Tiger International

August/September 2012

From The Advisors Desk

Carol Solko-Olliff

A *special welcome* to all new students, and *welcome back* to all returning students from the International Student Services Office! We are so excited that you are here at ***Fort Hays State University*** and hope you have a GREAT school year!! This fall we will have over 400 international students on campus, a new record and the Students Affairs Office is willing to help and assist you. The International Student Services Office is also located in the Student Affairs Office, Sheridan Hall Room 208. Our phone number is 785-628-4276, during normal office hours and 785-259-0005 after hours for emergencies. If you have questions or need help feel free to stop by. We look forward to the opportunity to work with each of you.

Two very important items for both new and returning students…….

FIRST– *SPEAK ENGLISH*!! You won't improve if you don't practice.
SECOND - *READ* the Monthly Newsletters and Weekly Emails

You will receive a monthly newsletter and emails from the International Student Services Office. Communicating in English is the best way to improve your language ability. The newsletter and emails are our way to keep in touch, but more importantly to share valuable information with you that may help you avoid making a costly mistake. ***You can also submit articles or items of interest to be published in the newsletter.*** If you have an item of interest such as you received an award, will be competing in a sporting event, have something you want to buy or are trying to sell, or if you belong to a student group and would like to publicize an upcoming event we would be happy to include that information. Please submit information to Marnie Kohl in the International Student Services Office. The newsletter is written and produced the third week of each month. We would love to have students be an active part of the newsletter.

Just a reminder…..Immigration law requires all international students to enroll AND remain in a full course load, which constitutes 12 credit hours for undergraduate and 9 hours for graduate students. Please remember, you can only take ONE (1) virtual college course during a semester to be counted toward a full course load. If you find it necessary to withdraw from a course that would put you below full time, you must check with the International Office FIRST before you drop your course. Also, remember that while school is in session, you are only allowed to work 20 hours per week on campus. We are required to monitor the number of hours students work on campus, and will be checking with on campus employers to verify this. ***Please do not let work interfere with your academic course work.***

The USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), has a reporting system called SEVIS. This program requires all schools that issue I-20's and DS-2019's, to report all international students enrolled at their school, the number of credit hours, current address, phone number and if the student is in status with immigration. For this reason **it is very important for you to remain in status and always have your current address and phone number (if you have one) on file with the International Student Services Office.**

Please get involved on campus. If you like sports, the Intramural Department has lots of activities you can become involved in. You can also attend all FHSU college sporting events for FREE with your Tiger Card. If you like music and theatre, The Encore Series has a great performing arts calendar, which is very affordable. The cost for students is very low, compared to what you would pay to see a Broadway Show in a major city. There are also music programs and theatre productions by FHSU students and faculty held on campus. We will inform you of these events in our correspondence with you. **Again, my message to you is get involved, meet new people, practice your English, experience American culture and have fun!!** These activities are a great way to take a break from your studies and relief some stress!

Have a great fall semester and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, e-mail (csolko@fhsu.edu) or make an appointment to see me. I look forward to seeing each of you on campus!

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A calendar of events and activities happening on and off campus is provided on the last page of the newsletter

TB Screening

All international students are required to have a TB screening on file in the Students Health Office. **IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE TB SCREENING DONE, A HOLD WILL BE PLACED ON YOUR ENROLLMENT, AND YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND CLASSES**

If you have already had a TB screening done somewhere else in the United States, you will need to have the results sent to the Student Health Office for your file or you will have to have another one done. The Student Health Office will provide this screening and you will need to make an appointment with that office. There may be a fee you will have to pay. If you have any questions regarding this, please stop by the Student Health Center which is located is in the lower level of the Memorial Union.

FHSU POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES YOU TO CAMPUS

The University Police are here to **protect, serve**, and **lend assistance** during your stay. In addition to performing expected police functions, our team of Police Officers will provide vehicle unlock service, jump-starts, small amounts of fuel, and on campus escorts on request. You will find us friendly and helpful. If you are a witness or a victim of a crime, please report it as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call us at (785) 628-5304.

PERSONAL INFORMATION UPDATES

With the SEVIS regulations that are in place, the International Student Services Office is required to have current information on **all students on an F-1 or J-1 visa**. This includes address, phone number and e-mail address. If you have not provided Marnie with your current contact information, please see her in Sheridan Hall 208 within ten days of moving. This is required by SEVIS and we must have current information on all F-1 or J-1 visa holders at all times. You may still change your information on the Tiger-Tracks through the internet, **BUT YOU MUST ALSO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES.**

TIGERTRACKS & FHSU UNIVERSITY EMAIL

TigerTracks is Fort Hays State University's Web portal. TigerTracks provides centralized single sign-on access to student university e-mail, the Blackboard course delivery system, announcements, and other FHSU Online Services through your own customizable homepage! The **Online Services** section of **Tiger-Tracks** provides access to the TigerEnroll system, class schedules, advisor contact information, financial aid status, grades, personal contact and emergency notification information, and more! The International Student Services Office uses the university email to communicate with international students. **Please make sure you are checking your university email account everyday!**

