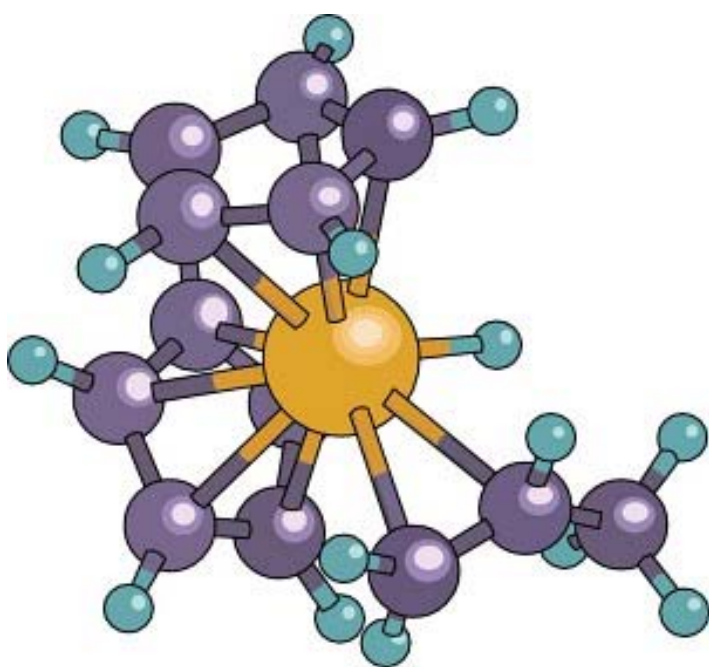

Pitt Is It



*A guide to
Pittsburgh
for...
Prospective
Chemistry
Graduate
Students*

2011

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Chemistry
Chevron Science Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412/624-8501



Who are the key people I should know in the Chemistry Department?

The Chemistry Department is a big place, but there are also people you will or should get to know in the Department early on. The *Graduate Admissions Committee* makes decisions on the applications submitted for graduate study in the Chemistry Department. The current committee reviewing applications for Fall 2011 include:

Paul Floreancig, Chair	Tara Meyer
Shigeru Amemiya	Scott Nelson
Joseph Grabowski	Megan Spence
Kenneth Jordan	Alexander Star

The *Graduate Student Advising Committee* (aka GSAC, pronounced gee-sack) advises graduate students until they pass the preliminary exam - *i.e.*, pass four core courses with a B average. GSAC will meet with new students to advise them when they register in August. The current GSAC includes:

Stephen Weber, Chair	Scott Nelson
Toby Chapman	Megan Spence
Adrian Michael	

Arguably, *the* most important person for *any* graduate student is the Chemistry Graduate Administrator, *Fran Nagy*. Ask any graduate student. When you need to drop/add courses, go see Fran. When you're not sure if you have enough credits, go see Fran. If you need a course list for registration, go see Fran. If you need a graduation card, go see Fran. (Get the picture?)

When you arrive at the Department, ready to "go to work," you will want to meet the Department's Payroll Coordinator, *Toni Weber*. Remember that to complete your payroll paperwork you will need a passport *or* two forms of ID (including one picture ID) such as driver's license, birth certificate, or voter's registration card. You will also need a Social Security Card. (International students can obtain this when they arrive.)

Will the Department have some kind of orientation for new students?

The Department conducts a comprehensive orientation program that includes a nuts-and-bolts orientation, appraisal exams, and an intensive teacher training course. Details will be sent to incoming students early in the summer. Following is a brief outline schedule for the Chemistry orientation. A final schedule will be available later this spring.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (2011)

Monday, August 15, 2011

- 9:00-12:30 Orientation for International Students (see information sent to you from Office of International Services – *foreign students only*)
- 2:00-4:00 Welcome, Announcements and Orientation – Associate Chair Graduate Student Advisement Committee and others. Academic information, registration, etc. Required for all new graduate students. General introduction to the Program – Library Facilities, and Stock-room procedures.
Room 12B (Lecture Hall in Chevron Science Center)

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

- 8:00-10:00 Appraisal Exam – Inorganic Chemistry
Room 12B
- 10:00-12:30 Appraisal Exam – Organic Chemistry
Room 12B

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

- 8:00-10:00 Appraisal Exam – Analytical Chemistry
Room 12B
- 10:00-12:30 Appraisal Exam – Physical Chemistry
Room 12B
- 12:30-3:00 PLU (Honorary Graduate Chemistry Fraternity) COOKOUT, (*i.e.*, FOOD!)

Thursday, August 18, 2011

- 9:00-4:00 English Comprehensibility Oral slots for new international students

Friday, August 19, 2011

- 9:00-12:00 English Comprehensibility Oral slots for new international students

Monday, August 22, 2011

- 11:00-12:00 Library Facility Seminar
Room 12B
- 2:00 REGISTRATION
A schedule will be given to you during orientation for your GSAC appointment.
Meeting with the Graduate Student Advisement Committee; complete registration and turn in (to Fran) the Schedule Information Card (the small buff-colored one) immediately after the meeting. (This information card is very important and must be completed so that teaching assignments can be made prior to the beginning of classes.)

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

- 9:00-11:00 Teacher Training Session (Attendance is required for all graduate students who hold teaching assistantships.) Health & Safety. Introduction to Proper Laboratory Procedures and Safety – 12B
- 1:00-5:00 Tentative assignment to teaching area (*i.e.*, organic, general, *etc.*) and commencement of the training program.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

- 9:00-5:00 Teacher Training Program

Thursday, August 25, 2011

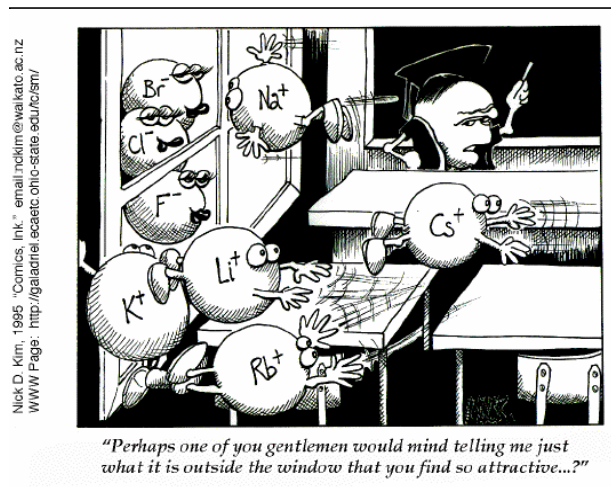
- 9:00-3:00 Teacher Training Program
- 3:30-5:00 FAS Orientation-Holiday Inn – Lytton Avenue – Schenley Ballroom

Friday, August 26, 2011

- 8:45-1:00 New TA Orientation – Lawrence Hall – 1st Floor
- 3:30-5:00 Instructor Meeting - TBA

Monday, August 29, 2011

- 8:00- Classes begin; all teaching duties commence.



In addition, all incoming FAS graduate students are invited and encouraged to attend the **FAS New Student Orientation/ Information Fair**, a reception involving *food* and information tables. This is a great opportunity to meet other grad students while mingling with administrative-type people and gathering information that will make your time in graduate school go by more easily. And there will be food! You will be provided with dates and times during Chemistry Orientation.

You'll meet the FAS Graduate Studies Dean and staff. Officers from the FAS Graduate Student Organization, a group that believes strongly in the importance of food at any and all events involving graduate students, will be there to welcome you, too. Did we mention that *food* will be available?

What do teaching and research appointments entail?

Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Teaching Fellows (TFs) in Chemistry primarily are positions for graduate students to teach course recitations and/or labs. Expectations of what is required of TA/TFs depend upon the class involved. According to University guidelines, TA/TFs work no

more than 20 hours per week; this includes both classroom and preparation time. First year graduate students are typically Teaching Assistants, and virtually all first year Chemistry graduate students teach in the general or organic chemistry program. After the first year and after teaching experience, a student can become a Teaching Fellow (with an increase in pay).

Don't worry about your teaching duties. During Chemistry Orientation, you will be involved in an extensive TA Training Program that will properly prepare you for teaching your classes, followed by weekly meetings with class coordinators to help you keep up.

Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) work with their professor primarily in lab research. Their pay may be less than that of the TA/TF, or more. For Chemistry GSR's, full tuition is provided as well as a stipend. GSRs are usually funded by outside grants in specific, topic-related research they themselves may be pursuing with their advisor.

How much and when will I get paid?

For 2010-11, full TAs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences earn \$23,280 for three terms (TFs earn \$8,070/term). For 2010-11, GSR stipends range from \$1,584 to \$2,219/month. Read your TA/TF/GSR award letter carefully. Stipends are usually distributed once a month (beginning the last business day in September) for 8-12 months.

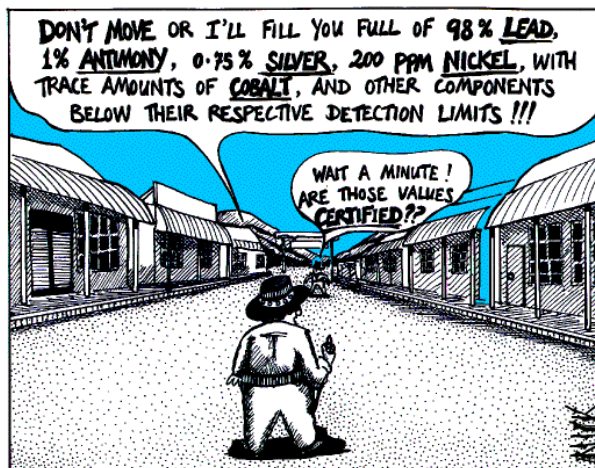
Paychecks usually come the **last work day of the month**. You will go to the Department's payroll officer, Toni Weber, to pick up your check unless you have Direct Deposit. Direct Deposit is a good idea; often your bank will give you free checking if you're a Direct Deposit customer, and sometimes the checks are mysteriously deposited into your account a bit early. At the end of the month, when accounts are getting rubbery, this can be a lifesaver.

Students receiving TA/TF support over the summer should keep in mind that summer paychecks often come out in one lump or two. You will not necessarily get a check at the end of each month. See Toni to find out when summer stipends are distributed and whether you should change your tax withholding status for the summer.

What will it cost me to live in Pittsburgh?

Several years ago students from The Chemistry Department participated in a survey of graduate student budgets. The survey was not exhaustive. But the survey results do present a general picture of Chemistry grad students' monthly budgets.

Monthly commuting costs:	much less than \$25
<i>(Note: over half of FAS grad students responding live with a mile or two of campus and commute by foot, bike or free PAT bus).</i>	
Monthly housing costs:	\$400 - \$660
Monthly cost of meals:	\$150 - \$200
Miscellaneous expenses/month:	\$150 - \$200
Cost of books per term:	less than \$200
Annual car insurance costs:	more than \$500



ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS IN THE WILD WEST

How do costs in Pittsburgh compare with those in other cities?

Data from 2002 *Money Magazine* pretty much tells the story. Yep, Pittsburgh's a relative bargain!

Cost of Living Index
(with 100 being the national average)

New York, NY	234.6	Chicago, IL	111.3
San Francisco, CA	187.1	Madison, WI	110.7
Oakland, CA	147.5	Raleigh, NC	107.7
Orange County, CA (Irvine)	146.6	Boulder, CO	106.4
Boston, MA	143.0	Minneapolis, MN	102.0
Seattle, WA	130.2	Bloomington, IN	102.0
Los Angeles, CA	130.1	Gainesville, FL	100.6
Washington, DC	124.0	State College, PA	100.1
New Haven, CT	123.6	Columbus, OH	99.6
Philadelphia, PA	123.1	Pittsburgh, PA	99.5
Ann Arbor, MI	115.2	Rochester, NY	96.8
Wilmington, DE	111.9	Champaign, IL	93.8

from *Money Magazine's* 2002 website

What are the costs of going to grad school at Pitt?

If you are a full-time student with either TA/TF or GSR support you will receive a full tuition scholarship and all fees, except the activity fee, will be paid. It is the Chemistry Department's policy to support all full-time doctoral students in good standing. Nonetheless, we provide the following information regarding tuition and fees.

Tuition Rates (In-State vs. Out-State): Tuition rates are based on residency. Students who are considered permanent residents of Pennsylvania pay a much lower rate. In order to be considered permanent, a person must have lived in the state for a full year (straight through) before enrolling in school and be a U.S. citizen (or have an immigrant or permanent resident visa). Again, students in Chemistry with full-time support have a full tuition scholarship.

If you believe you have been wrongly classified as out-of-state, you can submit an appeal (with very convincing evidence) to the Student Appeals Office (G-12 Thackeray). It seems to us that an ability to explain Kennywood's open and whoopie pies ought to qualify anyone as a true Pennsylvanian, but nobody asked us.

Tuition rates per term for Fall 2010 or Spring Term 2011:

- Full-Time (9-15 credits): Out-State \$15,127, In-State \$9,002
- Part-Time (1-8 credits): Out-State \$1,210/cr. In-State \$701/cr.

Fees: When you see your financial record (your tuition bill), you'll notice several fees attached. Grad students with appointments as TA/TFs or GSRs *pay only the activity fee*. All other students pay all fees. Fees in the summer will always be different, but per-term fees for the Fall and Spring Terms (2010-11) are:

Activity Fee \$20 (\$10 for part-time students);
Health Fee \$85;
Network Fee \$175;
Security/Transportation fee \$90.

You are responsible for the activity fee ONLY each term as long as you are supported by the department either as a TA/TF/GSR.

