

# INTERNATIONALINK

Volume 3, Issue 05 Your Link To UF International News May 2009

## What's Inside

Our May issue of the International Link not only has our regular monthly articles but a special article written by Vaishali S. Maheshwari. Vaishali is a 2007 MBA graduate of The University of Findlay and she wanted to share her experiences of coming to the United States. Vaishali is currently employed in the U.S.

Also be sure to check out what we have lined up for our Fabulous Fun Filled Fridays. You won't want to miss it!

## Chicago Alumni Reception



Alumni and Staff

On Saturday, May 9, 2009, the Office of International Admissions and Services hosted an alumni reception for those students living in and around the Chicago area. The reception was held in the Wyndham Hotel downtown Chicago and ran from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Ten students were present with one flying in from Baltimore and another from Indianapolis. Refreshments were served, a video highlighting the changes in the university was presented and door prizes were given away. All the students expressed their appreciation and gratitude to once again see old friends, the staff and to share memories of The University of Findlay.



Sharing Memories



Talking about Good Times at UF



Performing a Staff Favorite Dance



# Immigration Highlight

## Canadian/U.S. Borders Tighten

On June 1, 2009 new WHTI requirements take effect for those reentering the U.S. from a Canadian border. For American Citizens it means the need for a passport. While there are no changes for international students reentering you should expect tighter security so be sure to have all your immigration documents ready if you travel to Canada.

## Student Article

### The Most Important Lesson I learned in the USA Is

By Vaishali S. Maheshwari



It has been a journey overwhelmed with experiences and events since I completed my Bachelors degree and left college. I came to New York in the year 2006 and was in New York, USA for a year. Then I came to know about the high quality education at The University of Findlay, Ohio, so I took a transfer to UF in the year 2007. My home country is India. Before I received my F-1 visa I was very much excited to come to this land of enormous opportunities; as I am from a developing country and so I always wondered about the life that people in highly developed and advanced countries like USA lived. I was quite fascinated by this country as I always used to see it in movies and read about it.

I belong to a joint/united family consisting of 18 members (including me). My Parents and all other family members had taught me that “crossing your bridges when you come to them and exploring opportunities when they come your way are the real secrets of success in this world.” Therefore I wished to grasp this wonderful opportunity of studying in a very advanced country like USA. Life without ambition is like a ship without a rudder. Ambition gives a definite direction in life. I too had an ambition from the very beginning itself to pursue my final degree from abroad.

But as soon as I received my F-1 visa, my excitement started converting into nervousness. I started wondering how I will be able to manage all alone in a new country. As I am from a joint family in India, I never felt insecure there. Now, I had to be in USA, all away from my family, so it was a bit difficult for me. However, my excitement to be here and my zest to do something different gave me sufficient courage to overcome all my nervousness and prepare myself to be active to face and explore the new challenges in the new world. It was like a big dream come true.

It is very well said that “Lucky means who gets the opportunity, brilliant means who creates the opportunity, winner means that uses the opportunity.” I want to be the last one – the winner who uses the opportunity. Even I remember Henry Ford’s words “Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal”.

It was also a time for me to welcome a new phase of life which was going to take me beyond the limits of ‘Swades India’. The moment one learns that I am doing Masters of Business Administration in USA, it might look as if I had a Hot Piece of Cake in my hand. Believe me it is not so easy and simple to find your way out in a new country where you are totally on your own. (cont. on page 3)



Even I found the saying ‘Cleanliness is godliness’ to be true here. It is cool to feel the pure environment free from dust and dirt. Everywhere it is clean and clear. Besides these, there are strict rules for everything like traffic and stuff. It is a good thing that those who break those rules are penalized badly. This helps in maintaining law and order around.

No other country in the world has a population as diverse and a culture as varied as the USA. It is this diversity that makes American life as complicated as it is. Over the course of several centuries, immigrants from all over the world came to the USA and brought their own cultures and traditions. The tradition of immigration continues today, creating vital new American communities. The blending of these traditions gives USA its great strength as a nation. The same mixture creates challenges and problems.



*Maheshwari Family in India*

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As soon as I landed here, I felt that I am at the right place, I was looking for. I found people from various countries at the airport. All interacting with each other, without any discrimination about the origin, race or country to which they belong. That was great to watch. As days passed on I felt that I had taken the right decision in my life. There are lots and pots of things which one can learn and imply in life from this beautiful country. I always knew that to reach a port, I must sail, sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it. But I must not drift or lie at anchor.

