Dear Students,

The 2007-08 academic year is off to a great start! The Office of International Student Services (OISS) wants to extend a warm welcome to our new students and "welcome back" to our continuing students. We have 89 new students and a total of 225 non-immigrant students enrolled this semester.

The OISS staff is working collaboratively with International Programs, the International Student Organization (ISO), the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA), and other offices on campus to plan international activities for the academic year. We hope that you will be able to participate in some, if not all, of the activities that have been planned. Each Wednesday afternoon, Café Interna(t)ional will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Jordan Center. Please stop by for at least a few minutes to say hello and join us in having a cup of coffee or tea.

Vivian, Beth and I all hope you have a great semester! Please stop by and say hello when you have the chance!

Best Regards,

Julie M. Williams

GRADUATION

At the May Commencement, graduating students from December 2006, May 2007, and August 2007 were honored. There were over 45 international students from 20 countries who graduated with associate, bachelor and master degrees in Accounting, Applied Mathematics & Computer Science, Arts, Business, Education, Music, Nursing, and Sciences.

Please join the Office of International Student Services congratulating all these students and good luck with their new careers or education plans.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Email messages were sent out on September 17th about Optional Practical Training appointments. If you are graduating in December 2007 and plan to apply for OPT, please call the office at 574 520 4419 or email Vivian at vyamoah@iusb.edu to make an appointment. Appointment times available were included in the email are also listed

Continued on page 4
OISS NEWS

OFFICE NEWS
The Office of International Student Services Counter has moved. It is now located around the corner at 146X next to the registrar’s office. Both Julie and Vivian will be out of the office on October 29th and 30th. Julie will also be out of the office the 2nd and 4th weeks of November.

WHAT IS iSTART?
iStart is an online system that was developed to help international students give information to and receive information from Indiana University’s international offices. Currently at IUSB, students can waive their insurance online, enter passport and personal other information and check alerts and emails that have been sent by the international IUoffice. In the future, other services will be available as well.
iStart can be accessed from the OISS homepage, OISS current students homepage, and the health insurance page. You will use your username and passphrase to sign into iStart.

HEALTH INSURANCE
There have been a lot of changes with the Student Health Insurance that all non-immigrant students should be aware. First, the IU Health Insurance Plan price has been reduced for the 2007-2008 school year. Second, the deductible has been raised to $500. More information is available by visiting our health insurance website at http://www.iusb.edu/~oiss/healthcurrent.shtml.

Another big change to the student health insurance is the introduction of iStart. As most of you should be aware of by now, we are no longer taking health insurance waivers in person. There is no need to submit paperwork. Instead we are requiring students to log into the new iStart program and fill out the electronic waiver form. Because this is a new program, for the fall semester only, we are still allowing students to turn in the old waiver until September 21st. However, this will not be the case in the spring, so please note the change in deadlines and fill out the electronic form on time. To properly waive the insurance, you must get an approval message after submitting it through iStart. If you are still unsure of how to complete this process, you can find a PDF link on our homepage with directions for waiving through iStart or stop by the OISS or Gateway. The deadline for spring 2008 is January 16, 2008 and September 14, 2008 for fall 2008.

If you have other questions that are not answered on the website, please contact Beth Houser: behouser@iusb.edu or 574 520 4419.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dear OISS,

I’ve heard that graduating students get help from the OISS to bring their families to South Bend to attend the graduation ceremony. I am not graduating, but I want my family to come and visit me.

Could you help me get them a visitor’s visa?

Sincerely,

Homesick

Dear Homesick,

We can’t help your family get a visa, HOWEVER, we can write a letter of support. Please stop by the OISS to pick up a family invitation letter form.

Sincerely,

OISS
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 newsletter for February 2008.

ISO CORNER

The ISO is co-sponsoring Wednesday Coffee Houses at the Jordan Center from 2-6 pm. Please join the ISO, OISS and IPO and others at the Jordan Center.

The ISO will be having different events throughout the semester. Those events include the Halloween Fest on Oct. 27, 2007. Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 17, 2007, and the End of Semester Party. For more information about upcoming events and for information about the club, please contact the International Student Organization at iso@iusb.edu. Or visit their website at http://www.iusb.edu/~iso/.

Information about the International Food Fest will be available in the next newsletter.

