



International Services Newsletter

Fall Semester 2008

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BANQUET

On Friday, November 7th, “Olympics” was the setting for the Annual International Student Banquet held in the Student Center Market.

The Banquet began with a pleasant greeting from emcees Sonia Savani and Hau Din Nguyen, then a dinner featuring cuisine from around the world, followed by awards and entertainment from the Nepali Student Association.

You can see yourself ONLINE @ www.partypics.com. The password to view pictures is: INTERNATIONAL. Photos will be online by November 13th and the order deadline is December 13th.



Award this years winners were:

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Undergraduate Level

Ajay Bahadur Singh
Stephane Dabakuyo
Kharen Andrews
Teresa Bendlova

Graduate Level

Udaya Swathi Venigalla
Mitchell Menezes
Syed Aneeq Ali Bokhari
Ariel Chavez

Outstanding Staff Member

Brian Allred

CISO Rookie of the Year

Stephane Dabakuyo

Outstanding International Student

Sonia Savani

International Athlete of the Year

Female

Shirley Harvey

Male

Marc Etienne Bussieres

Outstanding Faculty Members

Dr. Robert Coleman
Dr. Hung T. Khong

Overall Outstanding Academic Award

Subin Hada

Presidents Award

Piyush Shakya

Outstanding Service Award

Ahmed Louahadj

Organizational Spirit Award

Japanese Student Association

Outstanding International Student Organization:

Pakistan Student Organization

**President's List
Spring 2008**

Bandar Al Masoudi
Samy Alihamad
Alaltu Ameje
Elin Anderson
Nidal Omar
Kharendawn Andrews
Hirotaka Ata
Basel Awwaf
Tereza Bendlova
Marc Bussieres
Vinicius Carneiro
Kaitlyn Chernomaz
Lukwesa Chinyanta
Romendra Chudal
Natalie Dixon
Thao Do
Takuya Fujihara
Yan Goh
Yoshiaki Harada
Shirley Harvey
Ayaharu Hosoi
Yuta Hosoya
Loc Huynh
Ayumi Ikutaka
Makiko Inamura
Ayesha Jaleel

Keiko Kawashima
Marina Kazimirova
Sameena Khaliq
Sungmin Kim
Ayano Kubo
Pallavi Kumbla
Nhung Le
Seung Lee
Jong Hwan Lee
Hristina Markova
Yuri Matsumoto
Jessica Miller
Natalya Nickles
Laura Nyguyen
Nidal Omar
Sobia Ozair
Samit Patrawala
Suhit Pradhan
Kayla Ridderbjelke
Sonia Savani
Pashupati Shrestha
Daniella Vasquez
Tim Witt
Konoka Yamamoto
Tariq Yousef



**Dean's List
Spring 2008**

Shavkatdzon Achilov
Imran Afzal
Purnima Agrawal
Hiromi Aizawa
Stephens Akena
Heba Alabduljabbar
Toyin Alade
Hatem Alghahtani
Bader Alghamdi
Saeed Al-Harbi
Bandar Almasoudi
Saif ALSabaie
Ali Al-Saif
Ammar Mohammad Al-Zarrad
Alaltu Ameje
Hironori Anazawa
Miki Asada
Gillian Atam
Marzieh Atigh
Joshua Aufderheide
Oluwagbenga Awoleye
Eyad Ayesh
Kristin Bachman
Mahnaz Baghaei
Enrique Barraza
Zeliha Beker Dukes
Priya Bhakta
Christina Bijayananda
Vinicius Carneiro
Xi Chen
Kawahara Chisato
Eun Jeong Cho
Hau Dang
Marfounda Djibo

Trong Do
Christopher Dumme
Branislav Erak
Adeyinka Fagbongbe
Payal Finaviya
Irene Gichovi
Mihir Gohil
Eric Gonzalez-Diaz
Gudbjartur Gunnarsson
Manika Guragain
Hung Ha
Chie Harimoto
Salima Hasan
Kana Hirukawa
Akbar Hussain
Tomoko Igarashi
Ngozichukwu Ijiomah
Yumeka Ishigaki
Mariko Ishige
Eunice Jacob
Ezbon Jacob
Ayesha Jaleel
Ashwin Kannalath
Chisato Kawashima
Ilker Kaya
Sameena Khaliq
Khalid Khan
Dong Kim
Zablon Kimuni
Yuki Kisaichi
Emile Kleyn
Olga Klimova
Hisashi Kojima
Haruku Komatsu
Ayano Kubo

