

March highlights include:

1. March International Coffee Hours
2. Spring Break travel outside the U.S.
3. Change clocks on March 8th!
4. International Women's Day Celebration!
5. New format for applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT)!
6. Reminder to maintain fulltime status!
7. Important tax reminders!
8. NC state tax workshop for those who have already completed federal tax forms
9. Middle East Festival
10. Indoor Soccer Sign-Up
11. Found – pair of prescription sunglasses

1. March International Coffee Hours

- **Thursday, March 5th**
- **Thursday, March 19th**

Come anytime between 4-6pm to the Prospector Faculty/Staff Dining Room and join us for refreshments, games, music & great conversations! Open to everyone on campus, so feel free to invite a friend or classmate!

2. Spring Break travel outside the U.S.

Spring Break is March 9-14. If you will travel outside the U.S. (yes, this includes Canada & Mexico) please remember...

- ***Get your I-20 or DS-2019 signed*** in the ISSO if it's been more than 1 year since your last signature!
- Take with you, your ***valid passport, visa, UNC Charlotte transcript and financial documentation.***

Have a happy and safe Spring Break!!

3. Change clocks on March 8th!

Don't forget to change your clocks, watches, cell phones, palm pilots, etc. on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00am. Since it's now Spring, we "spring" ahead 1 hour and gain more light. For more information, see <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>.

4. International Women's Day Celebration

March 8th is International Women's Day. As you may know in your country, this day is designated as a day to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of women around the world as well as to acknowledge their economic, political, cultural and social struggles for equality, justice, peace, and development.

UNC Charlotte will celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday, March 26th from 3:30-5:00pm in CHHS Room #281.

- **You are all strongly encouraged (both men and women) to join us for a special recognition ceremony with performances and a reception to follow!** Please wear your native dress to this event so that we can recognize you and your cultures!
- **You are also invited to nominate someone who has made an impact on the lives of women locally and globally to be recognized and celebrated on this special day. No accomplishment is too small, no experience is insignificant!**
 - For more information on who can be nominated, submission guidelines, and a nomination form visit www.uncc.edu/oip/intwomenday.htm or contact dvmedei@uncc.edu.
 - Please submit nominations by Thursday, March 19, 2009.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE! This event is open to all faculty, staff and students at UNC Charlotte.

5. New format for applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT)!

In order to apply for OPT all students must first attend a general information workshop. There are 2 more workshops scheduled for the dates/times below for May graduates. After attending, students will then be able to request a new I-20 online and apply for OPT.

If your class or work schedule does not allow you to attend either one of the workshops below, please send an email to dvmedei@uncc.edu indicating other possible times that you can meet. We will try to accommodate your schedule by arranging another group meeting time.

- Thursday, March 12th from 6-7pm in CHHS 295
- Wednesday, April 15th from 5:30-6:30pm in CHHS 145

6. Reminder to maintain fulltime status!

Mid-terms are upon us and we hope you all do wonderfully. But we also want to remind you that dropping below a fulltime course of study without prior authorization is a violation of your immigration status. If you are having difficulty with a class and are thinking of dropping it, please talk first with Marian or Denise in the ISSO so that we can discuss the potential immigration implications or other possible options.

Again, fulltime is defined as the following:

Undergraduate = at least 12 credits

Graduate = at least 9 credits

Graduate with approved assistantship = at least 6 credits

Graduate who has completed coursework and working on thesis or project only = no minimum required but must be registered for “thesis”, “project”, or “dissertation”.

7. Important tax reminders!

All international students (F-1 & J-1) who resided in the US during 2008 are required to complete federal tax forms by April 15th.

If you were employed in the US in 2008, you must file both federal and state tax forms. These forms, instructions and passwords to CINTAX, a special non-immigrant tax software program are available in the ISSO, College of Health & Human Services Building, Room 202. Passwords are \$3.25 and available to any F1 or J1 student.

If you were NOT employed in 2008, you must file only the form 8843. Tips on how to complete this form, along with a link to the 8843 can be found at <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/employment.htm#Taxes> (scroll down just a bit).

8. Special Tax Workshop for Students who have Already Completed Federal Tax Forms
If you have completed your federal tax forms (1040 NR) and need help with your NC state tax form, please plan to attend a special workshop on Friday, March 20th at 4pm in CHHS 281 You should take with you your completed 1040 NR, the NC tax form and any other tax forms mailed to you (W2, 1042-S).

9. Middle East Festival

The Middle East Council of the Carolinas presents the 'Middle East Festival' on Saturday, March 21st, 2009 from 10AM - 5PM at Queens University of Charlotte.

Featuring:

- Dance performances
- Music performances
- Arts & Crafts
- Informational Films
- Food for purchase
- Post-festival Comedy performance by Ahmed Ahmed (tickets \$15)

Please visit www.middleeastcouncilnc.org for more information or contact Chris George to volunteer your time info@middleeastcouncilnc.org or (704)966-6258.

10. Indoor Soccer Sign-Up

If you are interested in playing indoor soccer on an 'intramural' team at UNC Charlotte, registration is from Feb. 23-March 6th in Belk Gym 222. Teams begin playing on March 22nd. For more information go to www.recservices.uncc.edu . If you have questions, send an email to kegatche@uncc.edu .

11. Found – pair of prescription sunglasses

A pair of prescription sunglasses has been found and turned into the ISSO. If you know the owner, please send him/her to CHHS 202.