



# Universitas

Universitas -atis f. [the whole, total, the universe, the world, the university].

## Issue 4: November/December 2010

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### TEMPORARY GOODBYE TO JESSICA AND TRACY

Both Tracy and Jessica will be out of the OIE on maternity leave during late Fall 2010 and early Spring 2011. The OIE is in the process of hiring temporary replacements who will be available for all questions and processing of immigration documents while they are out. International students will be notified of the new staff members and their contact information in the near future. All services offered by the OIE will continue as usual, but we ask for your patience and understanding during this transition time.



Jessica and Tracy

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Twitter: @IUPHawksAbroad  
Facebook: IUP International Education

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

During International Education Week (October 4 - 8, 2010), the OIE hosted a variety of events. Thank you to all who participated!

Pictured below:

International Tea Time, Study Abroad Fair, and International Women's Breakfast.





By Hayat Messekher, Algeria / PhD English Literature and Composition



“Being a member of the Fulbright community is the best lifetime experience that could ever happen to me.”

Being a member of the Fulbright community has been the best lifetime experience that I could ever imagine happening to me. I am limited in space in this newsletter, so I will not be able to do justice to the rich and priceless Fulbright experience I am having.

To begin with, the Fulbright journey, for me at least, started with an advertisement on a daily Algerian newspaper. Pursuing a Ph.D. was a dream for me that soon turned into a reality once I had applied for the Fulbright scholarship. As with any journey, the application process had different steps and stops but it ended at the right destination: the English Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with its engaged and inspiring faculty members and community.

Doing graduate studies and research is not the only possibility or opportunity

that opened up to me after joining the Fulbright community in the United States.

The wonderful experiences and social networking with friends and scholars from all over the world created different venues for participatory communities that brought me in touch with people from different geographical, religious, linguistic, social, and cultural backgrounds.

Part of my ongoing experience as a Fulbrighter in the U.S. is to introduce Algeria to many colleagues and friends from different cultural backgrounds as they know very little about Algeria. Engaging in conversations that challenge persisting preconceived ideas and stigmas about different cultures crystallizes the very nature of Exchange programs such as the Fulbright program that definitely plays an “activist” role in promoting mutual understanding and collaboration that will hopefully last beyond the Fulbright experience.

This weekend, for instance, I joined the Community Connections at the Homer-Center Library that Tracy Lassiter, a Ph.D. candidate in the Literature and Criticism program, is in charge of. This is a typical experience that I have always been eager to be involved in. It brings together the local people, IUP students and devoted faculty and it is sponsored by the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences.



### ELECTED TO CRIMSON COURT

By Adel Albalushi, Saudi Arabia, Junior Hospitality Management



I am currently a junior Hospitality Management Administration major. I have been at IUP for almost five years. I am the two-year President of the Saudi Student Association, and was the Vice-President before I was elected President. I am also a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, as well as of the Language and Culture Exchange Club.

I have been an active volunteer for many clubs, organizations and school events for the past three years. For example, I welcomed and assisted new international students to IUP as an orientation volunteer for the Office of International Education. My participation and valuable time in these activities gave me the motivation to run for Homecoming Court.

I feel so incredibly proud to be the first international student to win a place in the Homecoming Court. There are many other reasons that I am so pleased to have won. When I heard students in the fraternities talk about winning a place in homecoming court, they would talk about how proud they were. As soon as I saw the opportunity this year I grabbed it, wanting to prove to myself that I could win. I worked extremely hard to get elected, and, God willing, I won a place on Homecoming Court, along with 6 other students.

The celebrations and activities that I participated in after the elections were amazing and so much fun. Many of my friends invited me to parties. I also took a big part in the parade, and went to the Homecoming football game, where I was given a medal and a certificate by the President of IUP, Dr Werner. I also had an interview with The Indiana Gazette and The PENN, which meant a lot to me. I was engaged in a lot of activities after winning the Homecoming Court which led to me meeting a lot of people. This has proven to me that if you work hard and do your best, anything you want to accomplish and everything in this world is possible.

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINA AND AMERICA

By Yutai Ma, China, Masters /Mathematics

When I am asked about the differences between China and America, there are some significant things that stand out, such as the communication, the founding principles of the countries, and the way people talk to each other.



First of all, the thing that most impressed me when I came to America was the difference in transportation between the county and city in China and the United States. In China, the city is so modernized that you can go where you want to go by every means of transportation. By comparison the country roads and available vehicles are not sufficiently organized or maintained because of a shortage of money. Ten years ago, for example, I went to my hometown where my grandmother was born. While traveling, we encountered a dirt road in such bad condition that we could not keep going by car. In contrast to China, I think that here the condition of transportation and vehicles is almost the same whether in the county or in the city. Almost every family in the U.S. has at least 2 or 3 cars.

