Come and celebrate the 16th annual Intercultural Festival with the International Club and the International Center! The Intercultural Festival is a week-long series of programs and events designed to expose the Tufts community to international issues and to promote learning and understanding of various countries and cultures from around the world and from within the U.S.

This year’s Festival will include some of the following events: International Food Fair on Tuesday (2/22) in the Campus Center; cultural dance bands, such as Fantasia performing live Latino music on Friday (2/25) at the Catholic Center; dance workshops including swing, salsa/merengue; photo exhibit of Ghana at Capen House; Caribbean Night; Jamaican-American author, Patricia Powell will read from her book The Pagoda and movies will be shown nightly in the culture houses.

The week will culminate in the annual Parade of Nations Show in Cohen Auditorium on Saturday (2/26). The show includes an ethnic fashion show and live

(Continued on page 3)

IMMIGRATION TRENDS

The International Center has been experiencing delays in the processing of immigration documents for students, faculty and research scholars over the past year. Unfortunately this trend is continuing into the new year and is anticipated to get worse. Three primary issues are:

H-1B visas: This visa category is used by Tufts for international faculty and research scholars. There is a limitation of visas available annually and the numerical limit for this year is 115,000 new H-1B visas. It is anticipated that the total numbers will be used up by March, 2000. A new set of numbers will not be available until October 1, 2000. This will have an immediate effect on many departments and individuals who would be using the H-1B visa category in order to work at Tufts. The University has lobbied for congressional support of a separate H-1B visa category for universities and colleges. In this way, we would not be competing for visa numbers with the high tech industries who are the heaviest users of this visa category.

(Continued on page 2)
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, The Jean Mayer Human Research Center on Aging (HNRCA), The Boston School of Occupational Therapy (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

ADDRESS UPDATE

All mailings from the International Center to students/scholars are sent using labels generated from the Registrar's Office and the International Center. If you do not keep your address & 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!

(Trends. Continued from page 1)

Collection of Immigration Fee: In 1996 U.S. Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, (IIRIRA). This Act required that INS develop and implement a program to track F-1 and J-1 students, faculty and research scholars in the U.S. and to collect a fee from them for the cost of running the tracking program. Although this tracking program is not yet ready to be implemented, INS was legislated to collect a $95 fee from each person who entered the U.S. on or after August 1, 1999.

The University is currently lobbying Congress regarding the fee and its collection. We will keep you informed of any developments that take place over the next few months.

Practical Training Applications: There are serious delays with the processing of Pre and Post Completion Practical Training Applications for F-1 visa holders. Once an application is received by the Immigration and Naturalization Service Center in Vermont, there is a minimum wait of three months for the application to be reviewed and for a card to be produced. This means that individuals who are hoping to start jobs need to plan ahead to allow sufficient time in obtaining authorization to work. Anyone interested in Practical Training must attend a workshop session with the International Center staff in order to understand the process and requirements. The University is working with its contacts at the Vermont Service Center, along with colleagues at other schools, to put pressure on INS to expedite the application process. Unfortunately, we seem to be facing a second year of serious delays without any improvements in sight.

**The International Center is involved in advocacy for its international students, faculty and scholars on regional and national levels. This brief update on three key issues is to keep you informed of the current issues. If you would like to discuss any questions or concerns with the staff, do not hesitate to contact us.**
LIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

The International House (I-House), located at 13 Sawyer Ave., is a residence made up of students from around the globe, including the U.S. I-House members often sponsor international dinners, lectures, and parties.

Undergraduate students who are eligible for on-campus housing may apply to live in the I-House.

Applications for the I-House are available at the International Center. The deadline for new applicants is Wednesday, March 8. Those who already live there and wish to re-apply have an application deadline of Friday, March 3. Interviews will take place on March 9, 10 and 13.

The philosophy of the I-House supports an equal balance of both U.S. and international student participants. Please encourage interested American friends to get involved in these programs!

TRAVEL REMINDER

If you are travelling outside the U.S., including Canada or Mexico, for vacation or business purposes, please re- that country’s consulate to determine if you need a visa to enter. Some trips have had to be cancelled due to lack of prior planning regarding getting a visa.

