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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, February 21, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter February 21

Ethnic Food Celebration: International Student Association Feb. 25

On Tuesday, February 25, ISSO will be hosting an ISA: World Cuisine Ethnic Food Celebration in the Center for Multicultural Education (CME) in Maucker Union starting at 6 pm. Stop by to taste some FREE traditional foods from the countries of Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria and Mexico.

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 or Maucker Union 113. We can't wait to get this program started!

International Student Design Competition

The International Students and Scholars Office has a newly remodeled office space and is in need of some artistic international design! This semester, ISSO will be sponsoring an international student design competition where UNI international students will have the opportunity to design one of six bookcase shelves to represent individual countries or regions. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship (teams will split the scholarship) plus up to \$150 to cover the costs of materials. If you are interested - pick up a design form from ISSO or print the attached form and fill it out. Applications will be accepted from January 27-March 14 in the ISSO office. Winners will be announced April 4.

Ask About English! A Workshop for International Students

Join Academic Learning Center Writing Coach Cassandra Tant for this workshop. You can register through March 30; come to all four sessions or as many as you like. Bring your paper drafts or questions. Possible workshop topics include structuring academic essays, using and citing sources responsibly to avoid plagiarism, editing and proofreading strategies, using resources for self-correction, making sense of U.S. language and culture. Go to <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/index.html> to register. You'll be prompted for your CAT ID to access the list of workshops for Spring 2014 and to register online. Workshops meet in Room 35, ITTC on March 3, March 17, and March 31 from 3-4 pm.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Scholarship

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is a society of key women educators. The Iowa chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be awarding \$1,000 grants to several international women students enrolled in Iowa colleges or universities. Criteria are excellent scholarship and positive references, financial assistance need and plan to return to their homeland to work in some field of education. Applicants need to

send the completed application (see attached) and supporting documents by March 25, 2014 to the address listed.

UNI Spring Career Fair: Feb. 27

UNI is hosting a Spring Career Fair on Thursday, February 27 from 11 am-3 pm in the McLeod Center. The fair will host a variety of local business employers who are looking for qualified employees. Both full time employment and internships are available. Even if you are not currently looking for employment, this can be a great way to network and get a glimpse at what your future employers are looking for. Resume critiques are also available. Find more information regarding the fair and a list of employers at: <http://www.uni.edu/careerservices/events/careerfairsp.html>.

Conversation Corner

TESOL Club will continue Conversation Corner this semester. This is an opportunity to practice English outside of class and we encourage students to attend. Times are Mondays from 3-4 pm and Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 meeting at the couches outside the CME in Maucker Union. Students can bring lunch on Thursdays, and they can come and go as they please. Students do not have to stay for the full hour unless required by class. Informal tutoring is also available, so feel free to ask.

Interpreters/Translators Needed

The Office of International Programs is in need of interpreters/translators fluent in various languages. In addition, Cedar Valley community members, government and businesses contact us in search of interpreters/translators. UNI Campus Police also have access to this database, and they may contact you as well if they are in need of your services. Please, go to <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/interpreter/translator-interest-form> to fill out the form.

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!

Small Refrigerator for Sale - Price Reduced

Igloo 4.6 cubic ft refrigerator and freezer for sale. Bought in May for \$138, barely used, selling for \$75. Cash, first come, first serve, you remove. You may see it at the ISSO office.

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.

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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.