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## ISSO Weekly Newsletter, May 9, 2019

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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# ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday, May 9, 2019

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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### 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 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

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### 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

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### Important Immigration Information

As the summer break approaches, the ISSO would like to remind you of two very important points:

1. If you plan to travel outside of the U.S. over the summer vacation and return to UNI to resume your studies in August, you must make sure that you have a valid **travel endorsement** on page 2 of your I-20 form or page 1 of your DS-2019 form. Travel endorsements are valid for one year, so new endorsements are only needed if your previous endorsement will expire before you plan to re-enter the U.S. If you are not sure if you need a travel endorsement, please check with us and we will be happy to review your documents.
2. International students are responsible for **maintaining their U.S. immigration statuses**, and an important part of this is **always having a valid, unexpired I-20 or DS-2019 form**. I recommend that F-1 students check the "Program of Study" section near the center of their I-20 forms once per month to make sure they do not study past the program end date indicated in that section. J-1 students should always be aware of their DS-2019 form validity dates in section 3. Page 3 of all I-20 forms specifies that "If you cannot complete the educational program by the program end date on page 1 of your Form I-20, you should contact your DSO at least 15 days before program end date to request an extension." I am your Principal DSO, and I am always happy to help when students need extensions.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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### 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](mailto: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.

## Like and Follow Us!

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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.*