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Reminder Check List:

*Have you registered for Spring 24 yet? If not – let's Go! Work with advisors. Our advisors are guides to keep students on track to graduate soon as possible, while helping F1 visa students remain in compliance.

*Have you thought to join our new MGA Compass Club? See Page 5! Many scholarship opportunities and most meetings are virtual so easy to participate.

*International Students: Email Jessica.Arnold1@mga.edu if you are staying on campus for the holidays please; additionally, email housing@mga.edu to inform them.

*Set up time to get your I-20 signed if you are planning to travel abroad for the holidays and on an F1 visa. Thanks!

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPO 2023 SUCCESS!**

Thank you to all who assisted International Student Services put on our 2023 International Student Expo. The event was held in Macon's SLC Tuesday 11/14/23 from 5-6pm, where international MGA students presented facts about their home countries. They were joined by staff and faculty who support our international students, presenting various programs and resources our international students can engage with while with us at MGA.

Attendees of the event checked in and carried around "passports" table to table, collecting stickers for each station. Once the first 50 attendees turned in completed "passports", they received a cool SWAG bag token of appreciation for supporting ISS and our international students.

It took over 50 volunteers to make this happen, and we did it! Marketing scored amazing interviews with a few international students, so be on the lookout. Over 90 people (students/faculty/staff) attended the event during the hour- 10 of which were community members! Tables were buzzing with several international and domestic students alike gaining insight about our language programs, bilingual staff/faculty mentors, SHIP Insurance, Admissions, Culture and Community, USG Goes Global and Study Abroad, ISSA club and so much more! Students came from Dublin, Warner Robins and Cochran campuses gathered present alongside the Macon students for a fun full University experience. Thank you to Student Life for providing transportation, and for all who came out to support.



Do you know a fellow international student who should be our November Star Student of the Month who exhibits all four of our university values?

Engagement, Adaptability Learning, and Stewardship?

We want to hear from you!



Jessica.Arnold1@mga.edu

NEW!

RESUME TIPS

*People often think adding "flair" to your resume will get you noticed- not true! Aside from often looking unprofessional, those elements will cause hiring bots to figuratively wave a red flag and send your application to the bottom of the pile. Stick to basic high impact information.

* Get thee to our MGA Career Center! Take advantage of the many ways they can help you not only with your resume, but to assist on where to search for the best opportunity for hire.

*Include your LinkedIn profile link

*Don't forget to include references or at minimum state "References Available Upon Request".



Christopher Stubbs is a freshman with us from the Bahamas here at Middle Georgia State University.

Chris can be seen at all ISS events and is usually the first to volunteer his time to support whatever the office may need which clearly demonstrates both his "ENGAGEMENT" and "STEWARDSHIP".

As an aviation major, this outstanding young man strives to leverage the resources around him. He recently attended our OPT/CPT career workshop in Cochran. He confidently now partners to use our Career Center resources such as Handshake and the newly added "GOIN GLOBAL". Goin Global allows current international students the ability to quickly identify US Employers that have

submitted H1B visa applications to employ international talent, plus provides additional OPT-friendly employer records and guidelines.

Access to this new app, Chris will tell you, can be found by going to mga.joinhandshake.com by going to "Career Center" and "Resources."

Chris intently listened during presentations, showing his passion for "Learning" and shows his drive toward "Advancement" by embracing the new technology.

Many enjoyed Chris' presentation of his home country of the Bahamas at our recent International Student Expo as well. Thank you for participating Chris!

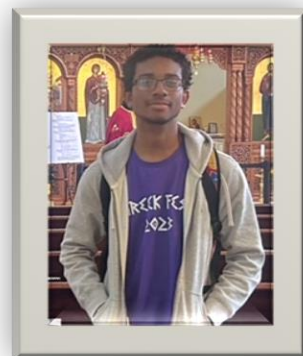
ISS STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

CHRISTOPHER STUBBS

We select an international student each month who has clearly demonstrated our four MGA values of Engagement, Adaptability, Learning and Stewardship.

Congratulations

Chris Stubbs!



We appreciate you representing MGA core values as our "International Star Student of the Month December 2023"

Coffee With Cops during International Education Week

Monday 11/13/24 and Wednesday 11/15/23 Macon and Cochran Campus Police Departments and international students enjoyed coming together to learn more about how to leverage our RAVE app, and the unique services available to our students. So nice to know our fantastic security teams are always available when needed to support students from everything to flat tires on campus, to monitoring students' arrival to various campus destinations when they set follow up reminders. If the student fails to deactivate the notification when they arrive safely, an officer will be out to investigate and support. Safety and Security are top priority at Middle Georgia State University, and we with ISS greatly appreciate all members of our Police teams across all five campuses.



*Canada has more lakes than anywhere in the world.

*Bolivia is the flattest country in the world

* The whole world's population could fit in the city of Los Angeles if we all stood shoulder to shoulder.

