Wanted!

Interested in working in the field of communication? Join the International Newsletter team to exercise your passion for media. The International Newsletter is recruiting editors and writers for Fall 2012 to Spring 2013. E-mail Lishan Zeng @ lzeng09@georgefox.edu to find out more.
International Newsletter
This newsletter is published by International Student Services, George Fox University. Our purpose is to inform, educate and connect international students and our campus community.

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A note to all the students, faculty, and staff:
We are inviting you to submit articles for publication. Share with us your cultural experience. We would like to get to know you more.

Upcoming Events
- Internship opportunity for International Student Services for fall semester. Applications will be available the middle of March. Watch for an email with more information about these leadership positions.
- International Photo Contest. Submit your photos taken outside the US into the International Photo Contest. Deadline for submission of photos is March 16th. Watch E- nnouncements and your email for more information.
- International Sport Event. Contact Alice Gozal or Fang Lue if you are interested in competing at basketball and/or badminton.
- International Club Leadership Application. Interested in serving as leaders in the International Club? Check out E- nnouncement for more information.
Transition

If we see life as a play, then naturally we can expect different scenes or acts in our lives. As a result, we will experience transition in every scene.

If college is Act Two in our life play, we go through four different scenes as we move on: freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. What are the changes when we move on from one scene to another? What is the next act after college? Let’s hear from some of our international students to find out.

Shiqiao Li (from China) — Shiqiao graduated from Fox April 2011 with a major in international business. After several months of internship in Portland, Shiqiao went back to China.

Shiqiao Writes:
Dealing with relationshhips is much more complicated at work than at school. My personal performance will have an impact on the welfare of the organization. Therefore, I need to be more responsible. Besides being responsible for myself, responsibility is required in relationships at work: relationships with colleagues, boss, etc. In addition to the difference in relationship management, time management is also different. I managed to set a boundary between my work and my life outside work. When I was at college, it was inevitable that I always spent time doing my schoolwork on weekends. However, when I was working, I didn’t have to bring my work home after my work hours. I could enjoy the weekend as much as I can.

Suggestions for students:
- Do more internships both on and off campus. It is helpful to accumulate work experience even when you are at school.
- Don't spend too much time just on schoolwork, but learn how to manage relationships with different people.
- Travel more, and get to know the world better.
- Go on a Spring Serve Trip at least once.
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Candice Zhang (from China) – After receiving her MBA degree at Fox, Candice has been employed by Fox as the assistant director of admissions for international students.

Candice shares:  
It is my first full-time job, and there is a lot to learn to do the job well. However, my transition from a Fox student to a Fox employee is comparatively smooth because there is high value congruence. Being a student at Fox, I learned how to interact with people from different countries, and the different values the people had. With this knowledge, I feel less stressed when I interact with students from other countries, especially prospective students.

Suggestions for students:  
- Be thinking about your future, and don’t wait until your graduation to think about what is your plan after graduation.  
- Set aside some time to think about what you are interested in.  
- If you plan to return home after you graduate, know what is going on in your home country and become familiar with the job expectations there

Yuka Osaki (from Japan) – Yuka is a senior majoring in international studies.

Yuka writes:  
Although I have been in America for 7 years, I still find it hard to ask questions in class. My friends have a hard time believing this since I like to talk and ask questions when I hang out with them. The thing I enjoy most in the United States is that I get to be who I am. While in Japan, I have to constrain myself to meet others’ expectations, I feel comfortable being who I am in America.

Yali He (from China) – Yali, a transfer student from a Chinese university, is majoring in Organizational Communication.

I have to have a planner since I always have a busy schedule with schoolwork and socializing with people. Therefore, it is important to mark the dates when homework is due and when I am supposed to hang out with my friends. If I don’t, I might just forget. The use of a planner is also a learning process for me to be independent. I come from a collective culture where I am always told what to do, and I do things together with my friends. In the U.S., I find that there is no friend around me constantly reminding me to do things.

Trang Nguyen (from Vietnam) – Trang, after getting her associate degree in Singapore, transferred to Fox to major in accounting.

I was quite shy in Vietnam, but I know I have to be more active, to step out of my comfort zone and interact with people in the States. I came to the United States willing to be changed, because I know there is no point coming here if I don’t want to change.

Life is always a great teacher. I know life is not fair sometimes, but I have to learn how to cope with it.
Information from International Student Services

Are you graduating this spring?

Students in the US on an F-1 visa are eligible to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). U.S. immigration regulations allow for an international student to stay in the U.S. to work for one year to gain experience in her or his field of study after graduation. If you are interested in applying for OPT contact Alex Pia or Dianna McIntyre.

