

INTERNATIONAL

SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

Fall Semester, 2003

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BANQUET

The Twelfth Annual International Student Banquet was held in the university Student Center on Friday, October 24th. The theme was "One World, One Destiny" with music written and performed by the Pakistani Student Association, a dance from the Nepalese Student Association, and a closing skit performed by LIST with students from the five remaining countries after a nuclear war.

Award winners this year were:

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement:

Undergraduate Female:

Maryam Baghaei

Undergraduate Male:

Qaiser Shehzad Awan

Ariel Chavez

Graduate Female:

Lakshmi Venkatachalam

Graduate Male:

Tarun Singh

International Athlete Award:

Female:

Kim Courchesne

Male:

Gareth Maybin

Spirit Award:

Kathy Tran

Lakshmi Venkatachalam

Best Faculty Member

Dawn McKinney

Computer Science

Leo Denton Jr.

Computer Science

Outstanding Organization:

Vietnamese Student

Organization

Outstanding International

Student Award:

Sunil Mentreddi

Outstanding Service Award:

Mudassir Kazmi

President's Award:

Dhinaker Dhandi

Fahad Subzwari

Maryam Yazdanshenas

Special Thanks:

Emcees:

Bernstein Stephen

Shannon Langley

Decorations & Organization

Kathy Tran

Rinku Shah

Maryam Baghaei

Carline Joseph

Banquet photos can be ordered at
www.partypics.com.

Password: USAINTSTU

Order Deadline: November 26th.



SPRING 2003 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Yukari Arai

Abhishek Banerjee

Dwayne Dacosta Bartley

MD Serajul Islam Bhuiyan

Marketa Blazkova

Kim Courchesne

Yogesh Dwivedi

Jules Jean El-Khoury

Julie Froeseth

Carlos Eduardo Garcia Conde
Kate Elizabeth Gleeson
Marie-Anne Grondin
EE Fang Arthur Hii
Juan Pablo Lega
Frida Kristina Lejderbrink
Andrius Masedunskas
Johann Christian Mehl
Jyotsna Rao Mentreddi
Karen Louise Monteleone
Siddharta Prasad Nandi
Piyush Neupane
Maitram H. Nguyen
Trinh Hai Nguyen
Mamoru Nozawa
Katarina Palenikova
Hashem Qaysieh
Daniela L. Renfroe
Maria Richardson
Sushma Shrestha
Benjamin Yves Sormonte
Vanja Vojvodic
Truong Xuan Vu
Haifei Wang
Tessa Ehlers Wigger
Bartholomaeus Matthaues Wloka

**SPRING
2003
DEAN'S
LIST**

Arzoo Abdullah
Talal Mohammad Abid
Heather Jean Adamus
Abdulelah Ahmad Al-Bedah
Veronica Enos Amanor
Christian A. Amelinckx
Kayedion Marlecia Andrews
Dewan Hameed Arsalan
Qaiser Shehzad Awan
Ayodeji Oluseun Awuwoloye
Satiar Ayoobzadeh Shirazi
Kristin L. Bachman
Maryam Baghaei
Vangel Biraltchanov
Veronika Bobakova

Melissa Alexia Campbell
Eng Sing Chan
Alberto Ariel Chavez
Chin Foon Chen
Himanshu Chhabra
Arianna Moreno Corredor
Anthony Francis D'Lima
Nhut Thi Dang
Marta Hermine Dewitt
Bademba Diallo
Italia Castillo Duran
Florence Owonya Edi
Jo-Arnt Farbu
Evan James Fowler
Yuki Fukushima
Li Gao
Nisha Gauchan
Reyhan Gungor
Farooq Hafeez
Heinrich Heyl
Yasuko Horiuchi
A H M Zahid Hossain
Noosha Tasneem Hussain
Bashir Abdi Ismail
Marlieke Johanneke Jager
Susanne Jepson
Sudha S. Joga
Fuh Tzer Jong
Caroline C. Kaiser
Dado Kamissoko
Suraj Karki
Manveen Kaur
Mudassir Hussain Kazmi
Brian Mwaniki Kelly
Mohammed Mehdi Kholafaie
Denh Cam Lam
Wai Yee Lo
Khoa Duc Lu
Phuong Uyen Ly
Philippa Jennifer MacKinlay
Hein Thi Mai
Anna Valentinovna Mallory
Priyanka Mansur
Thongsamai Manuthong
Nasser Yousf Marghalani
MD Mahtab Mondal
James Mulei Muisyo
Adriana Mariko Murayama

