



Special points of interest:

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From the Desk of the Advisor

Carol Solko-Olliff

Thank You to everyone who helped with, or participated in International Education Week in November, it was a great success!! We heard many positive comments about the programs and activities thanks to your hard work. Great job!! Remember the Tree Lighting Ceremony is Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm in front of Sheridan Hall!

This is a very busy time of the year with the semester coming to an end and preparations for the upcoming vacation time. It is also a very stressful time, so please take some time to take care of yourself by enjoying some quiet time, talking to friends and doing something fun, listening to music or doing some activity like walking, swimming or sports. **Taking time for you is important in order to be successful academically and personally.**

Also, if you are traveling, please review the suggestions in the "Travel" paragraph of the newsletter. The message is plan ahead and be prepared, we want you to have a safe and fun break! **Please don't wait until the last minute to get your I-20 or DS-2019 signed.** It is best to allow three (3) working days for our office to process the paperwork. All requests should be in our office before December 16th.

OUT OF OFFICE

I will be out of the office December 4th – 10th and December 24th – January 2nd so if you need documents signed or have questions please make an appointment to see me before this time. You can also talk to Karen or Marnie as they are also good resources.

If you are graduating in December and planning to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), please have all your paperwork turned into the International Office by **Monday, December 9th at noon.** Please let us know if you have any questions. **Remember,** you cannot start a job until you receive your EAD authorization card.

Additional reminders:

1. Don't forget to turn off or unplug unnecessary electrical items.
2. Keep all your important personal items in a safe place.
3. **If you are renting a car, it is very important that you purchase car insurance through the rental agency. This should be full coverage and NOT just liability insurance**
4. **Follow all traffic rules** (speed limits and laws) and regulations (**valid Kansas driver's license and car insurance**). It can be very serious if you are stopped by the police.

Finally, don't forget to lock your doors whether you live on campus or off campus before you leave town.

The University will close at 4:30 p.m. on December 24th and reopen on January 2nd. If you need any help during the remainder of the winter vacation, you can come by the International Student Services Office during the normal office hours starting January 2nd, or if it is an emergency call the international cell phone after hours, the number is (785) 259-0005.

Good luck with your final exams!! I hope you all have very **Happy Holiday Season!** Have a safe, fun and relaxing break!!!



International Education Week

We want to **THANK** everyone who attended and helped support the activities of the International Education Week! Thank you to the students who visited Tiger Tots and area schools. We had a great week, and our success should motivate us to keep doing great things!

Spring 2014 Classes

If you have not already picked your classes for the spring 2014, you should get started now. Please use TigerTracks to pre-register for classes. Log into TigerTracks and go to "Online Services" tab to find TigerEnroll. Then fill out the course worksheet through TigerEnroll to get approval for the classes from your academic advisor. If you would like to talk about your classes, you should make an appointment with your academic advisor. Early registration has already started. Please refer to the University calendar for registration date based on classification (graduate, senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman) and family name. If you have any questions about when you can enroll or who your academic advisor is, please do not hesitate to contact the International Student Services Office. As a reminder, you can only enroll in one (1) three hour virtual college course to count toward your full-time enrollment.

Group Health Insurance Procedure

If you are not purchasing the Kansas Board of Regents insurance plan, you must turn in the Student Health Insurance Waiver Form with a copy of your policy's benefits summary page (in English), and the Acceptance/Denial Form **EVE-RY SEMESTER**. *For the spring semester, the date is January 21, 2014. Forms & insurance brought in after this date WILL NOT be accepted.* If you have questions regarding health insurance, please visit with Marnie in the International Office.

The International Student Services Office has a procedure students must follow if you choose to

purchase your own private insurance. We want to make sure that students are aware of the procedure.

First, there is an **Acceptance/Denial Form and a Student Health Insurance Waiver Form** that students must complete if they have their own private health insurance. These forms have important information as well as deadlines on when forms must be turned in. Forms can be obtained on-line at following website <http://www.fhsu.edu/international/health/>. Forms can be printed

off in the library or in any computer lab.

Second, students must provide proof of private insurance which includes the card or certificate, explanation of benefits, and US contact information (telephone & address) all in English. The insurance must meet the minimum requirements that are listed on the Student Health Insurance Waiver Form.

Health insurance is required for all Fort Hays State University international students.

Spring 2014 Health Insurance

Students have been able to start pre-enrolling and finalizing enrollment for the spring 2014 semester. Please remember that if you have your own private health insurance that you must complete the two waiver forms, provide insurance card/certificate, and explanation of benefits. Please see procedure above for more details. You can start completing these forms now and bring in all documentation before the end of the fall semester. Forms can be obtained on-line at the following website <http://www.fhsu.edu/international/health/>. Forms can be printed off in the library or in any computer lab.

