

## INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT – November 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)

### IPS SERVICES AND UPDATES:

#### TRAVEL DURING HOLIDAYS:

Hundreds of international students on F-1 and J-1 visas travel to their home country or other countries during Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year holidays and semester break. Traveling back to home country or abroad is an exciting experience which also requires preparation. The office of International Programs and Services (IPS) urges international students to ensure that all documentation and preparation are completed prior to their departure from the United States. IPS encourages international students to visit the travel section of the IPS website to obtain the updated checklist and information on travel to Canada and other countries, how to renew F-1 or J-1 visa, automatic revalidation of visa and traveling while on OPT. International students are also advised to bring all documentation to the IPS Office as soon as possible for travel authorization and to get advice on safe re-entry to the United States. Due to the shortage of staffing, travel authorization will take 2-3 days. F-1 and J-1 visa students need to bring and submit all the required documentation and wait for few days for the approval.

### IPS WEBSITE UPDATES:

IPS website is being enhanced to offer the most updated and needed information and forms to F-1 and J-1 visa students. New information, checklists, forms and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Curricular Practical Training, Optional Practical Training, Travel Abroad and Useful links have been added to the website. Please visit the IPS website at <http://www.ips.mtu.edu/> and give us your feedback on available information. Also we need and welcome international students input on what additional information is desired or needed by them. Please let us know by e-mailing [ips@mtu.edu](mailto:ips@mtu.edu)

### IPS STAFF CHANGES:

IPS is short-staffed due to the departure of Mrs. Jodi Lehman, IPS Assistant Director who left IPS to devote time to her Ph. D. dissertation. We wish best wishes to Mrs. Lehman and urge international students to be patient with us as we serve hundreds of prospective and current international students and U.S. study abroad students with a limited number of staff. IPS plans to increase staffing in the areas of immigration advising and study abroad and will provide staff updates as soon as new staff joins us.

## CULTURAL EVENTS:

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK:

International Programs and Services (IPS) will offer a variety of programs co-sponsored by other units of the university to celebrate the International Education Week. Initiated by the U. S. President Bill Clinton, this is an annual tradition devoted to highlight international activities, programming and curriculum in the U.S. higher education system. IPS will kick-off the event with the International Cooking Class on November 13th, displaying international flags at the MUB, offering different international cuisines (everyday of the week) by the MUB catering services and a kick-off event of the International Film Festival. We encourage international students to attend the events of the International Education Week or volunteer for some of the activities. To volunteer for the events, please e-mail <<mailto:asivakum@mtu.edu>>asivakum@mtu.edu. The following news provides details for some of the events.

### INTERNATIONAL COOKING CLASS OFFERS INTERNATIONAL SPOUSES TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER RECIPES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

The Office of International Programs and Services has initiated a new program for the spouses of international students and scholars. The new program entitled as the International Spouse Support Program (ISSP) recognizes the contributions of international spouses in the success of their spouses involved in studies, teaching and research. As a part of the ISSP activities, IPS will offer international cooking classes, intercultural workshops, quilting around the world and special events for international spouses.

IPS kicks off a series of the International Cooking classes for international spouses with the THANKSGIVING DINNER COOKING. Faculty, staff and community members will share traditional recipes, offer cooking demonstrations and Thanksgiving traditions to attendees. Participants will learn and assist in making TURKEY, STUFFING, GRAVY, PIES, CRANBERRIES, SWEET POTATOES, BREAD, and FRUIT SALAD AND MASHED POTATOES. This class will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2005 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1100 College Ave. The class will end with the Thanksgiving Dinner containing dishes prepared by the participants. This event is co-sponsored by the International Neighbors; a community organization devoted to support international populations. Due to the limited space, advanced registration is required. International spouses are encouraged to call the IPS Office at 906-487-2160 to sign-up for the Thanksgiving Dinner Cooking Class.

### INTERNATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT:

The Office of International Programs and Services is launching a new cultural tradition at Michigan Tech University entitled INTERNATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT. Each month, the International Movie Night will bring Michigan Tech and Upper Peninsula communities together to screen award winning international films at Michigan Tech

campus. Films will be previewed by a committee who will select documentaries and films from around the world. This event is FREE AND OPEN to all students, faculty, staff and community members.

