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**I. WILL YOU BE COMPLETING YOUR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS SOON?**

If your answer is “yes”, or even “maybe”, now is the time to begin thinking about F-1 Optional Practical Training or J-1 Academic Training! We encourage you to meet with an advisor in the ISO by scheduling an appointment at your convenience (5-2866). We will review your options and discuss ways that will enable you to take advantage of the opportunities available to you. Each individual has a different set of circumstances to consider when making such complicated immigration decisions, so please do not assume that what works for your friends will also be the best option for you!

There are several important deadlines and considerations to keep in mind, such as:

- OPT applications can take between 2 and 4 months before work permission is granted and you will not be allowed to pursue any employment until your application is approved.
- Required documentation for travel outside the U.S. changes when your degree is completed. If you plan to travel in the coming months, you may need to submit your application materials with enough time to receive a decision before you leave the country.
- If you plan to work in the U.S. for longer than your OPT or AT will allow, the decisions you make now about your completion date and requested employment dates can have significant impact on options available to you in the future. You may want to discuss your long-term plans with an advisor as well.
- J-1 students must apply for Academic Training before completing all degree requirements, or you will no longer be eligible for that benefit.

If you are completing this term but do not plan to apply for these work permissions, please also check the program end date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019. If that date is listed beyond the time when you will actually finish, you will need to request that your program be shortened to update your SEVIS record. This action can be taken by submitting the Student Departure Form to the ISO, with the appropriate section completed. This form is available on the ISO website at: <http://www.iso.rochester.edu/Forms/StudentDepartureForm.pdf>.

## **II. UPCOMING WORKSHOP: “WORKING IN THE U.S.”, OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**

**318/418 Gleason Hall, Simon School (River Campus)**

Attorney Dan Berger, an expert in immigration law, will be holding a workshop for UR’s international students to review the various visa options that may be available after completing your academic program. “Working in the U.S.” will highlight important issues, which include H-1bs and talking to your employer about visa sponsorship, Labor Certifications, Green Cards, and advice on working with an immigration attorney. Please see the attached flyer for more information and we hope you will join us for this informative session!

## **III. REMINDER: GLACIER INFORMATION & DOCUMENTS**

The ISO understands that US tax issues tend to cause great concern for our international students, but the GLACIER software is a great tool to make sure that you are handling your taxes appropriately. We would like to remind you to enter your information as best you can and follow the directions that appear on the Tax Summary statement when you are finished. This will ensure that your information is accurate and that all necessary documents are submitted to UR Payroll. If you have any trouble with the GLACIER application, you may contact the program vendor directly at: [support@online-tax.net](mailto:support@online-tax.net). If you have questions about the information you are asked to enter or the forms you should submit to Payroll, please contact the University’s GLACIER help at: [glacier@hr.rochester.edu](mailto:glacier@hr.rochester.edu). These resources are available to assist you and we hope that you will feel free to use them as you need!

## **IV. RIC SPOTLIGHT: WATKINS GLEN HIKE (10/11) & MT. HOPE TOUR (10/26)**

RIC has two events coming up in October that you may be interested in attending!

- **Hiking trip to Watkins Glen on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Watkins Glen is in the Southern Tier of New York and is known for its many scenic views and waterfalls. This is a great time of year to see the beautiful fall colors! The bus will leave from UR at 9:45 am and return by 4:30 pm. A fee of \$5 is charged for the event and a picnic lunch will also be provided. Please be sure to bring appropriate hiking gear, including sturdy shoes and rain gear if the weather looks bad. This is always a very popular event and spaces will fill up quickly! Please sign up in the ISO by October 8<sup>th</sup> and see the attached flyer for more information.
- **Tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery & Afternoon Tea on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>:** Celebrate Halloween by taking a stroll through our most famous cemetery at 1:00 pm. A local historian will provide a humorous history of the Rochester area and its famous citizens. Gather in a nearby home afterward for tea, cakes and conversation. This event is limited to 25 participants, so you should sign up early! Please contact Terry May at: [may@sifc.edu](mailto:may@sifc.edu).

**V. *CAMPUS FOCUS*: EMMANUEL JAL LECTURE THIS THURSDAY, OCT. 2<sup>ND</sup>  
Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 pm  
Strong Auditorium (River Campus)**

This Thursday, Emmanuel Jal will be talking about his experiences growing up in Sudan as a child of war, how he survived and became who he is now. As a musician, his music carries strong messages of peace and social justice. He will be doing a short Q&A after speaking and then he'll be performing a few of his songs. This event is sure to be an amazing experience with a powerful story about a global issue. Jal has been nominated for an MTV Woodie award and Jal's music has been featured on soundtracks including Blood Diamond and ER. He has also been featured in Rolling Stone, Vibe, The Guardian, USA Today, CNN, Q Magazine, NPR, and addressed and performed for the UN and Nelson Mandela. His War Child documentary, which won the Tribeca Film Festival Cadillac Audience Award, continues to gain accolades at prestigious film festivals worldwide.

We hope you will take advantage of this special event! This is a rare chance to hear a first hand account of what it was like to grow up during a civil war, and to be sent away as a 6 year old child to be a rebel fighter in the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. Tickets are \$5 for undergrad students, \$10 all others at the Common Market in Wilson Commons. Sponsored by CAB and co-sponsored by OMSA, FDI, Interfaith Chapel, Center for Entrepreneurship, UR Concerts, Amnesty, BSU, ISO, RIC, UR Hip Hop, MGC, Undergraduate Musicians Council, Undergraduate Political Science Council, The Kearns Center, and NOC. For more information call the Common Connection at x55911. See also: [www.emmanueljal.org](http://www.emmanueljal.org)

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