Greetings from the Editor’s Desk by Wajid Hassan

Hello,

Welcome to the Summer issue of the ISU newsletter ‘International Perspectives.’ I am Wajid Hassan, the new editor. I am from Pakistan and a graduate student in the Electrical Engineering department.

This issue focuses on activities during the summer in Wichita and at WSU. We have tried to bring together a lot of stuff that you can do during the summer to entertain yourself and not be bored.

If you are interested in games then I would recommend you to read the Rec center article by Assistant Editor Jacob on page 3. You can actually learn what new additions have been made in the Rec center as well as what it already offers.

Flip to page 4 and you can read an interview with Jessica White, SGA vice president, who is very much concerned about the international students and has been diligently working for us.

Do you know that there are two museums at Wichita State University and more in the city of Wichita that you can explore? On page 5 you can find an article covering details on museums in Wichita.

Cecilia, outgoing editor, is back with useful information on page 6 about the art event known as Final Friday, which is a great source of entertainment during the summer time.

We have included an article in German on cultural differences between Europe and America and moving to Wichita by Robert Müller on page 2, the translation of which can also be found on the ISU newsletter website.

We would like to welcome the new Executive Committee of ISU, many of whom were also a part of the previous committee and worked really hard to help the international students. ISU with the help of the Office of International Education also organized a welcome table at ICT airport to help the incoming international students, a report on this is included on page 6 of the newsletter.

I Hope that you will like our endeavors in this issue and if you would like to share your thoughts and suggestions, send us your articles and we will be very happy to publish them.

Wajid Hassan, Pakistan, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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Das Dasein eines internationalen Studenten in Wichita by Robert Müller

Stellen Sie sich vor, in ein Land zu ziehen, in dem Sie niemanden kennen.

Stellen Sie sich vor, dass wenn Sie in ein Flugzeug einsteigen, Sie nicht wissen, wo Sie leben werden, wenn Sie aussteigen. Tausende von internationalen- und Austauschstudenten sind mit dieser und anderen herausfordernden Situationen konfrontiert, wenn sie sich dazu entscheiden im Ausland zu studieren; und so war auch ich. Ich bin ein internationaler Student aus Deutschland an der Wichita State University.


Im Wesentlichen, internationaler Student in Wichita zu sein ist eine tolle Erfahrung. Die Menschen sind warmherzig, es gibt zahlreiche Möglichkeiten für Aktivitäten, die Universität ist gut. Professoren sind freundlich und hilfsbereit, und die kulturelle Erfahrung ist ein kostbarer Pluspunkt. Sollten Sie jemals die Möglichkeit haben, im Ausland zu leben, arbeiten, oder studieren, dann nutzen Sie diese. Die Erfahrungen, die Sie machen werden, werden Ihnen ein Lebenlang nützen.

An English translation of this article is available at the following link, http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/isu/newsletter/beingsinterstudgerman.pdf

Robert Müller, Germany, Senior- International Business Program, robertmuller8@gmail.com

As an International Student, How would U Spend Summer Vacations in the U.S.?

“Although I am working in summer, in evenings either I play cricket with my friends or go for swimming and exercise. At night friends usually get together and then we chat and watch movies...and this is always the best part of the whole day”
Muhammad Naeem, Pakistan.

“During summer I visit my family and close friends who live elsewhere in the US. I don’t get a lot of time during the rest of the year, so for me summer is a great time. This time I visited my brother in San Jose and other friends in Dallas”
Syed Obaidullah, Pakistan.
We recently interviewed Jessica White, the newly elected Vice President of the Student Government Association. An Entrepreneurship Major, she is very enthusiastic about international students.

What is one thing you would like our readership to know about yourself?

I have a very outgoing personality. I am the kind of person who is always eager to learn something new. I would describe myself as being quirky and friendly – I like to think outside the box. Some people say I am quick-witted and a bold leader. As Vice President of Student Government Association, I am devoted to my roll as a link between the students and the University and care very much about the issues we face on a day-to-day basis. My goal is that all students have a fulfilling and pleasant experience and become as proud as I am to be called a Shocker.

What are a few things you would like our readership to know about SGA?

Student Government Association is a governing body that represents the students. We take the Student Fee dollars you pay in tuition and reallocate them to various services, groups, and individuals that request the funds. Over 30 individuals hold positions in the Association, most of them senate seats that represent each school on campus. We also have three committees: Budget and Finance, Academics, and Campus Issues. We discuss student concerns and work towards making necessary changes so that life at Wichita State is the best it can be.

We were told that you have an interest in international student affairs? How much interaction have you had so far with international students?

The past two years I’ve had several opportunities to meet and work with international students through jobs and groups on campus. These activities have helped me form a strong social base. I am also interested in learning more about the different cultures that ISU represents because I believe that significant progress can be made through better communication and participation. I am proud to say that some of my closest friends come from other countries and have a wide range of backgrounds, and getting to know them has been a very pleasant and gratifying experience. SGA and international students benefit greatly from mutual participation and I truly believe the University as a whole grows when students and their organizations can work together to meet a common goal. I know ISU has concerns that need to be addressed. I hope to work with international students and the Administration and Senate to make our University’s resources more readily accessible so that each student may better realize their full potential.