SPEAKERS BUREAU—SCHOOL LECTURING PROGRAM

Local elementary and high schools are looking for international students to do presentations on their culture. This is **a great opportunity for you to speak about your country, culture, traditions, the language**, etc. We may be contacting you to participate in this program. If you are interested in this activity, please contact Marnie at 628-4276. The International Office will provide transportation for students participating in this program if needed. Exposing and teaching elementary aged children the diverse cultures of the world will expose them to a wealth of knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The International Student Services Office (ISSO) has a program called International Student Ambassador (ISA). The purpose of the program is to unite ISA's with newly arrived international students and help with their transition while also maintaining friendships with current international students they have met over the years. The ISA's are Hazy Kuhl, Brittany Deeson, Lin (Bill) Guo, and An (Tony) Lin. They are also involved with events and programming through the ISSO and ISU. They are very happy to keep in touch with you to make your school life better. Feel free to call or e-mail them, or stop by our office in Sheridan Hall 208. They look forward to making a great community with you.

List of ISAs' Email Addresses:

Brittany Deeson—bndeeson@mail.fhsu.edu
Hazy Kuhl—h_kuhl@mail.fhsu.edu
An (Tony) Lin—linan5151@gmail.com
Lin (Bill) Guo—fossil1984@gmail.com

MCMINDES HALL CAFETERIA & UNION STATION

Eating in the McMindes Hall cafeteria may be confusing or chaotic to many of the new students. Good manners while utilizing the cafeteria is to wait in a line if there are students in front of you. Do not just go up to the front to get your food if there are people there waiting. This is considered rude. Please be aware of people that may be waiting for their food or are themselves waiting for their turn to be served. Always take your Tiger ID Card when you go to eat on campus.

ISU MEMBERSHIP

All students, new and returning, are invited to sign-up for International Student Union (ISU)! ISU hosts events and activities and provides the main basis for international students to meet other international students as well as American students. As a paid member of ISU, you will have benefits that not all international students will have like first priority to go on field trips. We encourage you to be a member of ISU and get involved in these activities. It will help you get adjusted to an environment different from your own country more quickly. The cost for one semester is $4 and the academic year is $6. Returning students must pay and sign up with Marnie each year. Stop by Sheridan Hall 208 and see Marnie if you would like to sign up.

DRINKING AGE IN THE UNITED STATES IS 21

The legal drinking age is the United States is 21. If you are not 21 and you drink, you risk being fined at least $200 or as much as $500. If anyone asks you to purchase alcohol for them, be extremely careful. If you purchase alcohol for a person under the age of 21, you can receive the same fine as the person drinking under age. Even worse, if that person commits a crime or is harmed while they are intoxicated by the alcohol you purchased for them, then you could face jail time or deportation. Please think carefully if you are faced with these situations.

AMERICAN ACCENT PROGRAM

If you or someone you know would like to **speak English with the phrasing and intonation of the General American dialect**, the Herndon Clinic and the Department of Communication Disorders has the program for you! The program is for those who have good basic skills in English grammar and vocabulary and would like to improve their speaking skills. It is two credit hours SLP 318 and one credit hour lab SLP 318L. The classes are on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-3:50pm and the lab is an arranged time. Call Marla Staab at 628-4450 or email her at mstaab@fhsu.edu for more information. This class is for credit only and you must enroll in it to participate in the program.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WELCOME PICNIC

It's a new semester for you, a new school for you, a new home for you, EVEN NEW FOOD!
It seems everything is NEW! BUT don't worry, we're here to help! Come meet us---your new friends, and enjoy a FREE picnic, and new games to be held at **Frontier Park at 5:45pm on September 2**.
Your new community friends will be at Weist Hall at 5:45pm to walk with you or provide a ride.

FALL 2012 SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

September 5th — Picnic in the Park

October 19—Fall Festival at Bethesda Tree Farm

December 7th—Holiday Celebration at the Center For Life Experiences

Transportation for Community Connections will be available. Check upcoming newsletter and your email for more information.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ADDRESS IN CAMPUS

This is how to write your address if you live in campus:

Given name Family name	**Given name Family name**	**Given name Family name**
(Liquan Li)	(Liquan Li)	(Liquan Li)
Wiest Hall Rm #	McMindes Hall Rm #	Custer Hall Rm #
Hays, KS 67601	Hays, KS 67601	Hays, KS 67601

NOTE: DO NOT PUT FHSU, FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY, OR 600 PARK STREET IN ANY PART OF YOUR ADDRESS. THIS IS THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS, NOT YOUR MAILING ADDRESS!

This is how to write your address if you live in Stadium Place and Wooster Place:

Given name Family name	**Given name Family name**
(Liquan Li)	(Liquan Li)
300 Lewis Dr. Apt. D201 Hays, KS 67601	Wooster Place Apt. A1 Hays, KS 67601

SO, NOW I'M IN HAYS. . HOW DO I GET WHERE I NEED TO GO?

This question is tricky for seasoned FHSU veterans as well as first time students. How do I get to Wal-Mart? How can I get to Wichita or Denver? We hear these questions quite often in our office and frankly there is no easy answer. We have broken transportation into categories to help you keep it all straight.