My stay at the USA has been more than 3.5 years now and it has put me into a totally different world and taught me a lot of lessons which have lifelong importance. Right from finding an apartment on rent, signing up for utilities, managing the official documents of studies, credit cards, job hunts, etc are things that I hardly had to do when I was studying in India as I was always surrounded by family. What I had to do was just concentrate on studies and here along with concentrating onto studies I had to take care of all the other stuff too. Life sounded a big reality.

Of course while doing all these, aim for which I am here was to be fulfilled in any case. With studies and other responsibilities life was really very tough and hectic here. The great thing about studying in USA is that the system is open such that one can choose not just the field of specialization in which he/she wants to study but also each and every course of it. Working day in and day out, assignments, seminars, sleepless nights and tiring days are very normal here. Practical approach to problems, projects, library work and application of knowledge are stressed more here than just core theoretical reading. All these make the study very interesting.

Also when you are away from home and there is no one nearby to keep an eye on you, freedom to do whatever you want comes by default. But with this freedom comes a lot of responsibility. If utilized properly, always keeping in mind the ethics and cultural values, this freedom could bring a lot of positive results whereas misuse of the same could also be disastrous for an individual. The first and the best victory is to conquer self.

The first thing that I learnt here is the value of time. I had heard and read many phrases depicting the importance of time, but in this country I found people implementing it in their actual lives. Punctuality can change a lot that is what I learned here.

Second thing that can be counted as a lesson learned here is that to be successful one needs to be nice to everyone. Courtesy words like “sorry” and “thanks” are not mere words, but are some feelings beyond words. Greeting people around gives immense pleasure to both ends. (cont. on page 4)



The other thing that I learnt is individualism. I have become more self confident after coming here. Meeting people from different countries like Taiwan, Pakistan, Germany, etc. is fun. I saw international students just like me, struggling hard to establish their own selves. Viewing all this inspired me and I gained more confidence in all that I did.

But the most important lesson that I learnt is the “lesson of treating everyone equal.” There are equal opportunities for everyone in this country irrespective of their origin or field specialization. Flexibility in studies and flexibility in choosing career are the two most important aspects that I found to be the best in this country. For instance, if I would have gone Russia for pursuing my higher education, I would have to learn Russian language and Russian culture there, then and then I would be accepted there, but in USA it is not so. Here I can be my own self, speak my own language and be what I want to be.

I find people doing different kinds of jobs, some do blue collar while few of them do white collar jobs, same as in my country, but the difference is that all people, no matter what job they do are treated equal in this country. I found dignity of labor here. An individual who has the ability and who works hard surely gets good returns here for the same. No one’s hard work turns to be futile here.

I graduated with an MBA Degree from The University of Findlay in December 2007. Then I began my job search and now I am employed. Job search also was a tough phase, where I sometimes lost my hopes, but then I knew that “Patience is a virtue”. I knew my hard-work and perspiration will pay someday and finally I got my destiny.

Life does not end here. I am constantly learning new things and trying to grab all the opportunities that come on my way. I thank all the faculty members from the University of Findlay from the bottom of my heart to give us such a quality education and even teach us how to live life in a true sense. My hats off to Professor Scott Freehafer. I am not being partial here, but his classes and his way of teaching are simply incredible. I am sure almost all of his students will agree on this comment for him.



I was employed as a Periodicals Assistant in the Shafer Library at the University of Findlay. This was my first job in the United States. Nancy Bickford was my boss at this place. I worked in the library just for nine months, but it was a wonderful experience. During this short course of time, I was so fascinated by Nancy’s enthusiasm. She is a lady with immense activeness and spirit to work. I enjoyed working with her and I learned a lot under her guidance.

I believe there is no fun if life is a cakewalk and without challenges. It is the satisfaction after the achievement of targets that counts more than anything else. I love this life which brings tougher challenges to me in order to bring me more success and make me more and stronger than I was ever before.

India’s Father of the Nation Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi has also well quoted that “Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph, a beginning, a struggle and a victory”.

