



International Services Newsletter

Spring Semester 2009

International Student Spring Festival

On April 9 & 10, 2009, 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.

Cultural exhibits were on display April 9 & 10 in the Student Center Lobby. Student groups representing India, Latin America, Africa, Turkey, Nepal, Saudi Arabia 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! Performances from India, Africa, Nepal, Latin America, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam kept the crowd entertained.

Thanks to our Emcees for the evening, Mrs. Brenda Hinson and Ahmed Alessa, 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 thanks 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:
African Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Indian Student Council

Talent Show Winners:

- 1st Place:
Indian Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Nepali Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student Association

Fashion Show Winners:

- 1st Place:
Vietnamese Student Association
- 2nd Place:
Indian Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Nepali Student Association

Overall Spring Festival Spirit:

- 1st Place:
Nepali Student Association
- 2nd Place:
India Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Vietnamese Student

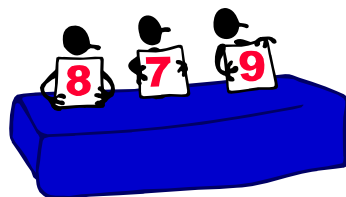
Judges:

Cultural Exhibits

Dr. Ko-Cheng Hsu
Frank Daugherty
Caitlin Collins

Talent & Fashion Show

Dr. Long Li
Dr. Cindy Stanfield
Dean Michael Mitchell
Tarun Jain



CONGRATULATIONS!!

To **CISO** for receiving the **Organization of the Year**
Awarded by the Office of Campus Involvement at their annual banquet.



Fall 2008 President's List

Ghislain Adandedjan
Purima Agrawal
Samy Alihamad
Bandar Almasoudi
Hirotaka Ata
Basel Awwad
Tereza Bendlova
Marc Bussieres
Vinicius Carneiro
Xi Chen
Thao Do
Dias Doskarayev
Yakuya Fujihara
Neha Hingorani
George Kantrales
Sari Kharroub
Jonghyun Kim
Yuki Kisaichi
Nhung Le
Chun Li
Seng Liaw
Juan Loo
Chinedu Moneke
Josue Morales Cifuentes
Jamie Nguyen
Lien Nguyen
Sheila Nguyen
Thao Nguyen
Nidal Omar
Hetal Patel
Kunal Patel
Shruti Puri
Katarzyna Ryzbarczyk
Sonia Savani
Pashupati Shrestha
Ngim Tang
Quan Tran
Francisco Uribe
Tadashi Ushiki
Daniella Vasquez
Priyanka Vichare
Claudia Wolf
Yeah Se Wong

Fall 2008 Dean's List

Mohini Agarwal
Syed Ahmed
Faizan Ahsan
Hiromi Aizawa
Nkeonye Ajuzie
Nahla Al-Azzeh
Gulam Ali
Sidra Ali
Mohammad Ammar Al-Zar
Hironori Anazawa
Kamil Arif
Pratima Aryal

Georgios Avramopoulos
Shyam Awasthi
Abdul Aziz
Sara Baghaei
Priya Bhakta
Mahesh Bhandari
Kaitlyn Chernomaz
Lukwesa Chinyanta
Romendra Chudal
Emilia Correa
Sujata Dangol
Yijaiao Deng
Mylinh Diep
Natalie Dixon
Marfounfa Djibo
Hijrah El-Sabae
Branislav Erak
Adeyinka Fagbongbe
Mary Few
Payal Finaviya
Ozarfar Gafarov
Yan Goh
Yuhei Gunji
Chie Harimoto
Natsuki Hashimoto
Omar Hashmi
Osman Hashmi
Husan Hatamov
Kenji Hirata
Farhan Hussain
Andrew Idowu
Makiko Inamura
Yumeka Ishigaki
Ryo Ishihara
Eunice Jacob
Kaushayla Jayasinghe
Addhesh Jha
Fuh Jong
Biova Kabine
Marine Karapetyan
Maria Kashavelova
Chisato Kawahara
Sameena Khaliq
Un Bi Kim
Sungim Kim
Emile Kleyn
Olga Klimova
Kenta Kobayashi
Ayano Kubo
Samtem Lachungpa
Seung Lee
Hyekchan Lee
Jong Hwan Lee
Jutathip Leenanunart
Choo Yuen Lim
Hongxi Liu
Thi Ly
MuhammadMalik
Hristina Markova
Yuri Matsumoto
Ayaka Matsushita
Isaac Mendoza
Oxana Mihalache

**Fall 2008
Dean's List
continued ...**

Tea Milicevic
Aleksandra Milojevic
Shiva Prasad Moola
Stacy Morales
Tania Morris Diaz
Mai Nakamura
Sokon Ngam
Mylinh Nguyen
Hy Nguyen
James Nguyen
Hai Nguyen
Lan Nguyen
Tra Nguyen
Justin Nguyen
Quy Nguyen
Huy Nguyen
Hau Nguyen
Mouhamed Niang
Jaclyn Nickels
Natalya Nickles
Mihoko Noguchi
Nina Offenberg
Sayo Onodero
Kaori Oshimi
Jin Man Park

