### April 2012

# Tiger International



#### From The Advisors Desk

#### 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: <a href="http://www.embassyworld.com">http://www.embassyworld.com</a> 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 April 16, 2012**. Everyone is required to file a tax form, even if you have NOT worked during 2011. By not filing the appropriate tax forms you could risk being denied for a work permit (H1-b) in the future.
- Pre-enrollment for the fall 2012 semester has already started. Remember, if you plan to take a virtual college course, you are only allowed to enroll in one (I), 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 First and foremost 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.
- **SAFETY** You will find in the newsletter safety information for driving, walking and bicycles. This information is a general overview, but PLEASE read it. It is very important that you obey all traffic laws both for your safety and the safety of others. We want you to be safe!

**GRADUATION** – A number of you will be graduating and participating in the graduation ceremony on May 12 for graduate students and May 13 for undergraduate students. This is a great accomplishment! International Student Services and 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!

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Calendar of Events for April are on the last page

## **HAVEYOU 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.

# 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.

### **TIGER TRANSPORT**

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 2012. We hope that this service has helped get you to some of the businesses and resources you need to reach.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UNION 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 Yi palaceone@gmail.com at or call 628-4276. Remember, this may be the last opportunity to meet some of your friends who graduate this semester!

# JOB OPPORTUNITY—GLOBAL AWARENESS COORDINATOR

The International Student Service Office is looking for the next Global Awareness Coordinator. The Coordinator creates social events for the international students and builds a close relationship between the international students and the community of Hays and the surrounding area. If you are interested in this position or want more information, please stop by the International Student Office.

# **QUALITY CAB COMPANY**

Hays has a taxi service! To use this service please call 785-625-3530.

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# JOB OPPORTUNITY—INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Do you like to communicate and meet new people? If you say yes, the position as an International Student Ambassador will be the answer for you. The International Student Services Office is looking for new International Student Ambassadors for the next academic year. The primary job of the position is 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 (I) having a valid Kansas drivers license (2) being in Hays by August I (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 the position, stop by the office to get an application.

# 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
- 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.

# INCOME TAX RETURN WORKSHOP

Everyone is required to file a tax return, even if you have NOT worked during 2011. If you would like help completing your 2011 income tax return then you will want to attend the International Tax Workshop that will be held on Wed., April 4 from 1:30-3:00pm in McCartney Hall.

All students that worked and/or received a scholarship in 2011 should have received a W-2 and/or a 1042-S form sometime in January/February. These forms may be mailed to you in your mail box. I also received some forms in the International Office which you will need to come in and pick up. A 1042-S is if you received a scholarship, and/or if you claimed a tax treaty. A W-2 is if you worked a job. Not everyone will have all of these forms. **PLEASE do not throw mail away if you are not sure what it is. Open it and bring it in to me if you are not sure.** 

If you worked a job on campus during 2011, please make sure that employer has your current mailing address. If you worked for Chartwells (official name is Compass Group), please contact Chartwells in McMindes Hall 128 to make sure they have a current address for you. This is **VERY** important as they will mail the forms to the address they have on file. So if you have moved and did not updated your address with Chartwells, the form will be mail to the old address. Please let me know if you have ANY questions regarding this.

# PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOX DAILY AND DO NOT THROW AWAY IMPORTANT TAX DOCUMENTS

# SAFETY—CARS, WALKING, AND BICYCLES

- Traffic rules and laws in the U.S. may be very different from where you come from, so <u>please be sure</u> 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 11, 2012 in Gross Memorial Coliseum immediately following graduation

# Undergraduate pictures will take place on

Saturday, May 12, 2012 in Gross Memorial Coliseum immediately following graduation

# **APRIL 2 0 12**

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
I FHSU Softball @ 4pm	2 FHSU Softball @ Ipm	3	4 Tiger Series Wksp- Switch Into Overdrive @ 5:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union	5 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	6	7
8 Easter	9	10	II FHSU Tennis @ Ipm	12 ~FHSU Softball @ 2pm ~Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	13	14
15	I 6 FHSU Baseball @ 2pm	I7 ~FHSU Baseball @ I2pm ~Dr. John Corvino @ 7:30pm in Beach/Schmidt PAC	18     ~Creation Station @     I Iam, Memorial Union Patio     ~Tiger Series Wksp- Take The Lead @ 5:30pm in Cody Com- mons, Memorial Union	19 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	20	21
22 FHSU Baseball @ Ipm	23 FHSU Baseball @ I2pm	24 ENCORE: Italian Saxaphone Quartet @ 7:30pm Beach/Schmidt PAC	25	24 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	26	27
28 FHSU Softball @ 4pm	29 FHSU Softball @ Ipm	30	31			

# THE APPROACH—HOMESTAYS & APARTMENTS

The Approach offers Homestays & Apartments at 703 Fort. Please contact Jarod and Amanda Tippy at (785) 301-2703 or <a href="mailto:thetippys@gmail.com">thetippys@gmail.com</a> for more information and to see if there are openings available.