

## ISSO October Newsletter - go to [www.isso.uncc.edu](http://www.isso.uncc.edu)

This month's highlights include:

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### **1. IFest 2009**

This is a big THANK YOU to all who participated in UNC Charlotte's 34<sup>th</sup> annual International Festival on September 26th! It was a wonderful event, and you played a role in helping to teach thousands of people a little bit more about your area of the world. We hope that you will do the same next year!

### **2. Optional Practical Training (OPT) Information Session for December Graduates**

The ISSO will hold another information session for students graduating in December and interested in applying for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT). Please plan to attend, as lots of important information will be discussed.

- **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in CHHS 147**

### **3. North Carolina International Leadership Conference**

The North Carolina International Leadership Conference for Students is open to ALL international students, study abroad returnees, and those pursuing majors/careers in international relations. It will be held at Appalachian State University on November 14-15, 2009.

Included are workshops, sessions, service projects, food, and fun, as well as keynote speaker, Antoinette Sithole who serves as an educational speaker and curator of the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto, South Africa. The Hector Pieterse Museum was established in 2002 to commemorate and preserve the history of all young people who were killed under Apartheid protesting the injustices of that system, especially the inferior education provided for black students. At age 12, Ms. Sithole's brother was the first and youngest child to be killed by the Apartheid regime.

**Deadline for registration is October 23, 2009.** Registration form and hotel information are located at <http://www.ncaie.org/ncicl.html> The ISSO will pay the \$25 registration fee for up to 4 students who would like to attend this conference. Please notify ISSO by Oct. 19 if you'd like to attend.

### **4. "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.

### **5. International Coffee Hour Dates in October**

If you haven't had the opportunity to check out *International Coffee Hour* yet perhaps October is your lucky month! It is a great place to come, meet other students, faculty, staff, and relax with coffee, snacks, games and good conversation! It is always held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, and the October dates are listed below! Take a friend with you or meet one there.

**Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> & Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Where? The Prospector Faculty/Staff Dining Room  
When? Anytime between 4 and 6pm

**6. 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.

**7. Car Insurance and Car Leasing for International Students**

*Chapel Hill Leasing* is a company which provides affordable car leasing and car insurance for international students and scholars in North Carolina. For more information go to [www.chleasing.com](http://www.chleasing.com) or send an email to [chl@chleasing.com](mailto:chl@chleasing.com) or call 1-800-461-1496.