The Duse Society presents:

An Unofficial Guide for the New Graduate Student

Department of Theatre Arts
University of Pittsburgh

Edited by Ryan Howe and Colleen Reilly
from an earlier edit by Julie Costa-Malcom
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Welcome to Pitt!

We’re happy to have you with us (no, really), and we’ve put together this handy little guide to fill you in on some of the stuff we wish we had known when we first got here.

If you ever want more information, feel free to get in touch with any of the members of the Duse Society. (And if you’re wondering what the heck the Duse Society is...we’ll get to that!)

The Duse Society

The Duse Society is the organization of graduate students in the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh. We’re named for Eleanora Duse (pronounced DOO-zuh), who, as legend has it, succumbed to influenza at what is now the William Pitt Student Union. Every graduate student in the department is a member of the society. We typically meet once a month, and attendance at Duse meetings and functions is entirely voluntary (but well worth your time!).

We do all manner of things, from organizing mini-conferences to planning the end-of-year party (The Dusie-Doo) and putting together a guidebook for incoming graduate students.
**Introductions**

**Jef Awada** is a second year MFA. He makes an excellent fondue, with no less than three different cheeses! Feel free to ask him anything about wine pairing and the physical theatre. jefawada@hotmail.com

**Julie Costa-Malcolm**: I’m in my third year of the combined MA/PhD program. I went to Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA, where I had any number of majors (including Math and Computer Science) and graduated in 1997 with a degree in Writing and Theatre. Then I took the obvious next step and went to work in Information Technology for several years. My academic focus is currently the history of female playwrights. In addition to my work at Pitt, I work part-time for City Theatre (which makes me the connection for cheap or free tickets). I am married to Devin Malcolm (4th year PhD student), and we have two little boys: Quinn (6) and Liam (4). julzlady@verizon.net

**Lofty Durham** moved to Pittsburgh from DC, where he was a professional director and acting teacher for all ages for eight years. He’s directed everything from children's opera, to Shakespeare, to world premieres. He graduated in 1995 from Transylvania University with a BA in English and Drama. His research interests are eclectic--history of directing, things French, and in building a professional directing career here in the Pittsburgh area. Lofty is married to Nancy Young, and they have three plants, Elmer, Desdemona, and Basil. He is a huge science fiction fan (read: Star Trek, Star Wars, also David Brin and the Uplift saga) and is trying to get over the fact that Lord of the Rings is finished, and there won't be a fourth movie! boo hoo. lld15@pitt.edu

**Marc Epstein** - Marc will be starting his second year in the MFA program. His alter ego, Jef Awada is off in Russia, so he will be the only MFA for the fall semester. He lives in Regent Square, (the east end of the city) with his wife Judy, his two children, Anya, 5 and Jacob, 2, and his furry old dog, Patch. mae29 @pitt.edu

**Ryan Howe** moved to Pittsburgh last year from St. Louis, where he did his MA at Washington University. He finished his BA at Boston College. He’s originally from Baltimore, which makes him a bit of a die-hard O’s and Ravens fan for you sports fans. Ryan’s research interests include anything involving 20th and early 21st century American politics, especially American history plays and documentary theatre. He’s also a director, and will be directing *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* this summer for Bakerloo Theatre Project in Troy, NY and the Capek Brothers’ *Insect Play* for the Pitt lab season in February. rph5@pitt.edu
Colleen Reilly makes a mean quiche and an even meaner cocktail. Hailing from Charleston, South Carolina, she is the founder of Southern Gothic Chamber Plays, and a sometime member of the Wayang Cardboard Shadow Puppet troupe. Here in Pittsburgh she is pursuing the PhD with the dramaturgy special option and just completed her MLIS in Archives and Preservation. In addition to offering a friendly tour of the University Library System (including its performing arts collections) she is quite proud of her "Shadyside Epicurian" circuit, including a lovely little crepe shop and a hopping retro happy hour. colleenreilly@hotmail.com

Jennifer Schaupp is a native Pittsburgher who travelled the long way down Forbes Ave. from Carnegie Mellon as an undergrad to Pitt as an MA student. She's a natural blonde who loves chocolate cake, rock 'n' roll and Jane Austen. Jen dreams of writing a book of poetry, performing on Saturday Night Live and being a well-respected theatre scholar/teacher. jschaupp@earthlink.net

Michael Schwartz will be starting his fourth year in the Ph.D. program this fall. Mike is working on his Special Option in playwriting (wrighting?). He traveled from Verdun, France, to Pittsburgh when he was very small, but did most of his growing up in Tennessee. Hobbies include reading, pre-1974 TV cartoons, and minding his own business.

