



International Services Newsletter

Spring Semester 2008

International Student Spring Festival

On April 3 & 4, 2008, the International Spring Festival brought together countries from near and far to life as a variety of student groups displayed their culture right here on campus.

The "Parade of Nations" was unfortunately canceled due to rain but we hope to continue this tradition next year.

Cultural exhibits were on display April 3 & 4 in the Student Center Lobby. Student groups representing India, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey, Nepal, Muslim Student Association and Vietnam shared cultural exhibits with the students, faculty and staff.

Even a buffet lunch was served to deliciously close out the final afternoon of exhibits.

Later in the evening, the culture moved from the Student Center Lobby into the Mitchell Center for the first time ever! Performances from India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam kept the crowd entertained.

Thanks to our Emcees for the evening, Mrs. Brenda Hinson and Mohammed Adnan, who had a very difficult task of trying to keep the performances flowing smoothly and the audience at an acceptable volume level.

A special thanks to all of our Spring Festival participants. Please be sure to mention a word of thanks to all our faculty judges. Competition was fierce and the judges had a very tough job in selecting winners.



Cultural Exhibit Winners:

- 1st Place:
Indian Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Nepal Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student Council

Talent Show Winners:

- 1st Place:
Nepali Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Indian Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student
Association

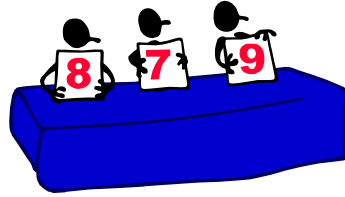
Fashion Show Winners:

- 1st Place:
Indian Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Nepali Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student Association

Overall Spring Festival Spirit:

- 1st Place:
Indian Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Nepali Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student

(Spring Festival continued)



Judges:

Cultural Exhibits

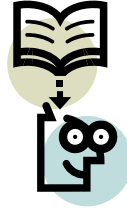
Harold Pardue
Gene Tucker
Zoya Khan
Dr. John Smith

Talent & Fashion Show

Dr. Jason Guynes
Heather Nix
Karen Peterson

**Fall 2007
President's List**

Bandar M. Al Masoudi
Hirotaka Ata
Tereza Bendlova
Marc E. Bussieres
Vinicius Carneiro
Kaitlyn J. Chernomaz
Thao L. Do
Christopher J. Dumeé
Takuya Fujihara
Agus Handoko
Shirley J. Harvey
Ayumi Ikutaka
Yumeka Ishigaki
Ryo Ishihara
Layla S. Jaffree
Preeti Jindal
Maria D. Kashavelova
Nobuhiro Kato
Marina S. Kazimirova
Haruka Komatsu
Nhung T. Le
Hongxi Liu
Hongyan Liu
Juan E. Loo
Clarisse Moh
Sameera Moosa
Josue R. Morales Cifuentes
Kevin C. Nguyen
Sheila N. Nguyen
Rui Okada
Ersin Ozcan
Jyoti Rai
Mariano Ruiz
Maheswori Shrestha
Michelle L. Toth
Manuja T. Wijeratne
Tariq M. Yousuf



Michael Cart
Lukwesa N. Chinyanta
Romendra Chudal
Uttam Dhodary
Dias B. Doskarayev
Colleen M. Downey
Moses E. Ekpenyong
Mayuko Furuya
Eric Gonzalez-Diaz
Yan Y. Goh
Christine O. Hantouche
Salima Hasan
Kenji Hirata
Ayaharu Hosoi
Yuta Hosoya
Muhammad Afzaal Hussain
Ayedh D. Al Ahmari
Heba H. Alabduljabbar
Tomoko Igarashi
Megumi Inaba
Makiko Inamura
Takumi Ishimura
Catalina E. Jaramillo
Tomoko Igarashi
Megumi Inaba
Makiko Inamura
Takumi Ishimura
Catalina E. Jaramillo
Tomoko Igarashi
Megumi Inaba
Ashwin Kannalath
Chika Katsuyama
Chisato Kawahara
Keiko Kawashima
Sameena Khaliq
Shehzad K. Khattak
Jonghyun Kim
Sungmin Kim
Yuki Kisaichi
Emile Kleyn
Olga A. Klimova
Rawinrag Klinpinij
Ayano Kubo
Saori Kuroki
Raj K. Lamichhane
Thi U. Li
Inshan Magarati Shreesh
Hristina V. Markova
Mizusa Masuda
Ryo Masuda
Ikki Matsumoto
Lamech C. Mayo
Tea Milicevic
Aleksandra Milojevic
Chie Minoda
Anna Miyatsuka
Shiva Prasad Moola
Maria F. Morales
Lilian W. Mwangi
Kibo Nakano
Hai T. Nguyen
Hau D. Nguyen

