

# INTERNATIONAL

## SERVICES

## NEWSLETTER

Spring Semester, 2003

### **FIFTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MONTH**

We recently celebrated the international community on our campus through our Fifth Annual International month and Twentieth Spring Festival. The theme this year was "A Month of Giving" to raise money for 15 Place--a shelter for the homeless in Mobile.

At a time of such global instability and conflict, what more appropriate than this gesture of good will given back to the Mobile community. "Poverty and hunger is not a crime, it's a state of being; as citizens of the world, it is our duty to lend our support for the betterment of an entire community."

Events held all month long raised nearly \$500 for 15 Place

with each organization gaining points for participation towards the overall Spring Fest trophies.

Winners for the events were:  
Sheet Sign Competition:  
Latin American Student Assn.

Window Painting Contest:  
Indian Student Association

Amphitheatre Cultural Display:  
Indian Student Association  
Nepalese Student Association  
Latin American Student Assn.  
Vietnamese Student  
Organization

Sports Night Winners:  
Basketball: Vietnam  
Racquetball: Pakistan  
Table Tennis Singles: Pakistan  
Table Tennis Doubles: Nepal  
Volleyball: India & Pakistan  
Badminton Mens: Malaysia  
Badminton Women: India

Other events were carwashes, donation boxes, backpack and personal hygiene item drives.

Thursday & Friday  
April 3 & 4  
Exhibits and International Buffet in the Student Center Lobby from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The buffet lunch on Friday served recipes from various regions.

The Exhibits displayed by Latin Vietnam, Nepal, India, Iran and Pakistan were outstanding  
Winners were:  
1st Place: India  
2nd Place: Nepal  
3rd Place: Pakistan

Friday, April 4  
Talent and Fashion Show in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Center at 7:00 p.m. The performances from Friends of Internationals, Latin America, Nepal, India, Iran and Pakistan were the best ever. Everyone truly did an awesome job and this competition was the toughest for the judges to score.

Talent Show Winners:

- 1st Place: Pakistan
- 2nd Place: India
- 3rd Place: Vietnam

The Fashion Show portrayed beautiful authentic fashions from Pakistan, Nepal, Latin America, India and Vietnam. Winners were:

- 1st Place: Vietnam
- 2nd Place: Pakistan
- 3rd Place: India

The Overall Winners of the 2003 Month Of Giving Spirit Award were:

- 1st: Indian Student Association
- 2nd: Vietnamese Student Organization
- 3rd: Latin American Student Association

Please take a moment to thank the faculty and staff who participated as judges of all the events. Each competition throughout the Festival was extremely close in scoring. Remember, points were awarded for more than just the events on Friday. Participation in the all of the fund raising events was a MUST.

We hope that more student organizations will get involved in our Spring Festivals and share your spirit and culture. We have lots of great representation of different countries on this campus. You don't need a big student group, just some dedication. If your organization is not active, there are also plenty of ways for individuals to get involved.



## FALL SEMESTER 2002 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Yukari Arai  
Qaiser Shehzad Awan  
Ayodeji Oluseun Awuwoloye  
Abhishek Banerjee  
Marketa Blazkova  
Himanshu Chhabra  
Kim Courchesne  
Wendy Elizabeth Davis  
Yogesh Dwivedi  
Julie Froeseth  
Marie-Anne Grondin  
Uyen Ngoc Hoang  
Sudha S. Joga  
Manveen Kaur  
Ritsuko Kawashima  
Kiu Thu Lam  
Pei Yee Lee  
Frida Kristina Lejdebrink  
Ker Yee Lim  
Wai Yee Lo  
Jyotsna Rao Mentreddi  
Rose Musyoka  
Ioanna Ntai  
Sikarn Palasthira  
Cindy Rainville  
Daniela L. Renfro  
Maria Richardson  
Juan Ignacio Ruiz  
Kashif Saifullah  
Khaled Saifullah  
Saad Murtuza Siddiqui  
Muhammad Nasir Uddin

