FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERISTY

Tiger International

April 2013

Special points of interest:

- Calendar of events on last page

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From the Desk of the Advisor — Carol Solko-Olliff

Happy Spring!!!

I hope you had a relaxing and fun spring break and are ready to finish up the remainder of the Spring semester! It doesn't seem possible that it is already April!!

Points to highlight:

Traveling Home - If you have questions regarding traveling home or out of the country for the summer, please make your travel plans carefully and refer to travel alerts that may be in effect for the region you wish to visit. It is always a good idea to check with your home embassy to obtain travel information. You can refer to the following web site for embassy contact information: http://www.embassyworld.com Also, make sure all your immigration documents are current and up to date. **BEFORE** you leave make sure your I-20 or DS-2019 has been signed. **You should plan ahead and NOT wait until the day before your flight to get your documents signed.** The end of the semester is a very busy time and it may take at least a day for you to get your signed document returned to you.

- Just a reminder that the **tax deadline is Monday, April 15, 2013**. Everyone is required to file a tax form, even if you have NOT worked during 2012. By not filing the appropriate tax forms you could risk being denied for a work visa (H1-b) in the future.
- **Pre-enrollment** for the fall 2013 semester has already started. ***Remember,* if you plan to take a virtual college course, you are only allowed to enroll in one (1), three (3) credit hour course to count toward your full time enrollment status**. This is an immigration rule. Also, if you are in your last semester and taking a "less than full-time" class schedule please stop by the office and pick up a Request for Less Than Full-time Enrollment form. This form must be completed by you and your academic advisor and on file in our office to maintain your status. If you have not made an appointment to see your advisor I would encourage you to do this soon.
- **WORK** – Do not let work interfere with your studies! Immigration rules limit international students to 20 hours a week while school is in session, so do not go over the 20 hours per week. Working off campus is NOT ALLOWED! You should not be working off campus unless you have proper authorization. I have received messages indicating that current students have been seen working off campus. If you or someone you know is working off campus, this can create problems for not only the employee, but the employer also. Do not put yourself or a community business in this position.
- **GRADUATION** – A number of you will be graduating and participating in the graduation ceremony on May 17 for graduate students and May 18 for undergraduate students. This is a great accomplishment! International Student Services Office wishes you good luck and hope you will keep in touch with our office.

FINALLY, please read the newsletter and emails you receive from the office. As we get close to the end of the spring semester there is a lot of important information we want you to know. If you have any questions, or concerns please stop by the International Office. Have a great April!

Have You Checked Your Passport?

If your passport is expiring, you must get a new one, even if you will not be traveling outside the United States! Come in and see Carol or Karen if you need information on how to get a new passport. Remember, you must always have a current passport and I-20 or DS-2019 to remain in status with immigration.

Convenient, Direct Flights From Denver To Hays On Great Lakes Airlines

After a long international flight, the last thing you want is to get in a vehicle and drive another five hours or more to reach Hays. Consider a short, one-hour direct flight to Hays from Denver International Airport instead. Hays Regional Airport offers daily flights on Great Lakes Airlines to and from Denver with your choice of convenient arrival and departure times throughout the day. The non-stop flight saves car rental, gas, hotel and parking expenses – not to mention another five hours on the road. Booking your ticket is easy, too. Just have a Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover credit card ready and you can book online, or by phone, using one of these convenient methods:

www.orbitz.com
www.expedia.com
www.priceline.com
Call your local travel agent (in Hays, the number is 785-625-7515, Moore Tours)

For reference purposes when booking your ticket, the Hays airport code is HYS.

Tax Information: W-2 & 1042-S Forms

1. You may be receiving a W2 form from your employer, a 1042-S if you received a scholarship, and/or a statement of your interest income from your bank. Not everyone will have all of these forms. **Please keep them and do not throw them away.**

2. If you worked in 2012 and did not receive a W2 form or you received a scholarship in 2012 but did not receive a 1042-S, you will need to check with Marnie in the International Office in Sheridan Hall 208 to see if she has a form for you.

3. If you worked for Chartwells (Compass Group is the official name) in 2012 and did not receive a W2, please visit with the Chartwells Office in McMindes Hall and ask that they get you a replacement. The International Office does not receive W2's for students who worked for Chartwells.

