We all live our lives in chapters, and it is with very mixed emotions that I write my last installment for the ISS Insider. On September 29th I began a new position at the University of Kansas.

I've been at Purdue for almost three years and have enjoyed every minute of my work with the tremendous staff in ISS and wonderful colleagues in International Programs and many other units across campus. Purdue is an amazing institution, and that is true because of the hard-working, collaborative character of its employees. I count it a privilege to have been able to work alongside you.

Sheryl and I would not have considered the offer from Kansas if not for family needs, but the opportunity there is an exciting one as well, so…we move to this next chapter with both anticipation and sadness.

During my time here it has been fun to support continued international enrollment growth and help in the development of campus programs that other schools want to imitate.

I thank Mike (Dean Brzezinski) for the opportunity to be part of the outstanding team in International Programs, and thank my staff for all that you do to make Purdue’s international dimension possible. Behind the scenes, with very little recognition from outside ISS, your work now facilitates the presence of nearly 10,000 international students and scholars. What you do enriches the campus environment in a vital way that lifts the entire institution. Purdue would not be the top-tier university it is without you playing your part. So Kari, Danielle, Glenda, Crystal, Kirsty, Ashley, Katie, Kristy, Lee, Angie, Lyndsey, Penny, and all of the others in ISS who aren’t recognized nearly as often as you should be, thanks for your dedicated labor day in and day out. You are important. Keep up the good work!

While saddened to see Dr. Potts depart Purdue for his future career at the University of Kansas, I am simultaneously excited about what lies ahead for ISS, and for the international students and scholars that the office services on a daily basis.

Prior to my current position of Dean of International Programs, I was the director of ISS. In fact, it was more than 20 years ago that I first assumed the leadership of ISS along with 10 staff to provide services to 2,700 international students and approximately 400 visiting faculty and researchers.

Today nearly 30 ISS employees provide assistance to more than 9,000 students from abroad and to faculty and researchers from around the world totaling more than 800 in all. My how things have changed!

But have they really changed that much?

Certainly the number of international sojourners to Purdue have increased (as have the number of staff, thank goodness!), but I would argue that the ISS mission and commitment remains the same. As it did many years ago, ISS still seeks to enhance the academic, cultural, and social pursuits of students and scholars from abroad through knowledge and expertise in recruitment, admissions, immigration, advising, and cross-cultural programming. We still desire to be as friendly and efficient as possible.

In other words, we are Purdue’s commitment to you. We assist international students like you to maintain legal status, to succeed academically, and to enjoy rich cultural and social experiences both on and off the Purdue campus.

We are off to an exciting start this fall semester. Nearly 1 out of every 4 students at Purdue hails from abroad. I encourage you to meet students from other nations, especially American students. Your time here at Purdue is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from and with the rest of the world. In this regard, consider your days at Purdue as an opportunity that you will not be denied! Strive to meet new people and to grow as an individual in the midst of this very diverse campus.

In closing, a quick reminder … we are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to seek our assistance at any time.

Best wishes,
Mike Brzezinski
Dean, International Programs
Interim Director, International Students and Scholars
Boiler Gold Rush International (BGRi) is a customized orientation program specifically designed to meet incoming international students’ unique needs and concerns. BGRi takes place the week before Purdue’s orientation program—Boiler Gold Rush (BGR).

The 4-day program is packed full of all the information and tips that new international Boilermakers need to be able to hit the ground running!

It is President Daniel’s desire that every new international student have a meaningful interaction with a domestic, returning student upon arrival.

Nearly 70% of all new incoming students achieve this interaction through the BGR and BGRi orientation programs.

BGRi has reached maximum capacity each year since its inaugural year.

Success with Boiler Gold Rush International

First year performance indicators suggest that students who attend BGRi are correlated with:

- Higher GPAs in their first semester
- More credits attempted in both semesters
- More credits earned in both semesters
- More overall credits earned
- Higher rates of Continued Good Standing in the second semester
- Less likely to be placed on drop status
- Higher first year retention
- Higher GPAs, credits earned, and Good Standing reports even when taking into account level of academic characteristics before enrolling at Purdue

Students who cannot register for BGRi still have the option to register for BGR or the newest program, MIX.

Participation in all orientation programs has risen.

