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DIRECTOR’S DISH

I hope your spring semester has gotten off to a good start. To our roughly 300 new international students and our returning students alike, I would like to remind you that the International Students and Scholars (ISS) Office is committed to serving your needs. Please feel free to give us a call, stop by during our walk-in hours, or schedule a private appointment if you need any assistance.

You can also review our website, which contains more information about the services we provide, including information about upcoming ISS sponsored programs and events. You can also conveniently download ISS forms via our website, under the “Online Documents” tab.

To get a better idea of Purdue’s substantial international population, you can review the Fall 2009 International Student and Scholar Enrollment and Statistical Report. A portion of the report is included on pages six and seven of this newsletter.

Finally, ISS would like to share the successes of our international student alumni. If you know of any such alumni, please send the relevant information to our Associate Director, Christine Collins. We hope to begin featuring stories of our alumni in upcoming editions of the ISS Insider.

Wishing you a successful spring semester.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Brzezinski, Ed.D.
Interim Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Dean of International Programs
Director, International Students and Scholars

TAX ASSISTANCE

Like it or not, tax season is upon us. The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) is committed to assisting our students and scholars in any way we can. Unfortunately, U.S. tax law is very complex, especially with regard to international tax treaties. For this reason, our office is happy to provide you with links to tax websites and refer you to local professional tax advisors; however, we cannot advise you on matters related to tax law or the filing requirements.

You should have recently received an email from our office related to the tax season. If you did not, please feel free to contact Crystal Jones and she will be happy to forward the above-mentioned message to you.
SPRING 2010 WELCOME RECEPTION

While the spring season is technically still a few weeks away, the Spring 2010 semester at Purdue University started off in an exciting new way for incoming international students. Joining an international student population of over 6,000 were approximately 300 new students from all parts of the world. After a busy week of checking into housing, taking care of immigration requirements, and learning how to live in a snowy climate, students were rewarded with a fun and inviting Welcome Reception that took place in the Union’s North Ballroom on Friday, January 8th.

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Michael A. Brzezinski, Interim Vice Provost for Global Affairs, Dean of International Programs, and Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars. Afterward, the students enjoyed getting to know the ISS staff with a fun fact scavenger hunt that challenged them to match a series of facts with the correct ISS staff members. The winner of the scavenger hunt received free tickets to a Purdue Women’s Basketball game.

Also in attendance were representatives from several organizations that help international students negotiate life in the U.S., both on and off-campus. AAA Hoosier Motor Club, the Center for Career Opportunities (CCO), community ESL services, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), The International Center, ISS GO (Global Outreach) Programs, and the Office of the Dean of Students all provided interesting and useful information about the services they offer, as well as an opportunity to win a prize by guessing the correct number of items in a jar. The party was capped off with the announcing of the winning guesses from each organization’s table, as well as the Grand Prize winner from Check-In earlier that week. The reception was a wonderful start to what we hope will be a great year!

INTRODUCING CAPS

Conveniently located on campus, CAPS stands for Counseling And Psychological Services. With main offices in the Psychological Sciences Building (PSYC) and at the Purdue Student Health Center (PUSH), CAPS is committed to ensuring student success, at both the personal and the academic level.

A variety of services are available at CAPS, depending on individual needs. Options include: individual counseling, conjoint counseling, group experiences, psychiatric services, and drug and alcohol consultation. CAPS also tests for attention-deficit disorders and other learning and developmental disorders during their psycho-educational evaluations. For quick reference, you can check out one of the self-help pamphlets available online, including a brochure titled, “International Students’ Adjustment to College.”

If you are interested in any of CAPS services, call 765-494-6995 or stop by one of the main locations during regular business hours. You will be scheduled for a 15-minute telephone consultation with a senior clinician. Afterward, the clinician will refer you to the service that is most appropriate for your needs.
IMMIGRATION UPDATE: SEVIS II DELAYED

In the Fall 2009 Edition of the *ISS Insider*, it was announced that DHS (The Department of Homeland Security) and SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) had announced a major upgrade to SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System), titled SEVIS II.

SEVIS II will be an enhanced version of the web-based application used by offices like ISS to interface with various organizations within the U.S. government. Currently, SEVIS is used to generate I-20s and DS-2019s, as well as to monitor student data. While the original implementation date for SEVIS II was set for October 2010, the date has been pushed back. The ISS Office is still waiting for the new intended release date to be announced.

