



Intensive English Institute



MEET THE IEI INTERNS



Justin Steffen

Erik Connelly

Patricia Mathy

The **IEI interns** are the ambassadors of fun! They help organize tours, events, parties, and volunteer activities. They are here to answer your questions and make sure that you do so much more than “book learning” while you are here in Champaign-Urbana. They will help you work through your culture shock, overcome school stress, gain a better understanding of American culture, meet lots of people, and make unforgettable memories of your stay in the U.S. Look for Justin, Erik, and Patricia at all IEI events...they are looking forward to meeting you!

Question: Where are you from?

Justin: I'm from a town less than an hour from here, Cissna Park, Illinois.

Erik: Schaumburg, IL, U.S.A.--A suburb of Chicago that is well-known for its great shopping centers!

Patricia: I'm from Champaign!

Q: What do you hate?

Justin: Human slavery and "trafficking"

Erik: I hate 'posing.' Be yourself...

Patricia: Being tired

Q: What are you studying at the University of Illinois?

Justin: I'm a junior in Psychology.

Erik: I'm a junior in Integrative Biology (ecology, conservation, etc.).

Patricia: I'm a senior studying Political Science and Spanish.

Q: What do you love?

Justin: Barbecue Ribs!

Erik: I love music, science, and languages!

Patricia: Chocolate!

Q: What experiences do you have in working with people who speak different languages?

Justin: I have been to Mexico three times, lived with some dudes from South Korea, currently live with a guy from Rwanda, and am involved with a campus group called "Bridges International" that brings international students and American students together every Friday night for real-life discussions.

Erik: I have traveled to the Dominican Republic, Taiwan, and briefly to Korea and Japan. I've volunteered in the Convopartner program at the IEI for 1 year. I lived in the Global Crossroads dorm my freshman year; check it out! It's the greatest dorm on campus!

Patricia: I've studied abroad in Spain, Mexico, Ecuador and Argentina, and I spent last summer working in the Dominican Republic.

Q: What are you looking forward to as an intern this semester?

Justin: Meeting a bunch of sweet international students from all around the world and sharing experiences with them!

Erik: I'm looking forward to being behind the scenes at the IEI events--to help make sure everyone has a fun time in the States.

Patricia: Getting to know the IEI students better.

Q: Give an example of culture shock that you have experienced.

Justin: When I went to Monterrey, Mexico, I slept on top of a roof of a building; on one side of me I saw a bunch of shacks and on the other side I saw skyscrapers. It was a shock to see the way some people live so poor.

Erik: I experienced culture shock my first year here at U of I, actually! (What can I say? I went to a small high school)...I realized how many foreign people come to the U.S.A. and really impact and create 'American culture'--we have kind of a complicated culture in my opinion.

Patricia: This isn't culture shock, so much as a funny moment - I once tried to tell my Spanish host mom that I really liked what she had served for breakfast, but I used the wrong word and accidentally told her that I liked a certain type of illegal drug.

Q: What makes you unique?

Justin: I was an all-state basketball player in high school.

Erik: My ethnicity. I'm 25% Irish, German, Swedish, and Mexican.

Patricia: I'm half French and one of my eyes is two different colors.



Beware the cold weather blahs!



The weather is cold, and the temptation is to stay at home, in bed, under several layers of blankets. But that's no fun! You have got to go outside, explore, and meet people! In addition to the upcoming IEI events that are listed on the next page, here are some more recommendations of fun things to do when the weather is cold: Invite some friends to hang out at a coffee shop. Go bowling (\$5.30) or play billiards at the Illini Union. Go ice skating at the U of I Ice Arena (\$1). Show off your videogame skills on the Wii at the Union Oasis (free). Take a walk around the Krannert Art Museum or Spurlock Museum (free). Attend a tea ceremony at the Japan House (\$5). Attend a free concert in the lobby of the Krannert Center. Cook dinner for your convopartner at your home. And when the snow falls again, join everyone on the Quad for a big snowball fight!

Upcoming IEI Events

Don't miss these great events coming up soon!

