Welcome to the International Student Orientation

Hosted by the Office of International Student & Scholar Services, January 13, 2016

8:00-8:30am **RSC 2nd Floor Hallway**	**New international student sign-in at registration tables**: 2nd floor hallway of Rayburn Student Center.
8:30-8:45am **Conference Rooms**	**Welcome by Dr. Betty Block, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Jacques Fuqua, Executive Director for Global Programs**
8:45-9:15 **Conference Rooms**	**Introduction to the Office of International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) by John Mark Jones, Director:** Meet all of the ISSS staff and learn about the services and programs offered by the ISSS.
9:30-10:20am **Conference Rooms**	**Immigration Basics for the F and J Visa:** Learn more about the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) rules and A&M-Commerce policies related to the F and J visa (Breakout Session #1).
10:30-11:00am **Conference Rooms** **Traditions Room** **Vision Room**	**BREAKOUT SESSION #2** **Funding your Education Through Scholarships:** A representative from the Scholarship Office will discuss resources to find scholarships, when to apply, and other important information. **Navigating the A&M System Student Health Insurance Plan:** Learn more about the mandatory enrollment and exceptions, coverage information, and payment process. Hosted by the ISSS and Academic Health Plans. **Campus Safety**: University Police Department hosts a session to learn about campus safety, the university PAWS alert system, parking, and other important topics related to personal safety.
11:15am-12:00pm **Conference Rooms** **Traditions Room**	**Information Session for all College of Business Graduate Students:** The College of Business (COB) Advising Center will provide important information about course registration and other information to all COB graduate majors. **Information Session for all Technology Management majors.** **All other students are free to eat lunch in the Rayburn Student Center (RSC) Cafeteria.**
12:30pm-2:00pm **Hallway Outside Conference Rooms**	**Department and Off-campus Businesses Fair:** On-campus departments, off-campus businesses, and student groups will have information tables and giveaways.

12:30pm-1:15pm **Conference Rooms**	**Information Session for all Computer Science and Computational Science Graduate Students:** The CSCI Department will provide important information about course registration and other information to all related graduate majors. **All other students are free to eat lunch in the Rayburn Student Center (RSC) Cafeteria.**
2:00pm-2:45pm **Conference Rooms** **Traditions**	**BREAKOUT SESSION #3** **How to Be Socially Successful: Maximizing Your College Life for Future Success:** Learn about social etiquette as well as do's and don'ts of friendship and dating. We will help you adjust to this new culture and maximize your social life in college for future success. Hosted by the Counseling Center. **How to Be Successful in the Classroom**: Learn about cultural differences with the American education system and also learn about university academic support services. Hosted by the ISSS, Gee Library, Writing Center, and the Academic Success Center.
3:00pm-3:45pm **Conference Rooms** **Traditions**	**BREAKOUT SESSION #4** **Tuition and Fee Payment**: The Student Accounts Office will discuss how to pay your tuition and fees, payment options and deadlines, how to set-up a payment plan, and other important information. **Job Search 101: What to Do and What Not to Do?** This session will cover how to conduct your job search, apply for on-campus jobs through HireALion, resume writing, interviewing, networking, and H1-B visa opportunities. Hosted by Career Development.

Free Shuttle to Walmart and Local Banks- The ISSS will provide a ***FREE*** shuttle for international students to Walmart and local banks only on the following dates and times below. Pickup will be at Chase ATM in front of the Halladay building:

- Thursday, January 14 from 1pm-4pm
- Friday, January 15 from 1pm-4pm

Shuttle to Driver's License Office and Social Security Office- The ISSS will provide a $5 shuttle for international students to the DL's office and SSN office in Greenville, TX:

- Thursday, February 11 from 8:30am-1:00pm
- Friday, February 19 from 8:30am-1:00pm

Orientation Series Spring 2016

Additional Workshops and Events

BA 221 (McDowell Administration Building)	**Where Should I Live?** Information session about campus housing and off-campus housing options. The session will include lease information, renter's rights, and general housing rules. Free t-shirt for first 3 students who attend the full session: **Monday, December 21 at 4pm, Thursday, January 7 and Thursday, January 14 at 4pm.**
BA 109 (McDowell Administration Building)	**SSHIP Information and Waiver:** Information session to learn about the System Student Health Insurance (SSHIP) and the waiver process. Seating is limited for this session and registration is required. Free t-shirt to the first 5 students who attend the full session: **Wednesday, January 20 at 2pm.**
Halladay 104 ISSS	**Popcorn and Hot Chocolate Social**- Join us for free popcorn, hot chocolate, coffee, and desserts and meet new students and university faculty/staff on **Tuesday, January 19 from 2pm-4pm**.
Ed South 122 (Education South Building)	**DegreeWorks and eCollege**- Information session about how to review and utilize your DegreeWorks for your academic program and how to navigate eCollege for online "W," blended/hybrid "B," and web enhanced "E" courses. Limited seating for these sessions and registration is required. Free t-shirt to the first 5 students who attend the full session: **Wednesday, January 20 at 10:30am and 3:30pm).**
BA 109 (McDowell Administration Building)	**How to Apply for a Driver's License and SSN**- Information about the driver's license application process & SSN eligibility: **Thursday, January 28 and Wednesday, February 3 at 3pm.**
Halladay 204 Counseling Center	**Recharge to Maximize Your Performance** – Enjoy some light refreshments and try the massage chairs in our wonderful Relaxation Room. Learn about the great resources of the Counseling Center and find out how you can join our Active Cultural Exchange group. This open house is specifically for international students. The first 30 students will receive a special gift bag. Join us on **Wednesday, January 27th, 3-5pm in Counseling Center.**

Gee Library Front Reception Desk	**Introduction to the Gee Library Services**- This session is intended to provide a quick overview of services that the library has available for students. Students will leave the session with information about how to use the library catalog and library electronic databases to locate research materials for classes. Free refreshments and free t-shirts for the first 5 international students who attend the full session: **February 10 at 3:30pm.**
RSC The Club	**Welcome Party:** The ISSS will host a welcome party for all new and current international students. Date, time, and location will be announced.