The International Connection
International Student Services

Another Successful International Bazaar

The 2014 International Bazaar held last November was tremendously successful, with over 400 people in attendance and more than a dozen countries participating. Congratulations to our team of AIS officers on a job well-done!

TU international student and photographer Chuyi Wen was on hand to capture memories with some great photos.

International Night

International Night 2015 was rescheduled due to heavy snow and ice which occurred during the weekend of February 28. The event was moved to the only time slot available—April 12th, a Sunday afternoon at 1pm—in the Lorton Performing Arts Center. Despite this change, an audience of more than 500 attended and the atmosphere was as festive as always. Malaysia, Angola, Indonesia, China, India, Iran, Nigeria, Vietnam, Latin America, and the United States were all represented. At the intermission, multicultural food from Mandarin Taste, Mi Tierra, La Madeleine, Al Sultan, and Merritts Bakery was served to the audience. Chuyi Wen was also on hand at International Night, not only to perform in The Red Fan Dance, but also to take photographs of the event (more photos on page 5 of the newsletter).

Photos by Chuyi Wen
2014-2015 AIS Leadership Team Participates in Community Service

The 2014-2015 AIS leadership team, made up of Guylaine de Grace Onanga, Wan Firda Asila Wan Muhamin, Stelvia Sakongo, Harvard Wong, Paloma Das, Intan Darwyna Azizi, and Agnes Chu, made community service a priority this year. In March, the officers and some AIS members joined up with the Association for Black Collegians to volunteer their time at San Miguel Public School. In April, they gathered more members and through TU True Blue Neighbors, spent the afternoon sorting and organizing food for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Not only did AIS members donate their time but they also presented the food bank with a donation of $500.

Jose Buissa Wins Prestigious Award

At the end of the Spring 2015 semester, Jose Buissa will be finishing up his Chemical Engineering degree at The University of Tulsa with an additional honor – the Wilbur Nelson Award. Named for the legendary scholar and founder of TU’s Chemical Engineering program, this award is given annually to Chemical Engineering students at TU who have shown outstanding academic achievement.

Born in Sumbe, a small city on the central coast of Angola, Jose eventually left for the city of Cabinda, where more opportunities awaited him. It was there that he began working with Chevron as an assistant operator and moved quickly up to a lead operator. After three years in this position, Jose had the opportunity to take advantage of a sponsorship opportunity through Chevron and came to study at The University of Tulsa.

Jose arrived at TU in January 2011, struggling with his classes in the beginning. The main obstacle for him was the language barrier. “I didn’t go to TU’s English Institute,” Jose says. “So everything I knew about English I learned back home in Angola.” He credits James Bachman, a professor of English at TU, with spending extra time to teach him not only grammar but also everyday conversational English. Since his time at TU, he has mastered English, learned Russian, and hopes to someday add French and Spanish to his repertoire.

His timid nature was also initially a challenge for him, making him reluctant to ask questions and interact with professors, but Jose says that as his English improved, his shyness decreased. “My American friends really helped me overcome these difficulties,” says Jose. “They told me going to see my professors for help and making friends would be the keys to success.”

These days, Jose stays busy studying and completing projects, but when he has some downtime, he enjoys playing basketball, going out with friends, or watching American sitcoms like Seinfeld, Everybody Loves Raymond, King of Queens, and Friends. Televised sports is another of his favorite leisure activities, particularly soccer (Barcelona) and NFL football, which he has learned to love since coming to the U.S.

This semester will be Jose’s last as an undergraduate. He expects to return to Angola with his new skills and knowledge and work as a process engineer for Chevron. Graduate school remains in his sights as well, and he hopes to earn an MBA someday.

Jose says he will always recommend The University of Tulsa to people back home in Angola. When asked what he likes best about TU, Jose couldn’t think of just one thing: “I love the city, the diversity of students, the first-rate facilities, the professors, the ISS office, and the small, interactive classes.”

Jose, along with other students who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, will receive the Wilbur Nelson Award at a special ceremony held by the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences on April 28th.
Tornado Season in Oklahoma

Tornadoes can occur in Oklahoma at any time of the year, but the highest activity tends to happen late March through August when conditions are prime for severe weather. Since we are in the midst of tornado season right now, we want you to be aware of a few tips to help you be prepared:

- Have a flashlight on hand in case electricity is lost.
- Sign up for the TU text alert system (directions below).
- Keep informed on the forecast, and always watch for signs of possible tornadoes such as:
  - A dark, greenish sky
  - A wall cloud (you can google images so you know what to look for)
  - Cloud rotation or strong, swirling winds
- Never stay in a car or mobile home during a tornado. You are safer outside in the lowest area.
- Never try to outrun a tornado. They can change direction at any moment.
- Never take cover beneath a bridge or overpass. Again, get to the lowest area you can find.
- Never go outside to watch a tornado. Take cover immediately!

