



## The University Service Center's

# First Gen Connect Newsletter

December 2015

Looking for things to do this Winter? If you're preparing to shut yourself in for the rest of the season in Boston, you're on the wrong track, even if you're on a strict budget. Grab your coat and get out. Boston and its surrounding areas offer plenty of ways to entertain yourself this winter!

- [Go ice-skating](#) - Head over to Boston Common to glide across the picturesque Frog Pond. Bring your BU ID to receive reduced price admission (only \$5!) on College Night - every Tuesday night in winter while school is in session.
- [Catch a film](#) - The Brattle shows the best in classic, cutting-edge, foreign, and art-house films. A valid student ID will get you in for only \$9!
- [Attend a fancy chocolate brunch](#) - If you are a chocolate lover, it doesn't get much better than this. The Langham Hotel's famous Chocolate Bar - a Boston gem - is showcasing "The Art of Chocolate". Experience more than 100 desserts inspired by visual art techniques during a dessert brunch accompanied by a contemporary jazz band. This all-you-can-eat buffet is well worth the \$48 price tag as a very special finals/holiday treat.
- **Warm up with a Hot Chocolate** - Boston abounds with hot chocolate joints. Pick one to warm you up during a cold New England day. We recommend the [L.A. Burdick](#), [Pavement](#), [The Paris Creperie](#), and [Max Brenner](#). If you're feeling adventurous, think mint-Nutella and salted caramel white hot chocolate.
- **Holiday lighting ceremonies** take place on [Boston Common](#), along the [Commonwealth Avenue Mall](#), and in the [Beacon Hill](#) neighborhood throughout December as the city embraces the coming of winter.
- [See Boston Ballet's \*The Nutcracker\*](#) - What's the holiday season without *The Nutcracker*? The Boston Ballet's version of this beautiful ballet is an unforgettable winter event. This enchanted dream world will lift your spirits. Full-time students with ID are eligible for \$25 rush tickets.
- [View the stars from the heart of BU](#) - The BU Observatory's Open Night is a great chance to view the night sky through telescopes and binoculars and see the beauty of the cosmos, normally hidden by city lights. Open Nights are held most Weds evenings year-round, weather permitting. These events are open to all, however space is limited. [Reserve a free ticket](#) in advance.



## Spotlight

Check out our December Spotlight - Natasha Mendoza (Questrom '18)

### New First Generation Student Group

Students from the First Gen Connect Volunteer Corps—with the support of the First Gen Connect program staff—are applying to have a new group officially recognized. Their main goals are to reach out to area schools, mentor inner city students on the college application process and give advice to those who don't think college is an option for them. They hope to network with first gen groups at other Boston colleges in order to establish meaningful connections. Group President, Natasha M., says: "It's been great to work with such an involved and dedicated group of people in creating this club. Everyone has such great ideas and input on what our main activities as a first generation organization should be." [Email us](#) to find out more or get involved!

### First Gen Connect Study Break

Need a break from studying for finals? Join First Gen Connect for a chance to unwind! There are board games aplenty, so drop by when you can. Relax with friends, fill up on snacks and pick up a Study Break Survival Kit. [RSVP by December 10.](#)

**Monday, December 14, 2pm-4pm**  
USC - 881 Comm Ave, Lower Level

### Important Dates

<b>December 10</b> Last Day of Classes	<b>December 11 – 14</b> Study Period
<b>December 15</b> Final Exams Begin	<b>December 19</b> Final Exams End

### CAS FY 103 – First Gen at BU

This **new Spring 2016 course** is open to the classes of 2018 & 2019 and focuses on the first gen experience.

The course promotes dialogue on issues impacting our community. Topics include access to education, planning for careers, finances, and academic success, and integrating personal values and culture into the educational experience.

Participants will engage with other first gen students and two BU staff facilitators (both first gen themselves) in activities and outings designed to help them optimize their education. This one credit course is graded pass/fail and meets weekly (Tues, 3:30-5:00pm). [Contact](#) CAS Student Programs & Leadership to learn more.

Like our [Facebook page](#) to stay up-to-date on First Gen Connect news, information, and events.

Have a question or problem? Contact us!  
**University Service Center**  
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Visit our [website](#) for events and workshops happening this academic year!