

**April highlights include:**

1. Photos from International Women's Day!
2. International Coffee Hour – April 2 & 16
3. “Getting that job in the US: Practical Tips for International Students” Workshop - April 8<sup>th</sup>
4. International Club Trip to the Mountain – April 10
5. 2008 Tax filing- last reminder - April 15<sup>th</sup>
6. OPT Information Sessions for May, July & August Graduates – April 15<sup>th</sup>
7. Employment-Based Visas: A Discussion with an Immigration Attorney – April 21<sup>st</sup>
8. End of Semester Travel Reminders
9. I-20 or DS-2019 Expiration Dates?
10. Summer Registration & Summer Employment

1. Photos from International Women's Day!

On Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, UNC Charlotte held its fourth annual International Women's Day Celebration, honoring women from around the world as well as U.S. women.

It was a beautiful event and we want to share some photos with you. Thank you to those who joined us and we look forward to seeing many more international students at next year's event! See photos at <http://www.oip.uncc.edu/intphotosmar262009.htm>

2. International Coffee Hour in April!

The International Coffee Hour events for April are:

- *Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*AND*
- *Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>* (Last one of the academic year!)

As always, International Coffee Hour is from 4-6pm in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room of the Prospector Cafeteria. Bring a friend, or make a new one there!!

3. “Getting that job in the US: Practical Tips for International Students” Workshop - April 8<sup>th</sup>

Feeling stressed out about finding work on your OPT? Join the ISSO and the University Career Center for a presentation and discussion of how to think creatively and let your skills work for you!

When? Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Where? CHHS 281

4. International Club Trip to the Mountain! – April 10<sup>th</sup>

On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 come join the UNC Charlotte International Club for an exciting day of hiking, sightseeing and boat touring at **Chimney Rock Park and Lake Lure**. Open to International Club members, non-members and their children.

Depart from UNC Charlotte at 7:30 am, return around 9:00 pm.

Cost: \$35 and \$15 for children age 12 & under. This includes a morning snack on the bus, entrance fee to Chimney Rock Park and the Lake Lure Boat tour. Sign-up begins April 1 and ends on April 7 in the ISSO (or until the bus fills). Please bring a check or money order made out to 'International Club'. No cash or credit cards may be accepted.

5. 2008 Tax filing- last reminder – April 15<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filing your federal and state taxes. Passwords for the CINTAX federal 1040NREZ and instructions for the NC D-400 are still available in the ISSO. For more information go to <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/employment.htm#Taxes>

6. OPT Information Sessions for May, July & August Graduates – April 15<sup>th</sup>

Anyone completing their degree in May, July or August and interested in applying for OPT (optional practical training) must attend an Information Session held by the ISSO.

Two previous sessions were held on 2/20 and 3/12 for May graduates, and the final information session is scheduled for: **Wed. April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in CHHS 145.**

July or August graduates – you may attend the April 15<sup>th</sup> session or there will be another one on **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in CHHS 278** If you cannot attend this session, please send an email to [dvmedei@uncc.edu](mailto:dvmedei@uncc.edu) and we will try to schedule another time.

To read more about OPT visit <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/OPT%20instructions.pdf>

7. Employment-Based Visas: A Discussion with an Immigration Attorney – April 21<sup>st</sup>

Steve Garfinkel, Managing Partner at Garfinkel Immigration Law Firm, will present a short discussion of current immigration law issues for international students and will be available for questions & answers.

Steve is an immigration lawyer with over 24 years of experience and Garfinkel Immigration Law ([www.garfinkelimmigration.com](http://www.garfinkelimmigration.com)) has grown to become the largest immigration law firm in the state. Steve's talk will focus on employment-based visas and options for foreign students to consider post graduation.

When? **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm**

Where? **CHHS 145**

8. End of Semester Travel Reminders

The end of the semester is approaching fast, so **if** you plan on traveling outside of the U.S. this summer, please read the important reminders below...

- **Make sure page 3 of your I-20 or p.1 of your DS-2019 (for J-1 students) has been signed within the past year.** If not, bring it to the ISSO for a signature *at least* 1 week prior to your departure.
- **If your funding has changed,** please bring this to our attention so that we can create a new document with the most accurate, up-to-date information.

- Check to **make sure that your visa and your passport will be valid** on the day you re-enter the U.S. If not, you must extend them accordingly.
- **If your visa has expired** or will expire prior to your re-entry, you will need to apply for a new one. You should be prepared to show...
  1. Valid I-20 with recent signature on p.3 or DS-2019 with recent signature on p.1
  2. Valid passport
  3. Proof of financial support
  4. Proof of registration at UNC Charlotte (transcript from Banner self-service or Registrar's Office)
  5. Letter of enrollment (available at ISSO)
- Take **proof of financial support and registration** with you (unofficial transcript from 49er Express), in case you are questioned upon re-entry to the U.S.
- If you have applied for OPT, make sure to **take your EAD and a job offer letter** with you.
- If you will begin a **new degree program in the fall**, make sure to take your NEW I-20 for re-entry to the U.S.
- If you will **transfer to another university in the Fall**, you must re-enter the U.S using your NEW I-20, rather than your UNC Charlotte I-20.
- If you entered the U.S. under "**special registration**", you must meet with an immigration official at one of the designated ports of exit (despite any advice to the contrary from any airline official!). If you have any questions, please see Marian or Denise prior to your departure.

#### 9. I-20/DS-2019 Expiration Dates?

Please take a look at your I-20 (item #5) or DS-2019 (item #3) for the program end date. If this date is approaching in May or August *and you still need more time to complete your program*, you **MUST** file a program extension in the ISSO **prior to the end date on the document**. The form is available in our office or at <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/immigration.htm#Request%20Forms> under "request forms". **If you do not request a program extension and your I-20 or DS-2019 expires, you will be out of status and ineligible for OPT. Please pass this message along to any friends who might be in this situation.**

#### 10. Summer Registration & Summer Employment

F1 students must register in the summer **only** if it is their very last semester. Otherwise, it is not required.

Also, you may work on campus during the summer if you are registered for Summer and/or Fall Semester. If you have specific questions, please ask in the Student Employment Office (King Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)!