

International Connection

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Breaking the Barriers in China

by Zach Williams, Exchange Visitor Program Coordinator

I WAS BORN without my tibia bones – the large bones of the lower legs. When I was just 14 months old, my legs were amputated above the knees. At the age of two, I was fit for my first set of prosthetics (or “wooden legs” as I tend to call them). I have not, however, allowed my disability to keep me from having the kind of life I want to have. In fact, I have found that my disability has given me opportunities and experiences I never would have had if I had been born with tibia bones. My recent trip to China is one of those experiences.

When I was a freshman in high school, I joined a group called Break the Barriers (BTB). BTB integrates students of all abilities in sports and performing arts classes. I joined their Barrier Breaker performing team, comprised of about 40 performers – some able, some disabled – all capable of breaking barriers of physical limitations and societal perceptions. We performed at Fresno State basketball games, community events, and sometimes traveled. While on the team we went down to Malibu for a fundraiser and flew to Denver to perform for



The Barrier Breakers Team in Xiamen, China

a conference of educators. Over a decade later, the Barrier Breakers are traveling much farther.

This past spring, the team was invited by the local Department of Disability to go to Xiamen, China. To my surprise, I received a call from my old coach asking if I would be interested in rejoining the team for this special 10-day trip. I was a little skeptical as to whether or not my body could still perform the tricks it did when I was 17, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to go to China. I have been to Europe, South America, North Africa, and the Middle East, but never to China. I was excited to see a new culture first hand, especially since I work with so many Chinese students and scholars here at USC. I began going to the

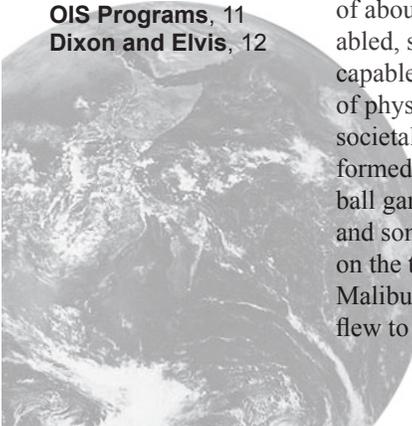
Lyon Center to get back in shape (I love to surf and that helps keep me fit, but I knew a return to gymnastics would require different conditioning). Once or twice a month I drove to Fresno to practice with the team and learn the routines. Not only did I have to get up to speed with the gymnastics, but I also had to try and recall my previous (and very limited) sign language skills since BTB uses sign language in all its routines.

Months of training and 27 hours of travel later, we made it to our hotel in Xiamen. We crashed into bed (very hard, but surprisingly comfortable mattresses) at about midnight. By 9 am the next morning, we were on our way to our first performance. This would be exemplary of our schedule...

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Immigration Update

by Laurie Cox, Associate Director

All students and scholars who are in the U.S. on non-immigrant visas are subject to a complex and changing set of regulations mandated by the U.S. government. A major role of the Office of International Services (OIS) is to provide advice about these regulations and assist students in obtaining the benefits that are legally permitted.

The following information provides a summary of the immigration regulations. The information contained in this section includes some of the basic terminology and regulations, which all students and scholars should know while studying in the U.S.

Because immigration law is often subject to change, and because each student or scholar has a unique set of circumstances, students/scholars should always consult the staff of OIS for the most current information.

Important Terms and Forms

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created to coordinate 22 previously disparate domestic agencies in an effort to protect the nation against threats to the homeland. As a part of this major restructuring, the former Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) reorganized into three separate divisions. Under the supervision of DHS, there are now three agencies: the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which is responsible for controlling the

borders of the United States. The agency that international students will interact with the most is the CIS.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) - The Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) oversees citizenship, asylum, lawful permanent residency, employment authorization, refugee status, inter-country adoptions, replacement immigration documents, family and employment related immigration, and foreign student authorization. There is a CIS field office located in Los Angeles.

SEVIS - Student Exchange Visitor Information System. SEVIS is a database that monitors and tracks foreign students and scholars while studying in the U.S.