Vongmony Var  
Svjetlana Vojvodic  
Viktor Alekseevi Zakalashnyuk

## FALL SEMESTER 2002 DEAN'S LIST

Arzoo Abdullah  
Heather Jean Adamus  
Khaled Al-Saadi  
Fadi Abdul Rahman Al-Saidi  
Khaled A. Alomran  
Mustapha Amalou  
Christian Amelinckx  
Jana Banovska  
Dwayne Dacosta Bartley  
Jennifer Akoyoko Befoune  
Abdelkarim Ben Ghorbal  
Alberto Ariel Chavez  
Anastasia Chibanova  
Mei Ying Chong  
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Peter Dee Coker-Adewusi  
Arianna Moreno Corredor  
Justin Cummins  
Navdeep Dhinoy  
Dimitrios Marselo Dimitriadis  
Rajdeep Dutta Roy  
Hendy Edi Sutikno  
Douglas Estanga Espejo  
Evan James Fowler  
Jody James Frost  
Yuki Fukushima  
Shilpa Gadde  
Li Gao  
Eden Gurung  
Yasuko Horiuchi  
Iraj Mohammed Hossain  
Qiao Hu

Bashir Abdi Ismail  
 Marlieke Johanneke Jager  
 Fuh Tzer Jong  
 Caroline C. Kaiser  
 Chakir Kamkam  
 Vijesh Vasanth Karkera  
 Balachandran Kattappuram  
 Noriko Kawabata  
 Masood Kandakar Mohammad  
 Shehzad Khan Khattak  
 Valerian Kiame  
 Deepak Komaregowda  
 Hien Thi Mai  
 Rita Njoki Maina  
 Osama Aziz Malik  
 Anna Valentinovna Mallory  
 Andrius Masedunskas  
 Gareth Maybin  
 Tea Milicevic  
 Sandhya B. Mishra  
 Jacob Raymond Mlusu  
 Karen Louise Monteleone  
 Tania Ananaya Munshi  
 Raniah Syed Mustafa  
 Siddharta Prasad Nandi  
 Dominika Nemcovicova  
 Maitram H. Nguyen  
 Nhi T Nguyen  
 Quoc Tri Nguyen  
 Trinh Hai Nguyen  
 Mamoru Nozawa  
 Yanya-Gazelle O'Hara  
 Khadija Ali Omer  
 Daniel Pach  
 Katarina Palenikova  
 Errol Raymond Pennerman  
 Peng Peng Phu  
 Latanya R. Pratt  
 Dewan Azizur Rahman  
 Maria Gabriela Rodriguez  
 Julio Cesar Ruiz  
 Izhar Saeed  
 Martin Sana  
 Andrea Sayago Villamizar  
 Qazi Shakoor  
 Vikram Siddamsetty  
 Benjamin Yves Sormonte

Milorad Stojanovic  
 Viktoria Stoklasova  
 Kamakshi Subramaniam  
 Mee Yiin Ting  
 Lam V. Tran  
 Phi Dung Tran  
 Ching-Wern Tye  
 Marcela Vernaza  
 Angela Maria Villa  
 Truong Xuan Vu  
 Thanh Kha Vuong  
 Josseline Isabel Wade  
 Haifei Wang  
 Zheng Wang  
 Carrie Ramona Whisman  
 Tessa Ehlers Wigger  
 Maryam Yazdanshenas  
 Kaori Yokoyama  
 Jeong-Won Yoon

## YOUR HELP WANTED AND NEEDED

Fall Semester 2003 is just around the corner, and as always, your help is needed to assist with the new student orientation and the 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 means 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.

## MEDICAL INSURANCE REMINDERS

The Insurance works under a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) wherein you get better payment (100%) for using a Preferred Provider over a Non-Preferred Provider (75%). Any USA doctor is considered preferred.

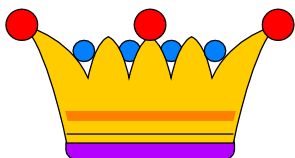
**Note: Providence Hospital & doctors are not Preferred Providers.**

See your certificate of insurance for a total list of all charges not covered by the insurance such as dental care, eye exams and pre-existing conditions.

**Most Important: Use the Student Health Services and the Student Pharmacy on campus whenever possible.** Call 460-7151 to make an appointment to see a doctor. Using these services is the only way to receive 100% reimbursement with no co-pay.

Bring all of your original medical bills to Kelley Lynd in Enrollment Services, Administration Bldg. Room 255, (460-6494) to file with the insurance company. The insurance can not pay your bills until you have sent them a claim form and your receipts.