Paul Wilson: Call him "Spike." Native of Kokomo, Indiana. BA in Theatre and Classical Languages from Butler University in Indianapolis, and MA in Theatre from Miami of Ohio. I'm interested mainly in the theatre of Ancient Greece, India, China, and Tibet -- everything from cultural ramifications to the translation theory behind rendering these theatres into English. Although I'm mostly a director and acting teacher, I'm doing more and more work in drama therapy, and have been working (on an advisory basis) with practicing group and family therapists to develop new techniques. pww1 @pitt.edu

Jeffrey Cordell (jzc4@pitt.edu)
Robert (Chip) Crane (rfc3@pitt.edu)
Devin Malcolm (oymytukas@comcast.net)
Stefano Muneroni (smuneroni@hotmail.com)
Insoo Lee (inl6@pitt.edu)

There are others who are still technically students (because they’re still working on their dissertations, or have taken leaves of absence), but you probably won’t see them much (if at all), and will know their names primarily as legend. 😊
Getting Around the Department

The Main Office and the Staff
The main office is open between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays. The same is true of the common kitchen. The office varies widely between a chaos of activity and a ghost town, but tends to lean toward the former. The administrative staff in the department is friendly and overworked. Be kind to them and they will be kind to you.

Grad Student Offices
You will be assigned an individual mailbox and a shared office. Grad student mailboxes are those in the hallway closest to the main office door. There are two grad student offices. One has access to the “roof,” where you can go to smoke or get some fresh (well, sometimes, smoke-filled) air. Just about all of the grad students know the codes to unlock both of the offices. Make sure to ask for them, particularly if you’re likely to be in before 9am or after 5pm.

In addition to having the “smoking balcony,” the first office has a coffee maker, and the coffee goddess tries to keep a supply of ground coffee available ...you’re on your own for cream and sugar, though.

The second office contains the beginnings of the Duse Society Library – books and scripts that are available for all grad students to use.

Random Note about Voicemail:
The voicemail system tends to aggravate people because it is somewhat high-maintenance. Some of the grad students give out their office number to students, others use cell phones instead. If you happen to check the messages on the phone in your office, it is helpful if you write down the messages that are not for you (since the blinking light on the phone goes away after the messages have been checked, and the next person won’t know to check them). The most reliable message-delivery method seems to be leaving written phone messages in mailboxes, so they don’t disappear in the offices.
**Computers**

The computers in the grad student offices are cast-offs from elsewhere in the university, and are therefore somewhere between prehistoric and modern. They are not high-performance. They are, however, an improvement over what used to be there, as any of the continuing grad students will tell you. If you need a high-performance computer, or any special software or feature, you will need to go to a computer lab. (See the next section for more on computer labs). If you want to check email, play Snood, or do simple word processing, the grad student computers will be fine.

**Copying**

The copier is located in the main office, so it’s wise to try to get your copying done during regular hours. When the main office copier is not functioning, it is generally possible to use the copier in the Asian Studies department on the 15th floor. Bring an offering of paper and be nice to their secretary. Each grad student has a 1000 copy “limit” per semester which is somewhat flexible. It seems to be more for keeping track of copier usage than absolutely limiting copies. If you use all of your copies, you may have your quota reset, but we are encouraged to try to keep our copies limited to those that are absolutely necessary. For massive copying orders (which means 20+) we are encouraged to give 24 hours notice and send it through the department account via tiny slips of colored paper located at the main desk.

**Printing**

The main printer is also located in the main office, next to the copier. There is no stated limit to the amount of printing you can do on this printer, but you will not make anyone happy if you hog the printer. If you have major print jobs to do, use a computer lab. We seem to have no limit to the amount of printing we can do in on-campus labs. (Some rumors claim the limit is 1,000 pages, but at least a few grad students have an unlimited quota.)
Other Random Tidbits

Computer Labs
There are many computer labs on campus. The most convenient (and therefore most crowded) are on the ground floor of the Cathedral. They all have different hours, and are (inconveniently) often closed when the university is closed for breaks and such.

