As Winter Break approaches, we wanted to provide some events and resources for students and scholars. As a reminder, the ISSS office will be closed from December 24th through January 2nd. We will return to the office on January 3, 2023. We have compiled a list of events happening in the surrounding community during break. While we have compiled a list, please note that this list is not all-encompassing and dates/times are subject to change, this list does not constitute as endorsement of or agreement with the views presented therein. We hope you enjoy break; we cannot wait to welcome you back in 2023!
Events in Chapel Hill/Orange County

- **Christmas in the Groves** $♦
  Recurring through December 23 | 6-9pm
  - Decorated Christmas Barn in Hillsborough, NC - Christmas in the Groves!! Offering Local Vendor Market, Visiting Santa, Carriage Rides, and Live Nativity Animals. Come by and see us and see more information on our website!

- **UNC Men’s Basketball** $♦
  December 13, 7:00 pm

- **Gingerbread Cookie Decorating at La Vita Dolce** $♦
  Thursday December 15, 2:30pm - 5pm
  - Soak up the holiday spirit at La Vita Dolce’s annual Gingerbread Cookie Decorating event! We’ll have everything you need: gingerbread cookies, icing, and candy — and even some holiday tunes. Festive treats like our Gingerbread Latte, S'mores Hot Chocolate, and 10 flavors of made-in-house gelato will be available for purchase (wine and beer also available for parents). All ages welcome, and no reservations or tickets needed — just come by beginning at 2:30pm on December 15th! $6.50 for gingerbread cookies, candy, and icing.

- **UNC Women’s Basketball** $♦
  December 16, 6:00pm

- **Voices: 2022 Holiday Concert** $♦
  December 16 & 17
  - Come see Voices in their annual holiday concert! The concert will be held at University United Methodist Church.

- **Holiday Crafts Market** $♦
  December 17, 9am-Noon
  - It’s one stop shopping for all your winter holiday needs! You’ll find wonderful crafters and artists ready with gift ideas alongside our farmers and local food artisans on Saturdays from 9-noon. It’s a wonderful time of year to be thinking of others, shopping from the heart and supporting small local businesses.

- **Advanced Lantern-Making Workshop** $♦
  Saturday December 17 2-5pm
  - Register for the final lantern-making workshop of the season, if you need assistance there will be people there to help get your prepared for the Lantern walk on the 21st!

- **Carolina Inn Holiday Market** $♦
  Sunday December 18 12-4pm
  - The Carolina Inn Holiday Market is a European style market with a nod of southern flare. With vendors from all over the state, our market will be a wonderful place to shop for hand crafted yuletide gifts from chocolates, to jewelry, to ornaments and more! You won’t want to miss our Biergarten either..... We have planned an exceptional lineup of craft beers, mulled wine, and signature cocktails. You’ll be able to feast on everything from soft pretzels, corndogs, pulled pork, to sausage and peppers! Your sweet tooth won’t be disappointed either. Dig into some fried dough, donuts, or caramel apples. Better yet, cuddle up to the fire and enjoy some s’mores.

- **Chanukah Celebration** $♦
  Sunday December 18 4:30pm
  - Chabad of Durham/Chapel Hill is presenting a free Chanukah celebration for the community at Streets at Southpoint, 8030 Renaissance Parkway, Durham, North Carolina.
• **Winter Wonderland at Spring Haven Farm** $♦️
  **Wednesday through Sunday, November 17 – December 23 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**
  - Spring Haven Farm is back to welcome you all with more farm festivities. From November 17-December 23, we'll have Fresh Christmas Trees and Wreaths for sale, our Polar Express Tractor Train Ride, the Snowflake Barn with sweets, treats, and Letters to Santa, the South Pole and Santa's Workshop with Ornament Making, our Festive Wonderland Barn full of glimmering lights, and of course, all of our Goats, Cows, Pigs, and Other Animals! Get your tickets online in advance. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

• **Walking Tours of Chapel Hill** ♦️
  **Ongoing until December 16th**
  - A 1-1/2 hour tour to show you this charming University town. We start at the expansive Morehead Planetarium and Sun Dial, travel down the main street seeing the town’s oldest buildings, site of 1960’s protests, several of the outdoor murals for which the town is famous. We will delve into the history of UNC (the oldest public university in America) as we travel along one of the college's main roads. It's a lovely, easy, barrier-free tour.

