Again this year, international students had the opportunity to meet TU football coaches and players and step onto the field for practice drills! The football staff did an excellent job of covering the basic rules of the game before putting the participants to work. Afterward, pizza was provided by the TU Athletic Department and students had the chance to try on authentic TU football gear.

Photos by Erik Campos

International Welcome Back Party 2014

This year’s International Welcome Back Party was a great success. AIS officers organized the event, held in the Mayo Student Activity Center on August 27th. A variety of food was provided by Asian Cuisine, Al Sultan, and Mazzio’s. New and returning students enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and/or make new acquaintances with the TU international community!

Photos by TU Photographer Erik Campos

Football 101

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Photos by Erik Campos
Meet the 2014-2015 AIS Leadership Team

Our 2014-2015 AIS officers have been hard at work planning activities for the 2014-2015 year. In case you have not had a chance to meet the leadership team, listed below are the AIS 2014-2015 team members and each officer’s platform statement:

President—Guylaine Onanga Issongo La-Mbossa
“I am a senior student who loves to travel, meet new people, cook and dance. As a person, I am organized, creative, sociable, cooperative, communicative, versatile and of course I love to smile. Each year we add another year, which means we are growing up. The moments and feelings of college life will not always be the same and hence my motivation to run as an AIS officer is to share my ideas as a lover of life with the international student community of TU and also learn from the myriad of students of different backgrounds. It is my wish that memories and new experiences will be created for the international students as they will continue to learn more about other countries and cultures. I promise to make a wonderful president.”

Vice President—Wan Firda Asila
“I’m a Malaysian student, currently a sophomore majoring in Petroleum Engineering. I aspire to be the Vice President of the Association of International Students (AIS) as a part of my goal to contribute to the efforts of not only making TU a place to obtain degrees but also a place to live and learn for all international students. I hope to make the AIS an important medium in organizing activities that would encourage and allow international students to experience the diverse community we have here in the university. Being part of the TU Tennis Club and Society of Petroleum Engineers, I plan to apply the skills I have acquired from these organizations in the development of AIS. I plan to work as part a team that would represent and serve as a good support system to all international students. I look forward to playing a role as the Vice President in the AIS and hope to do my best in contributing to this organization.”

Secretary—Harvard Wong
“My major is petroleum engineering and I am a sophomore. I had started gaining experiences of running organizations back in high school. I helped to organize camps for the scout association and held a few formal functions for the disciplinary board. Putting these aside, I think the most important quality in me is that I have the passion to serve AIS and make it a better organization that it already is. I am always ready to work along with others to organize meaningful events for AIS so that international students will have an interactive platform to know each other. Besides, I am excited to reach everyone in university through AIS by helping them to recognize the wonderful, diverse culture every international student has.”

Secretary—Paloma Das
“I am a freshman, majoring in Petroleum Engineering. Being born and bought up in India, I have always been accustomed to an environment of diverse cultures, and this very reason has sparked my interest to be a part of AIS. Having actively participated in all the international events at TU this year, and having the opportunity to serve as the Cultural Captain of high school, I have a feel for what exactly needs to be done to bring about unity in this diverse environment and to make the events more exciting and entertaining. I am more than excited to be a part of this wonderful association and I am hoping to bring about these changes very soon, which is only possible with your support.”

Treasurer—Stelvia Sakongo
“I like to interact with new people and new cultures. Also, I want to be more involved in International Students activities. My major is accounting (Junior Year) that’s why I chose treasurer position. So I will be able to put in practice the knowledge I have from accounting. Moreover, I am very organized, responsible and focused on any task I do. Furthermore, I like to work in groups because I can always teach or learn something from others. I promise you guys that I will do my best to keep the goals and objectives of AIS.”

Head Coordinator—Intan Darwyna Azizi
“I’m going to be a senior majoring in Petroleum Engineering next semester. As an international student from Malaysia, I believe that I am an excellent candidate for the Head Coordinator/Social Coordinator due to the fact that I think it is highly important for big organizations such as TU to have great international events on campus because these are actually doorways of explaining to other people who the international students are, where we come from and why we are proud of being part of the TU’s AIS association. Besides that, I also consider that previous experiences do help in running any events more smoothly. Prior to coming to the US, I became part of the committee that organizes a cultural event and I also have been closely involved with some other organizations that were involved greatly in event coordinating when I was studying back in Malaysia.”

