Greetings from the Editor’s Desk by Mariyana

Hi everyone, we are back again with our newsletter. ISU would like to welcome all of the new and returning students. I hope we all are going to have an exciting and fun semester. ISU would also like to welcome any student or faculty to join us to provide and take advantage of intercultural experiences.

ISU strives to help international students in several ways; but we also encourage American students to join us because it is important for us to interact and work together to have a broader perspective.

As the world is getting smaller and global, it’s important to understand all kind of cultures and people. We recognize this need and would like to cater to it. Right now our committee includes students and a faculty advisor from at least five different countries which are India, Malawi, Indonesia, Cameroon and USA.

Besides ISU, there are many school organizations that students can join and I would like to encourage students to do that. Some organization at WSU are SAC, SGA, Nepalese Students’ Association, Pakistani Student Organization, Taiwanese Student Association, and many more. For further information just check out the www.wichita.edu website under the student resources.

Short highlights of the things we’ve done are International Food Festival, International Faculty Appreciation, Global Learning, and we also co-sponsored activities such as the cricket tournament.

It has been a fun experience for me to be a part of ISU and I hope I could share it and see you at the committee.

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

Save $ & Lives

ISU Honors International Faculty & Staff

by Twambi Kalinga

ISU successfully hosted its first reception for International Staff & Faculty on Thursday, November 3rd 2005 at the Rhatigan Student Center Regents Room between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The event was organized to enable greater interaction and participation of international faculty and staff in WSU activities. The event was also used to communicate to the faculty and staff about ISU and activities.

(Cont. on page 3).
As a teaching faculty at WSU, I have always had some international students in my class. Although I cannot read their minds, I can still sense their struggle while adjusting to different cultures and expectations. I am empathetic towards them because I was also once an international student. Nevertheless, study at WSU is full of academic and social opportunities for international students.

Growing up in a non-English speaking country, study in the US presented a major challenge to me both on and off campus. I struggled through language barriers and culture shocks to balance myself in a different social environment. Some of my Chinese friends held on to their cultural roots and lived in their own small world. On the other hand, I opened up myself to American and other international friends to improve upon my communication skills and to share and learn about different cultures.

Acceptance, tolerance, and respect all come from mutual understanding of each other’s differences. If I had not changed my attitude to embracing culture diversity, I would not be in the same position today. The key factor of this transition was – make an effort to accept and respect different cultures. Like most orientals, I too am focused on family values and education. Today I am a parent myself. However, my ideology of perfection has created in me a zero tolerance policy with my children. Sometimes, I get carried away and demand similar high standards from my students.

Soon, I learned that in the American education system the idea of demanding does not improve the performances neither from my children nor from my students. But, I continued to deny the failure because I did not want to give up the expected “high standards” that I inherited from my culture. When things got worse, I started to question “what went wrong?”

The answer surfaced after a long discussion with my family. In the transition from a follower (student) to a leader (parent and/or teacher), my role change carried a subconscious responsibility to guard my cultural heritage. I lost my ability to “listen” and was in denial about the changes I was in the cultural context.

Once again, I decided to change my approach and open up my heart to listen and adopt to American values of negotiation and tolerance. The key factor of this transition was that a personal role changes should not be a hurdle of adopting new culture.

In my present job, I lead many projects. Project management typically requires working with different levels of peoples including managers, engineers, computing supports, and machinists. Each professional group has its own traditional silo culture blocks, which are sometimes very difficult to break in. There is an old Chinese saying: “When three peoples walk together (the good, the bad, and the ugly), any one of them can be my teacher.” I applied Chinese principles and the ability to communicate I learned from American culture, to approach team members to gain their trust and share their knowledge. My cultural background helped me to break the shield of the silos and get the job done. The key factor of this transition was – make use the best of different cultures and create new opportunities.

