



THE INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

February 2007, Volume 3, Issue 5

WELCOME TO LEHIGH

On Wednesday, January 10, OISS welcomed fifteen international graduate and exchange students to Lehigh campus. Despite the coldness of the weather, everyone was excited about and ready for their new adventure in the U.S. and at Lehigh.

The Orientation took place in the Global Union Lounge in Coxe Hall. After a hearty breakfast, the students became acquainted with each other through the icebreaker, People Scavenger Hunt, in which

they had to look for people who possess one of the qualities listed on their sheets.

A series of information sessions that followed presented students with more "serious stuff" such as the important immigration matters, coping with culture shock, health issues and ESL requirements.

The evening of Orientation, however, was all about fun! After a quick pizza dinner, students got into a number of games including the ping-pong relay, human knots, passing the hula hoops, pictionary, and guess-the-movie game which the students suggested and had a blast.

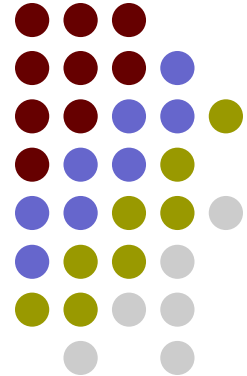
On Friday, everyone went on a shopping trip to Target where they bought a variety of items from pillows to notebooks to webcam to get ready for the new semester and new life in Bethlehem.

We wish the best of luck to our new friends and would like to say, once again, "Welcome to Lehigh!"



SPRING 2007 IMMIGRATION INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

FEBRUARY				
DATE	DAY	TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
February 1	Thursday	4:00PM-5:00PM	Bringing a Spouse or Family	Conference Room Coxe Hall
February 8	Thursday	4:00PM-5:00PM	F-1 Issues and Optional Practical Training	GU Lounge Coxe Hall
February 22	Thursday	4:00PM-5:00PM	F-1/J-1 Travel Issues	Conference Room Coxe Hall
February 28	Wednesday	4:00PM-5:00PM	Tax Workshop	Whitaker Lab Room 303
MARCH				
DATE	DAY	TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
March 15	Thursday	4:00PM-5:00PM	J-1 Issues and Academic Training	Conference Room Coxe Hall
March 21	Wednesday	4:00PM-5:00PM	H-1 Issues	Conference Room Coxe Hall
APRIL				
DATE	DAY	TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
April 25	Thursday	4:00PM-5:00PM	Travel Session—Q&A Travel outside the U.S.	Conference Room Coxe Hall



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TAX SEASON IS COMING



The yearly tax season begins in January and ends on April 15. OISS and Payroll Office are holding a tax workshop to help guide

you through the tax form process. who attend the tax workshop.

The workshop has been scheduled for February 28 from 4pm to 5pm in 303 Whitaker Lab.

Also, we will be offering a tax preparation program called **CIN-TAX** for your use. This program is a web-based tax return preparation system to aid nonresident individuals in preparing your US federal income tax return. We encourage students and scholars who qualify as nonresident aliens for tax purposes to use this program. Passwords to use the CINTAX program will be distributed to all students and scholars

If you will not be able to attend the workshop, you will still be able to request the information and password on the CINTAX program from OISS or Payroll.

To date, OISS has not yet received the 2006 tax forms from the IRS.

Forms (1040-NR EZ and 8843) and instructions can also be downloaded from IRS website at www.irs.gov. Additional information about taxes and tax forms can be found on Lehigh's Controllers Office website:

www.lehigh.edu/~inctr. Navigate to Lehigh's Payroll homepage and click on international forms. The forms and information will be available as well as the instructions.

If you worked in 2006, you should have received your W-2 form and/or 1042S by now. If not, please check with Payroll Office to see if they have your correct mailing address and request a reprint to send you.

PLEASE NOTE:
Tax advising from OISS is ONLY available by appointment.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR CLASSES



Graduate Students - must be registered full-time (nine credits per semester)

If you have a few credits to complete your program or are on maintenance of candidacy, you must be full-time certified, in writing, by your department, as per immigration regulations. Upon receiving full-time certification from Lehigh University, you will be considered a full-time student by Immigration.

Undergraduate Students - must be registered for twelve credits unless you have been approved through OISS for a reduction of course work as per immigration regulations.

