Hello, I am Adeline from Malaysia. I am the new newsletter editor for the academic year of 2010-2011. This is my third year serving on the ISU Executive Committee Board. As a communication major, I think it will be fun to take over this position and apply the knowledge I have learned in classes to the real world. I enjoy every learning opportunity.

Everyone wants to go global now. Through interaction, we can learn more about others’ cultures. In this issue, we will be reading articles written by the local students from the Elliot School of Communication featuring the culture of two international students and their lives in the USA.

For new international students, we aim to help them familiarize themselves with the new environment. In this issue, we will be introducing the OIE Connection Group and ISU Support Group. Both groups are formed to help the international student community in different areas.

To enjoy your campus life to its maximum, there are a variety of campus activities available for you to take part in. Certainly, food is one big thing that you would care about. Find out more about the dining services offered on campus in this newsletter.

Take your time to read with your heart. ISU has the best wishes for you to learn more about the value of global diversity from the words of your peers.
Who is Who in ISU by the editor

Name: Timur Madaminov Rustamovich
Country: Russia
Languages: Russian & English
Major: Business Management & Finance
Minor: Human Resource Management

Why did you join ISU:
I have been studying in the United States for three and a half years. I remember all the help I received when I first arrived. So, I decided it was time I could be of help to others. Joining the International Student Union seemed like the right thing to do. While helping others, I could further my understanding about relationships and work in the organizational setting, which is important for a business management major to learn. Being the president of ISU allows me to apply the knowledge I acquired through my past experiences and education into real life settings. I want to make a positive contribution to the WSU community. I think there is a lot of work that can be done by the International Student Union. We will continue work hard to serve the WSU community.

Personal goals for Fall 2010:
As a senior, I am eager to get a job in the United States after graduation. In this Fall semester, I will work on improving myself, and thus, try to raise my chances of being hired. Besides doing my best in academics, I want to be more involved in the campus activities. I want to make new friends and improve my communication skills because all those things can help me grow individually and professionally. I was very lucky to be elected as the president of ISU. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to reach my goals and serve the community at the same time.

About my country:
Russia is the biggest country in the world, it is surrounded by 14 countries and 3 oceans. It’s about 1.7 times bigger than the United States but its population however is only 140 million people, which is more than 2 times less than here. Russia is a multinational country just like the U.S. There are approximately 160 ethnic groups and indigenous people that are mixed. Russia has more than a thousand years of history; it has a relatively old cultural background. It is interesting to know that one can actually walk from Russia to the United States (although it’s illegal)! The area between the two countries is called the Bering Strait, which is a 55 mile length of icy waters that separates Alaska from Siberia.

Final thoughts:
If you happen to be a new student who is feeling homesick, I want to tell you that you are not alone. Many people are experiencing the same emotional distress. From my experience, I would encourage you to make more friends because it will make a good transition for you to enter your new life. You can make friends by getting involved in various campus activities organized by student organizations such as the International Student Union and Student Activities Council. For those of you who have been here for awhile, I want to encourage you to step up and help others. Serving others is not a one-way interaction; don’t you agree that helping somebody makes you feel better at the end of the day? International students represent about 10% of the WSU’s student body and if we can put in effort to make this university a better place. Let’s make great things happen!
When international students arrive in the States, they can feel uncertain about their new environment. Last fall we conducted a survey of WSU international students, and many students said they felt lost and isolated when they first came. Quite a few survey respondents suggested that the International Education offer more support by drawing from the experience of other international students. In January of this year, we began a new program called Connection Groups. This series of groups provides an opportunity for new and experienced students to meet one another, share about challenges they’ve faced, and discuss pointers and strategies for getting along at WSU. We hope this will help new students feel more welcome and provide them with some information about adapting to life in Wichita. Another aim for these sessions is to help students get to know one another and exchange contact information to continue sharing guidance and support.

Our first Connection Group for the fall will be Saturday, September 18th, from noon to 2:00pm. We will look forward to eating together, sharing, and connecting with one another. Our office will be sending continuing international students a request via email to see if you would be willing to volunteer to participate in the group.

