

ISSS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

- Provides pre-arrival info and orientation activities
- Immigration, adjustment, personal, financial advising
- Intercultural programming
- Events for students
- Tax workshops



UI staff attend a student panel during the intro session to the Building Our Global Community certificate series.

STAFF OF ISSS

- **Lee Seedorff** – Senior Associate Director
- **International Student Advisors** –
 - **Michael Bortscheller** – Assistant Director
 - **Laura Holtkamp** – Senior Advisor
 - **Robert Gutwein** – Senior Advisor
 - **Rudia Kihura** – Advisor
 - **Kevin Roiseland** – Advisor
 - **Brandon Paulson** - Advisor
- **Support Staff** –
 - **Shuhui Lin** – Support and Retention Coordinator
 - **Taivna Mills** – International Services Assistant
- **Student Assistants** –
 - **Yuhao Chen**– Life in Iowa
 - **Ben Heinsohn** – Global Buddies
 - **Yikun Chen** – Tax Program



International and domestic students meet during Friends and Neighbors Day

ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

- Check-In
- Welcome Session
- Cultural Adjustment Session
- Academic Advising/Course Registration
- Health Insurance Session
- Health and Mental Health Resources
- Academic Expectations
- Personal Safety Session
- Social Events
- Immigration Laws Session
- Onlowa – with American students
- ESL Testing



Welcome lunch at international orientation.

SUPPORT AND PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Life in Iowa Program

- Ongoing “orientation” throughout the year
- Practical topics: resume writing, job interviewing skills, employment visas, how to “network” in business, stress management, study skills
- Social Events: Wii/game nights, holiday celebrations like pumpkin carving for Halloween, Thanksgiving dinner
- Excursions: Iowa tourist sites such as Amana Colonies and Effigy Mounds, bus trip to Chicago. Larger trips planned for the future such as to Rocky Mountains, a lodge in northern Wisconsin, etc.



Fun activities in the Life in Iowa program.

- Global Buddies – specifically for students on formal exchange programs
- Other ISSS Services – immigration issues and compliance, financial problems, personal problems, driver’s license info, Social Security Number, tax issues
- Student Organizations – over 450, some based on nationality, most based on activities (swing dance, sports, politics, religion, the arts)

OTHER CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **Iowa Intensive English Programs**

- Full-time intensive English instruction as well as supplemental courses depending on individual needs; also conditional admission program for students with low TOEFL who otherwise meet admission criteria. Campus Conversation Partners program

- **University Counseling Services**

- Support Groups for international students; psychologists who were international students

- **University Housing**

- Programming in residence halls; new Global Mosaic LLC

- **Friends and Neighbors Program***

- Matches new international with American students to correspond before arrival and meet in person after arrival

- **Bridging Domestic and Global Diversity**

- Semester-long program that brings together international and domestic students to learn and explore cross-cultural and diversity issues



Students socialize during orientation.

OTHER CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **Building Our Global Community (BGC)**

- Programs to promote cross-cultural awareness and competency among UI staff and faculty

- **Internationalization at the College Level**

- TCOB, Engineering, CLAS



Decorating gingerbread cookies.

- **Suicide Prevention Grant** – will create an online crisis chat in 3-4 foreign languages at our local county crisis hotline

- **Friends of International Students**

- Community organization connecting students with local families for activities

- **International Women's Club**

- Connections and activities for women, including spouses, such as casual English courses, cooking classes, events and socialization
- Increased attempts to stay connected to international **alumni and parents**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION AND SUPPORT COORDINATOR



Shuhui Lin

- Coordinate the Global@Iowa student leader recruitment
- Follow international alerts in MAP-Works
- Needs assessment surveys
- Supervise Life in Iowa program
- Summer pre-departure workshops for new students and parents in China
- Living in Iowa City guide



INTERNATIONAL@IOWA AND GLOBAL@IOWA

- Student Success grant received in 2012
- Phase I – International@Iowa online course, Fall 2013
 - Online course required of all new international undergrads
 - 1 s.h., must be completed in first 7-8 weeks, S/U grade
 - Sections on immigration and other laws, cultural adjustment, mental health, academic success, and academic expectations (including extensive information on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct)
- Phase II – Global@Iowa small group sections, Fall 2014
 - Meet in small sections during second half of semester
 - Sections led by 2 group leaders (most domestic, some veteran internationals)
 - Discuss aspects of cultural adjustment, American and campus culture, being a UI student, and one excursion to a campus or community event that most international students would not normally attend

FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS

- International-Domestic friendship matching program
- Pilot in Fall 2014
- Absorbing and expanding on the Friends and Neighbors Day program
- Kickoff and closing ceremony
- Incentive program for pairs to report activities throughout the academic year and earn rewards
- Structured interactions built-in – suggested interviews, video activities, learning about own cultural backgrounds vs. partner's



Global Buddies participate in the Amazing Race-Iowa City

RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC STUDENT RELATIONS

- Start early
- Multicultural living situations – must attend to selection/matching
- Multiple contexts to meet Americans
- Need activities and experiences for putting the two together, some structure/guidance
- Move beyond considering internationals as the deficient ones who need to be “helped”
- Train Americans! Don’t rely solely on study abroad; help Americans have intercultural experiences on campus
- Help Americans be more tolerant of cultural and linguistic differences
- Create multicultural programs in the context of academic programs for both domestic and international
- Assimilation is not the goal
- Recruitment – focus on maturity, not just high English scores
- *Dr. Cooper Wakefield, University of Kansas*

What are ways the UI can move forward and promote international and domestic integration in an informed and effective manner?