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International Students Newsletter

International Studies
Humboldt State University

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International Student Newsletter **April/May 2015**

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It's been a great semester and a great year here at HSU. Many students have had opportunities to learn, explore, grow, experience new things and make new memories. With the school year coming to a close, we are excited for what the summer and the new school year holds. But, we will miss the international students that are leaving!

Continue reading the newsletter to see what some students had to say about their semester here and to find out what you can look forward to this summer and in the future at HSU!



Top: IELI students enjoy their time at the end-of-the-year bonfire

Bottom: Students have fun at the Holi Festival at HSU

A Look Back on the Semester

This semester was an incredible time for so many students here at HSU. For many international students, it was the perfect chance to explore a new country, make new friends, and learn from new experiences. We asked some students to share some of their experiences from the semester, and here is what they said!

Aroona Arthur remembers her semester here as a time of many exciting new experiences. Over spring break, she traveled to Atlanta, Georgia and spent her break with a Christian family of three kids.

“Those kids gave me such an awesome love,” Aroona said, “that now they pray ‘Please God, bring Ms. Aroona back to our home.’ I was so honored when their mother told me that they prayed for me.”



Aroona practicing archery in Utah



Aroona at the CNN headquarters in Atlanta

Aroona also visited the CNN headquarters in Atlanta, World of Coca Cola, the aquarium, and the Civil War History Museum while she was in Atlanta. She also visited Park City, Utah, where she tried archery, rock climbing, and cycling. Here at HSU, Aroona participated in the International Cultural Festival.

This semester was Aroona's first birthday spent away from home and her friends took her to the beach to celebrate. She said it was a “lovely and memorable experience.”

Another student, Sofia Banu, had a great semester at HSU as well. Her semester here was a great chance for her to learn more about another culture. She remembers being a bit overwhelmed and homesick when she first arrived at HSU, but she was able to start interacting with other students using the English language.

“With the passage of time, my interaction grew wider with the community and personally I got used to the new environment,” Sofia recalled.

There were many differences in food, in the style of teaching, and in the style of dress. She enjoyed the many events and extra-curricular activities that HSU has to offer and was glad to be in a learning environment that celebrates cultural diversity. She found the community to be kind and welcoming and enjoyed participating in community service.

“After returning back to my country,” Sofia said, “I would like to keep and practice all the particular features of US culture, because for me the culture has been fascinating and very inspiring.”

Some international students took their time here in the US to explore the great outdoors. Ana Woltrich told us about her time spent with friends in Yosemite National Park.



Sofia doing community service

A Look Back on the Semester (cont)



"The four friends that traveled with me to breathe near the nature before the end of the semester - Kenia, Pamela, Ellen and Laiza - were the girls that arrived here with me last year and with who I shared many things during my exchange program," Ana

said. "Next month we are

saying goodbye to this awesome place, I am sure that we will save the memories forever!"



We will greatly miss the international students that are leaving this semester. Please stay in contact with us and let us know how you are doing! For students who are returning to HSU in the fall, we look forward to seeing you then!

Need Help Studying for Finals? Stop by the Learning Center!

Math Lab Hours (LIB 208)

Mon, May 11: 11 am-8 pm

Tues, May 12: 11 am-8 pm

Wed, May 13: 11 am-8 pm

Thurs, May 14: 11 am-5 pm

Writing Center Hours (LIB 32)

Monday, May 11: 9 am – 5 pm

Tuesday, May 12: 9 am – 5 pm

(Writing Center Consultants will be also be available at the AS Study Lounge)

Drop-in Science Lab Hours (LIB 55)

Monday – Friday (May 11-15): 9 am – 5 pm

AS Study Lounge Hours (University Center- South Lounge)

(Specific subjects on each day)

Monday: 5-9 pm

BIOL 102 Drop-in Writing Tutoring

BIOL 104

CHEM 107

PHIL 100

PHYX 106

PSYCH 104

Tuesday: 5-9 pm

BIOL 104 MATH 103i STAT 108

BIOL 105 MATH 105 PHYX 109

BOT 105 MATH 109

CHEM 109 MATH 115

CHEM 110 PHIL 100

MATH 44 PSYCH 104

The Importance of Graduating

This May, hundreds of Humboldt State students will graduate, receiving the diploma they have earned after years of hard work. Family and friends will attend the ceremony to celebrate with their graduating student. It is a time of much excitement and joy and a time of transition for students entering the next stages of their lives.

As graduation comes around, we wanted to take time to look at why graduation is important. What will graduating with a college degree do for you?

Financial Stability

Many students worry about whether or not they will be able to pay off their student loans when they graduate from college. This is a serious concern, but one that can hopefully be eased with this data: According to the Economic Policy Institute, people with college degrees made 98% more per hour in 2013 than people without a degree. Perhaps even more noteworthy is the data suggesting that in the long-run, the cost of college is actually a negative \$500,000, meaning that a college degree will actually save you money.

