

# 33° Latitude

## International Students Community Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2004



PimaCommunityCollege



### ISSO's Trip to the Grand Canyon

The International Student Services Office organized its first trip to the Grand Canyon for international students. The three-day trip covered most of Northern Arizona. Seven brave souls signed up for the trip that started Friday from the West Campus. The hardest part about the trip was the time spent in the van. Arizona, known for its dramatic beauty, does not show well through a car window. North of Phoenix, the Sonoran desert finally relinquished its hold of the landscape and let the high country desert make an appearance. Soon after we climbed into the juniper and pine country that surrounds Flagstaff. Aspens, ashes and maples, slowly putting on their fall colors, stood out against the dark green of the pines. The cool fall air, sweet with the scent of all that green, hinted at the cold night that would soon be here.

We stopped at the International Student Office on the Northern Arizona University campus and met with Nikki, one of the student aides. She talked a little bit about the campus and the programs that NAU has to offer. The thing that interested the students most was the scholarship that NAU offers to international students. (Eric in the ISSO has contact information for students who might be interested.)

We went out to dinner at one of the local restaurants. The food and conversation were both good and lively. To walk off our meal, we strolled around the old downtown of Flagstaff. Flagstaff is a small city of 50,000 or so people. NAU adds about 16,000 students to that number. Everyone commented on how nice

it was to be someplace that they could walk outside without sweating.

Saturday morning we headed East on the famous highway Route 66. This road led us to the East entrance of the Canyon through the Navajo Nation. We made a stop by the edge of the Little Colorado River Gorge, a very impressive canyon that is about 800 feet deep. There was an open-air market of Native American arts and crafts and a few of our students could not resist buying a souvenir.

When we finally reached the Canyon, everybody forgot about the "Little Canyon" we had just seen a half hour earlier. The beauty and magnitude of this natural wonder steals away all of the words that you thought you would be able to use to describe it to friends and family. Shadows and light changed the view from moment to moment. The air was punctuated with gasps and "wows", falling far short of what we were actually looking at and being a part of. We stopped at several of the different lookout points that are along the road, each one adding to our awe and wonder of this magical place. We had a nice picnic lunch along the way. Our final stop in the



National Park was at the Grand Canyon Village near the main entrance. At this time, the sun was starting to stretch out the shadows of the rock formations inside the canyon walls, highlighting the colors and size of everything. Time did not allow us to hike into the canyon, but we stopped at the I-MAX Theater to watch the movie "The Hidden Secrets of the Grand Canyon."

Back in Flagstaff, we ate at one of the many college restaurants. The sandwiches were good, filling and cheap. While some students wanted to return to the hotel, the rest piled back into the van to go into the old town. As we walked along the streets, everyone noted how safe they felt in this part of town. This seemed to add to the relaxed atmosphere of the evening.

In the morning, we started the trip towards Tucson, but with many stops along the way. Our first stop was at the scenic viewpoint at the top of Oak Creek Canyon. This is not a part of the Grand Canyon system. There is a road that takes you right through the canyon towards the town of Sedona. The colors of the changing leaves looked like small, smokeless fires on the sides of the canyon. Stopping at the West Fork trailhead, we walked back into this small, narrow canyon. The wind would catch a few of the leaves and send them into the sky where they would look like butterflies. The creek that flowed through this canyon surprised many of the students who had become used to arid Tuc-

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## Pima's Global Campus

*Krista Neis*

In July, Krista Neis, Pima Community College's Community and Media Relations Manager, spent three weeks teaching ESL at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), a school of more than 55,000, located in central China.

The students, most 19 or 20 years old, had studied English for eight years, but never with a native speaker. To graduate, they must pass a language proficiency test.

The school regularly offers a conversational intensive English class. A Tucson foundation, Teach for Friendship, is one of several non-profit organizations from English-speaking countries that provide instructors to HUST, one of China's top-10 universities.

25 Tucsonans were in Wuhan, a city of more than seven million people built on reclaimed marshland at the confluence of the Han and the Yangtze rivers. (It was

not a dry heat!) Wuhan's Website says, "... Where the first shot of the Revolution of 1911 overthrew the rule of 2,000 years of feudalism in China...used to be the political, military and cultural center of the whole country." Its nickname is "the Stove."

