It is my pleasure and privilege to say hello to all of you who are members of the international community at Purdue. As I begin my tenth month as ISS Director, I am greatly impressed by those of you I have met, and count it a privilege to work with and for you during your time at Purdue.

I came to Purdue earlier this year from the University of Kansas, where I served for fourteen years as director of International Student & Scholar Services.

Helping internationals is something I deeply enjoy, and it is very encouraging to observe that many faculty and staff at Purdue feel the same way.

My goal is to ensure that Purdue ISS is a welcoming place where you always receive excellent assistance and support. I hope you will always find our staff to be knowledgeable, available, and interested in you.

We provide immigration as well as general consultation assistance, so please use our services. We are here for you! I also want to encourage you to consider involvement in one or more of the many programs and activities available to you through ISS and elsewhere on campus. Success in your degree program or research is of course your top priority, but involvement in extra-curricular or volunteer experiences can wonderfully enhance your time in the U.S.

The relationships and perspectives you gain will make your time rich and memorable. Please consider the many opportunities mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and consult our website for activities you can participate in. You have much to share, so please reach out to be an active member of the Purdue community. Finally, please know that you are appreciated and valued. Your presence here makes our university stronger, because you bring perspectives and knowledge that enrich our intellectual and social environment.

Director’s Dish

Callout for ISS W.O.W! Volunteers

ISS W.O.W! (Weeks of Welcome) for new international students begins Thursday, January 3, and runs through Saturday, January 5. We’ll be welcoming nearly 300 new students in less than one week!

ISS needs volunteers for new international students taking place on the first days of W.O.W! and also late arrival processing.

If you’re a student or scholar staying in West Lafayette during Winter break or coming back before January 3, please consider helping greet the new students. WE CAN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

W.O.W! volunteer sign up is now LIVE. Take a look at all the new possibilities!

https://www.iss.purdue.edu/wow/

Thanks in advance for your commitment to welcome the new students. Please make sure you can commit to the task before signing up. Indicate your preference after you know your travel plans.
The Office of International Students and Scholars went through quite a transition during the summer break. The hallway on the first floor was transformed with updated decorations, and all of the offices on the first floor were under construction for a few weeks! Read on to see what all the fuss was about.

Deck the Halls

During the summer months, students from Visual and Performing Arts brightened the first floor hallway of the ISS office with a new look. Before the update, the cases in the hallway contained a lot of old posters and dusty international items. These old and dusty decorations were cleaned or removed, and a few new items were added to the collection. The glass shelves were also removed so that the displays could be more open and house international items of all shapes and sizes.

The students were really able to “dress up” the display with tasteful backgrounds and fabrics. They also rearranged and grouped the items that were from the same country or area.

Stop by the hallway outside of SCHL 136 to take a look at their work and see these fascinating items from around the world!

Office Space

The first floor of the ISS office in Schleman Hall was remodeled during the end of July and beginning of August. All of the downstairs offices received a fresh coat of paint and new carpet. New office furniture was placed in SCHL 130 and 148.

During this transformation, the front desk was temporarily located on the second floor of Schleman Hall, and the ISS Admissions staff graciously made room for everyone. With everyone working together, we continued to have phone counselors and walk-in counselors available during this time.

In December, the floor in the hallway is expected to be outfitted with new tile. ISS also hopes to soon extend the remodel project to the International Admissions office on the second floor.

Thank you to all students and visitors for bearing with us during this project!

Christmas International House

Christmas International House is a national program that provides hospitality to international students during the Christmas holidays. It is an excellent way to leave your campus during winter break and see other parts of the United States and be hosted by an American family.

With Christmas International House, you can make friends with Americans and other international students, experience the celebration of Christmas with an American family, visit another region of the United States, and create a unique friendship and understanding between international students and the American community.

If you participate, you will need to pay your way to the program. After you arrive, you will be the guest of the American community/family for two weeks, from December 18 through January 2.

Please note that Christmas International House is not affiliated with Purdue. If you are interested in participating, be sure to first read about the host organization on their website, where you can also find an application form:

Get Involved with ISS Events!

Homecoming Football Game & ISS Tailgate Party

On Saturday, October 13, ISS reserved a large block of seats for international students to sit together at the homecoming football game against Wisconsin. A tailgate party was held prior to the game, where students were able to learn the basic rules of American football and enjoy a tailgate breakfast.

Photos by Andrew Swinehart.

Trips: GO Purdue! and Perspectives

Each semester, the ISS office plans some fun trips that allow students to travel to exciting nearby attractions. These GO Purdue! and Perspectives trips take students all over Indiana and bordering states.

