

ISSO NEWS: March 2014

International Student Services Office (ISSO)
Clayton State University Center, Room #210



4 CSU STUDENTS RETURN FROM 2014 GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This past weekend, Feb. 28 – March 2, four Clayton State University students participated in the annual “Georgia International Leadership Conference” held at the Rock Eagle 4H Center, near Eatonton, Georgia. Avin Koralagamage (Sri Lanka), Sarah Birgen (Kenya), Sanora Sims and Joanna Pope (US) represented Clayton State among the 185 participants (both international and US) from 30 colleges and universities across Georgia. Associate Director of International Students, Brett Reichert, accompanied them and served as a mentor during the weekend.

The intensive weekend of workshops, student presentations, activities and interactive simulations, was designed to break down cultural stereotypes and misinformation, raise global awareness and build social networks in a fun, structured setting. Students also took part in a 4-hour service project Friday afternoon at the Oliver Worley Environmental Education Center.

To be featured in ISSO e-NEWS, Email: isso@clayton.edu

To be featured in The Bent Tree Newspaper, Email: kponder3@student.clayton.edu

JOB & GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

Plan now to meet dozens of employers, internship providers and graduates schools at the Job & Graduate School Fair! For more information, visit: www.clayton.edu/career

When: Thursday, March 20th

Where: SAC

Time: Noon – 3pm

Attire: Business Professional.

Don't forget to bring your smile and updated printed resumes also.

TAX INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All F1 students have at least one US tax form to complete! Some students will only fill out a 1-page form called form 8843. You can find this form easily on Google. Others will file a Non-Resident US tax return if they had income last year.

Please review the flow chart at the end of this newsletter to see what tax related forms to complete and how to get help. CSU provides access to special software called Glacier Tax Prep (GTP) free of charge to those students who need to complete a US tax return for Non-Resident Aliens (international students).

Note: Tax services such as: *Turbo Tax*, *H&R Block*, *others...* are not designed for international tax returns.

SPRING 2014 O.P.T. (Employment Authorization) INFO SESSIONS

O.P.T. or **Optional Practical Training** is off-campus employment authorization for international student. It's a benefit of your F1 Visa. A formal application, a government fee, and other steps are required to request OPT approval. Learn the basics and ask questions if you are within 6 months of graduation. To make an appointment, email: isso@clayton.edu



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Did you know? Outdoor Adventures offers exciting opportunities to get off campus and to explore the great outdoors of this region. All trips are supervised. Transportation and equipment are provided at very low-cost. Reservations and pre-trip meetings are required.

To see what is offered this semester, click >> [here](#) <<

Upcoming Trips:

Zip lining

Fly over zip lines 200 feet above the gorge floor.

Destination: Banning Mills, GA

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2014

Cost: \$75/\$130/\$140

Limit: 10

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 7, 2014

Check Outdoor Adventure Website for Restrictions

White Water Rafting the Chattahoochee

New to rafting or need an adventure break? Join Outdoor Adventure rafting the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, GA.

The Chattahoochee is manmade white water featuring class 3 and 4 rapids along with Cut bait the largest rapid east of the Mississippi

Destination: Chattahoochee River, GA

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2014

Cost: \$30/\$60/\$75

Limit: 10

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, March 18, 2014

PERSONAL SECURITY WORDS TO KNOW!

1. **Phishing:** Any attempt to obtain personal info like usernames, passwords, credit card info, bank account info, etc...
Ex: Unfortunately, the student lost \$1000 when he fell victim to a phishing scam; he gave his credit card number over email to someone promising to send him a new Ipad.
2. **Scam:** Similar to phishing. Scams are everywhere. They try to fool you into believing you are spending money for a quality product or service only to find out that you have wasted money on a low-quality or non-existent product or service.
Ex: The offer of a free 7 day cruise for \$20 is a common scam to get you to go on tours of real estate for sale.
3. **Spam:** also known as “junk mail”. Many junk emails contain scam offers and phishing programs. Delete your spam regularly, but don’t open these emails.
Ex: After looking in my spam folder, there were more than 100 spam emails. One said I had inherited \$1 million from an Uncle in Ethiopia.

WORLD CLASS MUSIC RIGHT HERE ON CAMPUS !

Hear World Class Artists at your doorstep! Clayton State students with valid ID have access to free, \$5 or \$10 tickets. Take Advantage! **Spivey Hall** is located right here on our beautiful campus. Check out the concerts >> [here](#) <<

NO CLASSES

March 8 – 16 is Spring break at Clayton State. Campus is open, but there are no classes.

