

OIS Newsletter

for Students and Scholars

Office of International Services

November 2009



Inside this issue:

OPT Reminder and CPT Update	2
A Call for Assistance	2
OIS Spotlight: Lauren Ball	3
Upcoming Events!	3
What's Your Flavor?	4

OPT REMINDER AND CPT UPDATE

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Students who are completing their degree program in the Fall 2009 semester are eligible to apply for OPT now. It is recommended that students apply for OPT as early as possible in order to receive their requested work authorization dates from United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). Students should keep in mind that the USCIS service centers are allowed 90 calendar days to process the OPT application. The service center cannot authorize an OPT begin date outside of the 60 day grace period following the student's program completion date. For example, a student who completes their degree program on 12/19/2009 and applies for OPT on 12/19/2009 may lose some of their OPT time if the service center uses the entire 90 day processing period. The student may not receive their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) until March but the start date would have to be within 60 days of 12/19/2009.

Students who are completing their degree program this fall and have not attended an OPT information session should do so as soon as possible. Students who have attended an OPT information session should plan to submit their applications soon. OIS accepts completed OPT applications on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Students may also submit the complete OPT application online through the OIS Helpdesk System. For more information about the OPT application process and the schedule of information sessions please see the OIS web page.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/current/opt.php>

(continued on page 2)

ISSERV - International Students & Scholars Engaged in Reaching out & Volunteering

The ISSERV program will have a service project on Saturday December 5th! We will be going to a North Carolina farm to harvest leftover crops that will then be distributed to local food banks and homeless shelters. This project is arranged through the Society of St. Andrew Gleaning Network. Transportation will be provided. Contact Lauren_Ball@ncsu.edu if you would like to participate. ISSERV applications can be found on the Programs section of the OIS website. It's never too late to apply!

Date: Saturday December 5th

Time: 8 AM – 12 PM (noon); We will be working from 9 AM until 11 AM.

Location: a farm in the Raleigh area (exact location will be determined by the volunteer organization)



OPT Reminder and CPT Updates, continued...

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Update (Effective Spring 2010):



CPT is the type of employment authorization used by students in F-1 status who wish or need to engage in off-campus employment in their field of study when it is a required component of their curriculum, is integral to their thesis or dissertation research (e.g., collecting data or testing hypotheses in a real world industry environment) or part of a cooperative education program in their field of study.

Students may participate in part-time CPT during the academic semesters (fall/spring) as part of the Cooperative Education Program offered at NC State, provided the student maintains a full course load and has received a recommendation from their Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) or academic advisor. (Please consult the Graduate School regarding full-time enrollment requirements).

CPT authorization is only possible with a recommendation from the DGP and confirmation that the practical training will not delay the student's degree completion. If the DGP is not able to provide this recommendation, the student will need to apply for a different employment authorization, such as pre-completion OPT.

“There are numerous opportunities to help the next group of new international students...”

Students interested in participating in Curricular Practical Training should refer to the CPT page on our website for eligibility requirements:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/ois/current/cpt.php>

CPT cannot be authorized late in the student's program (i.e. final semester of enrollment or during semester of defense). Students requesting CPT for the Spring 2010 semester will need to complete the application process by January 25, 2010. For more information about the CPT application process and other eligibility requirements please see the OIS web page or attend a CPT Information Session.

The last two CPT sessions for the fall 2009 semester will be on Monday, November 23rd in 228 Poe Hall and Tuesday, December 8th in 301 Clark Hall at 11:00 a.m.

A Call for Assistance!

OIS is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with New International Student Check-In **from January 4 through January 8, 2010!**

Volunteers will help copy documents, share important new arrival information and welcome students to NC State. Make new friends and meet new students!

Please email Lauren_Ball@ncsu.edu if you are interested!



OIS Spotlight: Meet Lauren Ball!

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up all over the United States as a result of my father's job. I've lived in multiple states and loved them all for different reasons. I did the majority of my undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and as a result, I'll talk about the mountains of North Carolina to anyone who will listen. I love the mountains and really miss them this time of year. I came to NC State as a graduate student for the Spring 2007 semester in the Masters of International Studies program and finished my degree in December of 2008. I love sports of all kinds and I'm an avid fan of Wolfpack athletics and the Carolina Hurricanes.

What do you do at OIS? What are your primary responsibilities?

I am the Programs Coordinator. I basically oversee the 6 cross cultural programs offered through OIS and work with the Orientation Team to plan the New International Student Orientation each semester. As for my primary responsibilities, along with the rest of the OIS staff, I make sure that new students are as informed as possible upon arrival in the United States. I also work to connect students with extra-curricular opportunities outside of their classrooms and labs. I want students to make the most of their time here at NC State.

What made you want to work at OIS?

I went into my graduate program thinking that I wanted to work at US Embassies for the U.S. Department of State. However, after volunteering with various OIS programs, I knew this is where I belonged. The ability to work closely with international students was an opportunity I didn't want to miss.

What is the best part of your job?

Working with such amazing students from all over the world!

What is a challenging or difficult part of your job?

The most challenging part is definitely planning Fall semester's orientation. There is a lot to do in preparation for the arrival of new students, but the hard work is worth it.

What do you think you will be doing five or ten years from now?

I hope to still be working in international education because I enjoy what I do!

Where are a few places you've traveled?

France, Czech Republic, Germany and The Bahamas



Learn all about
Lauren in the OIS
Spotlight this month!

**"I want
students to
make the most
of their time
here at NC
State."**

Upcoming Events!

Globalization Strategies and International Services at NC State seminar series:

Topics:

"New and Improved International Services at NC State"

Michael Bustle, Director Office of International Services

"Campus International cross-cultural Programs at NC State"

Lauren Ball, Program Coordinator OIS

Friday December 11th 1 – 2 pm, Room 3118 Talley Center



Check out the **Graduate School Survival Skills and Ethics Program** on January 8, 2010. This one day program will be held at the McKimmon Center and last from approximately 8am to 3pm. The program will provide you with resources to help you succeed and enhance your graduate student career and beyond.

What's Your Flavor?

Finding similarities and celebrating differences each month by allowing you to express your unique flavor!

Questions:

- A. What one song would you walk out to before a world-class championship match (i.e. what would your theme song be?)
- B. If you could choose one person as your dinner guest, who would it be?
- C. If you were granted one wish, what would you wish for?
- D. What is something that you do EVERY day?



Hamed Yarmand
Iran
Operations Research - PHD



Amit Awekar
India
Computer Science - PHD



Ahmad Alsabbagh
Jordan
Nuclear Engineering - Master's

- A. UEFA Champions League Theme Song
- B. Definitely my wife, because she is the one I will share all the moments of my life with.
- C. I wish to be in heaven after my death. I (want to see) every body get to the destination in the end...
- D. Praying for my family, friends and myself.

- A. "We will rock you" by Queen
- B. Instead.....Can I eat all by myself only?
- C. A home where every thing can be just googled. I hate finding my things everytime.
- D. Like any other graduate student, EVERY DAY I plan/swear to graduate in next one year.

- A. "Oops!... I Did It Again" by Britney Spears
- B. Jennifer Lopez
- C. Stop taking tickets from the traffic police
- D. Waiting for the bus

If you would like the chance to "express your unique flavor" in an upcoming newsletter, send an email with your contact info to OIS@ncsu.edu with a subject line of "What's Your Flavor?"

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Please be sure to regularly check the scrolling announcements and updates link on the OIS homepage

Questions?

Feedback, suggestions and corrections may be sent to:

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