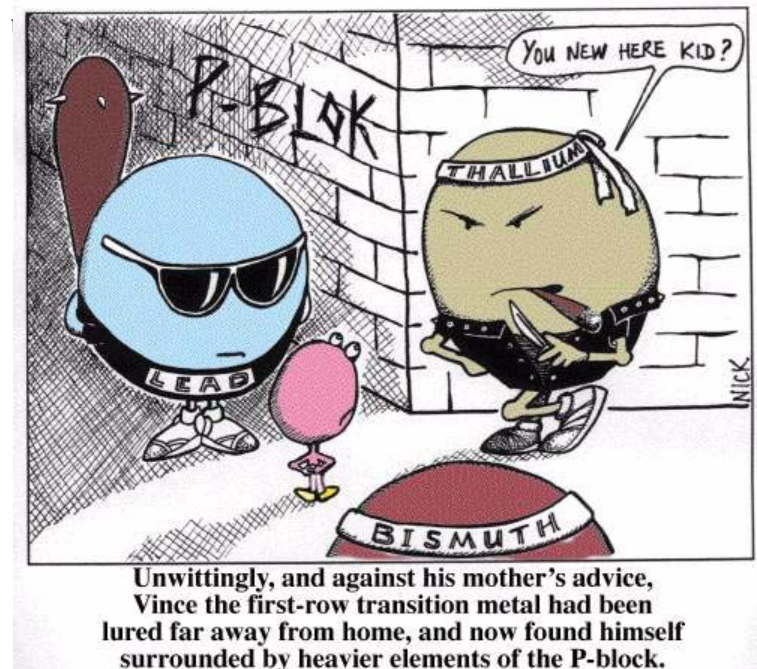
Half of your *activity fee* goes to the Graduate and Professional Student Association and the other half goes to the FAS Graduate Student Organization. The *health fee* pays for the services of the Student Health Service. The *network fee* pays for your drain on the computer system, as both a direct and indirect force. That is, all the computer space taken up by information on you and the processing of you through the University is paid for by the computer fee. In addition, your Network Authorization account and direct use of the computers on campus are underwritten by money collected in computer fees. The *security/transportation fee* contributes to safety measures such as campus lighting as well as transportation services such as PAT's Free-Ride Zone for Pitt students. The one fee you can avoid is the *late fee*, which starts at \$50 and increases incrementally the longer you put off paying the bill. Pay your bills on time and you'll never have to deal with this one.

Invoices (aka Tuition Bill Statements): If you have received a teaching or research assistantship or a fellowship that includes a tuition scholarship, your tuition and fees (except the activity fee) will often have been prepaid, and the prepayment is indicated on your financial record on the web (www.my.pitt.edu). If you are eligible for a tuition scholarship and it is not entered on your record, go immediately to Fran Nagy and she will help you straighten things out. Chances are that notice of your appointment was received too late for prepayment, or there is some minor glitch in your paper work. If that's the case, Fran can set things straight in a jiffy!

All students must go to the Cashier's Office, G7 Thackeray with their checkbook, credit card or cash in hand prior to the due date. You can present your check to a real, live person, put it in the mail slot in G7 Thackeray or pay on the web. Everyone **MUST** pay the activity fee. If you have any questions, talk to Fran Nagy.

What can you tell me about Pittsburgh?

Pittsburgh itself is a small city (2,358,695 people called the city home in 2002). It might be more helpful, though, to think about Pittsburgh as a big small-town, a perspective you'll



Be prepared to throw away any misconceptions about the Steel City. While Pittsburgh is proud of its industrial past, it's now a national financial and technological center. (The city has more doctoral scientists and engineers per capita than Boston, L.A., or San Francisco.)

The food throws some newcomers; french fries on sandwiches, french fries on salads. The driving habits throw others; when a light turns green, watch for the car facing you to take a Pittsburgh left across what you might have assumed was your right-of-way. Then again, drivers are so friendly here that they will

actually let you merge without taking off the rear half of your car.

Pittsburgh accents and language take their share of potshots. (*e.g.*, Win yunz go t ton, watch fer the sputzies in Market Square an at.) It gets easier after the 100th visit to the Jynt Iggle! And the weather's nothing to brag about: only Seattle has fewer days of sunshine.

But it doesn't take most people long to fall in love with the place. Not only does the city have personality, it has character. One of the local television stations recently ran an honesty test on Pittsburghers. Fifteen wallets -- with cash -- were dropped around town. Guess how many were returned, contents intact?

All of em.

Welcome to the Burgh!

What neighborhoods in Pittsburgh are (relatively) close to the Pitt campus?

Pittsburgh's neighborhoods help to give life in the city a small-town flavor. Each neighborhood has its own personality, complete with quirks, perks, and character flaws. We've picked out a few neighborhoods in the East End and South Side areas and described them for you here (alphabetically). Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, and North Oakland are the neighborhoods most grad students live in, but don't restrict yourself to those--explore!

Bloomfield begins on the east side of North Oakland. The community has deep roots (often Italian); lots of people living in the homes their parents and grandparents lived in. Narrow streets; row homes. Rents are very reasonable, and you can't beat a neighborhood that's home to the Pleasure Bar and the Bloomfield Bridge Tavern. Lynn Harper writes, ...please mention Bloomfield/Friendship as a good student housing place! I first lived in Squirrel Hill, then moved to Bloomfield. I like the latter much better (much more diverse).

East Liberty is northeast of Bloomfield, next to Highland Park. Housing here varies. East Liberty has gorgeous Victorian homes (and apartments within these homes), but it also has some dumps. Bus service is good, rents generally cheap, so if you can find a place in a nice pocket of East Liberty (pronounced Sliberty), go for it.

Friendship is tucked in between Bloomfield and Shadyside. It's an easy bus ride in to Pitt and you get many of the conveniences of living in Shadyside (Walnut Street is within walking distance, as is Bloomfield's Liberty Avenue shopping district) with much lower rents. Houses tend to be large, with big front yards and old trees; many of them have third-floor apartments to rent out.

Greenfield is sort of a suburb of Squirrel Hill. Located on the southeast side of Schenley Park from Oakland, Greenfield is primarily family homes. If you can find an apartment or house for rent here, though, you can get an excellent deal. The neighborhood is safe and family-oriented. A PAT bus runs between Greenfield and the University in the morning and late afternoon.

If you prefer the sound of lawn mowers to that of frat parties and like running through a park more than parking lots, you might think about ***Highland Park***. It's somewhat remote from campus, but two bus routes get you to the Cathedral in twenty minutes. HP is quietly residential with architectural range yet pretty economical rents for what you get. If you want spacious instead of cozy, you might look in this neighborhood. Drawback; there are no coffee houses, movie theaters, or Giant Eagles. On the other hand, the reservoirs in the park that give the area its name are Pittsburgh's version of the seashore; a walk around them is a decent workout that's less dangerous than mountain-climbing or hang-gliding but is still at a respectable altitude. You can occasionally hear the lions roaring in the Pittsburgh Zoo adjoining the park. Crime (e.g., break-

ins) is not non-existent (pardon the double negative) in HP, but the city hasn't yet found it

necessary to assign beat cops as in many neighborhoods, and sirens seem relatively rare.

Mount Washington has both topographic and demographic charm. You can roll down any side of the hill to be virtually anywhere instantly; the back side of the hill leads to Rt. 51 or airport-way, the front side to downtown or the Parkway East; *i.e.*, Oakland. Of course, you've got the inclines. These will take you down the hill to Carson Street, where you can catch a bus to Oakland. On Grandview Avenue, Mount Washington's main street, you can see men in tuxes stepping from limos, and in the next block, see bubbas in babushkas hosing down the street in front of their house. To find the best housing, get off Grandview Avenue and go explore the side streets. Beyond Grandview, rents are reasonable. The Mt. Washington side is more convenient than the Duquesne Heights side (the Mon Incline side versus the Duquesne Incline side) because you have the business districts *i.e.*, of Shiloh Street and Boggs, which cover the basic needs. As a South Sider, I still go to the Mt. Washington video store (G&R Video on Boggs) and dry cleaner (South Hills Dry Cleaners on Sycamore, a mom and pop where pop does pick up and deliver if you want, and mom is great at alterations and repairs). And of course, we have Margaret, the drop off lady, who does laundry better than your mom. No kidding, and cheap too. Same day turnaround if you drop off early. She and her husband own the laundromat. Once you get used to communicating with them--they have thick German accents--it's a breeze. And you'll never do your own laundry again, even on a grad school budget. I swear. [by Beth Marcello]

Oakland, of course, is the closest neighborhood, but rents may be high and apartments small. Grad students generally avoid South Oakland (between Forbes Avenue and the Boulevard of the Allies) and gravitate toward North Oakland (bordering on Shadyside). Jonas Salk conquered polio here, Mister Rogers produced television magic here, and the city buried a bridge here. Think you're ready for this neighborhood? Everyone has their own story about the place.

Oakland is divided into North and South by Forbes Avenue. With the Cathedral of Learning as a reference, North Oakland is located from Bigelow Blvd. over to Baum, and up along Fifth Avenue. There are a number of apartment buildings, high-rises, and homes in this neighborhood which are in decent shape, but the rent is a little stiff. Down in South Oakland, which is everything from the O back to Rt. 376 and the Blvd. of the Allies, the streets run one way in strange directions, and traffic getting out of town tends to bunch-up in the afternoon. While there are a few side streets and cul-de-sacs with nice views over Panther Hollow, much of South Oakland's student housing can be a discouraging sight.

If you want to live in Oakland for its convenience to campus, the first thing to do is walk the streets and check the windows of homes and apartments for phone numbers of available places. As you look around, becoming familiar with the properties, you may notice they are owned by only a few families. These folks deal with students often, and usually like to rent to responsible people who will not trash the place and cost them money. If you don't like a place, ask the person showing it if there's anything else they know of; often Uncle Sal has a place for rent, too.

Point Breeze, on the east side of Squirrel Hill, is a gorgeous neighborhood, but not one that graduate students can typically afford. Writers Annie Dillard and David McCullough grew up here.

Regent Square is right off the Parkway East, between Swissvale and Wilkinsburg. To get to Regent Square from Oakland, take Forbes Avenue through Squirrel Hill until you get to Braddock Avenue. Unlike most neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Regent Square is flat! Frick Park (with its tennis courts, baseball fields, playgrounds, and nature trails) is part of the neighborhood. Nice neighborhood shopping area, complete with bakery and movie theater, but a *real* shortage of apartment buildings.

Shadyside is a 15 or 20 minute walk from Oakland up Fifth Avenue. The campus shuttle bus runs through here every day, so this is a very convenient place to live. Nice range of housing: efficiencies, condos, apartments, houses. Rich families live here as well as yuppies, artists, and students. Walnut Street is a great place to shop or just people-watch. Unfortunately, rents can be rather high, and break-ins sometimes a problem.

South Side is a short ride away from Oakland on PAT's 54C, which comes every 20 minutes via 18th Street. In South Side, rents are cheaper on the slopes, (provided you don't have a room with a view) plus you get the extra bonus of staying fit by having to climb any of the many sets of public steps that traverse the hill. Property values have tripled or more in the past six or so years. Rents have increased too, in the flats, but decent deals are still available. Watch for new market-rate housing near the river around 18th Street and some older buildings turned condo or apartment. I'd say South Side is pretty much the perfect place to live, lacking only in a great pizza place, a good video store and a decent egg breakfast. We have virtually everything else...bookstores, CD stores, Giant Eagle, McCrorys, old-fashioned hardware stores, many cool watering holes, Shootz, plus the old-fashioned (i.e. cheaper and sleazier) pool halls, and places where you can buy the New York Times. (An aside: you can't get the NYT home-delivered in South Side; maybe if more grad student types move here, we can organize 100 of us to order.)
[By Beth Marcello]

Squirrel Hill is about as close as Shadyside to the University and also can be reached by shuttle. Rents are slightly lower than in Oakland or Shadyside. Located a little more than a mile to the east of campus across Schenley Park, Squirrel Hill has a mixture of single family houses, duplexes, and small apartment buildings. It is readily accessible from campus by walking through the park, by PAT bus, and by free University Shuttles. Like many other Pittsburgh neighborhoods, Squirrel Hill conveys the pleasant feeling of a very small town with its two main commercial streets, Murray Avenue and Forbes Avenue. Stores are within walking distance of almost any part of Squirrel Hill, and include a number of restaurants with a variety of international cuisines such as Italian, Middle Eastern, Chinese, and Thai. There are also four coffee houses, several bagel shops, numerous delis, three video stores, and two movie theaters. The environs of Squirrel Hill include two lovely old city parks, Schenley and Frick, and a number of synagogues and churches. Though you will probably discover many fellow students from Pitt and CMU (and some of your professors as well) living in Squirrel Hill, families and children predominate. People walk, bike, play in the playground, and shop on Murray Avenue - all contributing to that hometown feel. The presence of pedestrians also increases the feeling of safety in this relatively secure neighborhood. By Jane Thomas (Anthropology).

The Strip District: [Peter Moshein (Psychology)] There is a shopping area in Pittsburgh with an old world atmosphere. If you enjoy streets lined with specialty shops, street vendors and crowds of shoppers, you will probably enjoy the Strip District. It is located along the Allegheny River northeast of downtown (the Golden Triangle). Starting at 16th Street and extending to 22nd Street, encompassing Penn Avenue and Smallman Street, you will find restaurants, grocers, ethnic food shops, butchers, bakers, novelty stores, and much more.

To get there by public transportation, board the 54C North Side/Oakland bus along the Fifth Avenue eastbound bus lane. The bus eventually takes you, via a circuitous route, down Penn Avenue through the heart of the Strip District. The trip takes about twenty minutes. By car, follow Bigelow Boulevard to Paulowna Street, turn right, go down the hill to the traffic light at Liberty Avenue, continue one block further to Penn Avenue, turn left and head to the Strip District. Parking is a challenge, especially on Saturdays when the weather is good. Keep circulating, and before long, you'll see someone leaving a parking place. Grab it quickly.

The Strip District is the food wholesale area for the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Wholesalers open for business 3-5 a.m. Retailers are open by 8 or 9 a.m. Saturdays are the busiest days, and most places close on Sunday. There are many ethnic food stores, including Chinese, Greek, Italian, Korean, Mexican, and Thai. Specialty stores sell vegetables, cheese, poultry, meat, coffee, tea, fish and seafood, party supplies, candy, flowers, breads and other baked goods, canned goods, CDs and audio tapes. Street vendors sell ready-to-eat food, CDs, clothing, plants, photographs, and anything else they think the public might buy. It is really an interesting place to wander and discover.

Restaurants run the gamut from sandwich shops to linen table cloth dining establishments. Primanti's offers a bewildering variety of sandwiches, with cole slaw and french fries stuffed into the sandwich. El Ultimo Cafe has linen tablecloths and good steaks. Restaurants are located

all over the District, which is small enough to walk everywhere and large enough to accommodate more places than you can visit in a day.

The Strip District got its name because it is a narrow strip of flat land between the Allegheny River and the Hill. Flat land in Pittsburgh is noteworthy. In the nineteenth century it was heavily industrial with manufacturing plants and workers homes. There used to be an incline which connected the top of the Hill, above Bigelow Boulevard, with the Strip. The Pennsylvania Railroad had large yards in the Strip District with freight and produce warehouses. That is what gave the area its start as a wholesale center. After World War II, the industries moved away. In the 1980s the railroad yards disappeared, trucks took over deliveries, and merchants took over the space.

