Dear Students,

The 2008-09 academic year is in full swing! The Office of International Student Services (OISS) wants to extend a warm welcome to all our new and continuing students. We have 85 new students and a total of 221 international students enrolled this term.

Though studies are important, and the reason you are here--it is also important to set aside some time for fun. Please take advantage of the many activities, clubs, intra-mural sports, etc., that are available on campus. The International Student Organization (ISO) plans regular events each month. Joining the ISO is a great way to meet friends and get connected on campus. We encourage you to get involved. Extra-curricular activities are important to add to your resume.

They help demonstrate to future employers that you are a well-rounded person.

Best wishes for a great semester. If you need any help, advice, or just want to stop by and chat, we look forward to seeing you.

Best Regards,

Julie

---

**OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING**

Information about new OPT regulations are available online at www.iusb.edu/~oiss. The PowerPoint from the OPT/CPT workshop is available online at http://www.iusb.edu/~oiss/employmentcurrent.shtml.

The government is running late on the processing of OPT applications. It is important that students who will graduate in December, apply for OPT as soon as possible. The dates for December graduates OPT appointments are:

- Friday October 3rd—10am, 10:30am, 11 am, 11:30am
- Monday October 6th 2:30pm, 3pm, 3:30pm, 4pm
- Tuesday October 7th 3pm, 3:30pm, 4pm
- Wednesday October 8th 10am, 10:30am, 11am

---

**GRADUATION**

Several international students who graduated in December 2007, May 2008 and August 2008 participated in the IU South Bend graduation ceremony. The event was held on May 6. Students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. These international students graduated with associate, bachelor and master degrees in Accounting, Applied Mathematics & Computer Science, Arts, Business, Education, Music, Nursing, and Sciences.

Congratulations to all the these students. Good luck with their new careers and future educational plans from the Office of International Student Services.
The international office has two new student workers. They started at the end of the spring semester.

Sirilik “Lilly” Tangsrianukul is our international graduate student assistant. She was born in a small town in the northern part of Thailand named Phrae. After graduating from the high school, she moved to Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand, in order to study for her bachelor degree in business administration (concentration in finance and banking). After graduation, she had the great opportunity to work for the Export-Import Bank of Thailand as a credit risk management analyst for two years. Then, she decided that she wants to pursue a masters degree, and so decided to study here at IU South Bend. In her spare time, she loves to read books, watch TV, surf the Internet, and visit many interesting places.

Chabula Mulumbu was born and raised in Lusaka, Zambia. He came to the U.S. during the summer of 2006 as an international student to study, at Indiana University South Bend. He’s currently in his junior year, majoring in Actuarial Science. During his spare time, he loves to read. Some of his favorite authors are Jeffery Archer and David Baldacci, whose books he was introduced to by Vera Dutkevich. He also loves to watch movies and travel, both locally in the US and Abroad. Some of the countries he has visited are Switzerland, England, Canada, Egypt, Australia, South Africa, Tanzania, Malawi, Mexico and Botswana. He is really hoping to add some Asian countries to this list in the near future.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dear Advisor,

I want to save some money by taking classes at Ivy Tech and Lake Michigan College. Do I need to tell the International Office or give the international office any information?

Sincerely,

Frugal Student

Dear Frugal Student,

What you will be doing is called concurrent enrollment. There are some things you will need to do.

• OISS needs a copy of your class schedule from the other school.

• You are still required to take at least one class at IU South Bend to maintain your immigration status.

• After you complete your class(es) at the other school, you will need to turn in an official or unofficial transcript.

If you do not complete the classes at the other school you will be out of status. You will also need to complete the class in the same semester as you start it. You cannot receive an incomplete grade. If you have any questions about being concurrently enrolled, please come in to the OISS.

WORLD CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE

Harvest Festival, Harvest Home, Harvest Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated around. People give thanks to god/God/goddess for the successful harvest. On this day(s), many people celebrate by singing hymns, praying, and decorating churches and other holiday places with baskets of fruit, vegetables, and food from the garden or farm.

In the U.S., this festival is set on the fourth Thursday of November, and has become a national holiday known as Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day. However, many countries around the world also have their own harvest festival and celebrate differently. In this newsletter, we will be looking at harvest festivals in the U.S.,
Are you in an international/culture club not listed below? Please contact Vivian at vyamoah@iusb.edu or call the OISS to be included in the February 2009 newsletter.

**ISO CORNER**

**EVENTS FOR THE SEMESTER**

As usual the International Student Organization (ISO) has a lot of activities planned for this semester. Below is a calendar. If you are interested in getting more information about ISO, please contact them at iso@iusb.edu or find them on facebook at

Friday, October 3, 2008 6-10pm Gathering
Friday, October 17, 2008 Gathering
Friday, October 31, 2008 Halloween Celebration Movies, Trick or Treating and Bonfire

Friday, November 21, 2008 6pm Thanksgiving Dinner
Friday, December 12, 2008 at 6pm End of Semester Party
Friday, January 16, 2009 Welcome Back Party

**WORLD CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE**

**HARVEST FESTIVALS (CONT.)**

Portugal, Chinese Communities, and Zambia.

