



OISS NEWS

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2008

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Students,
Happy New Year! We want to extend a warm welcome to our new international students and "welcome back" to our continuing students. We have 41 new students this semester. We hope that all of you are settled into your classes and have a comfortable routine in place.

We have had some staffing changes in the Office of International Student Services

(OISS). Beth Houser has started a new position in her field of Environmental Science. We are so happy that she has found a position in her chosen field, but we are very sorry to see her leave us in the OISS. I'm pleased to report that we have hired a new International Student Representative. Her name is Vera Dutkevich. Her first day will be February 18. Please stop by after February 18 and introduce yourself to Vera.

Best wishes for a successful semester! If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to stop by the office.

Julie M. Williams, Director

HOUSING



As some of you may be aware, the new On-Campus Housing facilities will be available starting fall semester 2008. There will be 1 bedroom/1 bath, 2 bedroom/2 bath (pictured above) and 4 bedroom/2 bath apartments available for students. There is a virtual tour of the apartments and community center available online. The apartments will have Resident Assistants who will live on campus, assist students, and provide programming activities. Students interested

in being Resident Assistants should look at the Housing website for more information. Benefits of being a Resident Assistant will include free housing.

Interested in applying for the new apartment-style housing? Applications are now available. There is a non-refundable \$25 application fee and a refundable \$200 deposit. Students may choose which style apartment they want to live in and with whom they want to live. For more information about rates, applying for housing or being a Resident Assistant please visit www.housing.iusb.edu.



OISS News

Office of International Student Services
Newsletter

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OISS NEWS

GOODBYE BETH

The Office of International Student Services has said goodbye to Beth Houser, International Student Representative. She was with our office for only a year, but we will

miss her very much. Beth, who has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Environmental Studies, has started work at the National Wildlife Federation office in Michigan. She will be in

the Global Warming Section. We wish her good luck in her new position. In the interim, health insurance questions and waivers are being handled by Vivian.



WHERE IS JULIE?

Beginning late February, Julie will be out of the country for her annual admissions tours

of Southeast Asia. She will be out of the office from February 21st–March 12th, and again

April 1st -April 11th. Admissions and transcript decisions will be in suspense while she is away.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING/ACADEMIC TRAINING

What is Optional Practical Training (OPT)? It is off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students who have been studying in the U.S. for at least one year. Almost all students use their OPT after graduation. Students receive 12 months of OPT at each level of education - Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D.

Application for OPT must be made before your final semester of study. After your graduation

date, you may not apply for OPT.

OPT Workshops will be held on February 22nd, 29th, and March 7th for students completing their degrees in May. Please look for email messages in February about signing up for the workshops. For more information about Optional Practical Training, please call the office at 574 520 4419 or email Vivian at vyamoah@iusb.edu.

What is Academic Training? It is off-campus employment authorization for J-1 students. You may be authorized for academic training at any time. Students have 18 months of Academic Training that can be used one day at a time during a student's academic career. For more information about using Academic Training during and after your studies at IU South Bend, please call the office at 574 520 4419 or email Vivian at vyamoah@iusb.edu.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Dear Advisors,

Canada is so close and I want to visit another country where I

can use my English. Is there anything special I need to do in order to go to Canada?

Sincerely,
World Traveler

Dear World Traveler,

There are many things that you need to do. Among the things are:

- Get your I-20 signed for travel.
- Get a visa for travel to Canada or visa waiver

Please make an appointment to see OISS for more information and instructions about going to Canada or traveling to other countries while studying at Indiana University South Bend.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

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 April 2008 newsletter .

ISO CORNER

International Food Fest April 5th

The International Food Fest has become a tradition at Indiana University South and in the South Bend area community. The International Food Fest allows international students at IU South Bend to share their food, traditions, and dancing with the campus or city communities. This year for the first time there will also be a fashion show as part of the food fest festivities. The International Food Fest has food from over 15 countries represented. Last year, over 300 students, faculty, staff and community members came to the

Food Fest.

The event is organized by the IU South Bend International Student Organization (ISO). The food is made by IU South Bend international students with the help of friends and relatives who reside here in the Michigan area.

Do you cook? Can you dance? Help organize? Then sign up to help with the Food Fest. Email iso@iusb.edu for more information and to help.

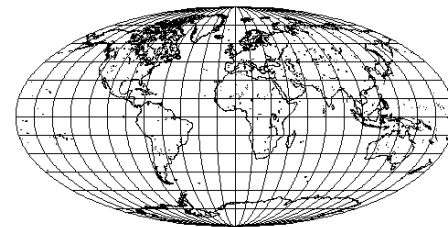
Please check out the ISO website www.iusb.edu/~iso for other activities this semester or email them at iso@iusb.edu to be included on their information list.

CSSA CORNER

The Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA) will have the 2nd annual Chinese Cultural Exhibition in March or April 2008. We will be showcasing the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. Please stay tuned for emails about

this event.