What will the implementation of SEVIS II mean for an international student or scholar? The most exciting part is that your I-20 or DS-2019 will become paperless! Following the launch of SEVIS II, your F1/J1 status will continue to be monitored by the ISS Office and all reportable information will be provided to the U.S. Government. However, you will be required to create your own SEVIS account and will become responsible for keeping your information updated, including both your home country and local addresses, for example.

The first step to the SEVIS II implementation is for you to set up an account. Information describing this transitional phase will be sent to you via email as soon as we are given the authorization to start the process. It is extremely important that you follow the directions given to you and comply with these new reporting requirements. In the meantime, the ISS Office will keep you updated as information becomes available.

QUOTABLES

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste the adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”  ~Anne Bradstreet

UPCOMING GO PURDUE! TRIPS

Saturday, February 27th, 2010
Columbus, Indiana

This GO Purdue trip will include an architectural tour of the city of Columbus, as well as a visit to the Edinburgh Outlet Mall. Tickets cost $25.00 and include transportation and the guided architectural tour.

Friday, March 26th, 2010
Pacers Game

This trip to Indianapolis will include the Indiana Pacers versus Utah Jazz NBA professional basketball game. The cost of $35.00 includes transportation, a single game ticket, a t-shirt, and a meal with soft drink.

SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Discuss your views on various topics about U.S. culture, as well as celebrate American holidays in this ongoing program sponsored by the ISS Office. During Perspectives, held every Friday afternoon, a small group of international students meet in an informal, relaxed setting. Theme-based discussions follow a free meal of pizza or other food.

- Grief and Loss
- Homesickness
- Spring Traditions
- Beach Party USA
- Looking Back and Looking Forward
- Barbeque Party

See page four for more information on how to get involved in Perspectives.
ISS FACEBOOK PAGE LAUNCHED

The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) has successfully launched a Facebook fan page. With more than 1,100 fans to date, it is a great place to connect with other international students. You can also learn about upcoming ISS events and voice your opinion on a range of issues that relate to being an international student at Purdue.

“I’d really love to see anyone interested in international life at Purdue become a fan of the page,” explains Twila Ortiz, ISS Immigration Counselor and Facebook Coordinator. “It has the potential to become a very fun and useful tool for both the students and for our office. What is really great is getting feedback on what the students like.”

If you have not already become a Facebook fan, visit http://www.facebook.com/pages/Purdue-University-International-Students-and-Scholars-ISS/46052426311?v=app_2347471856

QUOTABLES
“I’d really love to see anyone interested in international life at Purdue become a fan of the page.”

ISS PROGRAMS: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Boiler Out! Volunteer Program**
Focus: Making a difference in people’s lives by doing community volunteer work
⇒ Receive email announcements for upcoming events
⇒ Follow the instructions to sign-up online
⇒ Contact: BoilerOut@purdue.edu

**Check-In & Orientation Volunteers**
Focus: Easing the transition for new international students arriving in the fall or spring semesters
⇒ Sign up on the ISS website to be added to the list of interested volunteers
⇒ ISS will contact you as opportunities become available
⇒ Contact: Nancy Montague

**Educational Exchange Program (EEP)**
Focus: Encouraging cross-cultural understanding by sharing your culture in the local community
⇒ Fill out the volunteer application on the ISS website
⇒ ISS will match you with an upcoming event
⇒ Contact: Beth Tucker

**GO Purdue! Trips**
Focus: Exploring the regional area on fun-filled and affordable trips
⇒ Receive trip announcements by email
⇒ Follow the instructions for purchasing tickets
⇒ Contact: Nancy Montague

**International Friendship Program (IFP)**
Focus: Becoming friends with an American family by meeting informally once a month
⇒ Register at the beginning of each semester on the ISS website
⇒ Attend a one-hour training session
⇒ ISS will match you with a friendship volunteer
⇒ Contact: Friendship@purdue.edu

**Perspectives**
Focus: Sharing your “perspective” on various topics about culture in a small group setting
⇒ Contact Nancy Montague to join the list of participants
⇒ Receive email announcements detailing that week’s activity and location

**International Student Ambassadors**
Focus: Being a valuable source of information for prospective international students
⇒ Sign up on the ISS website to become a Student Ambassador
⇒ Assist new students with questions and concerns
⇒ Contact: Bryant Priester
### Guide to Area Attractions

#### Art
- Artist's Own Gallery
- KL Art Gallery
- Lala Gallery & Studio
- Purdue University Galleries
- Willow Stained Glass