Social and Cultural Coordinator—Mingyue Wang
“If I have the honor of being a member of AIS, I believe I can do the job well. I have the advantage of being a marketing major student. I can use the knowledge I learned from class to market AIS in the future. I am also very interesting in the advertising design, which will help AIS to promote campaign. Lastly, I have some experience about creating the creative idea for non-profit organizations, and I believe I also can do better at AIS.”

Sports Coordinator—Agnes Chu
“I am a freshman, and will be a sophomore in Fall 2014. I’m majoring in psychology, and minor in art. I come from Hong Kong, but I studied abroad in the United Kingdom in the past six years. I love serving others, and I’m very passionate about meeting new students and making them feel welcome. In the past, I have taken some classes about event planning and organization, so I am confident in running for this position. I consider myself as being creative, organized, considerate and outgoing. Hope to serve you in the future!”
International Bazaar Coming Soon!

International Bazaar serves as an opportunity for our international students to display a bit of their histories, traditions, cuisines, and other cultural aspects. This year, the event will take place on Friday, November 14th from 6pm—9pm in The Student Union Great Hall. The event is open to all TU students as well as the general public.

If you and/or your group wish to participate, watch closely for e-mail messages coming from David Kobel in the ISS office.

Sunghee Ko, Library Services Assistant

ISS would like to introduce new Library Service Assistant Sunghee Ko. If you see her in McFarlin Library, stop and say hello! She will be available to help you with your research needs. Learn more about her by reading the fun facts below:

Name: Sam Ko but I go by Sunghee.
Hometown: On-Yang, South Korea
Where you can find me: Reference desk at McFarlin library
Hobbies/Interests: Searching internet. Reading cookbooks.
Favorite food: Hideaway pizza
Favorite music: Jazz
What I do at TU: I provide the library service like reference, circulation and access service to help people find information.
I teach some classes and participate in any activities for international students.
An interesting Fact about me: I love any kinds of food and I eat a lot.
I cannot pronounce "Dillard’s".

International Freshman Maria Fernanda Ahumada Blogs About Her Experiences at TU

Reprinted from The University of Tulsa Admissions Blog at http://www.utulsa.edu/admissionblog/student/love-at-first-sight/

"Hi!
My name is Maria Fernanda Ahumada, and I’m from Colombia, South America. I’m a freshman at TU majoring in Petroleum Engineering. I received an International Scholarship for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Leadership, and that’s why I’m here at TU. At first, I was really insecure and nervous coming to Tulsa, a faraway city which I had a never heard of before. But when I arrived, my mind completely changed.
I had a good time during Orientation Week because I met lot of people from the United States and from other countries. During the week, I met my friends from South America (Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Mexico), and now we are such a big group of Hispanic people. At first sight I loved the campus. It’s such a marvelous place where life is easy-going and entertaining. It’s a safe place where you can walk at any time of the day no matter what; everything is close enough that walking is the fastest way of moving from one place to another.
Some of the places I always like going are the McFarlin Library, the Student Union, and the Newman Center. The library is the perfect place for studying because it has all kinds of resources available for students, quiet study rooms, computer labs opened 24/7, and the Writing Center. The Student Union has a variety of eateries such as Subway, Pizza Hut, The Hut, Baja Jacks, etc. The Catholic Newman Center is always available for you, and they host activities each week such as Bible Reading, Tuesday Free Lunch, Retreats, Morning Prayers, Conversion, and Mass every Sunday.
Overall, life on campus is entertaining since there are activities every day. You’ll always be busy studying, going to the gym, playing sports, or hanging out with your friends. We also have Hurricane Thursdays, which are cool, Saturday football games, tailgates, volleyball tournaments, and many other activities. Besides all this, something I love about Tulsa is that people are friendly and always willing to help.
My experience so far has been awesome, and I’m really happy being part of the TU community. Professors care about their students; we are not considered a number. This is something that matters. You will feel comfortable at a class with approximately 30 students where you can participate and be active during the class. If you are having trouble with academic issues, there are sources you can rely on such as Center for Student Academic Support (CSAS), and your assigned advisor. I encourage you to come to TU, especially International Students because we want to increase diversity here on campus. You will love it!"
5 Questions International Students Should Ask Professors


1. "Can you clarify these details from your lecture?"