Zhibin "Daisy" Tian
President of CSSA



PASU CORNER

Interested in the Pan-African Student Union? For information, please contact Emmanuel Sane at esane@indiana.edu or the PASU advisor Dr. Kwadwo Okrah at kokrah@iusb.edu or (574) 520-5517

UNITED STATES AND WORLD CULTURE

VALENTINE'S DAY AROUND THE WORLD

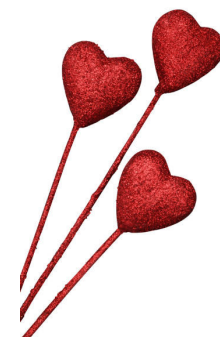
If you live in the United State for any period of time, you will notice that there are many unofficial holidays. One of these unofficial holidays is Valentine's Day. If you have gone shopping for food or clothing anytime since the 1st of January, you will have noticed the red, pink, and white decorations which seem to be everywhere. St. Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th of every year. The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide. For this newsletter's US and World Culture, we will be looking at Valentine's Day in the United States and Japan.

Valentine's Day in **the U.S.:** On this day, lovers (and sometimes friends) express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards and giving gifts. Common presents to men include watches and other electronic gifts while women are usually presented with flowers, sweets, such as chocolate, and



jewelry. Many people have special dinners on Valentine's Day or on the weekend closest to Valentine's Day. In elementary school, many children give valentines to other children in their class. In many schools it is a day for a mini-celebration in the classroom.

Valentine's Day in **Japan:** The spirit of Valentine's Day is split among the sexes in Japan. On February 14th, women give candy, chocolate, or flowers to the men in their lives. For example, it has become an obligation for many women to give chocolates to all male co-workers. There is a reciprocal day called White Day, March 14th, for men. Men are expected to return the favor to those women who gave them chocolates on Valentine's Day. However many only give their girlfriends and wives. The present given is supposed to be white, hence the name of White Day. White Day is supposed to have been started by a marshmallow company in Japan.



TAXES



Taxes are due on Tuesday, April 15th. Once again, the OISS will be offering tax preparation workshops in February and March. Please check your email for sign-up instructions. Space is limited.

If you worked any part of last year (January–December 2007), you should have already received W-2 form(s) from all your employers. If you have not yet received your W-2 form(s), please contact your employer as soon as possible. You will not be able to participate in the workshop without your W-2 form(s).

Even if you do not have taxable income, the OISS highly recommends that you file the 8843 tax form. Students who earned more than US\$3,300 last year will need to file Federal Tax forms. If you earned less than US\$3,300, you only need to file the tax forms if you want the money taken from wages to be returned to you. Students will also need to file Indiana or Michigan or other state tax forms, depending on the state in which you lived last year.

The OISS will have the federal 1040NR, 1040NR-EZ, 8843 and Indiana IT-40PNR, & CT-40PNR tax forms and instructions available from February until April. Federal forms may be downloaded online at www.irs.gov. Indiana and Michigan tax forms may also be picked from your local library or downloaded from the Indiana (www.in.gov/dor/taxforms/) and Michigan (www.michigan.gov/treasury) state tax websites.

***Remember your employer should not be (withholding) taking Social Security Tax (FICA) from your paycheck. ***

If your employer has been removing FICA from your paycheck, please see the OISS as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please stop by the OISS. **Please do not wait until the last minute.**



ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?

BRITISH VS AMERICAN ENGLISH

People who speak British (BrE) or American (AmE) English generally are able to understand each other. While grammar for the most part is the same for both main varieties of English, areas of confusion exist in vocabulary, spelling, and idiom usage. Many people on both sides of the “pond” are aware of some of the more common differences such as BrE -loo, toilet vs AmE -bathroom, BrE-lorry vs. AmE truck, BrE-queue vs. AmE line, BrE- petrol vs. gas and BrE lift vs. AmE elevator. There are others however that have been known to cause confusion for native and non-native speakers both when they have gone to study or visit a country where the variety of English is not one they have studied or speak. Below are some of the differences:

British English

Vocabulary

sweets
biscuit
mad
rubbish

American English

candy
cookie
crazy
garbage, trash

British English

chips
crisps
module
course

Spelling:

centre
colour
jewellery
programme

Idioms:

Touch wood
A home from home

American English

french fries
chips
course
major

center
color
jewelry
program

Knock on wood
A home away from home

pond = Atlantic Ocean

Of course pronunciation has always been an area of difference between the two varieties of English. One only needs to look at recent popular movies such as Harry Potter or Spider-Man to note the differences.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance waivers were due on January 16th. While paper submissions were once again accepted after the deadline, in fall semester 2008, no paper or late insurance waivers will be accepted. Please check your e-mail for when the e-waiver is available

in iStart. Insurance waivers **MUST** be submitted every fall and spring semesters. If you have been using Indiana University's Insurance before this semester and you have not received a card, please contact the OISS so that a card can be issued for you.

Calendar of Events



Events as of February 7, 2008

February

1st—H1-B Workshop (cancelled)
15th— Tax Assistance Session
22nd—OPT Workshop
29th—H1-B Workshop (Rescheduled)
29th—OPT Workshop

March

7th—OPT Workshop
8th—16th— Spring Break (no classes)
21st—OPT Workshop
21st—Tax Assistance Workshop
28th—Tax Assistance Workshop

April

5th—International Food Fest
15th—Taxes Due
25th— May 1st—Final Exams

Office of International Student Services NEWS

REMINDERS

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INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST APRIL 5TH

SIGN-UP FOR TAX WORKSHOPS

TAXES DUE APRIL 15TH

SIGN UP FOR OPT WORKSHOPS