What do you plan to do to help the international students?

This year, I hope to work with international students to address technical problems they are facing at the University. Right now I have a couple of ideas, but need to do considerably more research. I understand the need for Scholarships and better funding for ISU, but this will take some creative thinking and teamwork, especially when our budget is much tighter now than in previous years.

In what time frame do you plan to achieve these goals?

I’m hoping that by the end of the fall semester, the President and I will have a clearer understanding of what needs to be improved. Only then will we begin to make a definite timeline. It helps when we have the proper support from the Administration and the Senate, but I think by the end of next year we will be well on our way to improving life for international students here on campus.

Rec Center by Jacob Goering

Although the summer is more than halfway over, there still remain some weeks for summer fun. If one takes the time to look, Wichita offers quite a few great activities. However, for WSU students, opportunities for fun with friends are often right under our noses. The William H. Smith Bowling & Recreation Center located in the basement level of the Rhatigan Student Center is a great choice for passing scorching summer days. Many students may be familiar with the bowling and billiard facilities. The Rec Center has 8 bowling lanes and 15 billiard tables. In the month of July on Fridays one can bowl a game for only a dollar, and on Wednesdays pool is just $2.50 an hour.

Recently the Rec Center has started offering access to X-box and Nintendo Wii game systems. The games are usually $2.50 per hour per player, but in July you can play for free on Mondays!

Also, don’t forget that the Rec Center is always a great option for food and drinks on campus. Although you won’t be able to use your Shocker Dollars, the Rec Center is open later (10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Mon.-Fri.) than food and beverage spots on the RSC’s main floor. I think you’ll agree that summer sounds like a great time to escape the heat in the cool of the RSC basement!
Germany

Here we have included some facts about Germany to complement Robert Müller’s article in German on page 2. Many of our readers may not be aware of the great influence which German people and culture have had on the U.S. Many Americans of European descent have German ancestry. This is especially true of the Midwest, where one can find many family names and place names of German origin, and even in some rural areas in Kansas there are religious communities, such as the Mennonites, who have preserved a form of the German language -The Editors.

Location: Germany is a large country in central Europe. Germany is bordered by the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg in the west, France in the southwest, Switzerland and Austria in the south and southeast, Czech Republic and Poland in the east, and Denmark to the north. Germany is also bordered by the North Sea and Baltic Sea to the northwest and northeast respectively.

Government: Germany is a federal republic. The government's main bodies and offices include a Parliament, a federal chancellor, and a Cabinet.

Climate: Germany has a mild climate, largely because the land is near the sea. In winter, the sea is not as cold as the land. In summer, it is not as warm. As a result, west winds from the sea help warm Germany in winter and cool it in summer. Away from the sea, in southern areas, winters are colder and summers are warmer.

Economy: Manufacturing is the foundation of Germany’s economic strength. Germany has several major manufacturing regions, and there are factories almost everywhere. Much of Germany's steel is used to make automobiles and trucks, industrial and agricultural machinery, ships, and tools. Germany is the world's second largest manufacturer of automobiles.

Demographics: Germany ranks second in population among the countries of Europe. Germany is home to over 82 million people. Two main forms of the German language have long been spoken in Germany—High German in the south and center and Low German in the north. In addition, there are many dialects associated with particular regions or cities. In Germany today, schools, businesses, newspapers, and radio and television broadcasts use a standardized form of the High German language called Standard German. [This is the language in which Robert Müller has written his article.]

Education. The German states were among the first in the world to set up a public education system for all children. By the 1900’s, almost all Germans over the age of 15 could read and write.

Germany also developed one of the finest university systems in the world. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, students came from many countries to study in Germany. Between 1900 and 1933, German scientists won more Nobel Prizes than scientists from any other country.

Education in Germany [today] is controlled by the individual states. All children must go to school full-time for at least 9 or 10 years, starting at age 6. Germany has more than 80 universities and many specialized and technical colleges. The University of Heidelberg, founded in 1386, is Germany’s oldest university.

Sources

The pictures are taken from en.wikipedia.org


[2] Mercedes Benz logo is a trademark from Mercedes-Benz.
Many international students do not own a vehicle, and even when they aren't studying, may find themselves on or near campus most of the time. You may be surprised to find out that the campus itself holds a few secrets to explore. I have been attending WSU for nearly three years, and a few days ago I visited the Ulrich Museum of Art for the first time. The museum is free, and offers several galleries which display a variety of contemporary thought provoking pieces ranging from subdued black and white photography evoking the nostalgia of decades past, to ultra contemporary ceramic works whose surreal shapes, materials, and colors push the boundaries of the medium.

This particular ceramics display can be viewed through Sunday, August 9th. The eclectic collections at Ulrich are a great reason to pass some hours this summer, and did I mention it's free?

