



International Services Newsletter

Spring Semester 2007

International Student Spring Festival

On March 29 & 30, 2007, 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 brought back on campus as students displayed their countries flags down South Drive and into the Student Center Amphitheater.

Cultural exhibits were on display March 29 & 30 in the Student Center Lobby. Student groups representing India, Japan, Latin America, Malaysia, Nepal, 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 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 thank s to all our faculty judges. Competition was fierce and the judges had a very tough job in selecting winners



Cultural Exhibit Winners:

1st Place:

Nepali Student Association

2nd Place:

Indian Student Association

3rd Place:

Malaysia Student Council

Talent Show Winners:

1st Place:

Indian Student Association

2nd Place:

Vietnamese Student Association

3rd Place:

Japanese Student Association

Fashion Show Winners:

1st Place:

Nepali Student Association

2nd Place:

Indian Student Association

3rd Place:

Japanese Student Association

Overall Spring Festival Spirit:

1st Place:

Indian Student Association

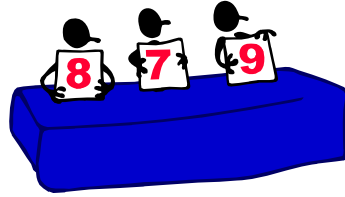
2nd Place:

Nepali Student Association

3rd Place:

Vietnamese Student
Association

(Spring Festival continued)



Judges:

Cultural Exhibits

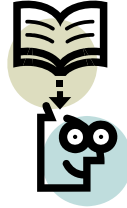
Dr. Eric Loomis
Dr. Woody Hannum
Dr. Carl Cunningham
Richard Soto, SGA

Talent & Fashion Show

Dr. Bob Coleman
Dr. Harold Pardue
Jennifer Edwards, SGA

**Fall 2006
President's List**

Carolyn Adams-Rossignol
Suhair Qasem Al-Abed
Yasuyuki Ariki
Hirotaka Ata
Karthik Kumar Bairineni
Zeliha Beker Dukes
Ana Belteton
Thomas Birkner
Antisha Brown
Uzma Butt
Maria Carlino
Christophe Dumeé
Florence Edi
Rebecca Faber
Svetlana Few
Firoozeh Forouzan
Alcira Gacha
Marc Griesheimer
Tatyana Hamilton
Shirley Harvey
Yuko Hatanaka
Ren Haur Huan
Megumi Inaba
Klara Jarova
Robert Jefferson
Susanne Jepsen
Rae-Ann Joseph
Shehzad Khattak
Jahanzeb Khawaja
Miau Liang Khor
Valerian Kiame
Jonghyun Kim
Emile Kleyn
Vladlen Labenski
Jacqueline Law
Hon Lon Lum
Sara Mason
Amar Meda Prakash
Jessica Miller
Risa Minami
Elizabeth Mkutumula
Josue Morales Cifuentes
Ala Mustafa
Rushikesh Naik
Ifzal Nazeer
Piyush Neupane
Nhan Ngo
Huy Nguyen
Tra Nguyen
Chihiro Oishi
George Okine
Munwar Ali Khan Pattan
Muthukumaran Rajasekaran
Aiko Sato
Minami Sato
Suraj Shahi
Anurag Sharma
Sueli Shinsato
Satiar Shirazi
Suman Siddam Setty
Ajay Singh
Kum Tang



**President's List
continued...**

Haider Tawfeq
MichelleToth
Trang Tran
Natalia Villamizar
Santosh Reddy Vinukonda
Kamal Walia
Zi Wang
Manuja Wijeratne
Yong Keong Wong

**Fall 2006
Dean's List**

Shruti Agarwal
Rizwan Ahmed
Michael Albert
Hironori Anazawa
Elin Andersson
Kharendawn Andrews
Znar Barwary
Lisa Benzing
Kwang Tok Chang
Kaitlyn Chernomaz
Himani Chhabra
Lukwesa Chinyanta
Tisungane Chiwembu
Rosilda Davis
Carlos Diaz
Purvi Gaiwala
Dilfuza Ganieva
Eric Gonzalez-Diaz
Yasmin Guendouzi
Shova Gurung
Subin Hada
Chie Hagiwara
Takuya Kara
Yoshiaki Harada
Susan Harris
Andres Hernandez
Makiko Inamura
Ryo Ishihara
Mio Iwai
Petra Jacob
Habtekiros Kahssay
Ekaterina Kalachnikova
Kohei Kanki
Vijesh Karkera
Kshitij Karki
Sushil Karki
Osama Khan
Thai Kim
Yuki Kisaichi
Ayano Kubo
Parveen Kumar
Momoka Kyomen
Man Lam
Hongyan Liu
Gabrielle MacKinlay
Prasiddha Malla
Prianka Mansur
Thongsamai Manuthong