4. If you would like help completing your income tax return, you must attend one of the workshops. We will not be able to help students individually in the office.

5. Tax return workshop will be held on the following date:
   April 4 from 1:30-3:00pm

The purpose of this workshop is to help students with completing an income tax return.

Address Updates and Student Status

All International Students should inform the International Student Office (Sheridan Hall Room 208) of any address or phone number changes. It is very important that we have your current information at all times.

The U.S. I.C.E. (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), requires us to maintain student records in SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System). This program requires all schools that issue I-20's and DS-2019's, to report all international students enrolled at their school, the number of credit hours, current address, phone number and if the student is in status with immigration. For this reason **it is very important for you to remain in status and always have your current address and phone number on file with the International Student Services Office. If you have had an address change, please let our office know as soon as possible.**

Also, please be advised that while you may be allowed to enroll in "less than fulltime" schedule with approval of the International Office in your last semester, this is an exception that is *strictly monitored* and reviewed by Immigration. You are not allowed to have numerous "less than fulltime" semesters; this is typically a one time semester allowance to be used truly during your last semester. Be sure when you request a "less than fulltime" enrollment exception, that it is truly your last semester and you can provide verification of this from your academic advisor.

Traveling Abroad Or Going Home For The Summer?

F-1, F-2 and J-1 students must come into the International Student Services Office to get the proper paperwork in place before leaving the U.S. and returning. If you have changed status, OR if your visa has expired, you must get a new visa before re-entering the U.S. To get a new visa you will need to have your I-20 signed and additional information. Stop by our office if you have any questions.

Job Opportunity—International Student Ambassadors (ISA); Orientation Assistants; Volunteers

The International Office is in need of people to help with New International Orientation. Please network with your friends that you think may want to help out. Below are the job opportunities & volunteer options we have available:

Option #1—ISA—This is a paid position helping international students and being a mentor to them. You will be involved in many international related events including new student orientation and driving students to events or on trips. This position is a scholarship position. The qualifications of this position are (1) having a valid Kansas drivers license (2) being in Hays by August 1 (3) being enrolled as a full-time student (4) having a minimum cumulative or current GPA of 2.75, and (5) being responsible and active. If you are interested in applying for this position, stop by the office to get an application.

Option #2—Orientation Assistants (OA) - This is a paid position with a $150 stipend and you would need to be available from August 1—August 18 day and night. This will include helping out with orientation week, driving trips to Wal Mart & Bank of America, airport pick-ups, and other duties.

Option #3—Volunteer - If you cannot commit to working from August 1-18 day and night but still want to help out when you are available, then you could volunteer. We just need to know what days & times you can help.

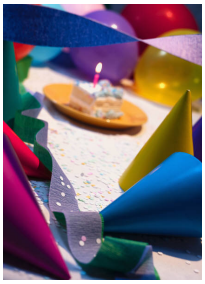
Tiger Transport Survey

We will be sending out a Tiger Transport survey before the end of the spring semester. When you receive the survey **please** take time to complete it. The survey is short and does not take a lot of time and can be done on-line. Your feedback is important and we will use the information to evaluate possible time, day and location stops for the next school year starting in August 2013. We hope that this service has helped get you to some of the businesses and resources you need to reach.

International Student Union (ISU) Officers

Are you interested in being a leader? Do you need some experience in an organization before entering the real working world? If the answer is yes, this chance is for you! The International Student Union (ISU) is looking for officers for next academic year. The main job of the officers are planning events for ISU members and giving some ideas to improve the organization. The positions are not paid but you will have great experiences being a part of an organization as a leader and the experiences will be useful for your future job. Also, you can write the experiences in your resume. If you are interested in being an officer of ISU, please contact Marnie or Karen at 628-4276. Anyone can be qualified to be an officer if you will be back to FHSU next academic year and have the motivation to be involved in the activities!!

End Of The Year Party



Finals are fast approaching and the semester is almost over. Let's get together one last time before summer break! The International Student Union is planning an end of the year party before the semester ends. If you have any ideas of out-door activities, or in-door activities for the party, please let us know. You can email the international email at international@fhsu.edu or call 628-4276. **Remember, this may be the last opportunity to meet some of your friends who graduate this semester!**

Mid-term Grades Have Been Posted, Do You Need Help??

