

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
WHO PLAN A ROAD TRIP DURING THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 24, 2008

During school breaks, many international students in the U.S. have the desire to travel to and experience other parts of the U.S. To save money, they often travel by car or van with a group of friends, who split the costs of gas, hotel, etc. While most of these trips are uneventful, some of them have disastrous consequences. Because the students are sometimes inexperienced drivers, are not familiar with the U.S. highway system, may have little experience driving long distances or in winter road conditions, sometimes drive old or poorly maintained cars and even drive through the night to save money, International Student Offices in the U.S. are reporting an increasing number of severe accidents which result in serious injury and even death.

UB international students have been killed in car accidents and have been seriously injured in car crashes during school breaks. In fact, three UB international students were in a very serious car accident during Thanksgiving break three years ago. We would like to prevent future catastrophic accidents so are sending you some tips which we sincerely hope you will take seriously.

- 1) If you are not an experienced driver, travel by bus, train or plane instead of by car.
- 2) If you are an experienced driver, but are only accustomed to driving in Buffalo, do not attempt a long road trip. Plan a shorter trip instead. Take frequent breaks during your trip and drive shorter distances each day.
- 3) Get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast before beginning your trip. If you feel tired, delay your departure so you can rest first.
- 4) If you feel sleepy at the wheel, stop your car and take a nap or check in to a motel. Do not drive while fatigued. If you are a passenger, stay awake to be sure the driver is alert.
- 5) Never, ever, ever drink (alcohol) and drive.
- 6) Do not speed. You can easily lose control of your car if you are driving too fast. Drive only the speed limit.
- 7) Wear seatbelts at all times. It's the law for everyone in the car. Seatbelts will also ensure that you are not ejected from the car if there is an accident.
- 8) Do not drive at night. Above all, do not drive through the night to save hotel money. If you do, you can easily fall asleep at the wheel and have a serious accident.
- 9) If the road is wet, slow down. If the road is icy, do not continue driving. Check in to a motel instead.
- 10) Travel with at most one or two friends. Do not rent a van, fill it with friends and classmates, and embark on a trip. Too many international students in the U.S. have died in van crashes. (Such crashes frequently result in multiple deaths.)

We hope that you will have an interesting, enjoyable and SAFE Thanksgiving break by taking to heart the advice in this message.

