

Tiger International

March
2012



From The Advisors Desk

Carol Solko-Oliff

I hope your semester is going well and that you are managing the unpredictable Kansas weather! It is important to **dress warmly** and be cautious of the weather. We never know when the weather will turn bad, so please be careful especially when walking, driving and traveling!

Thank you and Congratulations to all the students who participated in any way with the Chinese New Year, Celebration of Diversity and Lantern Festival events. The program and celebration of the Year of the Dragon was a **GREAT SUCCESS!!!** There was great attendance and we heard many positive comments about the week-end and activities. Thank you for your hard work!!

Midsemester is fast approaching, so be sure to visit with your academic advisor as well as preparing your worksheet in Tiger Tracks to pick your classes for the fall 2012 semester. **Remember**, if you plan to take a Virtual College course, you should make sure that you are enrolled in at least nine hours of on-campus classes for undergraduate, and 6 hours of on-campus classes for graduate students. **SEVIS regulations only count 3 hours of Virtual College coursework toward a student's full-time enrollment.** If you have any questions regarding this, please stop by the ISS Office. You should be sure to review your mid-term grades so you have an idea how you are doing academically in your classes. Mid term grades can be checked on Tiger Tracks around March 6th. If you have questions regarding how to do this, please let us know.

A number of you will be graduating and may wish to have your family attend graduation in May. If you would like an invitation letter from the ISS Office we would be happy to provide that. Please stop by the office and complete a request form. If you have questions about this, please let me know. Also, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to request this letter. It will take several days to process your invitation letter(s) and you will be contacted when it is ready.

AS A REMINDER, officers from Homeland Security can visit campus at any time. They will make personal contact with students to verify that current address and personal information is accurate with the SEVIS record. These visits are always unannounced. Always let ISS Office know of any address changes that need to be made.

Finally, as I always mention, **DO NOT LET WORK** interfere with your studies! International students are only allowed to work 20 hours a week while school is in session. I will once again be monitoring this and if you are found to be working more than 20 hours a week, this benefit may be suspended. I would also remind you that **working off campus is strictly prohibited** unless you have permission. If you are reported or caught working off campus, the employer risks receiving a large fine, and you risk losing your students status by being deported and then permanently barred from the U.S. *Do not put yourself in this position.* Remember, you are here on a Student Visa and not a Work Visa. If you have any question, please contact the ISS Office.

Good luck as you get ready for mid term exams and have a **Safe and Restful Spring Break!**

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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 lower level of Forsyth Library (FL20), it features a computer lab and trained writing consultants. 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: Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday & Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm, and Fridays from 9:00am-12:30pm. It is FREE!!

SCHOOL LECTURING PROGRAM

Local schools are looking for international students to do presentations on their culture or do activities with the children. Students will need to prepare a 30-60 minute verbal presentation and can choose an appropriate topic related to their culture or chose an activity to show the children. It is a great chance for you to interact with people in the community. If you are interested in this activity, please contact Marnie at 628-4276 or e-mail at mkohl@fhsu.edu.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Student Government Association (SGA) exists to serve, protect, and promote the interests and rights of the students at FHSU. It is a representational form of government with Senate seats available by major and by student organizations. The SGA serves as a means for students to examine, discuss, and take action on campus issues. If you are interested in being involved in SGA as a Student Senator, or just want more information, stop by the Student Government Office located in the lower level of the Memorial Union, or you can call them at 628-5311 or visit www.fhsu.edu/sga.

SPRING BREAK—Travel Workshop on March 12—see page 7

Spring break starts after classes on March 16th and runs until March 25th. This is a great time to travel and get away. If you plan to leave for the week, keep the following things in mind:

1. Make sure you have your passport, and I-20 or DS-2019 with you and signed if leaving the country, even if you are going to Canada or Mexico.
2. Don't forget to turn off or unplug unnecessary electrical items.
3. Keep all your important personal items in a safe place.
4. If you are renting a car, you should purchase car insurance through the rental agency.
5. Just a reminder, if you are traveling **please check the weather forecast** and plan accordingly. Weather in Kansas can change very quickly. Take care and be safe!
6. Finally, don't forget to lock your doors before you leave.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY—MARCH 17TH—CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron Saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about 385 AD. His given name was Maewyn and he almost did not get the job of Bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his calling he was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland. Patrick was quite successful at winning converts and this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to the county of Down. He died on March 17 in 461 AD. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. This stems from a more bona fide Irish tale and tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

INTERNATIONAL 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 Tuesday, March 27 and Friday, March 30 in McCartney Hall 114 and Wed., April 4 from 1:30-3:00pm in McCartney Hall 116. Please sign up for a workshop in the International Office, Sheridan Hall 208.

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 ISS know if you have ANY questions regarding this.

