

3-28-2019

ISSO Weekly Newsletter, March 28, 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 28, 2019" (2019). *ISSO Weekly Newsletter*. 137.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday March 28, 2019

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour Every Thursday!

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.

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 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**.

Diversity Colloquium: Family Separation: The Impact of Immigration Policy on Children and Families

Maria Alcivar, a doctoral student in Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University will present on the impact of family separation policies on Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm in the Scholar Space of Rod Library, Room 301. A total of 5 million children in the U.S. have at least one parent who is undocumented/unauthorized, living in the U.S. without proper documentation. These families live in constant fear of detention and deportation due to archaic immigration policies that fail to reflect demographic changes over time. What do we know about the interaction between immigration policy and child welfare? What is the short- and long-term impact of archaic immigration laws on children and families? What is the overall public health impact of anti-immigrant policies?

Bingo Night March 28

The Campus Activities Board is presenting Bingo Night at 7 pm TONIGHT in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Snacks, games and prizes.

Popovich Comedy Theater March 31

Gregory Popovich's Comedy Pet Theater is a blend of unique comedy, world-championship juggling and the extraordinary talents of performing pets. Don't miss this show at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 31, in GBPAC. For information and tickets, visit the [GBPAC](#) website. Students can get tickets for \$5.

Share Your Culture with Children and Families March 30

Bring your family to an International Fair on Saturday, March 30, 2:15 pm-5pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. There will be fun and food for both children and adults. More information is available [here](#).

Focus on Chile April 3

Come learn about the country of Chile and experience traditional food and cultural aspects. The Focus on Chile will be from 4:30-5:30 pm, Wednesday, April 3 in the Burriss Business Building Student Lounge. Free food and fun activities. Open to all students.

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.

Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Award

This spring Rod Library will be making the second annual Undergraduate Research Award funded through the generosity of Mary Ann Bolton (1970, Library Science). All UNI undergraduates who meet the criteria for the award are eligible to apply. There will be up to three awards: \$1000 to the first place winner, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place. Recipients will be invited to a reception at the end of April. More information about the awards including submission guidelines is available at [here](#). The application deadline is April 6, 2019. Email boltonaward@uni.edu for questions.

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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The University of Northern Iowa provides transformative learning experiences that inspire students to embrace challenge, engage in critical inquiry and creative thought, and contribute to society.