With further development and efforts to continue to improve this unique program, BGRi is going to be even more awesome in the coming years!
Greetings from the Purdue University Police Department

This is the first time the Purdue University Police Department (PUPD) has been a part of the ISS Insider and we are excited to be a part of this edition. My hope for this issue and future issues is that the PUPD can bring more understanding and awareness when it comes to safety and contacting the university police department.

The first thing you must know is that PUPD is always here to help. We are open 24 hours, 7 days a week. We never close. We are a law enforcement department within the Purdue University jurisdiction. We are located at 205 S. Martin Jischke Drive just south of State Street.

You can contact us by stopping by, calling our non-emergency number at 765-494-8221 or dialing 911 for emergency assistance. If you have a question or complaint you may go to the PUPD website at www.purdue.edu/police and locate the drop down tab for contacting the department. Remember this site is not monitored 24/7, so if you have an emergency or issue that needs immediate attention, then call the phone numbers provided above.

Another very important resource from the PUPD is SAFEWALK. SAFEWALK is run by the Purdue Student Security Patrol (PSSP) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is a free service. If you are studying late on campus do not hesitate to call for a SAFEWALK back to your campus residence or from your residence to campus. If PSSP is not on-duty then an officer will assist. You can request a SAFEWALK by calling 494-SAFE (7233) or 494-8221.

Remember there is always safety in numbers. If you choose not to call for a SAFEWALK, please call a friend to walk with you or pick you up.

Some quick and easy ways to keep yourself safe while on campus or in your residence are:

1. Always be aware of your surroundings. Know where you are and where you are going. Let your roommate or a friend know when you are en-route to your destination and when you arrive.

2. Empower yourself by taking a self-defense class. Women can participate in a R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) or SAFE program through the police department for free. These programs are designed to provide tools to save your life.

3. Never leave your property unattended. Not even for a minute. It only takes seconds for someone to take your laptop, cell phone, or back pack. Always keep your valuables with you. You can also register your laptop for free with PUPD. This will help with the recovery process if it is stolen.

4. If you drive to campus or have a car on campus make sure there are no valuables in plain view left in your vehicle. GPS devices, removable stereo faceplates, and electronics are common items stolen from vehicles and are often left out for others to see.

5. Always keep your dorm room locked, even when you go eat or head to the showers.

6. If you have a bike on campus you should register it with PUPD and there is a better chance of recovering your bike if it is stolen. Bicycle registration is free at PUPD. Always lock your bike up or place it in storage if possible. For further safety Indiana bicycle laws can be located at www.bicycleindiana.org.

I recently spoke with an international friend and former Purdue student. He brought to my attention that it is very common for international students studying at Purdue to tell others not to call the police for anything. I was simply shocked by this information and saddened that so many of our students that call Purdue home would not rely on PUPD for help or guidance. He then explained further that many international students fear calling the police for any situation that would put their grades and academic career in jeopardy.

I must make this clear that when you call PUPD for emergency or even non-emergency issues: you will not be placed on academic probation or suffer other academic consequences. Simply by contacting PUPD, we may be able to help resolve issues quickly, which would allow you and other students to continue with their education in a safe environment.

It is very important that if you witness a crime to report it immediately to ensure a quick resolution. Believe me when I say, “This is why PUPD is here.” PUPD is here to keep the Purdue campus safe, but also understand that we cannot be everywhere at once and that is why if you see something, say something. You may just help prevent another crime from occurring or save a life.

My international friend admitted he also feared calling PUPD until he had the opportunity to get to know some of the PUPD officers and he gained a better understanding of the police culture at Purdue.

Another very important topic that often comes up with our international population is driving. PUPD is currently working on creating a driving program that would be in a question and answer format. We are hoping to provide this over Christmas break once classes are completed. There will be more to come on this topic.

I hope I have provided some useful and helpful information and helped take away some fears of calling the police. I hope you all take the contact information provided for PUPD and add us to your contacts in your cell phones in case you do need our assistance.

I wish everyone a safe and successful semester and I hope PUPD will be a part of future ISS editions.

Lt. Lesley Wiete,
Patrol Lieutenant
Purdue University Police Department
ISS needs volunteers for new international students taking place on the first days of WOW! and also late arrival processing.

