Greetings from he Editor's Desk  by Wajid Hassan

Hello everyone,
The fall semester has just begun and these days I am already meeting many new international and local students on campus. As always, the current edition of International Perspectives has something for everyone.

If you had the chance to take part in the International Orientation, then you know that it was an awe inspiring event, where many international students were present, interacted with the speakers and even won prizes. That reminds me of how much effort the international office has put into bringing together so many international students in one place to help make their experience at WSU both meaningful and successful.

In the first week of the semester a lot of activities were organized by the Student Activities Council (SAC) under the umbrella of Welcomefest. In this issue we have a great report on Welcomefest, which I am sure you will like, and in case you missed some of the events you can look forward to enjoying them next year, because a lot of these have become Welcomefest traditions.

A lot of new students arrive every fall to attend Wichita State and it is very difficult for them to find their own traditional food. Food is one thing that really connects one with the home country and hence the Assistant Editor, Jacob Goering, decided to introduce these new students to some of the delicacies that Wichita offers. I am sure that after reading the article you will have a good idea of what kind of food you can find at different places in Wichita. This information will not only be helpful for incoming international students but also for the locals who would like to have some traditional food from around the world.

A thought-provoking article in Spanish has also been included in this month’s isue that tells of the academic journey of an international student at Wichita State. The author of the article is now an alumnus of WSU and reflects back on her years spent as a student here.

Also interesting this time is statistical information in the newsletter about the diversified international population at WSU. You may be surprised to learn that students from 86 different countries come to WSU in pursuit of higher education.

Finally, I am sure you will appreciate the efforts of WSU students in telling their personal stories or sharing the fun of campus events, and will relate to various articles in one way or another. Please send us your feedback about this newsletter and what type of articles you may want to read in a future issue. Remember, International Perspectives is written with you in mind, so your feedback is always a big help.

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ISU is a registered organization with the Center for Student Leadership Office & funded by SGA.
Hay muchas formas de vivir la vida. Una de ellas es siendo espectador y otra es siendo iniciador. Siendo espectador es cómo uno ve como pasa la vida ante sus ojos sin experimentar o vivir intensamente. Cuando una persona se convierte en iniciador, sin embargo, la vida es llevada a otro nivel. Sueños y anhelos se convierten en realidad para pintar los días de colores vivos y decorarlos con experiencias y vivencias.

Dependiendo de quien las mire, ambas posibilidades tienen ventajas y desventajas. Para mi personalidad de iniciadora, Wichita State University contribuyó con un sinfín de oportunidades para hacer nuevos amigos y crear un repertorio de anécdotas y vivencias. Esto incrementó mi respetuosidad hacia otros y me ayudó a tener un conocimiento del idioma, la cultura y el relacionamiento humano. Además, entre mi respetuosidad con las experiencias de los demás, la convirtí en mi familia en Wichita.

Como estudiante internacional, trabajé en tres departamentos completamente diferentes dentro de WSU: Office of International Education, Housing and Residence Life y College of Engineering. Esas tres posiciones me abrieron un sinfín de puertas que hasta hoy son útiles no solo como conexión laboral, sino también como soporte emocional. En cada departamento conocí gente increíble que con el tiempo se convirtió en mi familia en Wichita.

Aparte de trabajar y estudiar, porque no olvidamos que nuestra ocupación aquí es la de estudiante, formé parte de actividades de voluntariado, competencias y programas que mejoraron mi conocimiento del idioma, la cultura y el relacionamiento humano.

Fue embajadora cultural representando a mi país, Paraguay, en la comunidad de Wichita, participé en el programa de educación cooperativa en la oficina de Cooperative Education, obtuve una pasantía en Washington DC, edité boletines para la unión de estudiantes internacionales.

Más allá de lo que muchos puedan decir, Wichita State ofrece posibilidades que ayudan a crecer en todo sentido. Es una universidad ideal para quien quiera concentrarse en sus estudios y al mismo tiempo desarrollar conexiones personales y laborales.

Hoy sigo siendo parte de Wichita State por medio de la asociación de ex-alumnos y estoy orgullosa de decir que me gradué en mayo de este año después de haber vivido cuatro años maravillosos en los que conocí gente de todo el mundo.

