

BSU International Insider

News for International Students

August 26, 2010

International Student Services

Welcome new students!!!

Welcome back returning students!!!

International Student Services has a new home!

As many of you know, the International Programs Office was re-organized this spring. As a result, there is no longer an IPO at Boise State. Instead, the different services that were offered at the IPO have been divided between various divisions across campus. International Student Services (ISS) is now a part of the Student Diversity and Inclusion unit under the Student Affairs Division. ISS is located adjacent to the Cultural Center on the 2nd floor of the SUB! Our new space includes a student lounge with comfy chairs and couches, a TV, and a small kitchen.

ISS will continue to support international students in every possible way, including responding to immigration and cross-cultural questions and planning events and activities. The ISS staff includes:

Christy Babcock, Associate Director, cbabcoc@boisestate.edu

Merrilou Burris, Management Assistant, merrilouburris@boisestate.edu

Kumi Takashima & Sharon Kahuha, Student Assistants, internationalinfo@boisestate.edu

You can learn more about Student Diversity and Inclusion by checking this site:

<http://sdi.boisestate.edu/>

The ISS webpage is currently being developed. Until it is completed, we will continue to use our IPO website. <http://international.edu/> If you have suggestions for our new website, please share them with the ISS staff.

We hope you will visit us often!

Coming Events & Activities

Friday, August 27th, 7:00pm - 10:00pm: Square Dancing at the home of Bob & Belva Lawton. *(see pg 4 for details)*

Date: TBA ISS Open House. Watch for an invitation to our upcoming official open house when we will invite students, faculty and staff to celebrate our new home with us. A date has not yet been decided upon.

OPT Workshops *(see page 2 for details)*

Tuesday, September 14, 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm, in the Cultural Center lounge.

Wednesday, September 15, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, in the Cultural Center lounge.

Monday, September 20, 10:00 am - 12:00pm, in the Cultural Center lounge.

Friday, September 3rd, 8:00pm: ISS will be hosting a FREE movie night in the Cultural Center. Watch your email for more details.

Immigration Updates

IMPORTANT: The official check-in sessions for returning international students will be held **Sept. 7-10**, in the Cultural Center, from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily. Check-in is critical to maintaining your status as an international student.

ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN CHECK-IN EACH SEMESTER.*

**If you do not come for check-in during the assigned time you will be charged a \$50.00 late fee, which will be billed to your Bronco account.*

If you are a new international student and attended the orientation on August 18th & 19th, you do not need to come for check-in until Spring Semester.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a one-year work permit that allows international students to work in their field of study after graduation. If you are graduating this semester and are interested in applying for OPT, you must attend an OPT Workshop.

When attending the workshop, you must bring your I-20, visa, passport and I-94 card, plus 2 passport-size photos (head positioned directly facing the camera) and a Money Order for \$340.00 payable to CIS. See "Coming Events & Activities" on page 1 for dates and times. Please email Christy or Merrilou to sign up for a workshop. Be sure to indicate which session you wish to attend.

NEW POLICY, NEW FEE!! Boise State has a new policy that you need to be aware of. If you drop a class after the first week of classes, you will be charged a \$10 fee for every class that you drop.

The drop deadline for this semester is August 29. If you drop a class after midnight on August 29, you will be charged \$10 for each class that you drop.

Mentoring Program Begins: The Mentoring program is designed to help international students, first generation college students and refugee students to adjust to the academic and social environment at Boise State University. It's also a good opportunity to make a new friend!!

Mentors are students who have been here for a while. Your mentor can show you fun places on campus and in Boise, help you with your questions about your classes, listen to your concerns and help you address various difficulties that may arise during the semester. We will provide social events for you and your mentor to participate in.

If you are interested in signing up as a "mentee," please come to the Cultural Center or International Student Services and complete an application. We will help you get paired with a mentor.

For more information call 208-426-5950 OR 208-426-3652. You may also visit us at the Cultural Center during office hours.

The International Student Association (ISA) will be holding officer elections very soon. The positions available are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Coordinator and Festival Coordinator. If you are interested in participating, please email Christy Babcock.

What are you looking for?

Apartment for Rent: There are listings of several housing/apartment opportunities on our website, <http://international.edu>, under International Student Services, Advertisements.

Stuff for Sale: There are also listings of goods for sale at the website listed above.

If you have an apartment, room or house to rent, or if you have household goods, cars, bicycles, etc. to sell, please email the information to merrilouburris@boisestate.edu. We will include it in the next issue of the Boise State University International Insider AND post it on our website. Be sure to include a brief description, price and your contact information. Thank you.

Student Highlights

Have you received a scholarship? Are you involved in a special project? Did you take a great vacation? These are the kinds of things we want to feature in our Student Highlights. **Let us know what's going on in your life so we can share your successes with your international family!!** Just send Christy or Merrilou an email telling us all about it.

Do You Need a Letter?

International Student Services (ISS) is happy to provide our students with a variety of letters. Visa Support letters, Employment Authorization letters, letters for the Dept of Motor Vehicles and many others are available through our office.

To access the Letter Request form, just go to our website, <http://international.edu>, and select "International Student Services", then "News, Updates & Resources" and click the "here**" spot under "Do you need a letter . . ."**

After you submit the form, please allow 48 hours to process your request. Please understand, you must use the letter request form if you need a letter from our office. Thank you.

“TALK TIME” KICK-OFF EVENT

JOIN US FOR A...

SQUARE DANCE

(Instruction given)

August 27 FRIDAY
7-10PM

LOCATION: Home of Bob and Belva
4601 S Ramona St
Meridian, ID 83642

E-mail us at blawton.lawton@gmail.com to RSVP
and for transportation

The [BSU International Insider](#) is a weekly feature of International Student Services, in the Student Diversity Center.

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