PLANES

If you want to get out of town quickly, this is your best option. The Hays Airport offers daily flights to Denver. This means from Hays you can connect to all airports both far and wide. Flying Hays is your best option if you do not have a car or driver's license to drive to any of the other large airports that are all located 300+ miles away. It is also much easier to ask one of your friends to drop you off and pick you up at the Hays Airport than it is to ask him or her to drive you to another state so you can fly out.

TRAINS

No way, not in Hays!

AUTOMOBILES

Cars – The most popular choice of transportation in Hays (as if you couldn't already tell). One option many students explore is obtaining their own driver's license and car. To become legal to drive in Kansas, you must successfully pass both a written and driving test. Once you have your license, you may want to purchase a vehicle. Before making this purchase think about the price of the vehicle, the cost of tags and taxes (which is yearly), insurance, gas, and maintenance expenses (oil changes, new tires, etc.) If you are planning on parking on-campus, you are required to buy a parking permit. Also, take into consideration how long you will be in Hays and what you will do with your vehicle when you leave Hays or the United States.

Tiger Transport – Tiger Transport is a FREE van transportation service that runs a fixed route throughout Hays. It operates each Wednesday and Friday from 2:00-7:00pm and Saturday from 2:00-9:00pm. Tiger Transport stops at downtown Hays, The Mall, Hastings, and Wal-Mart. The van pick up location on campus is at the north end of Wiest Hall parking lot. Check out of Tiger Transport website for route schedules and times: http://www.fhsu.edu/international/

Safe Ride—Don't take the risk o driving drunk or riding with someone else who has been drinking. Safe Ride offers a free ride home, no questions asked. This service runs Wednesday through Saturday 10pm to 3am. Call (785) 621-2580

Access Van – Access Van operates seven days a week and will take students anywhere in the City of Hays. They do not operate 24 hours a day. You must call 628-1052 to schedule a pick up time. A ride costs $1.50 each way. Visit the Access Van website for their daily schedule and view all rules associated with riding the van. http://www.dsnwk.org/Access.html

Friends – Most students attending FHSU have vehicles, as well as some international students. Asking others with vehicles (and licenses) to drive you somewhere is appropriate. It's also considered good taste to reimburse your driver with gas money. This many also entice your friend to keep hauling you around.

OTHER WAYS TO GET WHERE YOU NEED TO GO

Bicycle – Riding a bicycle is a great way to get around campus. If you decide to ride, make sure you know the rules of the road. Drivers in Hays are not accustomed to seeing lots of cyclists, so ride defensively and pay attention to cars. You will also want to purchase a lock and keep your bicycle locked up at all times!

Walking – Walking does not cost anything and you actually get some exercise too, which is a good thing! Remember when walking on campus to walk on the sidewalk and to cross the street only at the marked cross walk because drivers may not stop if you're not in the cross walk. Also, never walk alone at night, always take a buddy! If you have additional questions about transportation, please stop by and see Karen in Sheridan Hall 208.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
19	20 **Classes begin**	21	22	23	24 FHSU Women's soccer Bethany College @ 5pm	25
26	27	28	29	30 ~FHSU Football vs. Emporia @ 7pm	31	1
2 Community Connections Picnic @ 5:45pm Frontier Park	3 **Labor Day** (No School!!)	4	5 ~Tiger Series Workshop @ 5:00pm in Stouffer Lounge, Memorial Union ~FHSU Women's Soccer McPherson College @ 7pm	6	7 ~FHSU Men's soccer Univers. Of Sioux Falls @ 8:30pm ~FHSU Women's Soccer Midland Univers. @ 6pm	8 ~FHSU Tennis vs Hastings College @ 11am ~FHSU Football vs. Washburn @ 7pm
9 FHSU Men's soccer Colorado Mesa @ 1:30pm	10	11 FHSU Volleyball Nebraska-Kearney @ 7pm	12	13	14 FHSU Women's Soccer Central Missouri @ 6pm	15
16 FHSU Women's Soccer Southwest Baptist @ 11am	17	18	19 Tiger Series Workshop @ 5:00pm in Stouffer Lounge, Memorial Union	20 FHSU Men's soccer Northeaster State @ 7pm	21	22 ~FHSU Men's soccer Harding @ 1:00pm ~FHSU Football vs. Missouri Western @ 7pm
23	24 FHSU Women's Soccer Friends Univers. @ 4pm	25	26	27 FHSU Men's soccer Lindenwood @ 7pm	28 ~FHSU Volleyball Washburn @ 6pm ~FHSU Women's Soccer Washburn@ 6pm	29 ~FHSU Men's soccer Southwest Baptist @ 12pm ~FHSU Volleyball Emporia State @ 3pm ~UAB presents Brian Brushwood @ 7:30pm Beach/Schmidt/PAC
30 FSU Women's Soccer Emporia State @ 2pm						

International Student Union
Sheridan Hall 208
600 Park
Hays, KS 67601

Phone Number (785) 628-4276
Fax Number (785) 628-4113

We're on the Web!
www.fhsu.edu/international