

# *Global Express*

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Welcome to Issue no. 2.



## Travel Documents

Your **International Passport** must always be valid (not expired) while you are in the US. Please remember to renew your passport at least 6 months before it expires to avoid any complications. Check your passport TODAY to see when it expires!

**Next issue:** Apply for your Real ID (enforced from Oct 30, 2020) for travel (US domestic flights).

# Tax Season is here!

US Tax Season deadline is April 15. If you did not work at all last year, you **MUST still** file Tax Form 8843, available at the ISSGS office, or get it online [here](#). Additional Tax info/resources:

- US Tax Prep (PAID) > Sprintax.com
- US Tax Prep (FREE) > [Free Tax Clinic](#), United Community Action, Marshall - ask for Pusparaj (SMSU student volunteer)

## International Students Health Insurance Q&A

Learn more about your student health insurance and meet with insurance coordinator, Ms. Kathy Grant this Thursday, Mar 5th.

11:00 – 12noon – Q&A with Kathy Grant (MN Student Insurance Coordinator) @ SC237, ISSGS office

12:00-1:00pm - Insurance Benefits Presentation @SC249

1:00-2:00pm - Q&A with Kathy Grant

## Coronavirus/Coavid-19 Virus

We know that many of you may be concerned about the virus that has been making individuals ill around the world. We are offering a few pieces of advice: First, always wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer liberally anytime you use the restroom, touch common surfaces, or are around regularly ill individuals. Second, if you are ill and coughing, please do not cough into your hands – wear a mask or at least cough into your arm/elbow to minimize spreading of any germs/bacteria/viruses.

Only trust legitimate health organizations to get information about this virus. A link to the US Centers for Disease Control is listed below. This link includes where the virus is present currently as well as travel information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map>

Lastly, if you are planning on travelling, we recommend that you do not travel to a country that is currently under any sense of quarantine or multiple cases of Coavid-19. You re-entry cannot be

guaranteed. Many countries have restricted travel and access. It is better to be safe than sorry and perhaps re-think your trip and remain in the US during spring break.

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## WHAT'S NEW

### Introducing International Coffee Hour

Come meet other students, play games, talk, and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea on us. International treats (finger food) will be provided by co-sponsoring SMSU orgs/departments (a different one each week). Every Thursdays, starting in March from 3:00-4:30pm @ ISSGS, SC 237. Don't miss out for a bit of networking, fun, games or just chill, see you there!

If your organization/department would like to co-sponsor this event on a specific Thursday, > contact us.

### FREE subscription to DailyChatter eNews

As a member of The Forum on Education Abroad, SMSU ISSGS is able to provide you with access to DailyChatter, an international daily newsletter that curates some of the most interesting and important global developments and prepares a conversational, easy-to-read report designed to be read on your smartphone or any other digital device. DailyChatter is independent and non-partisan and your subscription is entirely free for as long as you are a student. This is part of a new public service DailyChatter has launched with leading colleges, universities and international programs across the United States.

To sign up, all you need to do is click [here](#).

### Graduation Sashes

If you are planning on graduating/walking through graduation ceremony this May, you will want to have your country specific graduation sash! This year, due to state law changes, neither the office nor the club are allowed to purchase a sash for you. We will have a sign-up sheet in the office, with payment due at time of sign-up after Spring Break and due by the beginning of April. The cost for your sash will be \$35.00. This includes a one country only design – if you are a dual citizen etc. there are two, three, and four country sash options (the cost will be more). Please stay tuned to future Global Express issues for more details. Join us on May 8<sup>th</sup> for the annual International Sash Ceremony – a party celebrating all international students who are graduating (family and friends are invited to attend). You will be presented your sash and you can have it placed on you by someone of your choosing.

# Bon Appetit Student Run Culinology and Hospitality Restaurant

SMSU Hospitality Management major proudly presents student run Buffet Dinner. Students in Restaurant Food Operations class will host a dinner buffet on Thursday evenings with a 5:30 pm or 6:45 pm seating time with the following themes and schedule:

- **Brazilian Cuisine** on February 27th and March 26th
- **Italian Cuisine** on March 5th and April 2nd
- **Greek Cuisine** on March 19th and April 9th

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## RECENT EVENTS

# OPT Workshop

The OPT Workshop held on Friday , Feb 21 was well attended by graduating students. We appreciate your attendance and thank you for all your questions. If you are graduating at the end of this semester and you missed this Optional Practical Training workshop, please contact one of the ISSGS officers immediately to arrange for a briefing. Do not wait until the last minute (graduation) as the time to apply for OPT is now!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 05 + 19 + 26, Thursdays

3:00-4:00pm @ SC 237 (ISSGS office)

## **International Coffee Hour (& snacks)**

Mar 05 - hosted by: ISSGS Dept. - Ethiopian Coffee & fried Somalian sambusas

Mar 19 - hosted by: ISO Club

Mar 26 - hosted by: Graduate Studies Dept.

Mar 7-12, Saturday - Thursday

### **ISO Spring Break Trip**

Denver, CO -- Nature, hiking, dinosaur bones, community service & more.

- only 3 seats left. Signup and pay deposit \$30 today at ISSGS office.

Apr 04, Saturday

### **ISO 30th Annual International Food Festival**

To signup as volunteers, cook food, setup/cleanup crew, entertainment, ticket sales/marketing,

contact Esther / Zander / Kenneth.

Tickets to go on sale soon. Adults \$15. Only a limited amount of complimentary tickets will be given out to each group – more than likely you will have to buy a ticket- international students DO NOT get in free without significant help with the event.

Have a great week ahead!

**Next issue:** Mar 16 (MON)

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SC 237

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