**Fall 2007
Dean's List**

Ayedh D. Al Ahmari
Omar A. Al Ghamdi
Adham S. Al Otaibi
Heba H. Alabduljabbar
Amanda N. Alihamad
Nesreen Alzarrad
Ali M. Alzhrani
Hironori Anazawa
Elin K. Andersson
Yauyuki Ariki
Marzieh K. Atigh
Bhupendra Awasthi
Znar S. Barwary
Sharon Berege
Christina Bijayananda
Michael Cart
Lukwesa N. Chinyanta
Romendra Chudal

Fall 2007
Dean's List continued ...

Hoan T. Nguyen
Huy Nguyen
Lan H. Nguyen
Thuy T. Nguyen
Mihoko Noguchi
Nina J. Offenbergl
Shun Okada
Yuko Okamoto
Namiko Ono
Sayo Onodera
Kaori Oshima
Khamsaao Paengpongsavanh
Chang Hee Park
Yu Ni Ge Park
Javier I. Perez
Tien Hoang N. Pham
Trang M. Pham
Subha Pyakurel
Emmanuel Ramasu
Katarzyna Rybarczyk
Yukie Sakayori
Daisaku Sato
Anis Sharipov

Yui Shibasaki
Taiga Shiozaki
Firas A. Shueib
Kimberly E. Shumski
Ajay B. Singh
Sylvanie Spangenberg
Karina L. Sproal
Aki Sugasawara
Wakana Sugiyama
Mukarram M. Syed
Chika Takahara
Akari Tateishi
Tadashi Ushiki
Lan T. Vu
Tien K. Vu
Randolph K. Walters
Tim Witt
Ryo Yamamoto
Konoka Yamamoto
Yasushi Yamamoto
Yingyue Zhang

JUST A FEW REMINDERS...



It is mandatory that all foreign students purchase the health insurance policy that is offered by the University of South Alabama. Beginning Fall Semester 2008 the insurance will be provided by Consolidated Health. You can view information concerning the health insurance plan by going to the following web site www.chpstudent.com.

Baptist Campus Ministries is still running their regular ride assistance to Wal-Mart on Mondays. Pick-up is at 4:00 p.m. at the Compass ATM outside the Student Center. Call their office 344-5904 for more information regarding the scheduled times.



Fall Semester is just around the corner and as always, your help is needed to assist with new student orientation, pick-up and temporary housing of these students as they arrive on our campus. These things are an important service that we provide to our students and mean a commitment on your part if you choose to help. It is also a very rewarding experience for you to help out your new fellow students and make new friends. Please come by the Office of International Services and let us know if you want to be a part of this important service.



Important Immigration News

Now, more than ever, it is important that all F-1 students be aware of and abide by all status requirements.

DO NOT LET YOUR I-20 EXPIRE!! It must be extended before the expiration date or it will be automatically cancelled by the SEVIS system. It is YOUR responsibility to be aware of passport and I-20 expiration dates. Suspension or dismissal from the University does not allow you to apply for an extension. Passports should be renewed six months before expiration as processing time can be several months.