If you have any questions or problems concerning your health insurance, see Kelley Lynd.



## HOMECOMING

Congratulations to Andrea Sayago Villamizar and MohitYadav who won King and Queen of the University of South Alabama Homecoming court!! They were presented at the Homecoming basketball game.

CISO also won first place in the Spirit Competition for the Independent Catagory.

Thanks to everyone who turned out to support the CISO candidates for homecoming and who supported the Jags basketball game.



## IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION CHANGES

Now, more than ever before, 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 to this rule is if you have a medical condition or if you are graduating during that particular semester. If you are graduating, you must notify us if you are going to take less than a full course load at the beginning of your final semester. Therefore, if you are not a full-time student and do not meet the reasons above, you will be reported to INS and be considered 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.

If you are out of status, please know that 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 INS Special Registration or any other reason.

If you are going home for a visit and sitting out a semester, please note that the immigration laws state that 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.

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

Let the Office of International Services know if you are traveling outside the US so that we may verify your documents are in order.

Check your passport and I-20 expiration dates. Passports should be renewed six months before they expire as processing time for such renewal 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, please come by and notify our office so that we may do the proper INS notification.

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.

## STUDENT HAPPENINGS

Abu Baker, graduate student in Electrical Engineering, presented a session with Dr. Mohammad Alam, Chairman of Electrical Engineering, at the 4th National Conference on Telecommunication Technology, Malaysia. Their session was "Phatonic MEMS Based Reconfigurable Switch for Multicast Communication Systems."

Congratulations to the following students who won positions with the South Alabama Student Government Association for the 2003/2004 year:

Ima Naqvi  
Mudassir Kazmi  
Jyotsna Rao Mentreddi  
Maryam Baghaei

Ioanna Ntai has been admitted to the Chemistry PhD program at Vanderbilt University with a full tuition waiver and teaching assistantship. She also presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in New Orleans.

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 should apply for your post-completion practical training 90 days before your graduation. You are no longer able to apply for the card after graduation.

Processing time is taking 120-160 days, so 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.

According to new guidelines, you **cannot** travel outside the United States while your EAD is pending or you forfeit the privilege. In the past, INS has allowed students to apply for the card and travel during the processing time. Not anymore-- you must now remain here during the processing time and travel only after you have received your card.

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 EAD. You must apply when you finish your coursework even if the job market is low.

You may receive an additional year of optional practical training time after proceeding to a higher degree. This means one year upon completion of your bachelor's and another year upon completion of master's. Same applies to master's and doctoral degrees.

If you enroll in classes while on your Optional Practical Training, the remaining time on your EAD is cancelled. Therefore you can't begin a new degree and work on your EAD at the same time.

In order to be approved for Curricular Practical Training, you must register for a one-hour internship class. Therefore, we will not be able to approve any new CPT during the middle of a term.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES QUARTERLY  
Spring, 2003

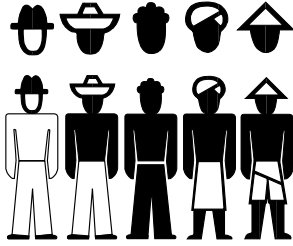
International Services Quarterly is a publication of the Office of International Services of the University of South Alabama. News and information on any aspect of international education exchange are solicited.

International Services Quarterly is published approximately one month after each registration period.

News, articles, and other information should be sent to:

Coordinator, Office of International Services  
Faculty Court South 3  
Mobile, AL 36688-0001  
All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and space requirements.

Summer Semester  
Deadline: June 20, 2003



## **C.I.S.O. ELECTIONS**

A BIG THANK-YOU to this year's CISO officers for all their hard work and dedication.

President: Ima Naqvi  
Vice-President: Atif Butt  
Secretary: Kathy Tran  
Treasurer: Sunil Mentreddi

Elections for next year's officers of the Council of International Student Organizations will be held in mid-April.

If you are interested in running for an officer of CISO, please contact Brenda at the Office of International Service.

CISO can use everyone's support at the meetings, whether participating on behalf of a student organization or not.

If you are interested in getting your fellow countrymen and women active in CISO, please come to the CISO meetings or see Brenda. We would like to see every country actively represented on this campus.

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# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

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