Director’s Dish

Once again it is the time of year to offer a warm Purdue welcome to both our returning and new international students. To the current students, I hope your summer vacation was fun-filled and you are ready for a new fall semester. And for our new students, I believe you will find Purdue to be a first-rate institution situated within a small city atmosphere.

This semester we have welcomed nearly 1900 new international students. The total international undergraduate population is 3,420 and the number of international graduate and professional students is 3,341. The overall represents 17% of the Purdue student body.

The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) remains committed to assisting each and every one of you. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your non-immigrant status, adjusting to American customs, or whatever the issue might be, please feel free to visit our office. We have walk-in hours Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (except for Thursday mornings). You can also call the ISS Office between the hours of 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm to speak directly with a counselor. If you would prefer an appointment, times are available throughout the week and can be scheduled by calling our front desk at 765-494-5770. We will assist you to the best of our ability.

I hope you have an enjoyable fall semester.

Sincerely,
Michael A. Brzezinski, Ed.D.
Interim Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Dean of International Programs
Director, International Students and Scholars

ISS Fanpage - Get Involved!

If you’re a typical student, you have probably heard about Facebook, a social networking website designed with college students in mind.

What you may not know is that Purdue University International Students and Scholars (ISS) has its own Facebook fan page.

The ISS Facebook fanpage is a great place for students, new and current, to get answers to questions about many aspects of life at Purdue. It is a fun and informal way to interact with other students and ISS staff. Check it out to see if there are any new things that you can contribute.

Watch for announcements from ISS about trips, special events, and fun contests.

If you have not already become a Facebook fan, visit: ISS Facebook Fanpage.
A Student Voice (India)

The euphoric adrenaline rush after receiving the acceptance letter from Purdue University was quickly replaced by agonized trepidations of the dreaded last step: an early-morning appointment at the U.S. consulate in Kolkata, India. I had to take that step before boarding my first international flight to fulfill the dreams of higher education in one of the most prestigious universities in the United States.

After a month of frenzied packing and emotional adios to family and friends, I landed in Chicago O’Hare International Airport on a gorgeous August afternoon after traveling 22 hours over two continents and an ocean: wide eyed, awestruck, tired, and excited.

After seven years, now I am on the verge of moving on, stepping back into the world with impressive degrees and the best of academic education. Beyond that I have learned far more important lessons for life: a self-education to be responsible, grow up, find myself, and realize who I am. Academia in the United States has offered me not only the best in scholarship but also an inspiration to be a genuine, honest, concerned world citizen.

In the linguistics program at Purdue, I have had the privilege of being exposed to state-of-the-art research facilities and libraries, interacting with eminent scholars in the field, practicing independence of thought and pursuing original ideas thanks to endless support and encouragement from the faculty and my peers. The experience of teaching undergraduates, of exploring the potentials of other young minds has been a rewarding one.

Graduate living over the years has been a myriad of experiences: sharing apartments to living alone, new friends, course-loaded semesters, midnight birthday celebrations, and more. There were many memorable firsts: the first day as an undergraduate instructor, first conference presentation, first credit card, first laptop (the bills came later!), a driver’s license, first bus trip to Chicago, fireworks over Lake Michigan at Navy Pier, my first own car, Chinese buffet, and sushi, the first snow (and snowblading!), and my first visit to a Starbucks coffeehouse deserve special mention. In making a home away from home, the new ways turned into habits. The journey so far has been eventful, the experiences priceless.

To you who dream of boarding that plane, buckle up; the adventure just begins and never really ends, making it so beautiful and worthwhile. Good luck. Bon voyage.

Upcoming GO Purdue! Trips

The ISS Office continues to provide opportunities to experience life off campus through its GO Purdue! Trips. These trips are a fun and affordable way to take a break from studying. Spaces are limited, so keep an eye on the ISS Calendar and your purdue.edu email for updated information, including details on when and where to purchase tickets.

September 25th
Chicago, IL—Spend the day visiting area museums, enjoying local restaurants, going shopping, and touring dynamic downtown Chicago.

October 9th
Columbus, IN—Enjoy an architectural tour of downtown Columbus, a Toyota TIEM tour, and shopping at Indian Arts and Crafts.

November 13th
Fair Oaks Dairy and Jasper Pulaski Wildlife Refuge Area—Tour the farm and enjoy some fresh dairy products.

December 4th
Indianapolis Circle Center holiday shopping or Christmas at the Zoo—Enjoy a day of shopping in downtown Indianapolis or spend some time walking around the zoo and enjoying the Christmas decorations.
ISS kicked off the start of the semester with the inaugural G3! – Grand Global Gala in the Purdue Memorial Union North Ballroom on Friday August 20th.

This event served not only to welcome new international students but to introduce a variety of culturally unique Purdue groups and traditions. Opening remarks were delivered by Pamela Horne, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions who also presented awards to the ISS student and community volunteers of the year. The keynote speaker was Dr. Dale Whittaker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

After the motivational keynote address, students were treated to an introduction to Purdue Traditions from members of the Reamer Club and joined in a cheer. Several fun game show style games were played and prizes were given away to all participants.

The evening was capped off with performances by the Purdue Twirlers: Miss Boilerette, The Girl in Black, The Silver Twins, and The Golden Girl. Each performed a unique baton-twirling routine. The twirlers were even joined by a surprise guest twirler, Purdue University President France A. Córdova.