ISSO CLOSED

Thursday, March 4-5

CONTACT ISSO

Hours: M-F, 8:30 – 5:30 / **E:** brettreichert@clayton.edu / **T:** 678-466-5499 / **F:** 678- 466-5469

Facebook: >> [here](#) << To **subscribe/unsubscribe** from the list, just contact ISSO.

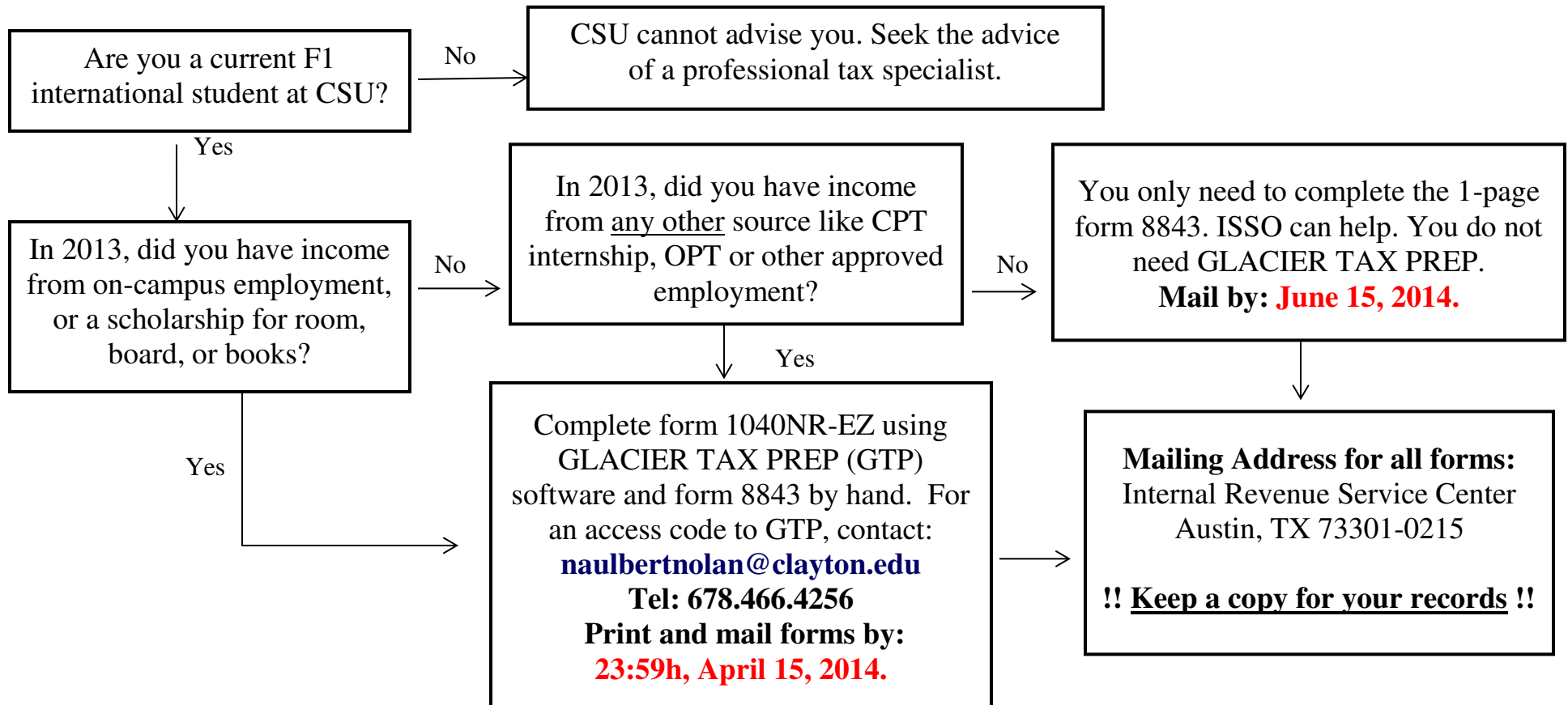
ISSO MISSION

To facilitate the success of international students at Clayton State through: 1) effective regulatory and compliance advising 2) providing access to diverse cultural and leadership opportunities, and 3) advocacy of cultural competence and global awareness campus wide.

Which Tax Forms Do I Use?

Tax Year: Jan. 1 – Dec. **2013**

Start here:



SPT =

Substantial Presence Test: an IRS formula used to determine another aspect of your tax filing status. If you have been in the US any part of 5 *different* calendar years, you might be considered a *resident for tax purposes* and will file the same tax forms at US citizens. If you don't meet test, you are "exempt from SPT" and use the forms above. Contact ISSO if you are unsure.