

JULY/AUGUST 2020

# GEAUX GLOBAL

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the LSUHSC International Services Office

## A LETTER FROM ISO:



Many individuals of the LSUHSC community felt the fear of the potential consequences of implementing the SEVP Fall 2020 Guidance that was released on July 6, 2020. In reaction, the LSU Interim President Tom Galligan poignantly expressed to international students that "you are part of the LSU Tiger family, and we are advocating for you." The LSU system was ready to make any reasonable accommodations to ensure the guidelines do not adversely affect international students. Further, many LSUHSC faculty and staff denounced the federal guidance in solidarity with international students. They understood the difficult position they will find themselves in, all amid the COVID-19 pandemic still looming among us.

The July 6 guidance has been ultimately rescinded thanks to the advocacy of pro-immigrant organizations and higher education institutions. Current guidance permits international students in the US to take online, hybrid, or in-person classes in compliance with F-1 regulations for Fall 2020.

In this bi-weekly newsletter, LSUHSC ISO wishes to do our part in advocating for our international community. In this issue, we want to emphasize the value of international students and scholars on our campus and inform our readers of some beneficial community resources and support organizations on campus.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

*- Remy Allen & Ashley Idiaquez-Suazo*

### 2019 FACT SHEET: LOUISIANA



7,428

Int'l Students in the State

-4.2

Percent Change from Previous Year

32

Rank in the U.S.\*

\$264,879,380

Estimated Int'l Student Expenditure in the State\*\*

Rankings include all 50 U.S. states in addition to Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. \*NAFSA: Association of International Educators. For more information, see [www.nafsa.org/economicvalue](http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue).

International students also help the U.S. maintain its global competitiveness by:



#### GROWING THE U.S. KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

40% of American Nobel Prizes won in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000 were awarded to immigrants.



#### PROMOTING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

62 world leaders have received higher education in the U.S., more than any other country.



#### LEADING SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES

23% of billion-dollar startup companies in the U.S. were founded or co-founded by an international student.

SOURCE: NAFSA, FORBES, STATISTA



## STATUS OF OUR METRO AREA & LSUHSC



### In the area:

- Louisiana is currently in Phase 2 of reopening until August 7th as COVID-19 cases surpass 100,000.
  - Strict mask mandate
  - New Orleans mayor restricts bars and restaurants from the sale of takeout alcoholic beverages
- Q&A with the Regional Medical Director: Jeff Toms
- High-capacity, Drive-thru COVID-19 Testing To Begin In New Orleans
- NOLA Public Schools COVID-19 Response
- Jefferson Parish Public Schools COVID-19 Response

### LSUHSC:

- If you have a Covid-19-related absence, you may now once again use Special Leave first before exhausting all other leave. This Special Leave, which we authorized July 23, is an additional allotment of 14 days leave for a Covid-19-related illness for any employee, or 15 days leave for a Covid-19-related illness for a health care worker or emergency responder. While we anticipate an extension, this Special Leave is currently set to expire Sept 4, 2020, and it cannot be guaranteed beyond that at this time.
- Remote work model is in effect since 7/27/2020 for two weeks for all those who have the ability to work from home. Please inquire with your direct supervisor regarding this matter
- LSU Healthcare Network Campus Multispecialty Clinic Building at 478 South Johnson Street is offering COVID-19 antibody testing for the LSUHSC community. To register and request an appointment, you will need to log onto our intranet to the COVID-19 Testing Portal at this link: <https://intranet.lsuhs.edu/covidtesting/>.
- In regards to returning to LSUHSC campus post international travel, LSUHSC will adhere to current CDC guidelines requiring that all international travelers quarantine for 14-days upon their arrival to the US.
- Per US immigration guidance, new international students are barred from all-online classes. ISO will follow-up individually with any student affected by this guidance.



## IMPORTANT ISO REMINDERS



- **REPORT ALL INTL. TRAVEL VIA TRAVEL REQUEST FORM.**
- **F-1 STUDENTS MUST SCHEDULE FULL-TIME COURSE LOAD.**
- **UPDATE ADDRESS WITH ISO WITHIN 10 DAYS OF MOVE.**
- **H-1BS AND J-1S SHOULD REPORT ANY CHANGES IN DUTY OR WORK LOCATIONS (INCLUDING REMOTE WORK LOCATIONS) TO ISO.**
- **ISO CONTINUES OPERATING WITH LIMITED IN-OFFICE HOURS. REFER TO ISO SCHEDULE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS.**





# INTERNATIONAL TIGER

**Name: Phaethon Philbrook**

**Department: Genetics**

**City & Country of Birth: Thessaloniki, Greece**

Phaethon was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, but has lived most of his life in the United States. His mother is Greek, and his father is American. Both sides of his family have histories and cultural practices deeply rooted in the traditions of their home countries. His father comes from a long lineage of farmers who have grown corn and soy in Ohio for generations. His mother comes from Amyntaio, one of the most well-known wine regions of Greece. His parents are very proud of their backgrounds and have made sure to incorporate their cultures and family traditions into all aspects of Phaethon's upbringing.

Education's importance is one value his parents share, and they emphasized that from an early age. In high school, the immune system became a significant curiosity to him, and Phaethon spent much of his senior year trying to understand the complex system. During his undergraduate schooling in Boston, MA, he studied immunology in greater depth and honed his understanding of immunotherapy and medical applications of immunology. After college, he worked as a researcher and studied the effects of oxygenation on immune stimulation. These experiences ultimately led him to New Orleans, where he continued his study of both clinical medicine and immunology research as an MD/Ph.D. candidate. He is currently in the third year of his Ph.D. The goal of his project is to develop an immune cell-targeted whole-cell tumor vaccine to treat colorectal cancers.

Ultimately, he hopes to graduate from medical school and residency to become an academic physician-scientist and continue his research of the immune system and immunotherapies. His personal goal will always be to visit Greece each summer, spend time with his relatives by the sea, and give his family home a fresh coat of traditional blue and white paint.

## TELL US MORE!

### What made you choose LSUHSC?

For my medical education, I wanted to live in a metropolitan city with multiple academic institutions, and LSUHSC offered the best opportunity for a productive education in both clinical sciences and research. I was impressed by the abundance well-established clinicians, scientists, and research opportunities. Most importantly, I fell in love with New Orleans and wanted to serve the diverse group of people who live here.

### How do you recommend the LSUHSC international community get involved on campus?

The International Student Association (ISA) is a community that welcomes both domestic and international staff, students and faculty. It is a place where people can learn and benefit from each other's cultures. ISA provides a hub for international students to share their cultural experiences and creates a more inclusive and well-rounded academic environment.

Our goal is to keep open dialogue providing opportunities to learn about international culture and travel. For our international staff, students, and faculty, we try to provide a steppingstone for the easy transition to life in New Orleans. This could be something as easy as recommendations for housing or fun events in New Orleans. If you are a student and still interested in becoming involved in ISA, please email us at [isa@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:isa@lsuhsc.edu)!

### What are some culture shocks or funny surprising moments that you have experienced so far?

New Orleans is an extremely welcoming city. You will be free to express yourself in any way you want with confidence that the city is in full support. There is no better time to see this come to fruition than during the vibrant Mardi Gras celebrations.

### What is the most valuable lesson you have learned so far at LSUHSC that you would like to share?

People at LSUHSC are always interested to learn about unique domestic and international experiences. The individuals at LSUHSC come from many different countries and many different areas around the United States. Everyone brings something unique to the table, and LSUHSC provides the platform for people to share those experiences.