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

Mid-terms are coming up, 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.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections is a chance to take a break, get out and meet new people while having fun and being creative. Community Connections begins at 5:30 p.m. on designated Fridays in the Fellowship Hall at 2900 Hall Street. It is a time for building friendships between different generations and cultures within our community. It is a great way to spend an afternoon with others in the community. You also will meet many other diverse FHSU students and community members as well. Dinner is also served. So come, relax, re-energize, and recreate, not only with students but with others within the community.

Spring 2012 Schedule for Community Connections:

Friday, March 2

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

This is once again a reminder that while school is in session, international students are only allowed to work **20 hours a week total**. If students work for Chartwells and also have another on-campus job, the total number of hours worked between both jobs **cannot** exceed 20 hours a week. We will be monitoring the number of hours students are working, and if students are working more than 20 hours a week, they will receive a letter from the ISS Office. If a student continues to exceed the 20 hours a week, they could be in jeopardy of losing their on-campus job. **Please remember** you are here on a student visa and not a work visa, so do not let work interfere with your academic coursework.

UPDATE ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE remember to inform the International Student Services Office if your address, email or phone number has changed. Federal SEVIS regulations require F-1 and J-1 students, scholars, and faculty to notify USCIS within ten (10) days of any change in your U.S. address. By completing the Change of Address Form in the International Office, an International Advisor will make the change in SEVIS.

At the beginning of the semester several of you moved, have a new phone number, or updated your email address and have not informed us of the changes. If we do not have your correct contact information, email address, or phone number, we do not have a way to get a hold of you or get the newsletter to you.

I'M GRADUATING...WHAT NOW??

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION & OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Are you graduating this May 2012 or summer 2012? We will be holding a workshop for all students graduating in May or this summer. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 3:00-4:30pm in the Trails Room of Memorial Union. There will be discussion on what the requirements for OPT are, explaining the paperwork that must be completed, and answering your OPT questions. Information will also be given on preparing to leave the US for those not applying for OPT. It is very important for you to attend if you plan on applying for OPT this semester. Practical training applications can take 60-90 days to be completed and returned from the processing center. Remember, you cannot start a job until you receive this work authorization AND you must apply BEFORE you graduate.

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, Karen 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 remain in status with immigration.

SPRING BREAK INFORMATION

Spring Break at FHSU is right around the corner. For those of you new to FHSU this semester, spring break is a week in March when classes are not in session, March 19-26. 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, the Wellness Center and food service. Information about Tiger Transport and restaurants within walking distance of campus are also below.

Forsyth Library

The library is CLOSED these dates:

Sat. March 17 – Sun. March 18

The library is OPEN these dates:

Mon. March 19 – Fri. March 23 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 pm

Sat. March 24 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sun. March 25 – 1:00 p.m. - Midnight

Wellness Center

The Wellness Center will be closed Sat., March 17—Sun., March 25 for remodeling.
The entire building will be closed.

On-Campus Food Service

McMindes Hall Cafeteria:

Fri. March 16 2pm – Sun. March 25 through lunch – NO MEAL SERVICE

Fri. March 16 no dinner

Sun. March 25 dinner will be served

Memorial Union:

Union Station Tiger Market—Closed

Mondo's Subs

Sat. March 17—Sun. March 18 – Closed

Mon. March 19 – Fri. March 23 – 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Sat. March 24 – Sun. March 25—Closed

Grab 'n Go:

Sat. March 17 – Sun. March 18 Closed

Mon. March 19 – Fri. March 23 – 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Sat. March 24 – Sun. March 25—Closed

Starbucks

Sat. March 17 – Sun. March 18 – Closed

Mon. March 19 – Fri. March 23 – 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Sat. March 24 – Sun. March 25—Closed

Tiger Transport & the Access Van

Tiger Transport WILL be running its regular schedule during Spring Break. You can ride Tiger Transport to The Mall & Wal-Mart. You can shop, eat or watch a movie.

Tiger Transport Schedule:

Friday, March 16, & 23 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 17, & 24 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

When Tiger Transport is not running, call Access Van at 628 -1052 and schedule a pick-up time.

Restaurants within Walking Distance

We have a list and a map of restaurants that are within walking distance of FHSU. If you need them, please stop by the International Student Office to get them.

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Delivery

This is a listing of restaurants that you call 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! 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

Mexican

Taco Grande – 625-1413

Taco Shop – 625-7114 -- www.tacoshop.net**Pizza**Domino's Pizza – 625-2311 -- www.dominos.com

Lomato's Pizza– 623-2888

Pizza Hut – 628-1777 -- www.pizzahut.com**Sandwiches, Pasta**

Mr. Goodcents – 650-0800

Jimmy Johns—621-2227

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.

During Spring Break, our office and all other offices on campus will be open regular hours, Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 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.

SPRING BREAK — PLEASE READ!