Do you need assistance (tutoring) in a class? Please check with the Kelly Center (Picken Hall – first floor, 628-4401) and see if they can help you. Tutoring is available for most general education classes and is FREE. Also remember the Writing Center in the basement of Forsyth Library is also available to review your written papers. You can always ask your professors for help or clarification of information if you do not understand it. These are all great resources and are here to help you be successful. It is always best to plan ahead and make an appointment.

SAFETY—CARS, WALKING, AND BICYCLES

- Traffic rules and laws in the U.S. may be very different from where you come from, so please be sure to familiarize yourself with them. A number of you have received your driver's license and are now driving on campus, in the community and across the U.S.
- Be very cautious of the rules and speed limits, since getting a speeding or traffic ticket can be very costly, and also increase your insurance. If you get into a wreck or hit a car, even if no one is in it or around, **NEVER** leave the scene or place of the accident until you have contacted the police. Leaving the scene of an accident is against the law. Always get the insurance information from anyone who is involved in the accident. This is important for both you and the other individual involved in the accident. DO NOT TALK or Text message on the phone while you are driving. This is very dangerous!
- If you receive a ticket do not ignore it, PLEASE take it very seriously and make sure you pay it on time. If you have any questions, please come into the International Services Office and we will try to help explain what you need to do.
- If you own a car be sure you always have your insurance card and registration available in the car. If you are stopped by an officer they will require this information, and if you do not have it, it can create big problems for you. Again, if you receive a ticket, take care of it before it is due.
- You should be careful around campus of people who are crossing the street. Often times students are not paying attention when they cross the street. They may be talking on the phone, listening to music, or just not paying attention. Please stop and/or slow down for anyone who is crossing the street both on campus and in the community. It would be very unfortunate for you to hit someone and hurt them, or if you are walking to be hit.
- The same is true if you are crossing the street. PLEASE look both ways before you start crossing the street. Drivers can also be easily distracted with a cell phone, radio or passengers. Be careful when you cross any street and make sure you are paying attention to drivers, bicyclist or others so that they will stop for you or know you are crossing the street. Do not assume a car or vehicle will stop for you.
- With the weather getting nicer more students will be riding their bicycles. The same rules for cars apply to bicycles; you must ride them on the right side of the road, use appropriate turn signals, have reflectors on the bicycle, wear light or reflective clothing, and always obey traffic laws such as stop signs. Do not ride your bicycle into traffic. Riding your bicycle on the sidewalk can also be dangerous, so please watch out for people who are walking, since the sidewalks are meant for walking on.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL whether driving, walking or riding your bicycle

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATION GROUP PICTURE

The International Student Services Office cordially invites you to gather for a group picture with President Hammond, Provost Larry Gould, Dr. Tisa Mason, and several FHSU faculty members.

Graduate pictures will take place on

Friday, May 17, 2013 in Gross Memorial Coliseum immediately following graduation

Undergraduate pictures will take place on

Saturday, May 18, 2013 in Gross Memorial Coliseum immediately following graduation

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERISTY

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We're on the Web!
www.fhsu.edu/international

April 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 Tigers Series Workshop @ 5pm, Stouffer Lounge, Memorial Union	4 Tax Workshop @ 1:30pm, McCartney Hall 116 (must sign up) Conversation Cerner @ 7pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall FUSE Film Series @ 7:30 Cody Commons, Union	5	6
7	8	9 ENCORE: Peter Pan @ 7pm, Beach/ Schmidt PAC	10 FHSU Women's tennis @ 3pm Tigers Series Workshop @ 5pm, Stouffer Lounge, Memorial Union	11 Conversation Cerner @ 7pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	12	13
14	15	16	17 Diversi-Tea @ 2pm Sunset Lounge, Union	18 Conversation Cerner @ 7pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	19 Hays Arts Council presents Beauty & The Beast @ 7pm, Beach/ Schmidt PAC	20
21	22 ENCORE: Time For Three @ 7:30pm, Beach/ Schmidt PAC	23 UAB hypnotist Paul Ramsey @ 6pm Beach/ Schmidt PAC	24	25 Conversation Cerner @ 7pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall FUSE Film Series @ 5pm, Cody Commons, Union	26	27
28	29	30				