Welcome to the Spring Semester 2007 to our continuing international students and to our over 30 new international students. We hope all of you have begun the semester with excitement for the semester and are looking forward to the many activities at IUSB. The Food Fest and Commencement are just two examples of exciting events scheduled this spring. The OISS is always here if you need help and assistance. Please do not hesitate to visit, email or call us if you have questions. Vivian, Daisy, Duc and I are available to help you with your academic and non-academic concerns.

Julie M. Williams, Director
Office of International Student Services.

H1-B WORKSHOP

For those with questions or wanting more information about H1-B, work in the US, etc., we are happy to announce that on February 1st, Mr. Tom J Arkell of the Bloomington, Illinois law firm of Dunn, Willard, Arkell & Bugg will be here to discuss H1-B issues. His firm specializes in immigration and labor law. If you are interested in working in the United States after graduation, come to this important and informative workshop. It will be at 3:30 PM in the Wieckamp 1001. There is limited space, so please RSVP by Tuesday, January 30, if you would like to attend.

OPTONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

- Are you an F-1 student?
- Do you plan to work off campus in the summer or after graduation?
- Do you want to work a year in the US before you go home?

Now is the time to start thinking about Optional Practical Training (OPT). You need to plan ahead. It can take up to three months to get the authorization you need. There will be one-on-one Optional Practical Training Workshops on February 9th and 16th and March 2nd, 9th and 23rd. Please call the OISS or come in to sign up for a time to meet with Vivian.

For information about how to obtain a job or internship in the United States, please go to page 4 to get information about the IUSB Career Office.
Vivian Yamoah, the new Assistant Director, started work at OISS on November 24, 2006. She recently graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom, with an MA in Cross Cultural Communication and International Management. Since graduating with a BA from the University of Virginia with degrees in Foreign Affairs and Asian Studies, she has worked in international education at the middle school, high school and college level with US and international students. She is enjoying her new home in South Bend and meeting the students and staff. Vivian will be taking over the F1 immigration duties and programming and activities.

GOODBYE SHEILA

Please join the OISS in saying goodbye to Sheila. She has been with the OISS and IPO for 4 years. We wish her well in her new position. We hope to have a new person in the position of International Student Representative soon. Please come by and say hello to the new person.

BON VOYAGE JULIE

In March, Julie will be leaving for her annual admissions tour of Southeast Asia. She will be out of the Office from March 8th—29th. If you are a J-1 student and have any questions or concerns, please see her before she leaves on her trip.

HEALTH INSURANCE

As you all are hopefully aware, international students are required to have health insurance. If you do not want the Indiana University health insurance for Spring/Summer, you MUST turn in your waiver form into the Office of International Student Services by 4 p.m. on February 1st. The charge for the Spring/Summer is $846. If you do not turn in the waiver form YOU are responsible for the charge. The bill will be posted to your student account in late February or early March.

TAXES

This year taxes are due on Monday, April 16th. Even if you do not have taxable income, the OISS highly recommends that you file the tax forms. Please do not wait till the last minute. You will need to file both Federal and Indiana State taxes. The OISS will have the federal 1040NR & 1040NR-EZ and 8843 forms and instructions available from February until April. The Indiana forms and instructions will be available from January until April. Also if you worked last year expect to receive the W-2 form in the mail from your employer. Remember your employer should not be (withholding) taking Social Security Tax (FICA).

OISS Tax Help will be available on February 17th and March 3rd.
ISO CORNER

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST

International Food Fest
March 31st.

The International Food Fest has become a tradition for
international students and the community in South Bend
area for the last 7 years. The idea of the Food Fest is to
promote international students at the South Bend
campus and to help expose the South Bend community to
different cultures in the world. It started out with a
few countries participating in the Food fest and then later
on it became a big event in the Michiana area.

Today, about 15 to 20
countries take part in this
great event, along with about
150 to 200 people including
students, faculty and staff as
well as the community. The
event is organized by the IU
South Bend International
Student Organization (ISO).
The food is made by the stu-
dents from different coun-
tries with the help of their
friends and relatives who
reside here in the Michiana
area. As the event gets bigger
every year, the ISO also organizes different entertainments
for the event, such as Middle Eastern, Flamenco dance etc.
This year, our event is going to take place on March 31st,
and we hope that people come out to support us as they
have done these past years.

