MENU:  OPT Sessions start / NEXT STEP for TAXES - Avoid Tax refund rumors - Get the correct tax form / Tax Workshop schedule / Local elementary school host multi-culture night soon / scam alerts / Buddhist Association Meditation Session

OPT SESSIONS are set for this Spring 2015 Semester…….starting today!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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NEXT STEP for TAX SEASON

If you worked at OSU in 2014, you received an email from Payroll Services that your W-2 is available. What’s the next step?
You will need to complete a federal form and an Oklahoma form, called a tax return. However, it’s too early. Some of you will have a Form 1042-S and those are not ready yet. Also, the tax preparation software that we provide for our international students and scholars is not ready yet. It will be sometime in February. Please be patient. Also, remember that if you are a nonresident for tax purposes, you cannot use any of the other tax preparation software that is available for resident taxpayers.

TAX RETURN INFORMATION……..AVOID RUMORS and GET THE FACTS!!!

I have been hearing a lot of talk lately about getting a refund of tuition on your tax return. That is simply NOT possible. There are some tuition deductions and credits, but these are ONLY available to resident taxpayers. Remember that international students in F or J status are considered nonresidents for tax purposes for the first 5 calendar years in the U.S. If you are a nonresident for tax purposes, you must file a 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ. Tuition deductions and credits are not available on those forms. DO NOT jeopardize your immigration status by filing an illegal resident tax return. If you use an online program that transmits electronically, you are automatically filing a resident tax return.

MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT THE CORRECT FORM!!!

Most international students must prepare a federal nonresident tax return for the first 5 calendar years of presence in the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student. If instead, you file a resident tax return, you are in violation of U.S. tax laws. If you use one of the online programs that are heavily advertised at this time (such as Turbo Tax or H&R Block or others), you will be submitting a resident tax return. Again, this is in violation of U.S. tax law. Don’t jeopardize your immigration status by completing a fraudulent tax return.
**Linda Dunbar Garmy**  
International Tax Coordinator  
Oklahoma State University  
250 Student Union  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
Phone: 405-744-5459  
Fax: 405-744-8120  
linda.dunbar@okstate.edu

**TAX HELP FOR INTERNATIONALS**

**WORKSHOPS TO SHOW YOU HOW TO USE SPECIAL SOFTWARE AND HOW TO COMPLETE OKLAHOMA TAX FORMS**  
Bring any tax forms you have such as W-2 or 1042-S or 1099. (Not everyone has all these forms. Some people only have a W-2)  
You must know your passport number. Bring a copy of last year’s tax return, if you have one.  
Below is the schedule and here web-link for it:  
http://iss.okstate.edu/tax-workshop-information

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(Due date is April 15. Must be in the mail by April 15, not received.)

**SPONSORED BY VITA FOR INTERNATIONALS**

**WILL ROGERS ELEMENTARY TO HOST MULTICULTURE NIGHT IN FEBRUARY**

Will Rogers Elementary School is planning a Multicultural Night on Thursday February 12th from 5:30pm to 7pm. They are currently looking for group performances to showcase cultures from around the world. If you and a group of your friends have a performance you are interested in sharing please contact Trisha Chaparala Iyonsi at trisha.iyonsi@okstate.edu. This is a great way to share your culture with local Stillwater children.
Scam Alert

Oklahoma State University Police have been notified by the FBI of two scams targeting university students and employees. Both warnings originate from the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center or iC3.

Scam Targeting University Students
College students across the United States have been targeted to participate in work-from-home scams. Students have been receiving e-mails to their school accounts recruiting them for payroll and/or human resource positions with fictitious companies. The “position” simply requires the student to provide his/her bank account number to receive a deposit and then transfer a portion of the funds to another bank account. Unbeknownst to the student, the other account is involved in the scam that the student has now helped perpetrate. The funds the student receives and is directed elsewhere have been stolen by cyber criminals. Participating in the scam is a crime and could lead to the student’s bank account being closed due to fraudulent activity or federal charges. For more information visit http://www.ic3.gov/media/2015/150113-1.aspx

University Employee Payroll Scam
University employees are receiving fraudulent e-mails indicating a change in their human resource status. The e-mail contains a link directing the employee to login to their human resources website to identify this change. The website provided appears very similar to the legitimate site in an effort to steal the employee’s credentials. Once the employee enters his/her login information, the scammer takes that information and signs into the employee’s official human resources account to change the employee’s direct deposit information. This redirects the employee’s paycheck to the bank account of another individual involved in the scam. For more information visit http://www.ic3.gov/media/2015/150113-2.aspx.

According to the FBI, internet crime schemes steal millions of dollars each year. If you feel you have been a victim of this crime or have information please go to www.ic3.gov to file a complaint or for additional information.

Internet Crime Prevention Tips
Buddhist Association of Oklahoma
State University....cordially invites you for a meditation session

Sabbapāpassa akaraṇaṁ kusalassa upasampadā
sacittapariyodapanam etam buddhāna sāsanaṃ

To avoid all evil, to cultivate good, and to cleanse one’s mind
this is the teaching of the Buddhas. (DhammapadaVerse 183)

The Buddhist monks from Oklahoma Buddhist Vihara –
OKC(www.oklahomabuddhistvihara.org) kindly accepted our invitation to join us and share
helpful tips on meditation for beginners

DATE: Friday, February 6th, 2015  TIME: 5.15pm-
6:30 pm  PLACE: 450 Student Union

Contact: kiem.ta@okstate.edu