

1-23-2020

ISSO Weekly Newsletter, January 23, 2020

University of Northern Iowa. International Students and Scholars Office.

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ISSO Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, January 23, 2020

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

International Coffee Hour Every Thursday!

Join us for our International Coffee Hour every Thursday in the International Students and Scholars Office, 113 Maucker Union from 3-4 pm.

Winter Clothing Drive

The International Student and Scholars Office winter clothing drive has been very successful. Coats, scarves, gloves, etc. are available to international students who are not prepared for the Iowa winter. Please come to 113 Maucker Union to pick up some items!

UNI Mock Caucus January 27

UNI Mock Caucus answers all your caucus questions by participating in this live demonstration of the Iowa Democratic and Republican caucuses. Monday, January 27 at 7 pm in the Maucker Union Ballrooms, food and drinks provided.

Spring Volunteer Fair January 29

Network with more than 50 local nonprofit organizations as well as find volunteer and internship opportunities in the Cedar Valley. January 29 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Old Central Ballroom of Maucker Union.

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 attachments must be completed and postmarked by April 1, 2020. Recipients will be notified by May 15, 2020. See attachments for application and criteria.

2020 Merchant Scholarship

This is to announce an annual scholarship opportunity for graduating seniors and UNI alumni pursuing graduate studies. Scholarships typically ranging between \$2000-\$4000 will be awarded for graduate study for the fall of 2020. Recipients must be attending, or planning to attend, an accredited graduate or professional school as a full-time student. As stipulated in the will of Frank Ivan Merchant, "Merchant scholarships ... shall be used for the maintenance of the recipients during graduate work at any institution of their choice, whether domestic or foreign. ... My purpose in establishing this fund is to encourage the attainment of a high standard of scholarship ... and it is my desire and direction that the above mentioned scholarships be awarded only to students who by their ability, attainment, moral character, spirit, and entire personality, give promise of developing superior intelligence and culture with devotion to the highest interest of society." The deadline for applications is March 1, 2020. Please refer to <https://provost.uni.edu/resources/merchant-scholarships> where additional information and a link to the application materials are located.

2020 Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Awards

Applications for the 2020 Mary Ann Bolton Undergraduate Research Awards, which are administered by Rod Library, are now being accepted. The application deadline is April 3, 2020. These awards recognize and celebrate extraordinary research and scholarship on the part of undergraduate students through the generous support of alumna Mary Ann Bolton (Class of 1970). Three awards will be given: First Place - \$1,000; Second Place - \$500; Third Place - \$250. More information about the awards, including submission guidelines, is available [here](#).

New International Payment Features

International students now have the ability to pay with Flywire using the Make a Payment link in Student Center. After logging in and choosing "Go to My Student Center", click on the Make a Payment link. You will have the option to pay by electronic check (US bank account) or International Payment via Flywire. The process to make a payment through Flywire will not change. If you have questions on making international payments via Flywire, visit our [International Bank Payments](#) website, or contact student.accounts@uni.edu.

International Communication Opportunity

Professor Victoria DeFrancisco invites international students to partner with US students in her intercultural communication course this spring to meet approximately once a week for an hour to have conversation, share cultural resource information, and hopefully build friendships. The students in her class will be writing papers about their experience. No other requirement is expected of the international students outside her class. The class meets from 11-12:15 on Tuesday/Thursday and international students are invited to visit if they wish. If you choose to participate, it will be important to commit for the whole semester as this could adversely affect another student's grades. If you have any questions or you would like to participate, please feel free to contact Dr. DeFrancisco directly: defran@uni.edu

The Learning Center at Rod Library

All students are encouraged to use The Learning Center @ Rod Library for assistance with writing, math, science, and college reading and learning strategies. Beginning week two, The Learning Center (TLC) operates on a walk-in basis and is open 10:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday. For more information, go to <https://tlc.uni.edu/tutoring>, email TheLearningCenter@uni.edu, call 319-273-6023, or visit the TLC desk located on the main floor of Rod Library. If you are unable to come in during normal tutoring hours, online tutoring is available through Smarthinking. You will need your CATID and passphrase to gain access. To access the Smarthinking platform go to <https://tlc.uni.edu/schedule>.

IMMIGRATION

Optional Practical Training (OPT) for Eligible F-1 Students

If you hold F-1 status and you are planning to graduate in December 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 our web site for more information about [OPT](#).

Maintaining US Immigration Status

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**. We 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." Ross Schupbach is your Principal DSO, and he is always happy to help when students need extensions.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

International Student Support Group

International Student Support Group starts on September 16 and will meet every Monday from 3:30-5:00 pm in the Student Health Center, 2nd floor. The International Student Support Group allows international students to share their experiences with others who can understand and relate to their concerns. To learn more about the group, you can consult a counselor by calling or walking into the counseling center from 8 am-4 pm, no appointment required. Contact 319-273-2676, Student Health Center, 2nd floor.

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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.



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