Cada persona, cada clase, cada lugar, cada día durante esos años formaron quien soy y hoy representan uno de los capítulos que en agosto, cientos de estudiantes tienen la posibilidad de escribir para sí mismos.

Bienvenido a tu Universidad. Recuerda que lo que vivas aquí va a depender de tu actitud de espectador o de iniciador. Yo, como iniciadora creo en buscar, vivir y disfrutar. Cual es tu elección?

An English translation of this article is available at the following link. [http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/isu/Newsletter/Spectatorinitiatorenglishtranslation.pdf](http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/isu/Newsletter/Spectatorinitiatorenglishtranslation.pdf)

Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez, Alumnus, Wichita State University, robertmuller8@gmail.com

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**Espectador o iniciador: es tu eleccion**

**por Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez**

An exciting annual on-campus event, which no incoming student should have missed, just came to a close at the end of August. WSU’s Welcomefest is a series of “welcoming events,” which takes place during the first two weeks of school. Its purpose is to highlight activities created and hosted by student organizations, departments, and colleges on campus.

Originally started as a joint venture of orientation and the Student Activities Council (SAC) for the introduction of freshman and later all incoming students to campus, the Welcomefest tradition began in 1986 as a one week program and later expanded into a two week reception.

SAC serves as the information source for Welcomefest events, which are held at various locations on campus, and sponsored by a variety of hosts. This year Welcomefest was held from August 16-29.

But why should a student be interested in the Welcomefest?

This is a great way for students to learn about the different events that are happening on campus and to learn about the organizations that are sponsoring them, which students may want to join themselves. Being an active member in a campus organization can be one of the most rewarding experiences of a student’s college career. But besides all this, the Welcomefest is also a great opportunity to have fun! 2009 was no exception. There are quite a few memorable moments from past Welcomefest events, and this year was another opportunity for new students to leave their mark on WSU’s history.

So what was the most fun-filled event to take place during Welcomefest this year? There are several events which could qualify. The Welcomefest began with an outdoor movie or “movie night” on August 16th. The film Transformers was shown on a large screen to more than 200 people! Popcorn and punch were made available as refreshments. Many students enjoyed the quality of the screen and sound system, not to mention the movie itself. Some students even brought couches with them for seating! Sponsors for this event included SAC, Ulrich Museum (some of the representatives of which were there informing students about the ongoing robotics competition), WSU Greek Life, and Fairmount Towers Activities Council.

On August 19th the College of Engineering held a block party. In addition to many students, several engineering professors were also present. The food was superb and in large quantity. Free gifts, including T-shirts and organizers, were also given away.

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Have you ever wondered how would you be if born in a different part of the world? What would you look like? How different would you be, personally? I have wondered these things sometimes, and even when I do not actually know how different I would be, believe me: I would not change the place in which I was born for anything in the world. Let me share with you a little about my country and some of my experiences growing up there.

Guatemala is a beautiful Central American country that encompasses a complex mixture of modernity and tradition; it is a multi-ethnic and multicultural country, very rich in many ways. Guatemala has beautiful natural features, very nice people, and a rich culture full of traditions and customs, full of colors and flavors. Guatemala also has a modern side. Guatemala City, the capital, is a cosmopolitan and very exciting city comparable to many other large cities in the world; this is where I was born and raised. I grew up in Guatemala City and I have so many nice and meaningful memories and experiences from my childhood that I could share however, I will limit myself to sharing about things like games and toys, and other things I enjoyed.

I will start with games and toys. There are so many traditional games, many of them are similar to the ones that children around the world play, including American children (e.g. monkey in the middle, jumping rope, hopscotch, catch me if you can, circle games) but with different names (e.g. zopilote, cuerda, avion, tenta, rondas). Other games are more specific or maybe more similar to the games played in neighboring regions. Regarding toys, I remember playing with jacks, marbles, ligas, capirucho, trompo (top), yo-yo. If some of these names sound familiar to you, yes, you are right; I am probably talking about the same or similar games and toys to the ones you also remember from your childhood, and by “you”, I mean all of you, regardless of which part of the world you grew up. Of course, living in the city, I also knew other more famous toys that became popular this with my family and friends. Nowadays, not all the things I remember remain the same. Many things are changing due to contact with other cultures and their influence and the usual and unstoppable effect of time. However, I really wish that the underlying values I learned could prevail in the Guatemalan culture (i.e. values of family, people, and relationships) and the experiences that children currently have.

