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I. 2010 DIVERSITY LOTTERY APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

The Department of State has opened the registration period for the 2010 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2010) lottery. This program enables randomly selected individuals to apply for one of 55,000 U.S. Permanent Resident visas, specifically reserved for persons from areas with lower immigration rates. The application period for this year’s lottery is October 2nd through 12:00 noon on Monday, December 1st, 2008. All applications must be submitted online at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>.

Individuals who meet simple but strict eligibility requirements are able to enter the lottery for an opportunity to apply for a U.S. “green card”. Due to high numbers of immigrants in recent years, persons from the following countries will not be eligible for the 2010 lottery: Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Peru, Poland, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. (Note: Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan are eligible).

For more information and access to application instructions, please see the Department of State’s DV lottery notice: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/sept/110467.htm>. The application process is fairly simple and does not usually require the assistance of an immigration attorney. If you are selected under the lottery, however, you may want to consider hiring an attorney for help with completing the Permanent Residency application process.

II. ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP: CHANGE TO SCHEDULE

The ISO-sponsored English conversation classes will now only be offered on Thursday afternoons from 1:15 to 3:00 pm. The group will still meet in Room 503 of Wilson Commons. The Wednesday classes are cancelled for the remainder of the school year, due to illness. The ISO wishes a speedy recovery to our instructor, Maeluise!

III. P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The ISO has recently been notified of the following scholarship opportunity: The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund is a program to provide scholarships for selected women from other countries to pursue graduate studies in the U.S. or Canada. Eligibility criteria include: 1) Women from countries other than the U.S. or Canada, 2) Working toward a graduate degree in the U.S. or Canada, 3) Have a full year of course work remaining, 4) Enrolled and on-campus for the full year of the scholarship, and 5) Promise to return to their country within 60 days of completion of their degree to pursue their professional career. Recipients can receive up to \$10,000 annually. Please find additional information at www.peointernational.org or by contacting their local representative, Janet Salzer, at 225-1335 or jsalzer99@juno.com.

IV. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Diane Hardy, a PhD student at the University at Buffalo, is looking for participants in a survey on the experiences of being an international student in the U.S. You would be asked to share your thoughts and perspectives during one or more discussions, all of which would be held here at the UR campus. If you are interested, please see the attached flyer for more information and to contact Diane directly.

V. RIC SPOTLIGHT: JOIN A FAMILY FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER, 11/27

Thursday, November 27th will mark the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. This classic American tradition is generally celebrated in family gatherings, with plenty of good food and good times. Members and friends of the Rochester International Council will invite Rochester area international students to join them for a holiday feast. If you would like to visit with a local family during their Thanksgiving Dinner, please sign up by November 19th. You may contact RIC at 275-8779 or send an email to Judy Weinstein, Executive Director, at jw@rifc.org.

VI. CAMPUS FOCUS: “WORKING IN THE U.S.” WORKSHOP TOMORROW (10/23)

Thursday, October 23rd, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

407 Schlegel Hall, Simon School (River Campus)

Just a reminder: 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 join us!