No matter where they are, they can drive anywhere they want to go. Even though there are some families who can not afford a car, they can take the bus, even on a Sunday.

The second point I want to illustrate is the language differences. In China, the number of dialects spoken can hinder communication, especially between northern China and the south. People can hardly communicate because of the dialects that prevail in the rural south. When I was working towards my undergraduate degree in Guang Zhou, which is located in southern China, most students from the rural areas could not speak standard Mandarin Chinese, even though there are a hundred dialects of Cantonese in Guang Dong province. By contrast, in America, people in Florida have little difficulty talking to people hundreds of miles away in Alaska.

The harmony in each society is also different. In China, citizens tend to avoid confrontations with other people. Thousands of years of language development in China has led to a culture in which people speak in an indirect way and use metaphors to explain their point.

Moreover, the same word can have different meanings depending on how it is used. This is why you cannot tell what someone is saying in some instances. In comparison, Americans like to say the truth loudly and directly especially when somebody is against the law. For instance, when I was picking up the money from ATM of the PNC bank at Philadelphia Street, there was a driver who was going to park his car in front of the transit center area which is not allowed for private parking. Then a woman, who was about forty years old, came to that driver and told him he was breaking the law. However the driver did not move his car until the woman shouted loudly and angrily at him twice.

These stories are my reflection on differences between America and my home country, China.



### THE NEW ORLEANS WORK TRIP:

By Dr. Yong S. Colen, Professor of Mathematics

The Habitat for Humanity work group destined for New Orleans consisted of Hyeonna Bak (a graduate student in the Criminology Department), Seung Ku Park (a graduate student in the English Department), and I. We departed on May 22, 2010 and traveled for two days to reach Louisiana. Once we got there, Mr. Park insulated the house while Ms. Bak



and I performed dry-wallking. We began our five days’ work on May 24th. The three of us from IUP were part of a group of ten who helped to rebuild a home that was damaged by Katrina over five years ago. We got to meet the owner, Regina, on the last day of our work. She was hopeful that she’ll move in to her new home by July 4th.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity, please contact:

IUP Chapter President Jayme Ritchie, [j.n.ritchie@iup.edu](mailto:j.n.ritchie@iup.edu).

Alternatively, email Chapter Advisor Dr. T. Van Dyke at [vandyke@iup.edu](mailto:vandyke@iup.edu)

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Indiana, PA 15701-0663

Call: (724) 479-2015

Email: [robhabitat@comcast.net](mailto:robhabitat@comcast.net)

<http://www.habitatforindianacounty.org/>



By Jessica Dories, International Student Advisor

On September 27, the OIE held a workshop, “How to Rent and Own a Car in the U.S.,” with guest speakers William Kennedy from Enterprise Rent-A-Car , Associate Agent Sandy Lefdahl from Good & Associates to talk about Nationwide car insurance, and Bob Wood, owner of Wood Pontiac Chevrolet of Plumville, PA. Here are highlights of what they shared. Handouts from the workshop are available as a PDF via email or at our front desk.



RENTING CARS IN THE U.S.:

Bill explained that many international students have no trouble renting cars and often take trips on weekends. Students do have to be at least 21 years old to rent a car from Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Students should make sure to ask about weekend discounts, which are often available. Enterprise can be reached at 724.465.5944 and is located on Oakland Avenue across from Wendy’s. Students wishing to rent cars can call ahead of time to rent, and can get a ride from your apartment to Enterprise for the start of your rental. Another perk that came up about Enterprise is that rental cars can be used to come from the Pittsburgh airport to Indiana, PA. However, they cannot be rented to drive from from Indiana to Pittsburgh. Make sure to ask Enterprise about insurance options.

Documents students should bring with them for renting include:

- A driver’s license (international or PA) and passport
- Cash, check or credit card for payment. Those with a major ‘non-debit’ credit card do not need to leave a deposit or phone bill. Those with a debit-only card need to leave a \$200 deposit and a paid phone bill for credit history
- Students under 21 cannot rent cars, and those under 25 cannot rent larger vans or vehicles, only smaller compact cars.