SEVIS Fee - This fee has been mandated by Congress to cover the cost associated with the continued operation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Funds raised from the fee will be used to administer and maintain the SEVIS database, support compliance activities, and establish liaison personnel to serve as local resources for schools and students.

*Effective September 1, 2004, the fee is set at \$100 and can be paid online with a credit card, by mail, or at some U.S. consulates by filing Form I-901. In general, the SEVIS fee is a one-time payment that applies to students and exchange visitors who wish to begin an "initial" program of study or research. The fee must be paid before a visa will be issued. The SEVIS fee does NOT apply to most continuing students and scholars at USC.

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Tony Tambascia, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Office of International Services

by Judy Hartwich, *Senior Associate Director*

Tony Tambascia has been appointed Executive Director of the Office of International Services on an interim basis. The Director of Academic Recognition Programs within the Division of Student Affairs from 2000 to the present, Tony also served as International Student Advisor and Assistant Director in the Office of International Services from 1993-2000.

An Ohio native, Tony received his bachelor's in Communication from Ohio University and his master's in Education at Bowling Green State University. He worked in campus activities at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and as an International Student Advisor/Academic counselor at Rollins College in Florida before joining USC. He received a Ph.D. in International Education at USC in 2005. His dissertation topic was "The Internationalization of Higher Education: A Case Study of a Private U.S. Research University."

Tony is married to Tracy Poon Tambascia who is Vice-President of Student Affairs at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. They have two sons: Alex, 4 and Lucas, 2.

When I asked Tony what changes he has seen in the issues The Office of International Services deals with on a day to day basis, he replied that the issues haven't really changed, in terms of the daily assistance provided to students who have concerns about academic success, adjustment, health, and relationship issues, but that the biggest changes have occurred within the regulatory framework with the introduction of the SEVIS system and the reorganized governmental agencies.

"The population of international students and scholars is such an interesting group. In every interaction there is potential for discussion of culture and politics from perspectives that you don't always hear with other populations. My overall philosophy in interacting with students is that we are educators first – educators who facilitate positive experiences for students. We are here to help students find solutions to problems they're faced with."

"In Academic Recognition Programs, I continued to be involved in international education dealing with exchange and study



Tony Tambascia

abroad programs and international fellowships that sent students abroad such as the Marshall, Rhodes, Rotary, and Fulbright programs.

"It's an exciting time for USC, a time when there is sustained attention to trying to promote international and global initiatives. The work that OIS does is integral to that part of the USC mission."

And what does Tony do in his spare time? "Well most of my activities revolve around my family and children. In addition, I enjoy discovering new music, I dabble in photography, and enjoy outdoor activities: hiking, camping, kayaking. It's always a creative challenge to figure out short trips to the mountains that we can do with our two young boys."

The entire Office of International Services staff congratulates Tony on his appointment as Executive Director and invites you to join us in welcoming Tony back!

International Connection

Do You Have Trouble Answering the Question, “Where Are You From?”

—Global Nomad (Third Culture Kid) Discussion Group Starting This Fall

How are people who have grown up straddling several different cultures different from people who have grown up within one culture? The Global Nomad Discussion Group will be forming this fall to provide a forum for students to share their experiences with moving from one culture to another. Global Nomads / Third Culture Kids (TCKs) are people who have lived in a new country because of a parent’s career choice.

The Student Counseling Center clinical staff recently learned how these experiences can affect an individual’s world view, sense of identity, life choices, etc. in a presentation on Intercultural Identity. Becky Peterson, M.A. from The Office of International Services, Maria Pozo-Humphreys, LCSW, and Beth Kebschull, LCSW from the Student Counseling Center, presented the staff with information about intercultural identity formation for several groups. These groups included global nomads, children of immigrants, bicultural and biracial students, children of refugees, international adoptees, and transnational international students. What all of these groups have in common is that they have had to function in two or more different identity frames that may be culturally, ethnically, or nationally based.

