Erica Chen and Rita Wu are graduating seniors hosted by Professor Randall Nadeau, Department of Religion. Randall was a Fulbright Senior Scholar to Taiwan and taught Erica and Rita as First-year students in the Global Leadership Honors Program of Tunghai University International College. Erica and Rita transferred to Trinity for their junior and senior years as part of the THU-TU exchange agreement. Randall has sponsored ten Trinity graduates as Tunghai International College Mentors, and is looking for graduating seniors who would like to spend a year in Taiwan. Congratulations to Rita and Erica on their upcoming graduation from TU!

Meet the ISSS team

New Member of the ISSS Team

— Victoria Abad

My name is Victoria Abad. I am from Quito, Ecuador, and I am an international student at Trinity University. I am currently on my third year of college and I am pursuing a double major in International Economics and Communications. Learning about the world and other cultures is one of my passions, and I do that through dance. In my free time I prepare to perform in dance showcases on campus and I am part of multiple dance crews, such as Loon-E Crew (Hip Hop dance crew), Top Naach (Bollywood dance crew) and Bhangra Club.
Congratulations to Trinity University International Students Class of 2018!

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 6% 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 39 international students on their academic achievements as they cross the stage during the May 12 Spring Commencement.

Hamza Adisa
Raghad Akrouk
Jose Roberto Andres
Alejandro Anzaldua-Garzafox
Annie Barahona
Camila Borrero
Xixun Bu
Thalia Cedeno
Lei-An Chen
Chinmay Chobhe
Isidro Davalos de Castro
Davi Dias
Ivan Diaz Guevara
Andrea Gallegos Anda
April Gonzales
Francis Hurtado Rodriguez
Bruno Ivich
Felipe Jaramillo Aguilar
Diego Kafati
Paranj Kalyani
Adrien Lavigne
Hoang Le
Chun Li
Szu-Yun Lo
Camila Londono Molina
Emma MacEachem
Edwin Manton
Andrea Martinez Abrego
Julia Matsuo Dapaah
Alvin Mbabazi
Janett Munoz Guerrero
Ha Nguyen
Ricardo Perez
Sofia Pineda Padilla
Chae Ramnarace
Matheus Righes
Jemima Sackey-Addo
Yara Samman
Sophia Spurlock
Ignacio Sunderland
Hui Ting Wu
Bernardo Traversari
Calvin Usiri
Hyun Woo Choi
Chao-Yun Wu
Jingqing Yang
Rui Zhong
Rodrigo Zurita Apellaniz
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 Engagement Week 2017

International Engagement Week (IEW) at Trinity focuses on fostering a diverse and inclusive campus, and promotes the importance of cultural heritage and international experiences. Every year, IEW brings speakers, informs faculty, students, and staff about international issues, and holds events that highlight different cultures.

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

Class of 2021 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 IEW.

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 18, 2017. 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.
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:** April 30—May 8

**Time:** 8:00AM—5:00PM

**Where:** The International Lounge —Halsell Center,
International Women’s Day

Thursday, March 8th 2018
11am - 1 pm
Coates University Center Lobby

We give out flowers and international snacks!

Join the celebration!

Join us for a celebration of International Women’s Day 2018! Stop by our table to learn more about International Women’s Day, try some sweets from around the world, and get a free flower.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TAXES WITH CHIPS AND SALSA!

If you have one of the following, you may have to file a tax return:

- A taxable scholarship or fellowship
- Income partially or totally exempt by treaty
- Any other income from a U.S. source which is taxable by IRS

Have questions? Don't worry! Come ask our tax expert questions and enjoy chips, salsa and something to drink!

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
12:30-1:30 PM
COATES UNIVERSITY CENTER
TEHUACANA 241

Workshop conducted by Larry Barker from H&R Block.
### Spring Semester 2018 events organized 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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| **International Women’s Day**                                   | Thursday, March 8  
Coates University Center, Lobby                                     |
| **Trips to Social Security Administration and Department of Public Safety** | All trips departing from the Witt Center at 2:30PM  
Trips to Social Security Administration:  2/23, 3/23, 4/13  
Trips to Department of Public Safety:  3/30, 4/6  
Please sign up and prepare all documents needed before going. |
| **Sign up for trips at: http://goo.gl/UdVp4g**                   |                                                                        |
| **Review Required Documents:**  Permit /Texas ID: http://goo.gl/LyKCPU  
SSN ID: http://goo.gl/D3ERsp **|                                                                        |
| **Tax Workshop for International Students,**  presented by Larry Barker from H&R Block | Friday, March 23  
12:30-1:30 PM  
Coates University Center 241, Tehuacana Room |
| **OPT Workshop for International Students**                     | Friday, February 16  
12-2 PM  
Coates University Center 241, Tehuacana Room |
| **ISSS Table for I-20 Issues in CUC Lobby**                     | April, dates and times TBD  
Please look for more information posted out later |
| **Spring Finals Study Lounge (Room to study and free snacks!)**  | In Halsell Center, room 329, from 8:00 am—5:00 pm  
April 30—May 8 |

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**Save the Date — Fall 2018 International Student Orientation (ISO)**

**Tuesday, August 14—Thursday, August 16 2018**  
**August 14—Official move-in day for all new international students**  
**August 17—New Student Orientation**  
**August 18—International Parent Orientation**  

Please visit our website for more ISO 2018 information:  
https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students-0
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, Learners Permit or a Social Security Number.

Spring 2017 Dates and Times:
Trips to Social Security Administration: 2/23, 3/23, 4/13
Trips to Department of Public Safety: 3/30, 4/6

Sign-up Here:
https://goo.gl/forms/7g5Ras4HsvHAZsTi2

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. 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 (isss@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 the 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 OPT.
- 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.

**Tips on Travel**

Please note that traveling outside of the U.S. on OPT can be risky, particularly if you are traveling after graduation and 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](https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students) 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.

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.
**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](https://inside.trinity.edu/international-student-scholar-services)

“Like” Us on Facebook for more updates: [https://www.facebook.com/trinityissss](https://www.facebook.com/trinityissss)

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**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!

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**International Student & Scholar Services**

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