November 2014

Published monthly by International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), a division of the Office of International Initiatives, the International Services newsletter brings you updates on immigration rules and regulations, University services and programs, and conveys opportunities for campus and community involvement.

**********

CONTENTS:
1. Happy Halloween
2. International Education Week 2014 (November 17-21)
3. Int’l Communications Survey
4. Flu Season 2014/2015
5. Change Your Clocks!
6. AMIS - Christmas International House Opportunity
7. Street Cars Begin Training Rides
8. ISAC Update
9. Like ISSS on Facebook!
10. 2016 Diversity Visa Lottery Registration Opens October 1
11. College Diversity Council
12. Invitation to International Thanksgiving Feast
13. Please Complete the International Communications Survey
14. Address Updates Needed

**********

1. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Q: Is it a holiday, harvest festival, religious observance, a fear of demons, or just an excuse to party?
A: Yes : )

This 2 minute video from The History Channel explains it best. Watch >> here

** It’s also the worst traffic day of the year in urban areas as many parents take their children out to “trick or treat”, and many adults go out to costume parties. Be careful. Have fun!

**********

2. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2014 (November 17-21)

YOU ARE INVITED to celebrate International Education Week! Below you will find a few of the exciting events planned for campus by ISSS. For a complete list of all the week’s activities by our
partner offices, please visit the official International Education Week website at:
http://international.gsu.edu/initiatives/iew/

ISSS Sponsored Events for IEW 2014

- **Foreign Fonts, Facts and Fortunes**  
  *Monday, November 17th, 10am – 12pm, Unity Plaza*  
  International students will demonstrate different ways of writing in foreign fonts, and provide interesting facts about their countries. All participants will receive fortune cookies and have the chance to get information about study abroad and foreign language courses at GSU!

- **J-1 Scholar Social**  
  *Monday, November 17th, 3:30 – 5pm, Student Center Gallery Lounge (Invitation Only)*  
  All J-1 Scholars and spouses are invited to a social reception in the Student Center Gallery Lounge to meet and connect across cultural, national and academic borders.

- **Working in the United States: Real Tips, Real Strategies**  
  *Tuesday, November 18th, 2 – 4pm, University Center, Room 245*  
  Are you planning on graduating soon and need to look for a job? Are you curious how to get a work (H1-B) visa? Come to one of the most important career connected events of IEW.

- **PALS (Panthers Abroad Learning Society) Meet-up**  
  *Tuesday, November 18th, 4:30 – 6pm, Sparks Hall, Room 248*  
  Are you a PALS partner or would you be interested in participating in the PALS program? Come join us for food, music and good company!

- **ISAC World Views: LGBTQIQA and the International Community**  
  *Tuesday, November 18th, 12 – 1pm, Veterans Memorial Hall, Dahlberg Hall*  
  This presentation by International Student Associations Council (ISAC) – with plenty of time for Q/A – will address some of the important issues and challenges faced by individuals who identify as LGBTQIQA (from the United States and other cultures) on their international education journey.

- **International Tea and Coffee Talk**  
  *Wednesday, November 19th, 2 – 4pm, Sparks Hall, Room 248*  
  Come sample coffees and teas from around the world while enjoying conversation, music, and other goodies with Georgia State students!

- **ISAC International Thanksgiving Feast**  
  *Friday, Nov. 21st, 12:00pm – 1:30pm, Rialto Theatre, Free Ticket Required for Entry*  
  The International Student Association Council (ISAC) invites all international students at Georgia State to an American Thanksgiving dinner complete with turkey, gravy, and all the fixings! Come
learn about this tradition in an exchange of international holidays and customs. Space is limited to only F-1 and J-1 students and scholars. The first 150 to register will receive a ticket. **Tickets: now available at ISSS front desk. 1 ticket per person. Required for Entry. ID required.**

************

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

International students and scholars at GSU have an important role in informing ISSS about the effectiveness of our communications. Please spend 5-10 minutes to answer 10 questions about this topic. Participation is voluntary and all answers are confidential.

Please access the survey >>[here](#)

4. COLD & FLU SEASON 2014/2015

At this time of year, many people choose to get a flu vaccine, which can help prevent a flu infection. An active flu infection can cause you to lose several days of class, to feel terrible, or to infect others. Vaccines are offered at the GSU Student Health Clinic:

**Vaccine hours:** Mon-Thurs, 8am – 7pm and Friday 8am – 5pm / No appointment necessary  
**Location:** 1411 Piedmont Ave., Suite D (Inside University Commons)  
**Cost:** $15

**Some of the best ways to avoid colds and flu:**
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds  
- avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose  
- avoid touching common surfaces in public places  
- use a paper towel to open doors with handles  
- drink plenty of water and get adequate rest

************

5. CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

“Spring Forward, Fall Back” is a phrase to help you remember that most of the US observes a practice known as “Daylight Savings Time,” which will end at 2:00am on Sunday, Nov. 2

**What to Do:** Move your clock back 1 hour Saturday night at bedtime. Clocks “fall back” in Fall Season. **Ex:** 11pm becomes 10pm, and you get an extra hour of sleep Sunday morning.