CAR INSURANCE IN THE U.S.:

Sandy shared helpful information for students to be aware of when purchasing insurance. Car insurance is required by law when you own a vehicle. If your insurance ends and you are still driving your car, you can get into a lot of trouble if you are caught without it, or if you are in an accident. Nationwide insurance has a number of international students they already serve – contact 724.465.8887 and ask for Sandy if you wish to choose them as your insurance carrier. Sandy shared with us some insurance terms to be aware of when purchasing insurance. The state of PA requires a minimum standard for car insurance; but prices for each individual and each car will vary. Ask your provider questions about what certain words mean, or what that means for you if you are in a car accident or hurt. Important terminology to be aware of:

- Bodily injury – PA requires you get insurance to cover \$15,000/person or \$30,000 per occurrence. If you cause an accident, this payment goes to the people that you injure in the other vehicle(s).
- Property damage – PA requires \$5,000. This is how much your policy will pay for the damages you cause, if you are at fault. These are things you hit with your car (i.e, another vehicle, fence, guard rail, etc.)
- Medical expenses – PA requires you to carry \$5,000. This covers your injuries when you are in an accident regardless of fault.
- Tort options (full or limited) – limited tort means you give up the right to receive payment for pain and suffering if injured in an accident where you are not at fault; full tort means you can seek money for pain and suffering from any injury in a car accident where you are not at fault. To purchase insurance, contact Sandy at Nationwide for a quote.

PURCHASING CARS IN THE U.S.:

Bob gave a handout and basic tips on purchasing cars in the U.S. Bob and his wife have been host parents to many international students over the years. He is available if students need some ideas or tips with looking for cars and can be reached at 724.397.5522 at Wood Pontiac Chevrolet. Here are some great tips he shared:

- Know what you want before you shop. It’s important to decide how much money you want to spend and what type of car you want to purchase before looking. To find out what the average cost of a car is use Kelly Blue Book [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com) or another site like this to get an average price of a car before you make an offer or decide on a price.
- Know about extra costs. Although you might want to spend \$1000 on a car, also keep in mind there are other costs involved with purchasing a car like: a state inspection (\$20-\$50), transfer of title to new individual (\$50), sales tax (6% of price), registration of vehicle (\$36) and car insurance (varies), to name a few.
- Don’t put money down on something unless you’re 100% sure you want to buy. If you’re wondering where to look for cars, car dealerships like Wood Pontiac usually have a variety of new and used cars and they can work with you to purchase what you’re looking for. The internet or newspapers can also be used.
- If someone is giving you a car or you’re purchasing one from a friend, you still must make sure to purchase car insurance and transfer the title to your name – a car dealer or AAA can assist with this.
- Purchasing a car in Pennsylvania does require that you have a Pennsylvania ID card or license. New students will find this to be troublesome because a license or ID cannot be obtained until after classes begin. Contact the OIE for more information if you are having trouble with your license or ID.

MEGAN STUDIES FRENCH CULTURE

By Megan R. Keenan, U.S. Undergraduate / French

I was reminded that I was in a different culture on my first full day in France. Jetlagged and sleep deprived, I’d slept through my alarm. I hurried through the cold January rain and managed to arrive at the school building at ten to nine for the nine o’ clock orientation. Punctuality may be the courtesy of kings in America, but in France the attitude towards time is completely different. The other exchange students and I huddled together outside the locked building, blowing into our hands and stomping our feet to keep warm as we waited. The orientation leader strolled over at nine fifteen and led us inside, but for me the learning had begun before I set foot in the school.

In America, time is money, and everyone seems to be rushing around all day, every day. In the city of Angers, France, however, people view time through different eyes. When you agree to meet someone at three o’ clock, you’re really agreeing to meet her around three o’ clock. Businesses don’t open until nine, and it’s considered perfectly normal for people to take a couple of hours for lunch, rather than the half hour you would expect in the States. Everything closes on Sunday, even the grocery store. No 24-hour Wal Marts here!

On the first day of school, I walked into a lecture hall and took a seat. From my desk I observed the other students as they walked in. I was used to students in the U.S. arriving to class in flip-flops and sweats, even pajamas on occasion, but everyone at the University of Angers was well-dressed. The girls looked like they had walked out of fashion magazines. Many of them wore high heels, and my sneakers attracted more than a few curious glances.

Girls greeted their friends with kisses on the cheek, and I was surprised but quite pleased when, after a few days, one of my French acquaintances kissed me on each cheek. It was strange at first, but it soon felt perfectly natural to greet friends with kisses. One of my French friends told me that she had found it odd when an American girl had hugged her. She said it had felt like an invasion of her personal space, which is funny, because that’s what I’d thought about the kissing at first. And then there was the university system itself. For one thing, the French students’ schedules were predetermined; the students chose a major but didn’t pick and choose the individual classes.

For example, all year one biology students have the same schedule. Also, the classes were (generally) traditional lecture and exam classes rather than the smaller, more participation-based classes I had in the U.S.