**Harvest Festival in the U.S.:**

In the U.S., one of the most important holidays is Thanksgiving. It is a celebration of the first harvest of the English settlers in America nearly 400 years ago. On this day, families will gather to celebrate. They eat turkey, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, cranberry sauce, followed by sweet pumpkin pie for dessert. This festival is held on the fourth Thursday in November. A new addition to the U.S. Thanksgiving is watching an American football match between the Dallas Cowboys and another team.

**Harvest Festival in Portugal:**

One of the traditional harvest festivals of Portugal is called “Fiestas das Vindimias”. It is celebrated in early September in Palmela, a town 40 kilometers south of Lisbon. The festival is famous for the wine harvest. People have the opportunity to drink the wines.

**Harvest Festival in Chinese Communities:**

The Harvest Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival or the Moon festival is one of the important festivals celebrated by Chinese communities around the world. Traditionally, the Moon Cake Festival is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month in observance of the bountiful Autumn harvest. They celebrate this festival by making offerings to the Earth God, Tu-di Gong, in hope that the god will make the next year’s harvest even more plentiful. The festival is a time for family reunions, and picnicking. People climb mountains in order to have better views of the moon. They also eat moon cakes, pomelos or Chinese grapefruits, and pray to the Moon god for protection, family unity, and good fortune.

**Harvest Festival in Zambia:**

On 24th February, every year, all eyes and ears are turned to the eastern province of Zambia. There, in a village called Mutenguleni, home to the paramount Chief of the Ngoni people, Chief Mpezeni, the Harvest Festival is held. The ceremony is called N’cwala and it’s the gathering of all the twelve chiefs of the eastern province to offer the first produce of the year to their paramount chief. The chiefs travel with their best musicians, dancers and farm produce. The celebrations consist of many activities—dancing, singing, and wrestling—among the Ngoni men to show off their warrior origins. The Ngoni chief selects a group of dancers that he is most impressed by as the best warrior dancers in his province; this is a very honorable position. The chief then drinks cow blood killed at the ceremony as a blessing on the harvest and as a sign for his people to begin harvesting and eating.
HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance bills were posted to student accounts on September 15th. Health Insurance cards will be mailed to the OISS. Students will receive an email when their card is available for pick-up.

It is important that students who have their own insurance submit a waiver of the IU mandatory insurance before the waiver deadline. The OISS will no longer be accepting late waivers. Students who do not waive the insurance before the deadline will be charged for the school insurance. Email reminders about waiving the insurance are sent to official IU South Bend email addresses. The waiver for spring will be available in mid-to late December.

If you have any questions about health insurance, please come in to speak to Vera.

ENGLISH GONE CRAZY? MAD?
SILENT LETTERS

According to Wikipedia, a silent letter is “a letter that, in a particular word, doesn’t correspond to any sound in the word’s pronunciation.” According to the Esperanto Society of Chicago more than 60% of English words have silent letters. Simply put, silent letters appear in the word, but we ignore them when we say the word, an example is knife. We do not pronounce this word as K-nife, rather the K is silent and the word reads as ‘nife’. So, are all these letters put there to make spelling and pronunciation difficult for non-native speakers? Or even maybe to identify who is a native English speaker or not? The answer isn’t that simple.

There are three main reasons as to why our non-vocal friends -silent letters- exist.

Old English would have been much easier for non-native speakers because the words were written the same way that they sounded. This started to change when words were borrowed from other languages. These words had different grammar and pronunciation rules and would not follow the rules of pronunciation. Another reason is that we use the Latin alphabet which does not have enough letters to represent all the sounds we use when speaking. So, letters are usually combined to make a certain sound. Over time, the English language has evolved in terms of pronunciation. We say words differently today, compared to, let’s say, when people used the same words in the 15th century. However, the spelling of the words remained unchanged. This also contributed to the existence of silent letters. Below are some examples of words with silent letters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Silent letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>crumb</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gnome</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>daughter</td>
<td>GH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***herb</td>
<td>***h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knock</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pneumonia</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>island</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>listen</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guess</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***In British English the h is not silent.
Calendar of Events

September
12th—ISO Welcome Party
16th—OPT/CPT Workshop SAC 223 4-5pm
17th—OPT/CPT Workshop SAC 221 4-5pm

October
3rd—OPT Appointments
6th—OPT Appointments
7th—OPT Appointments
8th—OPT Appointments
ISO Halloween Party**

November
ISO Thanksgiving Celebration**
27th—Thanksgiving (no classes)
28th—no classes

December
6th—Last day of classes
8th—13th—Final Exams
ISO end of semester party**
14th—January 11th—winter holidays

January
6th—International Student Orientation
12th—First Day of Class spring semester
ISO Welcome Party**

** items—check email for date, time and location