As an international freshman, you might sometimes feel a little behind in class, especially when your professor prefers a discussion style without PowerPoint slides to make the lecture more engaging.

This style might mean that at the end of the day, you end up with nothing in your notebook. And when it comes time to prepare for the upcoming midterm or final, you can't always remember what happened during that class.

Don't be afraid to come up to your professor after the lecture to clarify some points. If you think that the conversation might need more time for you to fully understand the concepts, then ask them for an appointment or go to their office hours. Unlike in primary school, it's the successful college students who use office hours.

2. "Do you have any tips to help me participate in class?"

Have you ever been in a class where you just want to hide in the chair and hope that your professor won't call on you? It's okay to admit it, because you're not alone. Many international students are not comfortable speaking up and sharing opinions out loud in class, even though they may have lots of bright ideas.

Your professor might help you with that. I asked my communications professor for tips about how I could participate in class. Not only did she give me good advice, she even created many opportunities to encourage me to share my cross-cultural thoughts and experiences in class. The class discussions turned out to be even more thought-provoking as a result.

3. "What are you looking for in this assignment?"

Discussing the requirements of assignments with your professor could help you figure out more clearly what they are looking for. Instead of staying at home and trying to guess what your professor wants from the assignment's requirements, email him or her your questions or ask for a one-on-one short appointment.

Asking for help does not mean that you are not capable of doing the work; rather it means that you care about your performance and take it seriously.

4. "Are there academic resources available for me?"

You might be surprised what your school could offer you to help cope with reading, writing and other academic needs. Maybe your professor could suggest a librarian if you have a hard time finding a book, some resources to start with your paper, classes you might want to take or other professors who you might want to talk to if you are interested in a certain research topic.

5. "What is your research about?"

Search for your professor's name on the Internet and you might see their publications, portfolio or discover their research interests. Reading research articles helps you with vocabulary for your academic writing, but also helps you deepen your understanding of the field of study.

Read some of your professors' articles and come up with questions related to their work. A smart discussion with a professor could set you apart from your classmates and open up other opportunities for you. There are many more questions that you could ask your professors. Don't be terrified of knocking at their door. A good rule of thumb is to be prepared before you talk to them and show respect during the conversation. Don't let a language barrier get in the way of your passion for learning.
Saudi National Day Celebration

The Saudi Student Club, under the leadership of new President Mushabab Al-Qahtani, held the annual Saudi National Day Celebration in the Lorton Performance Center on September 26, 2014.

The event, hosted by emcees Faisal Areekan and Ghita BenAbderrazik, opened with an address from the new Saudi Student Club President followed by a reading from the Qur’an. The evening’s activities included music played on traditional instruments, a wedding ceremony and dance, and an informative presentation and video on historical and modern Saudi Arabia. Prizes were awarded to audience members who were able to answer trivia questions based on information provided in the presentation.

The event closed with a fine Middle Eastern meal catered by Golden Saddle Barbecue.

‘Cane Connections Program Matches U.S. and International Students

After extensive brainstorming and planning, the Office of International Student Services has developed a new U.S./international student partners program called ‘Cane Connections. Students who apply and fit the program criteria will be matched up with a cross-cultural partner based on cultures and languages of interest (e.g., if a U.S. student wants to practice a foreign language), hobbies, interests, majors, etc. Although not every student has been matched yet, the ISS office provides regular activities that offer members a chance to participate, regardless of whether or not they have been assigned to a partner. Participants from China, Oman, Malaysia, Turkey, Nigeria, and India have joined the program which now has more than 50 applicants.

‘Cane Connections kicked off with an international dinner and meet and greet in February, followed by an Incredible Pizza trip in March, a Drillers baseball game in April, and a trip to the Tulsa Aquarium in May. Members have also attended on-campus events together and have formed a Facebook group to plan soccer games and other gatherings.

With our new group of U.S. and international students for Fall 2014, we expect to see the program grow and expand significantly! If you are interested in applying, contact david-kobel@utulsa.edu for details.

Like ISS on Facebook

Don’t miss out on important notices and helpful information! The ISS Facebook 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 like us, go to https://www.facebook.com/

ISS is also on Twitter!

If you use Twitter, you can keep up with us at https://twitter.com/tu_iss.