Find out where they are and when they’re open here:
http://www.technology.pitt.edu/students/complabs.html

Software for Students
Pitt offers a number of software products (and licenses) to students for free. These include the latest versions of the Windows operating system, Microsoft Office Professional Edition, Virus Protection Software, and others.

More Information is available:
http://www.technology.pitt.edu/software/stu軟件.html

Wireless Networking
Pitt is building its wireless network. Currently, you can use the wireless network in the lower floors of the Cathedral of Learning (including the Studio theatre, as Amy found useful while stage managing down there), on the Cathedral Lawn, in the Student Union, and in Hillman Library.

For more information:
http://www.technology.pitt.edu/networkinfo/wireless.html

Library
Make friends with Hillman. You will spend much of your time there. The computers there are often in high demand, particularly those on the upper floors. The computers on the ground floor are hooked up to the library catalog and offer internet capabilities (though you can have only one window open), but have no other software on them. Be sure to visit the Special Collections on the third floor- particularly, the Curtis Collection.

If you want to learn more about Hillman, see Colleen Reilly’s bio, or check out the library’s website:
http://www.library.pitt.edu
Transportation
One of the benefits of being a Pitt student is that the Pitt Shuttles and PAT Buses are included as part of the “transportation” fee. That means all you need to ride either is your student ID. (Side note: You should be aware that you can’t get your student ID until you register for classes, which will happen after the first meeting with your advisor.)

The shuttles run all over campus and into nearby neighborhoods (and can be used to get to some of the more out-of-the-way computer labs, if you have time).

The Student Union (across Bigelow from the Cathedral) has a stand full of various bus schedules. Be aware, however, that Pittsburgh’s public transportation system is seriously inadequate. Most buses don’t run very late into the night. During rush hour, it’s pretty common for the more convenient buses to fill up and therefore drive right by you as you stand waiting for them. If you’re trying to catch the 61A to Squirrel Hill at 5pm, for example, you’d better not be in much of a hurry.

PittArts
Another perk of being a student at Pitt. They offer cheap tickets to lots of local arts events (including most local theatres). You can also get into the Carnegie Museums, the Warhol Museum, the Mattress Factory and Phipps Conservatory for free.
Neighborhood Guide

Oakland
The Cathedral of Learning is right between North Oakland and South Oakland.

North Oakland is the nicer of the two with some student housing as well as faculty residences (Bruce McConachie lives in North Oakland). An urban setting but very convenient to school.

South Oakland is essentially the undergraduate ghetto. Most of the houses and apartments have become somewhat decrepit due to the rapid turnover among renters. If you are looking for a more Frat-like lifestyle, South Oakland is the place for you. Also very convenient to school and other amenities.

Oakland Restaurants, Bars and other institutions
(* indicates graduate student review)

Really Close to Pitt

Kiva Han
*A local institution, Kiva Han has both great lattes and good lunch food. If you are a vegetarian, or enjoy some good, earthy-crunchy food, this is the place for you. They do not have an extensive menu, but if you need a quick lunch or a quick caffeine rush, Kiva Han should suit your needs. Julie: I’ve found that, while their espresso drinks are awesome, their straight coffee is kind of hit or miss. And they have awesome pastries for great prices.

Hemingway’s
*The nearest bar to the Cathedral. Often packed on the weekends with undergrads. It offers good bar food (wings, nachos, and three different types of cheese sticks). Hemingway’s also offers a different beer special for $1-$2 per pint (figure out which night is Yeungling night!) *Noisy, noisy, noisy! If you’re into loud bars, go for it. If you want to be able to talk to the people you’re with, skip it. They have a half-price menu twice a day (early in the day and late at night).
Fuel and Fuddle
*A restaurant / bar. Great beer list (over 100 beers). Food is very good too although sometimes the service is a little slow. Can get loud during peak times.
*Great menu variety for a bar – some really yummy food!

Jo Mama’s Italian / American.
* Non-authentic (though better than Olive Garden) Italian food served in a “mob” environment. Quiet, not-expensive (owned by the same people as Fuel and Fuddle).

The Original Hot Dog Stand (aka the “O” or the dirty “O”)
* Famous for its hot dogs (which are delicious) but Pittsburghers know to also get their fries (which are HUGE – small serves two) They also have decent CHEAP pizza (6 bucks for a large). They also have good, cheap subs and burgers. Not for the faint of stomach – see Pimanti Bros. for instructions on when to eat.