This year IEW will be held November 15-19, 2010. As part of this international effort, the ISS Office at Purdue over the past ten years has partnered with a number of local schools and community organizations to create some amazing cultural programs and events featuring Purdue’s own international students and scholars. Destinations have included several elementary, middle and high schools, as well as a local retirement community.

The plans for IEW 2010 will be unveiled at the ISS International Education Week Callout to be held on:

Friday, October 1, from 11:30am to 1:30pm in Schleman Hall, Room B-38. All international students, scholars and their spouses are invited to attend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Come learn how you might participate in this special week in our community.
Immigration Issues - Important Factors

There are many different factors that you must remember in order to keep your F1/J1 immigration status valid. Here are just a few to keep in mind:

Extensions:
One of the most important things to remember is the end date on your I-20 (section 5) or DS-2019 (section 3). If you are not going to complete your program by that date, you must submit a request to extend your document. To extend your I-20 or DS-2019, bring the following documents to the ISS office during the semester your document is expiring: passport, visa, I94 card, student request form, advisors form, and original financial document. If you do not extend your I-20/DS-2019 before your document expires, you will be out of status.

Change of Major
If you change your major, you should automatically receive and updated document within 30 days from when the change takes effect. If for some reason this does not happen, you should come into ISS and request a new document.

Credit Hours:
It is always important to maintain your full-time status at Purdue in order to keep your F1/J1 status valid. For undergraduate students, you must take and complete 12 credits each semester. For graduate students without an assistantship, you take and complete at least 6 credit hours each semester. Please know that you can only take one 3-credit course online that can count toward your minimum requirements. There are certain reasons to be below course level, but these MUST be approved by the ISS office BEFORE you reduce your hours.

Translation Needs
Did you know that the ISS Office maintains a listing of translators on our website? The individuals listed can be contacted to assist with your varied translation needs. This service is free of charge; in fact, you should not offer the translator remuneration since without proper authorization, it could be considered illegal employment.

Would you like to volunteer as a translator? If you are interested in assisting someone with document translation, please email Karen Lembcke with the following information to be added to the list of available translators:
1) Name
2) Mailing Address
3) Telephone Number
4) List each language you are fluent in for translation.

Please Remember: If you decide to volunteer as a translator, you will not receive remuneration. Also, you have the right to refuse requests for translation. Those seeking translation services should provide the translator with ample time and transportation, if necessary.

This Issue’s Idiom: Spill the Beans

Meaning: To give away a secret to someone who is not supposed to know it.

History: A popular theory about the origin of this idiom goes back to the ancient Greeks and their secret societies. People voted you into these clubs by putting a white bean or a black bean into a jar (white = yes; black = no). The beans were supposed to be counted in secret, but if somebody accidentally (or purposefully) knocked over the jar and spilled the beans, the secret vote would be revealed. Another theory holds that this is an example of American slang from the early 1900s that combined two old words, “spill” (meaning “talk,” from the 1500s) and “beans” (meaning information,” from the 1200s), into a new phrase.

Example: Don’t spill the beans, but Adrienne is getting the art award.
Boiler Out Students Recognized

In our first year of the Boiler Out! Program we are able to recognize three students who have met the first tier (25 hours) of volunteering in the Greater Lafayette Program. We would like to say Congratulations to Leela Rama Rao (Ram) Cherukuri, Xi Wu, and Lu Ye.

The Boiler Out! Volunteer program provides international students with opportunities to engage in meaningful community service projects that reflect the program’s three core values of Outreach, Understanding, and Teamwork. During the first year of the program, some of the events that we helped with were: Playing BINGO with the residents of Cumberland Pointe Nursing Home, Helping with the Lafayette Urban Ministry’s Thanksgiving Celebration, assisting with a local carnival at a Lafayette Elementary School, and a work day at Camp Tecumseh. Would you like to take part in a Boiler Out! event? If so, watch your purdue.edu email account. You will receive emails about two weeks prior to each event with details on how to sign-up. Since the ISS Office provides transportation to and from the volunteer sites, space is limited and is available on a first-come first-serve basis. But be warned: past events have filled up within as little as 24 hours! If you have any questions about the Boiler Out! Volunteer Program or would like more information, please contact: BoilerOut@purdue.edu

Top Five Reasons to Boiler Out!:
1. It’s intrinsically rewarding.
2. It will look great on your resume.
3. You’ll learn new skills.
4. It’s a great way to meet people.
5. It’s fun!

Get Involved: Global Café

Interested in learning about other cultures, trying some new ethnic dishes and making friends from other countries? Have you tried out Global Café yet? If not, you don’t know what you are missing! Held each Friday from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the International Center, Global Café attendees are American students, community members, and international students and scholars. Each week features a different country or cultural topic followed by a light vegetarian meal highlighting special foods from the week’s featured region. Coffee, tea and lively conversation round out each evening. If you would like to be a volunteer to help with Global Café events, email Beth Tucker at tuckerb@purdue.edu.

To find out about scheduled events, become a Global Café “friend” on Facebook. Global Café is jointly sponsored by the International Center and the ISS.

Columbian salsa dancing at the Global Café
Some of the upcoming CCO sponsored events are:

9/20/2010 – Interviewing Workshop

9/29/2010 – CCO Express 101

10/6/2010 – LinkedIn Career Networking

To see a full listing of all the upcoming events for the CCO please visit:

https://www.cco.purdue.edu/asp/Calendar/Calendar.asp