

Blending into the AUS Community

Just over a month has passed by this semester and students at IXO have settled well into the AUS community. For example, IXO students this fall are volunteering in the Bridge Program Learning Enhancement Center in order to teach the students better English.

"The Bridge Program (BP) students are thoroughly enjoying and benefiting from all of their interactions with the exchange students. The numbers of our students coming for the conversations are increasing week by week."

~ Deborah Wilson

The interactions between students from the Bridge Program will most certainly yield a beneficial outcome and in the process, IXO students learn better Arabic from the BP students. Definitely a great experience for all.

Arabic Conversation Hour

The Arabic Conversation Hour is an activity organised by IXO, running throughout the semester in order to allow exchange students to better their Arabic conversation skills. This is a great way for IXO students to interact with Arab students and learn about different cultures.

Our next conversation hour is scheduled for 20th March, 2013 between 5 and 6pm in MG50 (IXO lounge) located in the Main Building.

Fall 2013 - Applications still open

It is not too late to apply to study abroad at select partner universities this Fall 2013! You can study abroad if you have earned 60 credits toward your degree by the end of this semester, if you have a strong GPA, and if you are in good standing academically. We still have placements available at the following excellent universities:

- **Maastricht University, The Netherlands** - application deadline is May 15th
- **Sciences Po, Paris, France** - please note the required minimum cumulate GPA is 3.5 or higher. Application deadline is April 26th
- **University of Victoria, Gustavson School of Business, Victoria, Canada** - application deadline is April 30th for business majors

If you are interested, please visit IXO in the Main Building, Ground Floor, and MG43 without delay!

Osama Jasim Mafraji - A success story

Also in the news, see attached for Osama Jasim Mafraji's success story titled; From ISEP Exchange Student to Advisor for International Exchange in 2 Short Years!

Exciting opportunity for the techno savvy at Google

Google is now accepting applications to the 2013 Google Policy Fellowship in Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America, for students interested in Internet and technology policy. The Google Policy Fellowship program offers undergraduate, graduate, and law students the opportunity to spend the summer contributing to the public dialogue on these issues, and exploring future academic and professional interests.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.google.com/policyfellowship/index.html>

Making memories in Spring 2012 - by Sonia Soares

"Going to Virginia Tech (VT) was probably the best decision I have ever made. I immediately fell in love with the city and the campus. Blacksburg is covered in greenery and is very hilly. The Virginia Tech Campus Buildings are some of the prettiest I have seen - made from something called Hokie stone which is only mined to construct VT buildings. I saw my first snow! The feeling was exhilarating. I took part in the biggest snowball fight ever - the entire student body was there. I made snow angels, helped make a snow man and stuck my tongue out while walking just to feel the snow fall."

Virginia Tech isn't just a university with random students. When you join Virginia Tech, even if it's just for a semester, you feel like a part of the VT family. Everyone is incredibly kind and considerate. You form relationships that will last forever. The Virginia Tech colors are orange and maroon and the mascot is a Hokie bird. At first I thought that these things didn't mean much but by the end of the semester I was hooked.

My only regret is that I didn't stay longer than one semester. If I had to do it all over again I would have done it earlier just so that I could stay at Virginia Tech longer."