The District is still evolving. Not many years ago one could hear hawkers shouting out bargains and the stores were unpretentious -- some had sawdust on wooden floors. It was the best place in town to buy a wide variety of good food at reasonable prices. Some stores are still cheaper than most supermarkets, but the pressure is on to make the Strip District upscale. When that is finally accomplished, this writer will look elsewhere for shopping.

How safe is Pittsburgh and the Oakland campus?

Pitt is located in one of the most densely and diversely populated sections of the city. While the city is enjoying its lowest violent-crime rate in thirty years, there's still crime here. The



University of Pittsburgh Police Department (412/624-4040) is responsible for campus security, and has taken a number of steps to make the campus as safe as possible. These features and some common sense make Pitt reasonably safe, especially when compared to many other major university cities.

Campus Safety: *Emergency phones* are scattered around campus. These automatically ring the campus police office when you push the red button. *Van-Call* service operates from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. Van-Call will drive you from where you are at the University to points within a limited range in

Oakland (412/624-1700). Through the *Operator ID program*, you can inscribe ID numbers on your valuables (bike, computer, etc.). You should probably buy a *club* for your car, and keep it locked at all times. (Pittsburgh does have one of the country's higher stolen-car rates.)

Common sense means you don't walk alone (or jog alone), you stay in well-lit areas at night, you keep all doors and windows at home locked, you don't leave belongings unattended, and you don't use a bank machine at night without a lot of company. If you are considering taking a class in becoming "streetwise," personal defense is offered by the Department of Physical Education in conjunction with the Public Safety Office.

Emergency numbers:

Campus Police	412/624-2121
Pittsburgh Police/Fire/Ambulance	911
Pittsburgh's Action Against Rape	412/765-2731
Center for Victims of Violent Crime	412/392-8582

How can I find housing?

Finding any old place to live while you go to grad school isn't hard; finding a place where you'll want to live for two to ten years is a bit more difficult. Before you start looking, read through our section on Pittsburgh Neighborhoods and pick two or three areas in which to focus your home hunting attention. If you don't want to drive to school, take special note of the areas covered by

the PAT/Pitt Free Ride Zone. Then make plans to spend a day or two in Pittsburgh (see Staying Overnight on page 15 for places to crash during your housing search). One of the very best ways to find a place to live in Pittsburgh is to go to the neighborhoods you're interested in and walk around: landlords post *For Rent* signs in windows and front yards. And most people are friendly; you can go up to someone in her yard or on her porch and ask if she knows of any available rental properties.

Some things to consider as you look at apartments:

- Are utilities included? (many charming Pittsburgh homes were designed with unlimited energy consumption in mind);
- How's the water pressure? (don't be shy about turning on the shower);
- Who are your neighbors? (beware of undergrads);
- Are there enough electrical outlets, phone jacks, and closets for your needs?

While rents and mortgages cover a wide range, Pittsburgh housing is, in general, fairly cheap. You can find great housing bargains, or you can get sucked into outrageous rent payments. The most frequently reported amount spent by FAS students monthly on housing is \$400-\$500.

Here are a few examples of what Chemistry grad students are paying for -- keep these in mind as you're looking at apartments or houses and deciding whether its worth the rent:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Squirrel Hill | 2 bedroom apartment | \$600 + utilities |
| • Squirrel Hill | 1 bedroom in apartment building | \$460 + electric |
| • Shadyside | 2 bedroom apartment | \$590 + gas & electric |
| • Greenfield | 4 bedroom apartment | \$800 + utilities |
| • Highland Park | 1 st floor of house | \$500 |
| • North Oakland | 2 bedroom apartment | \$415 + electric |
| • North Oakland | 2 bedroom converted house apartment | \$520 + electric |

Discrimination: If you think you've been discriminated against by real estate agents or landlords, keep records of the date(s) and time(s) of the events, names of people you spoke to, address of property and whether it remains for rent. Call the Commission on Human Relations at 412/255-2600.

Furnishings: You can furnish your graduate student home any number of cheap ways. Goodwill Stores are a good bet, especially the South Side outlet at 2600 East Carson Street. Other Goodwill Stores are located in Bloomfield (5200 Liberty Ave.) and Wilkinsburg (600 Penn Ave.). The sales ads on the UNIX electronic bulletin boards offer good deals, and you can dicker with the seller on prices.

If you can spend some money or don't mind running up a credit card bill, IKEA (a 20-30 minute drive from Oakland out the Parkway West) has nice furniture at reasonable prices. Ikea sells everything from spoons to settees, and if you're really bored, you can watch the chair-testing machine punch and rock an armchair indefinitely.

On the other hand, if you don't want to spend any money at all, you can engage in the time-honored sport of trash picking. Bulk pick-up days come every other week in the city, so stake out a likely neighborhood and find out their garbage collection schedule. People start to put things out the night before, so cruise for discarded jewels the evening before bulk pick-up day or early that morning. The end of the month is a good time to swing by apartment buildings; departing tenants pitch a lot of furniture to avoid transporting it to new homes.

Where can I stay while looking for an apartment?

Try one of these commercial establishments:

Hampton Inn (Oakland)	412/681-1000
Holiday Inn University Center	(Oakland--closest) 412/682-6200
Best Western (Oakland)	412/683-6100
Red Roof Inn (near airport, about 10 miles from campus) Robinson Township	412/787-7870
Wyndham Garden Hotel	412/683-2040
Towers (Pitt dorms: available May-August)	412/648-1100

Is University Housing available?

Pitt has very little University housing for graduate students. Even undergrads have trouble getting dorm space. But there is some housing for full-time students through the Office of Property Management (412/624-9900/Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM). No pets are allowed in any University housing properties; most properties (except South Oakland) have coin-operated laundry facilities on the premises.

College Gardens at Walnut and Elwood in Shadyside range from two bedroom – one bath (\$704) to three bedroom – 2 bath (\$822). Utilities are included in the rent. Electric is extra.

The Mayflower Apartments for graduate students only at 141 North Dithridge range in price from \$464/month to \$800/month, utilities included. 412/682-5744.

Properties in **South Oakland** run from \$338/month for an efficiency (you pay for utilities) to \$557 for a two-bedroom place (utilities included + electric). Some larger special units are also available.



For more information, stop by the Property Management Office at 127 N. Bellefield Street or visit the University Property Web site at <http://www.pitt.edu/~property/pm.html>

If you're interested in University Housing, call Property Management as soon as possible for an application. While there is a turnover rate of about 50%, there's usually a waiting list.

Following is a partial listing of real estate companies in Pittsburgh who handle rental units near the campus. Most of them manage various types of accommodations in several sections of

the city and neighboring communities. It is suggested that you contact them individually to determine whether or not they have accommodations similar to that which you are seeking. This list in no way wishes to imply that we recommend these companies or that they are the only real estate companies in the area. It is suggested that you check the Yellow Pages for a more complete listing.

SOUTH OAKLAND

Dimension Group
120 Three Degree Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412/369-0994

McKee Place Apartments
308 McKee Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/681-0102

H&P Associates
3817 Dawson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/682-1519
John Kelly Realty
3535 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/683-7300

NORTH OAKLAND

AR Building Company
330 Melwood Avenue #2A
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/621-7411

Meyer Management Co.
1823 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412/243-7120

Tuckfelt & Associates
616 S. Millvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412/621-4344
West & McCorkle
P.O. Box 90003
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412/363-9910

Oakland Village Realty
258 Atwood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/683-1200

K Rentals
342 S. Atlantic Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412/661-8381

SHADYSIDE/SQUIRREL HILL

Apartments Unlimited
2715 A Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412/521-7838

Franklin West, Inc.
272 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412/661-1151
(mailing address) PO Box 5377
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

SHADYSIDE/SQUIRREL HILL/OTHER

Equity Real Estate
2029 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412/422-9200
JJ Land Company
5738 Baum Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412/363-1033

Harris Realty
2214 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412/521-7050
MOZART
515 S. Aiken Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412/682-7000

Northwood Realty
1935 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412/521-5100

Pivrotto Real Estate
4611 Bayard Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412/621-6401

Daniel-Elkind Agency
1831 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412/421-7007

RENTAL AGENTS WITH WEEKEND HOURS

<u>Company</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Hours Available</u>
Amberson Apartments 5 Bayard Road, 15213	412/682-5886	Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30 Sat/Sun 10am-4:00pm
Amberson Plaza Apartments 5030 Centre Avenue, 15213	412/681-9870	Mon, Tues, Thurs 9:00 – 4:00 Wed 11:00 – 8:00, Fri – 9:00 – 1:00
Apartments Unlimited 2715A Murray Avenue, 15217	412/521-7838	Saturday 10am-2pm Mon – Fri 9:00 – 5:00

A&R Building Company 330 Melwood Avenue.2A, 15213	412/621-7411	Saturday 11am-3pm - summer Mon-Thur 8:00am - 5pm Friday 8am-4pm
Cathedral Mansions 4716 Ellsworth Avenue, 15213	412/621-8100	Mon – Thurs 10am-2pm
Franklin West Agency 272 Shady Avenue, 15208	412/661-1151	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
H&P Associates 3817 Dawson Street, 15213	412/682-1519	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm Sat. 9am-4:30pm
Harris Realty 2214 Murray Avenue, 15217	412/521-7050	Sunday by appointment Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
JJ Land Company 3738 Baum Blvd.	412/363-1033	Monday-Friday 9am-7pm Sat 10am-4pm
The Kenmawr 401 Shady Avenue, 15206	412/361-2774	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm Sat. 11am-3pm
Meyers Management Co. 5 Bayard Road 15213	412/682-5886	M-F 8:30-4:30 Sat-Sun – 10-3:00
MOZART 515 S. Aiken Avenue, 15232	412/682-7000	Mon-Sun 9am-6pm
Northwood Realty 1935 Murray Avenue, 15217	412/521-5100	Mon-Fri 10am-6pm Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
Daniel Elkind Agency 1831 Murray Avenue, 15217	412/421-7007	Saturday 9am-11am M-F 9-5:00
Webster Hall 4415 Fifth Avenue 15213	412/621-4132	M-F 8:30-5:30

Any suggestions on how I can find an apartment in a day or two?

After visiting Pittsburgh, Pitt, and the Department of Chemistry, you might think it's impossible to get ready for the Fall Term in less than oh, say, four or five months worth of effort. Relax. If you don't have much time to get everything together, begin with our crash course, do-it-in-a-day checklist and get the essentials accomplished:

getting your bearings in the department and finding an apartment. *This will be easier on you if you can do it during the summer*, when Oakland and the University are a little more laid back, but if you absolutely can't make it here until the last minute, plan to arrive no later than

Thursday, August 13 -- so you can find your apartment and attend the Chemistry Department Orientation Session that begins the week of August 17 (see page 2). When looking for an apartment you'll need hotel reservations for at least a day or two (unless you're very lucky finding an apartment or roommate), and you should go ahead and make those reservations now (see our section on Overnight Accommodations on page 14).

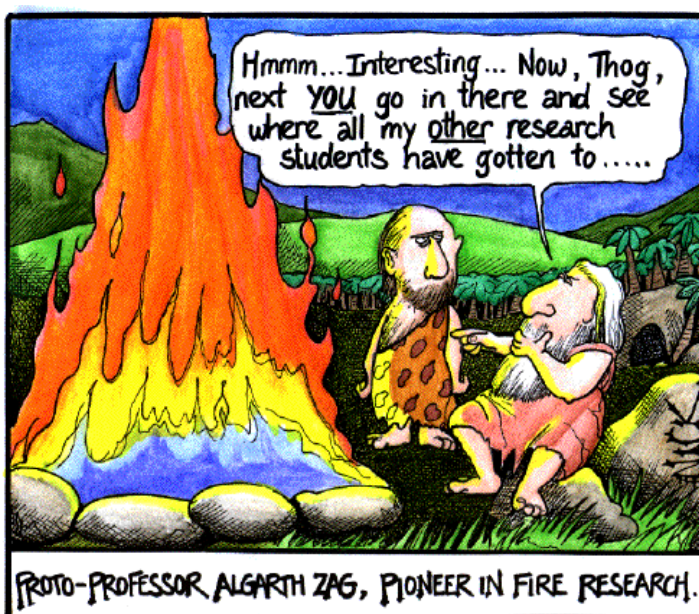
Ready? Here's your plan of action:

Call ahead and talk to Fran Nagy (412/624-8501). Tell her when you're coming. You might ask her to connect you with an experienced graduate student. If you are looking for a roommate, tell Fran; she might know of another student also looking for a roommate! If you have Internet access, check Pittsburgh newsgroups for leads on apartments for rent. At least one local realty company lists rentals on the Web.

Your local library probably carries the Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette or Tribune-Review: check out the For Rent sections of the classifieds. Study the Pittsburgh Neighborhoods section on page 8 of this book! Hoard quarters. You'll need them for parking meters, phone calls, and newspapers in Pittsburgh.

Get to Oakland. (See Transportation on page 21 and Maps in the Appendix.) Oakland is a very congested part of the city; avoid arrival between 7:30 AM and 9 AM. Remember to bring:

- quarters,
- cash,
- your checkbook,
- this handbook, and



- comfortable shoes.

Find a place to park if you came by car. Most meters in Oakland are a quarter per half-hour; some meters have a two-hour maximum, while others have a four-hour max. The most convenient lot is on Forbes Avenue, across from the Cathedral of Learning and between Hillman Library and the Carnegie. Parking here costs about a dollar an hour (unless you stay more than 9 hours -- if you park for 10 or 20 hours, you'll just pay the maximum \$10).

Orient yourself a bit. The Cathedral of Learning is the very tall, Gothic building in the center of campus; it faces Forbes Avenue and Fifth Avenue, two main arteries through Pittsburgh. The William Pitt Union is next to the Cathedral. Pick up copies of *In Pittsburgh* (free), *The Pitt News* (free), *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (65 cents), and *The Tribune-Review* (35 cents) on or near the corner of Forbes and Bigelow, right by the William Pitt Union (the free papers are often right inside the Union, on the ground floor on benches).

Have a cup of coffee and some breakfast. There's food and coffee on the ground floor of the William Pitt Union and the Cathedral of Learning. Or you can head west down Forbes Avenue (away from the Cathedral, if you're starting at the Union) and find any number of restaurants/coffee shops within a couple of blocks.