************

6. AMIS – CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OPPORTUNITY
Need a family connection or a place to live during the Winter break? Want a unique, cross-cultural, international opportunity you will never forget? The Christmas International House is open Dec. 18, 2014 – January 2, 2015 and is open to everyone, regardless of religious tradition!

For all the info, click >> here

**********

7. ATLANTA STREET CARS TO BEGIN

The new streetcars have begun training operations everyday along the 2.7 mile loop. The service will be open to the public by the end of the year, hopefully. Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians (people on foot) are urged to be cautious as we all learn to coexist for the first time since 1949!

** Be Aware:
- The cars are electric, so they are very quiet.
- The cars require 60 feet to come to a complete stop.
- Stop, Look, Listen each time you cross tracks.
- Be attentive when listening to music via earbuds, ipods, smartphones etc...
- Never park too close or block a streetcar; you will be towed and fined.

For a route map and more info on the Atlanta Streetcars, click >> here

**********

8. ISAC UPDATES: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

- **Attend:** International Halloween Bash, October 30, Veterans Hall, 6-10pm, Hosted by Vietnamese Student Association
- **Join:** International Student Groups – there are over 15 of them on campus!
- **Sign up:** The weekly ISAC Newsletter informs you about future international events on campus.

To connect with ISAC groups, officers, orgs, the newsletter or any other of the 400 GSU student orgs, follow these links >> here

**********

9. ISSS FACEBOOK - 1000 LIKES CHALLENGE!

We are now up to 911 likes! Thank you!!

Every new FB “like” between 900-1000 will be entered for chance to win a fabulous gift basket containing gift cards, coffee, tea, food items, GSU apparel and many other items. There will be a special surprise when we reach 1000 likes! You can “like” us by clicking >> here.

**********

10. 2016 DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY – NOW OPEN!
The U.S. State Department began accepting online registrations for the 2016 Diversity Visa (DV) lottery on October 1. Foreign nationals have until Monday, November 3, 2014 at noon to file online.

The DV lottery program makes 50,000 green card numbers available each year through random selection. FY 2016 lottery results will be announced in May 2015. Foreign nationals selected in the FY 2016 lottery can submit their green card applications starting on October 1, 2015.

The DV lottery is open to natives of countries that have historically low rates of immigration to the United States. Entrants must have a high school education (or equivalent) or at least two years of qualifying work experience.

Individuals from: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam are not eligible. However, those born in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan can participate.

To register, submit an online form and a digital photo through the official DV lottery website. Only one entry is permitted per person. If there are multiple registrations on behalf of one person, all of them are disqualified.

Applicants must carefully follow the State Department's official lottery instructions. Lottery entries and digital photos that do not precisely conform to the instructions will be disqualified.

Once the application is accepted, applicants will receive a confirmation number, which can be used to check the status of their application.

**********

11. INVITATION TO THE COLLEGE DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Who: College & University Students from around the Atlanta Region
What: An opportunity to hear keynote speaker, Dr. Consuela Ward, and to network with local business leaders at our career fair from 3:00 – 4:00PM
Where: Emory University
When: Saturday, Nov. 15, 9am – 4pm
Cost: Free for students

For more information, please click >> here

**********

12. ISAC International Thanksgiving Feast Tickets Available

Friday, Nov. 21st, 12:00pm – 1:30pm, Rialto Theatre, Free Ticket Required for Entry

As part of International Education Week (Nov. 17–21), the International Student Association Council (ISAC) invites all international students at Georgia State to an American Thanksgiving dinner complete with
turkey, gravy, and all the fixings! Come learn about this tradition in an exchange of international holidays and customs. Space is limited to only F-1 and J-1 students and scholars. The first 150 to register will receive a ticket. Tickets: now available at ISSS front desk. 1 ticket per person. Required for Entry. ID required.

************

13. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

International students and scholars at GSU are asked to spend a few minutes to answer 10 questions about this ISSS communications. Participation is voluntary, and all answers are confidential.

Please take the survey >> here

14. ADDRESS CORRECTION NEEDED

This is a reminder that your “Permanent Address” must be a non-U.S. address. Only your “Mailing Address” can be in the U.S. Please log-into your PAWS account and update your permanent address to avoid issues with your SEVIS record. F1 and J1 students, by definition, are non-immigrant visas. Therefore, you do not have a permanent address in the US. Thank you.

For questions about the information above, please contact:

International Student & Scholar Services
Office of International Initiatives
Georgia State University
252 Sparks Hall
404.413.2070 (phone)
404.413.2072 (fax)
www.isss.gsu.edu

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30am-5:15pm

Walk-in Advising Hours
Monday & Wednesday Mornings:
9am-11:30am
Monday-Friday Afternoons:
1pm-4:30pm