ISSO NEWS  January 2016

OPT Workshop Dates for Graduate Students
If you are a grad student and if you will be graduating in 2016 you should attend one of our workshops about Optional Practical Training (OPT). This is an immigration benefit that you can apply for that will allow you to gain work experience after graduation. You must attend an OPT workshop prior to applying for OPT. Pre-registration is not necessary.

OPT Workshops for the Spring semester will take place as follows:

Thursday, January 28—6:00 PM until 7:30 PM
Grace Conference Room in the University Center

Tuesday, February 16—4:30 PM until 6:00 PM
Grace Conference Room in the University Center

Monday, March 21—12:00 PM until 1:30 PM
Grace Conference Room in the University Center

Wednesday, April 13—3:00 PM until 4:30 PM
Location TBD

Graduating in May or August and cannot attend? Contact our office to schedule a time to meet with our staff about OPT. Students who cannot attend an OPT workshop can attend Open Hours with Amanda Connolly to learn about OPT. Open Hours are Tuesdays from 1:30—3:00 PM in Corner House and Thursdays from 11 AM—12:30 PM in Carlson Hall.
Bloggers needed!
The student writer will join a team of Clark students who contribute to the blog, The Things That Matter (https://clarkuthingsthatmatter.wordpress.com/) on a regular basis. The blog is based out of Clark University’s International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO), whose job is to advise international students, faculty members, scholars and their dependents from over 95 countries on all matters concerning daily life in the United States. What the student writers do is a little simpler – as a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate-level students, we write about things that matter to us. Whether it be the latest international conflict or something we experience on campus; our aim is to provoke conversation, share our thoughts and get people to start talking about the things that matter to them. We represent a small portion of the Clark community and aim to showcase an example of individuality that exists within the student body and the breadth of what matters to our community.

We are looking for:
- Strong interest in international/ intercultural matters (Current events, campus events, etc.)
- Strong writing skills, including flexibility to accommodate the blog audience
- Willingness to share your own unique perspective and stories
- Ability to work independently and communicate effectively with the blog student-coordinator as well as with the team of writers
- Experience in blog-writing preferred
- We are hoping to add younger voices (first years and sophomores) and graduate student voices to the writing staff, but this should not discourage interested juniors or seniors from inquiring.

Please contact Amanda Connolly (aconnolly@clarku.edu), ISSO Associate Director, with questions or for an application.

Winter Wear
It’s cold in Worcester during this time of year, so make sure to dress accordingly. Layers are best! For example, you might want to have a cotton T-shirt, and a sweater or sweatshirt, jeans, and thick socks that cover your ankles. At the very least you should always you should make sure that you have a hat, a scarf, 1-3 pair of gloves (if you lose one glove you want to have a spare pair,) a winter jacket, and waterproof or water resistant boots. For more winter resources, please see this website.
Registration
Please make sure that you are registered for a minimum of 3 units for the spring 2016 semester. Only one of those units can be on-line. If you are graduating and this is your last semester, then and only then are you permitted to drop below 3 units.

New Year, New Apartment
Recently moved? Tell us about it! Please let us know your new address as soon as possible by filling out this form and return it to the ISSO.

Please ‘LIKE’ our Facebook Page
Please “like us” on Facebook!

ISSO
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http://www.clarku.edu/offices/oia/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ClarkOIA

Stay Warm!
Happy New Year!