Thanks
International Student Organization

WORLD CULTURE

SPRING FESTIVAL (LUNAR NEW YEAR)
The Chinese New Year, also
known as Spring Festival, is
the most important festival
for the Chinese people. The
Spring Festival in 2007 is on
Sunday, February 18. The
Spring Festival, just like
Christmas in the West, is the
time for all family members
to get together. People clean
their houses thoroughly and
decorate them with Spring
Festival couplets, highlighting
Chinese calligraphy with
black characters on red pa-
per because the color of red
represents luck, wealth, and
harmony. Children would get
money wrapped with the red
paper as a New Year gift from
their parents and relatives.
Burning fireworks was once
the most typical custom on
the Spring Festival. A series
of activities such as lion
dancing, dragon lantern
dancing, lantern
festivals, and tem-
ple fairs will be
held for days. This
lunar new year
festival is also cele-
brated by people
from Korea, Viet-
nam, Thailand,
Burma, Laos and
also Chinese-speaking communities from Philippines, Indonesia,
India, Singapore, Malaysia and others. This year, the year of the
pig begins on February 18th.

AMERICAN CULTURE

SAINT PATRICK’S DAY
St. Patrick’s Day is a feast
day celebrated annually
worldwide by Irish people and
increasingly by many non-
Irish people who proclaim
themselves “Irish for a day”
on March 17. St. Patrick, the
patron saint of Ireland, is one
of Christianity’s most widely
known figures. He is believed
to have died on March 17 in
the 5th century. Thus, St. Pat-
rick Day became the anniver-
sary of his death. It is a na-
tional holiday in the Republic
of Ireland.
Celebrations are generally
connected around all things
green and Irish. Both Chris-
tians and non-Christians
celebrate the holiday by
wearing green, eating Irish
food and drinking Irish beer
or coffee, and attending
parades. The largest St.
Patrick’s Day parade is held
in New York City and it is
watched by 2 million people
each year. The Chicago
River is dyed green each
year to celebrate this feast
day. (wikipedia.com)

Chicago River dyed green for St.
Patrick’s Day (wikipedia.com)
**JOB/INTERNSHIP HUNTING**

You want to work or do an internship in the United States.
- Do you know what jobs or internships are available?
- Need help writing your résumé?
- Go visit the Career Services Office. Find out about fairs and workshops on campus. Go to the [Career Services](#) website for more information. For information specifically for international students go to [International Student Career Resources](#).

**ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?**

The English language is not easy to speak or write even for native English speakers. The grammar and spelling rules we learn are often broken. Even after all our hard work, we (Native and non-Native speakers) still often make mistakes.

However, sometimes we can have fun with the language because it is so confusing. Below are some sentences for you to figure out.

- **Sentences**
  - He rose and picked a rose.
  - The sewer went down the sewer.
  - I accept that everyone will be here except Tim.
  - The bow-legged man bowed and shot a bow from the bough of a tree.
  - A dessert was deserted in the desert.
  - He was present to present a present to the patient patient.
  - The bass player liked to eat bass.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Dear Advisors,

I am going home for university holidays. The signature on my I-20 is still good and my visa has not expired. Do I still need to come to the OISS before I leave? I don’t have any free time.

Dear Busy Student,

Although your I-20 is still valid, and your visa is unexpired, we still need to see you. The Department of Homeland is always making changes, and we need to make sure that you have all the information and signed documents you need to come back legally as a student at IUSB.

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**JANUARY 2007**

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***Green boxes are ISO-events.***
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### Office of International Student Services News

**Contributors:**
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- Vivian Yamoah – OISS Assistant Director
- Daisy Tian – OISS Student Worker
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**Layout:**
- Vivian Yamoah

### REMINDERS

**Health waiver forms due February 1st**
**Come to H1-B workshop February 1st**
**International Food Fest March 31st**
**Sign up for OPT workshops**
**See OISS before traveling in the US or overseas**

### March 2007 Calendar

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