

# International Student & Scholar Services



international student and scholar updates

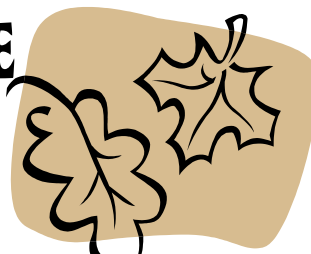
Published monthly by International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), the International Services Newsletter brings you updates on immigration rules and regulations, university services and programs, and conveys opportunities for campus and community involvement.

SEPTEMBER 2007

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# WELCOME BACK!



## NEW STAFF IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE

International Services is delighted to welcome four new staff members to the office: *Kimberly Dixson* at our front desk, international student advisors *Katie O'Brien* and *Brittany Polat*, and *Tammy Lyskowinski* as our scholar advisor. Thank you for helping us warmly welcome our new team members, and for your patience during the summer as we worked through the transitions.



## IMMIGRATION UPDATES



- No advising October 26 & 29** Due to a regional conference, we will not be able to advise students on these days. Please plan to bring your immigration questions before or after that time so we can assist you.
- Curricular Practical Training** For those students that are interested in doing an off-campus internship (CPT) before they finish their program of study at GSU, feel free to come to an employment workshop to learn about it. The schedule for the Fall workshops is available on our website.
- Graduating in December?** ISSS is already accepting OPT applications for December graduates. Do not wait until the last minute! Remember that your application needs to reach immigration before the end of the semester.
- Traveling?** Request for Travel Signatures should be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of your departure from Atlanta. Failure to do so might require that the I-20 be mailed to you once you leave the U.S.

## HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Georgia State's insurance company, Pearce & Pearce, will be sending you your new insurance cards in the mail within the next week or two. In the meantime, should you need medical assistance please go to their website (<https://www.pearceandpearce.com/PearceSite/Schools/GA/gsu/>), click on 'Mandatory Enrollment,' and enter your personal information so that you can then download and print a temporary insurance card. If you have questions about the plan, contact Sum Mei Ho in Student Accounts (404. 413.2146).



## TUITION DIFFERENTIAL WAIVER DEADLINE SET



To apply for a tuition differential waiver (where you only pay in-state tuition) from International Student & Scholar Services for spring term 2008, please apply before the **Nov. 9 deadline**. ISSS has twenty of these waivers per term, and preference is given to students documenting severe economic need who are within two terms of graduation. For more information and the application form, contact our office.

OFFICE  
HOURS

MONDAY  
—  
FRIDAY

8:30AM—5:15 PM

Walk-In  
Advisement  
Hours

**Monday**  
10AM—12PM  
1:30AM—4PM

**Tuesday**  
1:30PM—4PM

**Wednesday**  
10AM—12PM  
1:30AM—4PM

**Thursday**  
1:30PM—4PM

**Friday**  
10AM—12PM  
1:30AM—4PM

Website:  
[www.gsu.edu/iss](http://www.gsu.edu/iss)

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## V.I.S.A. LEADERS



International Services would also like to thank the following students who served exceptionally as V.I.S.A. Leaders during fall orientation: Krasimira Shtiliyanova, Patrick Adams, June Hyun, Jen Guo, Paul Yao, Kathryn Jacobson, Elise Myers, Wassia Ble, Una Rentsennatsag, Anna Lukyanchenko, Jean Li, Frawnie Espana, Jessy Manan, Mesfin Yanan, Robert Alioha, Mukund Thiagarajan, Babatunde Balogun, and Gustavo Canavire Bacarreza.

**VISA Leaders needed for spring term 2008!** Do you need leadership experience for your resume? Looking to make new friends and help out new international students at Georgia State? Then maybe being a VISA Leader is the experience for you! VISA Leaders are paid \$250, and go through a two-day FUN training course. If you are interested, please contact Heather Housley or Jasmine Shi in the ISSS. Applications are available from the front desk.

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



**ISAC Trip to the Georgia National Fair – Saturday, October 13, 7am-8pm – Perry, Georgia** Join us at the Georgia National fair, where the state showcases its leading industry—agriculture. Our group will see a cattle show, a horse show, visit the animal barns to see all the various livestock, stop by the petting zoo, and learn from the various exhibits. We'll also see the circus, eat really yummy fair food, ride the midway rides (optional), and experience all sorts of unique entertainment. The state fair is a truly American cultural experience that you cannot miss! The fee is \$12 per student, and details about the trip plus how to sign up is included in the attached flyer.

**Welcome Reception for International Students – Sunday, October 14, 4pm – Symphony Hall, Woodruff Arts Center** All new international students in Atlanta are welcomed to this FREE special reception in your honor, hosted by the Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS), and the Metro Atlanta Kiwanis Clubs. FREE international food and entertainment will be provided, including music by the internationally acclaimed Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Woodruff Arts Center is located on the corner of Peachtree and 15<sup>th</sup> streets, next to the MARTA Arts Center Station. For more information, contact 404.846.4396 or [www.amis-inc.org](http://www.amis-inc.org).



### **International Student Association Council (ISAC) Upcoming Events:**

**Garba** (traditional Indian dance), sponsored by the Indian Cultural Exchange – Friday, October 19 from 8pm-1am in the SC

## MORE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

**GSU Women's soccer vs. Towson University** - Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm. There will be opportunities to win Georgia State t-shirts, hats, tattoos, and many other great prizes. All home soccer matches are held at the Panthersville Soccer Field. Directions and more information can be found at [www.georgiasstatesports.com](http://www.georgiasstatesports.com). Two days later, the Women's team will be back in action again on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm as they take on George Mason. Again, there will be many opportunities to win a variety of prizes. Please call 404-413-4026 if you have any questions

**GSU Women's soccer vs. Hofstra** – Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm. **Transportation for students will be provided for this game.** The Panther Express bus will run from 2:45pm until the end of the match and will be making continuous trips from campus to the soccer fields at Panthersville and back. The pick up point on campus is the Student Center on Gilmer Street. Please call 404-413-4026 if you have any questions regarding transportation or the match. Come out and support your Panthers!

**Half Price Tickets to the Aquarium** - Attention College Students, there's a new class starting at 3! Sunday through Friday after 3 p.m., bring your classmates with a valid college I.D. to the world's largest aquarium, the Georgia Aquarium, and get half off general admission. That's \$12 admission for you college students! Offer valid Sept. 4 - Nov. 15, 2007. Full details at <http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/acb/stores/1/Special-Offers-C10.aspx>

**2007 Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Competition**  
Study Abroad invites you to submit your photographs for the 2007 Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Competition! Submit up to three photos from your experience in the U.S. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Competition Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 15 at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom (must be present to win or send a friend to accept your prize). This is a great way to share your experience and share in others' experiences as well! Past prizes have included round-trip airline tickets and visa gift cards. The ceremony and reception also feature live entertainment, free food, as well as a viewing of the newly unveiled exhibit. For more information and an application, see attachment or visit <http://www2.gsu.edu/%7Ewwwwojal/StudyAbroad/cpcc.html>. **Deadline for submission of photos: Friday, October 5**

SEPTEMBER 2007

### STAFF

Douglas Podoll  
Director

Heather Housley  
Assistant  
Director

Kathryn O'Brien  
International  
Student Advisor

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International  
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Scholar Advisor

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