ANNOUNCING

The International Center is pleased to announce that Stephanie Javaheri has assumed the Staff Position in the International Center. She began working at Tufts over the summer months when she filled in for Monica Rodriguez, during her maternity leave. Stephanie has recently completed a master’s degree from Lesley College’s Intercultural Relations Program. She is originally from Maine and has spent some time living in England and Brazil. As well, she has travelled throughout Europe and parts of Africa. She recently got married to a Persian-American. A true interculturalist, we are excited to have her as a member of the International Center staff.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

2000 Year of the Dragon

(Festival Continued from page 1) entertainment performed by student groups representing many cultures. The winner of the Oliver Chapman Leadership Award will be announced at the Parade of Nations, honoring a senior who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and community service to the international community in and around Tufts.

Look for the schedule of events in the Tufts Daily. Contact Jacob Silberberg x77625 or the International Center x73458 for more info.
**Career Update**

**Job Interviewing Skills/ Job Search Workshops for International Students**

The International Center and the Career Planning Center will co-sponsor workshops designed especially for international students. "U.S. Job Search for International Students" will be held on Monday, March 6, 2000, and "Interview Skills for International Students" will be held on Monday, March 13, 2000. Both workshops will be held in the Career Services Recruiting Office on the ground level of Tisch Library from 4-5pm.

Signup is required. Please call the International Center at 627-3458 to reserve your place.

**INTERNET RESOURCES for International Jobs**

- www.monster.com: includes international listings
- www.mol-usa.com: for jobs in Malaysia
- www.asia-net.com: for Asia listings, mostly Japan and China
- www.employment.com.au: for jobs in Australia
- www.nexus.ch: for jobs in Switzerland
- www.overseasjobs.com
- www.dbm.com/jobguide/internat.html

**VISA OPTIONS FOR WORKING IN THE U.S. AFTER GRADUATION**

*Am I able to work more than one year after I graduate?*

*If so, what do I do to legally enable myself to work for an extended period of time?*

Come to these workshops, conducted by local immigration attorneys, to learn the answers to these and other important work-related questions. Learning about obtaining an H-1B visa can be particularly beneficial to students interested in demonstrating their ability for long-term work to their prospective employer. These workshops, sponsored by the International Center will be held on **Tuesday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 26 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Reservations required. Please call the International Center at 627-3458 to reserve your place.**

**Country-Specific Employment Guides**

The International Center often receives career guide books for graduates of American universities who are returning home to work after graduation. Currently the office has copies of these guides for students from Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Central Europe, Venezuela and Russia. If you are going home to start your career, stop by the International Center to receive this information.

**JOB FAIRS**

**French Job Fair:** The Forum USA 2000 is an annual job fair sponsored by the French Embassy. It will be held in Boston from March 25th-27th. The purpose of this event is to give French graduates in the U.S. a chance to meet executives from French companies. Registration is free, but the **deadline is February 15, 2000.** Please check out their website for further information: www.forumusa.org.
PRACTICAL / ACADEMIC TRAINING: WORKING IN THE US

International students who are graduating are eligible to work in a job related to their field of study. You must, however, apply for Practical Training (for F-1 students) or Academic Training (for J-1 students) in order to gain legal work permission from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The application process requires initial review of your submitted documents by the International Center. After this, the INS must review and approve your application. Processing is taking 3-4 months - start early!

F-1 students may apply for Practical Training up to 120 days before and up to 30 days after your graduation date. Your application deadline is June 21, 2000!

J-1 students may apply for Academic Training any time before your graduation date and no later than 30 days after graduation. A job offer is required as well as a recommendation letter from your advisor.

Practical Training Workshops

Practical Training workshops are being held weekly. Reservations are required, please call the International Center at 627-3458 to reserve a place. Individual appointments to discuss work authorization will be scheduled only after a student has attended a workshop or in the case of a scheduling conflict.

Summer Employment

In order to work off-campus over the summer months, you need to get legal permission to work from the Immigration & Naturalization Service. You must also demonstrate to the International Center that you have been offered a position of employment. This process takes 3-4 months to complete. If you are considering work options for the summer, attend one of the International Center’s weekly practical training sessions to learn about the process of what is called Pre-Completion Practical Training.

ATTENTION!!