For those of you who travel out of Hays for the Break, as well as for those who stay here, we have some important safety suggestions and some tips on what you can do. These tips are based on the fliers from the Kelly Center and personal experience. Please, read them!

Some of important tips and rules:

When you drive, **DRIVE SAFELY!** Respect the speed limit (if you don't, you will be caught and you may pay hundreds of dollars for it!). **FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT! SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!**

When you fly, **LISTEN TO THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**, read them, and locate the emergency exits around you. **KNOWING THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS AND LOCATING EMERGENCY EXITS SAVE LIVES.**

When you are in a club, **BE SAFE!** Stay out of trouble. You may be surprised how many people can have a gun in a club, for example, in Denver. If you don't feel comfortable somewhere, leave. But **NEVER LEAVE ALONE**, or leave your friend alone! And remember, if you're not 21, you cannot drink alcohol in bars & clubs. Do you think it is a stupid rule? Well, we all have an opinion, but it is law, and the law should be respected. If we don't respect it, we can get into big trouble (a big fine, jail, deportation...).

BE SMART AND BE YOURSELF! We are sure your parents have taught you many smart things, and maybe it is not such a bad idea to follow their advice. It is important not to give up on values. It's not cool to smoke marijuana or to get drunk to the point you can't walk.

16 Tips for a Safe Spring Break:

1. Never leave valuables in your hotel room.
2. Do not drink and drive.
3. Do not go out alone.
4. Know the law!
5. Service your vehicle prior to traveling.
6. Have auto and health insurance cards with you.
7. Fasten your seatbelt.
8. Have your ID with you.
9. Never leave a sick or intoxicated friend alone.
10. Inform your family and friends of your travel plans give them your contact information.
11. Stay away from dangerous situations.
12. There is no such thing as casual sex.
13. Never leave with someone you just met.
14. Set limits.
15. Never leave your drink alone.
16. Always lock your hotel room door.

16 Spring Break Ideas:**Plan a week of events that you can do locally!**

1. Do a mini road trip.
2. Read a book for fun.
3. Shop 'til you drop.
4. Make your own movie.
5. Catch up on homework.
6. Visit a friend.
7. Have a baking party.
8. Enter a karaoke contest.
9. Take in a movie – watch the Oscar winners.
10. Play mini-golf or go glow bowling.
11. Visit local parks and lakes.
12. Have a snow day – plan an indoor picnic or stay in bed until 2 pm.
13. Get pampered or visit a day spa (of course, getting pampered by Mom or Dad may not be very possible for us, international students).
14. Get cultured – visit a museum, art gallery, or go to a theater.
15. Get crafty – take pottery lessons or a lesson at the recreation center.
16. Discover the great outdoors – play Frisbee golf, bike, fly a kite, have a barbeque.

TRAVEL WORKSHOP

With the recent accident of two Chinese students in January, it is necessary to better inform and educate the students about how to have a safe break, especially if they are traveling. The Chinese faculty from Chinese Scholars Association is willing to help with this workshop. FHSU faculty will talk about the responsibility of getting a drivers license, traveling over the break, renting a car and answer the students' questions, etc. To add another educational layer on this workshop, we have also invited some Chinese students who have been in Hays long enough to share their own experience on traveling. With these students' participation and similar background, it will also help with attendance and engagement if students listen to someone who they know or have a connection with. The target will be our Chinese students and the workshop will be in English with Chinese translation. All international students are welcome to attend as well. With spring break coming up, we know that students will be making plans very soon, therefore we would like all the Chinese students to attend this workshop. We really want to make sure you are safe during the break. **This workshop will be on March 12, in Albertson Hall 169, from 7:30pm-8:30pm.**

MARCH 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	2 ~Community Connections @ 5:30pm ~Tiger Idol @ 7:30pm Beach/Schmidt PAC	3
4	5	6	7 Tiger Series Work- shop @ 5:30pm in Cody Commons	8 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	9	10
11	12 Travel Workshop Albertson Hall 169 @ 7:30pm	13 ~OPT Workshop 3-4:30pm, Trails Room, Memorial Union ~Kyshonna Arm- strong Cody Com- mons @ 12:00 & 7:30pm	14 Creation Station from 11am—1pm Cody Commons	15 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	16	17
18	19 S P R I N G B R E A K	20	21	22	23	24
25 FHSU Softball & Base- ball @ 2pm & 4pm	26 FHSU Softball & Baseball @ 12pm & 1pm	27	28 Tax Workshop 1:30-3:00pm McCartney Hall 114	29 Conversation Corner 7-8pm in Chuck's Place, Wiest Hall	30 ~FHSU softball @ 3pm ~Tax Workshop 1:30-3:00pm McCartney Hall 114	31

International Student Union
 Sheridan Hall 208
 600 Park
 Hays, KS 67601

Phone Number (785) 628-4276
 Fax Number (785) 628-4113

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8am—4:30pm

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