

## November Newsletter

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### 1. International Coffee Hour Dates in November

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm.

Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm (celebrating International Education Week!).

### 2. Change your clocks on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>!

Don't forget to change your clocks, watches, etc. Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00am. Since it's now Fall, we "fall" behind 1 hour and sadly lose more light. For more information, see <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>

### 3. Early Registration for Spring 2010

Make sure to register for classes as soon as possible and schedule an appointment with your academic advisor if necessary! If you have any registration holds please read them carefully and take care of them as soon as possible.

### 4. Experience Saudi Night at UNC Charlotte!

All international students are invited to attend the first ever Saudi culture night, to be held on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10pm in the Student Union, Room 340** but you **MUST** send your RSVP to [sso.uncc@gmail.com](mailto:sso.uncc@gmail.com) to be placed on the guest list.

The event includes an open exhibit, speeches, videos, a traditional play and of course typical Saudi food! Come and learn more about Saudi Arabia...

### 5. OPT Information Sessions for December Graduates

Don't wait until the last minute to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). Two more Information Sessions have been scheduled so make sure you attend one if you haven't already done so:

- **Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, CHHS Room 147**
- **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm, CHHS Room 147**

If you'd like to read about OPT prior to the Information Session go to <http://www.isso.uncc.edu/OPT%20instructions.pdf> .

#### 6. Orientation Volunteers Needed

New international students will soon be arriving and the ISSO will hold orientation programs on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> (undergraduate and exchange students) and Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> (graduate students). Your help is critical in providing new and important information to them plus it's a lot of fun! If you are interested and will be available at these times and throughout the week, please send an email to [intlssso@uncc.edu](mailto:intlssso@uncc.edu) . Also, we will need 2 van drivers to make airport pick-ups.

#### 7. Thanksgiving Holiday Dinner

A Charlotte family would like to invite several international students to a Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and will provide transportation! If you are interested please call Cynthia at 803-802-9903 or send an email to [cynthia.marieis@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthia.marieis@yahoo.com). This is on a first come, first serve basis and she needs to know who is interested by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November.

For more information about Thanksgiving and other U.S. holidays, visit [www.holidays.net](http://www.holidays.net) .

#### 8. Thanksgiving Volunteer Opportunity

Spend an evening volunteering with other UNC Charlotte students! This service activity will allow you to meet and volunteer alongside UNC Charlotte students while helping community members in need during the Thanksgiving holiday season.

**Date:** Thursday, November 19

**Time:** 5:00pm - 8:30pm

**Details:** Volunteers will help with serving and clearing a holiday meal and children's crafts at the University City YMCA.

**Transportation:** Transportation will be provided to and from the volunteering site in 15-passenger vans. Please meet at the Lynch Hall parking lot (Lot 22) at 4:30pm. Vans will return to campus at 9:00pm.

For more information and to register contact Carol Correll at [cacorrel@uncc.edu](mailto:cacorrel@uncc.edu) by Tuesday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m. or you can contact the ISSO with any questions.

#### 9. Office Hours

As you may or may not know, there are no classes from Wednesday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> and the ISSO will be closed on Thursday and Friday the 26-27<sup>th</sup>.

#### 10. New CATS bus line to Concord Mills!

CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System) is running a new bus line (79X) from downtown to Concord Mills on Saturdays only. The bus stops at University Place at the intersection with JW Keynes Blvd.

To access the bus schedule go to:

<http://wirelesscats.ridetransit.org/BusSchedules/mnt/Schedule.asp?sk=dSOXj3J1nSSIMkx>

#### 11. Christmas International House Information

If you are interested in spending the Christmas holiday with an American family in another part of the U.S. consider applying for Christmas International House, an ecumenical program started in 1965 by the Presbyterian Church (USA). For more information and an application, visit <http://www.christmasih.org> Applications will be accepted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 20, 2009.

#### 12. “International Education Week”: November 16-20

Preparations are underway nationwide for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Education Week, November 16-20, part of the implementation of former President Clinton’s directive calling for an International education policy for the United States.

Your being here in the United States is an important part of this commitment to the mutual exchange of ideas, leading toward intercultural understanding and more peaceful relations in the world. For more information, go to <http://iew.state.gov>

In addition, lots of wonderful and interesting events will be happening at UNC Charlotte! Check out the website below for a full (and growing) listing and please join us at any or all events as part of UNC Charlotte’s international community!

<http://www.oip.uncc.edu/IntEdWk.htm>

#### 13. Check the End Date on your Immigration Documents

Just a reminder to take a look at the ending date on your I-20 (item #5) or DS-2019 (item #3). If you still need more time to finish your program and are making adequate progress toward your degree, you **MUST** fill out a Program Extension Form from the ISSO **prior to the end date on your document** so that we can produce a new document for you.

Remember, this is your responsibility. If this is not done in time, you will lose your F1 status!

#### 14. Planning International Travel?

The holidays are approaching and if you are traveling outside the U.S. you should take a look at your immigration documents to make sure everything is in order for your re-entry.

Is your passport valid? Is your visa valid? Is your I-20 or DS-2019 valid? Has it been signed by either Marian or Denise in the last year?

If you need a signature, please bring it to the ISSO in early December and leave 3 days processing time rather than waiting until the LAST MINUTE!

#### 15. “Green Card Diversity Lottery” Begins

The DV-2010 Lottery online entry begins at Noon EDT on October 2, and ends at Noon EST on November 30, 2009. Information and instructions will appear at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1318.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html) as soon as they are available.

Each year, the Diversity Lottery Program makes 55,000 immigrant visas available through a lottery to people who come from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The State Department holds the lottery every year, and randomly selects approximately 110,000 applicants from all qualified entries.

16. Denise Medeiros will be out of the office until February 8<sup>th</sup>

Denise Medeiros will be away from the office and not responding to emails from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to February 8<sup>th</sup> due to maternity leave. Please direct all questions either to Marian Beane [mebeane@uncc.edu](mailto:mebeane@uncc.edu) or the general ISSO email account [intlssso@uncc.edu](mailto:intlssso@uncc.edu) .