Tea and Talk
Amanda Liu
China, International Business

Tea and Talk is a new program launched by Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS) at Pace University. It is an informal discussion group, which takes place once a week and gives the international students an opportunity to meet and talk with each other.

Tea and Talk enables the international students to build their network at Pace. Every Thursday afternoon, students from different countries will go to Tea and Talk to have a cup of coffee, meet their old friends, and get to know new people. Students can share their exciting experiences in the United States and talk about their problems of transitions to a foreign country. The continuing international students will always be glad to give the new students some advice and help them adjust to the new environment in New York. During the meeting, people can also talk about their personal interests and hobbies. They sometimes even plan their adventures in New York together.

Tea and Talk also provides an opportunity for the staff at OIPS to communicate with the international students. Director of OIPS, Jenifer Leon, attends the meeting every Thursday. She talks with the students, listens to their advice, helps solve their problems, and reminds them of new policies towards the international students in the United States. Students are also able to ask for advice or help from the OIPS.

Those who find Tea and Talk fun and helpful will always bring in their friends next time to enjoy this international meeting together. Now more and more people are coming. Every time you go to attend Tea and Talk, you will be able to make new friends.

Orientation a Success!
Juleen Morford
International Student Advisor

This year, we welcomed over 180 new students to our international student community on all campuses! This year’s class of students represents 43 countries and 6 continents. Countries represented cover the globe from the United Kingdom to Uzbekistan, Barbados to Brazil, and China to Cameroon. Over 100 New York City students braved the commuting chaos of the Republican National Convention to attend orientation on September 1. The following two days welcomed 15 new students to the Westchester campuses. The days featured guest speakers from many Pace offices. Dean O’Grady, Dean for Students in New York City, gave a rousing introduction to student life at Pace and was so excited about the new year that we were all ready to get out of our seats and get involved on campus! Orientations on both campuses also featured the help of some returning international students – Maggie Hsieh (Taiwan), Dayo Olowokande (Nigeria), and Aba Forson (Ghana) in New York, and Luiz Cappi (Brazil) in Pleasantville.

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Orientation (cont.)

Students continued to arrive throughout the next several weeks as they finalized travel plans, received their visas, and waited out the hurricanes that caused many flights to be delayed or canceled. We are happy you were all able to join us for the semester and look forward to getting to know each one of you better!

DHS Institutes SEVIS Fee

Effective September 1, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security has implemented the collection of a SEVIS fee that is required for certain students applying for a visa to come to the United States. The revenue from the $100 fee will be allocated for SEVIS maintenance and is applicable to all individuals applying for an F-1, J-1, or M-1 visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, or applying for a change of status within the U.S..

The former INS proposed a SEVIS prior to the implementation of SEVIS in 2003. The topic was highly debated and opposed by NAFSA: Association of International Educators and other professional organizations. DHS has now finalized the rule and the fee is currently being collected. This fee will affect all new students planning to study in the U.S. with I-20s issued after September 1, 2004.

For students who are already in the U.S., there are detailed regulations stating who will need to pay the SEVIS fee before applying for a new F-1 or J-1 visa. Most continuing students will not be required to pay the fee; however, OIPS staff recommends that you contact our office for more details if you will be traveling overseas and renewing your visa. Together, we will review your situation and determine whether you are required to pay the fee and give you the instructions for paying the fee if necessary. Information about who is required to pay the fee is also available online at www.fmjfee.com.

***Upcoming Metro International Programs***

Metro International organizes social events for international students throughout the New York City area. One of their many goals is to get students to all 5 NYC boroughs while you are here! Global Classroom puts you in a NYC public school classroom where you get to teach local students about your home country. Metrowalks introduce you to New York neighborhoods led by experienced tour guides. Community visits match you with families who welcome you into their homes to share holidays and learn about American families. Check out these upcoming programs at Metro’s website: www.metrointl.org

10/23/2004  Global Classroom Training Workshop
11/6/2004  Metrowalks: Harlem Uncovered
11/25/2004  Community Visit: Thanksgiving in Fairfield County, Connecticut

Register early for this event as space is limited!

Did you know?

Each year, over 2 billion dollars is spent on Halloween candy.
Nuts & Bolts: Immigration and Other Reminders

October 27, 2004   Full Payment required by SARS for ALL STUDENTS
All student bills must be paid in full. If you are having difficulties paying your bill, speak with SARS and an international student advisor before this date. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you will be in violation of your immigration status.

Ongoing through 12/23/04   GRADUATING STUDENTS can apply for OPT
Beginning now through December 23, graduating students can apply for OPT. Check out the schedule of OPT workshops at the OIPS!

November 5, 2004 to January 7, 2005   DV-2006 Lottery applications can be filed
The DV-2006 Lottery will open on November 5, 2004. Entry to the DV Lottery is allowed for individuals meeting certain criteria. For a detailed list of questions and answers regarding DV-2006, you can visit www.visalaw.com/greencard.html. Applications are submitted online at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

Ongoing   Report Changes of Address with 10 days of moving
If you have recently moved or will be moving soon, remember to update both SARS and the OIPS with your new address within 10 days of moving as required by law.