CSSA CORNER

Dear International Students,

The name of the former Chinese Friendship and Culture Organization (CFCO) has been changed to the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA). CSSA will be the organization’s official name this academic year.

The first activity this fall semester for CSSA will be the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on September 24 at 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Grille (main café) and Northside Hall café. We are going to sell appetizers and moon cake at these two locations. The appetizers include Crab Cheese Wontons, Spring Rolls, and Chicken Wings.

Another possible activity this semester may be our annual Dumpling Festival in early November. More details are coming soon.

We hope to see you there. Have a great semester!

Zhibin (Daisy) Tian, the 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

AMERICAN CULTURE

FRUIT PICKING IN MICHIANA

As you may be aware, summer and early fall are the harvest season. There are a lot of fruits ripe and ready for you to harvest at many local farms. In many farms, harvesting your own fruit/vegetables is called U-Pick.

Usually, May is the strawberry u-pick season. The cherry U-Pick season starts in June. In July, blueberries tastes best. August is for peach lovers. Harvesting of apples begins in September and continues through October. Also, pumpkins are ready to be carved for Halloween in October.

Among the closest farms to IUSB, The Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm is one of the most famous farms for u-pickers. Apple pickers have many apple variety choices, such as Gala, Fuji, Golden and Red Delicious, Cortland, Empire, Holiday, Jonathan, McIntosh, Matsu, Red Rome, Paulared, Idared and many more. There are free tractor wagon rides to help people around the orchard with their fresh fruits. The business hours are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There are other U-Pick farms in the area as well. Check them out on the internet.

The prices of U-Pick fruits are usually cheaper than from the local supermarkets. More important is that the fruits are much fresher and could be kept for a longer time. Also, there will be lot of fun picking fruits, smelling the freshest air, and viewing the beauty of nature.
BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES (BMV)

For those of you who want to get a state ID or driver’s license, the laws have changed. To get a license or state ID, you will need the items listed below:

- Passport with I-94 card
- I-20 or DS-2019
- IUSB Student ID
- Social Security Card or letter of eligibility for a Social Security Card

Both the South Bend and Mishawaka BMVs are accessible by public transportation.

ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?

IDIOMS

According to the dictionary, an idiom is an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its individual words such as kick the bucket or hang one’s head. Instead, it refers to a figurative meaning that is known only through common use. Hence idioms tend to confuse those not already familiar with them. Students of a new language must learn its idiomatic expressions the way they learn its other vocabulary. Below are some English idioms:

- The lights are on but no one is home.
- A few sandwiches short of a picnic.
- The elevator doesn’t go all the way to the top.
- Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

All the above idioms mean that someone is not smart or aware of what is going on.

Other ones include:

- Where there’s smoke there’s fire = when people suspect something, there is normally a good reason for the suspicion even if there is no concrete evidence.
- Don’t count your chickens before they’ve hatched = You should wait until you know whether something has produced the results you desire, rather than acting beforehand.
- Pot calling the kettle black = criticizing a person for something that they do themselves.
- Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush = proverb meaning that it is better to have something that is certain than take a risk to get more, where you might lose everything

***A word of caution, if used too much in conversation, idioms can be odd. Also be careful of idiom books, some of the idioms in them are slangy, rare or out of date.***

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

on the attached calendars.

It will take more than two months to process applications. Please apply as soon as possible. More information about OPT is available on the OISS website at http://www.iusb.edu/~oiss/employmentcurrent.shtml. Please be aware that the application fee for Optional Practical Training and other immigration forms have been increased. OPT application now costs $340.
# September 2007

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**JC = Jordan Center**

***Orange = Internationalization Events***

***Yellow boxes are OISS events.***

***Green boxes are ISO events.***

***Blue boxes are CSSA events***

# October 2007

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**OISS NEWS**

**JANUARY 2008**

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**REMININDERS**

*See OISS before traveling in the US or overseas*

**Health Insurance waiver forms due January 16th**

**Please use I-START to waive Insurance.**

**Please attend ISO and CSSA events.**

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**Office of International Student Services**

**NEWS**

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- Julie Williams – OISS Director
- Vivian Yamoah – OISS Assistant Director
- Beth Houser – OISS Representative
- Daisy Tian – OISS Student Worker
- Abena Apeadu-Siaw – OISS Student Worker

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