A common misconception is the idea that the French are snobby and rude to foreigners. In my experience the French were warm and welcoming. My professors made every effort to make my transition from America to France a smooth one, and when I joined a club the students were friendly and seemed happy to have me there.

I picked up a lot of the language in daily life—going to the movies, visiting the library, shopping, etc. I learned through observation, through looking at and listening to the world around me.

I noticed that there were a lot of little things that were different. For instance, in France they had not three-ring, but four-ring binders, and there were white stripes instead of yellow stripes on the roads. A standard sheet of notebook paper is a different size. It made me rethink a lot of things I took for granted.

Learning French through study and immersion was a slow and rather bumpy process, but I noticed I was much more proficient in French after my semester abroad than I was before. While in France, I learned the language in various ways. I learned a lot of French in school. While studying at the University of Angers, I took two types of classes: French for foreign students and classes for native speakers of the language. I learned listening skills from lectures, speaking skills from oral presentations and class discussions, and reading and writing skills from homework and in-class assignments.

Real-life situations can be tricky because they are difficult to prepare for. For example, I had to have a medical exam while I was in France because I had a long-stay visa, and before I went I studied vocabulary related to my medical conditions. When I spoke with the doctor, I was able to rattle off my personal history, but when she asked about my family history, I was in trouble. I knew the word for “heart,” so I told the doctor my maternal grandfather had had heart problems. Or at least, I tried to say that. I apparently butchered the pronunciation of the word for “heart” so badly that the doctor couldn’t understand me. In the end I was able to write it down for her, but I confess that later on in our discussion I had to resort to mime. The important part, though, is that our conversation was entirely in French, and I managed to communicate everything that needed to be communicated.

After time certain words and phrases became automatic. I didn’t have to think in English and translate to French; the French was just there for me to access when I needed it. In fact, there were times when I could remember the French word for something and not the English.

Traveling abroad alone was an experience far beyond my comfort zone, and in my experience, I have found that being put in a situation outside of your comfort zone is an excellent opportunity for personal growth and exploration. I learned that I had to go out and make things happen rather than sitting around waiting for things to happen to me. For instance, I had to put myself out there and be outgoing if I wanted to make friends. If I just sat alone in my room, people wouldn’t come to me. I acquired an awareness of my limitations, but also of my abilities and positive traits. After my stay in France, I am a more worldly, more confident person than I was before I left.



# What's Going On?

## AT THE OIE, IUP, AND BEYOND

### NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY, 7	Daylight Savings Ends - Move clock back one hour.
MONDAY, 8	Individual Course Withdrawal Deadline
WEDNESDAY, 10	Study Abroad Informational Meeting 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., HUB: Monongahela Room
FRIDAY, 12	F-1 Off-Campus Work Permission 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. OIE Conference Room
	Total Semester Withdrawal Deadline
MONDAY, 22-FRIDAY, 26	Thanksgiving Recess: No classes

### DECEMBER 2010

WEDNESDAY, 1	International Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. Folger Hall: Crimson Event Center, open to all
WEDNESDAY, 8	Study Abroad Informational Meeting 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., HUB: Monongahela Room
FRIDAY, 10	International Friendship Program Dinner 6:00 p.m.
SATURDAY , 11	Study Abroad Pre-departure (By invitation)
TUESDAY, 14-FRIDAY, 17	Final Exam Week
SUNDAY, 19	Commencement
MONDAY, 20	Winter Session Classes Begin
THURSDAY, 23	OIE closes at 4:30 p.m
FRIDAY, 24	Fall Semester Grades Available
SATURDAY, 25	Christmas Day

### JANUARY 2011

SATURDAY, 1	New Year's Day
MONDAY, 3	OIE opens at 8:00 a.m
FRIDAY, 7	Winter Session Classes End
TUESDAY, 11	New International Student Orientation Begins
MONDAY, 17	Martin Luther King Day: No Classes
TUESDAY, 18	Classes Begin



New international students wait in line during orientation.



OIE orientation leaders.



MEET THE STUDY ABROAD COORDINATORS:

STUDY ABROAD ADOPTS STUDIOABROAD



MS. JAY HALCHAK

Jay is the coordinator for:

- Programs in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand) Latin America, and Europe, including ISEP programs in those countries.
- Third-party affiliated programs: CEA, Study Abroad Italy, AustraLearn, and AIU.
- Independently Arranged programs.
- Amizade, global service–learning opportunities.



DR. MICHELE PETRUCCI

Michele is the coordinator for:

- Programs in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East including ISEP programs specific to these regions.

