

INTERNATIONAL

SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

Fall Semester, 2004

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BANQUET

The Annual International Student Banquet "One Race, Many Faces" was held in the university Student Center on Friday, October 29th. As always, the room was packed and everyone had a great time. Entertainment was provided by the Vietnamese Student Association and by the Indian Student Association.

Award winners this year were:

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement:

Undergraduate Female:

Maryam Yazdanshenas

Undergraduate Male:

Kai Jin Teoh

Javier Perez

Graduate Female:

Jessica Montalvo

Graduate Male:

Amit Sharma

International Athlete Award:

Female:

Heather Adamus

Male:

Clinton Robert Jacobs

Spirit Award:

Sunil Mentreddi

Rinku Shah

Jim & Mary Mather

Best Faculty Member

Dr. Anh-Vu Phan

Mechanical Engineering

Dr. John H. Pardue

Computer Science

Outstanding Organization:

Indian Student Organization

Outstanding International

Student Award:

Maryam Baghaei

Outstanding Service Award:

Prasanna Malla

President's Award:

Kathy Tran

Maryam Yazdanshenas

Basil Farah

Emcees:

Basil Farah

Ellie Day

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

Password: USAINTSTU

Order Deadline: December 1



SPRING 2004 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Heather J Adamus

Satiar Ayoobzadeh Shirazi

Kristin L Bachman

Abhishek Banerjee

Woonjeong K Banks

Kim Courchesne

Jennifer M Edgar

Evan J Fowler

Shilpa Gadde

Marie-Anne Grondin

Helene Haas

Waqas U Hassan

Iraj M Hossain
Manveen Kaur
Erin M Kinnear
Juan P Lega
Washington M Makau
Rukhsara I Mammadova
Ana M Montes Ulldemolins
Jun Namkung
Dominika Nemcovicova
Nhan L Ngo
Marek J Podgorski
Hashem Qaysieh
Maria Richardson
Mariano Ruiz
Ana Rupic
Emiko Shimazaki
Rima M Shuayto
Erina Terada
Michelle Toth
Ha T Tran
Marcela Vernaza
Polina V Volkova
Haifei Wang

**SPRING
2004
DEAN'S
LIST**

Husain A Abdulla
Nabil Ahmed
Katsuhiko Aso
Ayodeji O Awuwoloye
Maryam Baghaei
Pramod Bapu Sudheendra
Znar S Barwary
Tadele Bezuayehu
Vangel Biraltchanov
Veronika Bobakova
Sarah K Caporicci
Maria L Carlino
Alberto A Chavez
Himanshu Chhabra
Tam C Do
Yogesh Dwivedi
Douglas A Estanga Espejo
Yu Fukasawa
Shanna M Harding

Yumi Hatakeyama
Koji Imanishi
Mobilia C Imobioh
Tomoyuki Inaba
Marlieke J Jager
Khalid Jaleel
Susanne Jepson
Sandra Jivarajan
Chian Ju Jong
Merna A Joseph
Noriko Kawabata
Aman U Khan
Manish Khatiwada
Pavlos I Klonis
Paola B Kouadio
Surya B Lama Tamang
Kenesha C Lewin
Seng Ai Liaw
Cung Nghi N Ly
Andrius Masedunskas
Mizusa Masuda
Mayu Matsumura
Gareth Maybin
Jyotsna R Mentreddi
Ana M Milicevic
Azusa Miyazaki
Hiromi Mori
Kazuhiro Mori
Regulo A Moy
James M Muisyo
Lilian W Mwangi
Thanuja P Nakandala
Hanh H Nguyen
Nhi T Nguyen
Quoc T Nguyen
Olufunmilayo M Ogunjobi
Katarina Palenikova
Javier I Perez
Jia Rui
Julio C Ruiz
Sumie Sakamoto
Partha P Sarker
Nimita A Shah
Saad M Siddiqui
Dinesh O Sivasankaran
Kanakano Suzuki
Mukarram M Syed
Koh-Sin Tai

Yukie Takeda
Kai J Teoh
Saori Uchiyama
Angela M Villa
Thanh K Vuong
Zheng Wang
Jeong-Won Yoon
Syed-Ali M. Zaidi

**SUMMER
2004
PRESIDENT'S
LIST**

Kim Courchesne
Thanuja P Nakandala

**SUMMER
2004
DEAN'S
LIST**

Woonjeong K Banks
Sandhya Wilhelm
Regulo A Moy
Rima M Shuayto

**IMPORTANT
MEDICAL
INSURANCE
UPDATE**

Like all insurance costs in the United States, our international student health insurance costs increased this year.

But because you had already seen significant increases in tuition and other university costs, Enrollment Services absorbed those costs for you. Dr. Stearns has again agreed to absorb the insurance increase for Spring semester but will be forced to raise the insurance for Fall.

MEDICAL INSURANCE REMINDERS

Due to excessive use of Emergency Rooms for non-emergencies, the insurance does not pay 100% of charges to hospitals for non-emergency situations, even within the PPO. 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 is a co-pay and you must pay up-front for prescription drugs, even if purchased at the Student Health. File the claim form for a refund after purchasing. Asking for generic drugs can save you money on that co-pay.