IMPORTANT: *If you are not registered as a full time student, OISS will be required to enter this information into the SEVIS database. This will cause a violation of status with immigration and it will be difficult to regain your legal student status.*

DEADLINE FOR OISS REGISTRATION: The deadline to enter all registered students (full-time or part-time) into the SEVIS database is **FEBRUARY 26, 2007.**

If you are under-enrolled and have not contacted our office with proof of full-time certification or have been approved for the under-enrollment, your SEVIS record will indicate this.

WORKING ON CAMPUS

Just a reminder: immigration rules state students are only allowed to work up to 20 hours per week on campus while school is in session. During breaks, like Spring Break or semester breaks, an international student may work more than 20 hours per week. Please make sure if you are working more than one job on campus that you are not working more than 20 hours per week. *Working more than the allowed time will impact your immigration status.*



I-9/W-4/TAX TREATIES

Are you working on campus as a Work-Study student, hourly wage

individual, teaching, research, graduate assistant, or have a scholarship or fellowship? If so, you should have completed an I-9 work eligibility form and a W-4 form. If not, please complete these forms immediately with either your department or OISS. Also, check with Payroll to see if your country has a Tax Treaty

with the United States. If so, you will need to complete certain forms in the Payroll Office so they can exempt taxes on a portion of your income. This tax treaty form should be filed each year in January. If you are a returning student and your country does have tax treaty with the U.S. and you have not filed the tax treaty papers in January, please file them as soon as possible.

TRAVEL ALERT

NEW PASSPORT REQUIREMENT

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According to the US Department of State, effective January 2007, all persons traveling by air from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be required to have a passport to enter the United States.

**Attention** Canadian students, this means you will also have to present your passport when entering the U.S. through any U.S. airport.



## South Africa By Bruno Martorelli, Sophomore in Computer Engineering

This winter break, twenty-six students from Global Citizenship program, including myself, went to Cape Town, South Africa, in what I would personally call one of the best trips I have ever made.

Our trip began at JFK Airport. We were all excited and some of us were extremely nervous and uneasy – it was the first time many of the students were leaving the country and there was even someone who had never gotten into a plane before! After two long flights (JFK-Amsterdam and Amsterdam-Cape Town) we finally stepped into Cape Town, unsure of what lied ahead of us. The first thing we saw as we came out of the gate was two guys horsing around imitating Borat (saying “I like it!”). It was kind of funny to see a practical application of globalization and the shrinking of time and space; the movie had only been released few weeks ago in the US!

But obviously, we were still not sure of what Cape Town would look like. Many people have completely distorted views of Africa; they expect it to be very poor place with wild animals running around. But that’s not true at all. As weird as it may seem, I can say it looks a lot like some cities in my home country of Brazil: you have downtown, which looks exactly like a first world country, then you have very rich neighborhoods, where the mostly white elite lives, and on the outskirts of town you have a dense concentration of poor (if not miserable) families living in slums. The contrast between social classes is enormous.

In our planned schedule was a broad variety exciting activities. We did all of that touristy stuff a typical traveler would do: we went

to see the Cape of Good hope, climbed up Table Mountain, went dining in some amazing restaurants, shopping in markets where you could bargain and get African artifacts at ridiculously low prices, took a tour of the famous South African vineyards, went to a museum, etc. We even went to an incredibly good looking place (the Botanical Garden) for an awesome New Year’s Eve concert with a South African band! I could go on for pages just describing all of this fun stuff there is to do in a city like Cape Town, but that’s not what made our trip so special in my opinion.

When traveling, most people are looking for a home away from home, a paradisiacal place to



isolate themselves and rest; but that was not our case at all. What I liked the most about going to Cape Town was the chance to put into practice what we had heard at Lehigh. I think I can speak for the whole group when I say I went with a huge disposition of stepping out of my comfort zone, engaging with the locals, learning about their culture, and doing something to help the community. We took the opportunity to talk to many South Africans about issues such as the Apartheid, we got to talk to and receive a guided tour of Robben Island (where Mandela was kept) from an ex-prisoner, and we took tours of the townships (the poor suburbs where the black Africans were sent to during Apartheid). But my (and most other students’) personal favorite thing about the whole trip was spending two days with children from a poor community in the outskirts.

