

Office of International
Student Services
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Upcoming TU Events:

- ◆ Thursday, February 7—English Conversation Hour, 5:15PM-6:15PM in the International Living Community (LaFortune)
- ◆ Thursday, February 14—Valentine's Day
- ◆ Thursday, February 14—English Conversation Hour, 5:15PM-6:15PM in the International Living Community (LaFortune)
- ◆ Tuesday, February 19—Basketball Seminar in ACAC Chouteau, noon-1PM w/ free pizza
- ◆ Thursday, February 21—English Conversation Hour, 5:15PM-6:15PM in the International Living Community (LaFortune)
- ◆ Thursday, February 28—English Conversation Hour, 5:15PM-6:15PM in the International Living Community (LaFortune)
- ◆ Saturday, March 2—International Night at Lorton Performance Center

The International Connection

International Student Services

February 2013

Volume 1, Issue 4

Update from AIS

By Ahlam Al-Battashi

The AIS (Association of International Students) had an interesting fall semester with successful events for the International students and the TU community. The Annual AIS International Bazaar took place on November 10th, 2012 in ACAC great hall. The event was enjoyed by the many people who attended and appreciated the tastes of multicultural variations in food, customs, and traditions. In addition to the usual annual participating countries, there were new countries represented in the event for the first time including Germany, Qatar, Nigeria, and Egypt. The idea of allowing each country to serve their traditional food according to a certain budget proved to be successful again. People enjoyed the different options they got to test. Besides, many liked the idea of Mr. and Mrs. International in the fashion show, which was awarded to Mrs. Saudia Arabia and Mr. Angola.

AIS would like to thank all the countries that participated and were cooperative with us to make the night joyful.

We would like to also inform you that we have more fun to share this semester. We



hope you are all having a great semester so far, and you are preparing some great ideas of performances for the biggest AIS annual event "International Night", which will be on March 2nd. To get you more excited, we have good news: this year with the event being in Lorton Performance Center, we can have around 650 people in the hall!

We are looking forward to hearing from the countries' representatives, and let's together to make the event a night to remember.

Spotlight: Persian Student Association

By Fardis Fard

The Persian Student Association (PSA) is a cultural student association under the graduate student association (GSA). PSA promotes the appreciation and celebration of the Persian culture at TU; to build strong social and educational ties and foster excellence, Leadership and teamwork among its members. Also to provide a source of union and support for the Iranian community at TU.

The majority of PSA members are graduate students within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Every year PSA members success in winning scientific awards and fellowships through TU or other scientific associations. They are among distinguished graduate students at TU.

PSA events are mostly about Iranian culture. In reality all of them are just big parties (It appears Iranians love to party). The most popular PSA event is Persian Night. Usually it happens in March, at the beginning of spring (Iranian new year). It is a formal event, which attracts many students, faculties and Iranians around Oklahoma. Persian Night starts with delicious Iranian foods. It continues with skits, standup comedy, live music, fashion show, and ends with turning the ACAC grate hall to a disco and dance till midnight. If you are 21 years old they have bar too. Dance party is another PSA famous event. It happens ones per semester at Mayo club house. It starts with dance and goes till everyone gets tired. PSA also parts of ISS events like International Night and International Bazaar. PSA has other events for Iranian students throughout each year like poetry night and game night. PSA members would be happy to see you at their events. You would have lots of fun.

Update from the International Student Services (ISS) Office

By Carla Guthrie, SEVIS Compliance Coordinator

Welcome to The University of Tulsa! The ISS office is here to help you adjust to life and academia in the U.S. Here are some things you may find helpful.

