

International Conversation Hour

Newsletter

Welcome to Conversation Hour!

May 1, 2012
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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...

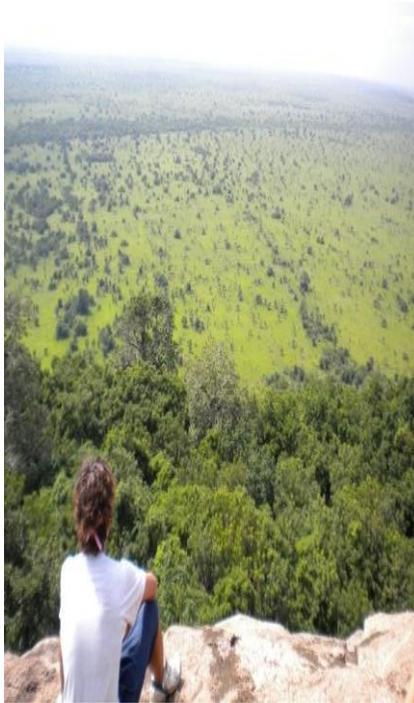
We would like to hear from you! Please email Pei-Yi Lin at plin@bsu.edu.

What I Learned on My Trip to Ghana, West Africa

I had to keep reminding myself, "Stephen. Keep your eyes open. Listen. Remember! You're in Africa!"

I knew that as quickly as the trip started, it would also soon be over. I did my very best to talk to Ghanaians, try new foods, and take in all Ghana had to offer me. I took every opportunity I had to travel around the country and smile at strangers.

"Obruni, Obruni!" the children would shout. I tried



to give them anything they might find interesting that I could part with. A few American coins, paper and pens, and Jolly Ranchers. A warm sensation fills my body when I think about how welcomed I felt. I hope you're experience as an international student in the United States has been similar.

Being in Ghana, West Africa during the summer before my senior year of college was a truly unforgettable experience. One reason it was so unique was that for the first time in my life, I was a minority. Being a White male living in Central Indiana, I'm constantly surrounded by people who look like me. It was such a lovely, odd experience to see things from a different point of view. It certainly gave me a new perspective on what it must be like for full-time international students studying in the United States. I truly have the utmost respect for the risks you have taken in leaving home to

pursue your studies.

What wise insight could I hope to pass on to you from my travels abroad? What comes to mind is to be aware that you have a very special opportunity here in the United States. And, no, I'm not talking about earning an awesome Ball State education. As an international student you have the chance to teach us. You serve a very special role in the Ball State community.

A lot of Ball State students have lived in Indiana or the Midwest their entire lives. Diversity isn't extremely common in our primary schools and communities. I would encourage you to engage in conversations with other students. Maybe it is his or her first time meeting somebody from China or Saudi Arabia. Tell us about your home and we'll tell you about ours.

Remember! You're in Muncie, Indiana! And like a lot of other Ball State students before us, our time here will quickly pass.