

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Office of International Scholar and Student Services (OISSS)

October 1997, Volume 2, Issue 1

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

A Word from the Director



Michael J. Bustle

I'd like to warmly welcome all new international students and scholars who are joining us this Fall and welcome back those who are returning. About 300 new students have joined us for a total enrolled international student population of 1,098 (the largest number in North Carolina and one of the largest in the Southeastern US). Our New International Student Orientation went extremely well this Fall. More than 70 staff, faculty, students, and community members volunteered their efforts, creativity, and goods to make this very important event go smoothly for the 280 of you who participated. The written evaluations we received for the two days were filled with both words of appreciation and suggestions for improvement we hope to implement next year. Thank you to everyone who volunteered (**partial list below**).

Partial List of Contributors to the 1997 New International Student Orientation

Mr. Sriprakash Mayasandra and Ms. Susanne Meza-Keuthen

Co-coordinators of the Orientation

The rest of the OISSS staff — Ms. Hanya Redwan, Ms. Ghada Homsy,

Ms. Jennifer Tilden, Ms. Joyce Fahmy, Ms. Marilyn Hardee

Ms. Pam Cook, *International Friendship Program*

Ms. Ellie Laehn, *InterVarsity Christian Fellowship*

Ms. Rhonda Craver, *Women's Center*

Ms. Pam Gerace, *Student Legal Services*

Ms. Linda Routten and the *Student Infirmary* staff

Ms. Amanda Toler, *Alexander Residence Hall*

Ms. Darla Deardorff, *Friends of the World*

Ms. Franki Senter, *Payroll Office*

Ms. Janey Musgrave, *International Activities Committee*

Ms. Anne Haberkern, *Study Abroad*

Ms. Rosemary Downie, *Social Security Administration*

Ms. Betty McGee

Mr. Dan Hill and Mr. Skip Woody, *Hill, Chesson, and Associates*

The Maitri and the Chinese Students and Scholars Friendship Associations which made a delicious lunch for everyone.

Corporate Sponsors include:

Big Sky Bread Co.

Krispy Kreme

Fresh Market

Manhattan Bagels

Harris Teeter

Thank you also to the many community volunteers and organizations who provided food for the Welcome Dinner. A special thank you to Deans Debra Stewart and Thoyd Melton, and Associate Vice-Provost Leonard Bull for their remarks and words of welcome.

OISSS Welcomes Irene Anthony as New International Scholar Advisor

OISSS welcomes Ms. Irene Anthony to our dedicated team of staff members. Irene will be responsible for nonimmigrant visiting scholars in J, H, or TN, status and will also handle petitions for permanent residence. Irene succeeds Ms. Joyce Fahmy, who retired this summer, as the International Scholar Advisor. We are delighted with Irene's acceptance of this important position and look forward to introducing her to the NC State University community. She will be working out of our Nelson Hall office until space can be found to move the whole OISSS into one location.

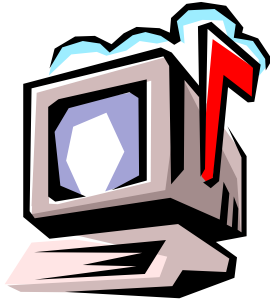
Irene comes to us most recently from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where she has spent the past several years working with non-immigrant scholars and their families. Irene also has worked at the Smithsonian Libraries and for the Fulbright Commission in Italy.

Call for Volunteers

At the beginning of each semester, the contribution of volunteers in greeting and assisting new students has been very valuable. Our office relies on the assistance of student, staff, and community volunteers. Consider spending a few hours December 31, January 2nd, 3rd, 5th or 6th. Please call Mr. Sri Mayasandra at 515-2961 to sign up. Thank you.



New Electronic Distribution List for International Community at NC State



In an effort to provide timely and accurate immigration updates, as well as to announce important events and notices of interest, to the international community at NC State, OISSL has developed an electronic distribution list. All international students and scholars at NC State, as well as NC State staff and faculty who have

contact with nonimmigrant students or employees, are encouraged to subscribe to OISSL-L. About once a month, subscribers will receive via email a brief announcement from the OISSL staff which should prove both interesting and informative. The list will be open subscription (anyone may join, see instructions below), but closed to posting (OISSL will use this list as a vehicle to get out important information easily and quickly, but other groups or individuals cannot clutter up your email inbox with unwanted email).

Possible announcements might include:

- summaries of pending changes in immigration regulations, important deadlines
- announcements about scholarships and grants
- notice of events for international students and scholars, etc.

We encourage you to subscribe—we think you'll find it's worth it—and tell a friend about the list.

