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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 3, 2015

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter April 3

New Associate Director for ISSO

The Office of International Programs would like to welcome Genevieve Beecher to the International Students and Scholars Office, where she has taken the position as the Associate Director. Come stop by the Center for Multicultural Education on Tuesday, April 7 anytime between 3 and 5 pm to meet her and welcome her to campus. You are also welcome to come by and meet with Genevieve in the International Students and Scholars Office. She will be in her office at 113 Maucker Union and welcomes all international students to stop by to visit or to discuss any difficulties or issues that they may have.

Lunch and Learn: Post Graduate and Summer Employment: OPT/CPT April 8

Are you graduating this spring and are looking to stay in the US? Are you staying in the US this summer and would like to work off campus? Come to our April Lunch and Learn Workshop on Wednesday, April 8 at noon in the ISSO Conference Room (right next to ISSO - 113 Maucker Union). We will be bringing in knowledgeable staff to provide a brief overview of who is eligible for CPT and OPT, how to apply for each, and what kind of jobs you are able to hold. Please bring along any CPT/OPT related questions you may have. Also, there will be free lunch for all who attend and one lucky attendee will leave with a prize.

Easter-Holi with ISA TODAY!

Since Holi has passed and Easter is coming up, we have decided to organize an Easter-Holi event. It will be TODAY at 5:30 pm until we run out of colors at Lawther Field. Don't worry about bringing colored powders, ISA will prepare them. This event will be a lot of fun. Come and join us and remember to dress in appropriate clothing as there will be lots of colored powder and water.

Culture Fest with ISA April 9

This event will be at the Waterloo Center for the Arts on April 9 at 5:30 pm and will offer a variety of cultural encounters designed to educate, entertain, and strengthen all cultures within the Cedar Valley community. ISA members are car pooling, so for those of you who don't have transportation to get to the Waterloo Center for the Arts, you are welcome to join ISA. ISA will meet as a group at the Gilchrist parking lot at 5 pm. Since ISA will be participating in the fashion show, it would be preferred for you to dress in traditional clothing. The Fashion Show starts at 6:15 pm. For those of you who are getting there by yourself, please be there by 5:30 pm. You are welcome to attend even if you do not have traditional clothing. ISA will have a booth.

Spring Diversity Showcase April 22

The most awaited ISA's annual big event is coming up! The annual Spring Diversity Showcase's theme this year is Diversifest. This event will be held April 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Coffee House (in front of Prexy's) Maucker Union. This event will include a variety of international traditional food, information booths, a fashion show, and performances! ISA is still in need of talents and participants for the fashion show. If you are interested in participating in the fashion show or showcasing your talent, it is never too late to sign up! Contact Bindhiya Jegatheesan at jegatheb@uni.edu to sign up.

Spring Graduation and Farewell Reception April 30

You are invited to a reception on Thursday, April 30 at 3 pm in Seerley Hall's Great Reading Room. Come and celebrate with us as we recognize international students who will

graduate in May and as we say farewell to the exchange students who will be leaving us at the end of the semester. Enjoy tasty appetizers and graduation cake! Graduates and departing exchange students, if you plan to attend, please contact the International Students and Scholars Office by Friday, April 24 so we know who to expect and who to include in our program. You may call [319-273-6421](tel:319-273-6421) or send an e-mail message to international.services@uni.edu. The event is open to ALL international students.

Employment Opportunities

CIEP is now hiring two office assistant positions for this summer. The positions would begin training in late April/early May, would be required to work full time (40 hours per week) this summer, and continue to work 15-20 per week during the spring/fall semesters. The link to view the job description is available on the CIEP website at http://www.uni.edu/ciep/sites/default/files/u6/ciep_office_assistant.pdf, and it has also been posted on the UNI Campus Job Board. Any questions can be directed to Olivia Randolph at randolpo@uni.edu.