You must register as a full-time student (12 hours undergraduate/6 hours graduate) no matter what. The only exception is a well-documented medical condition or graduation during that semester. If graduating, you must notify us when taking less than a full course load at the beginning of your final semester. If you are not a full-time student and do not meet the reasons above, you will be reported to INS as out of status.

Failure to officially drop the course with the university will result in an F on your transcript.

Under the new regulations, anyone out of status for more than 5 months is not allowed to apply for reinstatement with INS. Thus, your only option would be to return to your home country.

If you are out of status, our office will not be able to provide you a good-standing letter for any reason.

Unless you have compelling reasons or a documented medical condition, we are very limited in extending your I-20. Suspension or dismissal from the University does not allow you to apply for an extension.

If you are transferring to another school, notify our office for the proper transfer. We do not transfer your SEVIS record until you are 100% sure you want to stay there.

If you are going home and sitting out a semester, you are not to re-enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the start of the next term. Re-entering before this time jeopardizes your immigration status.

New students trying to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start of their I-20 will be returned home and their visas cancelled. Do not let this happen to any of your friends who will be joining us.

If you are visiting a country other than your own, you may need to obtain a visitor's visa. Most Embassies have special web pages regarding current visa requirements and forms.

Let the Office of International Services know when traveling outside the US to verify your documents and sign your I-20 for travel.

Anyone formerly required to attend Special Registration must still leave the U.S. at the designated airports and have their departure documented. It is not enough just to surrender your I-94 card. Failure to follow the procedures will keep you from being allowed back into the U.S. It has happened to some of our students already – don't let it happen to you too.

If you are traveling inside the U.S.; keep your passport, I-20 and I-94 with you. Any officer of the law can ask for your immigration documents. If you have a car, it's a good idea to keep a copy of your passport/I-20/I-94 in the glove box with your

ATTENTION STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON OPT!!!

New OPT requirements mandate that all students on OPT maintain contact with their school during their OPT period. We must have your current address and the name/address of your current employer. Please check your jaguar1 e-mail account for an e-mail titled "OPT VALIDATION – URGENT" and respond right away. If you cannot open your jaguar1 e-mail or know of someone who did not get this e-mail, please contact Cindy cnobles@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Employment Authorization

OPT workshops are held at the beginning of each semester for students graduating during that term. E-mails are sent to the jaguar1 e-mail account of all students who have applied for graduation during that term. If you do not get an e-mail early in your last semester, contact our office to find out why and make arrangements to apply.

When you apply, you will select a start date which can be as late as 60 days after graduation. So apply early, even if you want it to start late.

Traveling while on your practical training is risky. There is no guarantee that you will be allowed back into the U.S.

You cannot postpone your graduation to delay applying for your OPT. You must apply when you finish your coursework even if the job market is low. Graduate students may complete Thesis or COMPS while on OPT and should also apply upon the completion of coursework.

You may receive an additional year of OPT each time you proceed to a higher degree. This means one year upon completion of bachelors and another year upon completion of masters or masters to doctoral degrees.

New immigration rules allow certain students to file for extensions at the end of the OPT, but everyone initially files for the 12-month OPT period. If you and your employer qualify for the extension, it is done at the end of your OPT. The new rules also address H-1 cap-gap work authorization and periods of unemployment during your OPT.

If you begin a new program while on your Optional Practical Training, the remaining time on your EAD is cancelled.

In order to be approved for Curricular Practical Training (CPT), you must register for an internship.

See us regarding CPT approval, even if it is in the middle of a semester.



Social Security

By now everyone knows that F-1 students are no longer eligible for Social Security cards until they already have an on-campus job, a graduate assistantship, or CPT/OPT work authorization.

If you get one and are eligible to apply, see our office. You will need a letter from your on-campus employer as well as a letter from International Services.

You are also required to actually be working before you are eligible. Therefore, do not ask offices to merely offer you employment so you can get a social security card. We realize students often want social security cards in order to obtain credit cards, but that is not what the numbers are for – they are only for employers to withhold taxes from wages.