*Nancy Bickford and Vaishali* To recapitulate, there are many lessons that I learnt in this country within a very short span of time, but the lesson of humanity has touched my inner soul. Being an international student, it would have been very difficult for me to set myself well over here, but everything seemed to go very smoothly just because of my hard-work, determination and the helping nature of people from all communities around.

I wish that each and every citizen of my country too learns this biggest lesson of humanity. If it does, then I am sure it will be very easy for my motherland too to get rid of many major problems. This open approach should be welcomed by all.

We should all be thankful to almighty God for being with us all the time and we should even thank our Parents who supported us at each and every stage of our lives and made possible for us to reach to this wonderful country too.

Kudos to all international students and the people residing in the US, for helping us out...  
May God bless everyone!



# Fabulous Fun Filled Fridays!

## **Friday, June 12, 2009**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight – We will be leaving from International Admissions and Services to travel to Sandusky, Ohio to enjoy a fun-filled day at Cedar Point (World's Most Famous Amusement Park). The cost of the event is \$40.00 per person (includes ticket to amusement park, snacks and transportation). Please sign-up no later than Monday, June 8, 2009. No refunds and seats are limited.

## **Friday, June 19, 2009**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Game Day and Build Your Own Sundae Event – Stop by International Admissions and Services to create your own sundae and play some fun games with your friends and the staff of International Admissions and Services. This is a FREE event you won't want to miss.

## **Friday, June 26, 2009**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Bowling at AMF Sportsman Lanes, 616 Trenton Ave., Findlay, OH (within walking distance from The University of Findlay). The event is FREE to all UF students. Event includes two FREE games of bowling and shoes rental. Snacks and additional games of bowling are not included.

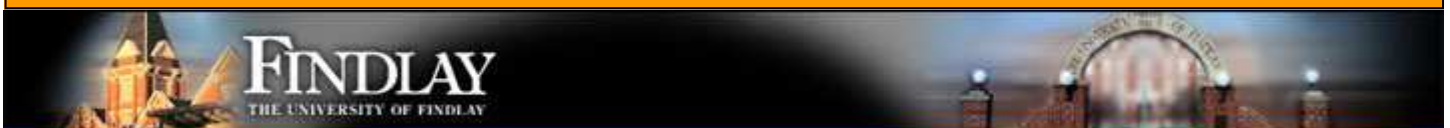
**Friday, July 3, 2009** – Independence Day Holiday. Offices are closed.

## **Friday, July 10, 2009**

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Visit to Amish Country. Included in the trip will be visit to Heini's Cheese Factory, shopping in Holmes County, an Amish style meal and snacks on the bus. The cost for the trip is \$25.00 per person. No refunds and seats are limited. Sign-up by July 6, 2009 to reserve your seat.

## **Friday, July 17, 2009**

12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. - Picnic at Riverside Park – Enjoy a barbeque, paddleboats and games. Depart from International Admissions and Services at 11:45 a.m. by van. This is a FREE event and includes lunch, games and paddleboat rental. Sign-up is required so we can purchase the food and provide ample transportation. Sign-up in International Admissions and Services by Monday, July 14, 2009 to reserve your seat.



# OPT Application Session

OPT Application Sessions are held in the Endly Room of the AMU promptly at 9:30 a.m. Please download and complete the OPT Application Packet from our web site before you attend the session. The application can be found at:

<http://www.findlay.edu/admissions/info/international/immigrationinformation/f1student/default.htm>

OPT APPLICATION DATES	
<b>2009</b> January 6 February 3 March 3 April 9 (Thurs.) May 5 June 2 July 7 August 4 September 1 October 6 November 3 December 1	<b>Sessions are limited to 40 students.</b>  <b>Sign up in our office to reserve your seat!</b>



Mark Your Calendar!

## Free Shuttle Service!



No transportation? No problem! You can catch our shuttle service every Thursday and Saturday at the AMU!

The shuttle runs:

- Every Tuesday to Meijers from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Every Thursday to the Findlay Village Mall from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Every Saturday to Walmart from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The shuttle picks up and drops off students every half an hour at the AMU.



The University of Findlay, in Findlay, Ohio, has a longstanding tradition of welcoming international students to its campus. Each year, we welcome over 200 new international students from over 40 different countries and territories.

Learn more about International Admissions and Services on the web!

<http://www.findlay.edu/admissions/info/international/default.htm>

### International Admissions and Services

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