4-1-2022

International Engagement Weekly Newsletter, April 1, 2022

University of Northern Iowa. Office of International Engagement.
Announcements

Today, April 1, begins the month of Ramadan!

Ramadan (رمضان) is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of the month of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. This year, the month of Ramadan is April 1 through May 1.

Fasting from dawn to sunset is fard (obligatory) for all adult Muslims who are not acutely or chronically ill, traveling, elderly, breastfeeding, diabetic, or menstruating. The predawn meal is referred to as suhur, and the nightly feast that breaks the fast is called iftar.

Did you know? America’s first mosque was built by Lebanese immigrants in North Dakota in the 1920s. The mosque was torn down in the 1970s and later replaced. What’s believed to be the oldest surviving mosque in the U.S, the Mother Mosque of America, was constructed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the 1930s. That is just over an hour away from UNI!
Important Reminder about Student Health Insurance

If you are an International student, the Student Health Clinic needs to know if you are planning to leave the United States during summer break. You must email Connie Potter (connie.potter@uni.edu) and provide the date that you are leaving and the date you are returning to the US. The Student Health Clinic will suspend your insurance coverage during that time. If you’re not enrolled for the summer session and the Student Health Clinic does not hear from you, your coverage will automatically continue. It is important for you to tell the Health Clinic before you leave the US as they cannot remove the coverage until you return to UNI in the fall.

Upcoming OIE Events

Pride Coffee Hour with GSS

Next week, April 4 - 8 is Pride Week at UNI! International Engagement is partnering with Gender and Sexuality Services to bring you a fun, bright, and colorful coffee hour! Join us Friday, April 8, from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM on the Plaza Level of Maucker Union for crafts, snacks, and of course, coffee!
Theatre UNI Presents: Cinderella

The story needs no introduction. Based on the popular folk tale told for centuries, this up to date new version pulls at the seams of the classic fairy tale, evoking humor for children and adults alike. Featuring music and lyrics by Rodgers & Hammerstein. With thrilling visual effects, this retelling of the classic tale is exciting, touching and funny! Public performances will be offered on April 7, 9, 13 and 14 at 7:30 PM in the Strayer-Wood Theatre.

They will also present two Ability-Inclusive performances of the musical. Both performances will feature non-restrictive seating options, sensory support, designated quiet and activity spaces, relaxed audience "rules," reductions in lighting and sound intensities, and other measures. To reserve your free tickets to one of the ability-inclusive shows (Sunday, April 10th and Saturday, April 16th at 2:00 PM) contact Gretta Berghammer at 319-273-4849, or at gretta.berghammer@uni.edu.
International Engagement will be taking a group to see Cinderella on April 14th! If you are interested in joining us, or want more information, please scan the QR code below.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH AT 7:30PM IN THE STRAYER WOOD THEATER**

Scan the QR code to sign up for tickets through the OIE office:
Campus Activities Board is excited to present:
Jesse McCartney

Thursday, April 28, see Jesse McCartney live in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Students are able to purchase VIP Meet and Greet tickets at: jessemccartney.com/iowavip

Each student can receive two free tickets for this event! This event is for students only.

Head over to the UNItix website, or visit UNItix in person - Monday-Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Their two offices are located in the McLeod Center (glass connector between the UNI-Dome and McLeod) and the Gallagher Bluedorn.

UNItix is also open at the Maucker Union Monday-Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Students purchasing in person will need to present their Student ID before receiving tickets.

Pride Week with GSS

Next week, April 4 - April 8, is Pride week! There will be events all week, leading up to a huge drag show on Saturday the 9th! Check out the poster below for a list of events!
If you or someone you know is interested in performing or volunteering at our drag show, message kalyani.kannan@uni.edu for more information!
Questions about OPT?
Every Wednesday at 12.00 pm starting April 6th thru July 7th students will have the opportunity to ask OPT-related questions over Zoom. Feel free to “drop by” ask your question and leave or stay if you have time. Use this link to join: https://uni.zoom.us

Planning for international travel in the Summer?
Make sure your most recent I-20 document is endorsed for travel by the DSO. No need to make an appointment for this, however, be prepared that you may need to leave the documents to be signed and come back to pick them up later. The signature is valid for a year if you are enrolled.

April 18, 2022 is the last day to file income tax.
All international students (nonresident) in the US are required to file a tax return (1040NR) if the student received US income from scholarships or wages during 2021. Students that did not work or receive income in the US, are still obligated to file a form 8843 with the IRS. There is help available to International students, contact us for the details.

Any other questions regarding immigration can be directed to our Immigration Advisor, Edyta. Email her at edyta.cichon-barche@uni.edu, or schedule a meeting using her Calendly.

Tips From our CIEP Instructors

Tips on Note-Taking
Did you know that you can forget up to 90% of what you have learned in less than a week and that we remember only about half of what we have learned for 30 days?
This clearly indicates that over time, we all slowly forget what we have learned. One effective way to improve retention is note-taking. However, we all
know that taking notes is difficult and taking notes in a second language, for instance in English, is even harder, yet taking effective notes is an essential skill for academic success.

For more information, check out the article on the CIEP website!

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**Last Week at OIE**

Last week, CIEP instructor Lauren Rein-Hamberg was a part of a panel on Academic Integrity in International Perspectives. Additionally, during our weekly coffee hour we had a special guest! *Cedar Falls mayor Rob Green stopped by to chat and have some coffee!* Huge thanks to Mayor Green for lending us his time!
Office of International Engagement (OIE)
University of Northern Iowa

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