US Immigration allows for students who are graduating and not applying for OPT to stay in the US 60 days after their program end date.

Are you traveling outside the US during spring break?

Carry with you all the required documents for re-entering the US (a valid, signed Form I-20; a valid passport good for more than six months, unless otherwise exempt; a valid nonimmigrant visa, if required; and financial information showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses. You may also need Alex or Dianna to sign your form I-20, if the signature on page 3 is older than one year.

If you are planning to visit Canada (or any other country), be sure to get a visitor visa for Canada before you travel.

Are you traveling inside the US during spring break?

If you are driving long distances be sure to have several people take turns driving. We recommend you invest in a membership in AAA. AAA provides towing and other services for cars.

Remember, if you are in a car crash, George Fox University cannot assume any responsibility to pay for any damages to your car or injury to you or others with you.

Staying in your on-campus housing during spring break

Spring break is: **March 24 – April 1**. The residence halls close for spring break, however, international students have the option to stay in their on-campus housing. Food service is not available during spring break. If you plan to stay in your on-campus housing during spring break please email Alex Pia or Dianna McIntyre with the dates you will be on campus.

Mid-term Grades and the Last Day to Withdraw from Classes

Mid-term grades will be entered March 7-9. We encourage you to talk to your professors if you are concerned about how you are doing in classes. The last day to withdraw from a class is **March 18**. Alex and Dianna are available to assist you as you make decisions about whether to withdraw from a class.

Students who are studying at George Fox under an F-1 visa have an F-1 visa “hold” on their registration. The purpose of this hold is to prevent students from dropping below a full course load and becoming out of status. If you decide to withdraw from a class you will need to contact Alex or Dianna about removing this hold.
Intercultural Communication

The Confusion of Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication

Have you ever found that the American friend you interact with is different from your perception of an American? If so, how do you form your perception of American? Often times, the perception we have toward a person from a different culture is a result of a generalization we have toward the characteristics of the culture the person is from. By knowing the characteristics of a culture, we are more certain when we interact with people from that culture. However, the stereotype we form can cause confusion between interpersonal and intercultural communication.

To clarify this statement, it is important to define our terms. Interpersonal communication is defined here as any interaction that happens between two people. Intercultural communication, on the other hand, occurs when people from different cultures interact with each other. The confusion between interpersonal and intercultural communication happens when we overemphasize the cultural element and downplay the interpersonal (individual) dimension of the interaction. When we confuse interpersonal communication with intercultural communication, we naturally assume that the two parties in the intercultural interaction possess their cultural characteristics, and, therefore, they must behave the same way as other people in their cultural group. The danger in this mindset is that we tend to ignore the individual differences and fail to know the person as an individual in his/her own way. With this knowledge, we encourage you to see each person as an individual in any intercultural communication setting without referring too much to his/her cultural identity.

Commonly Found Perceptual Errors

1. **Halo**
   Use the previous impression formed of a person (no matter good or bad) to bias the overall evaluation of the person.

2. **Leniency**
   Evaluate other people in an extremely positive fashion regardless of the fact.

3. **Central tendency**
   The tendency to avoid all extreme judgments and rate people as average or neutral.

4. **Recency effects**
   The tendency to recall recent experience with other people when evaluating them.

5. **Contrast effects**
   The tendency to evaluate people by comparing them with characteristics of recently observed people.

Adapted from *Commonly Found Perceptual Errors in Organizational Behavior* (Kreitner & Kinicki, 2010)
Make Your Voice Heard

The purpose of this page is to publish people’s opinions on certain issues or topics.

In this issue of the International Newsletter, we are focusing on transition and adaptation. We have asked international students’ input on what they found to be the most difficult thing they have encountered after coming to America. Let’s hear what stories they have to share.

If you have any comment or question? E-mail us at internationalnews@georgefox.edu

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- **Language** is a big issue for me. I am afraid to ask and answer questions in class because I don’t know if I understand the question correctly.

- Keeping a balance between my academic and social life is a challenge to me. I want to make friends with people and hang out with them. However, often times I find myself too busy with schoolwork.

- Being **independent** is painful. I am so used to being told what to do and being reminded when something is due. Therefore, I find it challenging to plan for my course schedule, decide my research topic, etc.

- I am constantly struggling with **loneliness**. Loneliness is not a result of a lack of friends, but I think our friendships are always in a superficial level. In my culture friends always do things together. Here my friends here seldom spend time hanging out with me.

- People from my home country always form **small groups**. Here, I find it hard to be accepted into a group.

If you are interested in being a member of the International Newsletter to explore your writing and communication skills, please contact Lishan Zeng at lzeng09@georgefox.edu