During the summer, students ventured to the Indy 500 race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and then they finished the summer with a trip to the Michigan shore in late August.

This Fall, students ventured out in the big city of Chicago for shopping and museums, and they also had a Harvest Party at the local Lehe Farm.

There are two upcoming trips in November! On Friday, November 16, students can go to the Indianapolis Pacers game, and on Saturday, November 17, ISS will be hosting a trip to Fair Oaks Dairy.

Check your email for information about purchasing tickets. Go Purdue! emails are sent out to students at the beginning of the month.

Questions? Email nancym@purdue.edu.

Photos by Andrew Swinehart.

A student plays the bean bag toss game called Corn Hole.

Students learn the rules of American football prior to the big game! Everyone walked together to the stadium for the kick-off.

What’s Your Perspective?

Perspectives is an informal, end-of-the-week class, and is a chance to make new friends and explore a variety of topics from events in the media, cultural values or adjusting to life in the U.S.

International students are encouraged to share their perspective on a variety of topics Friday afternoons at 4:30 pm.

We meet in different locations across campus and occasionally enjoy trips into the community.

RSVP is most helpful. Get on the email list for weekly reminders and locations.

Call 494-5770 or email nancym@purdue.edu.

Join us on Facebook: Purdue ISS Perspectives

Nov. 9

Social Media Etiquette presented by Lafayette PC, Inc.

Nov. 16

NBA Basketball Game: Pacers vs. Mavericks

*Tickets available at the Purdue Box Office

Nov. 30

Make and Take Holiday Decoration

Dec. 7

Living Nativity and Holiday Lights Tour
Global Fair @ the Fountain

Global Fair at the Fountain, held on August 17, was the culminating event of the ISS “Weeks of Welcome” for new incoming international students.

Around 700 international and domestic students, staff, and faculty members attended this event.

There were carnival games played around the Engineering Fountain, a catered American barbeque meal, welcome speeches from ISS Director Joe Potts and Acting President Dr. Timothy Sands, music provided by DJs, a performance by the Purdue Twirlers, and photo opportunities with the Big Bass Drum and the Xtra Special.

The event was coordinated by Kathryn Burden. Kathryn joined ISS as a new Immigration Counselor early in summer 2012 and quickly got to work planning the Global Fair.

Kathryn said that planning for the Global Fair was a great way for her to learn about Purdue and the community as a “newcomer” herself.

Kathryn commented, “My biggest goals for the Global Fair were to provide new international students and their families a warm welcome to Purdue and the United States; to give students a chance to get to know one another in a relaxed, fun atmosphere; and to introduce new students to various student organizations on campus. These goals were certainly achieved, and everyone had a great time!”

Food tastes better when sharing with friends.

Greeting from Dr. Potts and Kathryn.

Game time!

Riding in the Boilermaker Xtra Special is a must.

Photos by Lucy Wang.
On Campus: Do you know about the Disability Resource Center?

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) at Purdue is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive campus community that provides academic adjustments and services to eligible students with disabilities. The specialized staff, in collaboration with the wider university community, facilitates equal access and equal opportunity for students with disabilities so they can fully participate in all university sponsored programs, events and activities.

Services include but are not limited to: exam accommodations, use of scribe and/or use of reader, sign language interpreting, CART, Typewell, notetaking, alternative print materials, consulting with campus faculty and staff regarding the provision of accommodations.

The DRC uses a variety of alternative formats to provide access for students who are blind, visually impaired, or have other print disabilities. Innovative applications for tactile diagrams, technical Braille, and electronic text are opening new opportunities in math, engineering, and science for Purdue students with disabilities.

To request disability services, students should contact the Disability Resource Center at (765) 494-1247.

International Friendship Program

Purdue’s International Friendship Program (IFP) provides the opportunity for local residents to open their homes and hearts to international students and experience a whole new world.

The IFP was created to ease the transition into American culture and the university setting for new international students. The IFP matches an international student with a friendship volunteer from the Greater Lafayette community.

Throughout the year, the student and the volunteer interact in activities ranging from dinner to outings.

Lilia (Ge) Feng is a new international student at Purdue who is participating in the International Friendship Program. Lilia said, “I think the program is amazing, and it really helps me a lot.”

Lilia was introduced to her community partner, Suzanne Quintero, at the Fall mixer event. Afterwards, they went to a café on campus to order coffee and cakes, and they talked with each other for a long time.