For more upcoming events, see <http://www.iei.uiuc.edu/calendar.htm>

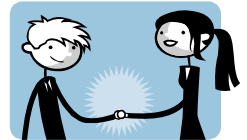


- Friday, January 30th, 9:00 AM or 1:00 PM - TOEFL PPT Exam**
 66 Library (located in the basement, enter from the west parking lot)
 The pencil and paper TOEFL is useful for students who wish to use this score to apply to UIUC, for submission to a university in your home country, or simply for personal reasons.
- Friday, January 30th, 4:30-7:00 PM - IEI Welcome Party**
 Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana. (on the corner of Green and Goodwin)
 Spend time with your new friends and eat pizza! Your family is also welcome to join us.



- Tuesday, February 3rd, 5:00-6:00 PM - Convopartner Orientation Meeting**
 Natural History Building, Room 228 (located on the northeast corner of the Quad)
 Learn more about how the program works, and meet your new partner at this meeting.

- Wednesday, February 4th, 7:00-8:30 PM - Convopartner Meet and Greet**
 BASIC House, 1008 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana (on the corner of Lincoln and Ohio)
 Meet more convopartners, spend time with other IEI students, build friendships, practice English, and drink coffee.



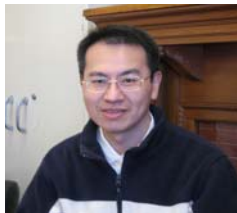
- Monday, February 9th, 5:30-6:30 PM - Volunteer Orientation Meeting**
 Asian American Cultural Center, 1210 W. Nevada Street, Urbana (across from the IEI)
 Learn about volunteer opportunities on campus this semester. Practice English, connect with the community, and feel good about helping others!

New Student First Impressions



Wendy Wu, Taiwan

This is the first time I've come to America, and I think it's beautiful. And my host family is so nice.



Jovi Lin, Taiwan

I arrived two weeks ago to Chicago. We went to Navy Pier and Millennium Park. My first impression of Champaign is that it's so cold!



Seon Dong Kim, Korea

People are very friendly to me, always smiling. The people in my dorm have helped me, like how to find the laundry room and use the machines. So my first impression is very good!



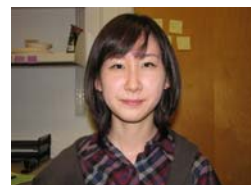
Tuba Yildirim, Turkey

I was in Connecticut before I came here. There, everyone drives everywhere. I like that we can walk everywhere here on this campus.



Patrick Tchassam, Camaroon

I had fun at a dance club in Champaign. But I think it closed too early, at 2am. In my country, people dance at the club all night!



Jimin Kwon, Korea

I am from Seoul, which is so big. Champaign has big trees, less people and fewer cars, and it seems so peaceful. I like it.

More Events on Campus

- Thursday, January 29th, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM - Iranian Coffee Hour**
 Cosmo Club, 307 E. John Street, Champaign, **free**
 At these informal gatherings, coffee, tea, and homemade ethnic desserts are served. International coffee hours are hosted every Thursday at the Cosmo Club. Lebanon will host on **Feb 5th**, and Ukraine on **Feb 12th**.
- Friday, February 6th, 5:00 PM - Traffic Jam: The Boat Drunks**
 Krannert Center, Lobby, **free**
 This performance will help you imagine that you are sitting on a warm, relaxing beach with a margarita in your hand!
- Saturday, February 7th, 2:00 PM - Winter Tales: American Indian Storytelling Concert**
 Spurlock Museum, 600 S. Gregory, Urbana, **\$5**
 Join us for one of the Museum's most popular annual events, a concert of American Indian tales.
- Saturday, February 7th, 7:30 PM - February Dance: White Out**
 Krannert Center, Colwell Playhouse, **\$9-17**
 Krannert Art Museum and Japan House join faculty artist Rebecca Netti-Fiol to reconstruct her elegant Paper Song, a work performed within a large-scale white paper sculpture constructed by Japanese visiting artist Kyoko Ibe.
- Thursday, February 12th, 5:00 PM - Krannert Uncorked**
 Krannert Center Lobby, **free**
 Join your friends for a free sampling of wines from area distributors. It's the perfect way to unwind, reconnect, or simply enjoy the complimentary cheese and crackers!

