



ISS NEWS

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

APRIL 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OISS STAFF NEWS	2
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	2
WORLD & U.S. TRADITIONS	2
ISO CORNER	3
CSSA CORNER	3
HEALTH INSURANCE	4
ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?	4
HOUSING	4
CALENDARS	5
REMINDERS	5

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Students,

As the end of the Spring Semester draws near, we wish you good luck with all your papers, presentations, and final examinations. We would like to extend a warm "Congratulations!" to all our students graduating in May. For those of you returning home for a visit this summer, we wish you a

pleasant trip and we will look forward to seeing you when you return in August.

This issue of the newsletter contains vital information about recent changes to F-1 Optional Practical Training Regulations. Please take time to read about these changes and how they may affect you.

Please do not hesitate to stop by

our office if we can be of any assistance.

Best Regards,

Julie

Julie M. Williams, Director
Office of International Student Services

NEW OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING REGULATIONS



As many of you have heard, on April 8th 2008, the Department of Homeland Security enacted new regulations affecting students on Optional Practical Training.

1) H1-B Cap Gap.

Now OPT students do not have to worry about the gap between employment authorization end dates in the summer and the H1-B start date of October 1st. If an employer applies for a **timely change of status** H1-B application for an F-1 OPT student, the employment authorization period will be extended until H1-B start date (if H1-B is approved) or until the day when H1-B is denied. If the H-1B is denied, the student will then have 60 day grace period to leave the U.S. or be accepted into a new program and transfer their record.

- 2) **OPT and Unemployment.** For students starting OPT after April 8th 2008, they will only be allowed 90 days of unemployment during the 12 months of OPT. Students will need to inform the OISS when they are employed and unemployed.
- 3) **Employer Information.** Students now need to notify the OISS of their employer's name and address and, as always, update us with their current address and email.
- 4) **Extension of OPT.** The 17 month OPT extension is available **only** to students who have earned degrees in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students will need to apply for the extension through our office.

Information about these changes are being constantly updated. Once information has been finalized, we will

email students and update our website. For more information please contact Vivian Yamoah at 574 520 4419 or vyamoah@iusb.edu.



OISS News

Office of International Student Services Newsletter

Indiana University South Bend 1700 Mishawaka Avenue P.O. Box 7111 South Bend, IN 46634-7111

Tel: 574-520-4419
Fax: 574 520-4590
E-mail: oiss@iusb.edu
www.iusb.edu/~oiss

OISS STAFF NEWS

HELLO VERA



Vera Dutkevich is the new International Student Representative. She started working for the OISS on February 18th. Vera was born in the Ukraine and moved to the United States as a child. She grew up in the Michiana area. (Michiana is south-

ern Michigan and Northern Indiana.) In her spare time, she loves to read -Dean Koontz especially-, cook—of course traditional Ukrainian foods among other cuisines-, and play with her dog, Snoop. If you have not met Vera already, please stop by our office and introduce yourself. Vera will be handling and answering questions about health insurance billing and policy.



TRAVEL AND IMMIGRATION

During the months of May, June and July, Julie, Vivian, and Vera will be out of the office at various times on vacation or at conferences.

If you will be traveling or have questions about immigration, visas, etc., please do not wait till the last minute. Come see Vivian or Julie at least a week before your trip overseas. We will need to make

sure that all your documents are in order so you can return to Indiana University South Bend to continue your education.

If you have questions about health insurance, please stop by to see Vera before you see a doctor unless it is an emergency.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dear Advisors,

My parents are preparing their taxes at home. The government says that they have to show proof that I was an international student at Indiana University South Bend. They also want proof of how much money my parents paid in tuition . How do I get all this information?

