



Affiliated with the American Cultural Centers at Henan Normal University and Harbin University of Science and Technology  
Working with Iowa State University

# Newsletter of the Bald Eagle & Panda Series

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## Are you Ready to Apply?



The Application process for domestic students and international students are basically the same, except that international students typically need to provide English proficiency test score (TOEFL or IELTS), in addition to the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score, and accredited transcripts. Some institutions like Columbia University require a transcript evaluation, which is a fee-based service provided by a third-party agency like World Education Service (WES). Admission for graduate schools in the U.S adopts a holistic strategy based on the personal statement, resume, test scores, recommendation letter, and writing samples or interviews.

Application for graduate schools are competitive and stressful, thus it is recommended that prospective students plan about 10 months in advance. Deadlines for the application of Ph.D. programs for fall semester are in December or January, while the deadlines for Master programs may extend to March or early April. Prospective students also should consider the expenses for study and living since financial aid and grants are not guaranteed for all programs. International applicants should start the visa application as soon as they get the acceptance letters. Financial proof of one year's expenses is required for the visa application.

The keys to successful application is to plan ahead, stay organized, and ask for help when needed. Princeton Review, US News, and Peterson Guide are great sources for graduate college ranking, program introduction, and free online practice test for TOEFL or GRE. Graduate program directors, faculty members, current or former students are other potential sources of information for prospective students.



## Final Exams at the American Universities

When attending colleges in the United States, it is common to have exams scheduled throughout the semester. Especially when it comes down to the end of the semester, there are a few different ways of testing your knowledge of the material. The most common form of final examination is an in-class test. Other forms include take-home exam, project, group presentation, and others.

The week before final week is called dead week, named this because of the amount of stress students experience, and the lack of sleep that usually occurs due to extensive study. At the Iowa State University, dead week is an official university-recognized event, where mandatory quiet hours are practiced and student organizations are not allowed to meet.

The final week runs on a completely different schedule than the semester, allowing enough time for an exam and ensuring that one test doesn't overlap another test. The college publishes with a schedule for the final week, giving each course a 2-hour slot for the exam. The finals start anywhere between 7:30 am to 8:15 pm.



## Students' Voice

- **Ahleah Hook**, a senior in Anthropology, thinks that a better form of final testing would be a paper or project so that you are able to apply all that you have learned to a final product and have something to show your knowledge, other than a grade.
- **Kelsy Horner**, a senior in Event Management, thinks that a project is a good way of doing final exams because it helps her learn the materials better than memorizing it for a test.
- **Shaylee Slaymaker**, a senior in Hospitality Management, thinks that in-class test is a great way of testing what we have learned in the entire semester.



Kelsy Horner



Shaylee Slaymaker



Ahleah Hook

## Students' Voice



### 2. **Kayla Erps:** Senior in Nutritional Science

We are going to Kansas City for the Big 12 Tournament and then flying to Myrtle Beach. I will spend the week on the beach making memories with my great friends. Hopefully the water will be warm enough!

### 3. **Ebony Jackson:** Senior in Information Management Systems

I'm staying here in Ames and will spend the time on working and studying. Midterms should happen before it, which I think they do, but tests and group projects should be due a week after Spring Break. I also suggest the university add an extra week.

### 4. **Kara Sloan:** Junior in Apparel, Merchandising and Design

I plan on working for half of the week here in Ames at ACPC, which is a daycare, and then I am going home to Cedar Rapids where my family is and we are going on a weekend shopping trip to Chicago.



## Spring Break

Spring break in the U.S. is considered one of the most desired breaks in college students' school year. It is the first week-long vacation since Christmas. Not only does it signify that the semester is halfway over, but also students yearn to utilize that week in search of beaches and road trips. We interviewed four undergraduate students at Iowa State University about their plans of 2015 Spring Break. Let's hear their voices:

### 1. **Daryck Brown:** Junior in Electrical Engineering

I'll be going to South Padre Island, down in Texas. We have a group of nine people that's going, so it should be a good time. We're definitely going to spend our days on the beach. Since the package we got comes with a cruise, we'll be doing that on one of the days. I'm really excited about it all!





## 2015 Spring Apparel Fashion Trends in the U.S

New York Fashion Week (NYFW), one of the biggest weeks of fashion in the world, has exhibited some unique and refreshing trends for the upcoming season in 2015. NYFW occurs in every February and September, and it showcases fashion collections from all over the world. Notable designers and celebrities all gather at these events to get the first looks at these new creations.

### ACCESSORIES DIRECTIONS TREND FORECASTING 5 BIG TRENDS SPRING/SUMMER 2015



Some of the trends that were seen on the runway include feathers, tassels, transparent clothing, polos, parkas, gingham and much more. These trends typically foreshadow what people will begin to see in shops and malls in the months to follow. While the majority of consumers can't afford straight from the runway garments, these fashion trends still have a big impact on everyday wear.

**Popular brands** for college students include Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, H & M, Free People, and American Outfitters.

## Scotcheroos: A traditional dessert in Iowa

### Ingredients

- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 6 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

### Instructions

1. Place corn syrup and sugar into 3-quart saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until sugar dissolves and mixture begins to boil.
3. Remove from heat.
4. Stir in peanut butter. Mix well.
5. Add rice krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.
6. Press mixture into 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan coated with cooking spray. Set aside.
7. Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips together in 1-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly.
8. Spread evenly over cereal mixture.
9. Let stand until firm. Cut into 2 x 1-inch bars when cool.



# Top 10 Tourist Attractions in the U.S

- ❖ Times Square, New York
- ❖ Las Vegas Strip, Nevada
- ❖ Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
- ❖ Napa and Sonoma Valleys, California
- ❖ Niagara Falls, New York
- ❖ Florida Keys, Florida
- ❖ Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, California
- ❖ The Grand Canyon, Arizona
- ❖ Maui, Hawaii
- ❖ Denali National Park, Alaska



- 2015 “Bald Eagle & Panda” U.S - China Cultural Exchange Virtual Conference  
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