Earthquakes Affect Turkish and Taiwanese Communities
by Jane Etish-Andrews, Director

Before the start of the academic year, concerns were raised for our Turkish students overseas who might have experienced the earthquake of August 17, 1999. Luckily most of our Turkish students and families were not directly impacted by the earthquake. We did learn of one student who had been planning on starting at Tufts in September who needed to defer for a year. With the current number of Turkish students (22) at Tufts, we feel very fortunate that they were unharmed.

While accounting for the Turkish students at Tufts, we were faced with yet another earthquake in Taiwan on September 21, 1999. There is a large number of students from Taiwan (31) and in speaking with the students, they were very worried about their families and friends who may have been impacted by the quake. The International Center heard from a recent Tufts undergraduate who was in Taiwan at the time of the earthquake and who shared with us the difficulties facing Taiwan in its struggle to return to a normal life in Taipei.

In both situations, it was remarkable how quickly the local Turkish and Taiwanese communities organized people and resources in order to respond to these national disasters. The Turkish American Cultural Society of New England continues to be fundraising and working with the Red Cross to ensure that funds and supplies are received in Turkey. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston has sponsored many fundraising events from musical performances to dinners at local restaurants to raise awareness and funds in support of the victims of the earthquake.

We are very fortunate to be living in Boston where there are large numbers of students from both Turkey and Taiwan who are able to support each other while sharing information. On behalf of the Tufts community, the International Center would like to extend its deepest sympathies and concern to individuals who have been impacted by the earthquake. The staff is available to speak with any international students/faculty who may need either emotional or financial support during this time.
ATTENTION J-1 VISA HOLDERS!!!!

Effective as of October 1, 1999, the United States Information Agency is no longer a separate federal agency, and is now part of the Department of State. One of the most important functions performed by the USIA, reviewing requests for waivers of the two-year home residency requirement, has been transferred to the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

People with pending waiver cases and advisory opinions may inquire as to the status of their case through the Public Inquiries Division at (202)663-1225, fax number (202)663-3899, or email legalnet@state.gov.

The USIA website is still available at http://www.usia.gov

VISA RENEWAL: for International Students, Faculty & Scholars

It is recommended that international students, faculty and scholars in the US apply soon for visa renewal to avoid any problems that might result from the Y2K computer problem. This is particularly so, because if there are problems as a result of the Y2K bug, US consultates and embassies will make American citizen services their top priority. Therefore, in order to avoid possible complications in visa renewals, it is suggested that international students and scholars renew their visas prior to January 1.

People seeking more information on the State Department’s Y2K policy should refer to the department’s web site at http://travel.state.gov/y2kca.html.

INS MISCOUNTS H-1B VISAS FOR 1999

INS incorrectly issued between 10,000-20,000 visas beyond the cap. INS claims that this was due to a system error. It is unclear at this time whether or not INS will use these numbers in the year 2000’s pool. However, it is already predicted that the cap for H-1B’s will be reached early in the year 2000. Anyone planning on obtaining an H-1B visa may be faced with seeking alternate visa options until the new pool of H-1B visas become available on 10/01/2000.
CONFIRMATION OF ARRIVAL & ADDRESS UPDATE FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND SCHOLARS

Upon arrival at Tufts, Medford Campus, all international students, faculty, and research scholars who are on non-immigrant visas are required to complete a Confirmation of Arrival Form and to come into the International Center for us to make copies of your immigration documents. It is mandatory that you maintain your status while at Tufts. Submitting these documents for review by the International Center staff helps to ensure that you are maintaining your status. If you are a student who started in September and have still not completed this procedure we ask that you come to the International Center to provide us with this information no later than December 1st. If we do not receive your documents, we will be unable to sign your Form I-20 for travel purposes.

All mailings from the International Center to students are sent using labels generated from the Registrar’s Office and the International Center. If you do not keep your address and phone number updated with the Registrar and with us, we will be unable to reach you. Please update this information at the beginning of each year and after every time you move. We appreciate your assistance!

NOVEMBER & FEBRUARY GRADUATES

If you are planning to work in the U.S. after graduation, remember to apply for Practical/Training before the end of January! You should be thinking about making an appointment with the International Center before you graduate. Processing time for this benefit can take at least 8 weeks, depending on the backlog at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Don’t delay!

BEFORE YOU START PACKING.....

Please remember to come to the International Center at least 1-2 weeks before you plan to travel (if the signature on the back of your form is more than six months old) in order for us to sign your Form I-20 or Form IAP-66. You will need this signature on the back of your form in order to re-enter the U.S.

When you are traveling, many other students are traveling as well. Please provide us the time we request. If not, we may need to express mail your I-20 or IAP-66 to your destination abroad and you will incur the mailing expense. Prior planning prevents delays and difficulties for you!

