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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, November 28, 2011

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS DIPLOMAT SERIES BEGINS ON TUESDAY

The Office of International Programs is starting its Diplomat Series this Fall 2011. For these series we will invite prominent figures (diplomats, ambassadors, consuls, etc) to promote discussion within the communities of UNI and the Cedar Valley about important international issues.

The series is being inaugurated by U.S. Ambassador Ronald K McMullen. McMullen is currently Diplomat-in-Residence at the University of Texas at Austin. He recently served as U.S. Ambassador to the State of Eritrea. McMullen has more than 29 years of diplomatic experience and has lived, worked or traveled in 90 countries. A native of Northwood, Iowa, he earned his doctorate in political science from the University of Iowa. McMullen will give a lecture entitled "America's Foreign Policy Challenges - Where Do You Draw the Line?" on Tuesday November 29 from 5:30 pm to 6: 30 pm at Curris Business Building room 109. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by Q+A. We hope you can join us for this event!

WINTER BREAK TRAVEL REMINDER

Please be sure to check your I-20 or DS-2019 form to make sure you have a valid travel endorsement if you will travel outside of the U.S during the winter break. For F-1 students, the third page of your I-20 form should have a signature that will be less than one year old upon your return to the U.S., for J-1 students the DS-2019 form should have a similar travel endorsement on the first page in the travel endorsement section. Please be sure to check your visa also; if it will expire before your return to Cedar Falls, you will need to apply for a new visa while in your home country.

NOW is the time to check your I-20 or DS-2019 form, not at the end of finals week or the same day your flight departs. Please plan ahead and drop your documents off at International Services soon if you need a travel endorsement.

END OF SEMESTER REMINDERS

The International Services Office would like to remind you of a few things as we approach the end of the Fall 2011 semester: First, for those of you who live in UNI residence halls or apartments and will not be returning for the Spring 2012 semester, please make sure that you follow the instructions for checking out of your rooms or apartments. Your hall office or the UNI apartments office can answer any questions that you might have. For hall residents, there may be penalties for damaged rooms, dirty rooms, or penalties for not following the proper checkout procedures. If you need to stay longer than the designated check-out date (to catch a later flight home, for example) then you must make arrangements IN ADVANCE at your hall office and be prepared to pay a modest fee for each extra night.

Our second reminder is about transportation to the airport of your choice. All international students are responsible for their own transportation to departure airports. Be sure to make arrangements with friends, host families, or taxi services to get to the airport on

time to prepare for your flight. Please see our transportation page at <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/localtransportation.shtml> for taxi company contact information. If you need help traveling to the Cedar Rapids/Eastern Iowa Airport, the Airport Shuttle Service may be able to help you if you make reservations in advance:
www.crshuttle.com

Next, a reminder about immigration documents and maintaining your status: For those of you who may not travel over the break, now is still a good time to look at your I-20 or DS-2019 form to make sure that it will be valid for next semester. Sometimes students reach the ending dates on these forms without realizing that they needed to request an extension. Please take a moment to look in section 5 of your I-20 form (F-1 Students) or section 3 of your DS-2019 form (J-1 Students) to see if the ending date is still accurate. If you need an extension of the ending date on either type of document, please contact your academic advisor and ask her or him to send Ross an e-mail message (ross.schupbach@uni.edu) indicating that you are making good progress toward degree completion, but that you will need additional time to complete all course requirements. Your advisor should include an anticipated completion date. (May 2012 or December 2012, for example)