

VOSS

Voice of Somali students

First Issue Sep

Education is the transmission of civilization.

Welcome to fall semester 2004!

I hope you had fun and relaxing summer. We are looking forward to meeting and working with new and returning students during the 2004-05 school years. In this newsletter you will find new and important information about upcoming events and changes within programs of the club. Check out the today our new design of the newsletter- Voices of Somali Students (VOSS) - do you like it? Read it more and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions about the newsletter. As you plan and prepare for the school year, keep SSA in mind. We are eager to serve you and want your participation in our activities. We are planning some exciting events for you so take advantage of your program. Your feedback regarding our service and activities are appreciated anytime. Again welcome back and have a successful academic year!

By: Board of Executive

Culture shock

It's amazing how life is different from one place to another, especially when you came to a new country that you never been before, everything seems to you abnormal because you entered completely a different atmosphere, culture, traditions and life style. Most people have had experience of what it's like to be or how it feels being a new country that you don't know much about their culture and traditions, and where things were different than what they had though or expected. For example, in Somalia, it's common to see two men who are good friends walking down the street hand in hand or kissing each other on the cheek. In the United States it's abnormal for people to act this way because only people who act this way are homosexual.

This article describes some of the normal reactions you may have as you begin adjusting to your new country. Also including some practical strategies for coping with the challenges you will be facing. Culture shock is the name given to a feeling of disorientation or confusion that often occurs when a person leaves a familiar place and moves to an unfamiliar place. When you leave your home culture, you separate yourself from the people and circumstances that have defined your role in society. It is possible that you may experience a loss of some of your identity. The impact of this change can be disorienting. It is called "culture shock." Culture shock can manifest itself in a number of ways.

Coming to America from Somalia, you may encounter many new things which you never seen before. The buildings and highways may look different. The food may not be the same as it is at home, and the people may look, speak and act differently from the people at home. Even the smells might be different. Your English might not serve you as well as you expected it would. You might not be able to convey your full personality in English. Additionally, your family and friends are far away. As a result, you may feel confused, unsure of yourself and you may have some doubts about the wisdom of your decision to come to the U.S. Here are some of the signs of culture shock are: Fits of anger over minor inconveniences, bad temper, Extreme homesickness, Withdrawal from people who are different from you, A new and intense feeling of loyalty to your own culture, Compulsive eating or a loss of appetite, Boredom, A need for excessive periods of sleep, Excessive concern over minor pains, Depression, Loss of ability to work effectively, Unexplainable fits of crying, Marital stress , Exaggerated cleanliness, Feeling sick much of the time , Difficulty concentrating , Writing letters and emails home. This is a long list! You do not need to suffer from every item on the list in order to experience culture shock. Only a few of the items may apply to you -- maybe only a couple of them. All these feelings may make it difficult to deal with residents of the host country and to use their language.

Waxaad ceebta u taqaan dad-bey camalkiisu tahay

People may react to an unfamiliar culture shock in many different ways. While some people may become depressed, sad or physically ill, others are stimulated by the many new experiences that are available to them. Here are some practical ideas and suggestions that might be helpful during the transition to your new situation.

1- Practical and improve your English: the better you can express yourself the easier your adjustment will be.

2- Realize that you will often be treated as a stereotype: foreigners everywhere are treated (at least at first) not as individuals, but as representatives of groups to which

they belong. Remember that you have your own stereotypes about the host nationals.

3- Learn the local criteria for success: through observation and questioning determine what is considered a good performance in studies, research, social relations and other aspects of your life in the U.S.

4- Avoid generalizations: newcomers to a society may have a particular.

As a final point, it is well know by just about every human on the planet do things differently around the globe. People dress differently, eat differently, speak different

languages and have many different customs. You also need to understand that different societies and cultures have different rules, different mores, laws and moral ideas. In addition, moving into a new country can be the most fascinating and hardest experience of your life. It gives you opportunity to explore an entirely new way of living and to compare it to your own. There is no better way to become aware of your own values and attitudes and to broaden

your point of view. Adjusting to a new country and environment takes a long time. People who cross cultures usually are uncomfortable at first, and talk of feeling confused, discouraged, lonely, and anxious. As they get more comfortable, however, many people find that learning in new culture is stimulating, exciting, and broadening.

By: Ahmed Mohamed

Why Education is so important to Your Future?

Future is a place where you have to spend the rest of your life. You have many experiences to look forward and enjoy. Also you will have different times when things are not so good. Education plays a very important role in making your life in the future as complete and fulfilling as possible. In your future you have to consider many occurrences that you will be required to face. There are goals that need to be attained. You will want to have a family and children. You want to help the community and joint different organizations.

