheila at Counseling.Services@ohio.edu.

* Adapted from the University of Scranton, Department of Public Safety, <http://academic.scranton.edu/department/publicsafety/Spring-Break-Safety.pdf>



E

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C

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Thursday, November 12th, 2009

UPCinema Movie: The Ugly Truth

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Only \$1; Tickets are available at the 4th Floor, Guest Services Desk 30 minutes before each show!

Location: Baker Center Theater

Come hang out and watch the new movie, The Ugly Truth starring Katherine Heigel and Gerard Butler!

The Annual Association for Cultural Exchange Thanksgiving Dinner

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5; on sale in the ISFS Office.

Location: Baker Center Room 240

Friday, November 13th, 2009

Center For International Studies Information Session

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Walter Room 145

This Capstone Information Session is being held for all International Students.

This session is intended to provide information and answer questions regarding the three capstone options (comprehensive exams, professional project and thesis).

Men's Basketball vs. Ohio Valley

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE with Student ID

Location: Convocation Center

Saturday, November 14th, 2009

UPCinema Movie: The Ugly Truth

Time: 6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Only \$1; Tickets are available at the 4th Floor, Guest Services Desk 30 minutes before each show!

Location: Baker Center Theater

Come hang out and watch the new movie, The Ugly Truth starring Katherine Heigel and Gerard Butler!

Monday, November 16th, 2009

Women's Basketball vs. Navy

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE with Student ID

Location: Convocation Center

CHECK OUT THE FEATURE FOR EVENTS GOING ON OVER WINTER BREAK!

GOOD LUCK TAKING FINALS & TRAVELING OVER BREAK! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

ISFS
Holiday
Gathering



Tuesday,
December
1st

3:00 —
5:00 PM

Join us in 348 Baker Center to celebrate the winter break with food, music, and fun! Bring your favorite holiday cookie/treat and recipe to share with others. We look forward to seeing you there!