• **Solstice Lantern Walk** ♦️
  **December 21, 4:30 pm**
  - Each December, the Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, and the longest night of the year. This astronomical event is significant to many cultures, religions, and traditions, for many different reasons. We encourage creativity and community participation! Individuals are asked to bring a handmade lantern that lights up the night, to guide all of us along the walk. Participants will gather at the Eno River Farmer's Market Pavilion and be led on a procession through River Park, to the River Walk, and ending back in downtown Hillsborough.

• **The Solstice Market** ♦️
  **December 21, 4:30-7:30pm**
  - With generous support from Hillsborough’s Tourism Board, this year’s Solstice Lantern Walk features a NEW Solstice Market, showcasing a select number of local artists, live music, hot drinks, warm food, and more to be enjoyed before and after the walk. Once the walk and market come to a close, we encourage visitors to tour the gingerbread on display in many local shop windows and patronize downtown businesses. Grab dinner, a drink, dessert, peruse in-town artist wares and gifts, check out the gingerbread exhibit and support local this winter season!

• **Nerd Trivia** ♦️
  **December 23, 10pm | Every Friday**
  - Tired of being an infinite bastion of nerd knowledge and not getting prizes for it?? Well, those dark days are over! The Gathering Place presents: Nerd Trivia Fridays - with your local nerd guru host Chris Ross & guests!

• **New Year's Eve Tasting Event at Osteria Georgi** $♦️
  **December 31, 5-10pm**
  - Join us as we celebrate the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023! We will be offering a special 4-course New Year’s Eve Menu on Friday evening for $110 per person. Reserve your spot today and let’s cheers to the new year!

• **Homes for the Holidays: A Hillsborough Gingerbread Tradition** ♦️
  **December 2 – January 1**
  - Come shop, dine, and stroll as you view all of the beautiful gingerbread creations in storefront windows of businesses in downtown Historic Hillsborough. This year's theme is “The setting of your favorite children's story”.

• **Winter in the Garden at North Carolina Botanical Garden** ♦️
  **Recurring through December**
  - Enjoy the peaceful holiday splendor of the Garden as we celebrate the end of the year with a craft market, guided tours, and more throughout the season.
• **Self-Guided Tour of Carolina**
  - **Ongoing**
    - Print off the self-guided tour map and navigate the landmarks of our campus at your own pace or take the Zoom tour of UNC campus.

• **Sense of Place Tour**
  - **Ongoing**
    - This hour-long, in-person tour introduces campus history and traditions as well as some of the University’s current endeavors in research and innovation. We believe Carolina is a very special place, and we look forward to sharing it with you. Please note that this is NOT an admissions tour. Our tours are limited to 15 guests.

• **The Carolina Story: A Virtual Museum of University History**
  - **Ongoing**
    - This virtual museum is established similarly to physical museums, with texts and images arranged in a series of roughly chronological exhibits. Along the way, there is much for the university’s friends to take pride in, and other truths that are now painful to remember, but serves as an open eye to the past of Carolina.

• **Self-Guided Mural Tour**
  - **Ongoing**
    - Known for its appreciation and cultivation of the arts, Orange County is famous for dozens of murals that brighten the walls of our local establishments, alleys, and parking lots. Plan your day of exploring these 17 works of art beginning with coffee at Open Eye Cafe and the Coffee Bean Fields Mural.

• **Ackland Art Museum**
  - **Ongoing**
    - Since 1958, The Ackland Art Museum has been one of North Carolina’s most important cultural resources. We serve broad local, state, and national constituencies as a unit of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Museum’s permanent collection consists of more than 19,000 works of art, featuring North Carolina’s premier collections of Asian art and works of art on paper, as well as significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, and North Carolina pottery.
Beyond Chapel Hill/Orange County

- **North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival** $♦
  Recurring, November 18 – January 8
  - North Carolina's Premier Holiday Event Returns to Koka Booth Amphitheatre in November for the 6th Year! Purchase your tickets at [https://boothamphitheatre.com/events/tickets/events/chinese-lantern-festival](https://boothamphitheatre.com/events/tickets/events/chinese-lantern-festival)