Expand Your Opportunities

Having a college degree can provide you with tons of career opportunities. You might have the chance to live in an entirely new place and make new friends, experience another culture, and enjoy new sights. Through your career, you will have the chance to meet new people and make new friends, and you can build working relationships that will help you move further along your career path.

Do Something You Love

You might have heard people say that if you love what you do, you won't have to work a day in your life. If you get a degree in something that you are passionate about, you'll be able to spend each day doing work that you enjoy. Nothing beats being happy with what you do!

Pre-Departure Checklist

It's hard for us to believe that many of you are leaving in less than a month! As you prepare to leave your host communities, here are some reminders about things you should do before you leave campus, including:

1. Request copies of your transcripts – <http://pine.humboldt.edu/reg/transcripts/>

- a) Complete the Official Transcript Request Form
- b) Pay for the Transcript(s) via the Following:
 - [Pay with Check or Money Order by Mail](#), or
 - [Pay in Person at the Student Financial Services Office](#), or
 - Pay Online with Credit Card or eCheck
- c) Submit the Transcript Request Form via:
 - Fax: [707-826-6194](tel:707-826-6194)
 - Mail: Humboldt State University, Office of the Registrar, Transcript Section, 1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521
 - Email: HSU.Transcripts@humboldt.edu

2. Pay Any Outstanding Bills – Students are responsible for paying any personal expenses incurred while on the program. These include library fees, copying fees, credit card fees, phone bills, etc. Under no circumstances will the international office pay for your personal bills. Any bills for personal expenses will be forwarded to you at home. Make sure to check you Student Account (via MyHumboldt) and the Cashiers Office located in the Student Business Services building

3. Make Necessary Repairs/Clean Out Housing – Students need to make sure their rooms are clean before they depart campus. If there is any damage to a room, students will be responsible for any fees for repairing the damage or cleaning the room.

4. Forward Your Address – Visit the post office and fill out a Change of Address form. You can also do this online at: <https://www.usps.com/umove/> Use your home address in your home country; do not use the [IREX/HSU International Office](#) address as your forwarding address.

5. HSU Email Address: If you sign up as a member with [Forever Humboldt](#) you can keep your HSU email for FREE and for life!
5. Write Thank You notes – This is optional. You may want to stay in contact with people you've met for personal or professional reasons. You can write brief thank you notes to your academic advisors, host family/friendship family, professors, community service host, etc. or others who had a significant impact on your experience.

6. Close Your Bank Account – You should close your U.S. bank account before you depart. Check with your bank regarding the procedure for closing the account. Requirements will vary by bank. Be sure that you have paid all your bills and that all checks have cleared before you close your account.

7. Pack – While you pack, you may realize you have acquired more than you can take home. Consider donating, leaving behind, selling, or shipping unnecessary items to avoid expensive excess baggage fees.

8. Return Keys – You should return any keys to the Housing and Dining office. If you do not return your key, you will be charged a fee. Do not accidentally take home keys.

9. Travel Money – You will be travelling for many hours to get home and you may have delayed flights or other emergencies. Remember to set aside some money now to get you to the airport on the last day and to keep with you as you are travelling so that you can buy food and water if you are stuck in an airport due to long layovers or unexpected delays.

10. Emergency Number – Write down an emergency phone number and keep it in a safe place with your carry-on baggage, in case you need assistance while traveling:

11. Immigration Documents at the Airport – Make sure you have the following documents with you during your time of departure:

- Passport
- Visa
- I-20/DS-2019Form

It's been a pleasure getting to learn about each one of you and working with all of you this semester. We look forward to hearing about your future successes! If you would like to stay in touch and see what we are up to, please "Like" us on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/hsuinternational>

Make the Most of Your Summer

It's just about to be summertime! With a few months off from school, there are countless opportunities available to take advantage of this summer. You might get a job, an internship, spend summer traveling, or hang out up here in Humboldt. Whatever you do, we want your summer experience to be memorable and worthwhile.

Working

Summer jobs are good ways to build resumes and to make some extra cash for the school year. To apply for a summer job, make sure you have a neatly-done resume that includes three references that interviewers can contact. For help building your resume, stop by the [Academic and Career Advising Center](#). If you need help searching for a summer job you want, try using HSU's [Springboard](#), which posts local job listings that are perfect for summer. You might also want to try simply asking the people you know about any opportunities that might be available: someone's friend might need help gardening, a staff member might need a babysitter, or a professor might need someone to dog-sit.

