

ISSO NEWS: February 2014

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

ISSO WELCOMES NEW STUDENT ASSISTANT: JOHN THAI



Major: Health Care Management.

Hobbies: Playing pool, walking in the park, eating at new restaurants, using the computer, and hanging with friends.

Interests: Technology, cooking, music, food, and games

My Story: I was born in Vietnam and came to America when I was five years old. My parents did not speak English, so I learned it myself by watching TV and reading books. I haven't visited my home country in many years, and I feel I may be losing touch with my own culture. I will visit Vietnam in the future because I still have relatives there, and I want to learn more about my culture or origin. Luckily, I did learn Vietnamese language from my parents.

I chose to study at CSU because it is one of the best schools with a Healthcare Management program. It is a quiet and peaceful school. That's why I love CSU and everything about it.

My work hours this semester are T,W,Th from 10:30 – 1:45pm in the ISSO office, Room 210. Please say hello next time you're in the UC, and let me know what I can do to help.

To be featured in ISSO e-NEWS, Email:

isso@clayton.edu

To be featured in The Bent Tree Newspaper, Email:

kponder3@student.clayton.edu

2014 GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (GILC)

Application Deadline Extended: Monday, Feb. 10, 5pm

- **What:** International student conference with 200+ students from around Georgia.
- **Who:** All Clayton State Full-time students Are Eligible, but we only have 6 spots.
- **When:** Feb. 28 – March 2, 2014
- **Where:** Rock Eagle, Eatonton, GA (about 45 miles from Atlanta).
- **Cost:** No cost to students. Fees are funded by the Div. of Student Affairs and cover lodging, transportation, 5 meals, snacks and all program activities.
- **To Apply / More Info:** Contact isso@clayton.edu / 678-466-5499

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Waiver Request Deadline: Feb. 15, 2014

After this date, no waiver requests will be accepted. No exceptions. Waivers must be renewed each Fall and Spring but not Summer semester. Failure to apply for the waiver by the deadline will obligate you to pay the premium.

A useful **F.A.Q.** about this process, plan details, and procedures is located on the ISSO website >> [here](#) <<.

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. Others will file a Non-Resident US tax return if they had income last year. You may receive a form in the mail soon called 1040-S. If so, keep this for your tax records. You will need it to complete your tax return. Please review the flow chart at the end of this newsletter to see what tax return 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.

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

NEED PRAYER?

There is no designated space at Clayton State, currently, where students may pray during the day in a private, enclosed, non-denominational, safe space. However, there is a new student organization called "We are ONE Interfaith Council" which was formed to address this issue.

Any group of students may form a recognized religious student organization through the established procedures of Campus Life. Once recognized, the group may reserve space on campus to meet and conduct activities related to the group's mission. Check out the process and a list of all current student organizations at: www.clayton.edu/campus-life

- Click on:**
- > Student Organizations
 - > How to Start a Student Organization
 - > Recognized Student Organizations

HIGHER ONE CARD & TUITION PAYMENT PLAN (NEW)

Higher One is Clayton State's electronic funds transfer provider. The university is moving away from the practice of issuing paper checks. Therefore, all students are urged to activate their Higher One profile in case refunds for tuition, fees, or other balances are owed to you. **See:** <http://www.clayton.edu/Higher-One/Overview>

- Log into your SWAN
- Click on the DUCK, top right of the page
- Click personal information
- Click view address and phones
- Click update addresses and phones in the middle of the page
- Click the drop-down box and select Mailing next to "Type of Address to Insert"
- Fill out the form and click submit
- For assistance, contact: Ms. Julie Coile / juliecoile@clayton.edu / 678-466-4227

Tuition Payment Plan (New) provides 0% payment plans. The link below allows you to enroll in a payment plan for future semesters. <http://www.mycollegepaymentplan.com/clayton>

SPRING 2013 O.P.T. INFO SESSIONS

O.P.T. or *Optional Practical Training* is off-campus employment authorization for international students, and it is an optional benefit of the 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, and 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](#) << Come by ISSO for a colorful brochure about trips.



