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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 4, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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Amana Colonies Trip This SATURDAY

Our final trip of the semester will be on Saturday, April 5 to the Amana Colonies (<http://amanacolonies.com/>) in Amana, Iowa. The bus will be leaving from Wisconsin Street behind Maucker Union at 8:30 am and returning at approximately 4:30 pm. Total cost of the trip is \$10 per student. Lunch may be purchased on your own. Come to the ISSO Office (113 Maucker Union) to sign up. Please bring \$10 cash (exact change) when signing up. This is a great opportunity to explore the German culture, do some shopping, tour museums and hang out with friends. There are still a few seats left - **SIGN UP TODAY!**

ISSO is Hiring for an Office Assistant for the 2014/15 Academic Year

The International Students and Scholars Office is hiring for an office assistant for the 2014/15 academic year. If office work and assisting with events and programming attract you, please consider learning more about the position at <https://access.uni.edu/cgi-bin/finaid/employ/StudentViewsJob.cgi> and applying by **5 pm TODAY**, April 4, 2014.

Ethnic Food Celebration: Saudi Arabia - April 17

On Thursday, April 17, ISSO will be hosting its final ethnic food celebration of the year! Come try some Saudi Arabian cuisine in the Center for Multicultural Education (CME) in Maucker Union starting at 6 pm. Food is **FREE!**

Seniors: You could earn up to \$1,500

The Office of Academic Assessment has invited 1200 seniors to take the Proficiency Profile, an online test. One senior who completes the test will win up to \$1,500 to repay student loans. Look for donna.vinton@uni.edu in your UNI email to see if you were invited.

Saudi-American Women's Gathering April 8

Are you a Saudi woman wanting to meet some American women or an American woman wanting to meet some Saudi women? Here is your chance to meet and learn about each other, form friendships, have fun, and more! Please join us on April 8 from noon-1 in the State College Room for the first Saudi-American Women's Gathering. The event will consist of an open discussion between all in attendance. If you have anything you want to learn or are interested in knowing about each other please feel free to ask. Staff will also be on hand to facilitate conversation. Both students and faculty are welcome. This is a women's event **ONLY**.

Spring Diversity Showcase 2014 April 9

The International Student Association will be hosting a spring diversity showcase on April 9 at 6:30 pm in the Maucker Union Coffee Lounge. The event will include a variety of international traditional foods, information booths, cultural clothing and

performances! Everyone is welcome to come. Come and learn the cultures of various countries. For more information feel free to contact us by e-mail at isa@uni.edu.

April Issue of Student Health 101 is Posted

The April issue of SH101 is now posted at <https://www.uni.edu/wellrec/index>. There are some great articles like Get the Scoop Before Your Interview: 3 Ways to Stand Out to Potential Employers, and Stress Effects: Understanding Your Body's Reaction to Tension.

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 or [319\)273-2862](tel:3192732862) or Maucker Union 113. We can't wait to get this program started!

Looking for help, but not sure who to ask?

- If you have questions regarding personal concerns, ISSO programming, or have an interest in getting more involved, contact International Student Advisor, Kristen Buldhaupt (buldhaupt@uni.edu or [319-273-2852](tel:319-273-2852)).
- If you have questions regarding visas, travel, immigration documentation, OPT/CPT and other immigration related issues, contact Visa and Immigration Coordinator, Ross Schupbach (ross.schupbach@uni.edu or [319-273-6421](tel:319-273-6421)).
- If you are an exchange student with questions regarding exchange details or financial issues, contact Student Support Specialist, Stephanie Miller (stephanie.miller@uni.edu or [319-273-7078](tel:319-273-7078)).
- If you are a CIEP student with questions regarding the CIEP program, CIEP programming, and TOEFL, contact Activities Coordinator, Sally Roos (sally.roos@uni.edu or [319-273-2182](tel:319-273-2182)).
- If you have decided you would like to further your education at UNI after completing your first degree, wish to switch from exchange studies to degree seeking or have a friend who you'd like to refer to UNI, contact Record Analysts, Bryant Dowd - Undergraduate (bryant.dowd@uni.edu or [319-273-2281](tel:319-273-2281)) or Linda Jernigan - Graduate (linda.jernigan@uni.edu or [319-273-5925](tel:319-273-5925)).
- And as always, for all emergencies, contact Campus Police at [319-273-4000](tel:319-273-4000) or

Cedar Falls Police at 911.

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 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 for questions and for a copy of the Academic Training Information and Application Guide.

Income Tax Season

Students may be hearing about W-2 forms and filing "income tax" returns for 2013. An income tax return is a report that you must make to the Internal Revenue Service (<http://www.irs.gov>) of the U.S. Government for any calendar year when you earn income in the United States. Fortunately, you do not need to do these alone. On Monday, March 10, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will begin helping international students prepare 2013 income tax returns. Assistance will be available at the times indicated on the attached flyer. Income taxes can be confusing and complicated, so you are encouraged to seek free assistance from the V.I.T.A. volunteers. Be sure to bring your W-2 form from UNI and any other tax forms you have received or do receive before March 10. You will also need your I-20 or DS-2019 form, your passport and I-94 information. If you did not have a job in 2013, you should still file IRS form 8843, available here: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf> You will only need to complete Part I and Part III before signing at the bottom of the form and sending it to the IRS at the address indicated in the instructions. April 15, 2014 is the deadline for filing all 2013 tax returns!

Like and Follow Us!

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/UNI.ISSO?ref=tn_tnmn and follow us on Twitter 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

At any time if you would like to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please reply "unsubscribe"

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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.