

Tiger International

April
2008



From The Advisors Desk...

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:

- **Tiger Transport** – Thank you to all the students who completed the Tiger Transport survey Karen sent out in March. Your feedback is important and we will use the information to evaluate possible time, day and location stops for the next school year. We hope that this service has helped get you to some of the businesses you need to reach.
- **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.**
- Just a reminder that the **tax deadline is April 15, 2008**. Everyone is required to file a tax form, even if you have NOT worked during 2007. 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 2008 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 that went into effect when the new SEVIS system was established. 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 academic advisor I would encourage you to do this soon. If you have any questions, or concerns please stop by the International Office. Have a great April!

Carol Solko-Olliff
Director of International Student Services

Inside this issue:

Stouffer Scholarship	Pg. 2
OPT	Pg. 2
TOEFL Testing	Pg. 2
End of the Year Party	Pg. 2
Traveling Abroad	Pg. 2
Passport Information	Pg. 3
Japanese Spice	Pg. 3
ISU Officers	Pg. 3
BRIDGES Counselors	Pg. 3
International Graduation Recognition	Pg. 3

Calendar

April 1, 2008

Tax Workshop for International Students @ 2:30pm-4:30pm, Trails room of Memorial Union

April 2, 2008

Tax Workshop for Int'l Students @ 6pm-8pm, Trails room

April 6, 2008

ENCORE: Blast! @ 7:30pm, Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center

April 11, 2008

Deadline for Stouffer Scholarship application

April 17, 2008

Japanese Spice @ 7pm, Cody Commons

2008-2009 STOFFER INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Two scholarships (1 undergraduate & 1 graduate) are being offered for the 2008-2009 academic year. The scholarship is awarded for one academic year only and is nonrenewable. If a student who accepts the scholarship does not return to his/her home country after graduation, the scholarship then becomes a loan and must be repaid within six months after graduation or a rate of 7% annual interest will be added to the loan. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, you can pick up an application in Sheridan Hall 208. Deadline for the scholarship is 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2008.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION: OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Are you graduating at the end of the spring 2008 semester? If you are, and you plan to apply for Optional Practical Training please, stop by the International Student Office and pick up the paperwork. With the new SEVIS program we will need to issue a new I-20 and secure additional information from you. Optional Practical Training applications can take from 60–90 days to be completed and returned from BCIS (Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services – formally the INS) once the forms have been mailed. **If you are graduating, the time to come into the office is now.** Applications should be turned in NO LATER than May 12 to ensure our office enough time to process your application.

Remember, you cannot start a job until you receive this work authorization AND you cannot apply AFTER you graduate, it must be done before you receive your degree in May.

TOEFL TESTING

The FHSU Thomson Prometric Testing Center now offers the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) examination. The center will be administering the test on April 26 and May 16, 2008. For more information, check the center's website <http://www.fhsu.edu/kellycenter/testing/ptc.shtml>.

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 for Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes! The end of the year party will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 3pm in Chuck's Place in Wiest Hall. Come out and enjoy seeing friends and have fun before finals come! **Remember, this may be the last opportunity to meet some of your friends who graduate this semester!**

TRAVELING ABROAD OR GOING HOME FOR THE SUMMER?

F-1, F-2 and J-1 student 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 a new SEVIS I-20 and additional information. Please allow three to four working days for us to issue a new SEVIS I-20 for you. Stop by our office if you have any questions.

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 Marnie if you need information on how to get a new passport. Remember, you must always have a current passport and I-20 to DS-2019 to remain in status with immigration.

INTERNATIONAL SPICE—JAPAN

We will have our last spice on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm in Cody Commons in the Memorial Union. Our Japanese students will entice those who attend with wonderful information about their culture, history, and traditions. Also, there will be some students showing off their talents with performances. There will be samples of traditional food for free. Please come out and support our FHSU international students and discover new worlds!

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 available positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The main jobs 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 as your appealing point. If you are interested in being officers of ISU, please contact Saki at s_oshio@fhsu.edu or at 628-4443. 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!!

JOB OPPORTUNITY—BRIDGES COUNSELOR

Do you like to meet new people? Do you like to communicate with people or take care of others? If you say yes, the position as a BRIDGES Counselor will be the answer for you.

The Office of International Student Services is looking for new BRIDGES Counselors for 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 and drive students to events or Wal Mart. This position is a scholarships position. The qualifications of this position are (1) having a valid Kansas drivers license (2) being in Hays two weeks before the fall semester starts (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 application.

International Graduation Recognition

We would like to invite all international student who will be graduating this year to participate in the International Graduation Recognition Ceremony. This event will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 6:00p.m. in the Black & Gold Room of the Memorial Union. If you are interested in this ceremony, please stop by the International Office to see Marnie to pick up the form. All graduating students will be receiving information in the mail. We also would like to invite all international students to come to this ceremony to support friends that may be graduating.

APRIL 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Tax workshop @ 2:30pm-4:30pm	2 Tax workshop @ 6pm-8pm	3 UAB Photo Scaven- ger Hunt @ 8pm	4 FHSU softball @ 1pm & 3pm	5 FHSU softball @ 12pm & 2pm
6 ENCORE: Blast! @ 7:30pm	7	8 FHSU baseball @ 2pm	9	10	11 Deadline for Stouffer Scholarship application FHSU baseball @ 7pm Community Con- nections @ 4pm	12 FHSU baseball @ 1pm
13 FHSU baseball @ 12pm	14	15	16 FHSU softball @ 5pm & 7pm	17 Japanese Spice @ 7pm	18	19
20	21	22 FHSU softball @ 4pm & 6pm UAB Tiger Idol @ 7pm	23 FHSU baseball @ 3pm FHSU softball @ 1pm & 3pm	24	25 Community Con- nections @ 4pm	26
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3 End of the year party @ 3pm in Chuck's Place

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