If you have questions in the meantime please contact Heather Grohe, International Student Advisor, at 316-978-3232 or heather.grohe@wichita.edu.

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We are here to help YOU!!!
Global Insights

International Student Adds American Culture to His Melting Pot

By Ammarah Usmani

WICHITA, Kan. – From the colorful domes of Ukraine, to the humble bungalows of Nigeria, and through the bustling marketplaces of Lebanon, 23-year-old Taymur Hallal is now looking to adopt a new culture.

Born in Ukraine, raised in Nigeria, and half-ethnically from Lebanon, Hallal journeyed to the United States in Fall 2007 to pursue a better education.

When he arrived in Wichita and began attending Wichita State, several aspects about American life amazed him.

Living in Ukraine then witnessing the rural areas of Nigeria, Hallal thought every place in America would be brimming with luxuries.

“Life (in America) is not as sweet as it seems on TV,” Hallal said. “I thought every place was like New York.”

However, Hallal was overjoyed to find Internet connections virtually everywhere and discover the ease of an organized mailing system.

“One of my hobbies here is being addicted to the internet,” he said. “It’s extremely convenient here. Nigeria is not very friendly with the computer.”

Fortunately, Hallal didn’t struggle with a language barrier as much as a few of his fellow international students did, as he went to a British school in Nigeria.

After getting used to the small-town atmosphere, Hallal discovered ways to keep himself busy on Friday nights, such as feasting at his favorite Mediterranean restaurants or catching an exciting flick with his friends.

These activities weren’t always possible for him in Nigeria.

“Sometimes you don’t have power on Friday nights so you have to sit with candles,” he said.

Hallal didn’t work in Nigeria as his father was the main breadwinner of the house.

“Here I work at the information desk at the Rhatigan Student Center so I’m getting a bit of working experience,” he said.

An aerospace engineering major, Hallal doesn’t plan to trek back to Nigeria to find a job.

“I want to be a commercial pilot,” he said. “Maybe I can intern for a company here or go on to get my Masters.”

Overall, Hallal is glad he made his way to the heartlands of America.

“(I like) Just the way things are organized and how lawful and fair the country is,” he said. “Now I officially love Wichita. It’s beautiful and not polluted.”

To be continued on the next page.

Donate A Blanket

When you came to the States, did you bring bedding with you? Naturally most international students do not travel with such amenities, and many go without even a blanket for their first days here. Over 200 new international students will be arriving in August for the fall semester, and the Office of International Education is hosting a fund drive to provide every one of them with a blanket. We have found small fleece blankets that will cost only $3 each and are seeking your help in making this possible.

If every member of our WSU community donated $3, we not only could provide these blankets for the fall semester, but also purchase heavier thermal blankets for those coming this winter to begin in the spring semester.

Donations of cash or check are welcome at the Office of International Education. If writing a check, it can be made payable to “International Connections.” In addition, look for collection containers in many offices around campus. Thank you for helping to give these new students a warm welcome! If you have questions, please contact theresa.turenne@wichita.edu or heather.grohe@wichita.edu.

ISU Activities in Fall’10

Airport Welcome Table
•August 9 (MON) – August 18 (WED)
•1pm – 11pm
•Wichita ICT Airport

ISU Arabic Class
•Starting from September 3 (FRI)
•Friday 5:00-7:00, Saturday 4:00-6:00
•Place: TBA

ISU Officers’ Orientation
•August 20 (FRI)
•1pm - 5pm
•Fairmount Towers Private Dining Room

Movie Night
•August 20 (FRI)
•7pm - 9pm
•Duerksen Amphitheater

Workshop: Organizing a Campus Event
•September 10 (FRI)
•3pm - 5pm
•RSC

InterFest
•Time:TBA
•11.30pm - 1.30pm
•Geology Building Patio

Around the World at Noon
•November 16 (TUE)
•11am – 1.30pm
•RSC (Shocker Square)

International Faculty Staff Appreciation Reception
(by invitation)
•November 17 (WED)
•3pm – 5pm
•RSC rm#203

Multicultural Evening
•November 19 (FRI)
•7pm – 9pm
•CAC Theatre
Global Insights

A Whole New World:
The Life of an International Student

By Carly Glaser

SOUTH INDIA – Wichita State University senior Prithviraj Chetamala compared his experiences growing up in India to living in Wichita to earn his degree in Electrical Engineering. He is expecting to graduate in December 2010.