MUSIC ON CAMPUS

Spivey Hall website >> [here](#) << Hear World Class Artists at your doorstep! Clayton State students with valid ID have access to free, \$5 or \$10 tickets. Take Advantage!

ISSO CLOSED

Thursday, February 13th

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.

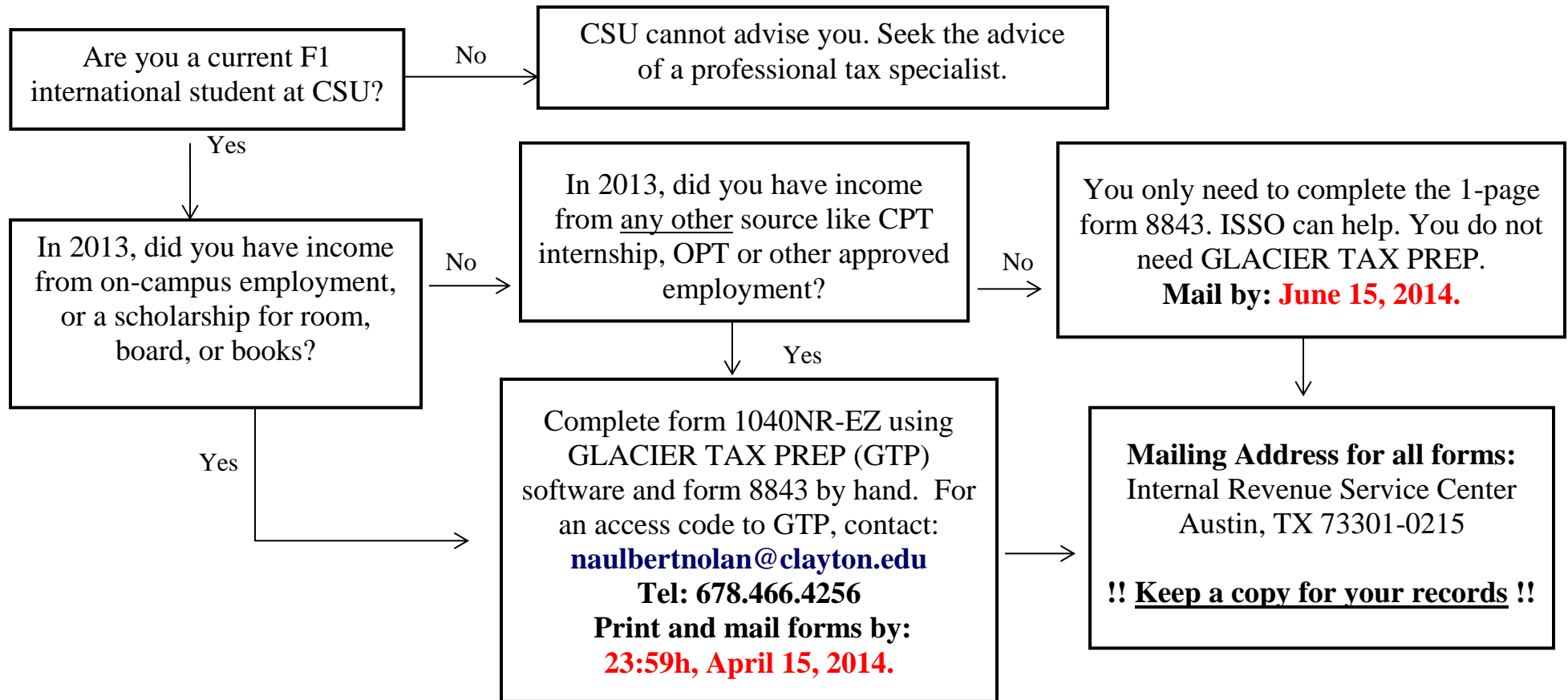
2013 TAX FLOW CHART / WHAT FORM DO I USE AND HOW?

See Below :)

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.