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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, March 30, 2012

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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HOLI CELEBRATION: Will start at 3:00 p.m. today, not 1:00 p.m. as previously announced. Around the world, Hindus celebrated Holi. Called the Festival of Colors. Holi is a popular springtime festival observed on the last full moon of the lunar month. Participants traditionally throw bright, vibrant powders at friends, celebrating the arrival of Spring, commemorating pranks, and allowing everyone a momentary freedom -- a chance to drop their inhibitions and simply play and dance.

So come celebrate Holi with us at UNI on 30 March 2011 (Friday).

Time 3-5pm

Location- Lawn next to West Gym.

Cost- Free to Everyone

****Remember to wear clothing that can be colored (may be permanently stained by colored powders used for this event)****

AMBASSADOR RAPP PRESENTATION

Ambassador-at-Large Stephen Rapp will speak on "Promoting Accountability for War Crimes" at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, at Central Middle School, 1350 Katoski Drive, Waterloo. International Programs is a co-sponsor of this event. For additional information, contact JoAnna at [319-230-3918](tel:319-230-3918) and look at the attached flier.

MINNEAPOLIS TRIP

April 14-15, 2012

We are happy to announce that the Hotel Minneapolis has extended our registration deadline until Friday, April 6, so there is still time to sign up for this great trip! The more students who can participate, the better! Get your group of friends together one more time for an end-of-the-semester blast. Your U.S. roommates and friends are welcome to join us on this trip, as well as your conversation partners or even host families.

We have added an itinerary so that participants will have a better idea about what is planned. Please refer to it below.

Students need not worry about losing study time: There will be plenty of time to study while driving to and from Minneapolis, about 3 1/2 hours each way. In addition, you can study in the comfort of your modern hotel room on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. You can even study while taking a break from shopping at the Mall of America!

The cost of the trip is \$80 per person and includes transportation and accommodation. Participants are responsible for food expenses, sightseeing, recreational and other expenses. Please sign up at the International Services front desk.

We plan to ride in a private motorcoach (bus) that has been chartered for our use. The bus will have comfortable upholstered seats, plenty of storage space, and an onboard lavatory. We will make a breakfast stop on our way to Minneapolis on Saturday morning at a location that will offer several options for you to purchase food and beverages. You are also permitted to bring your own food and drink onto the bus. We will stop during the return trip to permit people to purchase dinner. ****PLEASE NOTE that if we have less than 30 participants, we will need to travel in vans instead of a bus to save fuel.****

We will be staying at the Hotel Minneapolis located in downtown Minneapolis at 214 Fourth Street South. (www.thehotelminneapolis.com) We will stay in modern hotel rooms that contain two queen size beds, so no more than four people will stay in each room. If you are interested in sharing a room with only one other person (2 people per room), the trip fee will be \$115 per person, and a single room may be possible for a trip fee of \$167.

****PLEASE NOTE that the Hotel Minneapolis is NOT a hostel like we use in Chicago. It is a full-service, high quality traditional hotel where no more than 4 people will share a room with a large private bath,**

high-definition flat-screen TV, temperature control, and more. Please look at their web site, linked above.

Trip Itinerary

Saturday, 7:00 a.m. depart from 23rd Street in front of University Book & Supply

Stop for breakfast/coffee/rest room break in Albert Lea or Owatonna, Minnesota

11:30 a.m. (approximate) arrive at Midtown Global Market (<http://www.midtowntglobalmarket.org/>) for shopping and lunch.

1:00 p.m. depart for Minneapolis Institute of Arts (free admission)

3:30 p.m. depart for downtown Minneapolis, option to visit Mill City Museum

(<http://www.millcitymuseum.org/>; admission fee) or have free time.

5:00 p.m. check-in to hotel, free time for exploring, shopping, dinner, clubbing, etc.; stay overnight

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. depart hotel, travel to Mall of America & IKEA.

5:00 p.m. finish shopping, depart for home.

stop for fast dinner/stretch break in Albert Lea at giant truck stop.

The Minnesota Twins professional baseball team will play at home game at 12:10 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. We will make arrangements to get you to Target Field

(<http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com/min/ballpark/index.jsp>) if you choose to buy yourself a ticket for this game against the Texas Rangers.

The Minnesota Timberwolves professional basketball team (NBA) have a home game against the Oklahoma City Thunder scheduled for 8:00 p.m. at the Target Center. You could buy your own ticket for this event too. The Target Center is located within easy walking distance of our hotel! (http://www.nba.com/timberwolves/index_main.html)

We hope to enjoy the April 14-15 weekend with you!

ISA MEETING ON SUNDAY

What: ISA Meeting

Where: College Eye Room - Maucker Union

When: 4 pm

ISA is having a meeting this Sunday at 4pm. Please be there since we will be discussing about the last ISA event and also talking about the election of the executive board for next year.