Look through the classified sections of the newspapers and circle the apartments that look promising. Check neighborhoods by using the Neighborhoods (page 8) section of this handbook -- most of the neighborhoods described here will be listed under the East or East End section of the rental listings in the classifieds.

Before going to the Chemistry Department, you might want to stop by the Properties Management Office, on the second floor, rear, at Rothlein Hall on 127 N. Bellefield Street. They have information for renter students and a complaint file (jot down the names of any landlords or rental agencies who have complaints filed against them: they're not worth your aggravation!).

Go to the Chemistry Department main office (234 Chevron) and meet Fran. After introductions and making sure you're in the system (also known as registration ready), you can ask her for general advice on the apartments you're interested in, ask for experienced graduate student contacts in the Department, and collect any new information or materials she may have for you. You don't need to worry about registration now: that will take place during the Chemistry Department Orientation (page 2).

Meet with an experienced grad student and get the inside scoop the neighborhoods you're thinking of living in. You can meet in the department or arrange to meet at the Cathedral Cafe (in the basement of the Cathedral) and the Second Plate (2nd Floor of Forbes Quadrangle *a.k.a.* Posvar Hall), or wherever.

Do you need to feed your meter?

Call and make appointments to look at apartments this afternoon. Remember the listing of rental agencies in this handbook, too (page 15). The Department can give you access to a phone for local calls. Pay phones also are tucked in the ground floor of Chevron and at the end of one of the hallways on the ground floor of the Cathedral. Give yourself plenty of time to get

from one appointment to the next if you're looking in different neighborhoods; remember that Pittsburgh is not laid out in an easy-to-follow grid, so give yourself time to get lost.

Head for your first target neighborhood. Try to get there at least half-an-hour before your appointment so you have time to wander around the neighborhood a bit. Where's the grocery store? The laundromat? The nearest bus stop?

Don't forget to eat some lunch (if you're in Oakland see our Restaurants section on page 31 -- or take a bag lunch out to the lawn of the Cathedral or to Schenley Park).

As you look at apartments, take notes! What's your gut reaction to this place? Does it get enough light? Is there enough room? Enough closet space and electrical outlets? Are appliances included? How accessible is it to campus? What's its best feature? Its worst? What utility companies will you have to deal with?

Go through apartments or houses in your target neighborhoods, remembering to give yourself time before or after appointments to walk through the neighborhood to see *For Rent* signs. Sometimes you can go up to the property and check it out right then without an appointment. Talk to people you see: tell them what you're looking for! A lot of people in Pittsburgh know somebody who knows somebody who's renting an apartment exactly like the one you're looking for!

When you do find a place you like, be prepared to put down a deposit. Verbal agreements won't hold an apartment for you. Most landlords will want a security deposit equal to one month's rent.

Grab some supper and relax. Don't try to get out of Oakland -- or Pittsburgh -- between 3:30 and 6:30 PM unless you like to sit in traffic. This would be another good time to meet up with experienced grad students from your department and find out the ins and outs of the program!

I hate to cook. Can I purchase a meal plan on campus?

Grad students who don't want to fuss with groceries and dishes might want to take advantage of a couple of the University's Meal Plans. **Dining Dollars** serves as a credit card for food. You simply fill out the appropriate forms in the Meal Office (in the Towers -- those big cylinder dorms between Fifth Avenue and Forbes) to purchase a suitable number of Dining Dollars and are billed to your account. Then you can use your Pitt ID card to pay for all you can eat food at the campus cafeterias or entrée specials and ala carte at Eddie's and the Schenley and Cathedral Cafes. Your ID card is scanned, and the cost of the food you buy is automatically deducted from your balance.

You can also buy blocks of **Meals** in combination with **Dining Dollars**. The minimum is 15 meals per week with \$155 in Dining Dollars at \$280 per term to a maximum of 30 meals per week with \$300 Dining Dollars at \$525 per term. You can then eat your way through the blocks throughout the term; some weeks you might eat 20 blocks, while other weeks you might eat 5. An all-you-can-eat meal in the Marketplace or Sutherland Cafeteria costs one block. If you buy meals at Eddie's or in the Schenley Food Court, a block translates into about \$5.00 retail. Blocks

can be used to pay for the meals of the person accompanying you, too.(Talk about a cheapdate ...). Another option is **Pitt Funds**, which is purchase through the ID Center. Purchases come out of a pre-paid account and can be used off-campus. For more information, call 412/648-2172 or stop by the Food Services Office in the Towers Lobby.

What transportation is available into, out of, and around Pittsburgh and the Pitt campus?

Don't expect to learn Pittsburgh geography immediately. Even people who have lived here many years cannot get around. The city is not designed on a grid, due to the three rivers and hills, so the streets into and out of downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods are neither straight nor parallel. Beechwood Boulevard, for instance, actually intersects itself at one point. Forbes and Fifth seem to be parallel on their route through campus, but they're miles apart by the time they get to Squirrel Hill.

AIR: The Greater Pittsburgh International Airport is still called the new airport; it features people movers, trams, restaurants, and shops, not to mention a post office and shoe store. The Nature Company, Benjamin Books, McDonald's, The Video Arcade, and Bath and Body Shop are all located in the Airport. Hey, it's a mall and an airport in one! USAirways is the main provider.

Depending upon the traffic, the Airport is about a 30-minute drive from Oakland (23 miles). Give yourself 40 minutes, just to be on the safe side. Rush hour begins around 4 p.m., so plan on sitting in a parking lot if you leave later than that. Getting out of Oakland can be a problem, but the other major hassles are the tunnels and the Fort Pitt Bridge. Ground transportation is available from campus to the airport. The 28X shuttle service to and from the Oakland area and the Airport runs hourly during the day and costs about \$2.25 one-way. The large, air-conditioned van has plenty of room for suitcases, trunks and garment bags. Buses run regularly from the Holiday Inn, Webster Hall, and the University Inn. Call the Port Authority of Allegheny County for schedule information at (412) 442-2000.

TRAINS: Amtrak offers services to and from Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Station is located downtown at the intersection of Liberty Avenue and Grant Street across from the Greyhound terminal. Daily runs travel to New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington, DC. For information on schedules, call 1-800-872-7245.

BUSES:

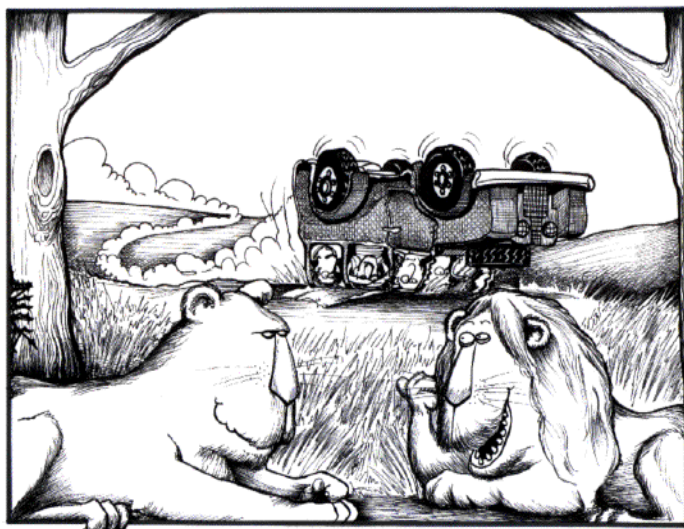
Campus Shuttles: Free transportation is provided for students with a valid student ID through the University's Campus Bus and Pitt Zone system. Campus shuttles run routes to North Oakland, South Oakland, and the Biotech/J. Hammer Center (on Second Avenue along the Mon River).

The University also provides an on-call shuttle system both for students who work at night and for students with disabilities. Rides are provided within a certain radius of the University. Further Information about this service can be obtained by calling 412/624-1700. Arrangements can be made for students with disabilities by calling 412/648-7890.

Greyhound and Trailways: Both Greyhound and Trailways offer services to and from the Pittsburgh area. They are conveniently located at 990 2nd Avenue. For information on bus schedules call Greyhound (Pittsburgh) at 412/392-6526 or 1-800-231-2222.

PAT: Pittsburgh's public transit system is called PAT (Port Authority Transit). Pitt faculty, staff, and students, by showing their ID card, ride for FREE anywhere PAT travels in Allegheny County. The PAT Service Center is located in 534 Smithfield Street downtown. Passes and bus schedules are available here from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Schedules are also available in racks in the William Pitt Union or by calling PAT Info at 412/442-2000 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Friday (or call from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays). PAT Info can also help you with route information if you're not sure which bus you need, where to pick it up, or when it runs.

CABS: Shuttle service from the airport: See above for more information.



"Ooooh...! Looks like we're now getting wheels-on-meals...!!!"

Jitney Service: A jitney is sort of a hired-gun, carry-all type vehicle service. Pittsburgh native August Wilson based a Broadway play on them. Jitney drivers use their own cars and specialize in carrying people to and from the store. Just wait outside the Giant Eagle and they'll find you.

Taxi Services: You can't whistle for a cab here, but a phone call and some patience will get you into a Yellow Cab (412/665-8100) or Peoples Cab (412/681-3131).

CARS:

Getting a Drivers License: Pennsylvania law states that anyone changing residency must pass written and driving tests, as well as register their automobiles. But there is an exception: as a single graduate student you can be exempt from this rule if you still consider your family's out of state address your permanent residence. In this situation, you do not need a new drivers license. If you do plan to relocate to Pittsburgh, or if you've never had a drivers license, you can obtain information about a Pennsylvania License through the PA Department of Transportation by calling (800) 932-4600. To get a rule book for the drivers license exam, contact the AAA Office at 412/363-5100. If you want an official photo ID, but not a vehicle-users drivers license, try the Driver License Center downtown at 300 Liberty Avenue (the State Office Building). Students report the lines are shorter there and the officers friendlier.

Parking: If you've ever driven your car to Oakland, you already know the problem facing students who choose the car as their primary mode of commuting to school: there's no place to park the damn thing once you're here. And if you've only been here in the summer, well, you

ain't seen nothing yet. If you are determined to purchase a University parking permit (expensive), talk to Fran Nagy.

There are several public lots near campus, but prices are a bit rich (from \$4/hour to \$8/day). A new parking lot has opened up between Hillman Library and The Carnegie; day rates here are about a dollar an hour. Parking meters in Oakland usually cost 50 cents an hour with a two or four hour maximum. Cheaper meters with longer hours are available in Schenley Park past Phipps Conservatory. Keep an eye out for parking signs. Some streets in Oakland have restricted parking; cars caught there during illegal hours (usually rush hours) will be towed. Cars parked on streets during street-cleaning days will be fined (\$15!). It's hard to find a meter in Oakland between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Be prepared to circle the block many times.

Meter readers are out looking for expired meters. Parking tickets for expired meters cost \$15. If you forget to pay your tickets, you run the risk of being booted. The Denver Boot is an ugly orange fixture attached to your front wheel; you cannot move the car until it's removed. In order to have the boot removed, you have to go down to the city's tow pound in the Strip District and pay your fines (both outstanding tickets as well as the booting fine) in cash with exact change.

BIKES: Because of it's many hills, icy winters, and non-biker-friendly motorists, Pittsburgh doesn't readily lend itself to commuting by bike. Many grad students, however, find biking the most economical and eco-friendly way to get around. Bike racks are scattered throughout campus. Some grad students bring their bikes into their offices, but this is actually a University offense.

Keep your bike locked. For additional security, Public Safety (412/624-4040) has an engraver to put an ID number on your bicycle, and you can register your bike at the Parking and Transportation Department. It's a violation of city ordinance to ride a bike on the sidewalk, since this endangers pedestrians, especially in the North Oakland areas with its large population of senior citizens and handicapped residents.

What is there to do in Pittsburgh?

Lots and lots and lots: we include here concerts, film, lit readings, museums, parks, professional and varsity sports, and a section entitled Fun for Kids (and Grown-ups, too).

CONCERTS: CONTEMPORARY: Pittsburgh's relatively cheap cost of living in what is still a relatively large city allows musicians to make a living doing what they do best. The city has become a haven for jazz and blues artists, evidenced by the wealth of live jazz and blues available on any given evening.

Heinz Stadium, the Mellon Arena, A. J. Palumbo Center, Star Lake Amphitheater, and the IC Light Pavilion host national acts during the summer months. Jimmy Buffett even stops his Margaritaville Express here during the summer just to make sure everyone has an excuse to wear that Hawaiian shirt.

Other acts can be seen year round at Graffiti (4615 Baum Blvd., Oakland 412/682-4210), Tobacco Roadhouse (223 Atwood Steet, Oakland 412/682-7707), The M (the old Metropol)

(1600 Smallman Street, Strip District 412/261-4512), Rosebud (1650 Smallman St., Strip District 412/261-2221) Nick's Fat City (1601 East Carson Street, South Side 412/481-6880), and Bloomfield Bridge Tavern (4412 Liberty Ave. 412/682-8611).

Scores of bars support local music. Check the *In Pittsburgh or City Paper* weeklies for listings and go out and enjoy live music!

The University of Pittsburgh Annual Seminar on Jazz

This annual festival, under the directorship of Nathan Davis, has recently featured artists such as James Moody (legendary creator of "Moody's Mood for Love"); Mr. Magic himself, Grover Washington, Jr.; Idris Muhammad, Abraham Laboriel; Randy Brecker; Patrice Rushen; and the trumpet genius of our time: John Faddis, Kenny Barron.

Please contact Nathan Davis, Office of Jazz Studies, 412/624-4187 for more complete information.

CONCERTS: CLASSICAL: If your musical tastes run to the symphonic, chamber, baroque, operatic or musical comedy styles, there are interesting and inexpensive (for students) series on campus, near campus, or in Pittsburgh's Cultural Center downtown. We have described some of them by location:

Carnegie Music Hall: This magnificently rococo concert hall with its superb acoustics is located in The Carnegie complex essentially on campus across Forbes Avenue from the Cathedral. It houses two important music series, a travelogue, and frequent individual lectures and concert. The series are:

The Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society: The outstanding chamber music recital series and a "best buy" for interested students. The series of six Monday night concerts features internationally renowned groups such as the Cleveland Quartet, Trio Fontenay, Tokyo String Quartet and many others. Student series tickets are available for \$45, and single concert tickets for \$15. For information, call 412/624-4129. Group rates are available.

