

3-7-2019

## ISSO Weekly Newsletter, March 7, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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### Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office., "ISSO Weekly Newsletter, March 7, 2019" (2019). *ISSO Weekly Newsletter*. 135.  
<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/issonews/135>

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# ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday March 7, 2019

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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### **International Coffee Hour Returns!**

Free coffee, tea and refreshments every Thursday from 3-4 during our International Coffee Hour. Our goal is to bring people together, share event information, and spread awareness of the international community on campus.

### **World Hijab Day Debrief Panel March 7**

Join the Center for Multicultural Education and the Muslim Student Association in celebrating Women's History Month! Engage in discussion with a panel of women from the Muslim Student Association about World Hijab Day, and bring a scarf to learn how to wear a hijab! Tonight from 7:30-8:30 pm at the CME in Maucker Union.

### **CAB's Movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet" March 7**

CAB (Campus Activities Board) is showing "Ralph Breaks the Internet" at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the Maucker Union Ballroom on March 7. Free admission; there will be popcorn, pop and other treats provided. Take a break from studying and come enjoy this movie.

### **International Women's Day Concert March 8**

School of Music faculty and students, including the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, will present a concert celebrating International Women's Day. This event is **free** and open to the public. The concert will be held at 7:30 pm on March 8 in the Great Hall of the GBPAC.

### **CAB Trip to Mall of America March 9**

Come and enjoy a fun-filled day at the [Mall of America](#). There is a \$5 reservation fee for spots on the bus. You must have the exact amount as they will not make change. The times you can come in and pay your reservation in the CAB office, behind the Office of Student Life in Maucker Union are: Monday from 1-2 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm, Thursday from 1-2 pm and 3:15-4:30 pm, and Friday from 12-1 pm. When you RSVP make sure to put your email in so you receive an itinerary for the trip

### **Spring 2019 Graduation Fair March 13**

The Graduation Fair is an event that provides graduating students the opportunity to meet with a variety of offices on campus in one centralized location to make the graduation process more convenient. Students that will be graduating at the end of the term are encouraged to attend in order to be prepared for graduation and commencement. The [Graduation Fair](#) will be held March 13 from 9 am-5 pm in the Maucker Union Ballroom.

### Focus on Saudi Arabia March 13

Learn about the country of Saudi Arabia and experience traditional food and cultural aspects. Wednesday, March 13 from 4:30-5:30 pm in the Curris Business Building Student Lounge.

### Share Your Culture with Children and Families March 30

Be a special guest at an International Fair on Saturday, March 30, 2:15 pm-5pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. If you would like to represent your country at this event, please contact Abigail Mazzarella ([abigailmazzarella@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmazzarella@gmail.com) OR [mazzaaab@uni.edu](mailto:mazzaaab@uni.edu)). More information is available [here](#).

### Free Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Accounting students at UNI are providing [free income tax assistance](#) again this year through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Assistance in the preparation of tax returns will be available on Monday and Wednesday nights beginning March 4 for international students through April 10 (excluding March 18 and 20 of spring break week). Returns are being prepared from 6-8 pm with registration taking place in Room 223 of Curris Business Building. No appointment is necessary.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Scholarship

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. The applications and enclosures must be completed and postmarked by April 1, 2019. Recipients will be notified by May 15, 2019. See attachment for application and criteria.

### LewerMark Make Your Mark Scholarship Program

LewerMark is celebrating their 14<sup>th</sup> year of the **Make Your Mark** scholarship program to assist students with the cost of their education. This scholarship began to help international students after seeing the financial hardships that they face. The scholarship is open to all active F, J, M or Q visa-holders and DACA recipients currently enrolled in a U.S. institute of education. Submit an essay in response to the question "How will an international education help me make a difference in the world?". Visit [Make Your Mark](#) to learn more. The deadline is April 15, 2019.

### Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund Interest Free Loans

The Rowe Fund is an educational loan program of the Organization of American States (OAS) that helps citizens from Latin America and Caribbean [OAS Member States](#) finance their studies or research in accredited universities across the United States by awarding **interest-free loans** of up to \$15,000 dollars. See the [Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund](#) for more information.

## IMMIGRATION

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### 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 on our web site (<https://isso.uni.edu/immigration>) at least once per semester. 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 in advance!

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

If you hold F-1 status and you are planning to graduate in May 2019, now is the perfect 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 the attached OPT Procedures and please see our web site for more information about OPT: <https://isso.uni.edu/optional-practical-training-opt>

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## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

### **Health Hub Newsletter**

Check out the current issue of [Health Hub](#) for events and services offered by the Health Clinic, Student Wellness Services and the Counseling Center.

### **Muslim Women's Fitness Night**

Female Muslim students at UNI are invited to enjoy weekly fitness nights at the Health Beat exercise center in Maucker Union every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm. Bring a student ID. Only UNI female students allowed from 6:30-8:00 pm every Thursday. Staff is all female as well.

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## **Like and Follow Us!**

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