Ongoing   Update Email Addresses!
All students will now be subscribed to the International Student Listserv and in the future more and more communication will be coming over email. Please update the OIPS with your email addresses when you change them. It’s as simple as emailing us from your new address. We will do the rest.

Did you know?
The tradition of wearing a costume on Halloween originates from the belief that spirits and ghosts roam the land on All Hallows’ Eve. By dressing up, we avoid detection by these spirits.
Boo! Halloween New York Style

Ghosts and goblins are all over the place as of late, and New York has a lot to offer for a spooky celebration. Celebrate Halloween traditions only the way New Yorkers can, with an enormously large group of people.

Play Dress-up!

New York’s Village Halloween Parade  October 31st beginning at 7 p.m.
Check out the parade as a spectator, or put on a costume and participate yourself! Thousands of people dress up and walk in the parade. There are no requirements to register or pay anything to participate. Simply put on a costume and go to the parade start at 6th Ave. and Spring Street. Walk around, check out other costumes, get your picture taken by the many photographers, and find a spot in line! You can get more information at www.halloween-nyc.com

Scare Yourself Silly

Halloween Adventure Haunted House  October 21 – 31  Thurs.-Sun., 7 p.m.-12 a.m.
Tour a uniquely scary haunted house. This haunted house does not feature Dracula or Frankenstein as most of them do. Instead, the rooms toy with your senses for an especially frightening experience completed with blood-curdling screams. Rumor has it, this haunted house is not for the faint of heart. Check out the details at http://www.hauntedhousenyc.com

Down on the Farm

Pumpkin Picking, Hayrides, and Corn Maze   Weekends through October 31.
The Queens County Farm Museum offers a look at an American farm within New York City Limits! For those who live in the city, it’s a great way to have a country experience without traveling far. Pick your own pumpkin to create a Jack o’ Lantern, enjoy fresh apple cider, get lost in a corn maze and celebrate fall. Accessible by subway. www.queensfarm.org

A Day in the Real Country

Pumpkin and Apple picking in Westchester
A short drive from the Westchester campuses, Outhouse Orchards has gotten excellent reviews for its apple and pumpkin picking.

Outhouse Orchards
Hardscrabble Road
North Salem, 10560
(914)277-3188

The Headless Horseman

Halloween Events in Sleepy Hollow  through October 31
Visit the real life sights of the real life Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Just a few miles from Pleasantville and just a 40 minute train ride from Manhattan, Sleepy Hollow has a full calendar of events centered around the legend recorded by Washington Irving in the 1800s. Candlelit graveyard tours, an appearance by the Headless Horseman himself, and more await. Information is at http://www.hudsonriver.com/halfmoonpress/calendar.htm#halloween

Read the full text of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow at http://www.bartleby.com/310/2/2.html

There is much more happening to celebrate Halloween from costume parties to creepy concerts. Check out the NewYorkled website for a comprehensive list of Halloween activities. http://www.newyorkled.com/moreNYseasonal_halloween.htm

Happy Haunting!
SSA Issues New Regulations for Issuing Social Security Numbers

The Social Security Administration (SSA) recently released new regulations regarding the issuance of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to individuals holding F-1, J-1, and M-1 visas. These regulations became effective on Wednesday, October 13, 2004.

The regulations require that a student hold an offer of employment before the SSA will issue an SSN to an individual holding one of the aforementioned statuses. In addition to the letter issued by the OIPS, students will also need to present proof of employment to the SSA (letter from Pace University department where you will be working, CPT authorization, or EAD for OPT employment). This will not affect many current students as most students have already requested a SSN. This will only affect those students who do not yet have a SSN and those students entering the U.S. in the future.

The OIPS has been working with the Office of Co-operative Education and Career Services to inform them of these changes so they can help effectively manage employer relations to best serve all students. We are also working closely with Human Resources to establish procedures that will facilitate the process of gaining on-campus employment and obtaining a SSN. Stay tuned for more information regarding these changes at the SSA.

Celebrate International Education Week!
November 15-19, 2004

The U.S. Department of State has dedicated the week of November 15-19 as International Education Week. Schools throughout the country will be celebrating the value of international education in myriad ways.

Here at Pace, the OIPS and a group of students attending Tea & Talk are planning several events to take place on the Manhattan campus.

On Tuesday, November 16, join us for a late afternoon trip to the Met followed by dinner. This event is open to students on all campuses.

On Thursday, November 18, we will be working hard to celebrate by sharing food, music, and culture on the New York City campus.

If you are a New York City student interested in helping to plan the event, please contact Jenifer León at jleon2@pace.edu. If you are a Westchester student and would like to get something started in Westchester, please contact Juleen Morford at jmorford@pace.edu

Like what you see?

Have an idea for an article?

Interested in getting involved in the international student community?

Contribute to Karibu! the newsletter just for international students at Pace. Contact Juleen Morford at jmorford@pace.edu