

International Student Newsletter

February 2009 • International Programs •

From the Editor

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a nice and restful break, and you are all now ready to enjoy this new semester. February is always a festive month all across the world. In Brazil, we celebrate Yemanjá's Day on February 2nd, when we send flowers and gifts in the sea for Yemanjá, the goodness of the ocean in the Afro-American religion. February is also the month of Carnival, which is probably the most important event of the year for us Brazilians. February is also the Chinese New Year, and the Valentine's Day here in US. Are there any holidays in your country that you want to share with us? Please email me and I will be glad to add it in the next newsletter.

- Carol

Note from Sally:

Welcome back to Campus!

My feeling is that it's still too cold to call this spring semester; but it didn't take too much sunshine for campus to bloom with students sitting outside at noon, even though they were wearing heavy jackets. For those of you who spent the break in warm places, the adjustment to Tacoma weather will be more challenging. I was helping build a house in France where the ground was so frozen we couldn't plant bulbs, so I had an easy transition.

Spring semester brings with it some important deadlines and the newsletter contains information for filing a tax return for any student who has been employed on campus in the last year, and for Optional Practical Training for everyone who qualifies. I look forward to seeing each of you at the reception for International Students at the President's home. It is a great event to pay special notice to you!

Income Tax Information

Don't forget that April 15 is **TAX DAY**. If you have any US source income (including wages and scholarships), you will need to file **Forms 8843 and 1040NR 9 (EZ)** by **April 15th**.

If you need tax forms and instructions, they are available online at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf>

If you do not have any US source of income, you only need to file **Form 8843** by June 15th. Form 8843 is available at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

If you are working on campus and have not stopped by the Payroll office (Jones 107), you need to do so right away. You need to identify yourself as an international student if you want to claim exemptions from certain withholdings.

If you have any questions, please contact Sally at x2871 or at ssprenger@ups.edu.

Upcoming Events:

• **Wednesday, February 11 – Asian Studies Film Festival: “Banned Films”**

“Fire” (India, 1997). A tender and passionate love story that questions the subjugation of women in modern India with unsparing candor and humor. **07 p.m., Rausch Auditorium.**

• **Thursday, February 19 – Museum of Glass Field Trip**

The International Student Mentor Program has its first spring event coming up: a trip to the **Tacoma Museum of Glass**. This is a great local museum where you can watch as artists blow glass, as well as walk through an exhibit of glass and other artwork. We will meet at the **Info Center** in the SUB **at 5pm**. Admission to the museum is **free**, but please be sure to **bring your student ID**.

• **Saturday, February 21 – Second Annual South Sound Sustainability Expo**

UPS has joined forces with many of the other higher education institutions from around the area to bring you this event. At the Expo, you will have the opportunity to mingle with different exhibitors representing local “green” organizations. There will also be several guest speakers throughout the day. The event will take place from **10 am - 3 pm** in the **Fieldhouse**. For more information and to see a list of who's coming, visit: www.ups.edu/sustainabilityexpo.xml

• **Tuesday, February 24 – Spectrum Series: Connecting with foods of Africa**

This is the third events, from a series of events to connect the campus community through foods of different regions of the world. **04:30 p.m., Murray Boardroom.**

Please remember to:

Tuesday, March 24th, 4-6 pm is the **International Student Reception** at President and Mary Thomas’ home.

Important Immigration Reminder

If you will be travelling to Canada or Mexico over the Spring Break, please make sure that you have a **VALID TRAVEL SIGNATURE** from Sally on the last page of your I-20. As usual, you must carry the following documents at all times:

- Your passport;
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 (signed by International Programs this academic year);
- Your I-94;
- Copy of your transcript that shows you are enrolled in classes this semester.

Happy Birthday!

The Office of International Programs sends out birthday wishes to the students who celebrate their birthdays in January, February and March:

Carolina Pinho 01/12

Hana Ilic 01/13

Mika Miyakogawa 02/03

Ivo Andov 02/12

Minh Nguyen 03/29



OPT for graduating Seniors

This is a reminder for all graduating seniors. If you are interested in remaining in the US for another 12 months, stop by the International Programs to file your application for **Optical Practical Training**. All in-status F-1 students who have been in school for a year may qualify for 12 months of work related to your major after graduation.

Because the recommendation for OPT takes approximately 60-90 days to process, **it is recommended that you file your application before the end of March**. For those of you with an OPT application in progress, please remember that from the time you file your application for OPT until you receive your employment authorization card, **you may not leave the country of the USCIS will assume that you have abandoned your application**. If you have plans to travel outside the US, please complete it before you file for OPT. Travel within the US has **no** restrictions. For questions, or to set up an appointment for OPT, please call Sally at x2871 or email ssprenger@ups.edu.

Tacoma Museum of Glass visit for International Students and Mentors

The International Student Mentor Program has its first spring event coming up: a trip to the **Tacoma Museum of Glass**. This is a great local museum where you can **watch as artists blow glass**, as well as walk through an exhibit of glass and other artwork.

This trip will be in the evening on Thursday, **February 19th**. We will meet at the **Info Center** in the SUB **at 5pm** to drive over to the museum together. Admission to the museum is **free**, but please be sure to **bring your student ID**.