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ISSO Newsletter, November 20, 2015

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Newsletter November 20

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving

There will be no classes November 23-27 due to the Thanksgiving Break. The International Students and Scholars Office will be open on Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24 for limited hours. ISSO will be closed on the 25th, 26th and 27th. If you require emergency assistance during this time, please call UNI Public Safety at 319-273-2712. You should also call Public Safety after hours and during weekends for emergency assistance. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, November 30.

Thanksgiving Break On Campus Dining Hours

The Dining Centers will be closed during Thanksgiving Break. The attached flyer lists the hours retail locations will be open during the break. See the [Department of Residence Dining Hours calendar](#) for more detailed information.

Full-Time Enrollment Requirement

This is a friendly reminder that all F-1 and J-1 students must be registered as full-time students. (12+ hours of undergraduate credit or 9+ hours of graduate credit). Being enrolled less than full-time without proper approval will result in the loss of your good immigration status and may prevent you from earning your UNI degree. Even worse, you could be arrested and deported from the USA.! If you have questions, do not ask your friends, but ask the professional staff in the International Students and Scholars Office. You should review the reminders at this web page at least once per semester: <http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/immigration-regulations>. Exceptions to the full-time rule are: certain academic difficulties (improper course level placement, initial difficulty with American teaching methods), medical/health reasons, final semester of study, and graduate students working full-time on research or dissertation. ALL of these exceptions MUST be approved by the Immigration & Advising Coordinator.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) for Eligible F-1 Students

If you have an F-1 visa and you are planning to graduate in December 2015, 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 [here](#). You may also go ahead and schedule an application appointment with the Immigration and Advising Coordinator if you are ready to submit your application or if you have questions. Contact the Immigration and Advising Coordinator Ross Schupbach at Ross.Schupbach@uni.edu for questions.

Survey to Assess the UNI Career Services Website

Yvonne Ayesiga, a graduate student in the College of Education, as part of her practicum is conducting a survey to assess the usefulness of the UNI Career Services website. Please help her by filling out the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UNICareerServicesWebsiteL5W8WHR>.

Activities and Events

Mike and Leona Adams' Thanksgiving Dinner Open to the Public November 23

Veridian Credit Union and the Retirees of the Local 838 John Deere Union are hosting the Mike and Leona Adams' Thanksgiving Dinner. Anyone in need of a hot meal or companionship is welcome to attend. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 4:30-7:00 pm. The location is the Local 838 Union Hall, 2615 Washington, Street, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Health and Wellness

UNI Sees Surge in Mumps Cases

UNI confirmed its first cases of mumps in an email sent to students on November 12. Since then, there have been nine confirmed cases in total. The mumps is a highly contagious viral infection that is spread through saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose or throat. This means that activities such as sneezing, coughing, sharing food or drink items with others or touching surfaces that have been touched by other non-washed hands are all ways to potentially become infected. For additional information please refer to the mumps webpage at <https://www.uni.edu/health/mumps>. If you suspect that you have been affected or are experiencing these symptoms, contact the Student Health Clinic at 319-273-2009. .

MONEY MATTERS

Live Like a Student Financial Literacy Classes

"Live Like a Student" is a free, non-credit course (6 meeting times), open to all UNI students. Attendees will explore the concepts of budgeting, credit, student loans, and identity protection. Classes will be offered at various times throughout February. For a list of times and to register, see [Live Like A Student](#).

Transit Financial Literacy

Free online financial literacy modules are available at [Transit](#). Modules include savings, investing, credit and credit cards, financing college, insurance, taxes, renting vs. owning, and much more.

The Sue Follon Scholarship for Women in Leadership

This scholarship, for undergraduate students, is valued at \$5000 and was established in the name of Dr. Follon, a former Vice President of Student Affairs at UNI. To apply, students must use the online scholarship application at <http://www.uni.edu/finaid/>. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and have completed at least 30 credit hours at UNI. They must also be full-time undergraduate students for both Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. In order for students to be considered they must be sure to answer the following questions on the scholarship application: Will you be a full-time UNI undergraduate student for both semesters in the upcoming year? and Have you been involved in making exceptional contributions while at UNI?

If yes, explain these contributions and how they model leadership for women. Deadline for the application is January 15, 2016.