- **Bull City Holidayz** ♦
  December 17, 10am
  - Kick off the holiday season at the Durham Holiday Parade! Cheer on dynamic floats, hometown bands, drill teams, schools, and community groups as they make their way down Main Street at the Durham Holiday Parade. The procession will conclude with a guest appearance from Santa

- **Soccer FanFest** ♦
  December 18, 9:30am-2pm
  - Soccer fans, don’t miss Raleigh’s huge Soccer FanFest at Moore Square, 201 S Blount Street, Raleigh, on Sunday, December 18th, 2022. It takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Lighting of the 8 ft Menorah** ♦
  Sunday December 18 4:30pm | Recurring every night of Hannukah
  - Jewish for Good, 1937 Cornwallis Road, Durham, is celebrating Hanukkah in several ways this year. It has an 8-foot tall Hanukkiah (menorah) outside the building, and each night of Hanukkah, all are welcome to see another candle light up. The first of the eight nights of Hanukkah is December 18th, 2022.

- **Candle Making w Usu Company Candles** $♦
  Sunday December 18 4-6pm
  - Tis the season to share stories by candlelight. Back by popular demand, Stacy Ahua of Usu Company Candles is teaching a candle making class - but this isn’t your average candle making class! With an emphasis on story telling and personal connection, you’ll learn to craft your own scent inspired by the memories and stories you know and love.

- **Game night at Boxyard RTP** ♦
  December 21, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Join us every Wednesday for game night! We’ll share a variety of board games for free play (don’t worry, our host will be available if you want to learn one that’s new to you) and our Boxyard vendors will be open to fuel you to victory.

- **Holidays in the Park at the Museum of Life + Science** $♦
  Recurring, December 1 – January 2
  - Join us at the Museum as we light up the park in celebration of the holiday season! Enjoy a memorable stroll with your loved ones through some of our outdoor and indoor spaces on evenings in December. Follow shimmering pathways and glowing trees from our gardens to the Dinosaur Trail. Enjoy the tropical temperatures inside our Magic Wings Butterfly House or stop by Sprout Café for a night-time snack. Take an illuminating train ride on the Ellerbe Creek Railway, passing colorful light displays along the way!

- **Christmas Plugged** ♦
  Recurring, November 19 – January 9
  - Every night from November 26th, 2021, to January 3rd, 2022, Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, 4109 Guess Road, Durham, is presenting Christmas Plugged — Synchronized Light Show. The light display is synchronized to music for a total of nine songs. The public can view the display for free from their cars. The display lasts about 30 minutes and people can tune their car radios to 90.1 FM. The light display will be nightly from dusk until midnight each night.
• **Ice Skating at Red Hat Amphitheater** ✨
  **December through January 16**
  o Come enjoy the thrill of ice skating in a winter wonderland created in the heart of downtown Raleigh! The Rink presented by UNC Health features a natural ice-skating rink with stunning views of the Raleigh skyline.

• **Downtown Raleigh Illuminate Art Walk** ♦
  **December 2 – January 14**
  o Downtown Raleigh comes to light with Illuminate, a light-based art walk. Returning December 3, this five-week activation takes place in Downtown Raleigh’s Fayetteville Street and Glenwood South districts. Illuminate will transform plazas and underutilized spaces with a large-scale interactive installation, light-based sculptures, and projection art. Installations will shine nightly from December 2 to January 14.

• **Movie Parties at Alamo Drafthouse Movie Theatre** ✨
  **Multiple times in December**
  o At an Alamo Drafthouse Movie Party, you can cheer for your heroes, boo the bad guys, shout out your favorite lines, and even sing along with the songs - all in a theater packed with fellow fans. The possibilities – and the fun – are endless. Come live your cherished movies along with us. ADH is offering five different holiday themed movie parties.

• **The Raleigh Market** ♦
  **Ongoing, 9am-5pm**
  o Vintage, collectible, antique, handcrafted, homegrown, new, used, local, uncommon, bizarre--you’ll find it here! For nearly 50 years, the flea market at the State Fairgrounds has offered one of the most unique and entertaining shopping experiences in the state.
For the Children

- **History Adventures: Holiday Lights $✦**
  **December 14, 11-Noon**
  - From lights to menorahs to kinaras . . . Learn what these holiday symbols mean, hear a story, and make a seasonal craft to take home.