Please also remember when you travel, you need a passport which is valid 6 months into the future and a valid visa stamp in your passport which reflects your current status in the U.S.

The penalties imposed for entering the U.S. with invalid documents are severe, so please plan ahead to be safe!

If you are traveling to Canada...

- for the purpose of visiting a U.S. Consulate or Embassy to apply for an extension or change of status, you will need to schedule an appointment by calling 1-900-443-313 (fee for call). Appointments are scheduled three/four weeks into the future. You can also schedule an appointment through this website: http://www.nvars.com.
- There is a $30 fee.
OFFICE UPDATE

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER:
The International Center, located on the first floor of Ballou Hall, telephone 617/627-3458, provides counseling to international students, coordinates international activities on campus, and assists students, faculty and research scholars with immigration regulations and procedures. Our services are provided to undergraduates enrolled in Liberal Arts and Engineering as well as graduate students and faculty/scholars in Arts & Sciences, Engineering, the School of Nutrition/HNRCA, BSOT, School of Veterinary Medicine, the Museum School and the New England Conservatory, and only faculty/scholars from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

We advise and counsel on various issues including language difficulties, housing/roommate difficulties, cultural adjustment and employment regulations. Please feel free to set up an appointment to speak with the staff if you have any questions or concerns, or would just like to talk.

INCOME TAX FILING

If you do not have a U.S. social security number, you will need to apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in order to file a tax return. International students, faculty and research scholars will be required to file tax returns by April 15th or June 15th (depending on whether or not you received any

(Continued on page 12)
The International Club aims to bring together different communities on campus. The club’s main goal is to promote understanding among cultures, as well as provide support to international students and American students alike.

We have many exciting plans for this year such as lectures by prominent speakers, cultural events like the Parade of Nations (February 26th), and the Intercultural Festival (February 20-26) in the Spring. In addition, there are social events like our International cruise, co-sponsorship of the Intercultural Semi-formal and many more events. We aim not only to link people of different backgrounds, but to create a strong sense of awareness and unity among international students and Americans. Last but not least, we are working with many other cultural groups to create a weekly intercultural calendar, to be distributed via email, in order to promote cultural events on campus.

Regardless of whether you are new or old to the campus, you can be a valuable contributor to the club. We are looking forward to a thrilling year. Come to our next meeting and see what we are all about! For more information please email Sean McDermott, gmeder01@tufts.edu

The International Club Officers:
Tristan Reed, President
Jacob Silberberg, Vice President
Mariela Martinez, Treasurer
Bill McCarthy, Asst. Treasurer
Sean McDermott, Secretary
Tony Rullan & Mark Nawfal, Events Coordinators
Graziella Reis-Trani, First-Year Uphill Representative
Maite Moreno & Rodolfo Alborelli, First-Year Downhill Representatives

The International Scholarship Committee, ISC, is a student-run fundraising committee aiming to provide financial aid to international students enrolled at Tufts. Financial assistance is provided to those in need for reasons as diverse as family hardships, or war in a student’s native country. The committee’s assistance is especially important given that international students are hardly eligible for any financial aid.

In its seven years of existence, ISC has raised over $50,000. The organization’s long term goal is to endow a scholarship fund for international students. In order to do this we are hosting various events, such as panels and discussions throughout the year. In addition, fundraising activities are planned. Through these upcoming events ISC is looking not only to raise awareness of its existence among the international community, but throughout the entire Tufts community.

If you would like more information and/or are interested in participating in this organization contact President Daniel Ades at dades01@tufts.edu, or attend a weekly Tuesday meeting at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COME TALK ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AT TUFTS!!!!
Beginning early in the Spring semester Mel Bernstein, Vice-President for Arts, Sciences and Technology, would like to meet undergraduate international students to discuss relevant issues about their experience at Tufts. An exact date will be announced.
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION.... ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

The International Center would like to warmly thank the Host Advisors listed below for their energy and enthusiasm in assisting this year's new international students!

Claudia Asch
Harsha Chugani
Mariela Martinez
Dominik Meier
Leela Parker
Ryota Satoh
Preeti Singh

Katherine Cheng
Ashti Doobay-Persaud
William McCarthy
Mark Nawfal
Tristan Reed
Laura Schuft
Kristi Tough

Ayesha Siddiqui
Michael Fraser
Sean McDermott
Yuhei Ogawa
Antonio Rullan
Jaspreet Singh

Thanks to all who helped make I.O. a success including Eric Sweetser, a host advisor, 1998!

A special thanks to Ayesha Siddiqui for her wonderful efforts as the I.O. Coordinator, which helped make I.O. such a terrific program!