Finally, I think we all agree on this: the place and culture in which we are born definitely influences who we are but at the same time, meaning in our life is created by memories and experiences with our family, the people we love, and the people who love us, no matter how much time passes or where in the world they are.

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The editors got together to enlighten the readers about some very interesting facts about South America. The reason we are doing this is to supplement the article in Spanish included in this issue written by a student from Paraguay. The Spanish language (in various dialects) is the official language of most South American countries and also one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Today, 329 million people speak Spanish as a native language, making it the world’s second most spoken language in terms of native speakers. However, it is the fourth most spoken language in terms of total speakers. It should be noted that Mexico contains the largest population of Spanish speakers.

- South America is made up of 12 countries and 2 dependencies namely:
  1. Argentina
  2. Bolivia
  3. Brazil
  4. Chile
  5. Colombia
  6. Ecuador
  7. Guyana
  8. Paraguay
  9. Peru
  10. Suriname
  11. Uruguay
  12. Venezuela
  13. Falkland Islands - British overseas territory
  14. French Guiana - overseas department of France

- Languages spoken

Although Spanish is considered the official language of most of the South American countries, Brazil, in which the official language is Portuguese is an exception to this rule.

- Brazil is the largest country in South America, occupying nearly half of the continent. It is also the fifth largest country by geographical area in the world.

- South America is home to the world’s highest waterfall; Angel Falls is located in Venezuela.

- The largest river (by volume), the Amazon River, is located in South America.

- South America has the longest mountain range in the world, the Andes (whose highest mountain is Aconcagua at 6,962 m (22,841 ft)).

- South America is also home to the largest rainforest, the Amazon.

- The highest capital city in the world is La Paz, Bolivia.

- The highest commercially navigable lake in the world, Lake Titicaca is in South America.

- The world’s southernmost permanently inhabited community is located in Puerto Toro, Chile.

- South America is one of the seven continents of the world. It is nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. It was discovered by European explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

- Area wise, South America is the fourth largest continent after Asia, Africa and North America and has the fifth largest population after Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

- Ecuador is the leading exporter of bananas.

- Che Guevara, the champion of the revolution in Cuba, was from Argentina, South America.

- Colombia supplies 90% of the world production of Emeralds.

- The driest place on earth is the Atacama Desert, in Argentina. It’s a place with virtually no vegetation; in some parts of Atacama Desert, it has never rained!

- Although Trinidad and Tobago are located in South America, it is not considered a South American country.
Restaurants in Wichita: a guide for incoming students by Jacob Goering

If you are new to Wichita and wish to eat out, where should you go? Well, of course that is a matter of taste, but the following are a few reviews of popular and perhaps a few more obscure local restaurants, which you may wish to try. The editorial team certainly doesn’t encourage new students to spend up all of their money eating out, but once in a while it’s nice to go out on the town with friends for some good food. Let’s start out with the more common, and move on from there. I won’t cover the most conspicuous fast food franchises such as McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, etc. However, I do want to include the quite popular Chipotle Mexican Grill. I would personally recommend Chipotle because of its combination of fresh Mexican style food concocted right in front of customers in assembly line style, and also the inviting social setting; it’s a fun place to sit and eat with friends. Chipotle offers a relatively simple menu: giant burritos, the Burrito Bowl (the contents of a burrito in a container), tacos, and salad, but these can be enjoyed in a vast array of combinations. A burrito starts out at around $6.00, but if you want extras such as guacamole (a green paste-like sauce made from avocados), which costs an extra $1.80, it can add up quite quickly. Chipotle offers chicken, steak, carnitas (pork), Barbacoa (spicy, shredded beef) a variety of sauces and burrito fillings, and a vegetarian option (which comes with guacamole). On September 5th one of the Chipotle restaurants in town offered a free menu item with the show of a Shocker Card (the WSU student ID). The promotion was a wonderful event, which attracted many students; at times the line stretched through the doorway! I really appreciated the fact that there were no strings attached. There was no initial purchase necessary, just free food. In Wichita, you can find Chipotle on the corner of 29th and Rock (across the street from Starbucks and Wal-Mart (within the route of the WSU shuttle bus), one on Hillside across from Wesley Hospital, and a third near Maize Rd. and 21st St. Chipotle is open from 11:00 am-10:00 pm. Although one may be hard pressed to find truly authentic Mexican food in Wichita, there are many places which offer “Mexican-style” food and atmosphere. A few of the more popular chains are Carlos O’kelly’s, Felipe’s, and On the Border. These are dine-in establishments. One may find that the smaller and more “out-of-the-way” a Mexican restaurant is, the more authentic its food will be. However, this may not always prove true. One thing is for sure, if your concern is freshness and taste, then Chipotle will satisfy.