According to him, family is a treasured quality in India. The caste system continues to play an important role in marriages. Parents highly influence the joining of two people from the same caste. Horoscopes are used to determine if in fact the match will last. If a marriage is not approved, the parents will discontinue the relationship between their children.

In India, education is one of the most valued accomplishments one can receive. Chetamala plans to use his degree by working for a company that specializes in networking programs. For him, California would be an ideal location to work.

Food has been quite an experience for Chetamla in the United States. While spending his first month in the States, he said, “the food here was difficult to eat”. In India, spices are used heavily in cooking. “Food is very bland here in the states,” I was told by Chetamala.

On a visit back to India last December, Chetamala said that he felt the taste was different when enjoying his mother’s spicy food. He has been getting used to the less spicy food here in the United States.

While missing his home and family in India, Chetamala would like to pursue a career that would keep him in the States. However, his father has a great influence on his decision. He would like to see his son coming back to work for a prestigious company in India.

Food

is a topic that always brings everyone together, regardless of the cultural differences. WSU dining provides a variety of dining and catering services to all campus locations. Today, we are going to take an exploratory tour of the dining choices available on campus.

Who says you need to have transportation to get good food?

You can choose various types of delicious cuisine on campus with walking distance.

Currently, there are 11 food stations available on the main campus: Chick-Fil-A, Copperfield’s Diner & Grille, Copperfield’s Station PizzaHut, TacoBell, FastBreak, Corner Market, Masala Asian Grill, Blimpie’s, Book & Bean, Fairmount Towers Cafeteria, and Wheatshocker market.

Coming this Fall, there will be a few more new features that will be added to several food stations:

#1 Book & Bean (located in the Ablah Library)

You can get special bakery products that you won’t be able to get from anywhere else on campus.

#2 Copperfield’s Station PizzaHut (located in the Rhatigan Student Center)

PizzaHut started to sell pasta this summer. Pasta will continue to be served in the Fall. Still, you will be able to get

Continued on Page 6.

ISU Support Group

Greetings to you; it is with great gratification that I am penning my thoughts to you. I am fortunate to be an international student at Wichita State which has not only a large international community but students who are ready to help other students with every need.

I feel that we, the international students, with our experience could be a great resource to our friends. We may have experienced unique situations, which could be a resource to others. One way is to form a support group. The International Student Union has taken the initiative to form a support group under the leadership of Adi Uy. The group consists of international students who would like to volunteer their valuable time in helping students who are going through tragic situations (e.g. auto accidents, medical emergency etc).

The group will have a hotline to be shared with every international student in the very near future. When a student calls the hotline, volunteers would be contacted and dispatched based on the situation. For example, when a student meets with an accident, and if the student is unaware of the procedure, volunteers would be called to help the student in every possible way. It should be noted that these volunteers will not give any legal guidance but direct the student to the appropriate source.

To have this support group operating without any obstacles, our international student union is looking for students who could volunteer their time (maximum 1 day per semester) in helping our brothers and sisters. If you are interested please contact Adi Uy at rzuy@wichita.edu. ISU is waiting for your contribution in assisting your fellow brothers and sisters in need.

Written by (Dr). V. Aravinthan
- Former President of ISU
Continued from Page 5

your favorite pizzas and breadstick at the station.

#3 Masala Asian Grill (located in the Rhatigan Student Center)
Currently, they are serving Indian food. Depending on the demands, they may be serving a wider variety of international food such as Japanese Sushi, Teriyaki chicken, Sweet-and-Sours, Rice ball, etc.

Interestingly, Sodexo started to serve international food on the WSU campus last Spring. I was curious to find out more about this international food station from the general manager of the WSU Dining Services, Mr. David Casida. WSU has long been known for its large international community. The WSU Dining constantly receives suggestions from students and faculty about serving international food on campus. With some collaborated work, the WSU Dining Services started its first international food station.