For Global Nomads / TCKs this blending of identities can have profound advantages and disadvantages. While having ties to all of the communities they have lived in, these individuals have often lacked a sense of fitting into any of them. They often have the feeling of being between worlds and out of phase with their peers. They may also carry a sense of unresolved grief related to losses incurred by moving from one



place to another -- losses including loss of relationships, loss of lifestyles, loss of dignity, and loss of familiarity. Their cross-cultural experiences may create a personal identity that may not match their external appearance. Thus, others may tend to misread them -- assigning them to social, cultural, or ethnic categories that may not fit their own ideas of themselves. This can create an awkwardness which makes them feel as though they will never fit in.

On the flip side, people who have grown up crossing cultures usually develop a high tolerance for differing points of view. Having seen the world through several different cultural lenses, they understand the legitimacy of the varying perspectives they encounter in others. Additionally, they may have a greater ability to adapt to environmental changes. They may also have a higher level of interest in world affairs than their mono-culture counterparts, and

may prefer careers that involve travel or international relations.

Academic interest in the effects of intercultural identity is increasing as it becomes more common. As the world’s populations gain more mobility, and as families become more mixed, intercultural identity may become the norm.

The Global Nomad Discussion Group, beginning on campus this fall, will not only provide students a place to talk about their experiences, but will also become a forum for imagining how the benefits of intercultural experiences may enrich society in the future. Please join us on Tuesday, November 6th, at noon (brown bag lunch) in the 2nd floor conference room of the YWCA building (corner of Downey Way and Watt Way). For more information, please call Beth or Maria at (213) 740-7711.

Best Medicine

by Michelle Lee,
Publications Editor

No one's gonna tell you here, because most just don't know. "Huh?" you ask. Where to get a good laugh in Los Angeles!

Los Angelinos are lucky enough to live in a city where the comedy scene is thriving. One of the most vibrant comedy scenes in the nation is right here in our city. Incidentally, the majority of people in the city are only familiar with the big venues such as The Laugh Factory, The Comedy Store, The Improv, the Comedy & Magic Club, to name a few. But those places, while great and deserving of their credit, are a bit pricey, have drink minimums (not to mention expensive drinks), and noisy audiences.

Ryan McManemin, cofounder of aspecialthing records – one of the few independent comedy labels in America – was nice enough to tell me a thing or two about the underground comedy scene in LA:

"In the mainstream clubs, the comics are usually just performing their generic 'road' act geared toward a more mainstream audience. Los Angeles has tons of cheap, smaller places where they come to workshop new material, try out fresh ideas, and experiment in front of an audience. It's generally a much more rewarding experience."

So where are you going to go for a reasonably priced laugh? There are a number of these smaller, affordable theaters around town: The Upright Citizens Brigade offers a variety of shows priced at around \$5 every night. Some are free! Additionally, there is the Westside Eclectic on the 3rd Street Promenade providing shows for \$8 or less.

And the best part about visiting one of these local theaters is that you can grasp a better understanding of one aspect of American culture that cannot be taught in a classroom: what makes us laugh.

Below are a few places you should definitely check out. Also included is a weekly calendar of suggested picks by the experts. Remember to contact the theater in advance to make sure the details have not changed. You may also want to browse the calendar section at aspecialthing.com or in the LA Weekly.



Improv Olympic on Hollywood Blvd.

Suggested Comedy Nights:

Sunday at the UCB theatre: *Asssscat*; **Free**; 8pm
Jeff Garlin's Combo Platter; **\$1**; 10pm

Monday at Tiger Lily Restaurant Bar: *What's Up Tiger Lily?*; **Free**; 8pm

Tuesday at the UCB: *Comedy Death Ray - "best show in LA"*; **\$5**; 8:30pm

Wednesday at Improv Olympic: *Harold Wednesdays*; **\$5**; 8pm

Saturday at the Steve Allen Theater: *Tomorrow Show*; **\$5**; midnight

Tiger Lily Restaurant Bar

1745 N. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 661-5900
tigerlilyrestaurant.com

Westside Eclectic

1323-A 3rd St. Promenade
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 451-0850
westsideeclectic.com

Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB)

5919 Franklin Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90028
(323) 908-8702
ucbtheatre.com

Acme Comedy Theatre

135 N. La Brea Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 525-0202
acmecomedy.com

Improv Olympic (21+)

6366 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028
(323) 962-7560
iowest.com

Steve Allen Theater

4773 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 666-9797
steveallentheater.com

International Connection

Presenting the 2007-2008 International Program Assistants...