#### Community Festivals
- Dancing in the Streets
- Downtown Gallery Walk
- Mosey thru LayFlats Arts & Music Festival
- Parke County Maple Syrup Fair
- ‘Round the Fountain Art Fair
- Taste of Tippecanoe
- Uptown Jazz & Blues Festival
- Wabash Riverfest

#### Historical Sites
- Adams Mill Covered Bridge
- Fort Ouiatenon
- Historic Prophetstown
- Wabash and Erie Canal

#### Miscellaneous
- Clegg Botanical Gardens
- Columbian Park Zoo
- Dauch Alumni Center

#### Downtown Lafayette
- Architectural Walking Tour
- Friends of Downtown Unseen City Tour
- Indiana 2010 Recreation Guide
- Indiana Beach Amusement Resort
- Lafayette Farmers Market
- Planet Adventure Heritage Trail Marathon
- Sagamore West Farmers’ Market
- Samara—A Frank Lloyd Wright Home
- Wildcat Creek Winery

#### Performing Arts
- Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette
- Lafayette Ballet Company
- Long Center for the Performing Arts
- Purdue Convocations

#### Museums
- Art Museum of Greater Lafayette
- The Tippecanoe Battlefield and Museum

#### Music
- Bach Chorale Singers
- Lafayette Citizens Band
- Lafayette Symphony Orchestra
- Tippecanoe Chamber Music Society

#### Parks
- Happy Hollow Park
- Lilly Nature Center and Celery Bog Nature Area
- Prophetstown State Park

#### Shopping
- Edinburgh Premium Outlets
- Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets
- The Outlet Shoppes at Fremont
The following two pages contain an excerpt from the Fall 2009 International Student and Scholar Enrollment and Statistical Report. The report contains enrollment figures per school and region of the world, as well as highlights enrollment statistics for the last ten years. Figures for international faculty and staff are also broken down by discipline and country. The top ten countries in terms of enrollment, in order of greatest numbers to least numbers, are as follows: (1) China; (2) India; (3) South Korea; (4) Taiwan; (5) Malaysia; (6) Indonesia; (7) Canada; (8) Pakistan; (9) Turkey; and (10) Thailand.

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**UG Total Enrollment**: 2818  
**G/P Total Enrollment**: 3172  
**Combined Total Enrollment**: 5990  
**Total Number of Countries**: 126
WRITE IT RIGHT: VISIT THE WRITING LAB

If you would like assistance with an upcoming writing assignment or think you might benefit from some feedback on a paper you have written, visit the Purdue Writing Lab. Located in room 226 of Heavilon Hall, The Writing Lab is available to assist with all levels of assignments. So whether you are writing your first paper for English 106 or are editing your thesis, the tutors in The Writing Lab are available for consultation.

One-on-one sessions with a tutor last 30 minutes and focus on helping you become a better writer, whatever your individual needs might be. For more information on what happens during a visit to The Writing Lab, view the ESL Orientation for Writing Lab Tutorial. The Writing Lab also offers 50-minute workshops on writing related topics, ESL services such as conversation groups, and computers and study space for student use.

While a small number of drop-in slots for one-on-one consultation are available daily, it is highly recommended that you schedule an appointment. To do so, call 765-494-3723. In the meantime, you can go on the Writing Lab Quick Tour here.

Finally, take advantage of the university’s renowned Online Writing Lab, called the Purdue OWL. There you will find a variety of helpful resources, including information on grammar, styles guides such as MLA and APA, helpful information for ESL students, explanations of each stage of the writing process, and details on how to avoid plagiarism. There are also Podcasts available on a range of writing topics, including an introduction to rhetoric and how to overcome writer’s block during the prewriting stage.

If during your use of the Purdue OWL you have a writing-related question, you can contact an OWL Mail Tutor for further assistance.

THIS ISSUE’S IDIOM: POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK

Meaning: A person who criticizes another person’s faults or shortcomings when he or she is guilty of the same faults himself or herself

History: The origin of this idiom dates all the way back to the 1600s. It refers to a pot and a kettle that both became blackened on the bottom from sitting over an open fire for too long. The pot could not have pointed out the kettle’s discoloration because it was in fact the same color.

Similarly, this idiom states that you cannot and should not criticize another person for something if you have that same fault. If you do so, someone might tell you that you are the pot calling the kettle black. Another idiom with a similar meaning is, “People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.”

Example: For you to say that I can’t play cricket is like the pot calling the kettle black. You’re terrible at cricket!