To subscribe to OISSL-L, simply send an email message to "listserv@ncsu.edu" (with no "e" on "listserv" and without the quotes) and include the following message in the message line (put nothing in the subject line and do not include a cc or signature file): "subscribe OISSL-L Firstname Last-name" (again, without the quotes). For more information on listserv commands, including how to "conceal" your name (so others will not know of your having subscribed) and other helpful hints, send another email message ("help" in the message body), to the address above (listserv@ncsu.edu) and you will receive additional help in email form. Computing Services can also help if you have technical difficulties (email: help@ncsu.edu).

OISSL adds Email and Voicemail to its Electronic Services

Last year, OISSL put up the beginnings of what we hope will become one of the most often used websites at the university. About 100 web-based information files of an estimated 200 are now accessible to those who use the internet. When the 300 new international students attending New International Student Orientation were asked how many had browsed the OISSL website before arriving in the US, a stunning 75 to 80% shot up their hands. We were a little awestruck at the response, though delighted with the accessibility and exposure. Throughout the year we will be adding more files, the next group of which will include immigration and employment procedures and downloadable forms. Please check us out at http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/academic_affairs/oiss OR from NC State's main home page go to either *Academic Information* or *Student Services* and you will find us there. Any suggestions on what we can add or how we can improve the site would be welcomed.

OISSL now has a general email address where you can send general questions and request appointments. We will try to answer your questions or requests within 24 hours. We will not, for various reasons, give immigration advice over the phone or via email. If we cannot easily honor your request by email, you will be asked to schedule an appointment with an advisor or to come in during our walk-in hours. Send us an email at "OISSL@ncsu.edu" anytime.

Because we receive so many phone calls during the day and many callers have reported getting a busy signal, we have added voicemail for the office. Please use our main office number (515-2961), speak clearly, and leave your name, local phone number and a brief message and we will return your call. We use the voice mail system only during business hours (8:00 to 5:00) when we are out of the office or when all other lines are busy.

Health and Medical Insurance

Just a reminder that all nonimmigrant students in F-1 or J-1 status are required to purchase and maintain the North Carolina State University Student Medical Insurance Plan, which is administered by Hill, Chesson, and Associates. Family members in F-2 or J-2 status must also be covered by insurance which meets university and/or federal requirements. There are no exceptions to this requirement, and no waivers will be given (including those who may have been waived or overlooked before).

Because maintaining health and medical insurance is so important in this society, and not having adequate insurance can be so detrimental to one's life and academic career, NC State has been requiring international students to purchase insurance for more than a decade. OISSS will place a registration hold on nonimmigrant students who do not purchase and maintain the required health insurance. For any questions about the university requirement, please contact an advisor at OISSS. For questions about the health insurance policy itself, please contact a representative from Hill, Chesson, and Associates at 828-0240.

Library Tours

Throughout the semester, the D.H. Hill Library offers one-hour classes on how to use the computerized information system to find books and journal articles. The classes are taught in the ITTC Lab on the 2nd floor of the Library, and each participant will have a computer. You do not need to sign up in advance; dates and times are

posted at the Reference Desk, 1st floor of the Library. Longer classes are also offered on specialized databases such as AGRICOLA and ERIC, and on how to search the Internet. Tours are available upon request.



International students and visiting scholars are especially invited to email:

Jean_Hammerback@ncsu.edu

for more information.

Classroom Travelers

Classroom Travelers is a joint venture by NC State University and the International Visitors Council to connect International students, scholars, visitors, their spouses and community members to community schools. Volunteer Classroom Travelers share information about their culture, traditions and country with school children by making short presentations a few times a year. Through this exposure, children can gain an appreciation of other cultures, perspectives and experiences. For a brochure or information about how you can become a Classroom Traveler or to request a speaker, please contact the OISSS at 515-2961.



CIP Corner

by Ndaona Chokani, Chair, CIP

The Committee on International Programs (CIP) is an advisory committee to the Associate Vice-Provost for International Programs and the Provost. CIP's membership consists of faculty, staff, and students and our objective is to maintain and build a community at NC State that is "challenged, rewarded, and happy with international activities, services, and resources."

In the past year, CIP has supported activities of students, staff, and faculty. In coordination with the Study Abroad Office, twenty-two CIP scholarships were awarded. The destinations included: Belize, Costa Rica, England, France, and Spain. Eight faculty received CIP Internationalization Seed Grants; These awards are intended to enhance the internationalization of research and other scholarly professional activities. The recipients were Russel Borski (Japan), Peter Cowen (United Kingdom); Herbert Eckerlin and Manoel Gonzalez (Bolivia); Christine Grant (Ghana); Helmut Hergeth and Frank Smith (Dominican Republic); and Lian Xie (China).

