

Tiger International

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From The Advisors Desk

Carol Solko-Olliff

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!!

I hope everyone had a great break and you are rested and ready to start the spring semester. A **special welcome** to all new students, we are glad you are here at FHSU! The staff in the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of International Student Services (Sheridan Hall 208) is available to assist you. If you have questions or need help, please know you are always welcome to stop by! We want you all to have a successful semester and experience. You may speak with either me, Karen McCullough or Marnie Kohl.

PLEASE READ THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS. The newsletter an important way we try to keep in touch with you, but more importantly to share valuable information with you that may help you avoid making a costly mistake. The newsletter comes to you by email and you can always access it at the international website: www.fhsu.edu/international/newsletter There should not be a reason for you not to read this monthly publication and information. Students who come to my office with questions most times would already know the answer, if they had only read their newsletter. Of course if you need further clarification we certainly want you to ask. Relying on your friends advice is sometimes not the best option as each student's situation is unique to them.

Just a reminder that Immigration law requires all international students to enroll and remain in a full course load which constitutes 12 credit hours for undergraduate and 9 hours for graduate students. It is also important to note, that only one virtual class can count toward full time enrollment AND if it is your last semester and you plan to apply for OPT, you cannot be a virtual only class. If you or your advisor has questions about this, please contact our office. Also, if it becomes necessary to withdraw from a course, which will put you below full time status, you must see me or Karen. Checking before you drop a course will alleviate creating more problems for you and your immigration status. Also, remember that while school is in session, you are only allowed to work 20 hours per week on campus. Please do not let work interfere with your academic course work. We will again monitor the number of hours students work during the spring semester.

Please get involved on campus and in the International Student Union. If you like sports, the Intramural Department has lots of activities you can become involved in. If you like music and theatre, checkout the Encore Series and Music Department as there is a great performing arts calendar, which is very affordable for students. The monthly newsletter tries to highlight activities both on campus and in the Hays community as well as Marnie's weekly emails. These activities are a great way to take a break from your studies and relieve some stress!

Have a great semester and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, e-mail or make an appointment to see me.

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WRITING CENTER ASSISTANCE

Remember that the Writing Center is an excellent place to write or to go for feedback on any kind of writing. Located in the basement of Forsyth Library (FL20), it features a computer lab and trained writing consultants. Drop by or call ahead for an appointment (628-4106), preferably well before the due date of your paper. The Writing Center will be open the following times: 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday, 6:30pm-8:30pm Monday through Wednesday evenings, and 9:00am-12:30pm Fridays. It is FREE!!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Area elementary schools are interested each semester in having international students come to their school and talk about their country, culture and experiences. If you receive a call or email from Marnie Or Yi Gong asking you to be a speaker, please accept the invitation. Speaking to these groups is very easy, so don't be nervous. Students always have lots of questions, so most times a rehearsed speech is not necessary. This is a great way to "educate" Americans about other parts of our world.

GRADUATE STUDENT ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP

Rotary International is once again providing an opportunity for a graduate student to receive a scholarship for one academic year. I would encourage **all** graduate students who have at least one full year starting fall 2012 of academic courses to look into this opportunity. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, or would like additional information, you can access the application at the following web site:

<http://www.fhsu.edu/international/Scholarships/>

DEADLINE for applications is Friday, February 3rd. An interview is required, and will be held on a Saturday, February 18th. Additional details will be provided once applications have been reviewed and you have completed and turned in an application.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Do you have at least one more academic year at FHSU to complete your degree? If the answer is yes, you might want to think about applying for scholarships for the next academic year 2012-2013. A variety of scholarships are offered at FHSU. Visit the website and submit applications online at <https://secure.fhsu.edu/scholarship>. You would need to create your account first and then start to apply for the scholarships that you may be qualified to. **The final deadline for applying for the scholarships is February 15, 2012.**

TAX INFORMATION AND W-2'S

Tax return workshops will be held in March to help students with completing an income tax return. We are currently working on a schedule for the workshops. The location, times, and dates will be sent to you in an email. Please be watching for this information.

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.

If you worked in 2011 and did not receive a W2 form or you received a scholarship in 2011 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.

If you worked for Chartwells in 2011 and did not receive a W2, please visit with the Chartwells office in McMIndes Hall. The International Office does not receive W2's for students who worked for Chartwells.

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.

ISU MEMBERSHIP

All new international students and returning students that have not signed up yet are welcome to be a part of the International Student Union (ISU). ISU hosts events and activities and provides the main basis for international students to meet other international students as well as American students. Activities for the spring semester are International Spices, planned trips to various places of interest (reduced cost for paid members), and other activities. As a paid member of ISU, you will have the above benefits. We encourage you to be a member of ISU and get involved in these activities. It will help you get adjusted to an environment different from your own country more quickly. The cost for one semester is \$4. Come to the International Office in Sheridan Hall 208 to sign up.

ADDRESS UPDATES AND STUDENT STATUS

All International Students MUST inform the International Student Office (Sheridan Hall Room 208) of any address, email, 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.