H-1B Visa Holders:

It is possible to apply for an H-1VISA STAMP renewal while in the U.S., if you already have an H-1B visa stamp in your passport that has expired or is within 60 days of expiring. A visa stamp extension takes approximately 10 weeks to process.

TN Visa Holders:

Are you tired of having to travel to the border annually to renew your visa?

You can apply for an extension of your TN visa stamp while in the U.S. It is best to apply approximately 60 days prior to the expiration of your visa stamp.

For more information on either of the above and an application form, please contact the International Center x 73458.

PROCESSING TIME FOR IMMIGRATION WORK

Keep in mind the timeframes needed by the International Center to process visa documentation:

- Signature of Form I-20 or Form IAP-66 for travel: 1 Week
- F-1 or J-1 Program Extensions: 2 to 4 Weeks
- Change of Status from one Non-Immigrant Status to Another (i.e. F-1 to J-1): 2 to 4 Weeks
- School Transfers: 1 to 2 Weeks
- Practical Training/Academic Training: 2 Weeks
- Initial J-1 Faculty/Research Scholar Visa: 2 Months
- J-1 Faculty/Research Scholar Extensions: 2 Months
- Initial H-1B Faculty/Research Scholar Visa: 3 to 4 Months
- H-1B Faculty/Research Scholar Extensions: 3 to 4 Months
INTERCULTURAL FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 20 - 26, 2000
Saturday, February 26, PARADE OF NATIONS
Cohen Auditorium
(Open to Entire Community)

Friday, March 3, 2000
Re-applications for International House due
5:00 p.m.
International Center, Ballou Hall

Monday, March 13, 2000
Interview Skills for International Students
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Career Services Recruiting Office
Ground Level, Tisch Library

Monday, March 6, 2000
Foreign Tax Information Workshop
11:30-1:00 p.m.
Olin Center, Room 11, Medford Campus
(This will be the ONLY tax workshop offered on all campuses).

Tuesday, April 4, 2000
Visa Options for Working in the U.S. After Graduation
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Large Conference Room
Campus Center

Wednesday, March 8, 2000
U.S. Job Search for International Students
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Career Services Recruiting Office
Ground Level, Tisch Library

Wednesday, April 26, 2000
Visa Options for Working in the U.S. After Graduation
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Large Conference Room
Campus Center

All programs require reservations. Please call the International Center at 627-3458 to reserve your place.
FOREIGN TAX INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

Offered to ALL International Students, Faculty & Research Scholars from the Medford, Grafton & HNRCA Campuses
This will be the ONLY tax workshop offered on all campuses

Monday, March 6th
11:30-1:00
Olin Center, Room 11, Medford Campus

FREE
presented by the Accounting Firm of
Freshman & Ferraro, PC, Boston, MA

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OTHER FREE WORKSHOPS OFFERED
BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)
You must register in advance by mailing or faxing a registration form (617) 565-1379. Registration forms are located in the Ginn Library.
Workshops will be held at the IRS Office in Boston
(John F. Kennedy Bldg., Govt. Ctr. stop on Green Line)
Details & Instructions on this session along with Tax Forms are available at the Fletcher Ginn Library.

All Sessions are from 2:30-5:30pm

Thursday, March 2, 2000       Thursday, March 23, 2000
Thursday, March 9, 2000       Thursday, March 30, 2000
Thursday, March 16, 2000      Thursday, April 6, 2000

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS WILL BE RECEIVING A SEPARATE MAILING WITH MORE DETAILED TAX INFORMATION DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.
New Organization being formed

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN STUDENTS AT TUFTS

Any questions? Call Mike @ 781-306-9839.

Looking for papers written by African, Caribbean and African-American Students on the role of feminism in their culture to be published into a journal. Deadline is March 17, 2000. For more information please contact Tufts senior Tiphanie Galiber-Gundel at 617-627-1653 or creatiphanie@hotmail.com

The Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development presents...

KID FLICKS

A series of movies about children’s lives around the world.

Shown the first Friday of every month from noon until approximately 2:00 in the Eliot-Pearson A/V Room at 105 College Ave. Admission is free and open to the entire Tufts community. Pizza is provided!

Friday, March 3  PONETTE
Friday, April 7  MA VIE EN ROSE
Friday, May 5  WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE

International UPDATE

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