- **Kids, Cookies & Candy Canes ✦**
  **Thursday December 15, 10:30am-Noon**
  - A Holiday Celebration For Children Of All Ages! Bring the family to the Carrboro Century Center to enjoy some holiday fun! Join us for cookies, crafts, and a children's show.

- **Storytime and Tot Shabbat ✦**
  **Friday December 16, 9:30am**
  - Bring your little ones to celebrate Hanukkah with stories and songs.

- **Jingle Bell Express ✦**
  **Friday December 16, 10:00am-Noon**
  - All aboard the Jingle Bell Express! Join us for story time, hot chocolate, and more surprises on this magical ride through Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Appropriate for ages 2-7, register in advance. Join us on the Jingle Bell Express - a merry ride through Chapel Hill and Carrboro for our youngest riders.

- **Fridays w/ Santa at Kidzu $✦**
  **Fridays in December until 23rd, 10:00am-Noon**
  - Get your cameras ready! Santa is coming to Kidzu! He’s made time in his busy schedule to be here with the Kidzu Crew and he wants to see you! Get your photo with Santa for just $10 minimum donation per child. Donations accepted upon arrival.

- **Sundaes with Santa at Maple View Farm Ice Cream Store $✦**
  **December 16 & 22nd, 2:45 pm – 7:30 pm**
  - Santa Claus will be visiting Maple View this year! Come enjoy delicious ice cream and visit with Santa and his friends from the north pole! We will be collecting donations for Sam’s wish fund holiday cheer - providing holiday wishes and needs to children diagnosed with life threatening illnesses in Kids Path of Hospice care.

- **Gingerbread House Decorating at Kidzu $✦**
  **December 17, 3-4:30pm & December 22 5:30-7pm**
  - Design your own winter wonderland at our Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop! We’ll have all the materials (and sweets!) you’ll need to decorate the perfect gingerbread house for the holidays. Hot cocoa bar included! All ages welcome! Drop-off available for ages 6+

- **Gingerbread Jamboree at Marbles $✦**
  **December 17 & 18, 9:30am, 12:30pm & 3:30pm**
  - Enjoy creating a sweet treat masterpiece with friends and family, and leave the clean-up to us! Create special memories this holiday season with your very own keepsake gingerbread house.

- **The Gingerbread Build at the Carolina Inn $✦**
  **December 20**
  - Usher in the Christmas Magic! Just in time for the holidays The Carolina Inn is hosting a children’s Gingerbread Decorating Class. Join us for a casual afternoon that begins with a story of Christmas magic. Each child will then be able to decorate their very own Gingerbread House complete with an apron, chef’s hat and all the holiday sweets and goodies that their imaginations can hold, with no clean up! At the end of the class, each child will take home their creation for display all season long. Adult required with all orders.
• **Noon Year’s Eve at Kidzu Children’s Museum** $♦
  
  **Saturday December 31, 10am-Noon**
  o Kidzu Children’s Museum, 201 S Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, is hosting a Noon Year’s Eve Celebration on Saturday, December 31st, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **North Carolina Museum of History** $♦
  
  **Ongoing**
  o North Carolina’s wonderful Museum of History has excellent exhibits to tour, as well as, virtual programs for kids and families. Some of the virtual programs include “Ships and Tar Heels” and “Tarheel Tales: Lighthouses and Shipwrecks”.

### Bus Routes

• **Chapel Hill Transit**
  o [Click here](#) for more details and updates about chapel hill transit

• **Regional Transit**
  o [Click here](#) for more details and updates about regional transit options available to surrounding areas

### Health Care and Mental Health Support

• **Campus Health** and **CAPS** will be open weekdays through Dec. 23 but closed from Dec. 24 – Jan. 2. Any time Campus Health or CAPS are closed, patients can receive 24/7 support by calling 919-966-2281 for UNC Nurse Connect and on-call providers and 919-966-3658 for CAPS 24/7.

### Physical Wellness over Break

Don’t forget to keep moving!

• Enjoy movement in nature by visiting the [Carolina North Forest](#), or the [Botanical Gardens](#) near campus.

• Get your heart rate up with [virtual on-demand fitness classes](#) from Campus Rec including pilates, dance, yoga, H.I.I.T. and more.