



International Services Newsletter

Spring Semester 2006

International Student Spring Festival

On April 6 & 7, 2006, 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 6 & 7 in the Student Center Lobby. Student groups representing India, Japan, Malaysia, Muslim Student Association, Nepal, Turkey, United States 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 *Market*. Performances from India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal and Vietnam kept the crowd entertained.

Thanks to our Emcees for the evening, Maryam Baghaei and Tarun Jain, 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:
Indian Student Association &
Nepali Student Association
- 3rd Place:
Malaysia Student Council

Talent Show Winners:

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

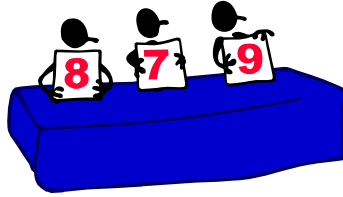
Fashion Show Winners:

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

Overall Spring Festival Spirit:

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

(Spring Festival continued)



Judges:

Cultural Exhibits

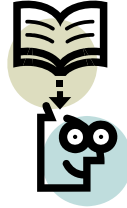
Mr. Mark Basque
Dr. S.L. Varghese
Dr. Frederico Perez-Pineda

Talent & Fashion Show

Mr. Randy Hunter
Dr. Albert Gapud
Mr. Maurice Gandy
Mr. Jim Mather
Mrs. Mary Mather

**Fall 2005
President's List**

Saskia S Amattamsir
Kharen-Dawn A
Andrews
Christina Artner
Satiar Ayoobzadeh
Shirazi
Maryam Baghaei
Romendra Chudal
Christophe J Dumee
Shirley J Harvey
Maria D Hawkins
Ayaharu Hosoi
Susanne Jepson
Vijesh V Karkera
Keigo Kawasaki
Oonjung Kim
Erin M Kinnear
Yuki Kisaichi
Andrea Kurekova
Sara J Mason
Mizusa Masuda
Ana M Milicevic
Maria F Morales
Davaus
Mathew W Mwathi
Mai Nakamura
Dominika Nemcovicova
Shun Okada
Javier I Perez
Minami Sato
Emiko Shimazaki
Chika Takahara
Nagisa Tetsuka
Herica M Torres
Marcela Vernaza
Manuja T Wijeratne
Sayaka Yoshii
Maria Zivcicova



**Fall 2005
Dean's List**

Naeem Ahmad
Rizwan Ahmed
Elin K Andersson
Kayedion M Andrews
Hydie Anto
Katsuhiko Aso
Hirotaka Ata
Kristin L Bachman
Akshay Bhasin
Veronika Bobakova
Maria L Carlino
Erick Carvajal Capellan
Wei S Chai
Dias B Doskarayev
Saori Fueta
Eri Fukuda
Mayuko Furuya
Kohei Gunji
Subin Hada
Yoshiaki Harada
Yuko Hatanaka
Manami Hatanaka
Masaru Hirashita
Makiko Inamura
Khalid Jaleel
Ekaterina Kalachnikova
Sushil Karki
Kshitij D Karki
Jonghyun Kim
Thai Kim
Emile Kleyn
Iryna Korniyenko
Maksym Kozhukhar
Yutaka Kunisato
Kanakano Kuramochi
Yuichiro Kushida
Philip K Lagat
Duyen M Le

**Fall 2005
Dean's List (continued)**

Juan E Loo
Hon Lon Lum
Takayuki Makino
Thongsamai Manuthong
Ayaka Matsushita
Patience Mbamba
Jessica Miller
Risa Minami
Anna Miyatsuka
Clarisse Moh
Hiroyuki Nakajima
Takashi Nakamoto
Kibo Nakano
Piyush Neupane
Nhan L Ngo
Quoc T Nguyen
Chie Nishikawa
Chihiro Noda
Mihoko Noguchi
Tsubomi Odashima
Oladapo J Ogunjobi
Chihiro Oishi
Yuko Okamoto
Takuji Okawai
Tony Okello
Ifeyanyi E Ononuju
Kaori Oshima
Malvika J Patel
Nelita C Pereira De Andrade