The Chinese students were – to a person – devoted to their parents and family, proud of their Chinese heritage, and enthusiastic about their developing country. They wanted to know what's going on in America. We talked about families, slang, politics, food, campus life, values, education, and religion. We sang and partied together. As only-children, these kids have no opposite-sex sibling to relate to, and they have been in boarding school throughout high school. Their high school and college roommates substitute for the siblings they don't have at home. Anyone fortunate

***They wanted to know what's going on in America .***

enough to have a cousin calls the cousin "my brother" or "my sister."

On Saturdays, the university took our group on fine tours of the city. My favorite was the Hubei Provincial Museum. Here, the 2,400-year-old artifacts of a marquis' tomb include 125 of the world's oldest musical instruments: a unique set of bells, two-toned; drums and stone chimes, zithers – eight different instruments in all, as well as written music deciphered by scholars. We heard a concert of this ancient music played on replicas of these instruments – unforgettable.

In three weeks, my students and I went from understanding 50%-60% of what we said to one another, to 85%-95% (a self-reported, unscientific stat). The cultural learning curve was steep – on both sides. I think their laughter, stories, notes, mementos, emails, photos, and our adventures together – linguistic, imaginary and real – have a place in my heart forever.

## Oh Shay, Who Should I See?

The International Student Services Office is a one-stop service center for international students. With all the people who are working here, who should you see to get the correct answer for your question? With all of the students that the ISSO works with on a daily basis, the first thing that you should do is to **sign-in**. There is a place on the sign-in sheet that asks you the **Purpose of Your Visit**. This saves you a place in line. This is very important for us to get you to the person that you need to see. You may end up waiting longer than necessary if you leave this space blank. It might be a question that someone could answer for you quickly without waiting. Shay is the reception manager for ISSO. She is your first contact when you sign in. Part of her job is to screen your needs. She can point you in the right direction to minimize waiting time. Here is a brief list of general questions and situations that we encounter on a daily basis. In most cases, adding and/or dropping a class, updating or

changing your address, email and telephone may be done up front with Shay. She can also help you if you have general admissions, TOEFL test sign up, classroom, instructor information and health insurance questions.

In addition to the above, you may have some questions regarding your program or major, specific courses, requirements you need for graduation or transfer courses. In these cases, you need to see your academic advisor, Beatriz or Eric. They can make sure that you are following the right catalog and course of study during your first year at Pima. All first year and ESL students are required to meet with Bea or Eric before they register for your classes.

If you have questions regarding your F-1 visa, I-20, off/on-campus employment, practical training, adjustment/changing and maintaining status, transferring to

***the first thing that you should do is to sign-in.***

another institution, out of country travel or other immigration issues, you need to see Maria or Rosmarie. They can also issue letters of verification of enrollment and are in charge of updating your SEVIS

I-20 electronically. It is important that you contact or meet with one of them before your I-20 expires to avoid the cost of the reinstatement process. They can inform you on how to apply for an extension, change of educational level and/or OPT before it is too late. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they act ahead of time and meet deadlines. If you have further questions, please always feel free to visit us at the ISSO.

These are just a few suggestions of whom you need to see for your situation. Always start at the front desk to save a lot of time for you. We know how valuable your time is.

# October 2004

# November 2004

# December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				1 World AIDS Day	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Holiday College Closed	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15 Grand Canyon Trip	16 Grand Canyon Trip	14	15	16	17	18	19 ISC Panel	20	12	13	14 Fall Semester Ends	15	16	17	18
17 Grand Canyon Trip	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22 Withdrawal Deadline	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Holiday—College Closed	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
24	25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Dance Party	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
																				Holiday Break—College Closed

31  
Happy Halloween

## Celebrating International Education Week 2004

*Beth Tinkam*

Pima’s International Student Club will be marking the fifth year of celebration, hosting a brown bag panel discussion on Friday, November 19 at noon in the West take place on November 15-19. Jointly initiated in 2000 by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education as Key to Homeland Security” Education, International Education Week and “The Importance of Foreign (IEW) provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote international education and exchange, and to express appreciation for international students and scholars who teach and study in the United States. In honor of IEW 2004, the Spanish department.

administrators and faculty are encouraged to attend this informative discussion. Additionally, the International Student Services Office (ISSO) will be featuring several cross-cultural displays throughout the week in the Santa Catalina building. The displays will aim to raise awareness of other cultures, world affairs and Pima’s role in promoting international education. For more information contact ISSO at 206-6732 or stop by the office in the Santa Catalina building, Room C157.

