

33° Latitude

International Students Community Newsletter

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Spring 2004



From the Director

Janie Olcott

Taxes

It's that time of year when you are likely to hear Americans talking about filing their Income Taxes by April 15th. As an international student in the United States, you are also required to meet your obligations under the tax laws. If you have no U.S. source of income, you still must file a federal tax return. If you have wages from any U.S. job whether from on campus or off, you should have received a Form W-2 from your employer (s) which verifies your reportable income.

The ISSO can answer many of your questions about filing taxes in America and direct you to accessing the forms you need. However, don't wait until April 14th to do so!

Some useful websites:

Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov>

Arizona Department of Revenue: <http://revenue.state.az.us>

You cannot just show up at the ISSO in March to declare you intentions to be a full-time student for the last eight weeks of the academic semester.

Course Registration Deadlines

The ISSO is seeing that many students are waiting to register for their semester coursework because Pima Community College offers 8

week classes that begin mid-semester. You must be registered as a full-time student at the beginning of the semester or you will be out of status. You cannot just show up at the ISSO in March to declare you intentions to be a full-time student for the last eight weeks of the academic semester. Although the 8 week course option is one of the wonderful ways PCC serves students' learning needs in our community, your status with immigration requires you to be responsible for your full-time course load

at the very beginning of the semester.

DHS Special Registration

The Special Registration program of the Department of Homeland Security has changed a few requirements with this program. It is important to remember that the program has not been eliminated! Persons subject to Special Registration are still subject to departure controls that require using only designated ports of departure when leaving the U.S. but you are no longer required to report to DHS offices in between your entry and departures. In addition, changes in your address or college may be done directly with your college office, (the ISSO,) and we will report them through SEVIS.

Spring Break in Mexico???

If you are planning on spending some of your Spring Break in Mexico, please stop by the ISSO to make sure that your papers are in order for travel.

New Face in the ISSO

Janie Olcott

By now, most all of you have noticed the presence of the brand new member of our ISSO Team! We all welcome Rosmarie Fouad as our new International Student Services Immigration Advisor. Originally from Switzerland, Rosmarie came to the United States as an international student in the late seventies. She is well aware of the many

challenges international students face in taking on this educational adventure and shares her own stories with each new student who is getting the opportunity to take advantage of her expertise. Rosmarie has a Doctor of Arts in



English from Idaho State University and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Arizona. She has traveled widely, having lived in Damascus, Syria, for one year while

her late husband was on a Fulbright grant to that country. Over the years, she has taught English as well as German and French to many students. She loves to bike, hike and ski and play with her dog, Louie!

If you haven't stopped by the ISSO to meet Rosmarie, be sure to do so! Her smiling face will make you feel extra special!

Student Focus - Congress-Bundestag Exchange

In 1983, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, (the Congress of Germany) formed an exchange program for the youth of both countries.



an English test in both written and spoken abilities.”

If the applicant has made it to this point and was fortunate enough to be selected, they could begin to plan their travel to America. There are one hundred different Colleges and Universities that host, so where in America the exchange

student would ultimately call home would be determined later. At the pre-departure orientation in Germany, help was offered in applying for a visa, finding the right insurance and much more.

Most of the participants arrived in New York at the beginning of August. There was another seminar to help them start the process of understanding American culture. From New York, all of the participants started towards their new cities. Julia traveled to Chicago for a few days, then through Phoenix, arriving here in Tucson right on time to start the Fall 2003 semester at the PCC.

One of the program options is to study fulltime for one semester and then to work fulltime during the second. The other model, Julia's choice, is to study and work part-time throughout the whole year. This strengthens languages skills as well as offering practical experiences to the courses

that have been chosen. One of the many requirements for the participants is that they must have completed 2 – 3 years of practical training in Germany. Most of the participants do this in an internship format. Once they are here, they have to find a job in their professional field. This is a paid position that helps them understand how different, or the same, things are in the two countries. Julia shares, “I'm very glad that I have the support of this program. The CBYX has helped me ease into a new culture and way of life that I had never experienced before. Pima has supported me while I am here. They found a wonderful family for me to stay with, helped me find a job and are always there to answer any questions that I may have. I am very happy to have had the chance to spend one year abroad. Also, I am so fortunate to have met so many nice people who support me.”

But there is one important thing left to say. The Exchange Program is not only for Germans but also for Americans to spend one year in Germany. So if you are interested to experience something new and exciting then just contact the International Student Office for more information.

This year, 2003-2004, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, (CBYX), will help support the 100 students from all over Germany to participate in this program. The participants study and work in many different cities in America for one academic year. They live with an American host family to add to the overall cultural part of the visit.

Pima Community College is lucky to be part of this exchange program. Pima has hosted four students over the past years. This year, our guest is Julia Schmausser from Munich.

“It took a lot of time and work to be invited to be part of this program”, states Julia. “It started in November 2002 with a simple application form. After a review of the application by a panel of past participants and governmental representatives, there was an interview and

Immigration Advisor Frequently Asked Questions

Maria Tecson (maria.tecson@pima.edu)

Q. As an F-1 International student, am I eligible to work on-campus?

A. You are eligible to apply for a job on-campus after you completed and passed the first semester of your academic program.

Q. Am I eligible if my current program is ESL?

A. No

Q. How do I apply for an on-campus job?

A. You must first get an authorization letter from the ISSO before you can fill out an application for student employment at any PCC Job Placement Office.

Q. Can I work at the University of

Arizona while attending classes here at Pima?

A. You are not eligible to work at the University of Arizona if your I-20 form is from Pima. The University of Arizona is not considered a PCC campus.

