Christine Campbell (left) and Andrea Zavala (right) were awarded the Engineering Science Faculty Senior Academic Achievement Award. This award is to recognize senior students whose progress since sophomore year has been especially noteworthy and has stood out from among peers. Andrea Zavala is an international student, and is currently working at the ISSS Office.

Meet the ISSS team

Farewell to “Dzung” Dung Vu:

New Member of the ISSS Team

— Sajoy Pottian

My name is Sajoy Pottian and I am an International student from East Africa, Tanzania. I am currently in my second year of collage at Trinity University and I intend to major in Environmental Studies with a focus in Geoscience and Environmental Policy. I came in with the intention of studying this course as I grew up with a heart for the environment and I would like to make some changes to help maintain our surroundings. I like to spend my free time outdoors and with friends and I enjoy working with others to achieve a greater goal.
Congratulations to Trinity University International Students Class of 2017!

As another academic year winds down, we continue to be amazed at the talent and achievements of the Trinity University International Student population. Encompassing approximately 7% of Trinity’s total student body, Trinity international students add to the unique and exciting cultural diversity of Trinity. This May, the ISSS Office will be proud to congratulate 34 international students on their academic achievements as they cross the stage during the May 13 Spring Commencement.

Agustin Ignacio Zurita
Arsenio Gonzalez Larrauri
Anesuishe Emmanuel Raranje
Yin Lok Linus Chan
Bintee Paresh Karia
Alejandro Cardona Lourido
Andrea Sofia Zavala Handal
Daniela Carolina Galarza
Ivan Andres Diaz Guevara
Krushiben Brijukumar Patel
Lizza Del Milagro Vallejo
Manasa Sarma
Marco Antonio Aguilar
Miguel Angel Webber
Patariya Wanachaiyikiat
Chan Hyouk Park
Dung Thuy Vu
Yangxing Li
Chunhei Li
Po Wei Huang
Shuhui Zhu
Guozheng Sun
Szu-Yun Lo
Devina Kumar
Christian Glennon
Daniela Maria Torres
Cynthia Maleka
Sneha Saljit Pottian
Jorge Eduardo Villamarin Rodriguez
Juan Manuel De Bleser Collado
Todd Nathan Whittaker
Callum John Drysdale Squires
Todd Hilton Edwards
Francisco Alejandro Vasquez Aguilar

*These students have applied for graduation.
Awards for Outstanding Achievement in International Education

The awards are presented each year by the Center for International Engagement to candidates (one faculty member, one staff member, one U.S. student and one international student) who have made significant contributions in international education at Trinity University.

The presentation of the four (4) awards draws attention to international accomplishments at Trinity and helps to encourage further/deeper involvement in international education among Trinity’s faculty, staff, and students.
International Education Week (IEW) at Trinity focuses on fostering a diverse and inclusive campus, and promotes for the importance of cultural heritage and international experiences. Every year, IEW brings speakers, trains students and staff on international issues, and holds events that highlight different cultures.

**Fight Culture Shock Day**

Fight Culture Shock Day is an annual collaborative event between the ISSS, MAS, EAST, and Study Abroad to help raise awareness and understanding of culture shock. It is an opportunity for people to share their different cultural experiences and perspectives and go outside of their cultural comfort zones. International food was served with music and interactive activities.

**IEW: DIER Poster Sessions**

Students from the INTL1100 class studied the DIER (describe, interpret, evaluate and respond) method and communicated how it applied to their lives at a poster session during International Education Week.

Students learned about the DIER Method and how it can facilitate cross-cultural interactions between people from different cultural backgrounds. They also learned how to use DIER as a tool to help analyze and understand a culture that is different from their own.
Trinity International Student and Scholar Services, the Friends of Trinity International Students (FTIS) Program, and Inter-Varsity co-hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner in an FTIS home on Saturday, November 19, 2016. This was a wonderful opportunity for Trinity students to experience Thanksgiving traditions as well as to explore the meaning of the Thanksgiving Holiday while enjoying delicious food and socializing together.
**Upcoming Spring Semester 2017 events planned by the International Students & Scholar Services Office in collaboration with on/off campus partners. Check the ISSS website and Facebook page for updates!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obtain your I-20 travel signature for the summer break at Coates in April!</td>
<td>April 24, 25, 28 12:30—1:30 PM  April 26, 27 3:30—4:30PM Coates University Center (CUC) 1st floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please remember to bring your current I-20 and passport!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips to Social Security Administration and Department of Public Safety</td>
<td>All trips departing from the Witt Center at 2:30PM  Trips to Social Security Administration: 1/20, 2/10, 3/10, 4/7  Trips to Department of Public Safety: 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign up for trips at: <a href="http://goo.gl/UdVp4g">http://goo.gl/UdVp4g</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Workshop for International Students, presented by Larry Barker from H&amp;R Block</td>
<td>Monday, March 27 3:30—4:30 PM Coates University Center 241, Tehuacana Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT Workshop for International Students</td>
<td>Time and Location: TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-1B Seminar: Learn about the H-1B and Permanent Residency</td>
<td>Monday, April, (Location and Time) TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Spring Finals Study Lounge (Room to study and free snacks!)</em></td>
<td>In Halsell Center, room 329, from 8:00 am—5:00 pm May 1—May 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Save the Date — Fall 2017 International Student Orientation (ISO)</strong></td>
<td>Please visit our website for more ISO 2017 information: <a href="https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students-0">https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students-0</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, August 15—Thursday, August 17 2017</strong>  August 15—Official move-in day for all new international students  August 18—New Student Orientation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ISSS Study Lounge for Finals Week!