The Y Music Series (sponsor: Jewish Community Center): One of the finest recital series in the country, featuring such artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Goode, Dawn Upshaw, Jessye Norman and others. Student subscriptions for the six concert series (generally Sunday or Wednesday evenings) are \$55. There are no student discounts for individual concerts, where single ticket prices range up to \$50 or more. For information, call 412/521-8010.

Synod Hall: This intimate auditorium (about 100 seats) tucked behind St. Paul's Cathedral on North Craig Street (about two blocks from Pitt) hosts a number of special-interest concerts and recitals including:

The Renaissance and Baroque Society: This local group specializes in period or modern instrument recitals of Bach, Handel, Byrd, Purcell and other composers of the period. They give eight concerts per year; the student subscription (full) rate is \$48, four concerts for \$28, and \$8 for individual tickets. For information, the number is 412/682-7262.

Heinz Hall: This 1920's film palace was refurbished in 1970 to its current gold and crimson plush elegance. It is in the downtown cultural center (about 20 minutes by bus from campus) and is the home for many traveling theater presentations and especially for:

The Pittsburgh Symphony: This is one of the top ten orchestras in the country (many say in the world). Its concerts feature nineteenth century music, but twentieth composers are also well represented. Concerts are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Student rush seats are available 2 hours before each performance for \$12 with valid ID if not sold out; subscriptions for six concerts run \$48 and other subscriptions for 5, 11, or 22 are available at comparable per-ticket cost. For information, call 412/392-4821. Each year Bayer, Inc. sends the Chemistry Department student passes for three concerts (of your choice) for less than \$10.00 per person for the three concerts (What a deal!).

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts: Another grand motion picture house from the 1920's has been recently and superbly renovated in earth tones and large open spaces with excellent acoustics and sight lines for opera, light opera, ballet and traveling Broadway musicals. It is also downtown, one block over from Heinz Hall. Call 412/456-6666 for information about Benedum Center events. Among the regular offerings are:

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre: The PBT has been in existence for more than 25 years and has developed into a first-rate company under the guidance of its director, Terry Orr. The company presents a broad array of dance styles, from the classical full-length works through Balanchine, to new works created for the current dancers. There are no cut-rate season subscriptions for students, but there are half-price student seats available 24 hours prior to performance. For more information, call 412/281-0360.

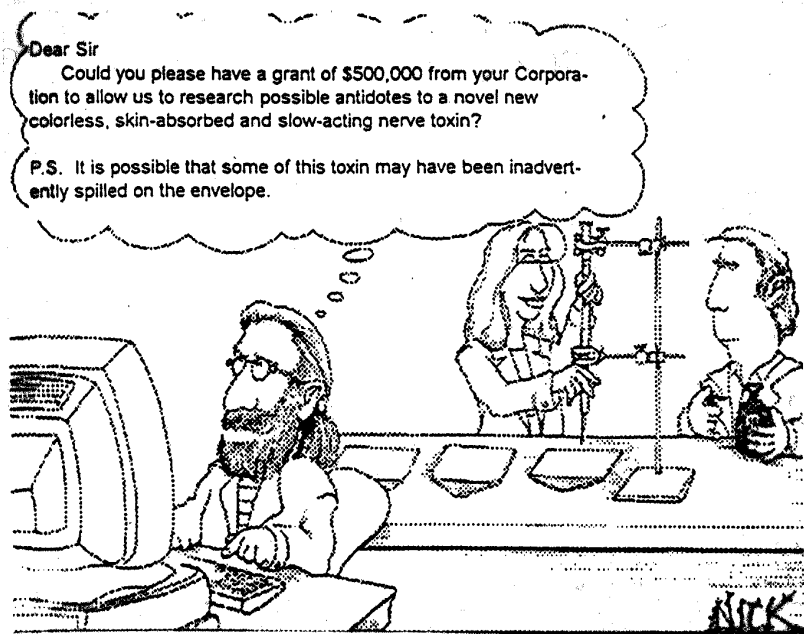
The Pittsburgh Opera: The Opera has been in continuous operation for about 50 years. Under its current director, Tito Capabianco, it offers first class productions of standard operas (mostly Verdi, Puccini, Mozart, with an occasional French, German or Russian work) with good singers from New York and Europe in the principal roles, and good local talent in the secondary roles and chorus. Currently offering four or five operas per season, the Opera does not give students discounts on season tickets, but does have half-price rush seats available to students one hour prior to performance with valid ID 50% of regular price ticket. For more information call 412/281-0912.

Civic Light Opera: For students, the CLO can provide Broadway style entertainment during the summer at reasonable cost. For \$30, a student can purchase a set of six vouchers which can be traded in after the middle of May for individual tickets to each of the six shows, or for two seats to each of three shows, or other combinations. Only one set of vouchers is available to each student. These well-staged productions of shows

such as *The Music Man*, *Mame*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, etc. are generally sold out, so early action is advised. For information, call 412/281-3973.

These are just the highlights of the musical-cultural scene in Pittsburgh. There are many other concerts and recitals available at Pitt, CMU, Carlow, Chatham and Duquesne which are advertised throughout the year. The City Wind Music Society, for example, concertizes at Carlow and student tickets are available (412/681-7111). Other concerts are advertised on posters and in the *Pitt News*.

FILM [David Kilday (English)]: Okay, this isn't New York, but most independent films eventually arrive here. The Carnegie Museum of Art (adjacent to the Pitt campus) features retrospectives of directors (recently David Cronenberg, Peter Greenaway and Ousmane Sembene). The Fulton Theater Annex, downtown, also screens independent and foreign films and is notable as the host of the annual Pittsburgh Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The Beehive in South Side features independent films, as does the Rex on the South Side. If you wish to get behind the camera, Pittsburgh Filmmakers provides training in film technique and technology. They also contribute to an active local film and video scene.



Several sentimental documentaries are useful to the recent immigrant to Pittsburgh. WQED, one of the local public stations, has produced *Downtown Pittsburgh and Things that Aren't There Anymore*. A local documentary of particular merit is *The River Ran Red*. This film deals with the Homestead Strike of 1893 in which fed-up workers successfully repulsed the goons Andrew Carnegie's right-hand-man, Henry Frick, had hired to break the strike. The workers eventually succumbed to federal intervention, setting a precedent that still haunts the US labor movement. That is the same Frick, by the way, who built the Frick Fine Arts building for Pitt - which may remind the astute graduate student of the identity of culture and barbarism.

Lit Readings: Pittsburgh is full of readings. In addition to readings sponsored by departments at Pitt (and CMU, Carlow, Chatham, Robert Morris, etc.), there's the Three Rivers Lecture Series, pulling in such big names as John Edgar Wideman, Studs Terkel, and Annie Dillard. For more informal (and free!) readings, check out Hemingway's back room on Tuesday nights or Java Jeff's in Squirrel Hill.

MUSEUMS: The **Carnegie Museum** offers student membership at just \$25. This is a bargain. The museum is practically part of Pitt's campus, and it's a wonderful escape - especially in the winter. (It's closed Mondays, though.) Some favorite corners of the museum: the Tiffany window, the room of miniatures, the camels attacked by African lions, the Mary Cassatt paintings, and, of course, the dinosaur room. Call 412/622-3131 for information.

The **Carnegie Science Center** is across the street from Heinz Field. You can tour the USS Requin, a submarine floating in the Ohio River; catch a show at the Omnimax; imagine the stars in the planetarium; or visit the miniature railroad and village. Call 412/237-3400.

The good news about Pittsburgh weather is that it's good for the skin. The sun shines less often here than in any other major North American city except Seattle, and summers are humid. Skin cancer rates are notably low. The bad news is that by February, most people are losing their minds. When it's too cold or too rainy to go for a long walk, pop up to the **Phipps Conservatory**. Closed on Mondays, it's open every other day from 9-5. Phipps is an incredible Victorian glass greenhouse in Schenley Park; just take the bridge behind Frick Fine Arts Center and head toward the park. It's a five-minute walk from the Cathedral. The outdoor perennial garden is a soothing place to eat your bag lunch from spring through fall. Admission is charged to go inside the conservatory. Highlights include the Japanese Courtyard Garden, Rose Gardens, and the water lilies in the Water Gardens. Call (412) 622-6914.

The Warhol Museum on the North Side is the world's largest museum dedicated to a single artist. Andy Warhol; grew up in Pittsburgh (including Soho and Oakland) before escaping to New York. In a suitably cryptic comment read by Pittsburgh media as complimentary, Warhol pal Billy Name called the museum Warhol's "spiritual tomb." Decide for yourself: the museum is open Wednesday through Sundays at 117 Sandusky Street, North Side (in the former Volkwein's Music building). For information, call (412) 237-8300.

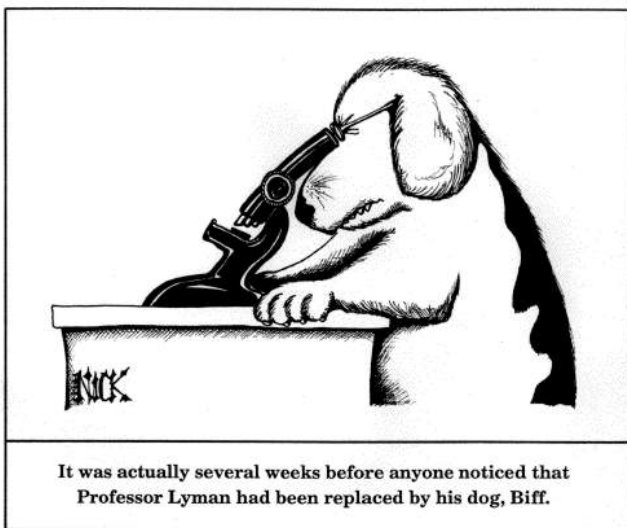
PARKS: Over 2600 acres of land within the Pittsburgh city limits are devoted to parks. Three of the largest parks are **Frick, Schenley, and Highland**, but fans of green spaces also know about the Roberto Clemente Memorial Park, Point State Park, West Park, Mellon Park, and the South Side Riverfront Park.

Frick Park is the city's largest and least developed park. Steel tycoon Henry Clay Frick donated the park to the city in 1919. Its 476 acres fall between Squirrel Hill and Regent Square, with most of the area devoted to birds and other wildlife. One of Frick Park's non-natural treasures is its lawn-bowling green off Reynolds Street at the Point Breeze end of the park.

Schenley Park is closest to Pitt; just walk past the Frick Fine Arts Building and over the bridge and you're in Schenley Park. About 100 years ago, Mary Schenley donated much of the 456 acres of the park after listening to the persuasive palaver of Public Works Director Edward M. Bigelow. A statue of him stands in the middle of the road in front of Phipps Conservatory. Schenley Park is designed with people in mind (rather than wildlife): it holds an ice-skating/dek-hockey/inline skating rink, tennis courts, golf course, and miles of jogging/hiking trails. Look for the black squirrels and wild turkeys!

Highland Park has a swimming pool, the reservoir, the zoo, and the Super Playground. The zoo has been renovated to simulate the natural habitats of its animal residents; you can look across the lions' savannah and catch just a glimpse of a high-rise, or lose track of the Pittsburgh winter

while meandering through the primates' tropical forest. Walkers and runners like to use the walkway around the large reservoir, the closest thing to a lake within city limits. Volunteers assembled the Super Playground, which was designed by Robert Leathers (a big name in playground design circles) and is a collection of towers, tunnels, and slides made mostly from wood and old tires.



These are the parks Pitt students are usually the most familiar with and which offer the quickest retreat from urban noise and school stress. Pittsburgh has a number of other parks as well. **Mellon Park** (on Fifth Avenue at the eastern edge of Shadyside) has an herb garden and hosts the Bach, Beethoven, and Brunch series on Sunday mornings in July. **Point State Park** (downtown, across the river from Three Rivers Stadium) is the site of numerous outdoor concerts, an annual regatta, a huge 4th of July fireworks display (Pittsburghers love fireworks), and The Three Rivers Arts Festival. In **Ohio Pyle**, a town an hour or

so southeast of Pittsburgh on the Youghigheny River (called the Yough, pronounced "Yock"), you can raft or canoe the rapids, rent a bike, play in natural waterslides, and get the cheapest hamburgers left on earth. **Moraine State Park**, north of Pittsburgh, offers sailing, bike trails, swimming and lots of goose poop.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of parks in the Pittsburgh area, but it might give you a sense of what's out there. Mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, bird watching - there are places near Pittsburgh to do all these things, so ask around and find out where they are. Nothing keeps you saner in grad school than escaping to a park!

PROFESSIONAL AND VARSITY SPORTS: Pittsburgh's home to the 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 2005 and 2008 Super Bowl Champion Steelers (football), Penguins (ice hockey) **Stanley Cup Champion** 1991, 1992 and 2009, and Pirates (baseball) - and damn proud of it. You can't spit in the city without hitting something in black-and-gold, the team colors for all three major Pittsburgh teams.

General admission to the **Pirates** games at the new PNC Park are cheap. Even if you don't love baseball, you can enjoy a beer and a tray of rubbery nachos while watching the Pirate Parrot dance and fend off fans (412/321-2827). Do the wave, babe.

The **Steelers** (pronounced Stillers) play at Heinz Stadium, a stadium with real grass and located on the North Side. Tailgating parties in the parking lots before games are part of the game experience (412/323-1200).

The **Penguins** (Pens or 'Guins) play at the Mellon Arena - also known as the Igloo - downtown (412/642-2062). New arena being built across the street. Tickets for hockey and football games are sometimes hard to get and almost always expensive.

The University of Pittsburgh sports teams are part of the Big East Conference. Season football tickets for students are reasonably priced, and in the winter, The Petersen Center (*a.k.a.* the "Pete") rocks with the enthusiasm of student basketball fans who have been nationally ranked almost every year.

FUN FOR KIDS (AND GROWN-UPS, TOO)

Ice cream aficionados can take the kids over to **Bruster's** in Greenfield (through Schenley Park and across the Beechwood Boulevard bridge) where kids can ask for eyeballs in their ice cream, and Purple Dinosaur ice cream is a big favorite. Ice cream is made fresh at the store. (For a winter indulgence, try the apple dumplings with cinnamon ice cream.)

Frick Park Parklet on Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill has a great playground, a fitness walk, and good benches to sit on and meet other parents. Kids love the blue slide built into the side of the hill.