Internships

Applying for internships can be intimidating, but hopefully with the use of some resources and advice, you will feel good about searching for a summer internship. The [Academic and Career Advising Center](#) can help with this as well- stop by for advice and for help with your resume. [Springboard](#) is also a great resource for finding internships. When interviewing for an internship, there are some important things to keep in mind. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the company, organization, or agency that you are applying for- find out what their history is, what they hope to do in the future, how you can best contribute to their mission, etc. Also, make sure that you are able to explain the skills you have that make you truly shine as an applicant. What do you have to offer? Trust yourself and go into your interviews with confidence. You'll do great!

Traveling

Do you want to travel throughout the US this summer? The opportunities for traveling are just about limitless. You might explore the East Coast and visit places like Washington D.C., Disney World in Florida, the Appalachian Mountain range, or the beaches of the Carolinas. Or, head to Southern California and enjoy the sunny beaches, the thriving cities, and the great food. Maybe explore some of the National Parks- see the beautiful red rocks of Zion National Park in Utah, gaze at Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, California, explore the mountains in the Grand Teton National Park of Wyoming, or feel the salty ocean mist surround you at Acadia National Park in Maine. Or you might want to visit some of our famous cities, such as Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Portland, or Seattle. For safe traveling, make sure you use this checklist before you head out on your adventures: [Traveler's Checklist](#).

What's Happening in Humboldt?

We are fortunate in Humboldt County to have endless places to explore and tons of fun community events. If you're staying up here over summer, there is plenty for you to do. You can

attend local events such as [Arcata's 25th Anniversary Oyster Festival](#), [Reggae on the River](#), Friends of the Dunes' Annual [Sand Sculpture Festival](#), or [Bridgefest UFO Festival](#). Or, stop by a

[Crabs](#) baseball game and enjoy the sports crowd! If you'd like some entertainment, look for events at [Blondies Food and Drink](#) or [Jambalaya](#) or catch a movie at the [Minor Theater](#). You may also try exploring some of our many beaches, such as [Mad River Beach](#), [Houda Point](#), [Patrick's Point State Park](#), or [Moonstone Beach](#). Or, go on hikes in the [Arcata Community Forest](#), [Redwood National Park](#), up to [Strawberry Rock](#), or head to the [Trinity Alps](#).

Many of these places are good for camping, as well!



There are endless opportunities available for you to make the most out of your summer. We hope that you stay safe, have fun, and grow a lot over the next few months. Share your experiences with us- we love to hear from you!

Upcoming Events

Commencement

Come support your peers as they graduate!

Saturday May 16, 2015

College of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences :8:30 am

College of Natural Resources & Sciences: 12:00 pm

College of Professional Studies: 3:30 pm

Find out more: [Commencement](#)

Creation & Relaxation Station at HSU Library

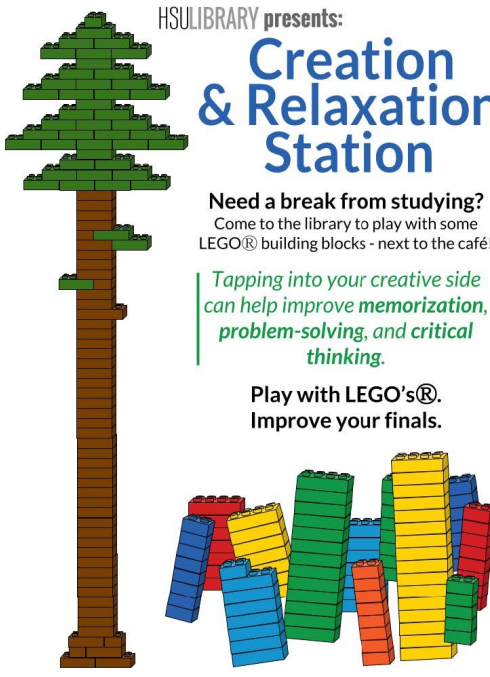
HSULIBRARY presents:

Creation & Relaxation Station

Need a break from studying?
Come to the library to play with some
LEGO® building blocks - next to the café!

*Tapping into your creative side
can help improve memorization,
problem-solving, and critical
thinking.*

Play with LEGO's®.
Improve your finals.



<http://users.humboldt.edu/trentier/library/Play.html> [5/11/2015 4:17:27 PM]

WRRAP's Donation Dash

Moving out? Donate supplies, clothes, and other materials to local charities at the Donation Dash!

May 13-16, 2015

Wednesday and Thursday: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 12 am

Saturday: 8:00 am - 1 pm

Locations: College Creek, Creeview, and The Hill

Find out more: [Donation Dash](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 17
11:00 a.m.

BLUE LAKE •

BIGFOOT RUN

Pre-registration at the Jogg'n Shoppe
and www.bigfootrun.net



2 mile fun run

AND

5 mile race

Find out more at: bigfootrun.net