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ISSO Weekly Newsletter, May 2, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday, May 2, 2019

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour Next Semester!

Today was our last coffee hour of the semester. Please join us in the fall for 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.

Graduation and Farewell Reception May 10

Come and celebrate with us as we recognize international students who will graduate in May and as we say farewell to the exchange students who will be leaving us at the end of the semester. The Graduation and Farewell Reception will be held on Friday, May 10 from 2-3:30 pm in the Great Reading Room, Seerley Hall.

UNI Commencement Ceremonies

UNI will host three spring Commencement ceremonies this year on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 in the McLeod Center. The College of Business Administration and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences will be at 7 pm, Friday May 10; the College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education at 10 am, Saturday, May 11 and the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences at 2 pm, Saturday, May 11.

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

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.

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

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.