“We continuously research for the authentic spice taste, and we have our employees, who come from different cultures to taste the spice flavor of dishes. We make sure those dishes will be enjoyed by the general public.”

The day after my interview with Mr. Casida, I went on to their Sushi tasting activity in the RSC. “Those Sushi rolls are awesome! It would be great if we could get those fresh rolls on campus at a reasonable price” I gave my feedback to Mr. Casida and the representative of the AFC Tsunami Company.

So, what are you waiting for? If you are a resident of the university dorms, you can make use of the shocker dollars you put on your shocker card and spend the money at any of the food stations.

Shocker dollars can be purchased from either the Sodexo office, located in the RSC or the Housing and Residence office, when you sign your housing contract.

Mr. Casida pointed out the advantage of purchasing shocker dollars from the Sodexo office. He said, the value of the shocker dollars that students purchase from the Sodexo office stays valid for at least 18 months.

In addition, they also accept cash and cards (both debit and credit cards, Mastercard, VISA, & American Express) for business.

For people who are interested in getting a job with the WSU Dining, there are two ways to get information about the employment opportunities:

1. Get on the WSU Dining website and click on the Employment tab.
2. Check the position vacancy post on the glass wall of the Sodexo office.

In this coming Fall semester, the WSU Dining has three goals that they want to achieve:

Goal #1: Higher returning frequency of customers for their services.

Goal #2: Higher satisfaction of customers.

Goal #3: Getting more feedback. There is a feedback form available on the website under the tab “Contact Us” for people to submit their feedback. In addition, anyone can contact Mr. Casida to provide their feedback about the WSU Dining Services.

WSU Dining Services:
www.wichita.edu/dining

Don’t Forget...

For new Fall 2010 international students
1. New student check-In at the Office of International Education at the Garvey International Center
   - Begins on Monday, August 2.
2. Insurance and Healthcare Informational Meeting
   - August 16 (Monday); Time: 9a.m. – 10.30a.m.
3. Campus Tour (meet outside Devlin #107)
   - August 16 (Monday); Time: 11a.m. – noon
4. Library Orientation

- August 16 (Monday); Time: 1p.m. – 2p.m. (Ablah Library)
5. New International Student Orientation (Mandatory)
   - August 17 (Tuesday); Time: 8.45a.m. – 12.45p.m. (Marcus Welcome Center)
6. New Student Tuberculosis (TB) Blood Test (Mandatory for all international students)
   - August 11 (Wednesday) Time: 9a.m. – 11a.m. / 1p.m. – 3a.m. (Student Health Services, Ahlberg Hall)
7. English and Math Placement Exam
   - Check the new student folder and Fall Schedule of Courses booklet for information about the exam dates and times.

For all international students (New & Returning)
   - Late Fees of $100 will be charged if payment arrangement is not made by August 25.
2. Check out info about all FREE activities for the international students at WSU at the frontdesk of the Office of International Education.

Want to submit an article, contact us at isu@wichita.edu or email the editor at cxtan6@wichita.edu.

For More Info:
www.web.wichita.edu/isu

Join WSU International Student Union on Facebook

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran or disability.
Syllabus for the International Student Union’s Arabic class

Time: Friday 5:00-7:00, Saturday 4:00-6:00
Place: TBA
Instructor: Andrew Goering
Phone: Andrew Goering (316)-708-2191
E-mail: andy.goering@gmail.com

Introduction to the Arabic script

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the Arabic script, and for students to become proficient in reading and writing Arabic. Students will begin by learning the Arabic alphabet. They will be taught to write the letters, and to pronounce them correctly. Students will learn to read simple words in Arabic using the letters they learn each session. They will also have readings from the Quran in Arabic and other selected readings in classical and Modern Standard Arabic. Every session, students will be given handouts, and sometimes they will be given a quiz on what they were taught the previous class period. Some vocabulary and simple grammar will be taught; however the focus of this class is for students to learn the Arabic script.

Students will be given handouts from *The Arabic Alphabet How To Read & Write It* (1986) by Nicholas Awde and Putros Samano. There will also be handouts of the selected readings. Students will also be given homework assignments each week.