Dirk Heinrich

Hi everyone, my name is Dirk and I'm from Germany. I have been living in LA for the past 6 years – so I guess I am a little bit from LA as well.



While I was studying in Germany, I worked on an international university project. Through this job I had the opportunity to work in many European countries and in South Africa. I realized that a multi-cultural environment is not only a lot of fun, but also a great inspiration personally and professionally.

In 2001, I immigrated to the United States and worked as a freelance consultant. Last year, I decided to enroll in the online GIS (Geographic Information System) graduate program at USC. In this program I learn to make and analyze digital maps.

I am a huge fan of LA; I love the city for its opportunities and diversity. Almost every interest can be pursued here – you just have to look for it. I enjoy salsa dancing and feel that LA is one of the best places in the world to meet world-class dancers, learn from them and dance with them. I also like the people in California. Never before have

I met so many interesting people with amazing backgrounds. And the greatest thing is that such encounters can happen anywhere – at a formal reception as well as in line at Trader Joe's.

As an International Program Assistant I'll try to make your experience at USC, on campus and off campus, as enjoyable and as interesting as possible.

Ruby Ng

Hello everyone, my Chinese name is Lok Heng Ng, but all my friends call me Ruby. It's nice meeting you all. Let me first tell you a little about my background. I was born and raised in Hong Kong. When I was fifteen, I moved to a small town called Ancaster in Ontario, Canada. After two unforgettable and snowy winters in Canada, I completed my 11th and 12th grades then decided to pursue my college education somewhere warmer. So, I moved to LA and studied at Pasadena City College. Last year, I transferred from PCC to the Trojan Family. Now, I'm a senior in the Leventhal School of Accounting.

In the summer of 2007, I joined the Office of International Services and



became one of the orientation group leaders. It was a really great experience and I got to meet a lot of interesting people from different parts of the world. So when OIS was hiring new IPAs, I applied immediately. And now, here I am – one of the six International Program Assistants for this 2007-2008 academic year.

Joohee Park

Hi everyone, my name is Joohee Park and I am a sophomore at USC majoring in Accounting. To briefly introduce my background, I was born in Seoul, Korea, but at the age of seven I moved to Hong Kong and grew up there until high school. With that, Hong Kong



is more like my hometown. I would recommend to everyone that they visit Hong Kong at least once in their life because it is a city with an abundance of cultural and historical attractions as well as a great night life.

Last year was my first year living in the United States. So far, it has been a fun year, full of new experiences. Although I had difficulty adapting at first, I am very glad that I have chosen to come to Los Angeles, and especially

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USC. One of the best experiences I have had is going to the USC football games. The college football culture was completely new to me; however, it has indeed been the highlight of my fall semesters. The entertainment and sense of school spirit are overwhelming.

It is my pleasure to be working as an International Program Assistant this year.

Jeffrey Pflingsten

My story begins back in good ol' Montana. I was born on Jan 30, 1987 in Billings and moved to Missoula when I was 11, where I spent my middle school and high school years. My home was on several acres of land where my family owned a small farm. We had a menagerie of animals, complete with chickens, ducks, sheep, rabbits, and, of course, a dog. Much of my time was spent outdoors with my two younger brothers. I'm very glad to have grown up in the quiet and beautiful countryside of Montana – especially now that I live in the craziness that is LA.

The past two years at USC have been the best of my life. I absolutely love it here and cannot imagine



going anywhere else. I've made great friends and have had fantastic times. Nowadays, you can most likely find me out shooting a film or in the editing labs at RZC (I'm a Cinema major). Otherwise, I'm either at the beach, on the tennis courts, or going for a run.

I'm very excited to be an IPA this year, and strongly encourage students to get involved and be active while here at USC. This is like no other time in your life. USC is an incredible place with remarkable people and amazing opportunities. Your time here will fly by, so make the most of it.

