Introducing Interstride

ISL and the Career Center were happy to finally introduce our new Career Platform designed specifically for international students this Winter term. We already have over 100 international students and many international alumni using the platform to search for career opportunities that are pre-vetted for international students AND for workshops/resources specifically for international students.

As part of the launch of Interstride, the Career Center and ISL held a workshop on 3/2/2022 called Navigating the Job Market As International Students. The workshop covered Networking/Interviewing (Maanya Goenka and Rebecca Chen), Resume/CV Building (Isabella Cha and Luis Alvarez), Job Searching (Moe Kojima and Luis Alvarez), and General Support (Keri Asp and Liz Cody). The idea was to have a one-stop shop for all employment-related needs for international students. To top things off, all students received some delicious Boba to support their career-searching brains.

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**Announcement!**

Are you good at
singing
dancing
cooking
ordering food..?

Do you want to share your **awesome culture**, and help create a memorable event for the international community at Carleton??

The event is coming up this **April 30th, 12-4pm**!

If you want to contribute --> sign up [here](#)!

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*Every time someone contributes, a minion gets happy*
**Dorm Collab** by Susan

**Sunday study break sessions** are the best time for dorm residents to gather and bond over group activities! This past Winter term, the International Student Life Office collaborated with **Residential Life** to integrate international cultures into the fun life at Carleton.

Some ISL peer leaders (Susan Charlie & Lucy Cui) worked with Burton Resident Assistant (Nadine Musa) to teach Carls **Mhele**, a traditional two-player strategy board game played in South Africa and Botswana with a slightly different variation played in Lesotho. Great moments were shared, and ISL is always open to such collaborations with other departments.

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**ISL Trivia** by Isabella

As a relatively new office, the name ‘International Student Life’ sounds unfamiliar to many Carls. In order to make ISL’s presence more known within the campus community, ISL hosted a trivia table at **Sayles** during **Friday lunch on February 18th**. Featuring Auntie Anne’s Pretzels and a $25 Bookstore gift card raffle, students stopped by to answer trivia questions about ISL and grab a pretzel bite. Did you know 75 countries are represented at Carleton? Or that the top three countries Carleton students come from are China, India, and Japan (excluding the US)? The trivia table was a fun opportunity to interact with students while also spreading international cultural awareness.
**Carnival** by Maanya

*Carnival* refers to the numerous festivities that occur in many Catholic cities every year prior to the Lenten season. These festivals often last several days or weeks and are widely popular celebrations of local history and culture. Residents and visitors prepare for Carnival festivities throughout the year. Revelers, both young and old, can enjoy numerous organized activities or parties in the city streets with their families, friends, community members, and strangers. On March 1st, ISL tabled at Sayles to celebrate the tradition of Carnival.

ISL peer leaders and staff members prepared food that is traditionally eaten during the celebrations across the world including chocolate balls (brigadeiros) and cheese puffs (pão de queijo). Students were allowed to pick beaded necklaces for themselves from a range of colorful options, a classical Mardi Gras souvenir. For students who were interested, there were trivia questions that they could answer about how Carnival is celebrated across the globe for the opportunity to win fashionable masks that are conventionally adorned by participants in the Carnival festivities. The table received a lot of traffic and we encountered several students and faculty members who were determined to learn more about Carnival and had a fun time answering our trivia questions and feasting on the delicious snacks that we prepared.

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**Global Conversation Night** by Madhav

The theme of this year’s Global Conversation Night was Cultural Appreciation vs Appropriation. Given the frequency with which international students are often left thinking about whether an incident qualified as one or the other, the ISL office thought that it was a noteworthy issue worth opening to the community. The aim of the ISL office was to engage the larger student body in this conversation and allow everyone to share their own views and experiences hoping to allow students to learn from one another. We had a total turnout of about 14 people which allowed us to split up into small groups and engage with the topic in a more meaningful and vulnerable way.

Our conversations ranged from our personal experiences to how we can effectively communicate with people when we witness cultural appropriation. While most students agreed on how they perceived cultural appropriation vs appreciation, there were differing views on how to handle a complicated situation and when it is actually your role to speak up vs. let it go. All in all, these conversations opened up new lens’ for students to engage in complicated conversations while simultaneously building a shared community by discussing vulnerable experiences. We also got some personalised Doms orders for all the lovely people who participated this event!
International Women’s Day  by Moe

On the International Women’s Day on March 8th, we had a tabling at Sayles with trivia questions related to the day and women’s empowerment. We gave out our original stickers and pocky packages (my favorite Japanese snack!) to everyone who volunteered to answer one randomly selected question out of the 15 we prepared, and those who got the right answer won additional pocky. It was very exciting to see many students come and talk with us.

What was interesting for me was that for questions like the average percentage of women in parliament worldwide and the total number of women who received the Nobel Prize, we tended to assume numbers that were way lower than the actual answers. I enjoyed learning through preparing those questions and having conversations at the table, and I look forward to organizing more events like this in the future. Thank you to all of you who joined us!

Fun things around?  by Tan

The Cave is back! BATTLE OF THE BANDS @ the Cave is taking place on the 5th Friday and 6th Saturday, Spring term. The Cave is a student-run music and entertainment venue, and it is also the nation’s oldest such establishment. They are actively looking for musicians who are interested in joining their yearly bands competition. The entrance to the Cave is in the basement of Evans Hall to the right. Anyone could attend, so don’t hesitate to go to their Carleton webpage to request an artist. Let’s go viral!
Every year, 40-50% of our international student population remains on campus during the break periods. In order to add some spice to an otherwise uneventful (to some) break, ISL often hosts a variety of events to help students relax and connect with the office, as well as with other students who are also sequestered away in this lovely corner of Minnesota. Most notably are the lunches and our Paint & Sip event (which hopefully will soon become commonly associated with our office). For Winter Break, our lunch events were a hit with the ISL community, especially when Chinese food from Leeann Chin and Greek Food from Mediterranean Cruise Cafe was involved. SAO and OIL also sponsored meals during Winter Break for students. Our Paint & Sip (Boba edition) event was also received with enthusiasm and open arms, and you can view the works of Carleton's resident Bob Rosses. During Spring Break, due to COVID restrictions, we hosted our Paint & Sip event (Capri Sun edition) through Zoom and produced some very lovely artwork.
Word Search! by Siddharth

Carnival  Dia De Los Muertos  Diwali

Eid  Holi  mardigras

Mevlana  Oktoberfest  songkran

Tomatina
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