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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, October 31, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter October 31

Zombie Masquerade - The Party to Die For TONIGHT!

The International Student Association will host a Zombie Masquerade from 7 to 11 pm, Friday, October 31, in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Music will keep the zombies dancing all night long. The event also includes a costume contest, games, prizes and refreshments.

Hiring Peer Mentors for Spring 2015 Orientation

Are you interested in helping new international students upon their arrival at UNI? Do you like working with a diverse group of students? Apply today to be a peer mentor for the International Students and Scholars Office Spring 2015 New International Student Orientation. Applications are due November 7. Job description and application forms can be found [here](#).

Hiring Drivers for Spring 2015 New Student Orientation Airport Pickups

The International Students & Scholars Office is hiring UNI students who are willing and available to serve as drivers of 7-passenger vans that will be used to make multiple trips to the Waterloo Municipal Airport and possibly the Cedar Rapids/Eastern Iowa Airport during the period of January 2-5. These students will be an important part of our efforts to welcome new international students to UNI and to Iowa beginning with airport pickup, driving back to campus, and connecting with Department of Residence staff for check-in. Some new students may need to be driven to off-campus housing. Preference will be given to upperclass undergraduate students and graduate students, but other responsible applicants with good driving records will be considered. A valid Iowa driver's license is required and the University will check license numbers and driving records before vehicle use is approved. Drivers must be willing and available to communicate frequently with ISSO staff via personal cell phones and e-mail before and during the January arrival period, and must be available for training in December. Drivers will be paid \$8.00 per hour and will be on duty for approximately 10 to 20 hours during the arrival period. The actual number of duty hours available will be determined by the number and frequency of new student arrivals. If you would like to apply, please send an e-mail message to Ross Schupbach at ross.schupbach@uni.edu that includes your name, UNI ID number, and an essay explaining why you would be a good candidate for one of the driver positions.

Full-Time Enrollment Requirement

This is a 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 [here](#) at least once per semester. 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!

Local Community School Cultural Exchange Program

Become a part of our Local Community School Exchange Program by volunteering to educate local community school children about your country's culture and customs. Play a game, create arts and crafts, cook a national dish, or come up with your own ideas! We are currently looking for students to present both this semester and Spring 2015. If you are

passionate about educating others about your culture, and you want to interact with the community, then sign-up TODAY!! More information and application forms can be found [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Shelby Huster at international.services@uni.edu.

International Education Week November 17-21

This year's International Education Week will take place November 17-21. Events will include international food sampling, international faculty and student panels, Around the World in 120 Minutes and the International Cultural Fashion Show. For the complete list of scheduled events, please see the attached flyer.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship

The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for selected international women for graduate study in the U.S. and Canada. More information can be found [here](#).

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

If you have an F-1 visa and you are planning to graduate in December 2014, 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 [here](#). 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.

UNI On-Campus Break Meal Options

As a convenience for those living on-campus over academic breaks, UNI dining will provide a food option for 3 meals per day during the time that a dining center and retail dining operations are not open on-campus. The option(s) provided will be based on the number of students signed up. Options could include opening a dining center, opening a retail operation, providing sack meals to halls, providing transportation and meals at local restaurants (will have a purchase limit) or groceries to make your own meals. Your U-bill will be charged a daily rate of \$28.45 for each day you request meals. Sign up deadlines are November 10 for Thanksgiving Break and December 1 for Winter Break. UNI On-Campus Break Meal Option can be found [here](#) and the UNI On-Campus Winter Holiday Meal Option can be found [here](#).

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](#) here 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.

ISSO - Enhancing International Experiences

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International Students and Scholars Office

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Regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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The University of Northern Iowa provides transformative learning experiences that inspire students to embrace challenge, engage in critical inquiry and creative thought, and contribute to society.