Welcome (Back) to Pace!

jenifer león
Director of International Students and Scholars

Welcome new international students and Welcome Back to our continuing international students!!

It is our pleasure to bring to you the first edition of the Office of International Programs & Services’ Newsletter Karibu! Our office is very pleased to have you joining Pace University for the Fall 2004. We are looking forward to assisting you in your transition to Pace and to continuing to meet your needs as international students.

This fall, as we welcome a new group of international students from countries such as Cameroon, Greece, Philippines, Slovenia, and Spain, we ask each of you to assist in making their arrival smooth and welcoming. As a continuing student, you may recall the overwhelming sense of confusion and distress that can come with being at a new school, in a new city, and in a new country. The goal of the Office of International Programs & Services is to lessen this confusion and distress, to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions when in doubt, and to connect you with the people that will make your experience successful.

Our office has been working hard this summer to improve the services that we offer and to add programs to benefit YOU. This fall we are launching two new programs, this newsletter that we hope will give you the information that you need to fully integrate with the campus community and to understanding your immigration requirements and a new discussion group call Tea & Talk in New York and Breakfast Club in Pleasantville. In addition to these new programs, we are working on improving our office’s web pages to allow you to get the materials you need without always coming to the office. Of course, we still hope that you will visit us on occasion! Please continue to check out www.pace.edu/international, Ser-

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The Sweet Rush

Dariska Gumbs
St. Maarten, Modern Languages and Cultures

Welcome International Students! Being an international student and taking on the demands that come along with college can be very challenging. What makes it even more challenging for International students is that we come from a foreign country into another foreign country and we have to abide by that country’s rules and regulations. We have to adapt and try to fit right into the culture. Your daily experiences will mold and teach you about different aspects about the people, food, and lifestyle here in New York. This can be very good because you learn and adapt to many things on your own. Going to any foreign country can be a challenge, but it really depends on the individual.

My experience as an international student was and still is a challenge, but it has been a positive challenge. I learned many different aspects of the lifestyle in New York City. In
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vices for International Students & Scholars for updates!

Lastly, I would like to emphasize our commitment to you. You are the reason that we are here and we welcome getting to know you and to meeting your needs. Our doors are open, please come by!

Best of wishes to you for a successful semester!

The Sweet Rush

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the beginning, everything was like a sudden rush. Why? Because I didn’t know anyone, or anything, I had to get my classes together, make new friends etc. As time passed by it got easier and less stressful.

The main thing you always have to keep in mind is that you came here for a purpose and no matter what obstacles seem to get in your way; you can push them aside and remind yourself that you will achieve your goal. In the end it will pay off. Sometimes it can get really hard, you can feel really pressured, especially when deadlines and finals come around. When those times come around, you have to remember your goal and have confidence that you will get through it And you will. That has always worked for me. You have to believe in yourself first before anyone else can and just have fun doing what you do. After that, good things will start to flow.

Metro in My Mind

Hamdi Khalifa

Tunisia, Education Administration

I came to the United States mid-September, two weeks after the academic year’s start. And therefore I missed the International Student Orientation that could have been a good way for me as an international student to meet other students. When I try to remember the way I got to know the Metro International organization my memory goes back to a cold New York winter day. I was at Pace University and I ran into my international students’ advisor as I was heading to one of my classes. During the few minutes we had, we talked about my progress and my student's life in general, I expressed my desire to meet other international students and have a more active social life. Juleen, the international students' advisor, handed me a Metro flyer and told me that it was what I have been looking for: Metro International, an organization that helps international students meet and enjoy a variety of social and cultural events.

I met other international students and discovered interesting parts of the city through Metro's fun social nights. We became friends and shared our experiences in New York and enjoyed interesting discussions.

Many international students, myself included, were invited by Ms. Anne Keen to an international dinner in Hohocus, New Jersey. The dinner was great and Ms. Keen, a warm and charming person, introduced us to her husband and friends, talked about her career, and showed a passionate interest in knowing our different local cultures.

It was a challenge for me to meet people in

“...being an international student is that you get to live and study in the Big Apple, meet new people and of course explore and experience the hustle and bustle of the city.”

-Dariska Gumbs

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**Nuts & Bolts: Immigration and Other Reminders**

It’s the beginning of a new semester and that means it’s time to pay special attention to dates and deadlines. Here is a list of the important dates and other reminders so you don’t forget!

9/17/04 **Check-in deadline for NEW STUDENTS**
If you were not able to attend orientation, you must check-in with the OIPS. You are required to report to the OIPS in order to comply with immigration regulations. Bring your I-20, passport, visa, and I-94 to the OIPS by September 17.

9/24/04 **Enrollment deadline for ALL INTL STUDENTS**
Deadline to submit Deviation Forms for GRADUATING STUDENTS
All students must have completed their fall semester registration by this date. Undergraduate students must have at least 12 credits. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credits. If you are having problems registering full-time, come see an advisor immediately!

