ISSO/ASC E-Newsletter

Welcome…from Ann Curry, PhD, Head of ISSO/ASC

Although it is nearing the end of the Winter semester, please don't forget about ISSO over the spring and summer months! Our doors are open, and we still provide all our services. We noticed last year that May and most of June were quite busy with drop-in inquiries and requests for help from international students. Socio-cultural programming was still in high demand, and with the warmer weather, lots of different outings were possible, from the Farmers' Market to many of the festivals that occur in Regina.

More information will be coming your way soon about a special seminar on "Canadian Consular Services: Your Best Source for Travel Advice and Information", hosted by ISSO and delivered by DFAIT, which includes a 'tool kit for studying/working/travelling abroad'. The seminar will occur Thursday morning, June 12, in the Multi-Purpose Room in Riddell Centre, so now is a good time to figure out who the best person from your unit will be to attend.

We will be doing one more newsletter (May) and then take a break until mid-August when we will update you on the plans for International Orientation on Friday, August 29 (book us into your calendars now!). The 'REALLY BIG NEWS', of course, will be about how all the cowboys and cowgirls enjoyed the trip to the ranch at the end of April, so stay tuned!

Until next month…

Farewell to three of our Student Assistants

Betty, Ivan and Xin are moving on!

Betty, who represented international graduate students, is moving to Toronto. Betty has been with the ISSO since Winter 2007. Betty has been a big help in the general office, always assisting with a myriad of office duties that we asked of her and answering questions that students need answered. Betty was always there to help out with our Fun Thursdays – setting up tables, serving pizza and making students feel welcome by playing games and visiting with them. Thank you, Betty! We wish all the best to you and your family in Toronto.

Ivan is a Business Administration student. He has completed his undergraduate degree and is now looking for new adventures and exciting new experiences. (Not that the ISSO didn't already provide these!) Ivan assisted with general office duties. He was great at answering questions and always eager to learn new procedures. Ivan greeted new international students at the airport, and he was always ready to accommodate us with whatever we needed. Thanks, Ivan!

Xin, who is the President of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA), has worked with ISSO forever! Xin was busy meeting and greeting international students at the airport, and also helped substantially with updating the Chinese version of the ISSO website. Xin always had a smile on his face and was ready and willing to help us out even if it meant getting up at 6am to meet a student at the airport. Thank you, Xin, for all of your hard work and dedication.

The ISSO would like to take this opportunity to compliment our student assistants' hard work, enthusiasm, caring support for other international students, and wonderful senses of humour! We wish you the very best in your future endeavours wherever they may take you.

Take care and good luck!

Melissa Chapman

ISSO, Program Coordinator

Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC) Update

The ASC would like to welcome and introduce new staff members: Program Coordinator, Jacqueline Thompson and Pamela Sparvier, Administrative Assistant. As well we would like to thank the following Student Ambassadors and Student Research Assistants who have been employed at the ASC: Harry Walker, 2nd Year Administration; Kelly Quewezance, 3rd year Social Work; Nick Crighton, 3rd year Kinesiology; Sheila Kayseas, 4th year Arts; Roman Young, 2nd year Fine Arts; and Angela Severight, 3rd year Administration; and Real Carriere, graduate student, who worked as our Student Researchers. All these students were responsible for promoting ASC events/services as well as engaging with visitors to the Centre. A lot of the work that we have achieved throughout the semester would not have been possible without their efforts.

Since the 200810 Semester is wrapping up, we are looking forward to embarking on our summer programming with the following events taking place:

National Aboriginal Leadership Seminar

Date: June 5th 9:00am – 4:00pm

Place: University of Regina Education Auditorium

This June, the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Regina is proud to host the National Aboriginal Leadership Seminar. This seminar will bring together Aboriginals leaders with a wealth of experience and knowledge from different fields to give participants a comprehensive view of Aboriginal leadership. The speakers will explore the role of Aboriginal leadership through the lens of the various levels of government and society.

National Aboriginal Day Celebration

Date: Friday June 20th 10:00am – 4:00pm

Place: Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green (tentative)

Saturday, June 21, 2008 is National Aboriginal Day. All over Canada, Aboriginal peoples and organizations will celebrate their cultures, beliefs, and accomplishments. Recent celebrations have inspired many positive movements and developments. Not only does this day allow us to further cultural awareness on campus, but it is an opportunity to address issues of disengagement in our community. The ASC, in partnership with various areas on campus, looks forward to organizing a one-day celebration event on Friday, June 20th, that includes traditional dance demonstrations, singing, cultural activities, food, and an artists' trade fair.

Did You Know?

The Regina Aboriginal Professional Association (RAPA) is dedicated to the development of June as Aboriginal History Month. The central theme of this year's campaign is ***'Expressing Aboriginal History, Identities and Successes'***, with the launch taking place on June 2, 2008, at the RCMP Heritage Centre. There will also be various events throughout June to commemorate the month. The University of Regina's ASC will support the efforts of this campaign by hosting the majority of its events throughout the month of June.

As background, on May 25, 2007, RAPA was successful in attaining a declaration from the City of Regina acknowledging June as Aboriginal History Month and, shortly thereafter, on June 11, 2007, the Province of Saskatchewan also proclaimed June as Aboriginal History Month. News of the campaign reached Ms. Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan, who made a motion in the House of Commons, on May 30, 2007, to recognize June as National Aboriginal History Month. A Federal nod has not been given at this point.

Sabrina Sparvier

Aboriginal Student Centre, Manager

College West 117

The UR Mosaic: From Many Peoples, Strength

On March 18, the International Student Success Office and Residence Services presented the first annual ***UR Mosaic – From Many Peoples, Strength*** at the University of Regina.

The Mosaic included cultural activities, performances and displays from over twenty countries, and received immense attention from the university community and communities in the city, including the local Spanish radio station! Hundreds of university staff, students and people from other communities joined in the event, enjoying cultural performances and displays such as the Lion Dance, pow-wow dancers and drummers, Bangladeshi singers, and a Ukrainian house; tasting an international food buffet; and celebrating our diversity. People had the opportunity to get their names painted in Saulteux on stones at the Aboriginal pavilion, try calligraphy at the Chinese pavilion, or get henna designs painted on hands and arms courtesy of our East Indian students, among other things.

If you missed the Mosaic this year, please do remember to check the ISSO event calendar for our next UR Mosaic. It will be even Bigger and Better!

Li Liu

ISSO, Manager

ISSO/ASC Staff

Ann Curry
Head, ISSO

Li Liu
Manager, ISSO

Melissa Chapman
Program Coordinator, ISSO

Sue McGee
Office Administrator, ISSO

Sabrina Sparvier
Manager, ASC

Jacqueline Thompson
Program Coordinator, ASC

Pamela Sparvier
Office Administrator, ASC