ISSO NEWS  August 2016

August graduates!
If your I-20 is expiring in August, please contact the ISSO to let us know what your plans are after graduation. If you are planning to do OPT (Optional Practical Training) then you must an appointment with your International Student Advisor: please contact either Patty Doherty if you are an undergraduate student or Amanda Connolly if you are a graduate student. Please DO NOT wait! August is a very busy month for all of us at the ISSO.

Also, there are OPT workshops scheduled!
Wednesday, September 14 at 3:00 PM – Lurie Conference Room
Thursday, October 6 at 6:00 PM – Lurie Conference Room
Monday, November 14 at 12:30 PM – Lurie Conference Room
Friday, December 2 at 1:00 PM – Grace Conference Room

Did you get a new cell number or are you in a new apartment? Tell us about it!
We need to update your information! Please write to the ISSO to tell us your Clark ID and your new cell number and/or address.

Registration
Please remember: you need to be registered for at least 3 credit hours to be considered full time and to comply with SEVIS regulation. Students who are graduating in the fall or winter of 2016 are allowed to take less than 3 credit hours. However, if you are going to be registered for less than 3 credit hours please write an email to Veda Genkos.
POW! WOW! Worcester
10 murals. 10 days. August 26th until September 4th. Check it out!

SCAMS
International students and scholars around the country are being targeted by scams that are trying to get money from the person being scammed. Common scams are when you receive a phone call from someone who claims to be from a US government agency. The caller will try to convince you that you must send money because of some problem – with your immigration status, taxes, or other issue. Please remember that the government will NEVER demand money over the phone. We are also seeing an increase in employment-related scams. These often involve you being hired for some type of remote position, then being given a sum of money to help with start-up costs and asked to forward to remaining money to another person. Scams always involved the scammer trying to get you to give them money.

As a general rule, never do not send money to someone that you do not know! It is also wise not to accept money from someone that you do not know. Never give out personal information (name, date of birth, Social Security number, etc) to someone that you do not know over the phone or via e-mail.

Scammers often sound very legitimate, use technical language, and threaten legal action when you don’t do exactly what they want. While this can be very scary, we encourage you to report scams, as this may be the only way to help stop scams from happening. If you are concerned that you are being scammed, contact ISSO and the Clark University Police to report the scam. You can also report immigration-related scams to the USCIS online: https://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/report-immigration-scams.

Donut Day!
Donut Day will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 in Grace Conference Room. Please stop by! Get your I-20 signed with a travel signature while enjoying free donuts and coffee!

Travelers – take note
You may have heard about the Zika virus in the news lately. For those of you who plan
to travel this summer, please take a look at this link to find out where cases of the Zika disease has been found:  http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/  Although most cases of the Zika virus are mild, here is some information about preventative measures you can take to avoid contraction:  http://www.cdc.gov/zika/disease-qa.html

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ISSO  Welcome Back!
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