*Also good is Scotty’s hot dogs. He’s at the corner in front of Hillman. He serves Hotdogs, Sausages or Chicken. Know what you want ahead of time. Prices vary from day-to-day and person-to-person. Might be more expensive, but Scotty puts on a good show.

Uncle Sam’s Subs
* Best sandwiches in Pittsburgh. Order ahead if you’re in a rush.

Primanti Bros.
* Pittsburgh’s famous sandwiches served with fries and coleslaw on the sandwich. Great for late night – the sandwiches absorb alcohol like nobodies business. Tend to sit in your stomach like a lump of cement if consumed during the day. Don’t get the Cheese steak – their best sandwiches are the sausage derivatives (Kielbasa, fried Baloney etc). Only go when you can spend the next few hours groaning.
* There is something about the constitution of Pittsburghers that makes them more capable than outsiders of digesting these sandwiches. But try the Egg and Cheese…it’s sooooo good!

Union Grill
* A little classier than Fuel and Fuddle. Not as good a beer list. Their salads are great but the rest of their food is mediocre to bad. Can get crowded, especially on the weekends.
**Lulu’s / Yum Wok**
* Same place, two names. The best Asian restaurant in Oakland. Order your food at the counter and they bring it to your table. Very inexpensive, very tasty. I like the Korean Bim bim bop, though their Pad Thai, Dr. Fu’s noodles and General Tso’s chicken are also delicious. Get an egg roll too. Only downside – no liquor license.

**Star of India**
* Very yummy Indian food. It is both affordable and tasty. Doesn’t get much better than that!

**Ali Baba’s**
* Jef Awada’s favorite restaurant.

**Qdoba:**
* Best guacamole outside of my kitchen. Good burritos, wide selection of salsas, so there’s something for everyone (provided everyone likes Mexican-American food, that is). The bar is upstairs, and is quite small.

**Caliban Books**
* On Craig St. An awesome bookstore for used books and first editions. Always find good stuff in this bookstore!

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**Less Close to Pitt**

**Spice Island Tea House & Road to Karakesh** – * Good ethnic food (Thai and African respectively) hidden away in South Oakland. Great places for dates.

**Mad Mex** Mexican / American food.
* Great for lunch but they crank the music up at dinner-time to turn over tables faster. If you don’t mind yelling at your dinner companions, go after 11pm when their gigantic margarita’s are half price.

**Ginza**
Sushi and other Asian food.
* I’m not certain why you would go here over Lulu’s except for the bar, though others will disagree with me.
Other Neighborhoods

Squirrel Hill
Next to Oakland and Shadyside.
* Squirrel Hill is a great place to live. It is convenient to all sorts of shops and restaurants – including no fewer than 7 Chinese food places. A large Hasidic population augments the graduate students and Russian immigrant who make up the majority of the population. Rents are on the upper edge of reasonable. An urban environment at the center, though the side streets are neighborhood-y with lots of trees and green spaces (including Frick Park) Residents include – Colleen Reilly, Chip Crane, Ryan Howe, Lofty Durham

Restaurants in Sq. Hill
Bangkok Balcony
* yummy Thai food. Reasonably priced. Try the chicken curry.

Alladin's
* yummy Middle Eastern food. The pita bread and hummus are well worth the small price they ask. GREAT desserts. They have a full case of awesome cakes and pies and will take the time to explain every one of them to you. A great hang-out place for after a show.

Cold Stone Creamery
* Cool but expensive ice cream treats, complete with live entertainment from the staff.

Ben & Jerry’s
* Inside the Bagel Factory. It’s a PartnerShop, even. Ice cream for a good cause...who can beat that?

Shadyside -
Next to Oakland and Squirrel Hill.
* Another popular graduate student residential area. A little more ritzy than Squirrel Hill. Its main commercial area on Walnut St. has many of the high end, national shops (Banana Republic, William Sonoma, Pottery Barn etc) leading to it being nicknamed “Mall”nut street. Away from Walnut, on Ellsworth and Highland are more interesting local stores. Shadyside is also the best place to find singles bars.

