Greetings from the Editor’s Desk by Mariyana

We are here again with our last issue for the Spring 2006. Spring is also the time when several countries and cultures around the world celebrate the arrival of a new year in different ways. Just as spring symbolizes new birth of vegetation, similarly, it is time for ISU to renew its active membership and also to ring out the old and ring in the new.

ISU will be holding its elections/nominations for the executive committee in May, 2006.

One of the best ways to serve WSU as in international student would be by actively participating in the struggles, frustrations, humorous interactions, and finally the accomplishments of the ISU family.

Please pick up a form for ISU executive committee membership from the Office of International Education (OIE) at the Garvey Center, and be a part of our ever expanding family.

ISU would like to thank Bruno Trindade, our technology assistant for working on our colorful brochure and the website. Please take some time in a few weeks to visit our website which is still in progress at: http://webs.wichita.edu/isu

Lastly, but not least, as all of us approach the finals week, I wish you all the very best in completing a productive semester. Please remember that ISU will be active in summer as well, and feel free to contact us if you need any help from us. It has been a wonderful experience serving as the editor for ISU newsletter.

I am very happy with the success that our newsletter is achieving in highlighting international interests and opinions at WSU. Thank You ISU & Thank You WSU...

GO SHOCKERS...

Mariyana (Indonesia) is a senior in International Business at WSU & Secretary/Treasurer of ISU.

Dark Continent to Dazzle WSU by Yetunde Olukanni

Last year, it started out as an idea among a small group of international students. But Africana 2005 turned out to be a big hit at WSU. So this year the show is back, this time on a global scale and at a bigger venue under the name: “Africana Presents the World.”

Nigeria, Mexico, Vietnam...these are just some of the countries that will be represented during this night of dance, music, fashion, and culture to celebrate the diversity that exists on WSU campus.

“It was such a huge success last year,” said Antônio Pinheiro, a business major and President of the African Student Association, “That we had to do it again, and this time teamed up with other organizations.”

(Cont. on page 3).
B eing an international student in a major U.S. university (such as WSU) is a unique experience that one cannot appreciate until few years later when you realize that you have acquired dozens of new friends and classmates from 5 different continents, 10 different countries, and numerous cultures. You also recognize that thanks to various conversations with your friends and classmates you have taken a free crash course in other countries' cultures, history, and politics.

As every international student will testify, it takes time and effort to adapt to living in a different cultural setting.

To give you an example from my own experience, the most common hardships Turkish students experience while they are continuing their education here in the US, besides language, is being homesick and lonely. Usually it takes about six-months to a year for a typical Turkish student to learn how to adapt to a lifestyle where you do not have relatives and neighbors visiting you, where the food does not taste as delicious as your mom’s, and because of the time difference, you can not follow your soccer matches closely!

Most internationals agree that, during this early adaptation period, if the newly arrived student actively interacts with other students – American or international – that student learns how to find his/her way around much faster, and in the long run becomes more successful. This is a relatively easy solution to loneliness and language troubles.

A typical, and in my view, crucial mistake in this period, is to “hang out” only with students from your native country. Of course, befriending native country folks is always good. However, in many instances, the international student who is actively interacting with American or other international students not only adapts fast and learns new things about other cultures, but also learns to appreciate many aspects of their own culture.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that many success stories can be attributed mainly to this willingness and open-mindedness on the part of the student, because it serves as a starting point for other success-building characteristics and venues.

Let me finish with some suggestions that I think will help you:

- Remember grades are not everything! Many American employers prefer to hire a B student over an A student who does not have social and cultural curiosity. So read American and World History, read literature classics, watch not only the contemporaneous, but classic movies as well, learn what kind of people American businesses prefer to hire and prepare and educate yourself accordingly.

- Do not be ashamed of your own culture or your own background! Remember that U.S. culture is shaped by the synthesis of many cultures. However, in order for your culture’s “flavor” to be a part of the “melting pot,” it has to melt, at least a little bit, before it interacts and affects the ingredients of the pot.

- Learn how to exercise systematically and consistently! Ability to exercise in a disciplined way will greatly contribute to your future success.

- Get involved in events, clubs, hobbies, and organization that are designed for students. Not only will you meet new people and develop a network of similar minded friends, you will also learn many useful and new things about the other students, the university, and the society.

