Cultural Events and Programs
(2005-2008)
Indiana State University
International Affairs Center (IAC)

Global Nights – these events, which are sponsored by various international student associations and the IAC, provide an opportunity for members of the community to learn more about the cultures of some of the international students at ISU. Each event features cultural performances and international cuisine. Global Nights that have taken place in the past three years are:

African Global Night (African Student Assn.)
Chinese New Year Celebration (Chinese and Taiwanese Student Associations)
Hispanic Global Night (Hispanic Student Assn.)
Indian Global Night (Indian Student Assn.)
Japanese Global Night (Japanese Student Assn.)
Korean Authentic Fashion Show (Korean Student Assn. and Sungshin Women's University)
Muslim Fast-a-thon during Ramadan (Muslim Student Assn.)
Thai New Year Celebration

International Education Week - during this week, the IAC sponsors a variety of educational and artistic cultural events aimed at highlighting the importance of international education. Activities scheduled include exhibits and performances, community outreach programs, panel discussions and presentations, a foreign film series, games, a cooking competition, a passport fair, a dance, and an international potluck. Displays commemorating the week can also be seen in the library, university residence halls, and the student union.

Cultural Events Sponsored by the International Student Organization – events sponsored by the ISO include: International Prom, International Film Series, Miss International Pageant, and welcome parties and potlucks.

International Friendship Program - in this program, international students attending ISU, INTERLINK Language Center, Ivy Tech State College, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College have the opportunity to meet families from Terre Haute and the surrounding areas. It is hoped that this interaction will lead to increased cross-cultural awareness and long-lasting friendships. Student participants can gain a greater sense of belonging to the community and host families are given the opportunity to have more exposure to cultures from different parts of the world. Families who are interested in serving as "hosts" in this program are matched with one or more international student, depending on the preference of each family. During the course of the year, several events will be sponsored in the community that will allow the families and students to interact with each other. Families and students are encouraged to get together and/or keep in touch with each other, but it is up to the families and students to determine what form these additional interactions take. Possible activities include invitations for dinner and participation in family or community events.

Cultural Connections Club – the CCC is aimed at promoting cross-cultural interaction is one of the many ways that the IAC assists new international students at ISU and promotes cross-cultural interaction. At the new student orientation before the beginning of each semester, students will have an opportunity to join this club. Student participants will have the opportunity to connect with students from all over the world, including the U.S. Joining the CCC provides the chance for new students to meet new people on campus, get some questions answered, and receive help shortly after arrival. The CCC also sponsors a number of get-togethers throughout the semester.

Community Engagement Projects –the IAC encourages all international students to become actively involved in the local community throughout the year. Community activities that students have been involved in include: volunteering at local non-profit organizations (homeless shelters, after school programs, etc.), speaking at local schools, and participating in community service projects (Habitat for Humanity, etc.).

Summer Activities – during the summer semesters, the IAC organizes a number of recreational and educational activities for international students. These activities include: trips to nearby cities (Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati), camping, canoeing, and hiking trips, visits to local areas of interest (Amish village, historical museum), trips to amusement parks, picnics and sporting events.

Holiday Homestay Program – during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the IAC helps arrange for interested students to visit and/or stay with local families. This provides the opportunity for both students and families to learn more about each others' cultures.