* While I think most of Shadyside is a great place to live (and would love to be able to afford it!), a warning ...there is a small portion of Shadyside (between Highland and Shady) that is...well...shady. It’s not precisely bad,
but it’s not as safe as some neighborhoods. When I lived over there, there were a few attempts to break into my house, and it seems that the general trend over there includes break-ins.

* I find Shadyside to be nice and quiet with a lot of families and young people mixed together. It is not a long walk to school on those nice days and there are also bus stops on almost every corner for those not so nice days. Ellsworth is a lot of fun.

Residents include – Julie Costa Malcolm, Devin Malcolm

**Things to do in Shadyside**

**The Bagel Factory**
* The Bagel Factory on Ellsworth makes kick ass bagels and bagel sandwiches!

**Enrico’s**
* This place is on Ellsworth has a nice candle light atmosphere and good gourmet Italian food. It is a great place to go on a date, or just have some drinks with friends.
* Too pricey for the quality. Go to Soba or Café Zeno.

**The Thai Place on Walnut St.**
* So good! A nice tangy pad thai that is the best I have had yet in Pittsburgh. Worth a visit or two!

**Kards Unlimited**
* Located on Walnut St. This store rocks if you are looking for a last minute gift for someone, or you just want to have a good time in a store. It has a fabulous card selection. The books are awesome. It is just a good time!

**Coffee Tree Roasters**
* An awesome place to study and drink extra yummy lattes!

**Southside**

- A great urban neighborhood just across the Mon, situated between downtown and Oakland. Lots of great locally owned shops (as well as the mandatory Starbucks and Dairy Queen) located along East Carson Street make Southside an eminently walkable neighborhood. It is most similar, in my experience, to neighborhoods like Dupont Circle and Adams Morgan in the DC area, and has echoes of some New York neighborhoods as well. The 54C bus route (though rather infamous for being late, I haven't found it so) runs from 18th and Carson to
Oakland, right outside the Cathedral. There's a pretty good grocery store (A Giant Eagle, of course) but if you want a nicer one, then you can simply drive down Carson Street all the way to the Waterfront, where there is a glam Giant Eagle plus a shopping mecca extraordinaire.

*Residents Include* – Stefano Muneroni

**Thai Me Up**
* is a great Thai restaurant at 1930 E. Carson.

For AUTHENTIC Mexico, **Taco Loco** is at 17th and East Carson. by authentic I do not at all mean Chi Chi's.

Other stores at Wharton Square: Blockbuster, Family Dollar, and even a laundromat.

* From March to November, there's an AWESOME Farmer's Market in the parking lot at 18th and E. Carson (right next to where the last bus stop for the 54C is). They've got all kinds of fresh produce, and then extras like salsa, fresh potted herbs, apple cider, artisan breads, various kinds of savory and sweet jams and spreads, and sometimes, the Amish bakers come, with the yummier cookies and muffins and you MUST TRY the pumpkin whoopie pies that arrive in October. SO GOOD.

* Cautionary tale: if you are a light sleeper, and really need quiet, I do NOT recommend living close to E. Carson. The bikers LOVE to gun their engines, and the stretch of road w/o stop signs or traffic lights between 10th street and Station Square can sometimes turn into a drag racing strip (or at least it sounds like it). On Fridays and Saturdays during the school year, it can get pretty loud. (We've gotten used to it, but if you're sensitive, for GET it.)

* While there is a great community of long time residents and frat type undergrads frequent places like Mario's, the most evident facet of the community I think is in the kind of alternative culture here. A somewhat recent article in the Post Gazette compared the neighborhood to NYC's Greenwich Village. There are a lot of interesting shops and restaurants and venues to see different music. A friend of mine walking through the neighborhood kept commenting on how "alternative" Pittsburgh was. He later revised his opinion when we went out in the Strip, realizing that it was just the part of town I chose to live in. I think it is the nearest thing to an oasis from yinzers and pretentious young professionals as one can get.
* Edgewood is tucked in between Wilkinsburg and Swissvale, two very working class neighborhoods. Edgewood's biggest resource is Regent Square (the intersection of Edgewood, Swissvale, Wilkinsburg and Pittsburgh), in which you'll find the Regent Square theatre, an art film house that has great fresh popcorn. However, one should not ignore D's 6-pack and Dogs, which offers a sampling of excellent beers while enjoying a hot dog. If you like any of these beers, you can go to McBroom's which is arguably the best beer store (in PA, you can only buy by the case at special distributors - or by 6-pack at bars) because you can get almost any kind of micro-brew from around the country. Also, he's open to your suggesting a new brand. There is also a great little breakfast nook and Dunning's is a nice bar & grill type of place to get a bite before a movie. 

