ISSO NEWS  October 2016

OPT Workshops Scheduled for Grads and Undergrads!
Students who are graduating in December 2016 or May 2017 should plan to attend an OPT workshop to learn more about their options for employment authorization after they graduate. All students (graduate and undergraduate) must attend an OPT workshop prior to applying for OPT.

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

Special Topic Workshops:
Wednesday, October 26 – 2:30 PM
   Special Topics – CPT/non-OPT off-campus employment, Grace Conference Room
Wednesday, November 30 – 2:30 PM
   Special Topics – STEM OPT workshop, Grace Conference Room
Wednesday, January 25, 2:00 PM
   Special Topics – H1-B and Working Visas given by Iandoli and Desai, Jefferson 320

2 Scholarship Opportunities!
SCIENCE AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP: A full-ride tuition scholarship for a woman seeking an undergraduate degree in science, engineering, technology, or math. Visit this website to apply.

International Students 2016 Travel Video Contest: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Enter to win $4000!
The Blog is back!
This year, we've renovated our blog *The Things That Matter*, both in aesthetics and content. We'll still be sharing international student insights on what's happening around Clark and the globe, but we'll also be sharing more information on the logistics of being international. How do you get a job in the US? What are some Clark-provided resources that are helpful yet remain unused? Visit our new page and subscribe to our mailing list for posts delivered to your inbox every week!

PS. If you're more on social media than your inbox, follow our [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), or [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com) for updates!

Badminton
Clark's Athletics Department has purchased Badminton equipment and are looking for a student to organize groups to play one night per week. If you are interested in organizing this, please contact Trish Cronin at [tcronin@clarku.edu](mailto:tcronin@clarku.edu).

Dining Group
Interested in food options on campus? Please consider joining the International Dining Group. We meet with Michael Newmark about once per month to give feedback about the dining experience. If you are interested, please contact [pdoherty@clarku.edu](mailto:pdoherty@clarku.edu).

Pirates of the Caribbean at the Dining Hall on October 5th
from 5PM to 8 PM
Pirate themed dinner, chocolate gold, pirate ship and more!

There’s No Place Like Home
Have a favorite recipe from home? Send it in to Dining Services General Manager, Michael Newmark ([Michael.newmark@clarku.edu](mailto:Michael.newmark@clarku.edu)) by October 14, 2016. If selected, your recipe will be featured and served in the Dining Hall on October 26th. You can just submit a recipe but if you want to be even more involved, you can help prepare it or serve it as well!

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!

**SCAMS**

Scammers are targeting International students and scholars around the country to try to get money from them. Common scammers will call and claim to be from a US government agency. The scammer will attempt to convince the student to send money to solve a problem with the student’s immigration status, taxes, etc. 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 hiring a student in a type of remote position, giving the student a sum of money to help with start-up costs and asking the student to forward the remaining money to another person. Scams always involve the scammer trying to get a student to give them money.

As a general rule, never send money to or 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 the student does not do exactly what they want.

We encourage you to report scams, as this is a good 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.

**Travelers – take note**

You may have heard about the Zika virus in the news lately. For those of you who plan to travel this fall, 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

**Please ‘LIKE’ our Facebook Page**

Please “like us” on Facebook!
Try a New England tradition of mulled cider and apple cider donuts!