1. Stay in close contact with the International Student Services (ISS) office and check your TU e-mail address at least twice a week. This is the way we will contact you or notify you of important or urgent immigration issues.
2. Check that the information on your I-20 or DS-2019 is kept up-to-date and accurate. It is vitally important for you to keep track of all of your immigration documents. You are required to keep all the I-20's and DS-2019's you are issued. Keep them in a safe, secure place.
3. International students may not accept any type of employment without prior written approval from the ISS office and/or US Government.
4. International students must be enrolled on a full-time basis each fall and spring. You must visit with our office to determine if you are eligible and receive authorization before dropping a class. Class attendance is vital to your success at The University of Tulsa.
5. Don't fall into the MF trap (My Friend said this, My Friend did that, etc.) Remember, each person and situation is different and YOU are responsible for maintaining valid immigration status. If you ever have a question, don't hesitate to contact us. While your friends, professors and other advice givers are well meaning, don't look elsewhere for your immigration information. We are here to help.

New Persian Dining Option Available in Tulsa

By Lily Nikou



Ali Baba is a Mediterranean Grill, which is a local family owned restaurant. They serve delicious Mediterranean and Persian food in Tulsa. They have many of the standard Mediterranean dishes such as Tabouli, Hummus, Gyros, and Falafel.

Ali Baba also serves a variety of Persian dishes such as kabobs, Lamb shank, Zereshk rice, and Khorosht Ghaimeh.

Ali Baba Mediterranean Grill serves variety of salads, spuds, wraps and sandwiches. All the platters are relatively large and can be shared between two people. Also Ali Baba serves halal meat.

Get Excited: you don't have to drive far away any more! Ali Baba just opened their second branch, which is called "**Route 66 subs and burgers**" and they serve all same foods that they serve at Ali Baba. Route 66 is located on 11th street next to the Hookah Lounge. All TU student and staff will receive 10% discount with ID!!!!

Ali Baba

Hours of Operation:

Monday thru Saturday 10:30am to 8pm

Sunday - Closed

Location:

4709 East 51st Street (51st and Yale)

Tulsa, OK, 74135

Tel: (918) 488-1818

Route 66 Subs and Burgers

Hours of Operation:

Monday thru Saturday 10:30am to 8pm

Sunday – Closed

Location:

2627 E. 11th Street (11th St. Between Harvard and Lewis)

Tulsa, OK, 74104

Tel: (918) 794-1282



Interesting Places to Shop in Tulsa



Dwelling Spaces, Tulsa, OK (Image source: www.dwellingspaces.net)

www.dwellingspaces.net

Visit this unusual gift shop in Downtown Tulsa (in the Blue Dome district) to find items representative of the art and culture of Oklahoma. Jewelry, t-shirts, stickers, toys, and a variety of artwork can be found here. In addition, you never know who you might see here; this locally-owned business has been visited by a number of nationally (and internationally) famous actors, artists, and musicians during their trips to Tulsa. Dwelling Spaces is located at 119 South Detroit and is open Monday through Thursday from 7am to 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday from 8am to 9pm, and Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

Ida Red, Tulsa, OK (Image source: www.idaredboutique.com)

www.idaredboutique.com



Another wonderful representation of Oklahoma music, art, and culture can be found on Brookside at Ida Red. This local business, which advertises itself as "Tulsa's Rockin' Boutique," offers a wide array of T-shirts, music, artwork, jewelry, toys, vintage candy and soda pop, TOMs, and other unique items, many of which are created by local artists. Ida Red is located at 3336 South Peoria and is open Monday through Thursday from 10:30am to 6:30pm and Friday and Saturday from 10:30am to 9pm.

February Brings a Holiday of Love and Romance

St. Valentine's Day, more commonly called Valentine's Day, is a holiday of love and romance celebrated not only in the United States but in many other countries. Although Valentine's Day is mainly observed in Europe, Latin America, and the U.S., some Eastern countries such as Japan and China have similar holidays.

The Valentine's Day we celebrate in the U.S. actually began as a day to commemorate a Roman saint who became a hero to the Catholic Church. The legend says that Saint Valentine secretly married young couples against the wishes of Emperor Claudius II, the tyrannical leader of the Roman Empire who passed a law banning young men from marrying; the emperor apparently believed that marriage would interfere with a man's ability to be an effective soldier. Saint Valentine was eventually caught and executed for his deeds on (approximately) February 14th 270 A.D.

