Volume 1, Issue 3

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International Conversation Hour Newsletter

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International Conversation Hour:

Every Tuesday Student Center Room 310

Time: 6:00-7:30

Everyone is welcome!

International Conversation Hour

International Conversation Hour continues to be a very successful program bringing together students from the United States and International students from across campus. It provides opportunities for socialization, for students to learn about different cultures and to practice language skills. Emily Mastroianni, one of the people who helps facilitate the ICH conversations hours said recently "I help with ICH and I know students have a great experience there. The more pockets of community and mingling you can have, the better." So if you have never been to an ICH meeting, we invite you to please come and join the 50+ students who attend every week for 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.

We look forward to meeting you and having you join us!







We want your opinion! Is there a certain topic that you want us to write about? Do you want to become involved with the ICH Newsletter? Let us know! Please e-mail and tell us your ideas at ejhurley@bsu.edu.

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Experiences with International Diversity on Campus Elena Yakunina



My name is Elena Yakunina and I am an international student from Bulgaria, Eastern Europe. For me, one of the most exciting and challenging things about living in the U.S. was meeting people from different cultures. After coming to the U.S., I made friends with other international students, who came from countries such as Cameroon, Mexico, Malaysia, Russia, India, and Australia. Many of my friends identified with different religions, including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. They also spoke different languages, celebrated different cultural traditions, and followed different rules about friendship, dating, and even food.

In addition to the international friends I made, I also met many American students who were also different from me. I found out that there is a lot of cultural diversity within the U.S., which included differences based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability/disability, and social class. I found out, for example, that many of my American friends had different values and experiences, based on their own cultural backgrounds and the environments they were brought in.

Meeting so many people from different cultures was challenging for me at first. I had to learn about cultural differences and to seek information about my friends' traditions and beliefs. I also had to be flexible and open-minded, even if my friends' values and experiences were in conflict with my own. I tried really hard to be non-judgmental and to respect the differences I saw. I also had to learn how to share my own culture and educate other people about my language, religion, traditions, and beliefs.

Although it was challenging to meet this cultural diversity, I also learned a lot from it. Now, I can better understand people who come from diverse backgrounds. I know more about different cultures, religions, and traditions. I am more prepared to work in a global economy and to communicate with people from different language backgrounds. This allows me to have an international career and to travel more easily around the world. So, I believe that it is important to make friendships across cultures. It is rewarding to learn about each other's differences and to embrace the diversity around us.

Read ICHNL again in April!