How can you accomplish these things? Well, there are two paths you can follow. The first one is getting education; you can graduate college/university and receive knowledge and degree. You can become active person in your school. You will be able to help the community. You will grow into a responsibly adult. The other path you can take is working in the industrial jobs. These jobs pay low wages with no enough benefits to cover your needs. In the mean time, it will

demand you to work long hours, and gives you less time to take care of other responsibilities. Most of the people who choose to work and not to go to school can't hold such these jobs for so long.

Education will offer you a wonderful experience with endless opportunity, and you will have knowledge to pass on to the future generations. Education is important to your future because it is the true line between living with all your dreams at your fingertips, and living with sense lack of confidence. Having education is a bright plan for your future. You will have the intellectual strength to tackle down the difficulty times in your life and enjoy it more

By: Abdi Hussein (Abdi Xukun)

Xanta iyo Xumaanteeda

Waxay ay ka dheeradaan in badan oo Muslimiinta ahi hilib la soo waariday oo ay aad iska ilaaliyan maadama ay sifadii loo gowracay ay khilaafsan tahay shareecada waana ay fiican tahay, laakiin waxa jira hilib jilicsan oo u qarsooma kuwa taxadirka badan oo aynay garan Karin kuwa foajigan sirta hilibkani, waa mid aanu mid kaligii cuni Karin waa ka illaahay (SW) quraanka ku yidhi "Ma jecel yahay midkiin in uu cuno hilibka walaalkii oo dhintay" {Suuratul Al Xujraat-12} Waa

hilibka dadka waana xanta, waxa inoogu filan xumaanteeda iyo cadeynta khatarteeda sida illaahay (SW) inooga xaaratimeeyay looguna tilmaamay hilib walaalkaa oo dhintay. Ibnu Mascuud (RC) waxa uu yidhi: - Waxaanu la joognay Rasuulka (CSW) Nin baana kacay waxa uu ku ciiray Nin ka denbeeyay waxa uu ku yidhi Rasuulku (CSW) iska tuf waxa uu yidhi maxaan tufaa hilib maan cunine waxa uu rasuulku ku yidhi waxa aad cuntay hilibkii walaalkaa

A message from the frontline

"There is an entire generation of children and youth that grow up in Somali during and after the civil war, who never set foot in a school."

The Students of High Institute of Nursing of Mogadishu University

Most people of Somalia do not know the nutritional value of the local foods. Local available foods are cheap and they contain all the necessary nutrients for the growth of the body, repair and maintenance. The student nurses of High Institute of Nursing of Mogadishu University have prepared nutritional demonstration. The aim of the collection was to show and demonstrate the different kinds of nutritional value, which the local items contain. The student nurses demonstrated, explained and prepared

different food collections to a large audience especially the heads of different sections of university, student nurses and community members. All the food items, which exhibited in the show, were our local products. The participants did not only enjoy the exhibition or show but also appreciated the taste of the delicious foods. This will be an integral part of the training program where HIN nurse students will prepare this collection of foods in the future.

Source: MogadishuUniversity.com

Nugaal University... Laas-caanood oo Markii Ugu Horresay Jaamacad Laga Furay

Wararka ka imaanaya magaalada Laascaanood ee gobalka Sool ayaa sheegaya in la dhagax dhigay magaaladaas markii ugu horresay taariikhdeeda Jaamacad cusub oo lagu baran doono qaybaha kala duwan ee cilmiga. Madaxweyne ku xigeenka Puntland Maxamed Cabdi Xaashi ayaa la filayaa in uu Dhagax dhigay jaamacaddaas. Waa markii ugu horresay ee Jaamacad laga furo gobalkaasi Sool wixii ka danbeeyey xiligii ay Soomaaliya Xoriyada qaadatay, waxayna tani fursad siinaysaa ardayda soo dhameysata dugsiyada sare in ay fursad u helaan gobolkooda gudahiisa in ay ku dhameystiraan waxbarashada ilaa heer Jaamacadeed ah.

