FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERISTY

Tiger International

March 2014

Special points of interest:

- Calendar of events on last page

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From the Desk of the Advisor — Carol Solko-Olliff

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!

Out Of Office I will be out of the office March 4-7, 2014 at a conference. If you need something signed or to discuss a situation with me, please plan ahead. My only day in the office that week will be Monday, March 3rd.

Thank you and Congratulations to all the students who participated in any way with the Chinese New Year, Celebration of Diversity. The program and celebration of the Year of the Horse was a GREAT SUCCESS!!! There was great attendance and we heard many positive comments. Thank you for your hard work!!

Midsemester is fast approaching, so be sure to visit with your academic advisor and prepare your worksheet in Tiger Tracks in order to pick your classes for the fall 2014 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 <u>any questions</u> 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 14th. If you have questions regarding how to do this, please let us know.

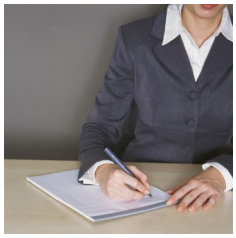
A number of you will be graduating and may wish to have your family attend graduation in May. If you would like an invitation letter from the ISS Office we would be happy to provide that. Please stop by the office and complete a request form. If you have questions about this, please let me know. Also, 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.

***<u>AS A REMINDER</u>*,** 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. We 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 (taken away). I would also remind you that **<u>working off campus is strictly prohibited</u>** 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 and could be deported and 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!**

Writing Assistance Center



Remember that the Writing Center is an excellent place to write or to go for feedback on any kind of writing. Located in the Forsyth Library, it features a computer lab and trained writing consultants. Appointments must be made online on the Writing Center's website at https://sites.google.com/a/mail.fhsu.edu/fhsu-writing-center/ 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!!

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.

Tax Information: W-2 & 1042-S Forms

1. 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.**

2. If you worked in 2013 and did not receive a W2 form or you received a scholarship in 2013 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.

3. If you worked for Chartwells (Compass Group is the official name) in 2013 and did not receive a W2, please visit with the Chartwells Office in McMindes Hall and ask that they get you a replacement. The International Office does not receive W2's for students who worked for Chartwells.

4. If you would like help completing your income tax return and you must sign up in the International Office, Sheridan Hall 208 attend the workshop. We will not be able to help students individually in the office.

5. Tax return workshops will be held on the following dates:
   - March 24 from 1:30-3:00pm
   - March 28 from 1:30-3:00pm
   - April 1 from 1:30-3:00pm
   - April 4 from 9:00-10:30am

The purpose of this workshop is to help students with completing an income tax return.

Address Updates and Student Status

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

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

For reference purposes when booking your ticket, the Hays airport code is HYS.

I'm Graduating….What Now?
Immigration Information & Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Are you graduating this May 2014 or summer 2014? We will be holding a workshop for all students graduating in May or this summer.

The OPT workshop will be held on Thursday, March 27 in the McMindes Hall 2R classroom. The workshop for undergraduate students is at 2:30-3:30 and the workshop for graduate students is at 3:30 -4:30.

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.

Rotary International Scholarship

The Rotary Scholarship provides an opportunity for an international graduate student to receive a scholarship for one academic year. You must be a currently enrolled international student at FHSU to apply. ALL graduate students who have at least one full year of academic courses are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. **Deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 19, 2014**. Please visit this web site for the application http://www.fhsu.edu/international/Scholarships/

Serhiy Zhykin, International Graduate Assistant

I hope your semester is going well, and you have been able to stay warm during these past couple of months! I would like to mention a few important things that we have coming up, but before I do that I would like to recognize our new **International Students Union (ISU) officers**:

Fatoumatta Darboe is the President
Mingwei He (Jane) is the Vice President
Jing Zhou (Sylvia) is the Social Media Representative
Yeong Su Han is the Treasurer

Thank you for dedicating your time and effort not only to help us better coordinate and plan future events and activities for ISU members, but also to raise a cultural awareness on campus and Hays community.

I am excited to mention that ISU members will have the opportunity to go to **Kansas Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson.** The trip will be on **Saturday, April 19th**. We will tour the Underground Salt Museum and spend time at the Hutchinson Mall. The cost of the trip will be $15, those who are currently members of ISU will have the priority to **sign up first on March 24th**, in Sheridan Hall room 208. Those who are not yet members of ISU will need to pay a $4 membership fee and will be able to sign up on March 26th, in Sheridan Hall room 208.

