

## Hello, Students & Scholars!

Congrats, Tartans! You've made it through the semester! Take a moment to celebrate all your hard work. For our graduates, we're so proud of you and excited for your future. For those returning in January, we can't wait to see you next semester. Have a safe and happy Winter Break, and here's to an amazing 2025! Enjoy this final OIE "Friday Greetings" of 2024.

## OIE & CMU News & Events

### Travel Signature Reminder

Traveling or thinking about traveling internationally (cruises, Canada, Mexico, etc.) over the Winter Break? Check your I-20 (pg 2) or DS-2019 (pg 1) to see if you have a valid travel signature! Requests need to be submitted to OIE **by Dec. 18**; all requests made after this date will be available in the new year.

[Learn More](#)

### Winter Break Closures

The OIE office will close for Winter Break on Friday, Dec. 20, and re-open Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025. Please plan accordingly! As a reminder, residence halls will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 17, for all residents (except those approved to live in Winter Break housing in designated open Winter Break buildings). Halls will re-open for the spring semester at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

## Our Pittsburgh Picks



### Peoples Gas Holiday Market

**Now through Dec. 24**

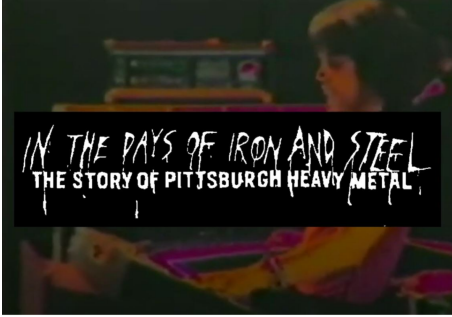
Explore a European holiday market right here in the 'Burgh! At the Peoples Gas Holiday Market, you'll find unique treasures from local creators and stunning, practical gifts from artisans worldwide. This European-style market is packed with international flair and local charm, making it the perfect spot for holiday shopping. Don't miss out!

[Learn More](#)

### Screening: In the Days of Iron and Steel

**Dec. 13 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Step back into Pittsburgh's heavy metal heyday with stories from the late '80's and early '90's featuring the bands, venues and zines that defined a generation. Check out an exclusive screening of a documentary capturing the raw energy and rebellious spirit of the era. Spotligthed bands include Dream Death, Eviction, Derketa, Mythic, Doomwatch and more, as told by those who lived it.



[Learn More](#)



### The Nutcracker

**Now through Dec. 27**

Experience the magic of The Nutcracker with a Pittsburgh twist! Join Marie and the Nutcracker Prince on a thrilling journey through sparkling snow to the Land of Enchantment. Enjoy spectacular dance, colorful characters, gorgeous costumes, stunning scenery and Tchaikovsky's iconic score.

[Learn More](#)

### Wild Illuminations: A Holiday Lanterns Experience

**Now through Jan. 12**

Fabulously frosty fun at the Pittsburgh Zoo! Marvel at colossal winter-themed lanterns and more than a million twinkling lights. Explore the fantastical Secret Forest with unicorns, a griffin, a snow monster and an ice dragon. Plus, don't miss the mystical dream tunnel and zodiac animal lanterns celebrating the Lunar New Year! Enjoy wintry activities and holiday treats for all.



[Learn More](#)



### Phipps' Holiday Magic

**Now through Jan. 5**

Phipps has pulled out all the stops for this year's Winter Flower Show! With magnificent new displays featuring mystical creatures, gorgeous holiday trees and signature floral delights, including amaryllis, orchids and 21 varieties of poinsettias. Plus, check out the Winter Light Garden, which fills outdoor spaces with spectacular lights in vivid shades that will awe you!

[Learn More](#)

### Have an announcement to share?

If you have an event or announcement that you wish to submit for inclusion in OIE's Friday Greetings newsletter, please submit it via our [Event Submission Form](#) by **Wednesday at 5 p.m. EST** for inclusion in the following Friday's newsletter.

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