Pamela Kuloba
Chiemi Kurebayashi
Momoka Kyomen
Harry Larbui
Seung Lee
Jong Hwan Lee
Guat Way Lim
Jae Sung Lim
Thi Ly
Phuong Ly
Ramita Maharjan
Jyoti Mangidkar
Ikki Matsumoto
Yuri Matsumoto
Ikki Matsumoto
Tea Milicevic
Chie Minoda
Anna Miyatsuka
Elizabeth Mkutumula
Clarisse Moh
Shiva Prasad Moola
Maria Morales
Lilian Mwangi
Mai Nakamura
Shiju Narayan
Luis Navarro
Luyen Nguyen
Quoc Nguyen
Kevin Nguyen
Hai Nguyen
Huy Nguyen
Thuy Nguyen
Tran Nguyen
Sylvia Njau
Ugonma Njoku
Nina Offenberger
Oladapo Ogunjobi
Rui Okada
Namiko Ono
Chang Hee Park

Roshan Patel
Brijesh Patel
Minh Pham
Rafi Qumsieh
Jyoti Rai
Fareed Raja
Deepa Rajan
Mariamawit Ramet
Katatzyna Rybarczyk
Sultan Saeed
Yukie Sakayori
Puja Sakhrani
Samina Salomao
Peter Savill
Jasmit Shah
Bharat Shrestha
Ravikumar Singh
Karina Sproal
Seiichi Sugawara
Chika Takahara
Akari Tateishi
Nagisa Tetsuka
Pradip Thapa
Onesmus Too
Thao Tran
Yukari Tsuchiya
Ilhomjon Tursunov
Tadashi Ushiki
Tien Vu
Lan Vu
Chiaki Wakabayashi
Randolph Walters
Mwinzi Wambua
Zi Wang
Nien Wang
Sayaka Watanabe
Manuja Wijeratne
Yeah Se Wong
Ryo Yamamoto
Jose Zurita



Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society

The Delta Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Delta inducted new members on November 7th during the Annual International Banquet. The inductees were:

Bandar Almasoudi
Christina Bijayananda
Kaitlyn Chernomaz
Lukwesa Chinyanta
Kalsang Chodon
Emilia Correa
Basil Farrah
Sveltana Few
Irene Gichovi
Victoria Gorni-Attiope
Tomoyuki Inaba
Chennakeshava Joga
Chian Jong
Disatance Lama
Sara Mason

Mitchell Menezes
Lazarus Mukura
Kibo Nakano
Namiko Ono
Glenda Parra Bonilla
Malvika Patel
Katarzyna Rybarczyk
Ericka Salinas
Ajay Sing
Aki Sugasawara
Akram Syed
Ykari Tedder
Oriene Thomas
Andres Velandia
Sayaka Watanabe

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/intnat/srv/alum.htm>

2008 Diversity Visa Lottery

Applications for the 2010 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery will be accepted between noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Thursday, October 2, 2008 and noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) Monday, December 1, 2008.



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.

Writing Outreach for Fall 2008



The Freshman Composition Program within the Department of English at USA is sponsoring free-of-charge information sessions for students and others who need additional assistance with particular writing skills. The goal of the Writing Outreach program is to reinforce necessary skills that are often not covered in class discussion due to time constraints.

Writing Outreach is open to all university students, staff, and faculty, as well as interested members of the community. The sessions are purely voluntary. There is no registration requirement and no commitment necessary; participants may come to one or all of the sessions. These will be approximately forty-five minute sessions and will meet once a week.

Contact 460-7157 or
namare@usouthal.edu for
information on time and
location

Fall Orientation Workers

A special thanks to the Fall Orientation workers, who gave up their summer vacation time to wake up early and work outside in the August heat to help out office handle the record number of new international students this semester.



Your time and your patience are greatly appreciated. If you have not received your "payment" (your free t-shirt) yet, please stop by our office.

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 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 continue to check your jaguar1 e-mail account while on OPT. 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



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...



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 Monday. Pick-up is at 4:35 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 5:30 p.m. in the art gallery.

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