

NEWS RELEASE

Foreign Students Ignore Scholarships -Even as costs of universities in the U.S. and Canada continue to rise

Toronto, Canada, September 15th 2008— A leading Caribbean-born academic says many foreign students, as has been the case in previous years, will face severe financial problems in their quest to pursue studies in the United States and Canada.

But Dr. Hilroy Thomas, author of "Scholarship Jungle: Special Report on Financial Aid for Foreign Students" says students who prepare and plan sufficiently will find themselves among more than 300,000 foreign students to receive financial aid to complete their degrees in America and Canada.

Dr. Thomas, Assistant Dean at St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida said about one third of all foreign students in Canada and the United States will receive some form of financial aid to pursue their studies in those countries this year. Many more can receive financial awards if they know what to do.

A steady and rapid rise in tuition fees for foreign students in those two countries is largely responsible for putting that financial squeeze on foreign students and their parents. A recent Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) report claimed that university tuition increases in Canada have far outstripped the rate of inflation and have tripled since 1990-91 period.

The grim outlook of increased tuition fees is similar at United States colleges and universities. Yet, foreign students continue their pursuit of this highly coveted worldwide gold standard for higher education in North American institutions of higher learning.

This year there is a small reprieve in higher tuition fees for students from selected countries. The Boston Globe newspaper reported recently that is because American universities in particular have suddenly emerged as what seems to be a "bargain" for a growing number of international students because of the faltering US dollar against currencies such as the Yen, Rupees, and British pound.

Dr. Thomas said that foreign students must become more aggressive in seeking financial aid for studies at American and Canadian colleges and must follow a straightforward process—learn the scholarship systems, locate several sources and apply early.

But he warned that foreign students who wish to take advantage of the millions of dollars of scholarship money must also prepare themselves for searching effectively. They must quickly acquire a solid selective knowledge of the North American education and financial aid systems, and learn how to take advantage of those multi-million dollar scholarship enterprises.

Many countries provide financial aid for their citizens to study in the United States and Canada, and some financial aid is available from the US and Canadian governments, colleges and agencies for students from specific countries. One of the first steps in landing foreign student scholarships is to identify who provides financial aid and scholarships to specific countries or groups of individuals for studies in Canada and the United States.

Most foreign students make some basic mistakes such as not applying at all for scholarship funding, applying after they are already in the US or Canada, or depending on receiving university-based scholarships or university work-study to complete their studies after they are enrolled. Because most scholarships may require that students apply from their home countries, they may be ineligible then.

Financing a post-secondary education is a daunting task for most foreign students. Fortunately, there are many North American and international agencies and scholarship resources to assist foreign students, if Canada or the United States is their destination.

Dr. Thomas said that if prospective students take time to prepare, explore their options and use the financial aid programs and resources such as those listed in his publication, "Scholarship Jungle: Special Report on Financial Aid for Foreign Students", their ability to pay for part, if not all, of their education, and earn this coveted American or Canadian degree, can be realized.

Ends.

Dr. Hilroy A. Thomas received his doctorate from Harvard University. He is an expert on Canadian and American colleges and universities, and is Assistant Dean at St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida, USA. He has assisted thousands of international students to access American and Canadian colleges and universities and has recently authored a companion book, **YOU'RE ADMITTED! The Art of Admissions to American and Canadian Universities and Colleges** (www.URadmitted.com) which is a must read for prospective foreign students thinking of studying in Canada and the United States.

Scholarship Jungle: Special Report is printed in Canada and available in paperback (at some local book stores) and in E-book format. To read more about this book, visit <http://www.scholarshipjungle.com>. To order an electronic copy, visit: <http://www.scholarshipjungle.com/orderbook.htm>

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