

International Conversation Hour

Newsletter

Welcome to Conversation Hour!

April 1, 2012
Volume 1, Issue 4

Have you attended International Conversation Hour? If you have never been to one of our meetings, we invite you to an evening of friendship, conversation, and fun!

International Conversation Hour invites international and U.S. students to meet, learn from each other, and make cross-cultural friendships.

Each week, we get together to participate

in a brief mingling activity, after which we chat in small groups about a variety of topics, including school, friendships, relationships, holidays, food, and other cross-cultural topics.

At the end of the evening, we make community announcements, which include other interactive, fun, and social activities that occur on the BSU campus.



International Conversation Hour:

Every Tuesday Night

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Student Center

Room 310

We want to hear from you...

Do you have any questions about International Conversation Hour?

Would you like to share your experiences after attending our meetings?

Do you have ideas about future international conversation topics?

Would you like to become a small group conversation leader?

Or, maybe you would like to write a special topics article for our newsletter...

We would like to hear from you! Please email Pei-Yi Lin at plin@bsu.edu.

Have you ever heard about International Conversation Hour?

My name is Sangmoon Kim, a graduate student in clinical psychology program, Syracuse University, NY. I am currently doing my pre-doctoral internship at the Counseling Center of BSU. I moved to Muncie from Syracuse on July 29, 2011. I am originally from Jeju, South Korea and came to the U.S. in 2003.

This article is about my experience with International Conversation Hour (ICH). Have you ever heard about ICH? (If you say yes) Have you ever come to ICH? ICH is designed to provide time and space people with different/diverse cultural backgrounds, including ethnicity and nationality, interact with each other. I have met people whose primary languages are different from mine (Korean). Up to now, I have learned a little Chinese and Japanese (I was very impressed by their fluently speaking Chinese and Japanese! Wow!) and am looking forward to meeting more people and learning/improving many different languages. I am also very eager to teach people Korean.

According to my short research (I googled it!), **there are 6,909 spoken languages**. Can you believe it? Unfortunately, I have known only a few of them, including Korean and English. I hope more and more people with different/diverse primary languages come to ICH. Learning different languages is not the only benefit you get from ICH! You make friends as well. I sometime come across people I met at ICH and we say hi to each other. I have seen people at ICH exchange their phone numbers, email addresses and facebook accounts.

At ICH, English is a primary/common language spoken. Some people, specifically ones born and raised in the U.S., speak in English more fluently than others. I sometimes feel uncomfortable or awkward in social settings requiring me to speak in English (or it could be because I am a shy person!). I tend to feel more uncomfortable when I talk to people I newly meet. Maybe due to this reason, I sometimes avoid this kind of social exchange. ICH can be this kind



of social exchange, and some of us might have avoided attending to ICH. If it sounds like your story, please come to ICH and find me, Sangmoon. You will then see that you are NOT the only one feeling this way. Coming to ICH with your friends you feel comfortable can be also very helpful (and probably you do not need to find me!).

Once you come to ICH, you will meet people who are different from you in many various ways. You can learn many things from them, including English skills. More importantly, you can help them learn about you, including your primary language, cultural values and perspectives etc. I am sincerely looking forward to learning about you and helping you learn about me. I hope I see many of you at International Conversation Hour.

What was March Madness?

During March you would have come across people talking about "March Madness." Did you know what it was about?

It was all about basketball! March Madness refers to NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship. It was a single-elimination college basketball tournament meaning that if you lose, then you are out of the tournament. You can sense how exciting this tournament was. It is probably called March Madness because people become "crazy" in March every year. Do you know which college won 2012 NCAA National Champion? If you don't, check it out!