Graduating students who need less than a full-time course load to complete degree requirements must submit the Deviation Form to the Graduation Office no later than September 24. You must file for graduation before the deviation form can be completed by the Graduation Office.

10/8/04 **Deadline to file Insurance Waiver for ALL STUDENTS**
If you already have insurance and want to request a waiver of the International Student Health Insurance Policy, you must send the waiver to the insurance company no later than this date. You must submit a copy of your current insurance policy in English in US dollars so plan early!

10/27/04 **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 due to non-payment, you will be in violation of your immigration status.

Ongoing **Report Changes of Address with 10 days of moving**
If you moved over the summer, just arrived and are looking for your housing, 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 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!

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*Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness - all foes to real understanding. Likewise, tolerance or broad, wholesome charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in our little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.*

- Mark Twain
Metro in My Mind

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my field, which is educational administration. But with the "Take an International Student to a Workday" program, I visited my first American school, the John Dewey School in Brooklyn, where I was given a tour by Mr. Martin Haber, a special education teacher, and was introduced to the staff who graciously answered all my questions as well as his special education students.

I was also invited to the Board of Education to meet the chancellor, Mr. Klein, where I had the opportunity to get a clearer idea and an insider's prospective about the challenges facing the American Education which complemented what I have been learning in my classes.

As international students we do need positive role-models to identify with regardless of their fields. Metro organized a meeting with Maria Fiorini Marinez, a successful self-made immigrant from the corporate world and Pace alumna. The meeting, which was followed on another occasion by a dinner, was extremely interesting.

Metro also helped me get prepared for my internships, a very important thing for any international student seeking some American experience. In fact, the workshop about internships and job searching that Metro organized made me feel more confident and enabled me to find my internships.

I had the opportunity to give three presentations about Tunisia in three different schools within the Global Classroom program. The experience was exciting and the students loved it. I introduced my country and its culture hoping that this will enhance understanding between different cultures. I was also the leader of a group of Fulbright scholars who gave group presentations about their countries. The experience was interesting and challenging at the same time. I had to facilitate the interventions and questions and help make the transitions between these different speakers.

Get Involved!
Ross Charbonne
Trinidad & Tobago, Computer Science & Information Systems

My name is Ross Charbonne and I am an international student from Trinidad and Tobago. Hopefully this short excerpt of my experiences will help other students settle more easily into Pace.

International students face decisions when entering an unfamiliar University environment. I faced this situation when I entered Pace in January 2002. The Office of International Programs and Services provided information to assist me in settling comfortably into such an atmosphere.

I was notified of various clubs that could help facilitate social networking. These clubs allows students of different ethnic backgrounds to meet people of similar backgrounds. Club participation and campus involvement can also be rewarding as housing points are rewarded for member participation. This can help one get into the dorm or particular room they may desire. In order to exist comfortably in the school environment I believe that a healthy balance between course work and extra-curricular activities is necessary. Effective time management skills are developed which is rewarding in the real world environment. Health is also important.

Athletics can be another avenue to meet people of similar interests. I meet one of my best friends playing tennis on the Pace tennis team. Coincidentally we spend the summer in the same area and see each other year round. It was pretty weird that we meet at school through tennis and not before. The world is pretty small; keep your eyes open for opportunities. The new gym should be

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Metro organized its fundraiser and I volunteered for the Fulbright Awards Dinner organized in the UN building. I helped the staff welcome Metro’s distinguished awardees whom I joined later when I was invited to their table and engaged in an interesting discussion. The culminating moment during the dinner was when David Caputo, Pace’s President, was honored. I felt proud as a Pace student.

Metro, as a farewell party, organized a cruise around Manhattan for those international students and Fulbright scholars leaving back so that they would have a pleasant last chance to meet.

Of course, I missed a few other events organized by the Metro organization by time constraints. But I did really enjoy the ones I had the chance to attend for they were a start of some wonderful friendships and a very positive environment that I now associate with my sojourn in the United States. I recommend all new international students to get involved with the Metro International organization and take advantage of their many programs.

Lastly, college is not cheap. We all need a couple extra dollars. On campus employment is a great way to earn some extra money during free hours. I ended working for International Programs for two years because there was an opening there. However, they can give you information where to fill applications for on-campus employment. It also develops one’s resume and is a valuable experience. This also helps with time management. Don’t just let the days pass by let them be productive.

College is no easy road but it can be a very rewarding learning and growing experience. Sometimes culture shock can be difficult to deal with but I believe if one keeps active then it is a lot easier to deal with being away from home. This helps you mature and deal with situations individually. Eventually, you will settle and meet people that will be friends and help you along your way. Remember everyone is there for the same thing, to learn and at the end, graduate with a degree. One must use the tools available to grow, mentally, physically and spiritually in preparation for the real world. For me, time management was the key.

I was offered the RA position in Dow Hall, so will no longer be working in International Programs and Services. However, Juleen and the rest of the employees are great. Don’t hesitate to ask if you don’t know. Good luck in settling into Pace and hopefully I will see you on campus.