PHOTOS: 2015 INTERNATIONAL WEEK
We hope you all enjoyed the many activities, events, and lectures that took place during this year’s International Education Week!

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10 THINGS TO DO OVER WINTER BREAK

1. Ice Skating at the Blue Cross River Rink near Penn’s Landing in Philly
2. New Year’s Eve Countdown and Fireworks at Philly’s Penn’s Landing
3. Volunteer: there are numerous local shelters and soup kitchens that typically need help around the holidays
4. Jack Frost Ski Resort in the Pocono Mountains (about a two-hour drive from Philadelphia)
5. Binge watch your favorite TV shows (The Walking Dead, Downton Abbey, Breaking Bad, Game of Thrones...)
7. Go to the movies (The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II, Creed, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Sisters)
8. Exercise in the Athletic and Fitness Center (Winter Break Hours: Closed 12/25 to 1/3, Open 1/4 to 1/17, Monday—Friday 9am to 7pm [Closed Saturday and Sunday], Spring Semester Hours begin on 1/19/2016)
9. See a Broadway show in New York City!
10. Learn to cook!

January 2016 Graduates (program completion date of December 2015)
F-1 visa holders are allowed a 60-day grace period following the completion of their program or period of authorized Optional Practical Training. During the 60-day period F-1 students are legally eligible to remain in the U.S., transfer to another U.S. institution or initiate an application to change to another non-immigrant status in the U.S., but cannot legally work or study during that period.
Students who wish to apply for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training can apply now up until 60 days after your program completion date. Keep in mind that the adjudication process takes approximately 90 days.

Final Exams Begin
Exams will take place December 15th through December 22nd

Winter Recess Begins
University offices closed from December 25th through January 3rd
Winter Session Courses:
Meet on December 23rd and resume on January 4th.
Winter session ends January 15th

New International Student Orientation

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Day of Service: 8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
University offices closed
No classes

Spring Semester Begins

Last Day to add or drop a spring semester class without a W grade

Travel Advisory
F-1 students planning to travel outside the U.S. over the Winter Break must obtain a travel endorsement from the OIS. If the travel signature on your I-20 is older than one year from the date of issuance (the last travel signature date), please bring your current I-20 to the OIS for an updated signature. The last day to receive your travel signature before winter break is Monday, December 21, 2015.
For more information on traveling outside the U.S. visit: http://ois.camden.rutgers.edu/travel_international
WINTER HOLIDAYS IN AMERICA

Around the world, December is a month full of holidays, food, fun, and family. America, in particular, celebrates 3 major holidays during the winter season. Do you know what these holidays are?

**Hanukkah**: Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple and celebrates a historical military victory. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication. One of the most well-known symbols of Hanukkah is the menorah. Each night of Hanukkah, one candle on the menorah is lit. Other Hanukkah festivities include playing the game dreidel and eating foods such as latkes.

**Kwanzaa**: Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or Nguzo Saba, which are considered "a communitarian African philosophy" that represent "the best of African thought and practice in constant exchange with the world."

Families celebrate Kwanzaa by decorating their homes with objects of art, colorful African fabrics, and fruit. It is customary to include children in Kwanzaa ceremonies and to give respect and gratitude to ancestors. A Kwanzaa ceremony may include drumming and musical selections, libations, readings, a candle-lighting ritual, and a feast.

**Christmas**: Christmas is a Christian holiday honoring the birth of Jesus; however, it is celebrated universally on the 25th of December by people of different religions. To some, Christmas has transcended from being just a religious holiday to a festival which is celebrated in the spirit of brotherhood, love, and giving.

Traditions surrounding Christmas include decorating homes with lights and garland, children visiting Santa Claus at the mall, constructing gingerbread houses, ugly sweater contests, and large family dinners.

**BIRTHDAYS!**

Dantong (12/1), Aayush (12/5), Advait (12/10), Esmail (12/13)