Our gratitude goes to Neil Pallaver ('01) for his terrific T-shirt design.

Interested in applying to be a Host Advisor for next year's I.O.?
Stop by the International Center on or after December 10th to pick up an application. 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students are encouraged to apply.
GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION A BIG SUCCESS!

The Graduate International Orientation was very well attended this year by almost 60 new students. Our featured guests, Dean Lynne Ausman, Dean Rob Hollister, Acting Dean of Students Bruce Reitman, and Dean Ioannis Miaolis, all welcomed our newly arrived international students.

The International Center is especially grateful for the contributions made by continuing graduate students during the Orientation. Our facilitators for the Round Table discussions were: Aleksei Beltukov, Cindy Mutombo, Sankar Arumugan and Shahla Al-Masri. Our presenter on “culture shock” and cultural adaptation was Christiane Struve. Thank you all for your valuable help!

CONVERSATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

For those of you who requested a partner and are not yet matched, we are working hard to recruit new Americans to the program. Thank you for your patience! As of now, 11 new matches have been made and there’s a total of 13 matches. All matches should be made by the end of the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kemna (skemna01@emerald.tufts.edu) or Monica Rodriguez (MRodriguez@infonet.tufts.edu) or by phone at 617/627-3458 if you have any questions.

Walking Tour and Apple Picking Trips
Fun for All

On September 4th, more than 20 graduate students joined us for an informal Walking Tour of Boston. We were rewarded with a beautiful warm and sunny day. We began our trek at Downtown Crossing and made our way through Fanueil Hall where we watched the street performers and indulged in free ice cream. We continued our walk through the Boston Common and the Public Gardens, and then on to Copley Square to view the public library and Trinity Church. We walked ‘til we dropped!!!

On September 26th, 40 graduate and exchange students, and scholars joined us for a day filled with apple-picking, lunch and some shopping. The apples and sunshine abounded at Honey Pot Hill Orchards in Stow, Massachusetts!!
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES ON VOLUNTEERING
by Stephanie Javaheri

Beyond classrooms, campus life, sports or nightlife there’s a world within the Tufts community that offers fulfillment and inspiration, away from the routine of daily college life. This is the world of volunteering. Students, especially those that are international and looking for connections, are learning the benefits of lending a helping hand. Through the Leonard Carmichael Society (LCS), which is a student-run community service organization, students have a variety of opportunities to help out. LCS’s programs involve issues such as hunger and homelessness, literacy, education and health concerns to name a few.

Janna Fry, an international student from Germany says that LCS “opens the door to new horizons!” She selflessly states that, “with your work [volunteering] you are trying to help others; at least use a little of the many privileges we have in our lives to improve other lives and make this world a better place.” Janna acknowledges that “volunteering is not always a piece of cake”, but asks herself “don’t you have to look for a challenge every so often?” “Sometimes the fact that we are international students does not make things easier either.” She then references her experience in teaching third graders about LORAX (a program that teaches children the importance of the environment and how to respect it), something unknown to her, but not to the third grade students! All in all, “I did end up having an amazing time,” Janna admits.

A Canadian, Kristi Tough, says “a majority of students, including myself, find that becoming a volunteer engages an interest in our surrounding communities.” As a volunteer Kristi “discovered opportunities that existed in Medford, Somerville and even in Boston.” She used volunteering as an opportunity to share stories to 6th graders about her background of coming from an American school in England, and other topics such as religion, race and family life. Kristi views volunteering as “a great opportunity to pass on my unique experiences both as a proud Tufts student, an involved volunteer and as an international student.” She hopes that more international students will get involved and share their interesting experiences and background. She proudly states, “we have a unique international perspective-so go out and use it!”

For information on how to get involved call LCS at X73643.

THE INDIAN SOCIETY AT TUFTS (ISAT)
by Anoop Kumar

ISAT, a new graduate student organization, was founded in the Fall of ‘98 with the goal of helping incoming Indian graduate students and also to promote the Indian culture among the Tufts community. To date the organization has approximately 30 members. Although ISAT primarily serves to promote interaction between Indian graduate students, membership is open to anyone belonging to the Tufts community, who shares the group’s ideals and commitment to heightening cultural awareness.

From its inception, ISAT has been very active in organizing events involving the entire Tufts community. This year ISAT organized an orientation program for the incoming Indian graduate students helping them transition to college life. On November 12th ISAT sponsored an “Indian Classical Dance Night” and an Indian Dance Concert, performed by two talented artists of New England: Aasavari and Sripriya, is planned for the late Fall. ISAT would like to invite the entire Tufts Community to join them and make the dance concert a big success.