What about Indian food? For a city of its size, Wichita has not seen many Indian restaurants, that I am aware of. Curry and the establishments (at 16th and person-Indian food in the Midwest, so my criterion for a good Indian restaurant are limited. Both Maharaja and Passage to India offer a lunch buffet from 11-2 and dinner menu after 5 pm (Maharaja closes at 9 and Passage at 9:30 Sun-Thurs., and 10 on Fri. and Sat.), and their prices are comparable (around $10.00 for the buffet, and entrees ranging from $8-15). Favorites at Maharaja include Chicken Tikka Masala and hot Garlic Naan. Chicken Do Piazza and Lamb Vindaloo are among the more popular at Passage to India. Both restaurants are closed on Mondays. Deshi Curry is more like a café than a traditional dine-in restaurant. All three places offer cuisine which is probably most akin to food found in Northern India. Halal items can be found at each, but Deshi Curry specializes in halal. Deshi Curry offers tasty (and spicy) Vegetable, Goat, or Chicken Biryani, with menu items ranging between $6-12. Maharaja offers the best buffet in my opinion, and all three restaurants have a variety of flavorful menu items. There are three know of: Pas-India and Deshi (both near 21st Woodlawn), more recently lished Maha-the corner of Broadway). I’ve ally only had Indian food in the Midwest, so my criterion for a good Indian restaurant are limited. Both Maharaja and Passage to India offer a lunch buffet from 11-2 and dinner menu after 5 pm (Maharaja closes at 9 and Passage at 9:30 Sun-Thurs., and 10 on Fri. and Sat.), and their prices are comparable (around $10.00 for the buffet, and entrees ranging from $8-15). Favorites at Maharaja include Chicken Tikka Masala and hot Garlic Naan. Chicken Do Piazza and Lamb Vindaloo are among the more popular at Passage to India. Both restaurants are closed on Mondays. Deshi Curry is more like a café than a traditional dine-in restaurant. All three places offer cuisine which is probably most akin to food found in Northern India. Halal items can be found at each, but Deshi Curry specializes in halal. Deshi Curry offers tasty (and spicy) Vegetable, Goat, or Chicken Biryani, with menu items ranging between $6-12. Maharaja offers the best buffet in my opinion, and all three restaurants have a variety of flavorful menu items. It would be great if Wichita had a couple more Indian food sources, but the scarcity of South Asian food in the city make the three mentioned above essential. Another great place for students to go and meet is Asian Garden, which is quite far from campus (Hillside and 31st St.), but worth the drive. Asian Garden specializes in Thai style cuisine (the Yellow Curry is great), but offers some Indian dishes (such as Chicken Biryani), and is also another source for halal food. The lunch buffet here is $10 and lasts from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Dinner hours are 5-9 pm and the restaurant is open from 11:30 am-10:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Menu items range from $6-15. Asian Garden offers a lot of variety and a nice atmosphere.