I will send more detailed information about the trip to ISU members through your FHSU email, and also I will post the same information on International Student Services Facebook page. I will also post the same information on Facebook, so please like our Facebook page at facebook.com/FHSUISS. I cannot emphasize how important it is to check your university email and our FHSU International Student Services Facebook page so you do not miss out on any of the trips and activities.

I also want to mention that our **Speakers Bureau Program** will be traveling to Ellis Middle School in early part of April, as well local schools here in Hays; if you are interested in putting together a presentation about your home country and presenting to the geography classes, please contact me and I will make arrangements for you to go and present.
Good luck as you get ready for midterm exams and have a Safe and Restful Spring Break!

Residence Hall During Spring Break

If you will be staying in your Residence Hall during any part of spring break, it is important that you check with your RA and attend the floor meeting on procedures and pass key check out.

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.

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.

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—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:

1. 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!).

2. FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT! SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!

3. 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.

4. 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…).

5. 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.

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 17 through Friday, March 21, 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 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 17-21. 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 15 – Sun. March 16

The library is OPEN these dates:
Mon. March 17 – Fri. March 21 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 pm
Sat. March 22 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sun. March 24 – 1:00 p.m. - Midnight

Wellness Center

The Wellness Center will be open during spring break week. Hours have not been determined, so you will need to check times during this week.

On-Campus Food Service—**This information is tentative on various meal service availability. Please check your email for updated information on changes.

McMindes Hall Cafeteria:

Fri. March 14 4pm – Sun. March 23 through lunch – NO MEAL SERVICE

Fri. March 14 no dinner
Sun. March 23 dinner will be served

Memorial Union:

Union Station Tiger Market—Closed

Mondo's Subs

Sat. March 15—Sun. March 16 – Closed

Mon. March 17 – Fri. March 21 – 11:00 am—2:00 pm
Sat. March 22 – Sun. March 23—Closed

Grab 'n Go:

Sat. March 15 – Sun. March 16 Closed
Mon. March 17 – Fri. March 21 – 8:oo am—4:30 pm

Sat. March 22 – Sun. March 23—Closed

Starbucks

Sat. March 15 – Sun. March 16 – Closed
Mon. March 17 – Fri. March 21 – 8:oo am—4:30 pm

Sat. March 22 – Sun. March 23—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 14, & 21	2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 15, & 22	2:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesday, March 26	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
Jimmy Johns—621-2227

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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.
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.

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERISTY

International Student Services
Sheridan Hall 208
600 Park St
Hays, KS 67601

Phone: 785-628-4276
Fax: 785-628-4113

E-mail: international @fhsu.edu

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

March 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4 UAB Presents Alexandra McHale—Comedian 7:30pm Cody Commons	5 FHSU softball @ 1:00 & 3:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 2:00pm in Larks Park	6	7 FHSU softball @ 3:00 & 5:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 3:00pm in Larks Park	8 FHSU softball @ 1:00 & 3:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 1:00pm & 3:30pm in Larks Park
9 FHSU baseball @ 1:00pm in Larks Park	10	11 FHSU baseball @ 3:00pm in Larks Park	12 TIGERS Series Workshop @ 5pm in Stouffer Lounge	13	14 FHSU softball @ 4:00 & 6:00pm in Tiger Stadium	15 FHSU softball @ 1:00 & 3:00pm in Tiger Stadium
16	17 S P R I N G B R E A K	18 FHSU baseball @ 4:00pm in Larks Park	19	20	21 FHSU baseball @ 5:00pm in Larks Park	22 FHSU baseball @ 1:00 & 3:30pm in Larks Park
23 FHSU baseball @ 1:00pm in Larks Park	24	25 FHSU softball @ 2:00 & 4:00pm in Tiger Stadium ENCORE: H.M.S. Pinaore 7:30pm Beach/Schmidt PAC	26 FHSU softball @ 12:00 & 2:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 3:00pm in Larks Park DIversi-Tea Sunset Lounge 1:30-3:30pm TIGERS Series Workshop @ 5pm in Stouffer Lounge	27 OPT Workshop 2:30-3:30 under-graduates 3:30-4:30 grad-uates in McMindes Hall 2R classroom	28 FHSU track Alex Francis Classic All day FHSU tennis @ 3:30pm FHSU baseball @ 7:00pm in Larks Park	29 FHSU track Alex Francis Classic All day FHSU tennis @ 9:00am FHSU softball @ 11:00am & 1:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 3:30pm in Larks Park
30 FHSU softball @ 11:00am & 1:00pm in Tiger Stadium FHSU baseball @ 12:00pm in Larks Park	31 International Staff out of office					