Edgewood Town Center is a convenient little shopping mall with a grocery store, K-Mart, etc. It also has Anna's Ravioli Board, which is a great little Italian restaurant. I suggest anything with roasted red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes. For the menu, stick with their Ravioli, the other pasta is only okay, but the ravioli is very tasty.

**Transportation**
The one problem is that Edgewood is on the east side of the Squirrel Hill tunnel. Driving to downtown can be a pain in the bottom – or at least the brake pedal. However, if you make a lot of trips east of Pittsburgh, it's very convenient. The 61B will get your from Regent Square to Oakland/Downtown and the 61A will get you to the same locations from the part of Edgewood closest to the Western PA School for the Deaf.

**Kids**
If you have kids, the Woodland Hills school district is excellent And many of the schools are within walking distance. This is a very kid-friendly neighborhood.

**Automotive**
There are 2 really good mechanics here in the area: Paul Gates is more reasonable and will not add on extra work that is unnecessary - although he's also capable of re-welding your shock mount if necessary (trust me, I know) The other mechanic is E&M, 1/2 block away from Gates. There is also a good body shop just over the border in Swissvale. All three are next to a stop for the 61A.

**Park**
Lower Frick park is accessible from Braddock Avenue, about 1/2 mile from Regent Square. Here there is a big playground, softball fields, tennis courts,
trails and 'Hot Dog Dam', a fenced in area with a stream, the favorite for puppies in the neighborhood.
Biggest benefit and weakness of Edgewood is that it is psychologically far removed from Oakland and Pitt.

*Residents include* – Jeff Cordell

**Friendship** – Beyond Shadyside. Really nice houses – also a good place to look to buy. Near Bloomfield and East Liberty.

**Highland Park**– Great neighborhood. Close to the Zoo and just across the Allegheny River from Waterworks shopping center. Housing prices here are also crazy low for the properties.

**Morningside** – Also a great neighborhood very close to Waterworks.
* Good place to buy or rent – housing is very inexpensive here, though it’s easier to find houses than apartments. Heavily populated by Italian Catholics, has an active community council. While there’s not a lot to do around here (I don’t think there are any bars outside of the VFW), it’s a great neighborhood for families or those who don’t want to be surrounded by college students. And Halloween in this neighborhood ROCKS – there are like 500 kids and EVERYONE goes all-out decorating. I’ve found in this neighborhood that people are actually interested in being neighborly…getting to know you, offering to look after your pets when you’re away, asking how your family is…that kind of thing. In my experience, this isn’t terribly common in the communities closer to campus. Biggest disadvantage: Access. No easy way to get here from Pitt by bus. No easy access to any useful highways, either.

**Bloomfield** – Pittsburgh’s Little Italy. A fun neighborhood, though the housing is hit or miss.
Other Places You Should Know About

Monroeville – * The entire town is a strip mall. Also contains a real mall and a Borders Books. I find myself going there less and less now that the Waterfront is open.

Robinson Towne Center – * Also a place of commerce. Sometimes referred to as Ikea Towne Center due to the gigantic furniture store that anchors the area. There is also a Half-Price bookstore here.

McKnight Road
* A slightly shadier Monroeville. A lot of retail. Also your one stop shop for Adult bookstores (there are at least three on the main drag – including one next-door to the Christian Revival center – no kidding). One can also find the Oriental Super Buffet, the best (or at least largest) Asian / Pseudo Asian / Pizza buffet in the area
* Hey now, I grew up in Penn Hills (near Monroeville) and then in the North Hills (near McKnight). McKnight Road is definitely not shadier than Monroeville!

Waterfront
*Not to be confused with Waterworks (which is a small shopping center on the Allegheny river), the Waterfront is a huge collection of big stores and restaurants along the Monogahela River. It’s down Carson Street from the South Side (down, in this case, meaning AWAY from Downtown), and across the river from Edgewood. A consumer’s dreamland. If you’re into chain stores and lots of them, this is the place for you! Has just about everything you can imagine.