IUP Study Abroad will get a new look beginning January 2011. *StudioAbroad* is an online data-base and content management system that will not only allow for better access to study abroad information, but also allow students to apply for study abroad directly from the IUP Study Abroad website.

Students will be able to create a secure account with their IUP login and manage their entire study abroad process electronically.

This will include:

- Inquires
- Applications
- Academic preferences
- International Student Identity Card applications
- Pre-Departure information
- Passport information
- Visa application information
- Transfer credit evaluation monitoring



LAUREN DISCOVERS ASIAN CULTURE WHILE STUDYING ABROAD

By Lauren Young, U.S. /Undergraduate, International Business



As a business major, the thought of studying in China seemed like the perfect opportunity, as China’s economy has continued to flourish despite worldwide recessions. I went into my study abroad experience hoping to gain a better perspective on business in Asia, and I came out not only with a better understanding of China’s business industry, but also with amazing cultural experiences that were equally if not more relevant to my life and my studies.

One of my favorite memories during my time in China was a trip I took with three other University of Macau students to Beijing. All travel included, our trip lasted five days, and although it wasn’t nearly enough time to experience all the wonderful little aspects of the city, our days were packed the entire time we were there. After our first few days that included visits to Olympic Park, Tiananmen Square, and the Forbidden City, we made sure to take it easy Saturday evening because Sunday was our trek across the great wall. I can honestly say it was one of the most beautiful and amazing experiences of my life. The day was perfect and so was the temperature. The sky was a perfect blue hue and it was covered with long billowy clouds that looked as though they had been painted in place making the views from atop the wall truly breathtaking. We took a cable car up to the entry point where we began our 10km walk to Simatai. Some parts of the wall were more destroyed than others and at one point we even took a pathway around a small section. The area we traversed was one of the least traveled spots, where the walking was much less crowed and all the more enjoyable. At the end of our 10km, we crossed a long suspension bridge where the wall was no longer safe enough to walk on and finally exited the wall by climbing up what seemed to be the most challenging steps ever. We finished off by taking a zip-line down to the bus area and having lunch with our tour group that was composed of about 20 or so people from all over. Although the trek was definitely exhausting, the long walk was well worth the sore legs I would have for the next few days.

This was only one of the many amazing adventures that I had the opportunity to participate in while studying abroad at the University of Macau. It was a tremendously beneficial experience and the reason why I would encourage other students to study abroad if given the chance.



THE STUDY ABROAD FAIR: A GREAT SUCCESS!





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH PTW  
(PARTIAL TUITION WAIVER)

Red Cross Health Services Assistant

Purpose: Assist the Health Services Department in delivering its mission by providing support in assigned departments. If interested please contact Connie Patterson at 724.465.5678.

Jimmy Stewart Museum

Ticket office or Gift Shop volunteer. Some clerical work is required. Contact Tim Harley, Executive Director at 727.349.6112 or email tharley@jimmy.org.

Four Footed Friends

Assistance needed with animal care, office work, computer work, and fundraising. If interested please contact Shannon Cole at 724.349.1144 or email fffvolunteers@hotmail.com.

Indiana County Humane Society

Volunteers can walk dogs, help clean, and play with animals . If interested please contact Kelly Dilts at 724.464.3977 or email Kellydilts@hotmail.com.

Other opportunities will be sent via email to all PTW participants. Contact your academic department or the Office of Service Learning www.iup.edu/servicelearning for more volunteer opportunities.



FOLLOW STUDY ABROAD AND OIE EVENTS ON  
TWITTER: @IUPHawksAbroad

INTERNATIONAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • International School Services | www.iss.edu               |
| • Fulbright Programs            | www.fulbrightonline.org   |
| • NAFSA                         | www.nafsa.org             |
| • TESOL                         | www.tesol.org             |
| • U.S. Department of State      | www.state.gov             |
| • English Job Maze              | www.englishjobmaze.com    |
| • Overseas Jobs Express         | www.overseasjobs.com      |
| • Int’l Practical Training      | www.aipt.org              |
| • Transitions Abroad            | www.transitionsabroad.com |
| • Dave’s ESL Café               | www.eslcafe.com           |
| • Japan Exchange & Teaching     | www.us.emb-japan.go.jp    |

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Habitat for Humanity International<br>www.habitat.org  | • AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc<br>www.afs.org            |
| • Peace Corps<br>www.peacecorps.org                      | • Volunteer International<br>www.volunteerinternational.org |
| • Project of Action without Borders<br>www.idealists.org | • Global Service Corps<br>www.globalservicecorps.org        |
| • Volunteer in Africa<br>www.iicd-volunteer.org          | • Global Volunteers<br>www.globalvolunteers.org             |