*Sudan has more pyramids than anywhere in the world.

*In 2018 the Sahara Desert was blanketed in snow- though it only lasted a full day.

*North Korea and Cuba are the only countries in which you can't find Coca-Cola products.

*Canada has the most lakes in the world.

*Did you know the oldest profession in the world is Dentistry!

*71% of the Earth's surface is water and there are over 400 species of sharks.

This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: How can I easily find words in a document?

A: CTRL+F

Q: Where can I find peer-reviewed journals and other reliable sources for research papers?

A: <https://scholar.google.com/>



GENERIC TIPS:

- Change the font color to #010101 on your printer if you are running out of black ink to print in 99% grey.
- Zoom in and out of a page by holding CTRL and (+/-)
- Save PowerPoint presentations as .PPS vs. as .PPT so when you open the document it jumps right into presentation mode.



- **Tues Dec 5th:** Last day for Finals
- **Wed/Th Dec 6th-7th:**

Commencement Ceremonies!

- **Th Dec 7th-15th:** Happy Hannukah!
- **Fri Dec 15th:** Grades available (SWORDS)
- **Mon Dec 24th:** Merry Christmas Eve!
- **Tues Dec 25th:** Merry Christmas!
- **Tues Dec 26th:** Happy Kwanzaa!
- **We look forward to seeing you all back SP2024's 1st day of classes on Jan 10th!**

• **GO KNIGHTS!**

Faculty Feature: Meet Professor Marina Spears

Professor Marina Spears is one of the co-advisors for ISSA. She's been at MGA for 22 years, where she's taught English. For the past year, she's taken on the additional role of Area B coordinator overseeing the Academic Success content in all Perspectives classes. Having been an international student herself, she believes in the value of studying abroad, learning another language, and stepping out of one's comfort zone. She believes international students have a lot to offer culturally and that domestic students can greatly benefit from studying alongside foreign students. It's a win-win situation for all students.

As an international student advocate, she encourages MGA bicultural/bilingual faculty and staff to connect with students from their mutual countries. Despite the immediate excitement of a brand-new culture, experiencing culture shock can be overwhelming at times. Having someone from 'home' to talk to can make a huge difference when students feel homesick or out of place.

Professor Spears' story started like most foreign students, earning a degree in the US. She arrived in 1996 to work on a master's degree at Marshall University. What she didn't expect, was to meet her other half and build her life and family in the US instead of Brazil. She's been married to Eric for 25 years. Together, they have two young adult children, Clara and Lucas, and two dogs. When she's not busy with teaching or caring for her mother, who moved to Macon several years ago, she loves to play pickleball. Having lived in the US for almost thirty years, she says she's comfortable being both Brazilian and American and states, "I don't have to choose one over the other. I can be both." Thank you, Professor Spears, for being so supportive of our students.



MGA student Pedro Tence with Professor Spears



Thank you, ISSA club, for the incredible Fall Semester. Special appreciation to our officers, President Catalina Grimaldo, VPs Kole Buffington and Stena Mathison, and Secretary Shifa Santhebennur Khazi. Also thank you to Faculty club Advisors Dr. Sabrina Weinger, Professor Marina Spears, and Dr. Eric Sun.

We look forward to ISSA club growth in Spring 2024- All students interested in learning about international cultures and languages plus fun field trip opportunities please email Eric.Sun@mga.edu to sign up!





JOIN OUR NEW MGA COMPASS CLUB starting Spring 2024!

- **Advisors Jessica Arnold and Dr. Melinda Robinson-Moffett**
- **Virtual meetings Thursdays 3:30p-4:30p (bi-weekly) beginning 1/18/24. Teams Invites to come January week 1.**
- **Over 10 scholarships \$\$\$ available for students to apply for- more info on how to apply to come during our first meeting. Yes- International Students- This is for you too!**
- **Field Trip (tentative) to clean up our local Ocmulgee Fishing Area around the lake. Excellent volunteer opportunity to beef up your resume! We will organize one major volunteer opportunity for the club each semester to reflect our Stewardship university value and foster friendship and support for our local community.**
- **Special cord for graduation for participating members**
- **Commemorative pin for participation in future events.**
- **Email Jessica.Arnold@mga.edu and express your interest.**
- **Note: Dues of \$40 per per student...but are completely covered by Pilot International... so it's **FREE** to join currently!**

COMPASS INTERNATIONAL

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DIVISION OF PILOT INTERNATIONAL

COMPASS INTERNATIONAL IS THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL DIVISION OF PILOT INTERNATIONAL. A COMPASS CLUB IS A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OR YOUNG ADULTS UP TO THE AGE OF 26 (JAPAN DISTRICT - AGE OF 28). IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND ADVANCE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS.



Thank you for viewing this month's

MGA ISS BUZZ NEWSLETTER.

I hope you enjoy these last few photos from our

International Student Expo 2023.

We look forward to 2024 events with you all!