Sincerely,

Need Proof

Dear Need Proof,

Our office would be happy to help you with this issue. There are several things you will need to do:

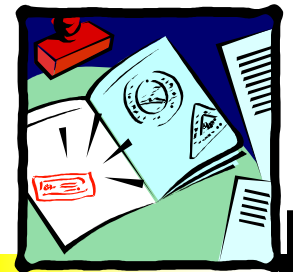
- 1) **Proof of International Student Status.** Go to the OISS current student website (www.iusb.edu/~oiss/currents.shtml). Select **Forms** on the left, then International Student Status. Fill in the form and select home government as the reason. Once your request is received, your letter will be ready in 1 –3 business days.
- 2) **Proof of Enrollment.** At the Gateway: Information Center, request an enrollment verification form. Fill it out. Be sure to write down all the semesters for which you want proof of enrollment as a student. They will tell you when it will

be ready.

- 3) **Proof of Tuition Paid.** Go to your OneStart account. Scroll down to the section under Financial. Select Tax Form 1098T Detail. Select the year you need information for. Select view Details. Print the documents.

Mail the documents to your parents.

If you have questions, please make an appointment to see Vivian.



WORLD CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day celebrates a country's independence, either through war or negotiation, from Colonial power or separation from another country. In the U.S., most people associate the words Independence Day with July 4th, however, most of the world's nations also have Independence Day celebrations. We will look at the U.S., Malaysia, and Ghana to see how they achieved their independence and how they celebrate Independence Day.

Independence Day of the U.S.:

In the U.S., Independence Day is on July 4th. It is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. People celebrate with fireworks, parades, family reunions, picnics, baseball games, concerts, and other public or private events. Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the U.S.,

Continued bottom of pg. 3

Are you in an international/culture club not listed below? Please contact Vivian at vyamoah@iusb.edu or call the OISS to be included in the September 2008 newsletter .

ISO CORNER

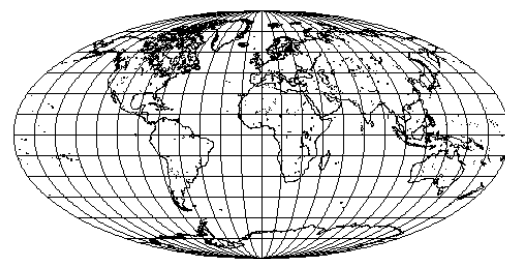
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST

We had another great success! The International Student Organization had it's 9th Annual International Food Festival (IFF) this past April 5, 2008, at the IU South Bend main cafeteria. We had approximately 300 people come to enjoy delicious food from 16 countries. China, Côte D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Puerto Rico/USA, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine were among the counties whose food was represented. Some international students served guests in their country's traditional clothing. On top of having food, there were also international entertainers including such performers as belly dancers, Chinese, Polynesian and Mexican dancers and two solo singers. For the first time, the International Food Fest featured a fashion show. It was a crowd favorite.

Côte D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Mexico, and Poland were recognized in several categories, including best table, best food, best food texture, and best presentation. For the second year, 10,000 Villages also had a booth at which people could purchase gifts and souvenirs made in other countries.

The international students were able to show their cultures with great pride! We hope you will be able to help and/or participate next year

Felix E. Marquez,
ISO President



ISO ELECTIONS

The ISO will be holding elections for all positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. For more informa-

tion about positions available and requirements to be an officer. Please contact the ISO at iso@iusb.edu.

CSSA CORNER

CHINESE CULTURE FEST

The CSSA successfully hosted the 2nd Annual Chinese Culture Exhibition from 11:30am to 2pm on April 2 at the mall entrance of SAC. The main topic of this exhibition was 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Beijing Olympic Game Mascots and logos along with other Chinese traditional stuff were displayed. The audience was encouraged to

ask questions about the display. The purpose of the Annual Chinese Culture Exhibition is to spread information about Chinese culture on campus and in the communities.

Zhibin "Daisy" Tian, CSSA President

WORLD CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE

INDEPENDENCE (CONT.)

was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Independence Day of Malaysia:

The Independence Day in Malaysia, known as Hari Merdeka, is on August 31. It is the national day of Malaysia commemorating the independence of the Federation of Malaya from British colonial rule. The effort for independence was headed by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, who lead a delegation of influential ministers and political leaders of Malaya (now Malaysia) in negotiations with the British in London. Official proclamation of independence was made on August 31, 1957. There are parades, fireworks, and other events celebrating the achievements of all past and present prime ministers. After the

addition of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaya was known as Malaysia.