The first day with these kids was very tough. To



quote a friend, these kids were “little spawns of Satan.” We had children as young as two years old and as old as fourteen or fifteen, but they had one thing in common: they wouldn’t obey us no matter what. We were trying to teach them Math and English but they kept running around and jumping all over us. The first couple of hours were like hell, and not even putting these kids to sit down and face the wall as a punishment for their behavior (yes, a friend actually tried that and it was hilarious!) was helping. But as the end of the day approached, these kids began trusting us more and respecting us more. We learned that they came from extremely poor families and weren’t used to getting any attention at all. The simple fact that we dedicated our time to them was deeply meaningful. And we could see that in their eyes on the second day. The first thing that happened when we walked into the community center was that all the kids came running to hug and greet us, with huge smiles on their faces. Day two was much easier, and we got to do most – if not all – of our planned activities successfully. By the end of our experience there, many of us were actually attached to these children and vice versa. It was a little painful to see them leave, but it felt amazing the fact that as tourists, we actually took our time to interact and do something good for the community.

Finally, to give you a better insight of the Global Citizenship program, it all started for my group (Cohort III) last semester, when all of us who got accepted into the program (yes, unfortunately you have to apply before even getting here) took a “Globalization and Culture” course, which substituted English 1. That class was focused on teaching us about the phenome-

non of globalization, its consequences in our daily ordinary lives, and most importantly, making us reflect on what it means to be a global citizen. We also had a practicum on Monday nights (it’s not as terrible as it sounds!) with the objective of preparing us for the intersession trip. We learned about the history of South Africa, had speakers who had been there tell us about the place, watched movies, and last but definitely not least, got to know our fellow GCers – as we call ourselves – very well. If there is one thing that I’m sure we all picked up from last semester was the conscience that people all over the world are different, and that it’s up to us to step out of our comfort zone, understand and respect these differences, and act to make the world as a whole a better and more equal place. Understanding this is exactly what makes me feel so special about being a part of the program, and I think that it was what made the trip so special and unique not only for me but for the other students as well.



I am sure that there are plenty of wonderful opportunities here at Lehigh to be involved in experiences such as the one I was in. I would personally encourage anyone reading this to take a moment, step out of your cultural bubble, and take the risk of knowing somewhere different, of knowing people who might appear to be from a universe completely different from yours. You never know what you can get from it, but from my own experience, it’s a valuable way of not only learning about others but of learning about yourself and your own cultural values.



**Baer International Centre  
Coxe Hall**

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Bethlehem, PA 18015

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Fax: 610-758-5156  
Email: intl@lehigh.edu

**Effective February 5, 2007,  
Office Hours for students and scholars are as follow:**

**Appointment Hours:**

Monday & Tuesday: 1:30pm–3:30pm  
Friday: 9:00am–11:30am

**Walk-In Hours:**

Wednesday & Thursday: 1:30pm–3:30pm

**FREE WEEKLY  
ENGLISH  
CONVERSATION  
CLASSES**

Every Tuesday  
10:30AM - 12:00PM  
Saucon Village, Bldg #8 -  
Community Room

Join us to learn and prac-  
tice your English and to  
meet new friends!

All international spouses  
are invited.

# OISS UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS



**Friendship on Valentine's**

Tuesday, February 13, 2007  
Global Union Lounge, Coxe Hall  
6:30pm-8:30pm



Who says Valentine's celebrations are only for couples? At OISS, we like to celebrate Valentine's Day with friends we love and cherish. On February 13, we invite you to join us for a two-hour celebration of friendship with fun games, music, and some really "sweet" Valentine's snacks and drinks. Please let Jeanne (jet206) know if you'd like to come.

**Spring Break Hiking Trip: The Pinnacle**

**Sunday, March 4  
9am-4pm**

Have you decided on what to do for Spring Break? Here's an idea. Why not join OISS on a one-day hiking trip to the Pinnacle!

The Appalachian Trail is a 2,174-mile hiking trail in the eastern U.S. extending between Georgia and Maine. The Pennsylvania stretch of the Trail is about 230 miles long and many claim that the views at the Pinnacle are the best views on this portion of the Trail.



Our total hiking distance will be approximately 8.5 miles with moderate difficulty. Hiking boots or athletic footwear are highly recommended for this activity. If you love nature and like to hike, please submit a \$10 deposit to Lolita in OISS. Space is limited. First come, first serve.