Everyone should have received information concerning international student health insurance 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 extra money.



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 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 with a good-standing letter for any reason.

Unless you have compelling reasons or a documented medical problem, 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 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.

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 2004-05 inducted at the International Awards Banquet on October 29th:

Junqiang Chen
Graduate, Business Admin.
Sanjiv Choudhry
Ph.D., Instructional Design
Felister Gachoka
Undergraduate, Nursing
Sarah Gibson
MD, Medicine
Hongwu Jia
Graduate, Business Admin.
Yoong Huei Lai
Undergraduate, Information Sys.
Jianbin Lan
Graduate, Business Admin.
Shee Jack Lieng
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
Kepeng Lu
Graduate, Business Admin.
Eunice Luyegu
Ph.D., Instructional Design
Sreekar Marupaduga
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
James Muisyo
Undergraduate, Information Sys
Lena Ong
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
Shan Periyakaruppan
Graduate, Electrical Engineering

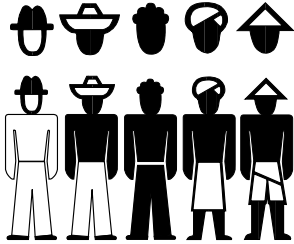
Ciby Peuse
Undergrad, Computer Engin.
Nutan Prasain
Ph.D., Medical Sciences
Panati Praveen
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
Doda Reddy
Graduate, Business Admin.
Omar Restrepo
Graduate, Mechanical Engin.
Alejandro Rodriguez
Graduate, Mechanical Engin.
Amit Sharma
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
Saad Siddiqui
Undergraduate, Accounting
Tarun Singh
Graduate, Computer Science
Kai Jin Teoh
Undergraduate Mechanical Engin.
Mee Yin Ting
Graduate, Electrical Engineering
Angela Maria Villa
Undergraduate, International
Business Marketing
Baohua Zhou
Graduate, Business Admin.

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. American students who study abroad and are involved in international activities may also be eligible.

Thanks to Farzam Bayat for work on the new Chapter Web site at <http://www.southalabama.edu/phibetadelta/>

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 our office.



C.I.S.O. HAPPENINGS

Are you already involved in CISO?
Do you know who your CISO
Officers are?? Do you even know
what CISO stands for???

The Council of International
Student Organizations (CISO) one
of the largest student organizations
on campus. This year's officers are:
President: Maryam Baghaei
Vice President: Basil Farah
Secretary: Rinku Shah
Treasurer: Maryam Yazdanshenas
Webmaster: Farzam Bayat

CISO Meetings are open to
everyone, whether participating on
behalf of a student organization or
not. They are held each Tuesday at
5:30 p.m. in the CISO Office.

Thanks to all CISO members who
helped with the "Welcome Party" in
August and to Mudassir Kazmi for
artwork in the recent Sidewalk
Competition. A Sports Night is
already scheduled for November 19.

CISO sponsors the Student
Discount Cards available in
International Services so stop by
and take advantage of the savings.

Check out the CISO web site at
<http://www.southalabama.edu/ciso/>

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

USCIS must receive and note your
OPT application prior to your
graduation or your OPT will be
denied.

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

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

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.

ESSAY CONTEST

HTH Worldwide is again
sponsoring a Student Essay Contest
open to international students
studying in U.S. colleges.

This year's topic is "Discuss your
perception of the United States
prior to your arrival in America
and how your view has changed
during your study in the U.S."

First Place: \$2,000
Second Place: \$1,000
Honorable Mention: \$500 (2
awards)

Deadline: December 6, 2004
More Info: www.hthstudents.com

POINTS OF INTEREST

Important changes recently went into effect from the Social Security Administration on the issuance of cards to F-1 students.

F-1 students will no longer be eligible for Social Security cards until they already have a graduate assistantship, athletic scholarship, on-campus job, or CPT/OPT work authorization.

Student Health Services is looking for an international student to serve on their Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC). If you are interested, see Cindy Nobles for more information.

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

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Office of International Services and entire university will be closed for Thanksgiving Holidays from Noon Wednesday, Nov 24 to Monday, Nov 29.

Christmas holiday closing will be from Dec 23 until Jan 3rd. 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 on Monday and Thursdays. Pick-up is at 4:15 p.m. at the Compass ATM outside the Student Center.

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 USCIS website of www.bcis.gov, or go directly to the lottery web site at http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants_types_diversity3.html

Don't forget to pay attention to the deadlines and new nationalities restrictions.

Watch out for bogus companies and web sites promising green cards. E-mails telling you to send money to increase your chances of winning are scams. Do NOT fall victim to such schemes.

There is never a fee for entering the DV Lottery and all entry is done electronically.

CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Pakistani Student Association will be holding the annual Cricket Tournament during the Thanksgiving holidays at the new intramural fields.

Watch out for more details on the International Services website or stop by our office.

—

—

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Office of International Services
Faculty Court South, Room 3
Mobile, Alabama 36688-0002
U.S.A.

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
PermitNo.506