After the initial meeting, Lilia and Suzanne started spending more time together. They have attended church together and have had a dinner and movie night at the Quintero home.

“We do have similar interests,” Lilia said. “We like comedy movies, and hate war movies. We both love dogs too.”

With this friendship exchange, the community volunteers can gain something as well. “Suzanne is really interested in my culture,” Lilia said. “I gave her a folding fan from my country and she loves it.”

“I receive so much from this program,” said Lilia. “Not just a friend, but a warm feeling in a different country. It is kind of hard for us international students to get involved in the life here. I heard a lot from my friends that they are homesick, and really lonely. That’s why I think this program is so important.”

Participating in the International Friendship Program, Suzanne Quintero and Lilia Feng enjoyed a homemade dinner together. Photo provided by Lilia Feng.

Matches are made at the beginning of each semester. Registration will be available at www.iss.purdue.edu/SSL/IFP/studentJoin.cfm

For questions about the International Friendship Program, email friendship@purdue.edu.
Helpful Reminders
As the semester nears to an end, we’d like to provide you with some important information about upcoming deadlines and timely topics. Find out more below!

Immigration Deadlines and Regulations

Traveling:
Be sure that your I-20/DS-2019 has been signed within one year of the date that you plan to return to the US. If it has not been signed, please visit ISS during walk-in hours to obtain a signature at least two weeks prior to your departure date.

What to bring to the ISS office when you come for a travel signature:
- I-20/DS-2019
- Passport
- F-1/J-1 Visa
- I-94 card

Read our webpage for important details on international travel:
F-1 students: http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Current/F1/Travel.cfm
J-1 students: http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Current/J1/Travel.cfm
Scholars: http://www.iss.purdue.edu/FacultyStaff/J1/Travel.cfm

*Short term scholar travel signatures are only valid for 6 months.*

**NOTE:** If your I-20 or DS-2019 has expired, or if you have completed your program, or if you become ineligible to enroll at Purdue, you may not, under any circumstances re-enter the United States using your Purdue issued I-20 or DS-2019.

Graduating December 2012?
F-1 students who have completed their academic program have a 60-day grace period to: change their education level, apply for OPT, change their status, transfer to another US institution, or depart the U.S. OPT applications must be received by the service center no later 60 days after your program end date.

**NOTE:** International undergraduate students and international non-thesis option graduate students who applied for (or will be applying for) Optional Practical Training (OPT) based on completing a degree in December 2012, must complete all degree requirements by the end of the Fall semester. If you know or learn that you will not be receiving a passing grade in one or more courses, or will not be able to complete all degree requirements by the end of the semester, be sure to speak to an immigration counselor in the ISS office before the end of the semester. Failure to do so may lead to your loss of legal nonimmigrant status and losing eligibility for the OPT.

J-1 students who have completed their academic program have a 30-day grace period to: change their education level, apply for Academic Training, change their status, transfer to another US institution, or depart the U.S.

**NOTE:** Students in the J-1 program may matriculate to a higher degree level, but may not change to a lower degree level.

Transfer Credits: Prepare for Next Summer

Students who are planning to return home for the summer and take courses need to check these instructions for transferability of their courses to Purdue.

First, check the Transfer Credit Database at https://selfservice.mypurdue.purdue.edu/prod/bzwtxcrd.p_select_info to see if the school you are considering is listed.

If not, contact Maureen Delp, International Students and Scholars Office Admissions Counselor at mdelp@purdue.edu to find out if the school is acceptable.

Second, if the school is listed but the course is not or is listed as, for example, “2XXXX”, check with Maureen. You may need to submit a course syllabus in order to get the course evaluated for direct transfer credits.

You should also realize that some courses will not transfer at all: for example, English composition taught in a country where English is not the first language or a course for which you earn less than a C.

Third, once you have the courses you think you need lined up, check with your academic advisor to be sure that these courses are ones that are applicable and useable in your Purdue plan of study.

Don’t be disappointed if you turn in a transcript for which you haven’t had courses checked only to find out that you are not going to get any credit or that the credit will be undistributed.
Helpful Reminders Continued…

Travel: Did you know?

You are not allowed to bring certain agricultural items into the United States? You are also not allowed to have these items shipped to you.

Please follow the links below to read more information on this important topic. Inspectors have the right to confiscate any of these items prior to entry into the United States.

This website has facts about importing plants and seeds for consumption or propagation.


This website has information about risks involved in importing items with wood packing material (crates and pallets) associated with it. This might be beneficial to researchers or museums who are having materials shipped to them from foreign countries.