Raniah Syed Mustafa
Ima Dawar Naqvi
Syed Insha Dawar Naqvi
Dominika Nemcovicova
Nhi T. Nguyen
Phuc Thi Hong Nguyen
Thuy Thi Nguyen
Kok Wai Ong
Errol Raymond Pennerman
Ciby Peuse
Anusorn Prakitchroenrut
Dewan Azizur Rahman
Thanuja P. Rubaroe
Sadat Mohammad Saadullah
Mohamad Ramez Sahyouni
Wongil Seo
Qazi Shakoor
Michael A. Shartava
Vikram Siddamsetty
Saad Murtuza Siddiqui
Narin Sirirak
Julien Thomas Sormonte
Silvia Sosnarova
Viktoria Stoklasova
Zlatko Stupavsky
Kamakshi Subramaniam
Mukarram Mohamad Syed
Kaidong Tang
Amit Taparia
Kai Jin Teoh
Mee Yiin Ting
Thu-Van Thi Tra
Lam V. Tran
Phi Dung Tran
Nobuo Ueda
Angela Maria Villa
Svjetlana Vojvodic
Thanh Kha Vuong
Kamal Preet Walia
Zheng Wang
Carrie Ramona Whisman
Chaturani C. Wimalarathne
Kaoru Yamanouchi

SUMMER 2003 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Husain A. Abdulla
Abhishek Banerjee
Thanuja P. Rubaroo

SUMMER 2003 DEAN'S LIST

Syed Rizwan Ahmed
Abdulelah Ahmad Al-Bedah
Fadi Abdul Rahman Al-Saidi
Maryam Baghaei
Vangel Biraltchanov
Christodoulos Christodoulou
Arianna Moreno Corredor
Yogesh Dwivedi
Yuki Fukushima
Rajan Ghimire
Zacharias Hadjiyiakoumis
EE Fang Arthur Hii
Shabbir Hossain
Mobilia Claire Imobioh
Clinton Robert Jacobs
Sudha S. Joga
Sonjoy K. Karmokar
Nobuyo Kawamura
Maqsood Ahsan Khan
Valerian Kiame
Paola B. Kouadio
Wei Wei Li
Ker Yee Lim
Wai Yee Lo
Phuong Uyen Ly
Philippa Jennifer MacKinlay
Osama Aziz Malik
Priyanka Mansur
Johann Christian Mehl
Jyotsna Rao Mentreddi
Venkat Sunil Mentreddi
James Mulei Muisyo

Nauman Nazir
Nhi T. Nguyen
Trinh Hai Nguyen
Hyun I. Oh
Keith Hee Jun Oh
Errol Raymond Pennerman
Ciby Peuse
Anusorn Prakitchroenrut
Hashem Qaysieh
Emmanuel Ramasu
Daniela L. Renfroe
Maria Richardson
Izhar Saeed
Khandakar Shafayat Shafi
Zeeshan Muhammad Shaikh
Dinesh Oppath Sivasankaran
Kamakshi Subramaniam
Akram Mohamad Syed
Mukarram Mohamad Syed
Hisako Tanaka
Kai Jin Teoh
Yassine Ben Mohamed Touati
Thu-Van Thi Tra
Diana Turberville
Nobuo Ueda
Amaka Umeozulu
Korah Raju Vadakedath
Marcela Vernaza
Gaston Alejandro Vilaseca
Thomas Vo
Truong Xuan Vu
Josseline Isabel Wade
Haifei Wang
Carrie Ramona Whisman
Chaturani C. Wimalarathne
Rong Yin
Syed-Ali Mehdi Zaidi

IMPORTANT MEDICAL INSURANCE CHANGES

You no longer pay for an entire year's worth of insurance during the Fall semester. Your Fall payment covers you from August through December. Your Spring payment will cover you from January thru July. If you are graduating in Fall, you can see Kelley Lynd to purchase the insurance for Spring/Summer.

Due to excessive use of Emergency Rooms for non-emergencies, the insurance will no longer pay 100% of charges to hospitals (even within the PPO) for non-emergency situations. Our own Student Health Services is your first and only cost-free choice for non-emergency illnesses. They also have a 24-hour answering service if you are unsure whether your illness/problem is "emergency or urgency."

There will also be a co-pay for prescription drugs, even if purchased at the Student Health Pharmacy. Asking for generic drugs can save you as well.

All students should have received information concerning all changes in international student health insurance either before Fall semester or with your insurance card. If you did not receive one or have any questions, contact Kelley Lynd in Enrollment Services (Admin Bldg Rm 255 460-6494). Being unaware of coverages and procedures can cost you alot.



IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION CHANGES

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

You must register as a full-time student no matter what. The only exception is a well-documented medical condition or graduation during that particular semester. If you are graduating, you must notify us to take 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. No exceptions.

If you are allowed to drop a course, you must also fill out the proper paperwork with the Registrar. 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 with good-standing letter for Special Registration or any other reason.

If you are going home for a visit 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. If you re-enter the country before this time, you are jeopardizing 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 in the future.

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

Let the Office of International Services know when traveling outside the US to verify your documents.

