

**INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT**  
**DECEMBER 2005**

**INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT** is a monthly electronic newsletter initiated by the Office of International Programs and Services to provide updated information and news to international students at Michigan Tech University. All international clubs and university units are welcome to contribute news items related to international issues, students and programs by sending the news items/information to [ips@mtu.edu](mailto:ips@mtu.edu)

**CULTURAL EVENT**

**HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD:**

Following the Michigan Tech University's mission of creating an inclusive and culturally diverse campus environment, International Programs and Services is offering a major celebratory event of the HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD. All international students are invited to attend this celebration. This year we will feature the great traditions of holidays celebrated around the world by tasting ethnic snacks from various cultures and showcasing decorations and ceremonial music related to diverse holidays. This celebration will be held on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-5:00 p. m. in Ballroom A at the MUB. Please RSVP at 487-2160 or [ips@mtu.edu](mailto:ips@mtu.edu). Please contact Sam at [shheikin@mtu.edu](mailto:shheikin@mtu.edu) if you want to bring decorations or music to the event.

**IPS SERVICES AND UPDATES**

**IPS NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WILL ENHANCE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS:**

Diana Vreeland joins IPS as the new Assistant Director to spearhead new study abroad programs in developing nations of the world and to increase the number of U.S. students studying abroad. Diana has worked at Central Michigan University (CMU) and has extensive experiences in dealing with CMU's off-campus programs in Canada and Mexico. She has also worked and taught in different countries as an ESL faculty member. We welcome Diana with great hopes that the new programs developed and enhanced by IPS will significantly contribute in the internationalization of Michigan Tech University.

**PREPARATIONS TO WELCOME NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN SPRING 2006:**

IPS is making plans to offer a warm welcome to new international students who will be joining us for the spring 2006 semester. These include preparing a welcome kit, organizing airport pick-ups, collecting winter clothing, ensuring that temporary housing is available (if needed) and planning to offer one-day new international student orientation on January 5<sup>th</sup>. IPS needs student volunteers to assist us in all of the above tasks. International students can also join as a mentor in INTERCULTURAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM and earn an "Intercultural Mentor Certificate" at the end of semester. Contact Janey Pindra at IPS 906-487-2160 or [jpgindra@mtu.edu](mailto:jpgindra@mtu.edu)

### **IPS HELP-LINE NUMBER:**

The International Programs and Services Office has an emergency cellular phone number: 906-369-2160.

This number is being shared so international students and spouses can contact IPS in the event of an emergency - i.e. an international student is at a Port of Entry and the immigration officer has questions about SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 and need to contact IPS; or an international has experienced a natural disaster/accident, is seriously ill, etc. and needs to inform the IPS. International students are requested to utilize this number after hours/weekends and only in the cases of extreme emergencies.

### **TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS AND OPT REQUESTS:**

International students intending to travel abroad during holidays must get travel authorization. Information on travel authorization is available at [www.ips.mtu.edu](http://www.ips.mtu.edu). Also when visiting abroad please remember that tuition payments are due prior to the start of the class.

All international students graduating in December must submit their Optional Practical Training (OPT) applications to the IPS advisor by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Late applications will not be processed as students becoming ineligible if they miss the deadline for OPT applications.

### **IPS WEBSITE UPDATES:**

IPS website has a new menu to make it easier for international students to access relevant information. A new link of FORMS has been added. New information and form for the REDUCED COURSE LOAD are also added.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATES**

### **MICROSOFT IS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Microsoft is excited to be offering more than a half million dollars in scholarships. Scholarships will cover up to 100 percent of tuition for the 2006-2007 academic year. **Applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2006.** Students must be enrolled in a *bachelor's degree program* at a college or university in the United States, Canada or Mexico at the time the application is submitted. International students are eligible to apply! Students must be enrolled full-time and making satisfactory progress toward an undergraduate degree in computer science, computer engineering, or a related technical discipline, such as math or physics, with a demonstrated interest in computer science. The student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average out of a possible 4.0, or a 4.0 cumulative grade point average out of a possible 5.0.

To apply or learn more, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships>.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FEMALE STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

The following scholarships grant competitions for students from developing countries for the 2006-2007 academic year have been announced

- a) **The Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund** awards 6 non-renewable grants of \$11,000 each year to women from specific developing countries (136 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean appear on their approved list). The Fund is administered by World Bank Volunteer Services. The application deadline is February 1, 2006. Applicants must have a record of service to women and/or children in her country, demonstrate financial need, plan to return to their home countries in about two years, be currently residing in the United States, be in a valid non-immigrant status, be studying at a US accredited institution during the period of time covered by the grant, be at least 25 years old by **December 31, 2005**, and not be related to any World Bank group staff member or their spouse.

A copy of the list of all eligible developing countries for this Scholarship as well as application forms are available now on the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund web site. Visit <http://www.wbfn.org> and scroll down on the right to "Outreach, MMMF Scholarships.

The Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund  
World Bank Volunteer Services  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street NW, Room MSN H2-204  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
202-473-8751 (phone)  
202-522-3142 (fax)  
e-mail: [MMMF@worldbank.org](mailto:MMMF@worldbank.org)

- b) **PEO International Peace Scholarship Fund**

Eligibility: women only, full-time candidates for MA or PhD at U.S. school, citizen of any country except U.S. and Canada, intention to return to home country upon completion of degree, additional financial support to cover remaining expenses. Average amount of grant awarded: \$6000.

Philanthropic and Educational Organization For Women  
2006-2007 deadline is December 15, 2005  
3700 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312  
telephone 515-255-3153

<http://www.peointernational.org/projects/ips-eligibility.pdf>

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Dial Help:** a community organization has 2 new volunteering opportunities for students, employees, and employees' spouses of Michigan Tech.

- 1) An MTU student/peer advocate group for victims of sexual assault
- 2) Community crisis intervention and victim advocates

Training will begin in early January. Anyone interested should contact Dial Help at 482-4357 for more information and/or to request an application.

*Best wishes for finals and safe holiday break. Enjoy the quality time with your family and friends. Keep in touch.*