The museum is open 6 days a week from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday to Friday and remains open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday but is closed on Mondays. WSU students can also sign up for a free student membership.

Not to be overlooked is the Lowell D. Holmes Museum of Anthropology located in Neff Hall. There, international students may recognize artifacts from their culture, and one can catch a glimpse at pieces of history and global customs. The collection contains items of archaeological and anthropological interest. On both floors of Neff hall you'll find artifacts ranging from Nepalese boots to African statuary. Special collections here include the Asmat art collection, Southwest pottery and ethnographic art collections, Pre-Columbian pottery collection, Chinese minority clothing and ethnographic art collection. Recently a new exhibit opened which shows the current theories on human evolution and physical diversity.

It may be easy for anthropology students to take this impressive display for granted, but if you'd like a break from the engineering building or business school, then get over to Neff Hall and check it out! The Lowell D. Holmes Museum of Anthropology has its own article at Wikipedia, and one can also find information on both it and Ulrich elsewhere online.

If you do have access to transportation, Wichita offers over a dozen other museums, which are developed around a variety of themes including American Indians, sports, and botany. These include the Museum of World Treasures in Old Town, which offers something for everyone, including dinosaurs, presidents, royalty, mummies, knights in shining armor, celebrities, a fascinating gift shop, and more! For more information on Wichita's museums and other attractions, visit gowichita.com.
ISU’s Airport Welcome Table
by Jacob Goering with input from Zenas Tshitundu

At the start of 2009, ISU began a program to welcome incoming international students at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, and also to provide them with information regarding student housing, taxi services, local lodging, etc. I had the opportunity to volunteer at the table a few times, and my overall impression was that the concept is important. Although to date I have never set foot in another country, when I do get that opportunity, I would hope there would be someone there to greet me and provide me with essential information. It was quite interesting to meet people arriving for what was most probably their very first time in the U.S. from countries all over the world. I cannot quite imagine what that must feel like, but I am glad that ISU is doing something for new students. I would imagine that having people at the airport waiting for them personally must be a welcome sight for a jetlagged student. I also enjoyed meeting other volunteers, who were themselves international students. This event provided me with both a chance to help incoming students, and to make new friends.

ISU continued the program for the summer semester. Zenas Tshitundu has done a great job organizing volunteers for this project, and I plan to take part again when we resume on August 11 for the fall semester. If you like the idea of meeting new students from around the globe, making them feel at home and providing them with the information they need to begin student life in the U.S., then you should participate in this great program. You may also have ideas to contribute, which will provide even more help to new students. For the coming semester, ISU Secretary, Adeline Tan will be organizing the event. If you would like to participate, contact Adeline at extan6@wichita.edu.

It’s show time in downtown Wichita
by Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez

The last Friday of each month, downtown Wichita creates an atmosphere of pleasure and fun inviting people to enjoy arts and music in “Final Friday.” Art galleries all over downtown showcase art in a mixture of techniques, material and color. Many-year professionals and young students have the opportunity to share their portion putting together a scene ready for all to see. The best part of this monthly event is that it is free of charge for all. Final Friday starts between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. with art galleries opening its doors, sharing art, snacks and drinks with the general public.

You have many options to go from one art gallery to the next. You can walk following a map designed specifically for the event or you can take a free trolley that goes from museums to restaurants to shops taking people around following the same map. Usually, activities end around 9:00 p.m. but you can use the trolley to go to restaurants and bars until 10:30. Each Final Friday is a little different from the previous one. There are live bands on the streets, dancers and musicians performing in sidewalks and people walking around having a good time. If you don’t know what to do this summer and want to see a different kind of Wichita, go to Final Friday; there is something for everyone. You won’t be disappointed. Visit http://www.downtownwichita.org/ for more info.

Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez, Paraguay.
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Don’t Forget...

For new Fall 2009 students at WSU

- New student check-in at the Office of International Education (OIE) at the Garvey International Center begins on Monday, August 3.
- English and Math Placement exam days/times can be found in new student folder you will receive at OIE.
- New student Tuberculosis (TB) tests administered on: August 11-12, 8:30-10:30am and on August 19, 8:30am – 1:00pm
- Library orientations: August 13, 11:00am-12:00pm OR 7:00-8:00pm.
- New Student Orientation, Tuesday, August 18 in the Rhatigan Student Center, Ballroom.

For all students Returning and New

- TUITION must be paid (or payment plan set up) by FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, or all courses you have enrolled in will be dropped!
- Check out all the great activities taking place during WELCOMEFEST – the first two weeks of school, August 16 – August 29! Schedule will be ready August 1 on Student Activities Council website or in the Shocker Times newspaper.
- Ablah Library OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, August 25. Tours of Ablah Library will begin every 30 minutes on the half-hour 8:00am – 6:30pm, including refreshments, door-prizes and other activities!

Want to submit an article, an event or comment on the articles?
send us an email:
isu@wichita.edu or wajidhassan@yahoo.com

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