

May Highlights Include:

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1. Congratulations to Graduating International Students and Farewell to Exchange Students

We in the ISSO have enjoyed having you with us and hope that your experiences at UNC Charlotte have been positive as well as unforgettable! We wish you well in your futures and hope that our paths may cross again someday.

2. International Travel & Immigration 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 (for F-1s) or page 1 of DS-2019 (for J-1s) 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.
 - 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 you have questions about this, please ask us.
 - Take proof of financial support and registration with you, in case you are questioned upon re-entry to the U.S.
 - If you have applied for OPT, make sure you take your EAD and an offer of temporary employment with you.
 - If you will begin a new degree program in the fall, make sure you take your NEW I-20/DS-2019 for re-entry to the U.S.
 - If you will transfer to another university in the Fall, you must re-enter the U.S with your NEW I-20/DS-2019, rather than your current UNC Charlotte document.
 - If you are transiting via another country, check to see if you will need a visa from that country's government.
 - Special Registrants (NSEERS) are still required to register their departure from the U.S. at <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/> . If you have questions, please see Marian or Denise in the ISSO.
- ### 3. OPT Workshop for Summer Graduates – Required!
- Summer graduates interested in applying for Optional Practical Training **must** attend an information session prior to applying. If you have not already attended one this spring

semester, there will be one more held on **Tuesday, May 12th at 3pm** in CHHS 279. If for some reason you are unable to attend, please send an email to intlssso@uncc.edu .

- J-1 students interested in Academic Training must see Marian or Denise prior to program end date for application information.
- To learn more about OPT, go to <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/OPT%20instructions.pdf>

4. Summer Registration & Summer Employment

Students must register in the summer **only** if it is your 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!

5. International Student Award Winners!

The International Club and Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars co-sponsored the Spring 2009 Student Writing Competition on the theme of "Crossing Borders".

Congratulations to the following students, whose papers were selected as winning papers!

Graduate Students

1st place – Onyewuchi Obirize

Honorary mention – Syed Haque & Sushma Srikanta Murthy

Undergraduate Students

1st place – Amy Mitchell

Honorary mention – Jieun Bae & Bradley Griffin

ELTI students

1st place – Seden Yapa

Honorary mention – Thao Nguyen & Bo Young Kim

To read these essays, go to <http://www.oip.uncc.edu/pbd/writingwinners.htm> .

6. Calling all Orientation Volunteers!

Do you remember when you were a new student here? Do you want to help new students with their transition to UNC Charlotte? Volunteer your experience and expertise at the fall orientation programs!

International *Undergraduate* Orientation will be from **August 18th through August 21st**

International *Graduate* Orientation will be from **August 20th through August 21st**

If you are interested and will be available please contact Denise at dvmedei@uncc.edu as soon as possible! **We need your help...**

7. Address Updates?

Continuing and graduating international students must update local and permanent address in 49er Express, both for SEVIS reporting purposes as well as university communication purposes.

If you are returning to your home country, please also make this update in 49er Express.

8. Graduation Questions?

If you are not clear about procedures and times for the May 9th graduation ceremonies, you may want to check the following website for information: <http://www.uncc.edu/graduation/>

9. ISSO Summer Office Hours

The ISSO will continue to be open regular hours during both summer sessions; 8am-5pm Monday through Friday.

10. Summer Programs/Activities

The ISSO is planning to have 2 International Coffee Hour events during the summer. They will be on **Thursday, June 18** and **Thursday, July 16**. If you are around campus, we hope to see you at the Prospector Faculty/Staff Café between 4-6pm!