Director’s Dish

Today, I have a heavy heart. As I hear of the tragedy, sadness, and acts of violence and terror across the world, I reflect on the reasons I continue to be thankful for and humbled by the opportunity to work with Boilermakers from around the globe.

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world” is a quote that has been a part of my life for nearly 20 years. The quote is attributed to several authors, the most famous of whom is Dr. Seuss.

I can’t verify the origin, but I can attest that I have the opportunity to apply the principle every day. I am blessed to be in a position that allows me to see the good in the world regardless what others might think, say, or do. Every day I see hope, I see gratitude, I see joy, I see change for a better world.

To all who have been affected by the recent tragedies, know that ISS is here to help with resources, a listening ear, or a shoulder to lean on.

As you finish out the spring semester, I challenge you to discover your special way to make the world a better place. I’m proud to be a part of the Boilermaker family, and proud to stand with those who work for peace and positive change in the world.

Christine Collins
Director, International Student Services, International Students and Scholars

What’s happening in the community?

It’s that time of year for festivals, farmers markets, and more. See the schedule below for upcoming events in the Lafayette and West Lafayette areas. Click on the event for details!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting May 4</td>
<td><strong>Farmers Markets</strong> (Wed/Thurs/Sat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td><strong>Mosey Down Main Street</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td><strong>Gallery Walk</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td><strong>Round the Fountain Art Fair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td><strong>Mosey Down Main Street</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td><strong>Taste of Tippecanoe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24-26</td>
<td><strong>Indiana Fiddlers’ Gathering</strong></td>
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STEM UPDATE

Improving and Expanding Training Opportunities for F-1 Nonimmigrant Students with STEM Degrees and Cap-Gap Relief for All Eligible F-1 Students (OPT 24 Month STEM)

On March 11, 2016, the Department of Homeland Security published a Final Rule amending the F-1 student visa regulations. On May 10, 2016, this new Rule will become effective and have a significant impact on the Practical Training opportunities for certain students with degrees in science, technology engineering, or mathematics (STEM) earned from accredited and SEVIS Approved U.S. institutions of higher learning.

This is exciting news for F-1 students pursuing STEM degrees in the United States because it increases the amount of time they can spend participating in practical training that is directly related to their field of study under the mentorship and guidance of a U.S. Based employer; following the completion of their degree.

Please visit our website for details on the new amended and expanded regulations and the history of the STEM OPT program.

You can also visit the Department of Homeland Security’s Study in the States OPT STEM Hub for extensive information intended for students and their prospective or current employers.

Please feel free to visit ISS during walk-in hours or email us at iss@purdue.edu if you have questions about the new STEM OPT regulations.
Meet ISS

As a new feature, we’ll begin to introduce you to some of the ISS staff in the coming issues of the ISS Insider. First up is Theresa Lomax! Theresa joined International Students and Scholars in November 2015 as a Counselor for International Scholars. Want to get to know Theresa a little better? Read below!

Q. A.

Do you have a favorite ethnic food?

I am in love with Pho (Vietnamese noodle soup). I used to live in D.C. and Seattle where it was abundant. Indy has a few Pho spots and West Lafayette also has one.

Q. A.

Do you have any exciting travel experiences?

When I lived in Mexico, my husband and I used to take our son to Bahia Kino. The Sea of Cortez is beautiful and peaceful. My favorite memories there are eating fresh coconut, doing yoga on the beach, and interacting with locals.

Q. A.

Is there any place you’d love to travel to someday?

I’d like to travel to Costa Rica with my family for a little ecotourism.

Q. A.

Do you speak any foreign languages?

Spanish and Arabic. I try to practice both when I can but it’s not like riding a bike.

Q. A.

Do you have any advice to international students or employees?

I’ve heard that a vast majority of international students return home without ever stepping foot inside a U.S. home. My advice is to connect with your local community and step outside of your comfort zone. There is wisdom in doing so and you have nothing to lose. If you are wondering where to take the first step, contact the International Programs office or tap into the many resources Purdue has to offer. This goes for international faculty too!

Q. A.

What are your favorite things about Purdue?

I love the wealth of international culture at Purdue—hosting international visitors at my home has been a real treat. I also recently discovered the Butler Center for Leadership Excellence, which provides a forum for the ever-important topic of women in the workplace.

