Welcome back former students and our new international students. Although now you might be miles away from home, you can still share your home culture with us through our activities and programs. Join us in promoting cultural awareness, understanding, recognition, and appreciation of diversity, harmony, amity, and tolerance while fostering camaraderie, friendship, goodwill, benevolence, cordial polemics, cooperation, and collaboration for the benefit of the whole TU and Tulsa community.

Recently, AIS with ISS held a welcome back party on the 23rd of August. It was a success, with over 150 students joining in and getting a chance to meet new people.

In the activity fair that was sponsored by SA, 65 new members signed up and joined the association.

With the growing international campus community, we are looking forward to enlarging the number of association participants and encouraging countries with a smaller number of students to represent themselves in the events.

AIS’s two largest events of the year are the International Bazaar and International Night. Although the funds for these events come from the student association, there is a need for more financial support that usually comes from our campus community.

As part of fundraising for the association, we will have a soccer tournament with teams from different countries and a specific joining fee for each team. This event will be on the 22nd and 23rd of September. The process of registration will be announced soon via email.

Students and international ambassadors in TU’s community, we are looking forward to you sharing your cultural diversity with us.
Update from the International Student Services (ISS) Office

The ISS office has been growing along with our international student population at TU. We are very excited to have more than 900 international students from over 60 different countries. If you have not visited the ISS office recently, you will notice some exciting changes. First of all, the office was renovated this spring with fresh paint, new carpet, and additional workspaces. Stop by and visit us when you have time!

In addition to these changes, we have added two new members to our staff. After teaching for five years in the English Institute, David Kobel has joined us in ISS as Assistant Dean. He will continue to support international students by monitoring academic performance, assisting with event planning, and facilitating communication between the ISS office and students.

Carrie Pollack is our newest Department Assistant. She comes to ISS with several years of experience working at the Tulsa County Courthouse. Most recently, she was Civil Minute Clerk to Associate Judge Dana Lynn Kuehn (a previous TU graduate). Both positions required extensive multi-tasking skills, something that Carrie will put to great use in our office as she helps support our international population here at TU.

Important Immigration Information

By Carla Guthrie

Welcome to The University of Tulsa! The ISS office is here to help you adjust to life and academia in the U.S. Here are some things you may find helpful.

1. Stay in close contact with the International Student Services (ISS) office and check your TU e-mail address at least twice a week. This is the way we will contact you or notify you of important or urgent immigration issues.

2. Students must request that the ISS office sign their I-20 or DS-2019 prior to each international travel – the office requires a minimum of two weeks prior to departure from US to process documents. The office must endorse the I-20/DS-2019 annually for international travel. Remember that the minimum processing time at the ISS office for any document/form for signature is two weeks. Please allow ample time.

3. Check that the information on your I-20 or DS-2019 is kept up-to-date and accurate. It is vitally important for you to keep track of all of your immigration documents. You are required to keep all the I-20’s and DS-2019’s you are issued. Keep them in a safe, secure place.

4. International students may not accept any type of employment without prior written approval from the ISS office and/or US Government.

5. International students must be enrolled on a full-time basis each fall and spring. You must visit with our office to determine if you are eligible and receive authorization before dropping a class. Class attendance is vital to your success at The University of Tulsa.

6. Don’t fall into the MF trap (My Friend said this, My Friend did that, etc.) Remember, each person and situation is different and YOU are responsible for maintaining valid immigration status. If you ever have a question, don’t hesitate to contact us. While your friends, professors and other advice givers are well meaning, don’t look elsewhere for your immigration information. We are here to help.

Halal Food Available in the TU Cafeteria

Dietary restrictions can be difficult for students living away from home, particularly when living in a new country. The University of Tulsa makes an effort to consider such concerns and make accommodations whenever reasonable.

This fall, the Pat Case Dining Center at TU will offer a food station to provide items strictly prepared according to Halal guidelines. As shown in the photo to the left, the Halal food station will be located in the rear corner of the food serving area. Simply enter the cafeteria, turn left, and proceed to the back corner.

A video showing the exact location of the halal food station can also be seen on the International Student Services Facebook page.
TU Campus Mystery Location: Do you know this place?

Each month, The International Connection will feature a photo of a “mystery” structure or area located on The University of Tulsa campus. The first student to correctly guess the place shown in the photo will win a special prize!

If you believe you know what location this is, send an e-mail to david-kobel@utulsa.edu. Be as specific as possible when explaining where this is located (you must give the name of the building). The first student to send the correct answer by e-mail wins. The answer and the name of the winner will be printed in next month’s newsletter.

September ‘Cane Transit Schedule

Take advantage of the TU ‘Cane Transit to do some shopping or enjoy the Tulsa State Fair!

Sat. Sept. 1 1pm – 7pm
Mon. Sept. 3 1pm – 7pm (Special Labor Day Schedule)
Sun. Sept. 9 1pm – 7pm
Sun. Sept. 16 1pm – 7pm
Sun. Sept. 23 1pm – 7pm
Sat. Sept. 29 1pm – 11pm (Tulsa State Fair – Extended Hours)

For more information, visit http://www.utulsa.edu/student-life/living-and-dining-on-campus/cane-transit.aspx

Experience the 2012 Tulsa State Fair

When: Thursday, September 27 — Sunday, October 7
Where: Expo Square, Tulsa Fairgrounds, 4145 East 21st Street

State fairs in general are considered the quintessential All-American event, and the Tulsa State Fair is no exception. Over 1,000,000 visitors per year flock to this iconic 11-day event that features concerts, rides for adults and children, professional rodeo events, livestock exhibits, a petting zoo, and a mind-boggling array of traditional and non-traditional state fair food. For more information about events and ticket prices, visit http://www.tulsastatefair.com/.

The TU ‘Cane Transit will be providing free rides for students to the Tulsa State Fair on Saturday, September 29 and Saturday, October 6 from 1pm to 11pm.

Source of image: www.travelok.com

Lingo Lesson of the Month: Idioms of Help

By David Kobel

To bend over backwards = to do everything you can possibly do to help someone. I bent over backwards to help my friend with his homework, and he doesn't even appreciate it!

To go above and beyond (the call of duty) = to do more than needed or expected to help someone. The teacher went above and beyond to help her students learn the material.

Give/lend someone a hand = To help someone. Please give/lend me a hand carrying this computer. It's very heavy!

Do someone a solid = To do a favor for someone. He did me a solid when he gave me a ride to school.