Lindsay Plake

Good Day, my name is Lindsay Plake and I am one of your new International Program Assistants. My current three majors (International Relations, Communication, and Theatre) will not stop me from working my hardest at being the best IPA I can be. Coming from Los Angeles, I have had the convenience of eating at some of the most delectable restaurants, going to exciting events, and participating in fun activi-



ties that can be found all over Southern California. I strive to share my love of Los Angeles with all of you.

I hope my work in the Office of International Services will be an enriching experience for myself, my co-workers, my supervisors, and most importantly, you, the students. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about international programs, Los Angeles, USC, or life in general. I am here to make your Trojan experience the best it can be!

Joshua Arman Putra

Hello everyone, my name is Josh and I'm one of your new IPAs for the 2007-2008 year. This is my second year here at USC. I am originally from Jakarta, Indonesia. Growing up, however, I moved a couple times – to Australia and Washington D.C. – in the course of several years before finally arriving in Los Angeles as a Trojan.



I love playing music and sports. I play several instruments, but my main instruments are the drums and the guitar. I love watching live concerts. Moreover, I love to spend my free time doing sports such as surfing, wakeboarding, waterskiing, playing soccer, and basketball.

Having spent my time in international schools in different countries where the diversity has always been prevalent, I feel very excited working with the international community at USC. I strongly encourage everyone to support, and of course to be part of, all the OIS programs. So, common!! Let all of us be part of OIS' fun and successful programs this year.

International Connection

Breaking the Barriers in China

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Dietmar Quistorf

Zach In Training

...for the whole trip. We arrived at the deaf school. Quickly, we learned that American Sign Language and the sign language used in Xiamen were completely different. It was disappointing not being able to communicate the way we expected to, but we enjoyed the challenge of learning the differences between the two dialects of sign language. That day, we made friends who we would see throughout the rest of our stay in Xiamen.

We performed once or twice a day during the entire trip. One day we had 3 performances because the vice mayor of Xiamen asked for a special performance by the sea. That was also the day I spoke to a group of special educators about my experience with a disability. It was a long day, but it was rewarding to have so many opportunities to share our message: a disability is anything that separates us from each other; we all have disabilities and we all have abilities. Through our performances we demonstrated that it is better to focus on our abilities and the things that unite us, rather than dwell on the disabilities we all have.

Following that first day, we learned that we were in China not only to give what we had to offer, but also to receive something from our new friends. Over the past twenty years, Break the

Barriers has come to be recognized as a "National Role Model for Inclusion" by the U.S. Department of Special Education. Yet, when we toured the deaf school we were amazed: they had more resources than our special education classes in America. There were well-stocked art studios, cooking classes, and even hairdressing classes. We were also amazed at Chinese hospitality. Everywhere we performed there were giant banners welcoming the "American goodwill ambassadors" and every meal we ate was an 8 course affair. Near the end of our trip the vice mayor presented each member of our team with a beautiful tea set. I was confused with the small size of the tea cups. Then, one of our translators explained that the tiny cups allowed the host to honor the guest by constantly refilling the cup with

piping hot tea. After the kindness we had been shown, this explanation made perfect sense.

I have been back from China for a couple months now, but I still miss Xiamen. I miss that beautiful city by the sea, surrounded by hills covered with green trees. I miss the authentic Chinese food (Chinese food in America has way too much sauce for my taste). But most of all, I miss the people we met in Xiamen. I only wish we could have spent more time there and gotten to know them better. This April, six members of Xiamen's Department of Disability will be coming to visit Break the Barriers' facility in Fresno. I hope we can give them as warm of a welcome as they gave us. And who knows, maybe I'll be tumbling across China again someday.

Wanna get some exercise? Wanna meet cool people? Wanna *be* cool people?

The Los Angeles Dodgeball Society is welcoming newcomers to join the team!

Be involved with one of the best leagues in the nation
Participate in events, parties, and tournaments

Monday Nights: Beginners – "no sting" balls – \$5 to play; 8:00 pm

Wednesday Nights: Advanced – \$5 to play; 8:00 pm

Sundays: Open Gym – All levels; \$5 to play; 1:30 – 4:30 pm.