**Fall 2006
Dean's List continued ...**

Roy Norene Marikit
Mizusa Masuda
Willard Mataya
Sabine Mattern
Patience Mbamba
Anna Miyatsuka
Clarisse Moh
Maria Morales
Adriana Murayama
Chinar Musa
Dirisu Musa
Emma Mwangi
Lilian Mwangi
Mathew Mwathi
Hiroyuki Nakajima
Yuka Nakanishi
Kibo Nakano
Chihiro Noda
Mihoko Noguchi
Tsubomi Odashima
Yuko Okamoto
Tonny Okello
Namiko Ono
Sayo Onodera
Ifeanyi Ononuju
Kaori Oshima
Hernando Palomino
Jin Man Park
Nelita Pereira De Andrade
Javier Perez
Suzanne Pierre

Shruti Puri
Hashem Qaysieh
Md Rahman
Jyoti Rai
Robbert Reddering
Eliana Rodriguez Teran
Mariano Ruiz
Puja Sakhrani
Daisaku Sato
Jasmine Shakya
Astha Sherchan
Prashamsa Sherchan
Kavita Sherpa
Tomoyuki Shibusawa
Sabisha Shrestha
Manuela Smith
Carlos Suate Pedroza
Yuka Sugahara
Royce Sutton
Chika Takahara
Ngim Tang
Nagisa Tesuka
Komal Thapa
Pradip Tapha
Herica Torres
Thu-Van Tra
TadashiUshiki
Lan Vu
Chiaki Wakabayashi
Jedidah Wangonde
Sayaka Watanabe
Melanie White
Tim Witt
Konoka Yamamoto
Tatsuya Yamazaki

Marina Yasuda
Jose Zurita

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 Thursdays. 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.

³ 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

Employment Authorization

USCIS must receive your OPT application before graduation or your OPT will be denied. All Summer Graduates, applications must be turned into the International Services office by the first week of summer classes.

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.

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 2007 Registration Information

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 9 – May 23

New Student Registration
May 25

Open Registration
May 26 – 28

Late Registration & Drop/Add
May 29 – 31

Tuition and Fee Information

Fee Payment Deadline: **May 31, 2007 (6 p.m.)**

Final Payment Deadline w/ \$50 fee: **June 6, 2007 (5 p.m.)**

Fall 2007 Registration

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 9 – June 17
June 23 – July 8

New Student Registration
June 19, 22
July 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27
August 15-16

Open Registration
July 28 – August 14
August 17 – 19

Late Registration & Drop/Add
August 20 – 22

Tuition and Fee Information Fall 2007

Fee Payment Deadline:

August 6, 2007 – 15% of tuition/fees/housing/meal plans due for students registered as of **August 6** to avoid cancellation of schedule. If cancelled, students may re-register with no guarantee of course availability.

August 24, 2007 – Balance Due
(if paying on campus)

August 26, 2007 – Balance Due
(if paying online)

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

August 28 – 31:
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: Spring Dragons, Eagles and Bulletproof.

The results were as follows:

1st place: India
Runner-up: Token
Best Fielder: Ali Irtiza
Best Batsman: Ravi Boonapalli
Best Bowler: Vijay Kumar
Man of Series: Roopesh Appani
Man of the Match - Semifinal: Varun Ramshetty
Man of the Match - Semifinal: Srikanth Reddy
Man of the Match - Final: Janarthan Jagadeeshan



The Best Players recognized for each team were the following:

India - Sreekantha Bhargava
Token - Srikanth Reddy
Swades - Gautham Voruganti
Bulletproof - Mohammed Ali
Spring Dragons - Pramod Kumar
Nepal - Sameer Aryal
Eagles - Kartik Bheemaraju
Scorpioz - Javid Chohan
Bulletz - Tabish Hussain

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Jane Kigango



One of our very own graduate students has received the "Alabama Education Retirees Foundation 2007 Scholarship". Ms. Kigango is a teacher at Orchard Elementary School and was the only teacher in the Mobile area selected for this scholarship.

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.