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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 11, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, April 11, 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.

12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium Scholarship Award Winners

The Symposium Scholarship Awards are monetary awards, decided upon by the Symposium judges, who are graduate faculty. Congratulations to our international student award winners, Jose Salinas, Claudia Jimenez De La Hoz, Mahjabeen Hussain and Shehreen Iqtadar.

UNI Student Leadership Awards

The UNI Student Leadership Awards were announced on April 9. Congratulations to our international student award winners. The Outstanding Student Leader award international student recipients are Akanksha Sahni and Siraj Acharya. The Student Organization of the Year award went to the Muslim Students Association. The Diversity Matters Award went to international student Nadir Khan. The Servant Leader award went to international student Muhammed Butt. The Student Organization program of Distinction award went to the "A Rabbi, A Pastor, and an Imam: Stronger Together" presented by the Muslim Students Association and International Preview Day presented by the International Student Promoters.

It's Real College Students and Mental Health Documentary and Discussion April 11

It's Real: College Students and Mental Health Documentary and Discussion will be held on April 11 from 3-4 pm in the Maucker Union Ballroom. This is a short documentary, followed by a student panel led discussion on the mental health issues facing our students.

Maucker Movies: If Beale Street Could Talk April 11

The CME and CAB will be hosting: Moving The Race Conversation Forward - If Beale Street Could Talk. Discussion mediated by Jamie Chidozie, Director, Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice. Thursday, April 11 in the Maucker Union Ballroom. Panel at 7:30 pm and movie at 8:30 pm. Free wings and popcorn.

Rod Con April 13

RodCon is a mini comic book convention where people with common interests come together to share their love of all things pop culture. The event is free and open to the public and highlights guest speakers, artists, vendors, trivia competitions, youth and adult costume contests, prizes, giveaways, video gaming, live-action role-playing, youth crafts, a photo booth, kids craft area and more. April 13 from 10 am-4 pm in Rod Library.

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Iowa Visit April 20

The Center of Multicultural Education will host a cultural site visit to the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Iowa in Madrid, Iowa, Saturday, April 20. Participants will meet at the CME at 7:30 a.m. and return around 2 p.m. Transportation and lunch will be provided. [Register](#) by Wednesday, April 17.

Sanctuary Cities in America

UNI RISE and UNIdos, a LatinX student organization, will discuss how banning sanctuary cities in America affects the greater community at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, in the CME.

Residence Hall End of Semester Information

The **Residence Halls will close at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2019, and all residents are expected to be checked out before this time.** If you need to stay past this time you need to pick up a Request to Stay Late Form from the hall office, fill it out and turn it into the hall office by April 29, 2019 at 5 p.m. This request will reviewed by the Residence Life Coordinator (RLC) for approval. If you are approved to stay past 7 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2019, there is a \$20 fee for each day, which will be assessed to your University U-Bill. If you need to stay an extended period after Saturday, May 11, 2019, due to travel arrangements, working in the summer, or taking classes, summer housing is available. This requires you to complete a summer housing contract. To be eligible, you do not need to be enrolled in summer classes, however you do need to be enrolled for fall classes. More information about summer housing is available: <https://dor.uni.edu/conferences-housing/housing>. Please know there is a minimum charge of one week's stay. **Additionally, as a reminder, the last day mail will be distributed to the residence halls is Saturday, May 11. We strongly recommend students not order any items after May 3 as they may be returned if you have already checked out of your residence hall.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Important Reminder: Student Health Insurance

The Student Health Clinic needs to know if you are planning to leave the US during summer break. You must email Connie Potter (connie.potter@uni.edu) or stop by the Student Health Clinic. You will need to provide the date that you are leaving and the date you are returning to the US. The Student Health Clinic will suspend your insurance coverage during that time. If you're not enrolled for the summer session and the Student Health Clinic does not hear from you, your coverage will automatically continue. It is important for you to tell the Health Clinic before you leave the US as they cannot remove the coverage when you return to UNI in the fall.

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.

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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.