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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, March 14, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday March 14, 2019

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour Will Return After Spring Break!

There will not be an international coffee hour next week on Thursday, March 21 due to Spring Break.

ISSO Accepting Applications for the 2019-2020 Global Panther Success (GPS) Team

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 Global Panther Success (GPS) Team. Students who are selected to serve in the GPS Team will work closely with the ISSO Director to welcome international students to UNI, help them navigate academic and student life at UNI, and, ultimately, enable them to make a smooth transition to American culture. This position provides GPS students opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills in a cross-cultural setting. GPS students receive an academic scholarship of \$625 per semester or \$1,250.00 per year. Interested students should visit International [Global Success Team](#) to find more information and apply. All application materials should be submitted **no later than March 31, 2019**.

China and Thailand Travel Showcase March 14

[China and Thailand Travel Showcase](#) is a night of hip hop music, art, dance and performance is planned March 14 from 7-9 pm in 115 Seerley on the University of Northern Iowa campus. The UNI community and general public are welcome to attend. The evening is an outgrowth of community collaborations that led to students from the University of Northern Iowa and the Waterloo Community School District performing at cultural festivals in Thailand in January and in China last fall. The travel showcase will feature videos of the trips as well as live performances by the students along with guest performers from Des Moines and the Waterloo area.

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 OR 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

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 14th 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

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>

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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