Also, if you are lucky enough to be offered an on-campus job, you need to be courteous and responsible enough to fulfill your obligations. We know you want that office to be glad they hired an international student and we want our campus offices to continue their practice of hiring international students in the future.

Each of you should be checking your Jaguar1 e-mail address on a regular basis. Important correspondence from our office as well as other university offices is sent to this account.

Summer 2008 Registration Information

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 9 – May 21

New Student Registration
May 22

Open Registration
May 23 – 26

Late Registration & Drop/Add
May 27 – 29

Tuition and Fee Information

Fee Payment Deadline: **May 29, 2008 (6 p.m.)**

Final Payment Deadline w/ \$50 fee: **June 2, 2008 (5 p.m.)**

Fall 2008 Registration

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 7 – June 15
June 21 – July 6

New Student Registration
June 17, 20
July 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25
August 13-14

Open Registration
July 26 – August 12
August 15 – 17

Late Registration & Drop/Add
August 18 – 20

Tuition and Fee Information Fall 2008

Fee Payment Deadline:

August 4, 2008 – 15% of tuition/fees/housing/meal plans due for students registered as of **August 4** to avoid cancellation of schedule. If cancelled, students may re-register with no guarantee of course availability.

August 22, 2008 – Balance Due
(if paying on campus)

August 24, 2008 Balance Due
(if paying online)

100% tuition/fees/housing/meal plans due for all students to avoid cancellation of schedule.

August 26 – 29:
Reinstatement Period

If canceled after the August 26 payment deadline, students may reinstate schedules but must pay balance due plus additional reinstatement fees before being reinstated. Students will be notified by Student Accounting of reinstatement procedures and deadlines.



Tuition and Fee Payments

Student accounts are handled through the Office of Student Accounting. Details about payment and refund policies/deadlines are available to student through www.southalabama.edu/studentaccounting and on PAWS. Payments may be made online through PAWS or on campus at:

Office of Student Accounting
Meisler Hall, Suite 1300
(251) 460-6195

Cricket Tournament

The Spring Cricket Tournament was a great success with 9 teams participating this year. It was a lot of fun and perfect weather for cricket.

Welcome to our 3 newest teams: Gamblerz, Blue Jags and Strikerz

The results were as follows:

1st place: India
Runner-up: Token
Best Fielder: Gihan Molligoaliyanage
Best Batsman: Anath Mamidipally
Best Bowler: Khalid Khan
Man of Series: Nimit Bajaj
Man of the Match - Semifinal: Jaffer Siddiqui
Man of the Match - Semifinal: Gaurav Sood
Man of the Match - Final: Nimit Bajaj



The Best Players recognized for each team were the following:

India - Nimit Bajaj
Token - Srikanth Reddy
Bluejags - Akram Ahmed
Titan- Nikhil Somani
Gamblerz - Aron Thumma
Nepal - Suhit Pradhan
Eagles - Kartik Bheemaraju
Strikerz - Khalid Khan
Bulletz - Tabish Hussain

Special thanks to Mohammed Adnan, who did a great job in organizing and running the tournament.

All Sports Banquet

On April 20, 2008 the All Sports Banquet was held and a few of our International students received some very honorable accolades.

2008 Hall of Fame

Jan Hermansson '96
(Tennis)

Cindy Rainville '01
(Soccer)

Freshman Scholar Athlete of the year

Hristina Markova

NCAA Woman of the Year

Clarisse Moh



Perseverance Award

Eric Gonzalez

Jimmy Taylor Scholarship Award

Evelyn Pare

President's Award

Elin Anderson

Other Happenings

CISO Meetings are open to everyone, whether participating on behalf of a student organization or individually. They are held each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the CISO office.

Student Discount Cards are sponsored by CISO and can be found around campus as well as in the International Services Office.

Check out the CISO web site at www.southalabama.edu/ciso and check your Jaguar1 e-mail account for events and important University notices.