Independence Day of Ghana:

The Independence Day of Ghana was officially announced on 6th March, 1957. Ghana was the first Black African country to gain its independence. The people of Ghana achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1957. Kwame Nkrumah led Ghana to independence from Britain in 1957. To celebrate, there are dancing, fireworks lightening up the sky, drumming, people gathering around streets, etc. Before Independence, Ghana was known as the Gold Coast.



HEALTH INSURANCE

The OISS would like to remind you that we are no longer accepting paper waiver forms. **All students will need to use the e-Waiver form in iStart.** The eWaiver will be available approximately 30 days before the first day of classes each semester until 10 days after the first day of classes. Instructions are available on the OISS current student health insurance site. If you need assistance, please come to the Gateway-Information Center.

If you never received an insurance card you may request one online, as well as print out a temporary personalized card for use right away. On the right are step by step instructions:

- 1) Go to www.chickering.com
- 2) Click on "Find Your School"
- 3) Enter your school name -Indiana University- and then click on "Search"
- 4) Click on Aetna Navigator and then the "Access Navigator" link.
- 5) To Register, follow the instructions for First Time User and select a username, password and security phrase.

After you have registered, you should be able to request an insurance card and print out a temporary card. You can also check charges and other items associated with your account. If you still have questions, please contact Vera at veradutk@iusb.edu or 574 520 4419.

Waivers for the fall semester are due on September 3rd.

ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?

ODD THINGS ABOUT ENGLISH

English can be funny sometimes. Often, the play of words in English can be baffling to the non-native speaker. Below are some expressions in, and comments on, the English language:

How can 'A Slim Chance' and 'A Fat Chance' mean the same thing?

How can 'You're so cool' and 'You're not so hot' be different?

Why do we call boxing rings "Boxing ring" if they are square.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

It is only the English language:

- in which your house can burn up as it burns down,
- in which you fill in a form by filling it out
- and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

It is only in the English language that people recite at a play and play at a recital.

Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllable"?

"I am" is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that "I do" is the longest sentence?



HOUSING

The houses located on Bellevue, Esther, and Hildreth Streets will no longer be available to IU South Bend students. All IU South Bend students will now be living in the new Riverside Apartments. If you are interested in living in the apartments, information is available at www.housing.iusb.edu. Model apartments are now available to tour. Please look at the website to see available times and dates for the housing tours.

Applications are available on the housing website. There is a non-refundable \$25 application fee and a refundable \$200 deposit. **For students already living in housing, there is no application fee or deposit required but you do need to fill out a new application.** The one bedroom apartments are no longer

available. The four bedroom apartments are popular. If you want to live in housing, please turn in an application as soon as possible to the Bursar's Office.

Apartments will be available to move into in August. If you have questions about the new housing, please contact Paula Smith, Director of Housing, at live@iusb.edu.



Calendar of Events



April

2nd -Chinese Cultural Exhibition
5th—International Food Fest
15th—Taxes Due
25th—Asian Heritage 5:30 pm SAC 223
25th- May 1st—Final Exams

May

2nd—ISO End of Semester Party
6th—Commencement
12th—First day of Summer Session 1
26th —U.S. Memorial Day (no classes)

June

15th—Taxes Due (8843 form only)
18th- International Student Orientation
30th—First day of Summer Session 2

July

4th— U.S. Independence Day (no classes)
7th—Insurance eWaiver Due

August

13th—International Student Orientation
25th — First Day of Class Fall Semester

September

1st— U.S. Labor Day (no Classes)
3rd —Insurance e-Waiver Due

Office of International Student Services NEWS

Contributors:

Julie Williams- OISS Director
Vivian Yamoah—OISS Assistant Director
Vera Dutevich—OISS Representative
Daisy Tian—OISS Student Worker

Editor:

Julie Williams

Layout:

Vivian Yamoah

REMINDERS

PAPER INSURANCE WAIVERS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED
FALL HEALTH INSURANCE eWAIVER DUE SEPTEMBER 3RD
SEE OISS BEFORE TRAVELING IN THE US OR OVERSEAS