Kennywood Park in West Mifflin (just south of the city: PAT's 61C bus will take you from Oakland to Kennywood) is a (perhaps *the*) classic American amusement park. Small children find joy in Kiddieland. And when you start to take yourself way too seriously (this happens fast

in grad school, so watch it!), a ride on the Kangaroom will force even Lacanians to giggle. Refuse to giggle? Scream your guts out on the Phantom's Revenge. Call 412/461-0500 for admission info.

The North Slide has both the **National Aviary in Pittsburgh** (birds, birds, and more birds!) and the **Pittsburgh Children's Museum**. The Aviary has one of the top bird collections in the world; birds fly freely through the jungle rooms. The Aviary also has the only talking crow we've ever met. Open every day (except Christmas) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Aviary charges \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12. Children under 2 are free. Call 412/323-7235 for more information. The Children's Museum is located behind the Allegheny Center Mall, and has three floors of hands-on activities for kids. Luckey's Climber, on the main floor, is a vertical maze for children to wander (no grown-ups allowed): there are perching places and a slide for easy egress. Preschoolers love the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make Believe exhibit, complete with trolley and Lady Elaine Fairchild. The Children's Museum is closed on Mondays, but it's open from 10:00 - 5:00 Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 on Sundays. Admission is \$5 per person (children under 2 are free, though). Call 412/322-5058 for more information.

The Pittsburgh Zoo in Highland Park is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas. The zoo has just opened Kids Kingdom: an elaborate area designed especially for children. Parking is \$3.00; stroller and wagon rentals are available. Regular admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for senior citizens; \$5 for children age 2 to 13; children under two are free. Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m, admission stops at 4:00. Take the 71B/Highland Park PAT bus from

Oakland; it will drop you off right in the zoo's parking lot. Call 412/665-3640 for more information.

Are there any landmarks to keep an eye out for?

So you're lookin' around: you don't expect roads to be parallel; you let the car cross from you turn before you move at the green light; you don't blanch when the clerks at Co-Go's call you "hon"; and you check your fly whenever you hear someone mention Kennywood. Congratulations! You're ready for Step Two: Pittsburgh Landmarks. By the time you're, familiar with these places, you'll be shopping for jumbo, chipped ham, and drinking an Ahrn.

Allred Collection: ... when you re yearning for a clean, well-lighted place and stacks of popular books, or a quiet place to grab 40 winks...(1st floor, Hillman Library)

Babcock Room (and the missing 39th floor of the CL): ... on a clear day, you can see forever ... but no one can see the 39th floor; where'd it go? ... claustrophobics: beware the elevator from the 36th floor to the 40th floor Babcock Room

Boardwalk on the Strip: ... nightclubs; overpriced parking; outdoor dining with a sunset over the Allegheny ... (1501 Smallman Street in the Strip District)

Frankie Capri: ... incredible, indescribable, inexplicable; Elvis hasn't left the building: he's disguised himself and is having a tacky, terrific time at the Liberty Belle Lounge (2204 E. Carson St., South Side).

The Carnegie Cafeteria: ... just like elementary school: crowded (expect to share a table with stringers and make new friends) with soul-satisfying staples like hot dogs, soup, macaroni & cheese...

The Carnegie elevator: .. the wood-lined one inside the main entrance; a great place to make out with someone during the trip between the dinosaurs on the first floor and the mummies on the second...

The Cloud Factory: ... Bellefield Power Plant -- produces energy for Pitt as well as other local institutions; literary mark as source of (untimely) death scene in Michael Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*... (behind and below the Carnegie)

Darlington Library: ... take the exit ramp off the Information Highway and enjoy Darlington's quiet, old-fashioned library elegance...(6th floor, Cathedral of Learning)

Flagstaff Hill: ... the beach; site of movies-under-the-stars; one of the few places around where you can fly a kite, should anyone ask you to ... (behind the Carnegie and across from Phipps Conservatory).

Fountain at the Point: ...Summer concerts; fireworks on the 4th; wading; site of rumored fourth river underground ... (Downtown at the Point where the three rivers meet)

Grand Concourse: ...Pig-out in a train station (nicely restored, of course)...Sunday brunch here is a Pittsburgh tradition (everyone from Elsie Hillman to Mario Lemieux can be seen here)...(at Station Square off East Carson Street and the Smithfield Street bridge)

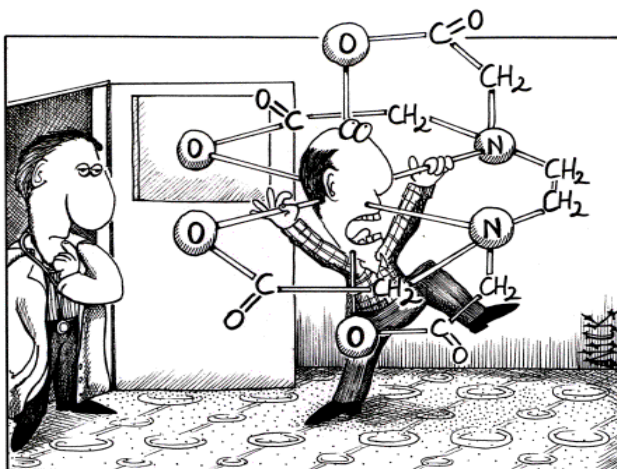
The Inclines: whisk you up to Mt. Washington at a 75° angle; pop culture quiz: in what movie do Jennifer Beals and her bike share the incline with Mt. Washington grandmas?

Mt. Washington Overlook:... for romantic obligations and out-of-town visitors ... get on the incline across from Station Square on Carson Street and ride up to the overlook...

The O: ... The Original, also known as The Dirty O; place for fries and beer; preventive gathering site of police officers, especially on weekends... cheap food in large quantities (corner of Forbes and Bouquet)

Panther Hollow Lake: ... you really can fish here ... really...

Stephen Foster Statue: ... oh, that unfortunate banjo-player ... but the flowers around the statue are lovely (on Forbes Avenue across from the Cathedral)



When Chelation Therapy goes wrong

The Ten Commandments: ...a curious but apt confrontation of church and state...Allegheny County Courthouse (Downtown, Fifth Avenue)

Vincent's Pizza (Forest Hills): ...not only has tradition of being best pizza in Pittsburgh, but also marks the spot where British Prime Minister John Major's father shot squirrel...(998 Ardmore Blvd. in Forest Hills)

Walnut Street: ...heart of Shadyside...for strolling, antiquing, shopping, noshing...

What kind of restaurants are around?

Restaurants abound in Pittsburgh 'cause Pittsburghers *love* to eat. And one thing working in a graduate student's favor are the portion sizes. Nouvelle cuisine, with its dinky portions, was laughed out of the 'Burgh ages ago. There *is* an obsession with french fries and if you are a salad bar freak, then Pittsburgh is Hell, but most kinds of ethnic foods are represented and a grad student can eat quite well.

Students often will divide a list of recommended restaurants into "nice restaurants I can't afford, but mooch whenever I get the chance" (The Grand Concourse, for instance); "cool restaurants that I still can't afford, but like to mooch" (Kaya and the James Street Cafe); and (see? it doesn't

have to be ramen noodles) "restaurants I can afford" (the Elbow Room, Primanti's, the O. Our list includes favorite grad student restaurants. For other restaurants in Pittsburgh quiz the current Chemistry grad students, pick up a copy of *In Pittsburgh* or check out places to eat at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/> and click on *Find a PGH restaurant*. From here you can search for restaurants by name, location and/or types of cuisine.

Ali Baba's (on South Craig Street, between Forbes and Fifth Avenues) has authentic Middle Eastern cuisine: excellent lamb dishes and vegetarian dishes, cheaper than you'd dare to hope. But don't even try it between noon and 1:15 p.m., or again between 5:45 and 6:30 p.m. -- too many people have heard the news.

Big Jim's (in the Run, Greenfield) offers huge, delicious sandwiches and a Honeymooners' Spaghetti special. Very affordable...A Saint Theresa shrine welcomes and protects all patrons. Little League photos on the walls and experienced condom machines in the restrooms. From Oakland, take Bates Street all the way down to Second Avenue and go left at the light. Follow under the railroad trestle and immediately turn left.

If your taste buds are calling out for Chinese food, Pittsburgh has a number of excellent spots. The Oakland spots that are close and not too bad include **Szechuan Express** on Oakland Avenue (huge portions in a crowded setting eaten as take-out), the **Golden Palace** on Forbes (all you can eat buffet), and the **Lu Lu's Noodle** on Craig Street (clean setting, not at all spicy). If you have a car you may want to try the **China Palace** on Walnut Street in Shadyside or **Mark Pi's Express** on Forbes Avenue (voted best Chinese restaurant several years running).

The **Elbow Room** on Ellsworth Avenue in Shadyside features good food, reasonable prices, and a full bar. Outdoor garden seating in nice weather. A nice place for dinner and drinks.

Hemingway's (about a block west of the William Pitt Union on Forbes Avenue) used to be the more sedate and more professional bar in Oakland, but the crowd has become somewhat younger. Still a grad student must because the food is very decent and surprisingly inexpensive (a bowl of clam chowder, house salad with bread, and an IC Light for around five bucks). Go in the early afternoons but avoid Friday happy hours. Hemingway's has arguably the best bartender in Oakland: Bill, *a.k.a.* "Mr. Factotum." Ask him to fix you a mean martini and let him give you an update on world events: from north Korean nuclear policy to the History of Pittsburgh's neighborhood developments.

Just thinking about **Hotlicks** gets any Texas taste buds salivating. Hotlicks' bar-b-que ribs and chicken cooked over imported Texas mesquite are accompanied with perhaps the best salsa in the city, along with home-made potato chips and cole-slaw. No foolin', this food is good, and there is plenty of it! Friday night is import beer night and you can eat your fill of chicken or ribs on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The closest Hotlicks is the one on Walnut Street in Shadyside.

The India Garden restaurant is a small restaurant located on Atwood Street in South Oakland. Comfortable for guests on special occasions, low-keyed enough that you can wear jeans. The food is extremely good with Tandoori cuisine as well as curries. They will adjust the seasonings for those with wimpy taste buds. A fine luncheon buffet served. Most entrees at dinner are

under \$10, but with beverages, bread and dessert, the final bill is usually around \$15. They do not serve alcohol, but you may bring your own wine and they will provide the glasses.

Kaya in the Strip District is probably beyond a grad school budget for a full dinner, but has great atmosphere/art work and fairly cheap and very well prepared appetizers with a Caribbean flair. Sharon Stone was really into it while she was in Pittsburgh filming *Diabolique*.

If living in environs where good, authentic Mexican food abounds is important to you, then Pittsburgh is the wrong place to be. **Mad Mex** (370 Atwood Street, Oakland) -- Mexican food here is unabashedly and deliciously Americanized; the beer is varied and pricey. They've recently suburbanized, and you can now go Mad on McKnight Road in the North Hills. They often offer half-price deals to grad students; check with the FAS-GSO for the latest!

The Museum Cafe in the Carnegie Art Museum has an all-you can-eat lunch buffet: two warm entrees, salads, sandwich makings and side vegetable dishes.

The O is an Oakland institution (aka the Original Hot Dog Company or the Dirty O) they seemingly have everything: sandwiches, chicken, pizza...but what they have the most of is French fries...HUGE servings of french fries...cannot be described, must be experienced. On the corner of Forbes and Oakland.

Primanti's: a Pittsburgh institution and a window into the soul of Pittsburghers. Show your friends from out of town how things are done in the Arn City -- the fries and coleslaw go on top of everything. For gourmet and gourmand alike.

Prince of India on Fifth Avenue (across from Children's Hospital) has been rated the "finest Indian restaurant in Pittsburgh" by a number of experts. Try the daily lunch buffet -- a fine variety of savory vegetarian and meat dishes.

Lemongrass is a favorite Pittsburgh Thai restaurants. Green curry chicken, pad thai, beef with ginger, galangal soup - they're all delicious. (5846 Forbes Ave. in Squirrel Hill, above Hit or Miss).

Spice Island Tea House on Atwood Street in South Oakland. This place inspired an unprecedented barrage of support when grad students were asked to recommend their favorite restaurants. Graduate students love Spice Island Tea House, which serves food from a variety of southeast Asian cuisines. It's the food, the ambiance, the prices, the excellent service, the coconut soda.... One student summed it up this way: "Spice Island. It rocks."

Sushi Too offers a wide variety of Japanese foods as well as a full sushi bar. They have tempura, yakitori, teriyaki, and udon. If you have trouble making up your mind, try the 'Chicken Box,' which has tempura, California Roll, unagi, chicken teriyaki, rice, soup, and salad. You won't go hungry. (Walnut Street in Shadyside).

The **Taj Mahal** food truck parked every day on Thackeray Street (across front the Book Center) has inexpensive and fresh take-out Indian food.

Tessaro's on Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield has the best burgers in town, both for quality and size. The kitchen is open until 11:30 (which in Pittsburgh is quite rare). Only problem, it has very few tables, so you do usually have to wait for one. The Ribs Night on Thursday is a great experience.

Uncle Sam's (on Oakland Avenue) is a hoagie heaven for many in Oakland. If you eat-in you'll get French fries; if you take out you won't.

Vegetarians can find a heartening bowl of vegetarian chill at **Sweet Basil's** on Forbes in Squirrel Hill. Braille menus available.

Are there any coffee houses around?

Coffee, Anyone?

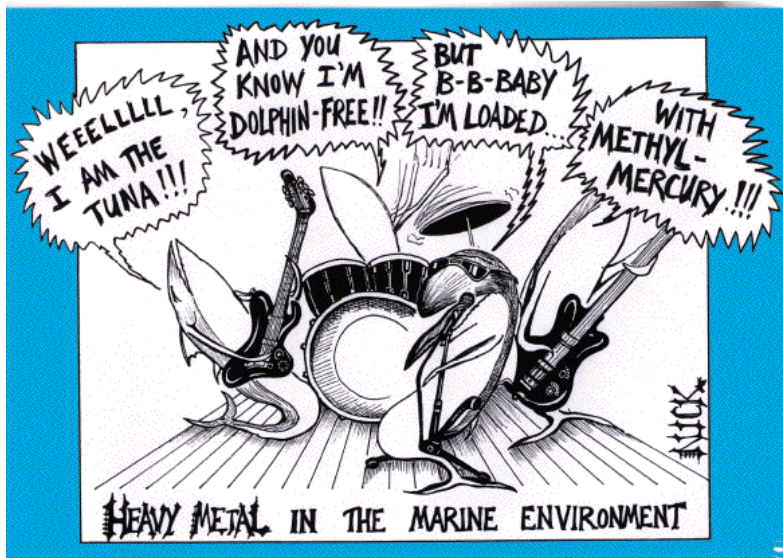
Special thanks to Jeff Oaks (FAS '90)

When first made, this list was easy: coffeehouses were fairly few and far between. But now the city's on a caffeine buzz, and coffeeshops appear faster than production deadlines. Our apologies to those we've missed.