Address Updates

All international students are required to inform the International Student Services Office (Sheridan Hall Room 208) of any address or phone number changes by email mkohl@fhsu.edu or log on to TigerTracks and in on-line

services there is a personal information link where you can update your address and phone number. This is even more important with the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

It is **very important** that we have your current information at all times. Please stop by the International Student Services Office with any questions you might have regarding this.

Expiring Documents

Please make sure to check your I-20 or DS-2019 and passport to make sure they are not expiring. These documents cannot expire or you will be out of status. If your document is expiring, please bring it to the International Office so an extension can be done.



International Emergency Telephone Number

The International Student Services Office has a cell phone that can be called after normal office hours or on the weekend for emergency purposes. We would ask that if you

have questions that can be answered during normal office hours that you call the office number at 785-628-4276. If an emergency situation such as sickness, problem or an accident

happens outside of office hours, please use the cell phone number 785-259-0005 and someone from the ISS will try to assist you.

Great Lakes Airlines

A change in the Federal Aviation Administration rules requiring increased flying hours and training for regional airline pilots is now affecting the Great Lakes flights out of Hays. Congress directed the Federal Aviation Administration to increase the minimum requirements for co-pilots. The new rules require that first officers have between 750 and 1,500 hours of flight time.

As a result of these new regulations, Great Lakes does not have a sufficient number of licensed pilots and has had to cancel several flights. **Our office strongly advises you to check on your future travel plans and allow extra travel time. If you are flying out of Hays you will want to call the day prior to make sure that your flight has not been cancelled.**



Finals Week

Good luck and best wishes for a very successfully finals week. We realize this is a period of anxiety, hard work, and stress, but we have confidence that each of you will do well. Take advantage of the Writing Center and tutoring services in the Kelly Center that are offered on campus. **GOOD LUCK!!**

Important—Winter Break Information!

Winter Break at FHSU is right around the corner. For those of you new to FHSU this semester, winter break is a period of about a month when classes are not in session. Many students chose to travel during this break time. If you are planning on staying in Hays, below is the schedule for on-campus services such as Forsyth Library. Information about Tiger Transport, restaurants within walking distance of campus, and on-campus events are also below.

Forsyth Library

The library is CLOSED these dates:

Sat. Dec. 14 – Sun. Dec. 15

Sat. Dec. 21 – Sun. Dec. 22

Wed. Dec. 25 - Jan. 1

The library is OPEN these dates:

Jan. 2 – Jan. 21 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

except Sat & Sun

Library Hours—Beginning in December

Dec. 2—3	7:30 am - 12:00 am
Dec. 4—5	7:30 am - 2:00 am
Dec. 6	7:30 am - 12:00 am
Dec. 7	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Dec. 8	1:00 pm - 2:00 am
Dec. 9	7:30 am - 2:00 am
Dec. 10—11	7:30 am - 12:00 am
Dec. 12	7:30 am - 9:00 pm
Dec. 13	7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Dec. 14—15	CLOSED
Dec. 16—20	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Dec. 23—24	8:00 am - 4:30 pm

On-Campus Food Service—McMindes Hall Café will close on Fri., Dec 13 at 2pm and will re-open on Sun., Jan. 19 at 4pm.

Tiger Transport

Tiger Transport WILL be running its regular schedule during Winter Break everyday with the exception of Wed., Dec. 25 as it is Christmas Day and will not run. You can ride Tiger Transport to The Mall & Wal-Mart. You can shop, eat or watch a movie. Dates over the break Tiger Transport will be running are Fri., Dec 20, Sat., Dec 21, Fri., Dec 27, Sat., Dec 28, & Wed., Jan 1.

Int'l Student Services Office Emergency Phone Number

If you have an emergency after regular International Student Service office hours, please call this number: 785-259-0005. This number should only be used for emergency purposes.

Campus Office Hours

During Winter Break, the International Student Services Office and all other offices on campus will be open regular hours, Monday, Dec. 16 – Friday, Dec. 20 and Monday, Dec. 23 through Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Our office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 1.

Our office and other offices on campus will re-open with regular office hours on Thursday, January 2.

Again, if you have an emergency and need to reach someone from the International Student Services Office, when the office is not open, please call our after-hours phone number.



