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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, October 24, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter October 24

Mall of America Trip

The signup for the Mall of America trip is FULL. If you are interested in attending the trip, please stop by ISSO and put your name on the waiting list. If someone decides that they can no longer go on the trip, we will begin contacting people in the order in which they appear on the waiting list.

Fall 2014 Graduation Fair October 29

Don't miss the Fall 2014 Graduation Fair for graduating seniors and graduate students from 9 am to 6 pm, Wednesday, October 29, in the Old Central Ballroom, Maucker Union. Take care of things like purchasing a cap and gown, graduation check-out, exit loan counseling and more. ISSO will also be present if you have questions regarding graduation, OPT, and other immigration related issues.

Zombie Masquerade - The Party to Die For October 31

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](#).

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!

Core Fulbright US Scholar Program Workshop

The Office of International Programs will be hosting Andy Riess, PhD (Assistant Director of Outreach for the Fulbright Scholar Program in Washington, DC) on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Faculty are invited to attend a workshop from 3-4 pm in the Elm Room of Maucker Union to learn about the Core Fulbright US Scholar Program, and a Q & A session will follow in the International Programs Conference Room in Maucker Union, Room 113. Faculty and students are also invited to meet with Dr. Riess individually during the drop in time, 11 am-noon and 1-3 pm in the International Programs Conference Room in Maucker Union. For more information, contact oiip@uni.edu.

UNI Outdoors Trips

The UNI Outdoors Club has several upcoming events in various locations including

backpacking in the Grand Canyon, located in Arizona, canoeing the Black Canyon in Arizona, and skiing/snowboarding in Colorado. For more information about these trips, visit the UNI Outdoors Facebook page [here](#) or contact Justin Stout at stoutjaa@uni.edu.

Roommate Wanted

Female roommate wanted for Hillside Apartments. Must be 23 years old, a transfer student, or graduate student. The rent is \$254 a month (includes tv cable, internet, and water) plus utilities. Move in at the end of December or January 1, 2015. Contact Sujeong Seo at seos@uni.edu

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.

Summer office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.