For more information about ISAT and their upcoming events contact Anoop Kumar (President) at akumar03@tufts.edu or Gunjeet Juneja (Vice-President) at gjunej01@tufts.edu
Intercultural Festival (Feb. 20-26) featuring the Parade of Nations

February will bring the annual Intercultural Festival that features the Parade of Nations. Sponsored by the International Club and the International Center, the festival aims to raise cultural awareness. One of the best ways to do this is to demonstrate a tradition in your culture such as a particular dance, or to show something that is representational of your country.

So, while you are away on semester break remember to bring an artifact or idea from your country to be shared with others. In addition, you will want to bring your native clothing to be worn for the Parade of Nations fashion show. Participation and ideas are always welcome! Contact the Int’l Center for more info.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP

⇒ Are you attracted to members of your own sex?
⇒ Do you identify as a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person?
⇒ Are you and your partner having immigration questions?
⇒ Do you have anyone to talk to about these issues?

You may be interested in attending a support group for international (undergraduate and graduate) students who want to explore issues of gender and sexual orientation. For more information contact the TLGBT Resource Center at x73770 or look in the Daily for upcoming meetings!

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH LISTENING SKILLS at the Chaplain’s Table

Every Thursday, 5-7 PM.
MacPhie Conference Room

Different topics about Religious Perspectives on the Millennium are discussed each week over dinner. If you are not on a meal plan, please call the Chaplain’s office at 627-3427 in advance to arrange for a meal scholarship. This series is free and open to the public. Below are the rest of the topics scheduled for this semester:

DECEMBER:
2nd: To Be Announced
9th: Prof. Joseph Walser, Dept. of Comparative Religions
“When Religion Falls Apart: Buddhist Perspectives on the Last Days”

Cosponsored by Tufts’ Chaplain’s Office, International Center, and the Fletcher School

ASIAN AMERICAN MONTH
November 1999

Asian American Month is coordinated by the Asian American Center. Some planned events include: Filipino dancing, Pan-Asian Culture Show and Fashion Show, and a Hong Kong Film Series. Please check the Tufts Daily for more information or call the Asian American Center at 627-3056.
OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

GLOBAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

This is a great opportunity to share your country and culture with children in local Boston elementary and secondary schools! (617) 482-wac@world

WINTER RECESS REMINDER
from the Residential Life Office

Please remember that residence halls close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 23, 1999. Locks are changed and access is not available. Residence halls re-open on January 18, 2000. Please make appropriate travel plans.

Should you require on-campus housing for the winter recess period, you need to fill out a "Winter Recess Housing Request" form. Forms are available at the International Center, Residential Life Office, and online at www.tufts.edu/as/res_life. Email requests to reslife@emerald.tufts.edu will also be accepted. The deadline to submit your "Winter Recess Housing Request" form is November 19, 1999.

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

This Christian program provides an opportunity for international students to stay with a host family during the Christmas holidays (December 18-January 1). All international students and scholars who are in a U.S. college are invited to apply regardless of race, nationality, religious background status (a few programs are available to married couples or two children). Different sponsor groups such as a church or community organizations across the U.S. participate in this program. Room and board are free, but you are responsible for a registration fee of $40.00, round trip transportation, and any extra expenses indicated by individual programs. For more information and an application browse the website: www.christmasih.org

FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY OBSERVING RAMADAM: MAY YOUR MONTH BE FILLED WITH SPIRITUALITY AND REFLECTION
As a reminder to those of you needing immigration assistance from the International Center, please keep in mind the following times required to process your visa work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Time Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature of Form I-20 or Form IAP-66 for travel</td>
<td>1 Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1 or J-1 Program Extensions</td>
<td>2 to 4 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Status from one Non-Immigrant Status to Another (i.e. F-1 to J-1)</td>
<td>2 to 4 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Transfers</td>
<td>1 to 2 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Training/Academic Training</td>
<td>1 to 2 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial J-1 Faculty/Research Scholar Visa</td>
<td>3 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>J-1 Faculty/Research Scholar Extensions</td>
<td>2 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial H-1B Faculty/Research Scholar Visa</td>
<td>3 to 4 Months</td>
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 everyone must file an income tax return whether or not you have received any compensation.

Please be advised that the ITIN number is not a social security number and will not grant you work authorization. It may take a few weeks to receive this number, so plan accordingly. You need to apply for the ITIN by completing an IRS Form W-7. The International Center has a limited supply of these forms, or you can apply in person at the Internal Revenue Service, John F. Kennedy Building, Room 760, Boston or by calling 1-800-829-1040. It takes approximately 4-6 weeks to process the W-7 form. The International Center will be sending you a comprehensive tax information packet at the end of January.

International UPDATE

International Center
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Medford, MA 02155
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Fax: (617) 627-3059