### ...Trip to the Grand Canyon

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son with its dry “rivers”. Two small lizards living in the canyon caused some excitement among the members of our group. Sedona, famous for the red cliffs that encircle it, welcomed us for a brief visit in the shopping center. It was time for lunch, so we headed to the Red Rock Crossing picnic area. This is one of the best areas in Arizona for a picnic with its sandstone cliffs and ancient cottonwoods. It is both beautiful and easy to reach. After lunch, everyone walked around and explored the trail that follows the creek. It was a cool and quite weekend retreat. Everyone agreed that it was just what was needed.

#### Take the Global IQ Test (answers in the back)

1. Angel Falls, the world’s highest waterfall, is located on which continent?
2. What is the name of the capital of Denmark?
3. Farsi, also known as Persian, is the official language of which Islamic country?
4. Both the prime meridian and the Equator cross which continent?
5. In India, pilgrims travel to the sacred city of Varanasi, also called Banaras, to bathe in the waters of what river?
6. The world’s highest mountains are on which continent?
7. Dakar, the westernmost capital city on mainland Africa, is located in which country?
8. Vientiane is the capital of which Southeast Asian country where most of the people are subsistence farmers?
9. What civilization on the Yucatan Peninsula reached its peak between a.d. 250 and 900 and was known for its master astronomers and pyramid builders?
10. Fire walking is traditionally practiced by natives of the Fiji Islands, which are located in what ocean?

# Pima Community College

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"Successful Journeys Begin Here"

**We're on the Web:**  
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## Today's Recipe Four Layer Deluxe

by Shay Reinhardt

### INGREDIENTS:

1/2 CUP BUTTER  
1-9OZ. COOL WHIP  
1 CUP FLOUR  
3 CUPS MILK  
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS (OPTIONAL)  
2 SMALL PKGS. OF INSTANT CHOCOLATE PUDDING  
1 8OZ. CREAM CHEESE (SOFTENED)  
1 CUP CONFECTIONERS SUGAR

- 1) Melt butter and stir in flour and half of pecans. Spread thinly in a 9X13" pan. Bake in a preheated oven 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Let cool!!
- 2) Combine cream cheese and Confectioners sugar and 1 cup of whipped topping. Spread over first layer.
- 3) Blend together pudding and milk until pudding is dissolved. Pour over second layer.
- 4) Top with remaining whipped topping and sprinkle with 1/2 cup pecans.

**Chill 4-5 hours or overnight.**

## Day Trip



On the other side of the Tucson Mountains awaits one of the treasures of Tucson, The **Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum**. This

property houses all of the diversity that our desert has to offer, from the smallest animals like lizards and humming birds, to the largest like black bears and mountain lions. This is a must see for everyone who visits Tucson. You can get to the museum through Gate's Pass or by taking Ajo Highway and following the signs. Entrance fees are \$12.00 for adults. Hours of operations are from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.desertmuseum.org/>

## VIDEO CONFERENCE: International Studies in the Community College: Faculty, Courses and the Curriculum

Pima Faculty and Staff please reserve your lunch break on November 10, 2004 from 12:00-2:00pm for this important video conference at Community Campus TV Studio! In the current state of world affairs, it is important that US educational institutions engage in international education at all levels in order to promote global perspectives here at home and American values abroad. This event is an attempt towards creating the PCC Global Campus. Contact ISSO at 206-6876 or 206-3268 for more information.

### Answers to the Global IQ Quiz:

1. South America 2. Copenhagen 3. Iran 4. Africa 5. Ganges River 6. Asia 7. Senegal 8. Laos 9. Maya 10. Pacific Ocean