Dr. Gonul Colak (Turkey) is Asst. Prof. of Finance, Real Estate, and Decision Sciences (FREDS) in the Barton School of Business and can be reached at Gonul.Colak@Wichita.Edu or Ext. 7124

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**Worldly Wise - An Anecdote of Mullah Nasrudin (Hoja)**

The old stupid Caliph challenged his court: “Whoever can transform my donkey into a man will earn 1000 Dinars.” Mullah Nasraddin stepped forward and agreed to take up the challenge for a down payment of 500 Dinars and the balance to be paid to him at the end of 20 year period when the donkey will be transformed into a man.

Outside the court, Mullah’s friends asked him, “How in the world are you going to accomplish this? Don’t you know the Caliph beheads those who do not succeed in challenges?”

The Mullah answered: “Don’t I have 20 years? In 20 years, either the donkey, the Caliph or me, on of them is surely going to die. So what does it matter?”
I wish I spoke Italian. And German. Chinese and Korean would be good to learn, too.

What am I saying? I wish to be fluent in ALL languages! Wouldn't that be great to put on a resume? Well, since I cannot do that without spending many more years in school, I am very fortunate to know English and a little Spanish. What makes me even more fortunate is that everyone I know speaks at least a little English!

When I was in middle school, I had a Vietnamese teacher. Her accent was very thick, but she was patient. Ever since then I have a curiosity with accents. I love walking down the hallways in between classes and listening to people talk on their cell phones and to each other. That may sound slightly creepy, but listening to people speak their own language is exciting to me.

A person's language seems like their own private piece of music that only they know how to play. For instance, I had a South African professor who had the most melodious voice ever. It took a lot of caffeine to stay awake in his class because his voice was like a lullaby.

I understand there are many difficulties with accents as well. Some people are very hard to understand. I know many students who drop out the first day of class because they realize that they can't understand the professor.

My thought is this: Wouldn't it be terribly difficult for the international student? Well, if an Indian student had an Indian professor, that could work out great. But what if that same student had a Chinese professor, or Russian?

I think that if you can't understand the professor, don't decide to drop until you see his handwriting on the blackboard. I have had a Chinese professor with a very thick accent, but he writes exactly what he says on the board, and he writes very neatly. Now, I have adapted to his accent because of his diligence and penmanship!

Probably the best way for a student to adjust to the many accents heard around the WSU campus is immersion. Listening to the music from your hall-mates, and participating in activities and study groups not only help you hear many intriguing accents, but also help you meet future friends from across the globe. Understanding all of these many voices is one of the many reasons why diversity makes college so much fun!

*Michele Wolfe (U.S.A.) is a Graduate Student in the Math Dept. and also an Instructor for Pre-Calculus at WSU.*

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**Dark Continent**....

(From page 1)

Organizers have been planning for this event since the beginning of the Spring semester. Despite not receiving anticipated funding from Student Government Association (SGA), preparation for the show is in full swing and the show has thankfully received assistance from the Center for Student Leadership, Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Church of Tha Chain.

The event has thus now become a joint presentation by the Association of African Students, Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), ISU and others.

*Africana Presents the World* will be held on Saturday April 29th, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Hughes Metropolitan Complex located on 29th and Oliver street.

Admission is free. Bring your family and friends, because this is a show better seen than described.

If you have any questions, call Yetunde at 978-2638.

*Yetunde Olukanni from Nigeria is the VP of the Association of African Students and is majoring in Communications.*

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ISU congratulates its Vice President Twambi Kalinga who won the At Large Senator Position for the Student Government Association (SGA). Twambi is from Malawi (Africa) and is majoring in Communications.
São Paulo, Brazil: A Profile...

**Location:** São Paulo is located on the plateau of a vast region known as the Brazilian Highlands, with an average elevation around 2,000 ft, though at a distance of only about 40 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

**Population:** São Paulo metropolitan region, also known as "Grande São Paulo" ("Greater São Paulo") holds a total of 39 municipalities and has a population of more than 20 million.

**Languages:** As in the rest of Brazil, Portuguese is the dominant language and the mother tongue of the vast majority of the population. However, many other languages, such as German, French and Italian are still spoken by first and second generation members of their respective ethnic communities.

**Economy:** São Paulo is the financial and industrial center of Brazil, a huge sprawling metropolis and the largest city in South America. The city headquarters more American companies than any other single city outside the United States.