

Boise State International Insider

News for International Students

September 29, 2011

International Student Services

Coming Events & Activities

Every Wednesday, 3:30 to 5:00pm: Coffee & Conversation in the Student Diversity Center. Free refreshments!

October 3rd, 3:00 to 5:00pm: OPT Workshop, in the Student Diversity Ctr. Details below.

October 3rd - 7th: International Student Association (ISA) Elections. Please see details on pg 2.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a one-year work permit that allows international students to work in their field of study after graduation. If you are graduating this semester and are interested in applying for OPT, you must attend an OPT Workshop.

October 3, 2011 at 3 pm

When attending the workshop, you must bring your I-20, visa, passport and I-94 card, plus 2 passport-size photos (head positioned directly facing the camera) and a Money Order for \$380.00 payable to CIS.

Please email Christy to sign up for the workshop. The workshop will be held in the Student Diversity Center.



World Cup of Tea (definition)

International students and U.S. national students befriending each other, learning more about one another's countries, sharing stories of food, heritage and home, learning about differences, seeing the world through someone else's eyes, getting more comfortable with "newness" and "strangeness", and laughing, listening, loafing, learning across borders, across oceans, across a coffee house table.

If you are an international student looking for a fun, supportive friendship with a U.S. national BSU student...

if you are interested in nurturing a meaningful friendship across borders...

International Student Services World Cup of Tea Mentoring Program sparks student to student friendships.

For more information on how to get connected with a ISS World Cup of Tea mentor, visit the International Student Services Office (*The Student Diversity Center, 2nd floor of the SUB*) and ask to complete an ISS World Cup of Tea mentee application or call Monk Wells, ISS Support Coordinator at 426-2684 or email stevenwells@boisestate.edu.



ISA Officer Elections October 3 – 7

Elections will be held October 3rd through the 7th to choose the Officers that will represent you and provide leadership for the International Student Association for this academic year. There are two options for casting your vote:

1. Come to the ISS office and fill out a ballot OR
2. Send your votes via email to InternationalInfo@boisestate.edu

Either way, your vote will be treated confidentially and counted!

Following are statements from the Candidates to introduce themselves and express their qualifications and intentions for each position. Please be involved. This is YOUR Association.

ADIL BENTAHAR - PRESIDENT

I am running for office as **President** of the International Students Association (ISA) for a second term. Serving as an ISA officer helped extend my learning experiences in the States. Being an international Bronco certainly enabled me to reinforce and develop skills like teamwork, cooperation, caring, and compassion. But as ISA President, what did I do for international students during this year? International Students Services answered this question after Boise State honored me with the Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year Awards 2011:

*“Adil has had a very busy year! As the President of the International Student Association (ISA), he has led the officers and organization in the most active and successful year **in recent memory**. Together they have planned and enjoyed fun events like bowling and pizza parties, ice skating, a trip to McCall for the Winter Festival and an outstanding Spring Break trip to Seattle! This year’s International Food, Song and Dance Festival, planned by ISA, was **a huge success. More than 400** people.. gathered to enjoy excellent food prepared by our international students and wonderful entertainment. On his own, Adil has consistently volunteered [off-campus]. Oh yes, and he’s also an **honor graduate student** in the College of Education! Congratulations, Adil, on receiving this well-deserved award!” (Quotes from ISS Insider, May 2011)*

As the saying goes, “No gain without` pain”. Being ISA President also means a lot of work, yes so much work at times, but honestly it feels so good when you’re walking on campus and people smile at you, people that you don’t always know, but probably they attended some ISA event and knew you are part of that student gathering. It REALLY feels rewarding and special, very special! I also published four articles on cultural and international education. I’m proud our activities ALWAYS witnessed the good presence of our American friends.

If this year you have heard the name of International Students Association more often, and think that **Adil Bentahar** can lead ISA to a better presence on-campus, then please go ahead and share your voice through voting for reliable officers. Doing so helps promote international students’ voice. Whether or not I am elected President probably does not matter much, because I know I will share my modest experiences to give a push to ISA. The people who know me say that I am punctual, hardworking, open-minded, thoughtful, and with good sense of humor. If you want to know if this is true, please join us at ISA ☺☺. Thanks!

SINDY CHIU- VICE PRESIDENT

Sindy Chiu - Former Festival Coordinator of International Student Association (ISA)

I am one of the candidates who have officially declared we are running for **Vice President** for International Student Association (2011-2012). I have had a passion for learning and caring throughout my profession as an international student and one of the active ISA officers at BSU.

Despite working hard to become a prominent professional in health care sciences, there is no limit to the amount of attention I give to both international students and other students. Without interrupting attention from my studies, I am not going to stop contributing to ISA events such as bowling nights, community services, the McCall trip, the 32nd International Food, Song, and Dance Festival, the Seattle trip, high school orientation, and the river flow event as the Festival Coordinator (2010-2011).

Under my enthusiasm and leadership as Festival Coordinator, I am articulate at maintaining a multi-vocal community. Because of values, life experience, individual preference, and the individual decision maker’s willingness to take risks influence decision making, I feel all should be able to express their views and be heard in a respectful way.

Therefore, I have been dedicated to exert myself to gain some momentum by supporting diverse students at BSU to establish incredible things. In the future, I hope I will be one of the ISA officers gearing up to succeed. Thank you for the opportunity and your consideration of my candidacy.

