2-25-2022

International Engagement Weekly Newsletter, February 25, 2022

University of Northern Iowa. Office of International Engagement.
Announcements

The Office of international engagement is temporarily moving!

But not far, so don't worry. While our space in Maucker (MAU 113) is being renovated to fit our new needs and incentives, we are moving in with Cultural Intensive English Program on the third floor of Bartlett Hall (BAR 3025). Our move will take place on March 9th, but things have already started! Please be patient with us as we transition to this temporary space and get ready to explore a whole new part of campus! From March 9th till the end of the academic year we will be in BAR 3025 and will hopefully begin to occupy our new and improved space starting in the Fall of 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know. More information on our move and updated schedules/locations will be coming soon!

Upcoming OIE Events

Mental Health Coffee Hour

Join us for our coffee hour this coming week, Friday, March 4th to talk about mental health and learn about counseling resources on campus. Shantila Caston will be joining us to converse about mental health in the international community. It will take place during the coffee hour time (4-5pm) in Center for Multicultural Education (CME) Maucker 109P (down the hall from the Office of International Engagement)
Optical Practical Training Session

Are you going to be graduating soon? Do you have questions about Optional Practical Training? Come to our OPT session to learn more. We are offering sessions on March 2nd and March 4th over zoom. Click HERE for the zoom links.

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OPT provides F-1 students with an opportunity for hands-on work experience (work authorization) related to the academic field of study after their graduation. Join us on the given zoom link and learn more about this process.

SPEAKER
Edyta Cichon
Immigration & Advising Coordinator, DSO
UNI Office of International Engagement
Congratulations to our OIE Director Carolina Coronado-Park and our International Admissions Director Kristi Marchesani, Recipients of the 2021 Robert D. Ray Iowa Sister States Service Award

Iowa Sister States is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization based in Des Moines, Iowa. They strive to build sustainable international partnerships that connect Iowans to the world community. Iowa has a powerful history of citizen diplomacy, and their dedicated volunteers and staff are proud to continue this legacy. ISSO honored two of our amazing UNI staff for their service and work with the Yamanashi, Kosovo, and Yucatan Sister States.
Events Around Campus

Black Student Union presents Tunnel of Oppression

Join BSU in an event showcasing oppression in the black community through an immersive and educational experience. Monday, February 28th from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM in Lang Hall.
March 1st - Movie Night with UNIDos (CAB)
Watch the hit film "Encanto" with UNIDos and CAB! You know that we will be singing along (Raley and Ava might have the whole soundtrack memorized…) Bring a blanket, some snacks, and enjoy!

Midterm De-Stress Fest
Come hang out and relax with your friends during midterm week in the Maucker Union Center for Multicultural Education (CME) March 7th from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Grab some snacks, learn some mindfulness techniques, color, use light therapy, or show some gratitude to yourself and others! Event sponsored by Student Wellness, Counseling Center, Office of Student Involvement, Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, and Office of International Engagement.
The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is hosting several panels that will include our very own CIEP instructors!

**Academic Integrity in International Perspectives**

**Wednesday, March 30**
2:00 PM

**Location: Maucker Union, College Eye Room**

While all scholars understand the value of academic integrity, the actual practice varies worldwide. In this session, faculty and instructors will be introduced to practices from international students and scholars, whose understanding of how to cite, paraphrase, and credit work may differ from US academic traditions. Attendees will hear real experiences from faculty and staff and participate in group discussions about approaching misunderstandings and distinctions in standards of academic honesty. Finally, participants will learn about resources that will guide students to meet the academic standards at UNI.

Participants have the chance to enter a raffle for three $10 gift cards at UNI. Refreshments will be provided.

**The Challenges of Non-Native English-Speaking Faculty**

**Tuesday, March 8**
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

**Location: Rod Library 378 or via Zoom**

Come to an interactive panel session in support of non-native English-speaking faculty. Panelists will share experiences, speak about challenges, and respond to questions from the faculty in attendance. The truth is that we all have accents! and hearing an unfamiliar accent may signal an opportunity for greater cultural awareness.
Panelists:
- Juan Carlos Castillo (Spanish and Linguistics, Languages & Literatures)
- Sohyun Meacham (Literacy Education, Curriculum & Instruction)
- Jaime West (Academic Support Specialist, Culture & Intensive English Program)

Sign up using this form!

TheatreUNI presents *Blood at the Root*, by Dominique Morisseau

This drama is based on the true story of the Jena Six: six Black students who were initially charged with attempted murder for a school fight after a provoking incident on campus. The play is filled with poetry, music, and choreography which help lift up the script's important message. Directed by Visiting Artist-in-Residence Margaret Kemp.

Join us for an opening night reception following the show, or attend one of our Audience Response Discussions on either March 3, March 5, or March 9. In the Bertha Martin Theatre at Strayer-Wood on the UNI campus!

Please visit [UNItix here](#) for ticket information or call 319-273-4849. Current UNItix hours are Monday-Friday 10AM-4PM.
Immigration Tip from Edyta

Are you planning to travel abroad during the spring break? Please make sure that the signature on the back of your most recent I-20 is recent. The I-20 form needs to be signed for travel by PDSO or DSO. The signature is valid for 1 year when you are enrolled, but only 6 months when you are on OPT.

Did you change your address recently? The address needs to be updated on the SEVP portal within 10 days of the change. To verify that your address has been updated create a SEVP account at https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevp-portal-help

Are you an exchange student on a J visa? The grace period after you finish your exchange is only 30 days. Make sure to plan accordingly.

You can email edyta.cichon-barche@uni.edu with any questions, or bring your I-20 to OIE.
Staff Highlight: Molly Astarita

Molly is the International Admissions Counselor at the University of Northern Iowa. She grew up in Iowa and loves the variety of small and large towns, as well as the four seasons here so she can ski in the Winter and hang out at the many lakes and rivers in the area in the Summer. In her free time, Molly likes to go to restaurants on Cedar Falls Main Street with her friends, attend the OIE coffee hours, and visit Farmer’s Markets.

At UNI, Molly reviews freshman and transfer international student applications, communicates with students on their next steps, travels around to various Community Colleges in Iowa, is the Co-Advisor to International Student Promoters, and so much more! She enjoys talking to students about how amazing it is on UNI’s campus - from the park-like environment to the fabulous students, faculty, and staff, there is so much to discuss! Applicants and admitted students can contact Molly the following ways:

Email: molly.astarita@uni.edu
Message on the staff section of Unibuddy: https://intladm.uni.edu/unibuddy
Or set up a virtual appointment: https://calendly.com/molly-astarita
Punctuation Saves Lives

Not many people know that National Punctuation Day is celebrated in the US on September 24th. It was founded by Jeff Rubin in 2004 to celebrate the correct usage of all punctuation. Although it is celebrated in the fall, we must always be vigilant about making punctuation errors.

Look at the following sentences. Can you identify the punctuation errors? See the answer key below once you finish.

1. My new student job is exciting, I love working with the OIE team.

2. Ibrahim asked, “Could you tell me where the Office of International Engagement is located”?

3. Its located in Maucker Union. It’s employees have their offices in MAU 113.

For the answers, check out the CIEP Website.

Still not sure if you really know how to punctuate correctly? Take the following punctuation quiz to see if you need to work on punctuation some more.

To learn more about punctuation rules, use the following resources: Purdue OWL and NIU Punctuation Tutorial.
Last Week at OIE

Last week we partnered with the UNI College of Business for an AMAZING coffee hour. So many students from all over campus came. Many thanks to the College of Business staff, faculty, and students for hosting us!
Office of International Engagement (OIE)
University of Northern Iowa

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