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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, April 18, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, April 18, 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.

CABapalooza TONIGHT!

CAB will be hosting CABapalooza from 5-8 pm in the Maucker Union Ballroom TONIGHT! Free food, prizes and activities. Entertainment includes: Meltdown, obstacle course, Velcro wall, wax hands, caricature, and a photo booth. A kayak, multiple Echo Dots, and a TV are some of the prizes that will be given away.

Spring Diversity Showcase: Connecting Our Worlds April 22

The International Students Association (ISA) is hosting the Spring Diversity Showcase on Monday, April 22nd, from 6-8pm in the Maucker Union Coffeeshouse. Students from different countries represent their cultural traditions on stage during the showcase. There's free food, refreshments and also performances, and loads of fun activities. It is open to all students, so feel free to bring friends. If you have any questions please email isa@uni.edu.

Maucker Movies: Isn't It Romantic April 24

CAB will be hosting the movie "Isn't It Romantic" April 24 at 7:00 pm in the Maucker Union Central Ballroom. Free refreshments.

Celebrating Identities The Banquet April 25

The Muslim Students Association cordially invites all UNI students, faculty, staff and the Cedar Valley Community to the banquet. Join them to get to know the MSA members, listen to the graduating members speak about their journey and enjoy a delicious dinner. 6:30-8:30 pm Maucker Union Ballroom B and C.

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 be 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

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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Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

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