Inkastoo burburkii dawladnimadii Soomaaliya dhinacyo badan loo darsaday hadana waxaad mooddaa in jaamacadaha ka hir galaya gobollo badan oo dalka ah ay tusaale ka tahay in is xilqaanka waxgaradka iyo tartanka dhinaca wanaaguba fursado hor leh beerayaan, taasoo ka dhigaysa in burburkii dhexdiiisa dhir miro dhal ah ka beermayso. Dhinaca kale waxaa iyana walwal laga qabaa tayada waxbarashadan yeelan karto haddii gobol walba laga furo iyo sida ay mustaqbalka kusii socon karto ama ballaaran karto, waxaadse mooddaa haddii khibradaha kala duwan ee dibadda ka imaanaya iyo maalgalin loo helo aysan rajadu xumayn marka loo eego heerka dalka iyo dadkiisuba marayaan.

Source: somaliedu.com

Culture shock

For example, in Somalia, it's common to see two men who are good friends walking down the street hand in hand or kissing each other on the cheek. In the United States it's abnormal for people to act this way because only people who act this way are homosexual.

Letters

I attended the conference, Somalis in America: Challenges of Adaptation held in St. Paul, McAlister College, Minnesota in July, and it was by far the best Somali conference I've ever attended. Professor Ahmed Samatar did a tremendous job in terms of organization. Attendees came from Sweden, Holland, England and Canada, in addition to various cities in the States. While the conference did not delve too deeply into challenges faced by Somalis in the US, it touched upon issues in areas of health, housing, and education. The panelists were Somalis and non-Somalis who serve predominantly Somali clientele. For me, the most salient feature of the conference was the attendees themselves. It was really nice to see so many Somali professionals and students who are actively engaged in the betterment of our communities. This was a sort of 'feel-good' conference because one was left with the feeling that all was not lost and that we are not as downtrodden as we are made to believe. Even the old stereotype of tardiness (i.e. Somalis lack of the concept of time) was dispelled in this conference. One of the panelists, a Somali doctor, even commented on the fact that for 3 days everyone showed up on time. This, I am sure, is no small feat for Somali people.

Another aspect of the conference, which completely delighted us, was the cultural component of the conference. For two evenings, we were thoroughly entertained by some of the most re-known Somali entertainers- the master guitarist, Xudaydi (Hodeidi), the incomparable Fatima Qaasim Hilowle, Hiba Maxamed, and Cabdinuur Alaaleh. There were also two poets- a lady from Sweden, Amina Said Ali and a gentleman whose name I cannot recall, but who's a well-known local poet and activist for the Midgan community. This was not your usual Somali 'Riwaayad' we've grown so accustomed to in the Diaspora, but a

remnant of the old-style Riwaayad where people actually sat and enjoyed a show without being compelled to dance. The functions were held in a posh and cozy theatre with no room for dancing. You can say that we were all strapped to our seats-happily. There were a large number of non-Somalis and this was an excellent venue to show case some of the best aspects of our culture- Music and poetry. Worthy of mention is the performance by Fatima Qaasim and the poems of sister Amina. Fatima's voice, it seems, has gotten amazingly better with age- if that's possible for she'd always had a wonderful voice- there was a standing ovation for every song she sang. She is also a warm and gentle person. Her husband of 30+ years was also there and equally wonderful and convivial. Sister Amina left us feeling melancholic with her words of lament for our beleaguered lands. Of course, there were aspects of the conference that were boring and inappropriate, but these are not worth dwelling on given what it has managed to accomplish well. These are my own observations and probably others would have a different take on how things went. I was told that there would be a videotape of the conference available to the public at some point. I'll share that information once I get hold of it.

By: fadumo

Submitting

For submitting articles to the VOSS email the copy of the information to SSAMCTC@YAHOO.COM and include your name, email, and phone number. Articles submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Ramadaan waa Goorma?

Mahad Allah baa leh, Nabigiisana Nabadgelyo iyo Ammaani korkiisa ha ahaato. Marti aad u sharaf badan baa inagu soo socda! Alla nasiib badanaa qofkii uu Ramadaan usoo galo oo Allaah waafajiyo inuu ka faa'idaysto. Ayaan daranaase Kan uu Ramadaan usoo galo oo uu dhaafo isagoo aan loo danbi dhaafin, oo aan ka faa'idaysan. Ilaahay waxaan ka baryayaa inuu na waafajiyo inaan usoo dhaweyno sida uu martigaasi mudanyahay. Haddaba

shay walba oo qaddar iyo maamuus leh, markii uu soo socdo waa loo diyaar-garoobaa. Waxaana ugu horreeya oo la'isweydiyaa: Goormuu imaanayaa? Bishee? Maalintee? Iyo Saacaddee? Haddaba aan is weydiinee, goorma ayuu Ramadaan inaguso aaddanyahay? Goormuuse Ina saagootinayaa? Waxaan halkan idiin ku soo gudbinayaa, waqtiyada ay bilanayaan bilaha: RAMADAAN & SHAWAAL oo dhinaca milaadiga ah.

