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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, February 7, 2014

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter February 7

Lunch and Learn: Read/Write GOLD: Achieving Student Success Feb. 19

Are you looking for ways to improve your study skills? Come to our February Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, February 19 at noon in the State College Room in Maucker Union. We will be bringing in staff who can answer your questions regarding study skills and how to utilize the Read/Write GOLD Program. Also, there will be free lunch for all who attend and one lucky attendee will leave with a \$10 gift card to University Book and Supply.

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.

Engaging International Students in the Classroom Panel Feb. 12

Invite your faculty to attend! Please consider inviting your current or former faculty to attend an upcoming panel "Engaging International Students in the Classroom". It will take place next Wednesday, February 12 at noon in the Rod Library Room 378. Your peers will talk about their experiences in the classroom and how faculty can assist international students as they acclimate to UNI's academic culture and interact with U.S. students. International students that are not part of the panel are also invited to attend. Cookies will be provided.

Culture Talk: Intellectual Property Feb. 10

Culture Talk: Intellectual Property will 3:30-4:30 on Monday, February 10 in the Elm Room in Maucker Union.

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!

Reaching for Higher Ground Female Food Entrepreneurs Feb. 13

Have you ever wondered what it took to start your own business? A panel of local Cedar Valley female food entrepreneurs will be available to tell you how they got their start, how they have maintained a successful business, and answer any questions you may have for them. Free samples will be provided to all who attend on Thursday, February 13 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the University Room of Maucker Union. See the attached flyer for more information.

UNI WRS Personal Training

Kick off the new year with a UNI WRS Personal Trainer! Whether you are starting from scratch or revamping your training, our Personal Training staff can help you reach your goals! Visit our website <https://www.uni.edu/wellrec/personaltraining> and fill out the Pre-Training information form under the "How Do I Get Started" tab and also view the attached flyer. For any additional questions, please call [319-273-7167](tel:319-273-7167).

Health Beat Locker Services

Is the frigid cold making it hard to haul around your workout attire? Try renting one of the many convenient lockers within Health Beat! Call [319-273-7167](tel:319-273-7167) to talk to the Health Beat desk supervisor for more details.

February's Student Health 101 is now available

So why should you read Student Health 101, the UNI online health and wellness magazine at <https://www.uni.edu/wellrec/index>? First, you can enter the February drawing for \$1,000 for checking out the February issue. And second, there are some great articles such as 10 Tips for Having a Blast on a Budget and 6 Ways to Ace Your Next Paper.

Eyes of a Panther Video Contest

Do your friends or student group want to earn some extra money? The UNI Admissions team is looking for student produced videos welcoming future Panthers to life as a UNI student. The focus is on what new students need to know before coming to UNI; classes, residence halls, professors, food, athletics, the WRC, or any other aspect of UNI life. The videos will be judged on how welcoming, entertaining, and on how helpful it is to new students. Admissions will need to know if you plan on participating by February 14. For more information contact Sean.Hartnett@uni.edu or view the attached flyer.

Important Information about NEW/RENEWED Iowa Driver's Licenses

UNI international students are sometimes denied new/renewed Iowa driver's licenses by the Iowa Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and told their paperwork is not in order and they should check with Ross Schupbach at the ISSO office. Ross has consulted with the Waterloo DOT office and learned there could be delays in the verification system for students who have recently entered the U.S., or for students whose records have not been "registered" in SEVIS for the upcoming semester. This SEVIS registration is usually done between the second and fourth week of classes. If you have been denied a driver's license recently, please send an e-mail message to Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu and include your name, UNI ID number, and indicate whether or not you have recently entered the U.S. Ross will then "register" your SEVIS record earlier than normal (if you have registered for Spring 2014 classes) so you can return to the DOT office and make another request for a license.

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.

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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Twitter: https://twitter.com/ISSO_UNI

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.