The extent to which Saint Valentine actually plays a role in our modern Valentine's Day is uncertain. Various theories have been proposed about how this day came to symbolize love and romance, but most agree that the custom of exchanging gifts, flowers, and cards on this day began in England in the Late Middle Ages. Some suggest that the work of English writers William Shakespeare and Geoffrey Chaucer may have been responsible for the association of Saint Valentine's Day and love, but it is difficult to determine exactly how the holiday developed into what we have today. The English brought the custom to the United States and in the mid-1800s, Valentine's Day cards became available in U.S. stores.

These days, Valentine's Day is enormously popular commercially and you can find far more than just cards to buy for a loved one: balloons, stuffed animals, chocolates, jewelry, perfume, and roses are the traditional Valentine's Day items found in stores, but lovers can exchange any gifts they wish and often will enjoy a romantic dinner together in the evening. The heart, having long ago been thought to control our emotions, remains a symbol of Valentine's Day along with Cupid (the Roman god of love), roses, and doves. Several colors of roses can be given at Valentine's Day, but red is the one most associated with romantic love. Orange roses may be given by someone hoping to move from friendship to romance while lavender roses can be used to express love at first sight.



TU Campus Mystery Location: Do You Know this Place?



Each month, *The International Connection* will feature a photo of a “mystery” structure or area located on The University of Tulsa campus. The first student to correctly guess the place shown in the photo will win a special prize!

If you believe you know what location this is, send an e-mail to david-kobel@utulsa.edu. Be as specific as possible when explaining where this is located (you must give the name of the building). The first student to send the correct answer by e-mail wins. The answer and the name of the winner will be printed in next month’s newsletter.

Get Involved with The International Connection

We are interested in your stories! If you have ideas about newsworthy international students here at TU, exciting experiences you have had studying here, places you enjoy eating in Tulsa, or cultural events taking place in the area, please contact us. E-mail your ideas to david-kobel@utulsa.edu and please indicate if you would be interested in writing the story.



Join the ISS Facebook Group

Don’t miss out on important notices and helpful information! The ISS Facebook Group page is regularly updated with reminders, upcoming events, helpful hints, photos, and other items of interest from the ISS office. It is also a place where TU international students can post questions, comments, notices, and photos. To join, go to www.facebook.com/groups/TUISS/.

Lingo Lesson of the Month: Idioms of the Heart

With Valentine’s Day coming up, what better idiom topic to focus on than the heart? Below are a few of the most common idioms of U.S. English involving this vital organ.

Change of heart: to change the way you feel about something. *He planned to leave the university and return home, but he has had **a change of heart**. He’s going to stay now.*

A heart of gold: to have a kind character. *She will help anyone who is in need. She has **a heart of gold**.*

A heart of stone: to have an unkind character. *He feels sorry for no one. He has **a heart of stone**.*

A heavy heart: to feel very sad or sorrowful. *With **a heavy heart**, I left my friends and family to return to school.*

Broken-hearted: to be extremely sad after a loss. *He has been **broken-hearted** since his wife left him.*

Close to your heart: to think of something as very important to you. *My best friend is always **close to my heart**.*

From the bottom of your heart: to be very honest or sincere about something. I promise **from the bottom of my heart** that I be a good husband to you.

To have your heart in the right place: to be doing something for a good reason. *She is a strict professor, but **her heart is in the right place**. She really wants to help students learn the material.*



Basketball 101 Information Session

Tuesday, February 19, 12pm—1pm

Chouteau Room (ACAC 2nd floor)

- Learn more about the sport of basketball!
- Learn the rules
- Learn the vocabulary
- Learn about **TU Hurricane Basketball**



A special informative session for international students featuring **Shea Seals**, TU Director of Player Management/Team Manager and Former TU basketball player, 1993-1997

**Free pizza provided by
International Student Services**