

**ISO-NEWS: Issue 6
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International Services Office, University of Rochester**

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I. WELCOME & WELCOME BACK FOR 2008!

The International Services Office (ISO) would like to offer a warm welcome to the newest members of our international community at the University of Rochester! To our returning students and scholars, we extend greetings for a new year and a new term at UR. As always, our staff is committed to helping make your academic program and life in the U.S. satisfying and successful. Throughout the year, we hope you will feel free to contact the ISO with any questions or concerns you may have. Appointments are encouraged for students needing to discuss their questions in detail and may be made by phoning the office at 585-275-2866. Please also use our website for more information and stop by the office to ask a quick question, request letters and documentation, or to pick up immigration forms, as you need them.

If this is your first edition of "ISO-News", please make a note of the email address and subject line. This is generally the best and most efficient way to keep our international students informed of important deadlines, new changes to immigration regulations, and upcoming social programs and events. The newsletter is delivered to your UR email, so please forward your messages if you prefer to access your email through a personal account.

Again, welcome (back) to campus and we wish the best for the coming year!

II. REMINDER: FULL-TIME REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

The ISO is required to report every academic term whether all F-1 and J-1 students are maintaining a full-time course load. As we near the end of scheduled Add-Drop periods, please verify that you are registered for the appropriate credits this term. Full-time, for immigration purposes, is 12 credits per semester, 9 credits per quarter, or equivalent registration (with certain courses or other academic activities such as a Teaching or Research Assistantship). If you are not certain whether you have satisfied this requirement or you need to request an authorized reduced course load, please make an appointment to see an International Student Advisor *before*

you drop below your required credits. Unauthorized part-time enrollment is considered a violation of the F-1 and J-1 programs.

III. GEARING UP FOR TAX SEASON, WITH MORE INFORMATION TO COME

International students who were present in the U.S. during any portion of 2007 must comply with Federal and State tax filing requirements. All F-1 students in the U.S. for less than 5 years and all J-1 students in the U.S. for less than 2 years must file a Federal Tax Statement (Form 8843), *regardless of whether any income was earned*. Additionally, any student who has earned income while in the U.S. during 2007 must also file tax forms for Federal and State earnings.

Campus resources will again be available to all UR international students to help with understanding these tax obligations. Details are still being worked out for access procedures to CINTAX, helpful workshops, and available tax preparation services. In the meantime, please review the following for current details and opportunities for assistance with your 2007 taxes.

CINTAX Complete International Tax Preparation Software is a companion program to GLACIER and is offered free of charge to our international student population at the University. This program will help you to identify which tax forms you need to file and generate them electronically when available. You will be receiving an email from GLACIER in the coming weeks with details on how to access CINTAX. This message will be delivered to the email address currently listed in GLACIER. **For current students, you have until Sunday, February 3rd to verify and update this address. For completed students, this address has been provided to GLACIER by the ISO.** If you have forgotten your GLACIER log-in, you may request a reset through the software directly (<https://www.online-tax.net/glogin.asp>).

The ISO is also offering additional help through the return of our CINTAX Consultant. If you would like to review your GLACIER record and the results of your tax forms once they are available, you may meet one-on-one with our CINTAX Consultant. Appointments are required and may be made by contacting or stopping by the ISO. You may schedule time for a half hour on Tuesday or Friday afternoons, from February 12th through April 15th. Several Saturday options will also be available and students at the Eastman School of Music will have the option to meet at ESM as well. Please contact the ISO at 275-2866 for more information.

III. RIC SPOTLIGHT: LINE DANCING & INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

The Rochester International Council's annual Country Western Line Dance is next week, Friday, February 1st from 6:30 to 9 pm! The program will be held at the Brighton Town Lodge, at 777 Westfall Road and will include a traditional western dinner of chili and corn bread, all free to international students, scholars, and their families. Line dancing is a popular dance form for young and old, experienced and first-timers alike, with foot stomping and hand slapping done to traditional Country Western music and disco beats. Dress casually – jeans and a t-shirt is fine – and wear comfortable shoes with a smooth sole (sneakers are difficult to dance in). Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Rochester International Council also sponsors an International Women's Group. Wives of international students get together twice a month. The meetings provide an opportunity to socialize, hear and speak English, share their cultures, learn about American life and culture, learn some simple crafts, and, most importantly, make friends. If you or a spouse is interested, please send the best email address to jw@rirc.org to receive an invitation to join the group.

Editor: Stephanie Beetle, International Student Advisor