Oakland hosts *three* **Kiva Han** (S. Craig St. near Forbes, at the corner of Forbes and Meyran), and **Starbucks** (on Forbes). Kiva Han has Dancing Goats and yummy chocolate-covered espresso beans. While all of the local coffeehouses now serve tea, tea-lovers should check out teahouse **Earth & Heaven** on S. Craig Street.

Squirrel Hill is home to **The Coffee Tree Roasters** (5840 Forbes Ave.), **61C Café** (on Murray next to the Giant Eagle), **Starbuck's** (at the corner of Forbes and Shady, plus on the second floor of Barnes & Noble on Murray). Check out 61C's Guatemalan coffee.

Forget those trendy corporate coffeehouses with the fake "Friends" flair. **Crazy Mocha** on South Bouquet Street is a family-run coffeehouse with super homemade sandwiches and desserts. Call 412/621-7440. Great atmosphere (they used to have silver ashtrays... not anymore, alas - I wonder why). Philosophy students sit and ponder right next to cops from the 5th district taking a break (imagine -- no donuts here). Try the "finger sandwiches" and a café latte and listen to classical music for hours. Call (412) 621-7440.



On the South Side's Carson Street, you can find the original **Beehive**, where whimsy rules and the weird and alienated of the earth (and we mean that in the most loving and respectful way) find haven. The South Side Beehive began Pittsburgh's coffee-house boom, so a pilgrimage here is *de rigueur* for all coffee drinkers.

In Shadyside, coffee lovers hang out at the **Common Grounds** (on Ellsworth Ave., the "artsy" end of Shadyside), the Greenhouse Cafe (Ivy St.), **Tuscany's** (E. Carson St.), and **Stonewall** (Filbert St., former home of the much beloved Stonewall Bookstore). **Zima Cafe**, on Shady Avenue, is for the younger, gayer, artier crowd, though yuppies have been seen (and sneered at) there. In addition to coffee, Zima Cafe serves a light menu.

While you're in the Strip District (see page 11), stop at **La Prima** (reputedly home of the best espresso in town), The **Strip Bar**, or **Rosebud** (a coffee shop with a nightlife). Downtown, on Liberty Avenue, is another **La Prima**. A coffee shop inside the **Barnes & Noble Book Store** features an espresso bar with great coffee and great newspapers.

What facilities are nearby for exercise and fitness?

Personal Sports and Fitness: Getting out and exercising is a great way to relax and put your mind on something other than schoolwork. If you're a runner, there are plenty of trails through the parks and around Oakland. A map of measured routes hangs in the lobby of Trees Hall for those interested in distances. If you swim or play racquet sports (squash, racquet ball, hand ball, tennis), Trees Hall and the Fitzgerald Fieldhouse up on the hill have such facilities. There are eight squash Courts located in the Fieldhouse and eleven racquetball/handball courts in Trees.

The pools' hours are subject to swim team practices, but you can usually get in the water early in the morning or in the evening. The weight room in Trees is often busy, but there are ample stations and weights for a good workout. The recreational basketball courts in Trees are a good place to look for a pick-up game at lunchtime or Friday mornings. Call 412/648-8320 for information on the hours for the pools, weight room, and other Trees Hall facilities.

Check out the new Petersen Event's Center, where the Panthers play basketball. They have facilities in the Baierl Student Recreation Center there, where you can play squash, racquetball, *etc.* or use the new state of the art weight room. Call 412/648-8213 for information.

Biking: [Charles Knight, Anthropology] The unique topography and layout of Pittsburgh provides unsurpassed opportunities and challenges, within a city, for people who enjoy riding either road or mountain bikes. If you have a bike and are trying to decide whether or not to bring it along with you to Pittsburgh, I feel the decision to do so will prove to be the right one.

As one of several modes of transportation available to the student to go to and from the University, or just or visiting one of the several 'student' neighborhoods in and around campus, I have found *my* bike to be the most convenient. With it I don't have to worry about parking, which is next to impossible around campus, and which is permit regulated in most neighborhoods surrounding the University. Nor do I have to spend time waiting for the bus,

having its schedule dictate mine. There is ample parking for bicycles around campus, and the University of Pittsburgh Department of Parking and Transportation provides a free registration service to students which records the bike's make, color and serial number in order to help protect against theft. They also offer the option of having an identification number engraved onto your tire rims for added protection.

Within a few minutes' ride of campus is Schenley Park, a very large area full of hills and trees and crisscrossed with a series of paved pathways that cyclists can utilize. As well, there are several secondary roads and one main thoroughfare for vehicular traffic, which bisects the park and can also be used by cyclists, but at greater risk.

The best area for off-road riding within the city is Frick Park, which is about a twenty-minute ride from campus. Here the park has been maintained in its natural setting to a great degree, with a series of dirt trails extending for about ten kilometers. As a result of Pittsburgh's topography, the area within Frick Park is incredibly diverse and heavily wooded, with sections of the trails covering all technical levels, thus allowing for some pretty intense mountain biking.

As for bike supplies and repairs, there are at least four good shops in and around the University, located in Squirrel Hill, Shadyside and on Liberty Avenue. All sell both mountain and road bikes and their parts, as well as clothing and accessories. They also do repair work, but prices vary, especially on tune-ups, so calling around would be worthwhile.

If you do decide to bring your bike with you (and I strongly encourage you to), it might be a good idea to consider bringing some sort of rain gear with you, or purchasing some here, as it is often raining. A helmet and lights for your bike are wise, especially since Pittsburgh drivers have not yet warmed-up to the idea of sharing 'their' road with cyclists; therefore, the more conspicuous you are the better.

Nonetheless, Pittsburgh is a wonderful place for bike riding, and whatever inconvenience you may experience, bringing your bike here will most definitely be worth it.

What health services are available?

The Student Health Service clinic, operated by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, is located on the 5th floor of the Medical Arts Building on Fifth Avenue. Your student health fee, which you must pay if you are a full-time student (and is covered for TA/TFs and GSRs), covers the cost of the visit. (Part-time students may elect to pay the fee, too, but must do so before the Add-Drop period.) Those not covered pay a fee-for-service at the time of the visit. Take your validated ID card with you!

Pittsburgh's hills and bridges set the course each spring for the **Thrift Drug Classic**, part of bike racing's million-dollar Triple Crown. The 113 mile race includes 13 trips up Sycamore Street, a mile-long, lung-ripping Mt. Washington hill with a 15-20% grade. Triple Crown winner Lance Armstrong calls Pittsburgh "the toughest course in the world."

Appointments are not necessary, but if you need to speak to a specialist, it's a good idea to call first. Services include - general medicine, internal medicine, dermatology, gynecology, family planning, allergy shots, health education, lab work, radiology, pregnancy testing, psychiatry, orthopedics and a pharmacy. The pharmacy provides medical drugs at a discount, which beats going to Thrift Drug or Phar-Mor. Referrals are made to UMPC specialists as needed.

For medical or emergency service when the Student Health Service is closed, students can call Campus Police (412/624-2121) for transportation to a local hospital. The cost of these services is the responsibility of the student and must be covered by the student's medical insurance (see health insurance, page 44).

Unlike some other university communities around the country, Oakland has no shop dedicated to the prevention of STDs and pregnancy; stores such as *Condom Nation* are located in other parts of town. But contraceptives are inexpensive at the Health Center's pharmacy. Birth control pills, condoms and other contraceptives are priced here for student budgets - so be safe and save some money at the same time. HIV testing is one of the many lab tests available at the health center.

Health Center Hours:	Closed on Holidays
Fall and Winter	M-F 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Summer:	M-F 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Phone:	412/383-1800

Which banks are nearby?

When choosing a bank, consider convenience as well as cost. You'll want a bank near your Pittsburgh home and/or near campus. Many banks accept direct deposit of Pitt paychecks and some give such depositors better rates on fees (contact Benefits Office). Please note that the list and chart below are not exhaustive, and bank fees are changing frequently. Do your homework before committing to a bank!

Local Banks:

Parkvale Savings	3520 Forbes Avenue/Oakland	
412/687-1200		
Dollar Bank	5822 Forbes Avenue/Sq. Hill	412/521-7031
PNC Bank	4022 Fifth Avenue/Oakland	412/621-0300
Iron & Glass Bank	1114 E. Carson St./South Side	412/488-5200
National City Bank	4612 Forbes Avenue/Oakland	
412/681-4200		
Citizens Bank	4524 Fifth Avenue/Oakland	412/621-3344

For basic checking:

Name	Minimum Balance	Serv. Fee	Unlimited Checking	ATM Fee	Direct Deposit
Dollar Bank	None - \$50 to open account	None	Yes	Free for Alliance Machines .50 for others	Yes
National City	Depending on checking account plan.	Depending on checking account plan.	First 15 checks free, after 15 - \$4.00/mo maintenance fee	Free for National City machines. \$1.50 for others	Yes
Iron & Glass	\$500/ avg. Daily	\$6.00	Yes	\$5 Yr./Acct.	Yes - service fee waived with direct deposit
Citizens Bank	None	None	Yes	Free with Citizens Bank machines	Yes
Parkvale	\$500/Month	\$5.00 if balance falls below \$500	Yes	\$6/Yr (Prorated) .50 other ATMs	Yes
PNC	\$1,000/month	\$9.00 month	Yes	Free with PNC machines	Yes
PNC - Pitt Employees	None with direct deposit	No	Yes - first checks free	MAC Free at PNC machines	Yes

What is there for convenience on campus?

The William Pitt Union (the former Schenley Hotel) is located on Bigelow, between Fifth and Forbes Avenue, across from the Cathedral of Learning. The Union has a number of resources to make your student life a little easier. The Schenley Cafeteria on the ground floor of the building (most easily accessed from the Forbes Avenue side of the building) includes a number of fast food outlets (Pizza Hut Express, Manchu Wok, Hometown Hero). You can pick up various free newspapers near the entryways. Pool tables and video games can be found in the game room across from the cafeteria. On the first floor of the Union (most easily accessed from the Fifth Avenue side of the building), you can buy tickets to University events and various other events at the Ticket Office, as well as pickup info on PAT transit services.

What places of worship are nearby?

Pittsburgh offers a large number and range of worship sites. It would be impossible to list all the worship sites students have found spiritual homes in (though we know several FAS grad students who are happy at **Sixth Presbyterian Church**, at the corner of Forbes and Murray Avenue in

Squirrel Hill, and **Heinz Chapel's** noon High Mass); for a complete list of religious communities in the Greater Pittsburgh area, contact Daniel Wiseman, chair of the University's Association of Chaplaincies (412/621-8875).

Religious communities with ministries designed specifically graduate students in mind include:

Hillel Foundation of Pittsburgh which serves as the link between the campus and the Jewish community here. Hillel offers a wide range of interest groups on such issues as the environment, women's issues, Israel, and the Holocaust; the Foundation also coordinates social and religious activities and programs.

Roman Catholic Newman Center (412/681-3181) organizes services on campus and offers special programs throughout the year, including retreats.

Christian Student Fellowship (412/687-5707) is a culturally diverse group of Christians who meet regularly. Meetings include worship, prayer, and fellowship; other activities include retreats, Bible studies, and seminars.

Other worship communities:

Christian Science Organization (412/624-7440, ask for Dr. Cobb) carries out, on campus, all the normal functions of a branch church except that there are no Sunday services.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (412/856-1071) in Greentree offers support in academic, emotional, and spiritual counseling.

Heinz Chapel holds Roman Catholic Mass every day (except Saturday) at noon. Compliment services are Sunday nights at 9:30 p.m. The Chapel, just across the lawn from the Cathedral of Learning, has fascinating stained glass windows depicting various secular and religious figures. Drop in during the morning or afternoon for quiet reflection.

The Islamic Center on Bigelow Boulevard (412/682-5555) offers regular daily prayers in congregation, Arabic lessons, Friday services at noon, Ramadhan activities, and an Interfaith Women's Coffeehouse every third Sunday. The Islamic Academy is a full time school.

Lutheran Campus Ministry and **The Episcopal Campus Ministry** cooperate. Both are housed in the Lutheran University Center on Forbes Avenue (between the Cathedral and Craig Street). (412/682-6886).

Orthodox Christian Fellowship meets each month at St. Nicholas Cathedral (across from The Carnegie) for vespers and discussion (412/441-6544).

Religious Society of Friends meets in Shadyside (412/683-2669) and holds an annual Fall Retreat at the end of September/beginning of October.

Sigma Delta Alpha (412/681-4459) is a branch of the campus ministry of Seventh Day Adventists and provides support and companionship for Adventist students. Saturday's services are followed by a visitor's lunch.

The **Sri Venkateswara Temple** welcomes the Hindu community as well as visitors. Located in Penn Hills off the Parkway East, the temple has services throughout the day. Hours are 8:30 - 9:00 (Fridays until 9:30). Call 412/373-3380 for more information.

United Campus Ministry is an ecumenical, Protestant ministry (412/682-1051).

What kinds of insurance will I need?

If you've got a car, you've got to have **car insurance**. If you already have car insurance, there is little we need to tell you except, perhaps, to warn drivers accustomed to cruising along at 65 mph

The Analytical Detective—great events in Chemistry
1858: Kekulé, moments before his inspirational insight into the structure of benzene.



Nick D. Kim, 1995.
email:ndkim@waikato.ac.nz
WWW Page: <http://galadriel.ecatec.ohio-state.edu/tc/sml/>

NICK

that 55 is often the limit here, and as speeding tickets pile up in Pennsylvania, car insurance becomes a costly venture. As you will be in a city, you should keep in mind that it is possible that your car will be broken into while you're going to school in Oakland, so make sure your insurance covers missing contents. If you don't have car insurance yet, call around and compare rates. They vary considerably.