The rfp for Internationalization Seed Grants is now available (see website below). 1998 CIP Study Abroad scholarship applications will be due on or about February 23, 1998. In the coming year, CIP will focus on developing: proposals for an international garden; initiatives for enhancing international recruitment at NC State and outreach to our international alumni; and mechanisms to refresh the intellectual vigor of international activities and services. I encourage you to share your thoughts with CIP members, and in future issues we shall share with you aspects of our efforts.

Visit us on the web at: http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/provost/info/governance/standing_committees/InPC/fyi/
OR <http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/ipo/>.

General Immigration Information for F-1 Students

Extension of Stay

F-1 immigration regulations state that if you will not complete your program of studies by the completion date marked on item 5 on your I-20, **you must request an extension of stay within the 30 day period before the completion date.** An extension of stay may be granted by an adviser in the OISSS who will notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that you have continually maintained legal F-1 student status. Failure to apply for an extension of stay within the 30 day period prior to the completion date on the I-20 will result in you falling out of legal status. An application for re-instatement will be required and you cannot continue any previously authorized employment (which includes teaching and research assistantships) until re-instatement has been granted by the INS. Handouts regarding procedures for extension of stay are available in the OISSS. If you have any questions concerning your completion date or the regulations regarding extension of stay, please consult with an adviser in the OISSS.

F-1 Practical Training Sessions

An F-1 student may apply to the INS for temporary employment authorization in his or her field of study before or after completion of studies. You should plan to attend an F-1 Practical Training session in the OISSS to learn about the application process. We recommend that you attend a session at least 4-5 months before you hope to begin practical training. If you are interested in curricular practical training (prior to completion of studies) you will also need to attend a required Cooperative Education session the semester prior to beginning practical training. Practical training sessions are scheduled during the following days and times each week in the OISSS:

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m.

No appointment is necessary.

General Immigration Information for J-1 Students and Scholars

Extension of Stay

For J-1 Students: Most Forms I-94 show "D/S" (Duration of Status) rather than a specific expiration date. "D/S" represents that date on the Form IAP-66, in item number three. Applications for extension of stay should be made at the OISSS at least thirty days prior to the expiration date on the Form IAP-66.

For J-1 Scholars: Your faculty sponsor will be notified in writing 6-8 weeks before the ending date on your Form IAP-66. If the sponsor wishes to have your stay in the U.S. extended and you have not met your 3 year maximum stay, they should complete and return the request form attached to the notice. The request must be approved by the Department Head and the Dean of College and should list the source and amount of funding for the extended period of employment as well as proposed new ending date.

Employment for J-1 Students

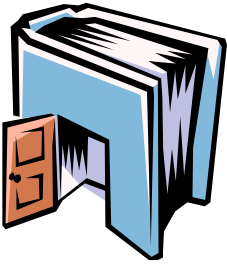
J-1 students are eligible for on- or off-campus employment provided that they are registered as full-time students, are in good academic standing, and the J-1 Responsible Officer (who issued the Form IAP-66) has approved the specific employment in writing in advance. There are three types of employment:

- 1) Employment required by an assistantship: employment is limited to 20 hours per week except during school breaks and annual summer vacations.
- 2) On-campus jobs unrelated to study: employment is limited to 20 hours per week except during school breaks and annual summer vacations.
- 3) Off-campus jobs "necessary because of serious, urgent, unforeseen economic circumstances.

J-1 students should be sure to get current employment authorization from the OISSS every 12 months.

J-1 Academic Training: J-1 students are eligible to apply for up to eighteen months of Academic Training in their field of study. Academic Training is available before or after completion of studies or a combination of both for a total of eighteen months. Application for post completion Academic Training must be made within thirty days of completion of studies. The training is intended to supplement the student's academic program in the United States. An additional period of eighteen months may be granted and authorized for a post-doctoral research position at a research institution if it is necessary to complete the original, unmet goals of the research program. The student must be maintaining lawful J-1 Status, be in good academic standing, and the Responsible Officer (J-1 Program Sponsor) must authorize the specific employment in advance and in writing. Employment **must be recommended by the student's academic adviser** and cannot begin without written authorization from OISSS. Students need to make an appointment to see an OISSS adviser to obtain further handouts and instructions on how to apply for this employment benefit.

Academic and Enrollment Information



New Enrollment Requirements are now in effect. Undergraduate students are required to maintain 12 credit hours each semester to maintain full-time enrollment status (a requirement of maintaining your nonimmigrant status), and graduate students are generally required to carry 9 hours each semester.