Isuru P Perera
Robbert W Reddering
Eliana M Rodriguez Teran
Jia Rui
Puja A Sakhrani
Evgeniya S Samoilova
Partha P Sarker
Aiko Sato
Jelena Sekulic
Diya Shrestha
Ajay B Singh
Tiffanie S Stewart
Carlos J Suate Pedroza
Kanakano Suzuki
Ngim S Tang
Akari Tateishi
Nagisa Tojo
Michelle Toth
Yassine B Touati
Yukari Tsuchiya
Saori Uchiyama
Tadashi Ushiki
Natalia Villamizar
Jing Wei
Tatsuya Yamazaki
Marina Yasuda
Rong Yin
Kazunori Yoshimi
Syed Hassan M Zaidi

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.

Tuition and Fee Information

Summer 2006

Fee Payment Deadline:
June 1, 2006 (6 p.m.)
Final Payment Deadline w/ \$50 fee:
June 5, 2006 (5 p.m.)

Fall 2006

Fee Payment Deadline:
Students registering between April 10, 2006 and August 7, 2006 must pay at least 15% of tuition and fees, including housing and meals by August 7, 2006, to retain their schedule. If a student does not provide 15% payment by August 7, 2006, his/her schedule will be cancelled and the class seats made available to others. **IF A STUDENT MISSES THE 15% PAYMENT DEADLINE, HE OR SHE WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-REGISTER FOR CLASSES. However, if a student's schedule is cancelled there is no guarantee that his/her preferred schedule will remain available.**

The balance of the account is due by August 25, 2006, if paying on campus (Bursar office or Payment Drop Boxes) or August 27, 2006, if paying online on PAWS. **Students registering after August 7, 2006** must pay their balance in full by August 25, 2006, if paying on campus (Bursar office or Payment Drop Boxes) or August 27, 2006, if paying online on PAWS. Registration schedules will be cancelled if the balance is not paid in full by August 27, 2006. There will be a reinstatement period for students whose registration was cancelled from August 29, 2006 - September 1, 2006. A notification of location and times will be delivered via e-mail and postal service. **Students will be required to pay the balance of their tuition and fees, including housing and meals plus \$100 reinstatement fee, \$50 late registration fee and a \$50 late payment fee.**

Phi Beta Delta Honor Society

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

Inductions are held in Fall semester during the International Banquet. To qualify for membership students must be a junior, senior or graduate with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 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.

If you are interested in joining Phi Beta Delta and believe you meet the requirements, please contact Heather Goins in our office.



Attention Alumni

We want to hear from you!
Please stop by our office web page and let us know what you have been up to. This way we can also let you know about upcoming events and happenings on campus.

<http://www.southalabama.edu/intnatsrv/alum.htm>

Homecoming King & Queen



This year the Council of International Student Organizations sponsored two students for Homecoming King & Queen, the candidates were Mohamed Musthakeem Kamaludeen and Molly del Santo. Mohamed placed as first runner up for the Homecoming King title while Molly del Santo was crowned our 2006 Homecoming Queen! Congratulations to both of these deserving students.

Cricket Tournament

The C.I.S.O held two annual cricket tournaments, one during the Thanksgiving holidays and another during Spring Break.

The winners for the Thanksgiving tournament were:

1st Place: Bulletz

2nd Place: Token

The winners for the Spring Break tournament were:

1st Place: India

2nd Place: Bulletz



C.I.S.O. Elections

The votes are in... the new officers for the Council of International Student Organizations are as follows:

President: Mahnaz Baghaei

Vice President: Kohei Gunji

Secretary: Christina Bijayananda

Treasure: Vishal Patel

Special thanks to all our officers for last year: Elipio, Philip, Molly and Mohamed. We really appreciate all your hard work and dedication to C.I.S.O.

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.



What's going on?