Need a change of pace from studying in the library? Stop by the ISSS Study Lounge during Reading Days and Final exams to meet up with friends, get some work done, enjoy free snacks, and get your I-20 signed!

**When:** May 1st—May 9th

**Time:** 8:00AM—5:00PM

**Where:** The International Lounge —Halsell Center, Room 329 (3rd floor)

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**Do you love to cook with friends but just don’t have any cookware? Fear not—the ISSS office has got you covered!**

**HOW TO BORROW COOKWARE FROM ISSS:**

1. Go to [https://goo.gl/g6Isol](https://goo.gl/g6Isol) to view a list of available items
2. Rent items for up to 7 days by emailing isss@trinity.edu with a reservation request
3. Pay a deposit (refundable), pick up your reserved items from the ISSS office
4. Return (or renew via an e-mail request) items that you borrow

*Students are responsible for keeping the cookware clean and in good condition. **Any damages will result in being charged a replacement or repair fee!***

Brought to you by the International Student and Scholar Services

For more information please contact us at isss@trinity.edu
FREE and open to all Trinity students. Shuttle runs on select Saturdays (see dates below). Seating is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

**FALL 2016**
- August 27
- September 3, 10, 24
- October 1, 8, 15, 22
- November 5, 12, 19
- December 3

**SPRING 2017**
- January 14, 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- March 4, 25
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

*Shopping Shuttle is seldom canceled. If it’s canceled, we will announce on Facebook.*

**Departure** | 2 p.m.
--- | ---
Trinity University Witt Center

**Pick-Up** | 4:30 p.m.
--- | ---
Super Target at Park North Plaza Shopping Center (Blanco at Loop 410)

**Sign-Up for a ride to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Department of Public Safety (DPS)!**

These trips are for international students who need to apply for a Texas State ID, Learner’s Permit or a Social Security Number.

**Spring 2017 Dates and Times:**
- **Trips to Social Security Administration:**
  - 1/20, 2/10, 3/10, 4/7
- **Trips to Department of Public Safety:**
  - 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/14

**Sign-up Here:**
[https://docs.google.com/a/trinity.edu/forms/d/17A2mb5gWwn4Mvmg0pK_anUIVCxU5rPyECm70K9hhk/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/trinity.edu/forms/d/17A2mb5gWwn4Mvmg0pK_anUIVCxU5rPyECm70K9hhk/viewform)

**Information about getting a Texas State ID or Driver’s License:**

**Information about applying for your Social Security Number:**
Optional Practical Training
“OPT”

Many International Students have heard the familiar acronym “OPT” — but what exactly is OPT?

OPT stand for “Optional Practical Training” and it is a temporary employment authorization for which F-1 visa students qualify. OPT employment must be related to the F-1 student’s major academic program. Unlike Curricular Practical Training (CPT), the work done does not count towards course credit.

**Senior students,**

It’s time to apply for your OPT. Please make an appointment with Bob Seese or Jessie Jiang (iss@trinity.edu) to apply. A job offer is **NOT** required to apply for OPT.

**FACTS About OPT**

- OPT grants the student a period of 12 months of employment authorization in the U.S.
- Students may have up to 90 cumulative days of unemployment during their OPT period, which leaves flexibility for job searching.
- The average wait time for an OPT application to be processed is 2-3 months (may be shorter or longer)
- 50% of Trinity International students decide to apply for the OPT benefit upon graduating.
- Students get 12 months of OPT for every degree level that they complete.
- A one-time extension of 24 months (for a total of 36 months) is available to students who hold STEM degrees.

For more information about OPT, visit our ISSS Website, at: [https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students](https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students) and look under the “Employment and Career Planning” heading.

**Tips on Travel**

Please note that traveling outside of the U.S. on OPT can be risky, particularly if you are traveling before receiving OPT approval / your EAD card, or if you are traveling without returning to a job! Please exercise caution when making the decision to travel outside of the U.S.!

Please refer to pages 27-29 of the **OPT Workshop Powerpoint slides** for more information on traveling with a pending or approved OPT. Please consult an ISSS Advisor if you have to travel without an approved OPT.
Contact Us:

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm

The ISSS office is located in:
Halsell Center, room 330

Webpage: https://inside.trinity.edu/international-student-scholar-services

“Like” Us on Facebook for more updates: https://www.facebook.com/trinityisss

International Student & Scholar Services
One Trinity Place, #100
San Antonio, Texas 78212
+1-210-999-7313 phone
+1-210-999-7305 fax
Skype: iss0101
email: isss@trinity.edu

TRAVEL SIGNATURE REMINDER

F-1 visa holders must have their form I-20’s signed by a DSO at the ISSS Office at least every 12 months! If you are on OPT it must be signed at least every six months!

- Before departing Trinity’s campus for summer, be sure to check the 2nd page on your form I-20 to see when it was last signed by a Trinity DSO

- If the signature date will no longer be valid by the date you plan to return to the U.S., please stop by the ISSS Office before departing the U.S. for the summer to receive an updated travel signature!