



International Services Newsletter

Fall Semester 2007

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BANQUET

On Friday, November 2nd, "Wonders of the World" was the setting for the Annual International Student Banquet held in the Student Center Market.

The Banquet began with a pleasant greeting from emcees Mohamed Adnan, then a dinner featuring cuisine from around the world, followed by awards and entertainment from the Indian Student Association.

You can see yourself ONLINE @ www.partypics.com. The password to view pictures is: USAINTSTU. Photos will be online by November 8th and the order deadline is December 8th.



Award this years winners were:

Outstanding Academic Achievement International Athlete of the Year

Undergraduate Level

Ajay Bahadur Singh

Alaltu Ameje

Josue Ricardo Morales Cifuentes

Graduate Level

Rohini Yerram

Lucie Novoveska

Rehman Safdar

Vineela Devi Donthi

Outstanding Staff Member

Sandra Kelly

Sally Cobb

International Service Award

Peer Mohideen Syed Shajudeen

Outstanding International Student

Mohamed Kamaludeen

Female

Colleen Downey

Male

Christophe Dumee

Best Faculty Members

Dr. Husam A. Omar

Karen Peterson

Presidents Award

Mohammed Zaeem Farooq

Narine Karapetyan

Special Service Award

Mohammed Adnan

Outstanding Service by Campus

Organization

Baptist Campus Ministries

Outstanding International Student Organization:

Nepalese Student Organization

President's List Spring 2007

Carolyn Adams-Rossignol
Bilal Afzal
Wagar Ahmed
Bandar Al Masoudi
Abdulelah Al-Bedah
Abdulaziz Alghamdi
Saskia Amattamsir
Sevinc Arbatli
Hirotaka Ata
Georgios Avramopoulos
Kristin Bachman
Jennifer Befoune
Uzma Butt
Vinicius Carneiro
Maira Cummings
Eri Fukuda
Shova Gurung
Tatyana Hamilton
Susan Harris
Ryo Ishihara
Vanessa Jarvis
Preeti Jindal
Chennakeshava Joga
Ekaterina Kalachnikova
Mohamed Kamaludeen
Yinka Kareem
Ai Katagiri
Osama Khan
Yuki Kisaichi
Ciemi Kurebayashi
Vladlen Labenski
Kah Yong Lee
Prassanna Malla
Prasiddha Malla
Ikki Matsumoto
Aleksandra Milojevic
Risa Minami
Chie Minoda
Shinsuke Miyano
Nyanthri Mohanram
Sakiko Murakami
Adriana Murayama
Gladys Mutinda
Kibo Nakano
Karthik Nallejalla
Winnie Njatha

Sylvia Njau
Mihoko Noguchi
Kasumi Oda
Rui Okada
Michael Okechukwu
Ifeanyi Ononuju
Nelita Pereira De Andrade
Robbert Reddering
Katarzyna Rybarczyk
Phensiri Sakultanaklap
Diana Santos
Aiko Sato
Emiko Shimazaki
Satiar Shirazi
Sushma Shrestha
Karina Sproal
Wakana Sugiyama
Antipah Sugut
Royce Sutton
Masahiro Takimoto
Kum Tang
Akari Tateishi
Erina Terada
Nagisa Tetsuka
Pooja Tewari
Herica Torres
Duyen Truong
Natalia Villamizar
Binh Vuong
Benning Wang
Zi Wang
Manuja Wijeratne
Tim Witt
Jialun Xu
Yongmei Zhao



**Dean's List
Spring 2007**

Prakash Acharya
Shruti Agarwal
Mohammad Al-
Khamees
Hydie Anto
Takumi Arai
Miki Asada
Dinesh Baniya
Zeliha Beker Dukes
Lisa Benzing
Diana Bethea
Victor Bhattari
Rosilda Davis
Mohammad Edaibat
Wasim Farooque
S. Fernandes
Takuya Fujihara
Takuya Hara
Natsuki Hashimoto
Maliheh Heydari
Kenji Hirata
Manyse Horace
Ayaharu Hosoi
Mai Ichikawa
Ayumi Ikutaka

Megumi Inaba
Mariko Ishige
Vijesh Karkera
Laboni Karmokar
Keiko Kawashima
Jahanzeb Khawaja
Anson Lau
Gabrielle MacKinlay
Takayuki Makino
Asta Masedunskaitė
Yuka Nakanishi
Namiko Ono
Takuma Owaki
Ersin Ozcan
Saqib Rafiq
Daisaku Sato
Taiga Shiozaki
Ajay Singh
Ngim Tang
Hadi Tok
Sayaka Watanabe
Jose Zurita



**Phi Beta Delta
International Honor Society**

The Delta Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Delta inducted new members on November 2nd during the Annual International Banquet. The inductees were:

Sharon Berege
Vinicius Carneiro
Aaron Chen
Mary Chokani
M. Khair Elzarrad
Eric Gonzalez-Diaz
Nawaz Khaja
Shilpa Kudaravalli
Prassiddha Malla
Hameedullah Mirza
Kibo Nakano

Tsubomi Odashima
Ifeani Ononuju
Ersin Ozcan
Saqib Rafiq
Emiko Shimazaki
Akram Syed
Hadi Tok
Herrica Torres
Rachel Walton
Manuja Wijeratne
Monica Williams

A Big Thank YOU....

to the students who performed this summer at President and Mrs. Moulton's for the Board of Trustees. We had a group of students from the Pakistani Student Association that played music before dinner and then some members of the Japanese Student Association did a dance performance. A great time was had by all and congratulations again to our students who were given this opportunity to showcase their talents.



2008 Diversity Visa Lottery

Applications for the 2009 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery will be accepted between noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Wednesday, October 3, 2007 and noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) Sunday, December 2, 2007.



Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays. No entries will be accepted after noon EST on December 2, 2007.

The annual DV program makes permanent residence visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated random lottery drawing chooses selectees for diversity visas. The visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the period of the past five years. Within each region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

For DV-2009, natives of the following countries are **not** eligible to apply because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. over the period of the previous five years:

BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA (mainland-born), COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA HAITI, INDIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, PERU, POLAND, RUSSIA, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED KINGDOM (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and VIETNAM. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan are eligible.

Employment Authorization

USCIS must receive your OPT application before graduation or your OPT will be denied. All Fall Graduates, applications must be turned into the International Services office by the end of November.

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 extremely 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.

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.



Attention Alumni

We want to hear from you!
Please stop by our office web page and let us know what you have been up to. This way we can also let you know about upcoming events and happenings on campus.

<http://www.southalabama.edu/intnatsrv/alum.htm>



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 insurance and car registration.

JUST A FEW REMINDERS...



All F-1 students at South Alabama must have health insurance. Our current policy is provided by HTH Worldwide. Go to their website at www.hth.students.com.

Baptist Campus Ministries is still running their regular ride assistance to Wal-Mart on Monday. 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.



Spring 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.



Council of International Student Organizations

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.

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