Anyone required to attend Special Registration with INS must leave the U.S. at the designated airports listed by Immigration and have their departure documented. It is not enough just to surrender your I-94 card. Failure to follow the

procedures set out by INS at your special registration 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 travelling inside the U.S., take your passport, I-20 and I-94 with you. Any officer of the law can now ask for your immigration documents. If you have a car, it would also be a good idea to keep a copy of your passport/I-20/I-94 in the glove box with your car registration.

Check your passport and I-20 expiration dates. Passports should be renewed six months before expiration as processing time can be several months.

Your I-20 must be extended before the expiration date. Unless you have compelling reasons or a documented medical problem, we will not be allowed to grant the extension. 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 INS notification. We do not want to transfer you out in SEVIS until you are registered for classes and 100% sure you will be staying there.

If you move, please notify us of your new address within 10 days so we may report the change. These are very difficult times and as

always we are working to assist you in all ways possible.

PHI BETA DELTA HONOR SOCIETY

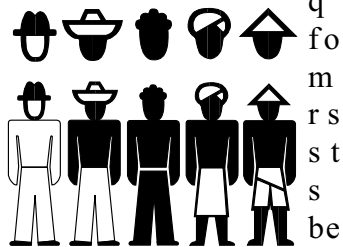
Phi Beta Delta is an international honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. Founded in 1986 at California State University, our own Delta Eta Chapter was founded in 1997.

We are pleased to announce the new Phi Beta Delta members for the 2003-04 year inducted at the International Awards Banquet on October 24th:

Dr. Mohammad Alam, Chair,
Electrical & Computer Eng.
Diego Alvarez, Graduate,
Basic Medical Sciences
Alberto Ariel Chavez, Senior
Civil Engineering
Mei Ying Chong, Senior
Internat'l Bus & Marketing
Sachin Ladkar, Graduate
Chemical Engineering
Jessica Montalvo, Graduate
Alternative Master's Education
Ashutosh Nadgauda, Graduate
Chemical Engineering
Vikram Pancholy, Graduate
Electrical Engineering
Althea Pennerman, Graduate,
Instructional Design, Ph.D.
Instructor, Special Education
Nikhil Prabhudesai, Graduate
Computer Science
Yuvaraj Thiagarajan, Graduate
Computer Information Systems
Himali Vaid, Graduate
Computer Science
Zheng Wang, Senior
Accounting

Yan Yang, Graduate
Accounting

To qualify for membership, students must be junior, senior or graduate with minimum 3.5 gpa and have attended USA for at least one academic year. Faculty or staff must have demonstrated interest and involvement in international scholarly activities.



If you are interested in joining Phi Beta Delta but did not receive an invitation or did not apply in time, please contact Kimberly Noble in the Office of International Services.

STUDENT HAPPENINGS

Two of our Instructional Design Ph.D. graduates are already employed as instructors in their field. Wanjira Kinuthia has joined Georgia State University and Althea Pennerman has joined our own College of Education faculty. Both had jobs eagerly awaiting them upon graduation. Congratulations both of you.

Mohit Yadav has been selected

President of Alpha Theta Chi College Honor Society for the 2003-2004 year.

Please let us know what you are involved in. We are proud of all of you and want to recognize all your accomplishments.

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

You must apply for your post-completion practical training (OPT) before your graduation. You are no longer able to apply for the card after graduation.

As processing time varies from 80 to 160 days, we recommend that you apply early.

When you apply, you will select a date to begin your employment period which can be as late as 60 days after graduation.

You **cannot** travel outside the United States while your EAD is pending or you forfeit the privilege. You must remain here during the processing time.

Travelling while on your practical training is risky even after you receive your card. 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.

You may receive an additional year of OPT after proceeding to a higher

degree. This means one year upon completion of your bachelors and another year upon completion of masters. Same applies to masters and 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 a one-hour internship class. See us regarding CPT approval, even if it is in the middle of a semester. It is our understanding that intern hours may be added at any time.

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Are you interested in spending two weeks of your Christmas holiday with an American host family in another city?

Come by the International Services Office or get more information at www.christmasih.org

If you are interested in spending some time over the holidays with a local American host family, contact Jim & Mary Mather with Friends of Internationals at 344-4756.

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Office of International Services and entire university will be closed for Thanksgiving Holidays from Noon Wednesday, Nov 26 to Monday, Dec 1 .

Christmas holiday closing will be from December 24 until Friday, January 2nd. Have a safe and happy holidays.

If you would be willing to help with new students over the holidays please see Cindy Nobles Your help is greatly needed and appreciated, especially with so few places open for the new students over the holidays.

NEED A RIDE???

Baptist Campus Ministries is still running their regular ride assistance to Wal-Mart. Pick-up is at Four Seasons Apartments, the campus post office, and the dorms.

Call their office 344-5904 for more information regarding the scheduled times.

GREEN CARD LOTTERY

You can get information on the DV Lottery at the official BCIS website of www.bcis.gov. Don't forget to pay attention to the deadlines and nationalities restrictions.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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