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## ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 18, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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## ISSO Weekly Newsletter April 18

### **Lunch and Learn: Post Graduate and Summer Employment: OPT/CPT - April 23**

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 on Wednesday, April 23 at noon in the State College Room in the lower level of Maucker Union. We will be bringing in knowledgeable staff to provide a brief overview of who is eligible for CPT or OPT, how to apply for each, and what type 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.

### **Ethnic Food Celebration: Saudi Arabia Photos**

Photos from Ethnic Food Celebration: Saudi Arabia are now available for viewing in our photo gallery. To view photos from the event visit <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/programs-and-activities/photo-gallery> a. a

### **Spring Graduation and Farewell Reception May 1**

You are invited to a reception on Thursday, May 1 at 3 pm in Seerley's Great Reading Room. Come 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! TC and TK will also be on hand to take pictures with students from 3-3:30 pm. Graduates and departing exchange students, if you plan to attend, please contact the International Students and Scholars Office by Friday, April 25 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](mailto:international.services@uni.edu).

### **Dylan and Riley Martin Social Justice Scholarship Deadline TODAY**

If you are going to be a junior or senior at UNI next year, have attended UNI for at least one year, your GPA is 3.20 or higher and you are engaged in social justice work, consider applying for a Dylan & Riley Martin Social Justice Scholarship at <https://docs.google.com/a/uni.edu/document/d/1Ub-opl3M7CUfnC6KGFVyr6nemtil8OzXTDcfoJAzLCU/edit?pli=1>  
The application deadline is today, April 18. Email [rowena.tan@uni.edu](mailto:rowena.tan@uni.edu) with questions.

### **Student Leadership Award Ceremony**

Congratulations to the international students and international student groups who were recognized at the Student Leadership Award Ceremony on Tuesday night. Senior Ramya Varadaraju was awarded the university's highest honor for undergraduate students as one of three students selected for the Lux Service Award. The International Student Association's Spring Diversity Showcase was selected as a Program of Distinction and Freshman Duc Vu, was awarded the Emerging Leader Award for his role in the International Student Promoters. This is all great recognition for the hard work and dedication these students have shown in their service to the university.

### **Discover Diversity April 22 Upper Iowa University**

The Upper Iowa University Center for International Education will host the International Cultural Night at April 22 from 6-9 pm in the Upper Iowa University Ballrooms. The evening will feature world music and dance performances from all over

the world. Upper Iowa University is located in Fayette, Iowa. See attached poster.

### **Percussion Studio Concert April 24**

Under the direction of UNI percussion faculty Randy Hogancamp and Matthew Andreini, the UNI Percussion and West African Drum Ensembles will offer their final spring concert along with UNI's Taiko drum ensemble Kaji-Daiko and the UNI Marimba Ensemble. This event is free and open to the public. The performance will take place in Davis Hall in the GBPAC starting at 8 pm. Also, if you are interested in participating in any of these groups, contact Randy Hogancamp ([randy.hogancamp@uni.edu](mailto:randy.hogancamp@uni.edu)). West African Drum Ensemble will meet on Monday and Wednesday at 8 am and Kaji-Daiko at 11 am on Wednesday or Thursday next semester.

### **IMPORTANT: Student Health Insurance**

The Student Health Clinic needs to know if you are going to leave the US during summer break. You must email Connie Potter ([connie.potter@uni.edu](mailto:connie.potter@uni.edu)) or stop by the Student Health Clinic to give them the date that you are leaving and date you are returning to the US. The Student Health Clinic will suspend your insurance coverage during that time and you will not be charged. If you are not enrolled for summer sessions and the Student Health Clinic does not hear from you, they will automatically leave you on the insurance coverage assuming you are staying here and just not taking classes. It is important for you to tell the Health Clinic before you go home as they cannot remove the coverage after you have left.

### **UNI International Students & Community Schools Cultural Exchange Program**

ISSO is excited to announce a new cultural exchange program that involves UNI international students and local community school children. All UNI international academic students can volunteer to educate local school children about your country's culture and customs. Volunteer opportunities will be spread throughout the semester. You can choose to volunteer once a semester, once a month, once a week - whatever works for you! There are a variety of ways in which you can choose to do this, such as playing games, creating arts and crafts, cooking a national dish, presenting a slideshow about your country, or come up with your own original idea! If you like working with children ranging in ages between 5 to 13 years old, are excited about educating others about your culture, and you want to see a different perspective of American culture, then sign up to be a volunteer at <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/forms>. If you have any questions or want to know more information, please contact Bridget at [international.services@uni.edu](mailto:international.services@uni.edu) or (319)273-2862 or Maucker Union 113. We can't wait to get this program started!

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

If you have an F-1 visa and you are planning to graduate in May 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu) for questions and for a copy of the Academic Training Information and Application Guide.

### **Moving Sale**

I am an MA student at UNI and will be moving out of Cedar Falls to return to my home country of Malaysia around mid-May of this year. I am selling and giving away some household items. I have pictures of the items I am selling at the link <http://ashamovingout.blogspot.com/>. Contact [ganesana@uni.edu](mailto:ganesana@uni.edu)

### **Like and Follow Us!**

Like us on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/UNI.ISSO?ref=tn\\_tnmn](https://www.facebook.com/UNI.ISSO?ref=tn_tnmn) and follow us on Twitter [https://twitter.com/ISSO\\_UNI](https://twitter.com/ISSO_UNI) 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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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.