Q. A.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Every free moment I have is spent trying to be better than I was the moment before. I draw inspiration from my family, yoga practice, environmental consciousness, and learning about world religions and cultures.
Laughing Online in Other Languages

Writer Megan Garber studied how laughter is expressed online around the world. In English, the response of laughter is often typed as something like “hahaha”, “hehehe”, or “LOL” for “laugh out loud”. Below is a snippet of her article that was published for The Atlantic, where she explains how you laugh on the Internet in other languages.

**Thai: 55555**
In Thai, the number 5 is pronounced “ha” -- so instead of saying "hahahahaha," Thai speakers will sometimes write “55555.”

**Japanese: www**
This abbreviation, not to be confused (which is to say, often to be confused) with the one for the World Wide Web, likely originates with the Kanji character for “laugh,” 笑, which is pronounced as “warai” in Japanese. "Warai," in message boards and chat rooms, quickly became shortened to “w” as an indication of laughter. And then, much the same way “ha” begat “haha” begat “hahaha,” the sentiment became extended -- to “ww” and then “www” (and also, if you’re so inclined, to “wwwwww”).

**Chinese (Mandarin): 哈哈 or 呵呵**
Though laughter is written 笑声 and pronounced xiào shēng, Mandarin also relies on onomatopoeia for laughter: 哈哈, pronounced hā hā, and 呵呵, pronounced he he. Similarly, xīxī, 嘻嘻, suggests giggling. Interestingly, the number 5, in Mandarin, is pronounced as “wu” -- meaning that Thai’s “55555" would, in Chinese, be pronounced “wuuuuuuu.” This is the sound equivalent, a Chinese-speaking redditor points out, of “boohoo” -- meaning that laughter in one language is crying in another. Similarly, since the number 8 is pronounced “ba,” Chinese speakers sometimes use “88” to sign off, or say "ba ba" ("bye bye"). Along those lines, should you want to reward someone you’re chatting with not just with laughter, but with actual praise ... 888888888 in Japanese represents applause, since 八 (eight) is pronounced "hachi," which sounds like "pachi pachi," which is onomatopoeia for clapping.

**Korean: kkkkk or kekekekeke**
This comes from ㅋㅋㅋ, short for 크 크 크, or keu keu keu -- the Korean equivalent of the English “hahaha.”

**Brazilian Portuguese:**
huehuehue, rsrsrsrs
Same, with the vowels varying rather than the consonants.

**Danish:**
ha ha, hi hi, hæ hæ, ho ho, ti hi
Same deal.

**Icelandic:**
haha, hehe, híhí
Same.

**Russian:**
haha хаха, hihî хихи, hèhè хехе
Same.

**French:**
hahaha, héhéhé, hihi hihihi, hohoho; also MDR
French uses onomatopoeic laughter variations much like those in English. It also, like many non-English languages, uses the universalized "LOL" to indicate laughter. But French also has a more delightful acronym: The French equivalent of LOL is MDR, which means "mort de rire," or "dying of laughter."
Helpful Immigration Reminders

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

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

Graduating in May?

**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 U.S. institution, or depart the U.S.
- OPT applications must be received by the service center no later than 60 days after your program end date.

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

**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 U.S. institution, or depart the U.S.
- 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 May 2016, must complete all degree requirements by the end of the spring 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.

Graduating in May?
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.

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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)

This Issue’s Idiom: Piece of Cake

Meaning:
A straightforward task that can easily be accomplished.
An activity that requires little effort to finish; a job that’s simple; easy.

Explanation:
When a task is easier to complete than previously expected, people will sometimes use this phrase. The expression conveys the idea of simplicity. The choice of cake as a symbol of ease and pleasantry is represented in the language. Other phrases along the same lines include “as easy as pie” or “that was a cake walk”.

This phrase is of American origin and the earliest citation that can be found is from the American poet and humorist Ogden Nash’s Primrose Path: “Her picture’s in the papers now, and life’s a piece of cake.”

Examples:
“Siddharth found what he was looking for right away. It was a piece of cake.”

“I was really worried about the exam, but it ended up being a piece of cake. I aced it!”

***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.