TIGER TRANSPORT

Van transportation service taking students throughout Hays each Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday. The times Tiger Transport runs is 2:00– 7:00 pm on Wednesday & Friday, and Saturday 2:00—9:00pm. Tiger Transport will pick up students on campus in the Wiest Hall parking lot. Stops include: The Mall, Hastings, and Wal-Mart. Pick ups are at the beginning of every half hour and the route is repeated every half hour. For more information about Tiger Transport, please visit the website,

<http://www.fhsu.edu/international/Tiger-Transport/>

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEADLINES

Here are some deadlines that the Graduate School would like you to know about. Intent to Graduate form must be filed by January 23 if you plan to graduate this spring. Comprehensive Exam deadline to sign up is February 20. Thesis/Field Study — approved final titles are due April 2 and oral exam reports are due April 23. Please contact the Graduate School at 628-4236 if you have any questions regarding deadlines or you can visit the following website for deadlines <http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/deadlines/>

INTERNATIONAL SPICE SERIES

The International Student Union will have an International Spice program during the spring semester! Instead of featuring a group of students from one country, we will feature a group of students from many countries and have specific theme. Additional information will be sent by email. If you have any questions or would like to be a presenter, please contact Marnie or Karen at 628-4276.

CONVERSATION CORNER

The Department of Communication Disorders is having a weekly conversation group. This is a great opportunity to improve your English skill and get to know other students. All international students are welcomed to the group. The conversation group will meet on Thursday's at 7:00pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Marla Staab at mstaab@fhsu.edu, or call her at 785-628-4450. This program will start Jan. 26.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SCHEDULE: YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Below is a schedule of Chinese New Year events:

Friday, January 27

China Talk & Dumplings: Make Chinese Dumplings
6:00pm at the Center For Life Experiences—2900 Hall

Saturday, January 28

Celebration of Diversity
7:30pm in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center, FHSU

Sunday, January 29

Dumpling Feast
6:00-8:00pm Ballroom, Memorial Union

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: TEXTBOOKS REFUNDS POLICY

Here is the textbooks refund policy for the University Bookstore.

- A full refund will be given in your original form of payment if textbooks are returned with a receipt during the first week of class.
- With proof of a schedule change and a receipt, a full refund will be given in your original form of payment during the first 30 days of classes.
- All medical and specialty reference book refunds will be given in your original form of payment with a receipt within three days of purchase.
- No refunds on textbooks without a receipt.
- Textbooks must be in original condition.
- Shipping and handling charges are not refundable.

If you are thinking to make photocopies of textbooks, please look up the policy and rules of PLAGIARISM or copyrights before you do.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking and the use of tobacco products are prohibited in all Fort Hays State University buildings and facilities. Smoking is only permitted in designated parking lots on the FHSU campus. A map showing the parking lots that have been designated as smoking areas is on page 5. Places where smoking is allowed are shaded in grey. Smoking is prohibited in all other areas on FHSU's campus that are not clearly marked as a designated smoking area.

You cannot smoke outside of the library or any building on campus. You can smoke in the parking lots behind the Memorial Union, parking lot behind McMIndes Hall, parking lot behind and to the west of Wiest Hall. Please review map for all areas OK to smoke in. If you get caught smoking in a prohibited area by FHSU campus police, they will issue you a ticket and you will have to pay a fine.

ON-CAMPUS EVENTS GOING ON IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

January

- 18— Diversity Affairs Presents Dr. King’s Birthday Bash—11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Memorial Union
- 19—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Celebration @ 7:30pm Beach/Schmidt PAC, Sheridan Hall
- 21—FHSU Women’s Basketball vs. Lincoln @ 2:00pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
FHSU Men’s Basketball vs. Lincoln @ 4:00pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 25—T.I.G.E.R.S Series Workshop@ 5:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 26—Conversation Corner @ 7:00pm in Chuck’s Place, Wiest Hall
- 26—Comedian Diversity Affairs—Shen Wang @7:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 28—Celebration of Diversity—Chinese New Year @ 7:30pm in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
- 29—Chinese New Year Dumpling Feast @ 6:00pm-9:00pm in the Ballroom, Memorial Union
- 30—UAB Comedian—Geoff Keith @ 7:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union

February

- 3—FHSU Wrestling vs. Colorado Mines @ 6:00pm in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 8—T.I.G.E.R.S. Series Workshop @ 5:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 8—FHSU Women’s Basketball vs. Truman @ 5:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
FHSU Men’s Basketball vs Truman @ 7:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 9—DMV Workshops @ 3:15pm & 4:00pm in the Trails Room, Memorial Union
- 9—FHSU Wrestling vs. Colorado Mesa @ 7:00pm in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 10—FHSU Wrestling vs. Western State @ 7:00pm in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 11—FHSU Women’s Basketball vs. Central Missouri @ 2:00pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
FHSU Men’s Basketball vs Central Missouri @ 4:00pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 11—Chinese Lantern Festival @ 6:00pm in the Ballroom, Memorial Union
- 11—UAB MAD Talent Show @ 7:30pm in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
- 14—UAB Bingo Night @ 7:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 15—Diversity Affairs presents—Kyshonna Armstrong @ 7:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 15—FHSU Wrestling vs. Grand Canyon @ 5:00pm in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 10—FHSU Wrestling vs. Nebraska-Kearney @ 7:00pm in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 15—ENCORE Series—Doubt @ 7:30pm in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
- 21—ENCORE Series—My Fair Lady @ 7:30 in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
- 22—UAB Creation Station @ 11am in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 22—T.I.G.E.R.S. Series Workshop @ 5:30pm in Cody Commons, Memorial Union
- 22—FHSU Women’s Basketball vs. Pittsburg State @ 5:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
FHSU Men’s Basketball vs Pittsburg State @ 7:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 25—FHSU Women’s Basketball vs. Emporia State @ 5:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
FHSU Men’s Basketball vs Emporia State @ 7:30pm in Gross Memorial Coliseum (GMC)
- 25-26—FHSU Wrestling—NCAA II West Regional/RMAC Championship in Gross memorial Coliseum (GMC)