My few words of advice to WSU international students are:

1. Changing is the only thing that will improve your life. However, always stay put on changing for better, not worse.
2. Opening up is a way to accept and respect differences. Always open heart and mind to a new world.
3. Hold on to your own valuable culture assets. Always blend with the best of other cultures to create unique opportunities.

Dr. Ming C. Liu (Taiwan) is an Adjunct Professor of Economics, and can be reached by email at mliu3@cox.net

World Wise - A Fable, A Quote & a Proverb

A man of the state of Chu had a spear and a shield for sale. He was loud in praises of his shield. “My shield is so strong that nothing can pierce it through.”

He also sang praises of his spear. “My spear is so strong that it can pierce through anything.”

“What would happen,” he was asked, “if your spear is used to pierce your shield?”

It is impossible for an impenetrable shield to coexist with a spear that finds nothing impenetrable. - A Chinese Fable

“Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he’ll be a mile away - and barefoot. “ - A Modern Proverb
An Alien Inspiration!!! by Patrice Jones

F oreigner!!! Alien!!! The mo-
ment this word rolls off one's
tongue, a tone is set. A criti-
cism will fol-
low. Why has this word
become so derogatory?
If anything, the label
"foreigner" or "alien"
should be worn with
pride. Though the cir-
cumstances which moti-
vate one to leave their
home country to become
a foreigner in a new
land vary greatly, one thing is for
sure: it takes a courageous person to
venture away from the familiar. It is
not a comfortable process. The for-
eigner or alien must adopt a new lan-
guage, as well as struggle to make
sense of a culture that operates differ-
ently. If the foreigner truly opens
himself to the experience, he becomes
a philosopher-- an open-minded per-
son who dares to question and con-
sider new ideas.

I think everyone should have the ex-
perience of being a foreigner, espe-
cially Americans, who tend to have a
"holier than thou" posture towards the
rest of the world. We may have cer-
tain luxuries that aren't as accessible
beyond our borders, but just how im-
portant are these luxuries in the
bigger scheme of things? We handicap ourselves when
we refuse to think "outside of the box." That box being this
country. Look at a map some-
time. Imagine what else is
out there. Open your-
self...like the foreigner...who
has freed himself.

I'd like to share an excerpt from an
incredible book by author Kent Ner-
burn. The book, entitled Letters to My
Son, adds to this sentiment.

I would never again be the same. This
is the magic of travel. Any travel. You
leave your home secure in your own
knowledge and identity. But as you
travel, the world in all its richness
intervenes. You meet people you could
not invent; you see scenes you could
not imagine. Your own world, which
was so large as to consume your whole
life, becomes smaller and smaller until
it is only one tiny dot in time and
space. You return a different person.
All you need to do is give yourself up to
the unknown. It doesn't have to be on a
vast, dreamlike arctic plain. It can be
on a gentle stroll through a Wisconsin
forest or on a street corner in Nairobi.
What matters is that you have left the
comfort of the familiar and opened
yourself to a world that is totally apart
from your own.

Many people don’t want to be travelers.
They would rather be tourists, flitting
over the surface of other people’s lives
while never really leaving their own.
They try to bring their world with them
wherever they go, or try to re-create
the world they left. They do not want to
risk the security of their own under-
standing and see how small and lim-
ited their experiences really are. To be
a real traveler you must be willing to
give yourself over to the moment and
take yourself out of the center of your
universe. You must believe totally in
the lives of the people and the places
where you find yourself, even if it
causes you to lose faith in the life you
left behind.

Be inspired!!
Patrice Jones (U.S.A.) majored in music
and Spanish at WSU.

ISU Honors International Faculty & Staff

(from page 1)
President Dr. Donald Beggs graced
the occasion by his presence.
In his welcome speech, President
Beggs stressed on the dynamic na-
ture of an ever-changing world and
the value that the international peo-
ple bring to WSU educational at-
mosphere. Dr. Beggs also inaugu-
rated the ISU newsletter during the
occasion.
The inauguration was followed by a
panel discussion of American students
who had interacted with international
faculty and staff, and the faculty and
staff got an opportunity to ask ques-
tions and enquire about their percep-
tions of international educators.