Minh Pham
Thoa Pham
Tien Hoang Pham
Cuc Phan
Sara Polen
Suhit Pradhan
Subha Pyakurel
Rafi Qumsieh
Emmanuel Ramasu
Matiamawit Ramet
Sergio Ramirez
Puja Sakhrani
Devi Sampat
Djon-Iva Santos
Caitlin Scannaliato
Jasmit Shah
Dimali Shah
Arvind Shakya
Baixue Shen
Sueli Shinsato
Dina Shrestha
Sagar Simkhada
Ajay Singh
Adriana Solarova
Yunier Suarez
Carlos Suate Pedroza
Yuka Sugahara
Seiichi Sugawara
Thuy Tran

Nhat Truong
Cam Hien Truong
Hue Vu
Yang Wang
Sayaka Watanabe
Jing Wei
Manuja Wijeratne
Kui Ran Xu
Biao Xu
Yasushi Yamamoto
Ryo Yamamoto
Bin Zhang
Yongmei Zhao

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.

Baptist Campus Ministries i
their regular ride assistance to Wal-Mart on
Mondays. 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.



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.

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

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 check your jaguar1 e-mail account for an e-mail titled "OPT VALIDATION – URGENT" and respond right away. 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

Employment Authorization

OPT workshops are held at the beginning of each semester for students graduating during that term. E-mails are sent to the jaguar1 e-mail account of all students who have applied for graduation during that term. If you do not get an e-mail early in your last semester, contact our office to find out why and make arrangements to apply.

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.

New immigration rules allow certain students to file for extensions at the end of the OPT, but everyone initially files for the 12-month OPT period. If you and your employer qualify for the extension, it is done at the end of your OPT. The new rules also address H-1 cap-gap work authorization and periods of unemployment during your OPT.

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 2009 Registration Information

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 13 – May 20

New Student Registration
May 21

Open Registration
May 22 – 25

Late Registration & Drop/Add
May 26 – 28

Tuition and Fee Information

Fee Payment Deadline: **May 28, 2009 (6 p.m.)**

Final Payment Deadline w/ \$50 fee: **May 29, 2009 (5 p.m.)**

Fall 2009 Registration

Continuing/Readmitted Students
April 13 – June 10
June 24 – July 5
July 11-16

New Student Registration
June 12, 16, 23
July 7, 10, 17, 21, 24
August 14-16

Open Registration
July 25 – August 11
August 14 – 16

Late Registration & Drop/Add
August 17 – 19

Tuition and Fee Information Fall 2009

Fee Payment Deadline:

August 3, 2009 – 15% of tuition/fees/housing/meal plans due for students registered as of **August 3** to avoid cancellation of schedule. If cancelled, students may re-register with no guarantee of course availability.

August 21, 2009 – Balance Due
(if paying on campus)

August 23, 2009 Balance Due
(if paying online)

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

August 25 – 28:
Reinstatement Period

If canceled after the August 23 payment deadline, students may reinstate schedules but must pay balance due plus additional reinstatement fees before being reinstated. Students will be notified by



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 Fall Cricket Tournament was a great success with 8 teams participating this year. It was a lot of fun and perfect weather for cricket.

The results were as follows:

1st place: Mobile Badshahs

Runner-up: Titans

Best Fielder: Nanda Gopal Reddy Akarapu

Best Keeper: Javed Chauhan

Best Bowler: Shiva Kumar Kumbam

Best Batsman: Mohsen Ahmed

Man of Wickets: Rajeev Kumar Ramadugu

Man of the Series – Ifzal Nazeer

Highest Score in a Game: Mohsen Ahmed

Man of the Match – 1st Semifinal: Ifzal Nazeer

Man of the Match – 2nd Semifinal: Shiva Kumar Kumbam

Team Rankings for 2009 Spring Tournament

Mobile Badshahs

Titans

India

Blue Jags

Blasters

Strikers

Nepal

Eagles



Putting Together a Successful Career Plan

Please Join Career Services & International Student Services

on **Wednesday, April 22**

4:30-5:30

In the Terrace Room in the Student Center

*Refreshments will be provided

This seminar will provide job search tips & professional development strategies for international students preparing to graduate.

Topics covered will include:

-Interview Process

-Professional Dress

-Resume Development

-Targeted job search strategies, such as the NACE International Student Virtual Career Fair

The Event is open to all ALL international students at USA, and is particularly recommended for students graduating in Spring or Summer, 2009.

For more information or to pre-register for the event, please contact Christine Edmitson at 251.460.6687 or 460-6188 cedmitson@usouthal.edu or visit Career Services at 2100 Meisler Hall

Other Happenings

CISO Meetings are open to everyone, whether participating on behalf of a student organization or individually. They are held each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center 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.

DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENT

Please come to the Office of International Services before you go the DMV to get a driver's license or renew your license. They are now requiring a good standing form.