Professor Robert Howard Speaks to International Students About Severe Weather

Professor Robert Howard, who has taught Chemistry at TU for over 30 years and lectured about severe weather for over 20, spoke to international students on April 8th about tornados and tornado safety.

As thunder rumbled outside and severe weather watches and warnings came through on the TU text notification system, international students listened to Dr. Howard explain how tornados occur and what to do in case one is in the area.

Students were also provided with a list of safe places to go on the TU campus in the event of severe weather (shown below). Be sure to also sign up for the TU emergency text notification service so you can be aware of potential severe weather watches and warnings in the area. You can do so by going through the TU Portal at https://identityprovider.utulsa.edu/idp/Authn/MCB and selecting Offices, Information Technology, and Emergency Text Notification.

Fraternity Houses: Lower level interior rooms; 5th Place House: Interior hallway 1st floor; 7th Street House: Lower level computer room, kitchen; John Mabee Hall: Basement game room, interior hall away from windows; LaFortune Hall: Lower level interior halls, stairwell; Lottie Jane Mabee Hall: basement kitchen, meeting room, interior hall away from windows; Sorority Houses: bedroom side - first floor interior halls and suites, with room doors shut; Fisher South: first floor interior halls with room doors closed; Fisher West Suites: lower level interior halls with room door closed; University Square South Apartments: lower floor walk-in closet, bathrooms, laundry room; John Mabee Residence Hall; and Lottie Jane Mabee Residence Hall; Norman Village Apartments: Lower floor: walk-in closets, bathrooms, laundry room; John Mabee Residence Hall; and lottie Jane Mabee Residence Hall; Lorton Village: Lower floor: walk-in closets, bathrooms, laundry room; Reynolds Center; William F. Fisher Hall (Twin South); and LaFortune Residence Hall; Mayo Village: Lower floor: walk-in closets, bathrooms, laundry rooms; Fisher South Fisher hall; and Lottie JaneMabee Residence Hall; Brown Village: Lower floor: walk-in closets, bathrooms, laundry room; and basement of Keplinger Hall; West Park Apartments/True Blue Neighbors’ Office: 1st floor interior hallway just outside of the True Blue Neighbors’ Office
10 Highly Effective Study Habits

Adapted from http://psychcentral.com/lib/top-10-most-effective-study-habits/000599

1. How you study is important
   - Aim to think positively when you study, and remind yourself of your skills and abilities.
   - Avoid comparing yourself with others, because you usually just end up feeling bad about yourself.
   - Avoid catastrophic thinking. Instead of thinking, “I’m a mess, I’ll never have enough time to study for this exam,” look at it like, “I may be a little late to study as much as I’d like, but since I’m doing it now, I’ll get most of it done.”

2. Where you study is important
   - Avoid studying in loud, busy places.
   - The library, a nook in a student lounge or study hall, or a quiet coffee house are good places to check out.

3. Only bring what you need
   - Make sure you remember to bring everything you need with you, so that you don’t have to run back and forth
   - Avoid bringing electronics (like a computer) when you don’t really need it.

4. Outline and rewrite your notes
   - Keeping a standard structure to your outline will make it easier for you to read
   - Rewrite your notes in your own words

5. Use memory games (mnemonic devices)
   - Memory games, or mnemonic devices, are methods for remembering pieces of information using a simple association of common words.
   - The key to such memory devices is the new phrase or sentence you come up with has to be more memorable and easier to remember than the terms or information you’re trying to learn. These don’t work for everyone, so if they don’t work for you, don’t use them.

6. Practice by yourself or with friends
   - You can practice by yourself by creating flash cards.
   - Meet with a small group of people (2-4 other people) who are in the same class.

7. Create a schedule and stick to it
   - If you schedule study time just as your class time is scheduled, you’ll find it becomes much less of a hassle in the long run.
   - Spending 30 or 60 minutes every day you have a class studying for that class before or after is a lot easier and will allow you to actually learn more of the material, rather than studying for 8 hours the night before.

8. Take breaks and reward yourself
   - Studying for 1 hour, and then taking a 5 minute break and grabbing a snack is usually more sustainable and enjoyable.
   - If you achieve your goal for studying, you can reward yourself with things like candy or downloading a new song.

9. Be healthy and balanced
   - Try taking vitamins, eating healthy, and getting about 8 hours of sleep every night.
   - Find a good balance between social and study time.

10. Know what the expectations are for the class or classes
    - Pay attention in class and take good notes.
    - If you have questions or don’t do well on a test or assignment, talk to the professor.
International Night

Photos by Chuyi Wen

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.