* Beyond the Waterfront, going away from the city, incidentally, is a pretty awesome (if small) amusement park with great roller coasters: Kennywood. Only open during the summer months, of course.
Stuff to Do, Places to Go, Things to See...

Graduate Students’ Favorite Restaurants

**Tessaro’s** in Bloomfield – They make the best burgers that I’ve ever eaten. My favorite has Blue Cheese and Bacon. I understand they make other things as well, though I would never waste a trip there ordering a non-burger item. Can get busy, especially on the weekends.

**Soba** in Shadyside – Great food, wicked expensive. Have your rich relatives take you here. Probably the best food in town. Also a snazzy bar.

**Chaya** in Squirrel Hill – Great sushi, very reasonably priced. Those who know tell me this is as authentic as you can get outside of Japan. Try the fried tofu or anything involving raw fish. I have found their entrées somewhat disappointing.

I have yet to find a major favorite restaurant, but I like the **Grand Concourse**, though it is a bit upscale. They also have a more casual Gandy Dancer which I've not eaten at but I'm sure has just as yummy but not so pricey meals. It is just a beautiful place that people living here should see at least once.

**Dels** in Bloomfield. Good Italian food, decent prices. They have a nice bar, too.

I second the **Grand Concourse** – it’s very fancy and pretty expensive, but the food is worth it. And they have a nice Sunday Brunch that’s less than $20/person.
**Sports**

*PNC Park – Home of the Pirates.*
*Arguably the nicest baseball park in the country. Only drawback – the Buccos suck. Still fun for an afternoon of skipping school.*

*Heinz Field – Home of the Steelers.*
*Good luck getting tickets – the Steelers are the biggest thing in town. Julie: If you really want the experience, wait until later in the season and look for tickets on Ebay. Unless they’re winning, the season ticket holders eventually give in to the cold and start trying to get rid of their tickets without losing the money.*

*The Igloo (The Mellon Arena) – Home of the Penguins.*
*They have student rush ticketed available at Gate 8 an hour before the game. $20’s gets you the best available seat. Depending on how the Pens are playing, these seats can be really good or not so much. Of course, this all depends on whether or not the NHL exists.*

The Pens have that student rush program where you get the best seats still available for a really low price (and sometimes you get great seats) and usually there are a wealth of scalpers outside Heinz Field and if you go a bit after the game starts you can get tickets for less.

**Art**

*The Mattress Factory*
A totally cool installation museum hidden in the North Side.

*The Andy Warhol Museum*
Right next door to PNC Park. Occasionally they’ll host performance artists. They also hold some sort of singles night once in a while.

*The Warhol Museum has a series of really interesting performance pieces that I've really enjoyed in the past and would recommend to others.*

*The Carnegie Museum of Art / Natural History*
Not a bad art museum.
Matt: The Natural History wing is totally old school and includes a room full of plaster casts of the façades of many of the “Great” buildings of the world.

**Theatre**
*I’d list all the theatres here, but we are a theatre department. Ask someone.*
Weirdness in Pittsburgh

*I’m just going to insert this section (written by others) without further comment. As a native Pittsburgher, I am acutely aware of some of the weirdnesses of my hometown, but tend to come to its defense whenever possible.

The Pittsburgh Left – If you are stopped at a red light facing someone who wants to turn left, they will often insist on the right of way. Yield to the first person turning left or risk getting into an accident.

Syntax – Pittsburggers hate auxiliary verbs. When you move in, your stuff “needs moved” and your students have papers that “need written”.

French Fries – A Pittsburgh Salad has fries and steak on it. No joke.

Nostalgia – The Steelers were really good in the 70’s. Some people cling to that decade with all their strength. Also, apparently 80’s fashions are still haute couture. And if you’ve always wanted to grow a mullet...

Alcohol – the way alcohol works in Pennsylvania: Beer is only sold by restaurants, taverns, and beer distributors. In the South Side, for example, The Deli at 17th street has beer. Wine and liquor is sold only at state owned stores, called, Wine and Spirits. There's one in the Wharton Square shopping center, right next to the Giant Eagle (they’re actually all over town...and listed in the blue pages of the phone book). Most State Stores (which is what locals call them) are closed on Sunday, but some have recently started operating on abbreviated Sunday hours. Hours tend to be limited, so make sure you make a note of them, because a last minute wine run might be out of the question at certain times of day or week.