Meals

Restaurants within Walking Distance

The following page is a listing of restaurants that are within walking distance of FHSU. **Please be sure to call first to make sure the restaurant is open, especially Christmas Day and New Year's Day.**

Taco Shop—333 W 8th St—625-7114

Gutch's—109 W 7th St—623-4088

Soda Shoppe Café—800 Main St—625-7323

Golden Q—809 Ash St—625-6913

Quizno's—135 W 8th St—625-6222

Gella's Diner—117 E 11th St—621-2739

Chinese Food Express—1312 Main St—628-9999

Cancun Mexican Grill—1011 Elm St—621-4550

Lomato's Pizza—130 W 9th—623-2888

Daylight Donuts—113 E 8th St—625-7016

Delivery

This is a listing of restaurants that you call (we have provided telephone numbers for you) with your order (what you would like to eat) and they will bring your meal to your residence hall room or apartment when it is ready. When you are placing your order over the telephone, the restaurant employee will tell you how much your meal is going to cost so you can have your money ready when they bring you your meal. Also, remember to give the restaurant employee your address so they can deliver your meal to you! It is a very convenient way to eat because you do not need to leave your apartment. We have also provided web addresses to most of the restaurants to you can view their menu online and have your order ready when you call them.

Restaurants with Delivery in Hays

Chinese

China Garden – 628-2280

Chinese Food Express – 628-9999

Pizza

Domino's Pizza – 625-2311 -- www.dominos.com

Lomato's Pizza– 623-2888

Pizza Hut – 628-1777 -- www.pizzahut.com

Subs & Pasta

Jimmy John's—621-2227—<http://www.jimmyjohns.com/>

Mexican

Taco Grande – 625-1413

Taco Shop – 625-7114 -- www.tacoshop.net

TRAVEL

Take special care if you are traveling during the Holiday. Road conditions can change quickly and become quite dangerous. With the added holiday traffic, take special care to drive defensively. Always pack warm clothing, some snack food, a blanket, flashlight and water. If you have a cellular phone take that and any emergency numbers you might need as well. **It is also a good idea to let your friends, Friendship Family member or the International Office know where and when you plan to travel in case you run into problems.** We all want to make sure you are safe during the break. When possible, check the weather reports before you leave. You can access weather information at www.weather.com. For those students who intend to travel out side the U.S. during the Holidays, make sure you have the following before you leave:

~ **Current passport and visa**

~ **Signed I-20 or DS-2019**

~ **Any documents to obtain a new visa, (if needed)**

Please plan to arrive at the airport AT LEAST 3 hours before any international flight you are taking. With the added security at the airport, you want to allow plenty of time to get through these expanded checks. Check with the airline you are flying to see what restrictions on luggage may apply.



Medical Bills and Insurance



First, if you purchased the group health insurance through FHSU (not a private health insurance in the US or your home country), you will need to print them yourselves by going to this web site www.uhcsr.com/createaccount Second, for

those students who have been seen by at the hospital or other doctor office and are receiving bills, once you receive your health insurance card, bring in your insurance card and your bills and Marnie will help you with the next step in getting

your bills paid. Please do not hesitate to come in and see Marnie or the Student Health Center if you have questions with any medical insurance needs.

Winter Break Travel Opportunity



Are you making plans for winter break? Great! You could spend an exciting week experiencing Christmas in Colorado at an international house party with the Tippy family. Meet other international students from around the world, learn about Christian Christmas customs, enjoy nature and practice your English. December 20 -26. For more information please contact Jarod and Amanda Tippy at thetippys@gmail.com or 785-259-8475.

Christmas Past At Historic Fort Hays

The Kansas Historical Society announced Fort Hays State Historic Site will host a Victorian "Christmas Past" at the site from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7. Admission fee is FREE. Visitors are requested to begin at the Fort Hays Visitor Center, 1472 U.S. Highway 183 Alternate, Hays. Visit Fort Hays for a glimpse of Christmas Past. See the officers' homes decorated in the Victorian style and buildings aglow with candlelight. Enjoy a leisurely trip around the grounds in a horse drawn wagon. Take the children to see Father Christmas and receive a bag of goodies. Sample homemade cookies, hot spiced cider, and fried apples. Music will be provided by volunteers dressed in period clothing.



Frost Fest Parade

This is a lighted parade that takes place downtown on Main Street. The parade starts at 6:00pm on Saturday, December 7, 2013. This is a unique kind of parade since everything in the parade has to be lighted. It is very pretty to see at night.

Tiger Transport

Tiger Transport is a FREE van transportation service that runs a fixed route throughout Hays. It operates each Wednesday & Friday from 2:00-7:00pm

and Saturday from 2:00-9:00pm. Tiger Transport stops at The Mall and Wal-Mart. The van pick up location on campus is at the Wiest Hall parking lot.

Check out the Tiger Transport website for route schedules and times: <http://www.fhsu.edu/international/Tiger-Transport/>



Please make sure that if you want to eat out during the winter break to call the restaurant first to make sure they are open. Their hours may be different or they may be closed, especially on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