By: Ahmed Mohamed

Waxaa la filayaa in la soomi doono
October 15, 2004 Wednesday
Waxaana a furayaa amaba la ciidi donaa
November 13, Friday

Important upcoming dates

October 5 – “intent to graduate” cards due
October 21-22 – faculty Association Days – No classes (student service Offices open)
November 9 – last day to change grade method (pass/fail or audit) for fall Semester
November 11 – holiday – campus closed
November 25-26 – holiday – campus closed
November 30 - last day to withdraw from full-term courses

Something to think about

Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not something to be waited for; but, rather something to be achieved.

Fun fact

There are almost 8 million phone numbers available within each area code in the United States. Even so, the federal Communications Commission (FCC) warns that the country may run out of ten-digit phone numbers by 2012.

Waxbarashada Rag iyo Dumar keebaa ku horeeya?

Dhamaan dadka ilaheey abuuray waxa u ku manaystay caqli iyo faham iyadoon uusan ku xirneyn jinsiyada gaar ah sida dhalasho, diin, iyo midab intaba. Dadka ku xeel dheer arrintaan waxay isku raceen ineysay jirin cid damiinimo ama xariifnimo u dhalatay, oo ay ku kala duwan yihiin ama is dheeryihiin dadaalkooda oo qura. Waxaan tusaale usoo qaadan karnaa caalimka weyn ee Ibnu- Xajar wuxuu isku dayey inu qur'aanka xafido marar badan mana uusan ku guuleeysan ilaa uu markii dambe uu arkay dhagax weyn ceel gidaarkiisa ah oo ay calamadi u yeeshay ama jabshay xariga wadaanta lagu soo dhaansho, waxaa loosheegay in marar badan lagu celceliyey xariga Kadib ay u yeshay calamadan, markaasuu aad uyaabay! Wuxuuna go, aan ku gaaray inuu qur'aanka iyo barashada diinta ku celceliyo, waqti yar Kadib waxa uu noqday shiiq caalim ah oo afarta mahdab kawada jawaaba taas waxay daliil u tahay in cidii dadaashaa inay waxbaran karto oo aysan waxbarashadu ku xirnayn caqli gooni ah ee waa doonista qofka iyo dadaalkiis.

Nabigeena suuban(NNKH) waxaa laga wariyey inuu kula dardaarmay asxaabtiisa wax barashada ilaa uu kuyiri cilmiga barashadiisa uraadiya xitaa China, sidoo kale wuxuu rasuulka(NNXKH) usheegay asxaabta inay xikmada ka qaataan ninka waalan afkiisa iskaba daaye nin fiyoow!!

Xadiiskan waxaa uu cadnayaa in meel kastaa iyo qofkastaa wax laga baran karo, wax barashada rag iyo dumarba loomo kala soocin waa waajib qofkasta oo Muslim ahna saaran. Waxaa aad loo soo fahmayaa faa'iidada waxbarashadu uleedahay horumarinta bulshada dhinac walba. Casrigan cusub sida diintu hore loogu sheegaya dumarku tiro ahaan waa kabadan yihiin raga, had iyo jeer goobaha waxbarashada waxaa kubadanaan jiray ragga sida Iskuulada, jaamacadaha iyo macaahida wax lagu barto, sidaa ay tahayna kaalimaha hore waxa geli jiray dumarka.

Hadase waxaa raga kaga badan dhanka waxbarashada dumarka oo waxaad arkaysaa tira ku labanlaabantan tan raga oo dumar ah oo xadiraya kuliyadaha iyo jaamacadaha.

Hadaba, waxaa la oran karaa dumarka soomaaliyeed waxay lasoo baxeen karti iyo dhiiranaan gooni ah waayadaan dambe oo ay doonayaan ineey asaagood waxkula qeybsadaan (dumarka caalimka) kuna hormariyaan bulshadooda dhibaataysan ee soomaliyeed.

By: Saciid Yusuf Kahiye

Coffee hour and counseling

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXCITING CAREERS IN FINANCE AND BANKING?

If so please come to a session on Thursday, September 30 at 1: 45 pm in Room C-256 (C Building, 2nd floor). Representative from Financial Career Institute will be there to do presentation about career opportunities in banking and financial careers. The Financial Careers Institute -- Banking and Financial Services Education Partnership -a partnership between MCTC and US Bank- is designed to establish a lifelong career and educational pathway for individuals interested in working in a financial setting. This partnership helps individuals learn the skills necessary to become successful in the finance industry.