The panelists were very positive about
their experiences and expressed both
their pleasant and challenging experi-
ences while interacting diverse cul-
tures and expectations from interna-
tional faculty and staff.
About 25 faculty and staff from various
countries attended the event. More-
over, special invitees included Asst.
VP of Campus Life, Ms. Deltha
Colvin, University General Counsel
Ted Ayres, and OIE Executive Di-
rector, Dr. Michael Philson.
An emotional Dr. Deema-de-Silva
recalled the efforts of her late
daughter who had initiated a simi-
lar organization at her university
during her graduation days.
Mehmet Bayram Yildrim, assistant
professor of industrial and manufac-
turing engineering expressed his sat-
fisfaction of the event and congratu-
lated ISU for its attempts.
Twambi Kalinga, Vice President of
ISU is from Malawi (Africa) and is
majoring in Communications.
Cameroon, Africa: A Profile...

Physical: Cameroon is located on the Central West African Coast, bordering Nigeria, Chad, and the Central African Republic. It is divided into tropical forests in the south, the drier savanna in the north-central region and mountains along the western border. It covers an area slightly larger than California. The climate varies from tropical along the coast to semiarid and hot in the north. Natural resources include petroleum, bauxite, iron ore, timber and hydropower.

Population: Around 16.2 million people inhabit Cameroon. Ethnically, the nation is comprised of: Cameroon Highlanders (31%), Equatorial Bantu (19%), Kirdi (11%), Fulani (10%), and other groups (29%). Religious practices include: indigenous beliefs (40%); Christian (40%); and Muslim (20%).

Languages: Cameroon is unique in that it shares two European languages: English and French. This linguistic division was created after World War I when Cameroon was divided under British and French rule.

Government: Cameroon is a unitary republic that became independent from UN trusteeship under the French on January 1, 1960. President Paul Biya is head of state. It has five major political parties. Universal suffrage is at 20. The existing political system claims, rather controversially, that it is a democracy.

Economy: Currency is the Francs CFA. Gross domestic product stands at $30.17 billion. Major industries include petroleum production and refining, aluminum production, food processing, light consumer goods, textiles, lumber, ship repair.

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Don’t Miss...

Shopping Trip
Friday, March 25
1:00 PM

Welcome Party
Friday, March 31 (To be confirmed)
6:00—9:00 PM

Ice Skating
Saturday, April 8
12:30—3:30 PM

Baseball Game
Saturday, April 22
2:00 PM

Africana Presents the World
Saturday, April 29
6:00 PM

Trip to the Movies
Saturday, May 6
12:30-4:45 PM

Cost: All activities are open to current WSU international students. You will need to show your WSU shocker card for free admission to all activities. Your admission ticket and transportation are always paid for. You only need money if you wish to purchase souvenirs or food.

Sign-up Sheet: If you plan to attend an activity, please put your name on the sign-up sheet. It will always be posted at the Counter of the Garvey Center and also in the Intensive English Language Center Office the week of the event. If you decide not to go after you have signed up, please take off your name off the List. (This lets the office know how many tickets are to be purchase).

Transportation: A bus will take you to all activities, except for those that are on the WSU campus. To be ensure timeliness, please be on the bus and ready to go by the time listed on the flyer. The bus leaves from the parking lot south of the Intensive English Language Center. If there is inclement weather on the day of an activity, the bus will pick up students at the dorms. The bus pick-up schedule will be listed on the sign-up sheet and on the flyers posted the week prior to the activity. If you live on campus (Wheatshocker, Brennan, or Fairmount Towers), the bus will return you to your dorms after the activity.

For more information, contact Office of International Education at 978-3232

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Want to submit an article, an event or comment on the articles? , send us an email :

isu@wichita.edu

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Visit us at http://webs.wicita.edu.isu

* Webpage is best viewed with IE 5.0 or higher.