The International Movie Night will be enriched with the MTU student and faculty panels discussion on the themes, cultural significance and analysis of the featured film. Each event will be uniquely devoted to the culture of the movie with the introduction of ethnic snacks prepared and sold by cultural groups represented at MTU and local communities.

The kick-off of the International Movie Night will be during the International Education Week (November 14th-18th, 2005). An International Award Winning Documentary Mardi Gras: Made in China will be featured on November 16th, 2005. This documentary has been screened at over 50 international film festivals, winning over 15 awards including Amnesty International, United Nations, and Human Rights International Film Festival. Mardi Gras: Made In China addresses both cultural and economic globalization by featuring the commodity chain from China to the United States. It highlights the experiences of four teenage women workers in the largest Mardi Gras bead factory in the world, providing insights into their economic realities, hard labor and the impact of multinational corporations on their lives.

The First International Movie Night will be held on November 16th at 135 Fisher Hall at 7:30 p.m. accompanied by authentic Chinese snacks prepared by the Chinese Students and Scholar Association in cooperation with the MUB Catering. This event is co-sponsored by the MTU Film Board, Office of Student Life, International Club, Indian Student Association, Club Indigo, MUB and the Chinese Student and Scholar Association.

#### DIWALI NITE:

Once again, the Indian Student Association (ISA) is organizing a great cultural event featuring the Indian FESTIVAL OF LIGHT: DIWALI. Diwali Nite will be held on Friday, November 4, 2005 at 6:15 p.m. starting with an authentic Indian Cuisine prepared by professional chefs (from a famous restaurant in Detroit) at Wadsworth Dining Hall. Following the dinner, at 7:45 DIWALI NITE will be enriched by dances and musical performances by MTU students at the Rozsa Center. All international students are invited to attend the event to support ISA and to learn about the great traditions and richness of Indian culture. Dewali tickets (includes dinner and entertainment) for Students. \$10, Non-students..... \$14. Tickets are available at

- Rozsa Box Office
- MUB Tech Express Center
- SDC Ticket Counter
- Internet and phone bookings available. Please visit <http://www.rozsa.mtu.edu/>.

For more information visit

<http://www.sos.mtu.edu/isa/diwali.html>><http://www.sos.mtu.edu/isa/diwali.html>

We wish HAPPY DIWALI to Indian students and community members.

#### EID CELEBRATION:

EID-UL-FITR, one of the major Muslim holidays will be celebrated on November 4, 2005. Muslims all over the world celebrate EID at the end of Ramadan (a month of fasting). Some of the EID traditions include special prayers, visiting family and friends, sharing food and the exchange of gifts.

IPS staff wishes HAPPY EID to our Muslim students and community members and hope that the EID and all upcoming holidays bring PEACE and HAPPINESS to our global village.

#### IMMIGRATION UPDATES:

##### GREEN CARD LOTTERY 2007:

The U.S. Department of State has now published its official announcement of the 2007 Diversity Visa (Green card) Lottery. The registration period will last for approximately sixty days, beginning on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 and ending on Sunday, December 4, 2005. As has been the case for the last two years, the Diversity Visa Lottery Program will be conducted entirely on-line via the internet, through the officially designated website: <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> .

##### USCIS INCREASES FEE FOR I-765 AND I-539:

On September 26, 2005, the U.S. Citizenship and immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it is increasing its application filing fees by amounts that range from \$5 to \$20. Most increases are \$5.00. The new fees will take effect on Wednesday, October 26, 2005. This means that any application received at any USCIS office on or after October 26, 2005 must include the correct fee. USCIS is increasing the fees due to inflation.

The new fees are:

I-102 = \$160.00 (was \$155)

I-539 = \$200.00 (was \$195)

I-765 = \$180.00 (was \$175)

We hope that all international students are prepared for a snowy winter. Please stay safe and bundle up. Best wishes for the mid-term exams.