If you’re a student or scholar staying in West Lafayette during Winter break or coming back before January 12, please consider helping greet the new students. WE CAN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

WOW! volunteer sign up is now LIVE.

Thank you to all of the student volunteers that assisted with ISS WOW! (Weeks of Welcome) for new international students in August. Your help was needed to start the Fall semester and welcome our new students. We greatly appreciate you!

W.O.W! for the Spring 2015 semester will be Thursday, January 8 through Monday, January 12. 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 WOW! and also late arrival processing.

If you’re a student or scholar staying in West Lafayette during Winter break or coming back before January 12, please consider helping greet the new students. WE CAN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

WOW! volunteer sign up is now LIVE.

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 purpose of Omega Phi Chi is to create unity among all women.

They promote ethnic diversity by integrating women of all boundaries and cultures.

Destroying all Boundaries

Uniting all Races

Omega Phi Chi, We Dare to Be Different!

omegaphichi.org

LYNX is the official interest group for Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority. LYNX is working to bring the sorority to Purdue’s campus.

For more information, email lynxofpurdue@gmail.com.
Nancy Montague’s Retirement

Nancy Montague retired in August after being a member of the ISS family for 11 years, serving as both an Immigration Counselor and a Co-Coordinator of Programming and Engagement.

Many students got to know Nancy closely, especially through the Boiler Out program, Perspectives, and WOW!

A reception was held in Nancy’s honor and she said she “enjoyed saying ‘farewell for now’ to many Purdue colleagues and students.” The reception was held in Stewart Center, in one of the rooms that was used for the Weeks of Welcome events in the past years.

“It seemed fitting that I was the last person to leave Stewart 302 at the end of the day. We all spent lots of time there (years, really) either getting ready or plugging away until the last student was checked in,” Nancy said.

Nancy also added, “My time at Purdue has been especially meaningful because of the unforgettable students and all of [the ISS staff].”

We’re all terribly sad to see Nancy go, but we wish her the best in her retirement years!
Helpful Immigration Reminders

ISS would like to share some important information to help you maintain your immigration status. Find out more below!

Need some extra help with classes?

If you’re struggling with any of your classes this semester, keep in mind that Purdue offers many resources for free academic assistance.

- Check out the Academic Success Center for help to earn higher grades in your courses. With the help of the Academic Success Center, you can learn to be a better time manager, avoid procrastination, take better notes, read more quickly and critically, and improve your test-taking skills.

- Supplemental Instruction offers study sessions for specific courses that are common for first-year students. Student leaders who have done well in the course previously will hold two study sessions per week to help students understand the course content and to learn study skill tips from each other.

- Need help with a specific major? Most departments have a resource center to provide tutoring, study groups, space to practice presentations, computer access, resource manuals, and more!

Click here for more information about academic resources available to you!

When in Doubt...Check it Out!

ISS is your resource for questions pertaining to your immigration status. Always check with us first. You’ll find all of our contact information on the next page.

Also, you can find excellent information at the following government websites:

- Study in the States
- Travel.State.Gov
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
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.

Schleman Hall, Room 136
475 Stadium Mall Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2050
Phone: 765-494-5770 Fax: 765-494-685

Business Hours: Monday through Friday*
8:00am—5:00pm

Phone Counselor: Monday through Friday*
8:00am—Noon and 1:00pm—5:00pm

Walk-In Hours: Monday through Friday*
9:00am—11:30am and 1:30pm—4:00pm

General Appointments: Call to schedule an appointment* (Thirty-minute face-to-face appointments with an Immigration Counselor)

*Counselors are not available on Thursday mornings.

This Issue’s Idiom: It’s All Greek to Me

Meaning:
Trying to understand something that’s considered new and challenging to grasp. This phrase takes the extreme difficulty involved with comprehending another language and applies it to anything that’s considered hard to understand, such as someone lacking experience with algebra seeing a complex equation for the first time.

“CASSIUS: Did Cicero say anything?  
CASCA: Ay, he spoke Greek.  
CASSIUS: To what effect?  
CASCA: ...those that understood him smiled at one another and shook their heads; but, for mine own part, it was Greek to me.”

Examples:
“I’ve tried reading the manual, but it’s all Greek to me.”

“I’ve recently started watching football, but the rules of the game are Greek to me.

***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.