Location: Hollywood Rec Center: 1122 Cole Ave, Los Angeles, CA
(Santa Monica & Cahuenga)

For additional information email MichaelCostanza@sbcglobal.net
or visit dodgeball4ever.com.

Recommendation: Sunday, Open Gym is perfect for first-timers...
laid back and welcoming!

Immigration Update

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Passport - Issued by the government of your country. It is the responsibility of each non-immigrant to hold a valid passport at all times while in the U.S. OIS can assist in locating the home government's office responsible for renewal, extension, or reissuance of a passport.

U.S. Visa - A computer generated document placed in a student's passport by the U.S. Consulate that enables him/her to enter the U.S. for the time of its validity.

Immigration Status - This refers to a student's immigration category, such as F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2. (This is usually the same as a visa).

I-94 Card - The small white card which is received upon entering the U.S. Also known as the Arrival/Departure Record. The I-94 card shows how long a student is authorized to stay in the U.S. and includes his/her Admission Number. Do not lose this card as it is needed for all applications submitted to CIS.

SEVIS I-20 Form - Students present this form to the U.S. Consular Offices in their home countries to receive F-1 status. This form has information about the student's major, degree program, and other personal information pertinent to his/her F-1 status.

The expiration date in item #5 is the expected date of completion for an academic program. Students should come to OIS at least one month before their I-20 expires to apply for an I-20 extension if more time is needed to complete the academic pro-

gram. Each F-1 student must retain his/her SEVIS I-20 Form to verify legal status in the U.S.

DS-2019 Form - Students and scholars present this form to the U.S. Consular Offices in their home countries to receive a J-1 visa. The DS-2019 form shows the authorized program participation dates and a description of the exchange program. Each J-1 student or scholar must retain his/her DS-2019 to verify legal status in the U.S.

Employment Authorization Document (EAD) - Small plastic card issued by the CIS to show authorization for employment. This card is given for work authorization under Optional Practical Training, Severe Economic Hardship, and Special Student Relief Program.

Passport Verification (PPV) - OIS is required by law to maintain records for each non-immigrant student and dependent at USC. All international students and their dependents must participate in Passport Verification prior to their initial enrollment. PPV sessions are held in July and August and during International Student Orientation. Come to OIS for more information.

Record-keeping

All students should keep photocopies of their passport, I-94 card, SEVIS I-20, visa, and financial support documents. These copies should be kept in a safe place, separate from the student's passport.

Overview of Employment for F-1 Students

The following information explains how "employment" is defined by the CIS

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**OMG...
THAT'S SO GAY!**

University of Southern California
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT)
Resource Center

University Rap:

confidential discussion group

LGBT Peer Mentoring Program:

confidential mentoring program

Ally Alliance:

student organization for supportive straight allies

GLBTA:

student programming

info: lgbt@usc.edu
website: www.usc.edu/lgbt

International Connection

Immigration Update

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and describes the types of employment authorization that may be available to F-1 students.

Eligibility and Application Requirements

The requirements for different types of F-1 employment authorization vary. For example, a basic requirement for all types of student employment is that the student has maintained continuous full-time F-1 status. Students on an F-1 visa are limited to 20 hours per week of employment when school is in session. When a student decides to seek employment, he/she should consult with OIS to ensure proper procedures are followed. The application process and the waiting time to obtain employment authorization can be quite long. Therefore it is recommended that the student file an application as early as possible. Written information may be obtained, which further describes the different types of employment for F-1 students and how to apply for such authorization at OIS.

On Campus Employment

Work on the USC campus is permissible for F-1 students in lawful status with authorization from OIS. Undergraduate students beginning at USC as freshmen must wait until their second semester to begin working on-campus.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

The student is eligible to be employed in a job which is directly related to his/her field of study for up to one year per academic degree level. For example, a student is eligible for one year of OPT after a bachelor's degree and is again eligible for another year of OPT after

a master's degree. However, a student will not be eligible for another year of OPT after a second bachelor's degree.