Malaysia Cafe near 21st and Rock Rd. is one of the most popular restaurants for students in the city. Here one will find typical take out Chinese style dishes; just about every entrance comes with rice. A variety of meat dishes are offered, as well as a few vegetarian options. Popular dishes include Hokkian Chow Mein and Chicken Curry with rice. My personal favorite are the “Malaysian Pancakes,” which are perhaps a little like Parathas (Indian bread stuffed with cheese or vegetables). Prices range from $6-12. Malaysia Cafe is open Mon-Fri. 11 am-9 pm, Sat. 12-9, and is closed on Sundays. The food here may not be especially unique, but the café offers a good social setting.

These are just a few interesting selections out of the many restaurants found in Wichita. I hope this information will prove useful. Look for more dining information in future issues of International Perspectives. You can also find much more restaurant info at the following link: http://www.gowichita.com/static/index.cfm?action=group&contentId=20.

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As an International Student, Where would you go for traditional food?

I usually like spicy food, and there are several places which I often visit for the traditional food such as Cafe Asia, Asian Garden, Malaysia Cafe. One other place that I really like is Dragon Express whose atmosphere is very Chinese but doesn’t taste too good. So my favorite dishes at these restaurants are Mapo Tofu at Dragon Express, Nasi Lemak (Malay food) and Laksa in Malaysia Cafe and Kungpao Chicken in Cafe Asia and Asian Garden. Pui See Chung, Electrical Engineering Department, Malaysia.

I would like to go to Kebab House and Bella Luna. Kebab House specialty is Turkish food and Bella Luna serves Mediterranean food so it’s pretty much Turkish food again. Temmuz Coşkun, Mechanical Engineering, Turkey.

Asian Garden because it is one of the few restaurants in Wichita that serves Halal Food. Along with that, I strongly recommend my friends to visit it as there are only one or two Halal restaurants in Wichita. You know, my cousin visited Asian Garden a year ago with his family from Houston. He said that he was not expecting to eat in such a restaurant in Wichita (a small town). I was kind of feeling proud of studying in Kansas, especially Wichita. Sajjad Qureshi, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Pakistan.
International Student Enrollment at Wichita State University for Fall 2009 shows some interesting trends. A total number of 106 countries have been represented, higher than previous years. A critical analysis of the International student population at WSU shows that at a strength of 1059, the undergraduates outnumber the graduate students (764). With a total of 1375 students, the International Student Population at WSU represents a 9.3% of the total student population at WSU.

A comparison of US and international students, it was found that 48% of international students pursue a graduate degree at WSU, while only 41% of US students are in the graduate programs. The top fields of study for international students continue to be Engineering, Science and Business.

The top three non-US countries that have highest enrollment at WSU are India, China, and Malaysia (all from the Asian Continent). Overall, these countries account for about 40% of the student population; however, they represent about 60% of the graduate and 25% of the undergraduate students among international student population. India alone accounts for 49% of the total international graduate students at WSU, while China accounts for 10% of the total undergraduate international student population.

Other countries with significant student population are Nepal (70), Nigeria (51), Pakistan (67), and Sri Lanka (63).

Welcomefest 2009
Continued from page 2

On August 20th SAC organized the “Beach Party.” That night the front lawn of the Rhatigan Student Center became the site of a wildly fun party complete with food, two swimming pools (in one of which WSU students were moving in a circle together creating a whirlpool), music courtesy of the band One Pin Shot, and other events, including a mechanical surfboard, and more. Needless to say, the atmosphere was charged with fun.

A performance by hypnotist Daniel James was another highlight of the 2009 Welcomefest.

Looking back at the history of the Welcomefest, it has been quite well received. Entering its 23rd year, one could say it is now entrenched as a WSU tradition. The SAC receives phone calls all summer long from groups wanting to participate.

If you would like to be a part of next year’s Welcomefest, it is not too early to start planning. You can visit the SAC website www.wichita.edu/sac, where descriptions of all the events will be found. In the meantime, keep your eyes open for similar events, and if there is a college activity going on which you find interesting and you want to write about it, let us know; your article could be featured in our next issue.

International student enrollment in the US in general and WSU in particular has been affected by several factors such as changes in immigration laws, economic pressures, and the increase in domestic returning students. Nevertheless, WSU shows a steady flow of international students who have added to the quality of both academics and general university experiences.

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