International Student & Scholar Services
NEWSLETTER

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August 2013

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.

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1. Welcome Back!
International Student and Scholar Services would like to welcome back our continuing international students for the Fall semester! If you find yourself in need of assistance please do not hesitate to stop by the ISSS office. ISSS walk-in advising hours are as follows:
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Monday and Wednesday
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

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2. Meet New ISSS Advisor
Mike Townsend is the newest member of the ISSS family! Mike is an International Student Advisor who coordinates orientation and serves as the advisor to the International Student Associations Council (ISAC). He previously worked with Habitat for Humanity International. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of the Cumberlands and his master’s degree from the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mike loves to travel and learn about various cultures. He has previously lived in Kenya and Cambodia. Mike enjoys volunteering, tackling home remodeling projects, and spending time with his family. Please join ISSS in welcoming Mike to Georgia State!
3. Health Insurance Waivers
If you have registered for Fall 2013 classes and have a local address on file with the university, then it is time for you to either enroll or apply for a waiver from the university’s health insurance plan. If you do not access the site by September 3, 2013 to either manually enroll or enter a waiver request, you will be automatically enrolled into the United Healthcare insurance plan. A waiver of the mandatory health insurance is only valid for one semester, so you will have to submit a new waiver request for future semesters. If you have any questions regarding health insurance please refer to the detailed email sent to all international students on July 15th, review the health insurance FAQs found on ISSS webpage or contact Antony Ware at aware4@gsu.edu.
***No insurance waivers will be granted after September 3rd!***

4. Experience American Tastes (EAT)
ISSS is excited to be planning the second annual Experience American Tastes (EAT) event. EAT is a chance for international students to visit an American faculty or staff member and share a home-cooked meal. Last year’s guests and hosts all said they had a wonderful time and would participate again. EAT is a rare opportunity for international students to glimpse American culture in a genuine and comfortable setting. EAT will take place later in the Fall semester, so please keep an eye out for details so that you can fill out an application to participate. Students will attend the dinners in groups of 2-4. ISSS will match each group with an American host who can accommodate any dietary restrictions. ISSS will also help coordinate transportation arrangements for students without cars. For questions about the program you can contact Tammy Rosner at tammyrosner@gsu.edu.

5. Panthers Abroad Learning Society (PALS)
The Panthers Abroad Learning Society (PALS) partners students from different countries in order to engage in cross-cultural exchange by doing various activities together throughout the Fall semester. It’s not too late to sign up for PALS this Fall semester! Read over the PALS brochure (attached) and if interested, simply fill out the PALS application (attached) and submit it to 252 Sparks Hall. If you have any questions regarding PALS contact Kati Rogers at krogers@gsu.edu or 404-413-2070.

6. Fall GRA Opening
This GRA position is sponsored by the Office of International Initiatives to support its International Initiatives and Partnerships Unit. The Assistantship is for a semester-to-semester hiring (based on performance) and offers a full tuition-waiver and stipend. Applicants must therefore meet Georgia State and departmental eligibility criteria including the enrollment minimum (9 credit hours for spring and fall; 6 credit hours for summer). If interested send applications to Kike Ehigiator, Director of International Initiatives and Partnerships, at kehigiator@gsu.edu as soon as possible. Be sure to read over the job posting (attached) before applying.

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7. Student Assistant Jobs Available
The ISSS office will be hiring 1 to 2 new student assistants for the Fall 2013 semester (flyer attached). Applications and resumes are due to the ISSS office by no later than August 16, 2013. If interested, please contact Antony Ware at aware4@gsu.edu for more details!

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8. Student Recreation Center (SRC) Events
WELCOME BACK STUDENTS! Celebrate a new school year with Panther Welcome events at the SRC! Summer is almost gone but you still have time to enjoy fun by the poolside at the Welcome Back Pool Party on Thursday, August 29th at 6 pm at the SRC’s Pool Patio. Once you’re done partying, see how high you can go during our Try Climbing event on Wednesday, August 28th from noon-4 pm. Let’s not forget the Labor Day Luau at the Indian Creek Pool on Monday, September 2nd at 2 pm because everyone just loves FREE food and a limbo contest! And last but certainly not least bring your best poker face for Casino Night on Tuesday, September 3rd in the SRC Lobby at 7 pm. We can’t wait to see you there!

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For questions about any of the information mentioned above, contact:

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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