YEHUI LIAO (Braden) - SECRETARY

Hi, my name is Yehui Liao. Most people know me by my name Braden. ISA is a sweet group that gives International students an amazing campus life. And I'd like to do it myself and work with other ISA officers to make your campus life EVEN better. Ever since I got into BSU I was doing whatever I can to assist the International Office for any events and activities. All the reason I was doing that is I really like to help people and love to work in that atmosphere. Now two years passed, it's the chance to make the best of me and really devote myself into this position. I will pour all of my enthusiasm in this group. I'm going to work seamlessly with the President and Vice President to make more fun events, activities, opportunity notifications and so on just for YOU! There are much more we can do together. As long as you give me the Chance, you will see the Change! Vote for me and you won't regret!

DANH NGUYEN - SECRETARY

The ensuing election for a new International Student Association (ISA) executive committee is nigh and I, Danh Nguyen, intend to run for the Secretary position for the academic year 2011-2012.

In the academic year of 2009-2010, I served as Public Relation Officer for the Honor Society at Evergreen Valley College, California. Incidentally, this position shares many similarities to the job description of Secretary, including, but not limited to, keeping records of all meetings, distributing memoranda to members who can't attend the meeting, promoting the organization around the campus, working with other members and the coordinator to reach a consensus on several activities. During my term, I successfully established a communication hub on Google Docs, facilitating contacts among members of the Honor Society, especially during examination periods or for those who can't physically attend the weekly meetings.

Currently I serve as a Student Assembly Member, representing the Department of Nursing, for the Associate Student of Boise State University (ASBSU). I am also involved with Student Nurse Association (SNA) as a member. In 2011-2012, as a Secretary, besides those included in the position description, my primary goals would be to continue facilitating interactions among ISA officers and international brothers and sisters at large and to interlink ASBSU, ISA and SNA for an enhanced image of nursing students, especially male nursing students, capable of understanding and treating patients from different cultures and ethnic origins.

I am confident that with your active support I shall be able to fulfill my duties and responsibilities as Secretary if I am elected. Furthermore, I will continue to pursue my listed intents, during and after my term, even if I may not be elected for the second term.

Thank you for your valuable time and thoughtful consideration.

ABDUL-RAHMAN ALAJMI - TREASURER

My name is Abdul-rahman Alajmi. I am from Saudi Arabia. I'm interested in the position Treasurer, and I would like to run for it. I choose this position because I have experience working in four different companies. I worked for Human resource management and Accounting Management. My working experience time was four years. So that is why I like this position. I really like to work with ISA and helping the other international students. I would like to get more experience about Treasurer.

XIANG (SHERRY) ZENG - TREASURER

My name is Xiang Zeng. You can also call me Sherry. I have a very strong interest in running for Treasurer position.

I am an international student from China. I am a student majoring in Accounting with internal audit emphasis. This is my third year at Boise State. I am currently working in International Admissions Office as a student assistant. I really enjoy my job because I help international students with their applications and it offers me a great opportunity to communicate with people from all over the world. I am a easygoing person. I spend most of time on studying because I am an ambitious person sometimes but it doesn't mean I don't do anything fun. I watch comedies and listen to jazz in my spare time. I like hanging out with my friends and doing things that are relaxing.

I am a senior Accounting student, so I believe that I am a perfect candidate for treasurer position. I am well-skilled in planning budgets and financial reporting. I am a member of Beta Alpha Psi which is an accounting honor society. I get the chance to network with accounting professionals throughout Boise area and also with outstanding students of my same major. Last year, I participated in the accounting mentoring program with KPMG, and I got to know a lot of details of being an accountant. In addition, I am the Financial Coordinator for the University Apartments Hall Council. I am responsible for managing the budgets and preparing reports of revenues and expenses. I will utilize my knowledge to make positive contributions to International Student Association and do my best to help international students.

This position is affiliated with my major, and I want to exercise my study to practice. More importantly, I am running for this position because I want to be more involved with International students organization. I am having a great experience as an international student and I think now it's time for me to make people feel the same way as I am. I would like to all international students can have a fabulous time at Boise State and I will be honored to make my effort being part of it. Go, Big Blue!

YU-WEN (MAGGIE) – ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR

My name is Yu-Wen (Maggie) Chen from Taiwan. I am a graduate student in the Bilingual Education department. Although this is my first semester at Boise State, I would like to get involved in on campus and interchange more cultural experiences. I am highly interested in cultural diversity. My past cross-cultural experience was as a voluntary interpreter in the Gymnastics section of the World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2009. That was a memorable experience for interacting mutually with other cultures and meeting people from all over the world.

Besides, I was involved in various extracurricular activities and community service when I was a college student in Taiwan. For example, I led an *English Camp* in a remote village to help children with their English learning in summer and winter vacations. Besides, I have been a *Leader in the Logistics Section* for the *Falling-in-Love-with-English Camp* in my college of Taiwan; my duties would also require welcoming and guiding freshmen so they could become familiar with the campus and its learning style. This learning experience helped me not only be a better communicator with peers, but also become a reliable activity coordinator between students and the school administration.

People come from a unique culture and we are all human beings. I hope to run for the position of an Activity Coordinator at the International Students Association (ISA). I am sure this experience will broaden my horizons globally and help people to raise self-cultural identity and embrace cultural diversity.



The **Boise State International Insider** is a weekly feature of International Student Services, in the Student Diversity Center.

Christy Babcock, Associate Director for ISS
Merrilou Burris, Management Assistant for ISS
Phone: 208-426-3652 • Fax: 208-334-2015
Office Location: Student Union Bldg, 2nd floor, Room E2433
Mailing Address: 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1335
Email: cbabcoc@boisestate.edu OR merrilouburris@boisestate.edu
Website: <http://iss.boisestate.edu/>