Exceptions include: underenrollment for medical reasons (please see an OISSS advisor BEFORE dropping courses for procedures, immigration consequences, and written authorization); those undergraduates in their last semester of study who need fewer than 12 hours to graduate; and certain graduate students who meet certain conditions (please see the graduate school guidelines at http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/grad_financialService/require.htm#enrollment).

Important Message for Those Who May Be Out of Status

As a result of last year's Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRAIRA), and as we reported earlier, international students and scholars (as well as other classes of nonimmigrant visitors) who violate their nonimmigrant status may be subject to harsh penalties, including deportation and being barred from re-entering the US.

If you have violated your nonimmigrant status in any way (overstayed the dates on your Form 1-20, Form IAP-66 or I-94; underenrolled if you are a student; worked without authorization; etc.), please see an advisor at OISSS or a qualified immigration attorney to discuss your situation and possible ramifications.

As an employer, NC State must abide by all federal regulations regarding employment and therefore cannot hire, or continue to employ, nonimmigrant aliens who do not have employment authorization (including those who have violated their nonimmigrant status). Whenever it comes to light that a nonimmigrant employee does not have valid employment authorization, the Payroll Office and relevant employment office are notified and subsequent wages are stopped until the nonimmigrant is either re-instated (if possible) by the Immigration and Naturalization Service or can produce new documentation showing employment eligibility.

Diversity Immigrant (DV-99) Visa Program

55,000 Immigrant Visas will be made available in the DV Category During Fiscal Year 1999. To apply for the 1999 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program an applicant must properly claim nativity in a qualifying country AND meet either the education or training requirement of the DV program. The DV-99 registration mail-in period will last 31 days and will be held from noon on October 24, 1997 through noon on November 24, 1997.

Natives of "high admission" countries are not eligible for the program. For 1999, "high admission" and therefore ineligible countries include (among others): Canada, China (mainland and Taiwan born), India, Mexico, South Korea, United Kingdom. There is no fee and no special petition form that must be completed to enter. Procedures for entering the Diversity Lottery can be completed without assistance following simple instructions. The selection of winners is made at random and no outside service can legitimately improve an applicant's chances of being chosen or guarantee that an entry will win.

Complete instructions, including detailed instructions, personal qualifications, mailing addresses, etc., are available on the web at http://www.state.gov/www/services_news.html and/or <http://travel.state.gov/dv-99.html>.

Information taken from the *Federal Register*: August 25, 1997 [(Volume 62, Number 164); Pages 45004-45006]

Office of International Scholar and Student Services Staff

Michael J. Bustle, *Director*

Hanya H. Redwan, *Assistant Director*

Irene Anthony, *International Scholar Advisor*

Sri Mayasandra, *International Student Advisor and Programs Coordinator*

Marilyn Hardee, *Program Assistant*

(to be announced), *Program Assistant*

Our Office Locations:

Student Services
1201 Univ. Student Center
515-2961

Scholar Services
306-A Nelson Hall
515-3201

Email: OISSS@ncsu.edu

International Update

is published 3 times during the academic year. To submit information, address changes, or make suggestions, please contact OISSS at 515-2961.

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What's Inside ...

- New OISSS Programs and Services, New Columns, New Staff
- Visa Lottery!

Fall Schedule

OISSS has open **Walk-in Hours** every Monday morning from 9:00 until 12:00 for students at the University Student Center office. No appointments are necessary and several advisors will generally be on call to answer immigration questions, sign forms, or help in any way we can. For more involved questions or concerns, or if you can't make it Monday mornings, please call or email for an appointment, so that we can reserve some time just for you. Appointment hours for international students are generally between 9:00 and 12:00 in the morning and between 2:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon. Scholars, or nonimmigrant employees, should always schedule an appointment by calling 515-3201.

F-1 Practical Training Sessions are offered every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. No appointment is necessary, but you must arrive on time (or a few minutes early). Sessions last about an hour.

Office Closing for Two Days

OISSS will be closed Friday, November 7, and Monday, November 10, for our annual staff retreat. Please plan on contacting us the day before or the following Tuesday if you need assistance.

International Friendship Reception

Students and "Partners" in the International Friendship Program are encouraged to attend an informal reception on Sunday, November 2, 1997 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Walnut Room of the University Student Center.



Spring 1998 Orientation Schedule

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Friday, January 2: | Orientation for new international students, 9:00 a.m., Walnut Room, University Student Center |
| Monday, January 5: | English Placement Test, 8:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, January 7: | International Teaching Assistant Screening, 5:00 p.m. |