Pride Week April 6-10 - "Always Here, Forever Queer"

Monday 4/6 - Drag Ball in Maucker Union Coffee House at 8 pm

Tuesday 4/7 - Queer Monologues in Jebe Hall (GBPAC) at 7 pm

Wednesday 4/8 - Donna Red Wing, Keynote Speaker in Maucker Union Ballroom at 7 pm

Thursday 4/9 - Film Screening "We Were Here" Elm Room (Maucker Basement) at 6 pm

Friday 4/10 - Progressive Prom in Commons Ballroom at 8 pm

April's Student Health 101 is Now Available

April's Student Health 101 is now available. Some of the great articles in this issue are: De-Stress Days, Run for Your Life and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can read the newsletter [here](#).

Join Cat Crew

The Cat Crew is made up of student leaders who facilitate UNI Now (the program following new student orientation) and provide an introduction to students transitioning to UNI. Volunteer Experience runs August 18-23. Applications are available April 1-10 and interviews are April 13 at 3:30 pm. Apply at <http://www.uni.edu/orientation>. For more information, contact Ashley Stewart at ashley.stewart@uni.edu.

Summer Storage Space Available

I am an international graduate student and I am offering storage space during the summer in my apartment for a low rental fee. The space is located on Jennings Drive and is available from May 15-August 15. Contact chavemaa@uni.edu or call [515-203-5253](tel:515-203-5253).

Full-Time Enrollment Requirement

This is a friendly reminder that all F-1 and J-1 students must be registered as full-time students. (12+ hours of undergraduate credit or 9+ hours of graduate credit). Being enrolled less than full-time without proper approval will result in the loss of your good immigration status and may prevent you from earning your UNI degree. Even worse, you could be arrested and deported from the USA! If you have questions, do not ask your friends, but ask the professional staff in the International Students and Scholars Office. You should review the reminders at this web page at least once per semester: <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/immigration-regulations>. Exceptions to the full-time rule are: certain academic difficulties (improper course level placement, initial difficulty with American teaching methods), medical/health reasons, final semester of study, and graduate students working full-time on research or dissertation.

ALL of these exceptions MUST be approved by the Immigration & Visa Coordinator in advance!

Income Tax Season

Students may be hearing about W-2 forms and filing "income tax" returns for 2014. An income tax return is a report that you must make to the Internal Revenue Service (<http://www.irs.gov>) of the US Government for any calendar year when you earn income in the United States. Fortunately, you do not need to do these alone. On Monday, March 9, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will begin helping international students prepare 2014 income tax returns. Assistance will be available on Monday and Wednesday evenings through April 8 from 7-9 pm in Room 223 of the Curris Business Building. Income taxes can be confusing and complicated, so you are encouraged to seek free assistance from the V.I.T.A. volunteers. Be sure to bring your W-2 form from UNI and any other tax forms you have received or do receive before March 9. You will also need your I-20 or DS-2019 form, your passport and I-94 information. If you did not have a job in 2014, you should still file IRS form 8843, available here: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>. You will only need to complete Part I and Part III before signing at the bottom of the form and sending it to the IRS at the address indicated in the instructions. April 15, 2015 is the deadline for filing 2014 tax returns!

Optional Practical Training (OPT) for Eligible F-1 Students

If you have an F-1 visa and you are planning to graduate in May 2015, now is the time to think about applying for Optional Practical Training as you are probably eligible for this 12 month period of employment authorization within the U.S. See our website for more information on OPT at <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/f-1-student-employment-information>. You may also go ahead and schedule an application appointment with the Immigration and Visa Coordinator if you are ready to submit your application or if you have questions. Contact the Immigration and Visa Coordinator Ross Schupbach at Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu for questions.

Academic Training for Eligible J-1 Students

J-1 students can consider Academic Training if they would like to work off campus in the U.S. before or after graduation. See our website for more information on J-1 Academic Training at <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/j-1-student-employment-information>. You can also contact the Immigration and Visa Coordinator Ross Schupbach at Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu for questions and for a copy of the Academic Training Information and Application Guide.

International Student Profile Feature

The International Students and Scholars Office is excited to feature a new international student profile each week. To be featured, please submit the form found [here](#).

Like and Follow Us!

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to stay informed about ISSO news and events!

ISSO Office Hours

ISSO office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