WHEN: Thursday, September 30 at 1: 45 pm

WHERE: Room C-256 (C Building, 2nd floor)

FEUTURED GUEST SPEAKER: Leah Berglund- Financial Careers Institute

Coordinator: Jamal Adam from Advising and Counseling to answer your questions.

Somali Students Association representatives and members will also be there.

Somali children embark on a new life this school year

Ask Sowda Darbane about her favorite subject in school, and the bright 15-year-old flashes a wide grin. "I like English and some math. I like everything," she says. "I like to learn." Sowda and her family settled in Lawrenceville in March -- among the first of dozens of Somali Bantu families expected to arrive in Pittsburgh over the next year. More than half of the nearly 200 Somali Bantus expected are children 17 and younger -- which has the Pittsburgh Public Schools scrambling to develop a program for its newest students in time for the start of school next Thursday. Thekla Fall, program officer for world languages at the schools, said she expects that nearly 60 Somali Bantu children will begin school next week, along with about 34,700 other district students. "We've been meeting around the clock to plan for this," Fall said. The challenges of educating this population are great. The Bantus were persecuted in the east African nation of Somalia after the country disintegrated into civil war in 1991. They fled to Kenya by the thousands, where they lived in refugee camps. Nearly a decade later, the United States agreed to resettle about 13,000 refugees throughout the country.

A hard life

Many of the Bantus now arriving in the United States were in camps for up to 15 years, said Khadra Mohammed, executive director of the Pittsburgh

Refugee Center. School for some of the children was no more than a tent or shack, with only the simplest lessons on the alphabet or basic math. Other children have had no schooling.

"They're dealing with never having any formal education, but there's also the trauma associated with living in the refugee camps for so long," Mohammed said. "About 90 percent of the children lost siblings and loved ones. They've seen death." Many of the children can't read or write in their own language, nor can their parents.

Making preparations

School board member Mark Brentley Sr., who helped to organize a welcome reception for the families, last week, said the district's English-as-a-second-language program "doesn't even really apply here. English isn't their second language." To accommodate the children, the district has developed a plan for three centers. Elementary school children will attend the Miller African Centered Academy in the Hill District. Middle school children will attend Frick International Studies Academy in Oakland. Fall said the details are being worked out for high school children. They likely will attend Peabody High School in East Liberty. Grouping the children will allow them to support one another, Mohammed said. A child who is further along in English, for instance, might be able to help others who are struggling. In the centers, the children will be separated from the main student population to

learn English, math, social studies and science. They will join their other classmates to take art, music and physical education. "It's important for them to have that experience and get to meet as many other children as possible," Fall said the district already has hired one teacher to work with the children. The school board Wednesday approved hiring three more teachers to help in the ESL program, allowing more experienced teachers to work with the Bantu children.

Beset with challenges still another challenge is finding people who speak the Bantus' language. Fall said the district learned that most of the children speak Kiswahili, the second most-spoken language in Africa. Brentley said the district is still looking for people who might be able to speak their language and work with the families. Even with the plan in place, the Bantu children still might struggle adjusting to a new culture and children who might not accept them. "These are very, very poor families," Mohammed said. "How are they going to be received among their peers? Are they going to be teased, harassed, made fun of? Those are the things we are anticipating, but we are hoping it won't be as bad and that these children won't be traumatized again." Several community groups are trying to support the new population, as well.

A learning experience

Kathryn Hens-Greco, an attorney from Point Breeze, has been collecting backpacks, schools supplies and other items for the children as part of the Refugee Center's "Back to School Project." The group will distribute the backpacks to the children Sunday at a potluck dinner in Shadyside. She's involved her children in the effort, which she said has taught them to be thankful. "It's fun, plus it's good for them to realize that lots and lots of people in the world

don't live the way we do," she said. "It's very exciting on all those levels." Sowda Darbane started school in March at Frick and likely will head to Schenley High School next week. Her brother, Hussein, 8, and sister Dunai, 6, will attend Miller. Sowda said she can't wait to start high school and dreams of one day attending college and getting a good job. "It's very important," she said.

Source: stl

**We can learn together
because you and I pledge to:**

- 1- **Truly listen** to each other
- 2- **Acknowledge** the wisdom of one another
- 3- **Respect** our differences
- 4- **Inquire** to build understanding

MCTC Somali Students Association
website now is active.... Visit

www.somalistudents.net

Coffee hour and counseling

WHEN: Thursday, September 30, 2004

TIME: 1: 45 pm -----2:45

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