On March 30, 2013, the Persian Student Association (PSA) held Persian Night to celebrate the first day of spring and Nowruz. Nowruz, which has roots in ancient Iran, is the Iranian or Persian New Year of the Persian Calendar. It is celebrated in many other countries such as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan. This event was held in ACAC and hosted about 400 guests. Delicious Persian cuisine was served and the traditional table setting of Nowruz (called Haft-Sin) was displayed. Also, PSA performed cultural representations such as Persian dance, theatre (comparing US and Iranian classroom), stand up comedy, a fashion show and presentations about ancient and modern Iran. PSA was so proud to have people from different cultures in our ceremony.

Persian Night Celebrates Nowruz
By Laile Nikou

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Update from AIS
By Ahlam Al-Battashi

On Friday, April 19th, 2013, The Association of International Students (AIS) received results of the annual elections for the new team of 2013-2014. The association would like to congratulate the new officers for their positions and thank them for their contributions in stepping up to take on the responsibilities of AIS officers. The new officers are President Yanyihan “Luna” Lu, Vice President Leena Ne-yaz, Treasurer Mohammad Al-Harbi, Secretary-1 Oluwanifemi Akinluyi, Secretary-2 Abigail De Cruz, Coordinator-1 Feras Al-Buhairan, and Coordinator-2 Yilin “Stephen” Li. AIS is looking forward to a great year with this new team leadership. We would like to welcome the new team, and thank the outgoing team for the hard work they put in throughout the year making TU students’ multicultural diversity experiences enjoyable. AIS will hold one last event on Friday, April 26th at the Mayo Village club house (SAC). In this event, there will be a presentation by the outgoing team of the AIS experience they had, the new officers will be introduced, and opinions will be taken about how to improve AIS events. This will be a great chance for the new team to answer any questions students might have in mind. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who was able to have a hand in helping AIS throughout the year 2012-2013. It was a successful year with its hard working team that included myself (Ahlam Al-battashi) as President, Ghita BenAbderrazik as Vice President, Secretaries Dinara Rakhmetova and Rustem Mukhtarov, Treasurer Jose Moreiras, Coordinators Murtada Al-Quraish, Ahmed Quraish, Issa Al-yahmadi, and Maria Borjas Romero. The team would also like to thank ISS, Universities’ EI and all International students for their contribution in making “our campus, our world” a voice that was recognized. We are looking forward to seeing you in our last event of the year on Friday at SAC. Don’t miss the chance to enjoy the delicious food!
Spotlight: Indian Student Association

By Soumya Yadala

The Indian Student Association (ISA) is a graduate student organization with over 40 student members. As part of the promotion of Indian culture at TU, every year a series of social events are hosted on campus including Diwali-Festival of lights, Holi-Festival of colors, and end of the year cultural event - Utsav which is celebrated with great pomp and show.

Diwali-Festival of lights signifies the victory of good over evil. Likewise, candles and lights are illuminated to ward away the evil and welcome now hope. This is an outdoor event celebrated in the cold month of November on a full moon day. Tradition such as rangoli (floor paints), diya (lights), music, short film, cultural dance are showcased during the event.

Holi-Festival of colors is a mark of the beginning of Spring. This is another outdoor event where students get crazy and wacky by running, playing and pouring colors on each other. Powdered colors fill the TU air and a festive mood prevails all over. Desi music and refreshments add additional fun.

Utsav is one of the most awaited social events held in the month of April. It attracts a huge turnout every year. Students put in a lot of time and effort to make this event a visual feast for the TU community. "Utsav" is a Hindi word meaning "Celebration". It serves as a platform to celebrate and demonstrate the rich cultural diversity of India. It includes classical, folk, and modern dance performances, singing performances, a cultural walk featuring diverse Indian attires, fun-filled dramas, scintillating music, opportunities to get to know India better, and some of the most mouth-watering food from Tulsa and beyond.

We hope to see you at one of our future events.

Preparing for Finals

Finals week is around the corner and it’s important to begin preparing yourself physically and mentally for this demanding period of the semester. Here are a few suggestions to help ensure success on your final exams:

1. Put together thinking maps, flashcards, outlines, or other visual aids to help you remember important terms and concepts from your classes.

2. Form study groups with your classmates. However, make sure you keep on task and do not get distracted discussing non-class topics.

3. Take advantage of CSAS and/or the Alexander Health Center. If you have issues with time management, test anxiety, or study skills, they may be able to help you. CSAS also has tutors available in many subject areas.

4. Get a good night’s sleep before your exam and eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the exam. Both of these will boost your brain power and give you the alertness needed for a successful test performance.
Great Places to Visit in Oklahoma

Black Mesa (Image source: www.travelok.com)
http://www.stateparks.com/black_mesa.html
When you leave Tulsa and head west, the landscape begins to change dramatically. The green hills and trees gradually disappear and give way to the desert. Black Mesa is located at the far West end of Oklahoma’s panhandle and is a long, long drive from Tulsa (approximately 7 hours). However, once you climb to the top of Black Mesa, you will be rewarded with stunning views of Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. At almost 5,000 feet, Black Mesa is Oklahoma’s highest point.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area (Image source: www.travelok.com)
http://www.nps.gov/chic/index.htm
Temperatures will be heating up in Oklahoma soon, and one of the best places to cool off is Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Head west on I-44 to Oklahoma City and from there, south on I-35 until you reach Exit 55 near the town of Sulphur. There, you’ll find a pleasant site of refreshing swimming holes, hiking trails, and wildlife-viewing.

Preparing for the End of the Semester with Housing

1. Thoroughly clean rooms, baths and suites. Return all furnishings to their original locations.
2. Remove all trash to designated trash cans.
3. After removing your personal belongings and locking your room, personally check out with residence life staff by doing the following:
   4. Complete, sign and submit a "Responsibility for Room Condition Form"
   5. Return key(s) and sign key card. Any keys not returned will result in a lock change and related charges (minimum $85.00)
If exceptional circumstances require that you check out after designated appointment hours, please contact your PSM to make appropriate arrangements at least 2 business hours prior to departure. Checking out after hours requires approval or will result in an improper checkout charge(s).

If you are wanting to schedule a checkout from your RESIDENCE HALL space, visit http://tuhousing.appointy.com and schedule your checkout a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

Join the ISS Facebook Group

Don't miss out on important notices and helpful information! The ISS Facebook Group page is regularly updated with reminders, upcoming events, helpful hints, photos, and other items of interest from the ISS office. It is also a place where TU international students can post questions, comments, notices, and photos. To join, go to www.facebook.com/groups/TUSS/.

Free English Tutoring in the International Living Community

- Practice your English conversational skills
- Receive feedback from a native English speaker
- Learn more about American culture
- Make new friends
Where: The International Living Community (LaFortune)
When: Every Thursday from 5:15pm—6:15pm
Come and practice your English in a casual and relaxed environment.