Here are some CBP websites for travelers who might be bringing food or agricultural products into the US.

http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/arriving_travelers.xml

http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/

University Housing During Winter Break

Students who live in Hawkins, Hilltop, Purdue Village, Wiley, and First St Towers do NOT have to move out for winter break. Residents in all other residence halls must vacate by noon on Sunday, December 16. (Finals are over Saturday, December 15.)

Second semester contracts begin Monday, January 7. Students may move back to their residence hall as early as January 2 at no additional cost, but meals are NOT included until contracts begin on Monday, January 7.

One dining hall will be open January 2-7, but which one is not yet known. Students will pay for meals at the dining court until January 7 when their contracts begin.

Students who must vacate but do not want to leave campus often stay with a friend -- in another dorm or an apartment or share a hotel room with friends.

As a last resort there are Emergency Landing spaces at Purdue Village.

Landing spaces are very limited and are generally reserved for just a few nights.
BGRi Eases Transition for New International Students

375 new international students from 37 countries received a warm Midwest “Boilermaker welcome” in August at Boiler Gold Rush International.

BGRi, a pilot program organized by ISS, Student Success, and University Residences, offered new international undergraduate students a safe “landing zone” upon their arrival to the U.S.

Student leaders from University Residences Global (UR Global), selected from continuing Purdue students, each teamed with four or five new international undergraduates.

Over the course of three days, students met in groups with their leaders and Purdue staff to learn about Purdue traditions, the U.S. educational system, and classroom expectations. Students also had time and help to take care of important matters like opening a bank account and buying a cell phone. “It made the transition to life here much, much easier,” one student commented.

International students repeatedly mentioned their BGRi leaders as the best part of their BGRi experience. “My leader was right there with me, helping me register for classes, complete paperwork and even find a lost key and ID. I am still in touch with her,” says Amjad Felemban, a transfer student from Saudi Arabia.

He said BGRi was like the “calm before the storm” of BGR, which began early each morning, ended late each day, and had a packed schedule. “I started to feel more at home by the time BGR started.” Being with other international students who understood how he felt about everything also helped ease the transition.

Amjad said most of his friends at Purdue are students he first got to know during BGRi.

BGRi participants reconnected with their friends and BGRi leaders on October 25 at a Halloween party hosted by UR Global, the year-long continuing orientation program for BGRi leaders and their mentees.

UR Global will again partner with ISS in January 2013 to offer welcome activities and assistance to newly-arriving international students.

“We look forward to UR Global and BGRi expanding to reach more and more students,” said Annette Benson, UR Global advisor and coordinator.

Story by Beth Tucker, Immigration Counselor

Staff Retreat: Gone Fishin’

In early October, the International Students and Scholars office had a staff retreat at the Beck Agriculture Center with a fishing theme. ISS spent the day learning and brainstorming about how to best serve our students while making the office atmosphere fun and friendly at the same time. In case you were curious, no fish were harmed during the retreat.

The Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) is committed to internationalizing Purdue University by providing service and support to our international community and University departments and offices. ISS seeks to enhance the academic and social experience of students and scholars from abroad through knowledge and expertise in recruitment, admissions, immigration counseling, referral services, and intercultural programming.

ISS Insider Needs You!

Do you enjoy writing? Would you like to contribute to a story? Do you have story ideas or the inside scoop on international happenings at Purdue? Or maybe you have an interesting perspective or want to share your unique travel experiences? If you are interested in contributing to the ISS Insider, the official newsletter of the Office of International Students and Scholars, we want you! Please email lelacy@purdue.edu for more information.

This Issue’s Idiom: To Stick Your Neck Out

Meaning:
To bravely take a risk for something you believe in or to do something that might be criticized or could turn out to be wrong. It can also mean to make a sacrifice on another’s behalf.

History:
It’s possible that this idiom may have stemmed from the behavior of turtles. When a turtle sticks its neck and head out, it becomes more vulnerable to predators. But a turtle must leave the safe haven of its shell to eat and travel.

A related expression says, “Behold the turtle. He only makes progress when he sticks his neck out.”

Another theory is that the idiom originated as American slang some 60 years ago, probably based on the barnyard chicken that was laid on a chopping block with its neck stretched out and then beheaded with an ax.

A closely related form goes back at least to Shakespeare’s time. In a story where a soldier has done a traitorous thing, the king says, “Let his neck answer for it”.

Examples:
“I’m going to stick my neck out and ask for my grade to be changed to from a B to an A.”

“I stuck my neck out for you when I was honest and told the professor that I was the one who ruined the results of the experiment.”