We're all grown-ups now, so it may be time (if your parents don't take care of it) for you to buy **life insurance**. Get the cheapest term insurance you can find. Now's not the time to consider life insurance as an investment; you just need some so that if you die in graduate school

(which will seem a probability within a year or two after your arrival), your funeral expenses are covered.

If you're renting, you should probably get **renters' insurance**. You'll need to decide if you want to get insurance to cover the value of your goods when they're stolen/destroyed in acts of God, or whether you want insurance to cover replacement costs. If you own your home, you will need homeowners' insurance.

Everyone needs **health insurance**. Grad students who are TA/TFs or GSRs in Chemistry will receive health insurance as a benefit. The Health Services offered as part of your student health fee won't cover diddly-squat, though it will cover pregnancy testing and allergy shots. Your mandatory student health fee covers only visits to the University Student Health Services clinic.

This service does not cover visits to outside physicians, emergency room or hospital treatments, or any major medical costs. You'll need medical insurance for these services.

Many graduate students go around with inadequate health insurance coverage. Accidents and illness can strike the healthiest among us with potentially disastrous financial consequences. An investment in health insurance, even if it strains your budget, is essential for you and your dependents. Those with coverage under parents' or a spouse's policy should review the extent of coverage and compare it with policies available here.

Check on your insurance coverage. TA/TFs receive enrollment forms for Blue Cross/Blue Shield's Select Blue plan with their contract letters and should sign up for a plan as soon as possible. GSRs should contact the payroll officer in their department to enroll in an insurance plan. **You have to sign up for a plan every year; it does not automatically continue.** You can direct any questions you have regarding health insurance to Toni Weber.

For all medical services not provided by the Student Health Service, some health insurance plan is strongly urged.

One group policy is available to graduate students; one is for graduate students with TA/TF/GSRs and the other for unfunded students:

The UPMC Health Plan an option for (1) student and partner or child, or (2) for student and family. The **individual** coverage is provided upon application (please note that you *must apply) at no cost* to TA/TF and GSRs. It's also available through payroll deduction to Mellon Fellows, pre-doctoral fellowship and trainee holders. Students who choose the two-person or family coverage must pay the difference between that and the individual coverage.

Graduate students not eligible for the University's TA/TF/GSA/GSR health insurance will receive more information, upon registration, about alternative coverage. This alternative coverage is available to all students through the University Student Health Service. While it does not offer exactly the same coverage as the group plan (there's no prescription coverage, for instance), it is still extensive enough to cover most health needs.

Can you give me any sources of community information?

PHONE

- For information for Pittsburgh visitors, visit the Convention and Visitor's Bureau at <http://www.visitpittsburgh.org/>.
- Call 412/391-9500 for Duquesne Light time and temperature. (This is usually exactly the same time and pretty much the same temperature experienced by everyone else in the Pittsburgh area ... imagine that!) More weather information – and another reminder of what time it is – available from Bell Atlantic at 412/936-1212.

- BBB Tel-Tips is an automated bank of recorded messages on everything from health tips (immunization programs, AIDS) to law information (abortion rights, discrimination in housing), to consumer topics (how to get your credit report, pawn brokers). The central phone number is 412/456-2700, but check the blue-edged pages of the White Pages in your Bell Atlantic phone book for the code numbers for specific topics.

WEBSITES

- A pretty good website that clues you in on a lot available at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/>.
- *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette* is a local alternative weekly: online at <http://www.post-gazette.com>.
- *In Pittsburgh* is the local weekly alternative press, distributed free at local restaurants and in the William Pitt Union. Good dining guide, plus FAS grad Harry Kloman doing movies reviews and Ted Hoover on theatre. Runs Rob Breznsny's "Real Astrology" and Groening's "Life In Hell." The place to find weekly club, theatre, and movie listings.

PRINT

New Pittsburgh Courier (412/481-8302) is an innovative paper with a proud tradition of serving Pittsburgh's African American community.

Oakland Community Newspaper is published monthly. Free copies are available on the ground floor of the Cathedral of Learning as well as other locations throughout Oakland. Good source of information on the community. Call 412/621-7863.

Pittsburgh Magazine is a slick, monthly city magazine, published under the auspices of WQED Communication (the local public television station). Subscriptions are \$17.95/year; call 412/622-1360, or send your check to Pittsburgh Magazine/4802 5th Avenue/Pittsburgh 15213.

The Post-Gazette is Pittsburgh's biggest daily newspaper, having swallowed The Press after that paper went through a labor strike. The Post-Gazette is a morning paper with three pages of comics; call 412/263-1100 for circulation information.

The *Tribune-Review* is the P-G's main competition. Historically a Greensburg paper, the Tribune-Review began circulating more widely in Pittsburgh during the Press strike. Owned by the Scaife family; conservative. Proud of its color. Call 1-800-433-3045 for circulation information. Online at <http://www.pittsburghlive.com>.

Are there any tips from grad students?

What advice do experienced graduate students wish they had as new students? Listen up as grad students throw in their two cents:

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Most students settle in Oakland, Shadyside, or Squirrel Hill – many without even considering what’s available in Bloomfield, Friendship, and the Southside. Don’t forget to shop around!

Try Bloomfield when looking for a place to live: cheap, safe, near transportation.

Really research the rental agency before you sign the lease!

Ask your graduate secretary and other students for advice. Don’t rely on advice from other University offices, namely Property Management – this info may be incomplete.

You can often find a good deal on good properties in Squirrel Hill.

Although South Oakland looks like a bad neighborhood, it is not. Check it out, it is rather cheap.

Parking on campus is awful so public transportation access is key unless you have lots of money to pay for parking.

If you’re thinking of buying a house, don’t forget to consider all local taxes and parking if you must drive to campus.

LIVING IN PITTSBURGH

Take advantage of Pittsburgh: lots to do and see, even if it doesn’t seem like it at first...

In Pittsburgh magazine a great source for events in town. Lots of free stuff in summer!

FINANCES

If you have car insurance through a given company (for example, USF&G) and if you purchase renter’s insurance through that provider, the multi-policy discount may make your renter’s insurance free, or even a net drop in car insurance rates.

Have cash on hand for that first week or two of living in Pittsburgh – you’ll need it to help pay for stuff before your checks are printed up with your new Pittsburgh address. Of course, if you have plastic, that works too ...(even at the Giant Eagle!)

Banking fees have been on the rise at the most used/most convenient banks (Mellon and PNC). Free checking is available (Dollar Bank) but locations are limited.

Take advantage of the free/cheap stuff you get by being a Pitt grad student --- PAT buses, Carnegie passes, Mad Mex discounts, GPSA and FAS travel grants, etc.

Want to be able to manage money stuff while in grad school? Marry rich.

ACADEMICS

Take advantage of all the opportunities here at Pitt from the beginning of your grad studies.

You can renew library books over the phone by calling Hillman Library: 412/648-7806.

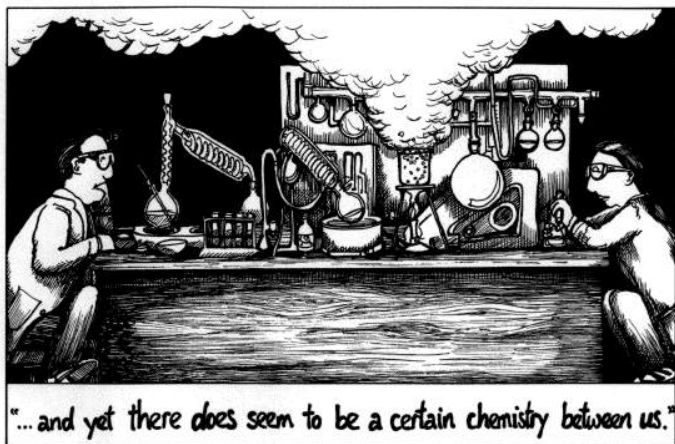
The key to handling academics: balance.

Best tip to handle academic pressures: form a study group!

Get involved in activities outside academia – this helps you meet new people and reduces stress.

HEALTH CARE

Get insurance, no matter how much it may seem to cost.



Most jobs within Pitt (even part-time) offer some kind of health care.

Check out your health services coverage as a TA/TF for over the summer months. Full appointments during the fall and spring usually mean your health insurance will be covered over the summer, but you may not have free access to the Student Health Center then.

Stress will kill you, so exercise to try to counterbalance this.

Marginalia

The Dissertation Years (Insight)

Jeffrey S. Albert (Chemistry, Ph.D. 1994) originally written for a general audience.

The final year of each person's graduate work is usually the most demanding, frustrating, and anxiety-filled. This is the time to finish the research, look for a job, and even write your thesis. There are usually logistical problems with apartment leases and moving also. Students in the last year feel the pressure mounting, wondering how to finish all this work while staying sane.

Forget it. It's probably too late.

There is a better way, however, and it involves careful and consistent preparation from the very first year of dissertation work.

The Early Years - During this time you will do the most learning and independent work. Usually the focus is on research rather than course work, but you better make sure that you have filled your department's requirements. More than one graduate student has discovered in the last

semester the one-credit course that he/she needs to graduate, but which isn't offered until the following year. Save yourself by checking with Fran Nagy.

For research involving experimental work, prepare periodic progress reports, even if this is not required. **This is the single most important element in the successful completion of one's thesis.** These reports should be complete, with an introduction, figures and references. A consistent format should be used, so that you can easily transfer this directly to your thesis. Try to complete each project, especially if it will be published or otherwise pursued; it may go into your thesis, and you may forget the details by then.

Try to attend professional meetings and conferences, and especially find opportunities to present your work. The experience is invaluable; you can often make useful contacts, and it won't look bad on your resume. Keep up with the literature in your general area, not just in your specific field. Most students find lots of new ideas (or identify earlier problems) while intensively reading the literature in preparation for their thesis. But by this time, it is often too late to benefit.

Nearing the End - One to two years before finishing, you should prepare your resume. Start early because you will constantly refine it, and you may need it at a moment's notice. Identify possible postdoctoral opportunities. If you are going to look for a job, search the professional trade journals for openings. Nowadays, people begin sending resumes about one year before they finish their thesis, so start early. It's a good idea to interview for positions that you may not really want. If you will be looking for a post-doc position, it is very likely that you will be expected to apply for your own funding. The Office of Research (350 Thackeray Hall) can be very helpful in identifying possible funding agencies, deadlines, and in getting the necessary forms. Don't wait until the end, because you will want to focus then on your dissertation.

The Last Year - In many departments the actual thesis writing gets done in the last few months. Hopefully this will be made much easier with your collection of progress reports and well organized data. You may think that the dissertation is the opportunity to demonstrate your independence and creativity, but the University has very strict requirements on the thesis organization and formatting. Get the "Style and Form Manual" (910 Cathedral of Learning) and follow it to avoid last-minute major editing changes.

Invest the time to really know the software that you will be using. Your thesis may include several hundred reference citations, and these can be the greatest source of irritation while assembling and editing. Use a reference database program such as EndNote or Pro-Cite, which are specifically designed for this task and work seamlessly with popular word processors. The programs Word and WordPerfect now include citation features, but they cannot compare to a dedicated program. You will wonder how you ever lived without it.

Careful and thorough preparation from the very beginning is the only way to insure successful completion of your thesis with minimum anxiety. Most importantly, however, it will help you to get the most out of your graduate work, both in terms of the contribution of your research and in helping you to reach your career goals.

You just might be a graduate student if...

- ...you can analyze the significance of appliances you cannot operate.
- ...your carrel is better decorated than your apartment.
- ...you have ever, for a folklore project, attempted to track the progress of your own joke across the Internet.
- ...you are startled to meet people who neither need nor want to read.
- ...you have ever brought a scholarly article to a bar.
- ...you rate coffee shops by the availability of outlets for your laptop.
- ...everything reminds you of something in your discipline.
- ...you have ever discussed academic matters at a sporting event.
- ...you can identify universities by their internet domains
- ...you appreciate the fact that you get to choose *which* twenty hours of the day you have to work.
- ...you still feel guilty about giving undergraduates low grades (you'll get over it).
- ...you have difficulty reading anything that doesn't have footnotes.
- ...you have ever spent more than \$50 on photocopies while researching a single paper.
- ...there is a microfiche reader in the library that you consider "yours".
- ...you actually have a preference between microfilm and microfiche.
- ...you can tell the time of day by looking at the traffic flow at the library.
- ...you look forward to summers because you're more productive without the distraction of classes.
- ...you regard ibuprofen as a vitamin.
- ...you send a personal letter with footnotes.
- ...you hope it snows during spring break so you can get more studying in.
- ...you consider all papers to be works in progress.
- ...your professors don't really care when you turn in your work anymore.
- ...you find the bibliographies of books more interesting than the actual text.
- ...you have given up trying to keep your books organized and are now just trying to keep them all in the same general area.
- ...you have accepted guilt as an inherent feature of relaxation.
- ...you reflexively start analyzing those Greek letters before you realize that it's just a sorority sweatshirt and not an equation.
- ...you find yourself explaining to young children that you are in the "20th" grade.
- ...you start referring to stories like "Snow White, *et. al.*"
- ...you schedule events for academic vacations so your friends can come.
- ...you find reading journal articles in the park relaxing.
- ...you frequently wonder how long you can live on pasta without getting scurvy.
- ...you look forward to taking some time off to do laundry.
- ...you have more photocopy cards than credit cards.
- ...you wonder if APA style allows you to cite talking to yourself as "personal communication".
- ...you find that you can no longer smell thiols or ethers or other "fun" organics.

Important Telephone Numbers for City Newcomers

Area Code	412/724/828
AMTRAK	800/872-7245
AT&T Cable TV (Central Office)	412/771-8100
Bell Atlantic Telephone	800/479-1919
City Parking Permits	412/560-2500
City Planning	412/255-2200
Duquesne Light Company	412/393-6000
Greyhound Bus Lines	800/231-2222
Peoples Cab Company	412/681-3131
People Natural Gas Company	412/244-2626
Pittsburgh Catholic Schools	412/456-3090
Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors	412/624-7800
Pittsburgh Post Gazette	800/263-1100
Pittsburgh Public Schools	412/622-3500
Pittsburgh Tribune	412/391-3588
Port Authority of Allegheny County (local bus service)	412/255-1356
Self Storage Center	412/621-5947
Self Storage Guardian	412/441-5983
U. S. Post Office (Oakland)	412/621-9713
Western PA AAA	412/362-1491
Western Union	800/325-6000
Yellow Cab Company	412/665-8100