OPT requires CIS authorization, which takes approximately 3-4 months to obtain. Students must have been of F-1 status for at least one full academic year prior to applying for OPT. Weekly workshops are offered that are mandatory for all students interested in applying for OPT.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Work experience that is an integral part of a student's academic program may be considered "Curricular Practical Training". This includes internships or practicum programs organized through the academic departments. Students must have been of F-1 status for at least one full academic year prior to applying for CPT. In addition, the student is expected to receive academic credit for the educational activity conducted during employment. Weekly workshops are offered in the spring for students interested in applying for CPT.

Off-Campus Employment Based on Economic Necessity

An F-1 student may be eligible to apply for Employment Based on Economic Necessity after being in status for one academic year. The requirements for this category of employment are quite stringent. The student must have documentation verifying that an unforeseen change in financial circumstances has arisen since acquiring F-1 status. This employment requires CIS authorization, which can take up to 4 months.

****A Warning about Working Illegally****

Working improperly without authorization is a serious violation of student status and may be grounds for deportation. Students must always get permission from OIS before beginning any employment.

F-2 Dependents

Immigration regulations prohibit all employment for F-2 dependents. In addition, F-2 spouses are prohibited from studying and F-2 children are limited to elementary and secondary schooling.

International Connection

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to: Judy Hartwich, OIS, STU 300, MC 0899, email: hartwich@usc.edu.

Thanksgiving Match-Up Deadline Approaching!

by Laurie Cox, Associate Director

Would you like to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with an American family in the Los Angeles community? Do you want to eat a special holiday dinner consisting of turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and pumpkin pie? If your answer is yes, then we have the perfect solution for you!

The thanksgiving match-up program has been a long standing tradition of the Office of International



Thanksgiving Match-Up

Services. It gives local families the chance to invite international students and scholars from USC into their homes to celebrate Thanksgiving together. This is a wonderful opportunity for international students to experience American culture beyond their academic life at USC, and learn how Thanksgiving is celebrated in the United States. It also provides an amazing way to foster new friendships with different people from around the world. Students who have participated in the past have deemed their Thanksgiving experience as one of their most unforgettable days at USC.

OIS International Program Assistants will match students with host families who fit them best, based on shared interests and expressed preferences. Students then are set to visit the host family's house and share the deliciously prepared meal on Thanksgiving

Day, which falls on Thursday, November 22nd this year.

If you are interested in becoming a host family, applications are available at the OIS IPA office at STU 300, or online at www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS/Activity/Programs/th-match-up/th-matchup.html.

All student **applications are due at OIS by Wednesday, October 31**. Applications for host families will be received through November. We strongly suggest that you apply early to accommodate all match-up processes. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to see us at OIS in Student Union Building 300, call us at (213) 740-9742, or email us at thanksgiving0708@gmail.com. OIS International Program Assistants really encourage you to participate in this amazing program!

OIS Programs

In addition to offering resources and assistance, The Office of International Services organizes several enriching programs to provide the USC community with a place to learn about different cultures and have conversations with new friends.

THANKSGIVING MATCH-UP PROGRAM

International students and scholars are matched with American families during the Thanksgiving holiday so they can experience this American tradition.

L.A. TODAY

Students discover new places and meet other students through fun, off-campus excursions in Southern California.

INTERNATIONAL DINERS' CLUB

Three times a semester, an international cuisine guide leads small groups of students, faculty, and staff to national and ethnic restaurants in the LA area to experience an array of international cuisine.

STATE OF THE WORLD SEMINARS

Open to the whole university community, each semester, a panel of international students and faculty discuss an issue of current social, political, and/or economic world interest.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL SPOUSES

The Office of International Services offers free English conversation classes to spouses or families of international students and scholars. Participants learn English in an informal environment, and have the opportunity to take field trips and make new friends.

WORLD CAFÉ

A great opportunity to meet domestic and international students, and learn more about a specific culture while enjoying international refreshments for free. Members of students' families are invited to these events also to sit back and discuss their perceptions of the world.

For more information on these OIS programs, please visit the OIS website at www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS. From there, click on "Activities and Events." Then, follow the "OIS Programs" link to read more about the programs and how you can join!

International Connection



Dixon Johnson, Elvis, and the OIS staff and alumni, Retirement Reception, May 2007

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