Q. Do I need a Social Security number to work on-campus?

A. Yes

Q. How can I get a Social Security number?

A. You must bring a letter from your new employer informing the ISSO of your new on-campus employment. This must include the hours per week that you are to work and dates of employment. The ISSO can then authorize you to request a Social Se-

curity number.

Q. Do I have to go to the Social Security office?

A. Yes, you must bring your I-20, passport, written authorization from the DSO, and the letter from your employer to the Social Security office and complete an application for the SS number.

Q. How long does it take to receive my SSN card?

A. Approximately three weeks.

Q. Can I start working while waiting for my SSN card?

A. No, you must wait to receive your SSN card in the mail before you can begin employment. Make sure your address is valid.

March 2004

April 2004

Schedule of Events/Important Dates to Remember

- March 15– 21 Spring Break
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 22– 2nd 8 week classes begin
- April 3—Sabino Canyon Trip
- April 7— Withdrawal deadline for 16 week classes
- April 25—Annual Picnic at Udall Park

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20— Spring Season Begins
21	22 2nd 8- week courses begin	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 April Fool's	2	3 Sabino Canyon Trip
4	5	6 Passover	7— Withdrawal Deadline (16-wk Classes)	8	9 Good Friday	10
11 Easter Sunday	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Annual Picnic	26	27	28	29 Greenery Day (Japan)	30	

Spotlight on Northern Arizona University

Chris Peltier

As international students, you have many choices after Pima. Northern Arizona University (NAU) offers great ways to continue your education. Small undergraduate classes at NAU (the average is 29 students) offer opportunities to get to know professors and students in your department. The Hotel and Restaurant Management program, for example, is one of the best in the nation and has its own hotel on campus, the Inn at NAU, where students can work while they learn.

NAU has 2 scholarships available to incoming international students. The first is available to any F-1 student with a 3.25 GPA or higher. The second is for any student who is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has a 2.5 GPA or better. There is no additional form to apply for the scholarships, just make sure to send your official transcripts and proof of PTK membership for the second scholarship. The mountain campus means cooler summers so you can explore the beautiful scenery. The Grand Canyon is 140 kilometers north of Flagstaff and there are

scenic forests, parks and mountains even closer. Winters are usually cold enough for snow to cover the peaks and open the Arizona Snow Bowl for skiing. Many students take advantage of the outdoor attractions through NAU Outdoors, one of over 180 student clubs.

For more information on any of NAU's programs please call (928) 523-6532, go to <http://internationaloffice.nau.edu/cc/information.htm> or email chris.peltier@nau.edu

International Student Club News

Beatriz Padgett and Dr. Candido Mercado

We welcome the new board members of the ISC.

- President: An Krumberger
- Vice President: Hiba Zakai
- Treasurer: Jose Gomez
- Recording Secretary: Monica Almada
- Correspondence Secretary: Melinda Lovelett

Public Relations: Eduardo Campoy

“ISC has many activities to offer this semester. We’ve already had a successful trip to the Biosphere 2 and we are planning to have a trip to Sabino Canyon on April 3. Come join us and have fun” -An Krumberger

Upcoming events:

- March 29 & 31: Mexican Candy Sale
- April 3: Sabino Canyon Hike Trip
- Week of April 19-23: Elections
- April 25: Annual Sports Picnic
- May 8: End of the Semester Breakfast

Please sign up to the ISC e-mail list serve to receive more information about upcoming events. You may stop by the ISSO and drop your e-mail or write to maria.tecson@pima.edu to sign up.

Pima Community College

International Student Services
Pima Community College
2202 W Anklam Road C-157
Tucson, Arizona 85709-0285

Phone: 520-206-6732 520-206-6838

Fax: 520-206-3265

Email: Intadmit@pima.edu



"Successful Journeys Begin Here"

We're on the
Web:
www.pima.edu

For article contributions and
suggestions, please e-mail them to:
Maria.Tecson@pima.edu

Pima Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and educational institution committed to excellence through diversity. Reasonable accommodations, including materials in an alternative format, will be made for individuals with disabilities when a minimum of five working days advance notice is given. For the general public, please contact the PCC information line at 206-4500 (TTY 206-4530); for PCC students, please contact the appropriate campus Disabled Student Resources Office.



Take a Look at Sabino Canyon

Today's Recipe

Hummus Bi Tahini (Lebanese Recipe)

1 can chick peas, drained
3 table spoons sesame paste (Tahini)
1 large garlic clove, crushed
(or pounded to death with a mortar & pestle)
juice of one or 2 lemons to taste (2 to 3
tablespoons)

Mix all ingredients (in a Cuisinart,
blender, or by hand with a fork – what-
ever works for you) until it is smooth.
Place in a bowl and garnish with pa-
prika and a drizzle of olive oil. Serve
with pita bread. Makes 2 cups.

(Tahini is available in a jar. 17th Street
Market has it, Wild Oats or Trader Joes
might have it too)

For those of you who would like a closer look setting behind the Tucson Mountains to at the desert landscape head up to Sabino the west.

Canyon, in the Santa Catalina foothills. Beginning at the visitors' center, take the quarter-mile Bajada Loop Nature Trail, a winding gravel path that leads through a small desert landscape. If you have never been close to a cacti before this is a great way to see several species, including 20-foot-tall saguaros, barrel cacti, prickly pears and chollas. Cactus wrens perch atop the saguaros and you are likely to see Vermilionflycatchers and Gila woodpeckers. When you reach the paved road, go left toward Bear Canyon Overlook. A ten minute walk will lead you to an outcropping with all of Tucson spread out before you and the sun



Our Pima students on a recent trip to Sabino Canyon

Sabino Canyon Recreation Area
5900 N. Sabino Canyon Rd. Tucson,
AZ 85750
Visitor Center: 520-749-8700.
Information / Tour Schedules: 520-
749-2861