



# ***Bridging Borders***

*International Friendship Program*

## ***Spring Edition 2018***

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY.

CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

**CILMAR**

MENTORSHIP • ASSESSMENT • RESEARCH

### ***Dancing Into Spring*** by Joseph Briller

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, IFP welcomed 86 guests - brand new Boilermakers and their IFP hosts to the combined New Chauncey Neighborhood/IFP Mixer 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup & Square Dance. A marvelous lineup of soups, salads and desserts were enjoyed (along with lively conversation) as new Boilermakers met their hosts, their families and New Chauncey neighbors for the first time.

Then the magic hour for dancing arrived. Tables were moved aside and Caller Barry Rubin and his merry musicians invited all to the dance floor. A delightful series of circles and squares followed, each filled with fun movements, light steps and easy to follow sequences.

Soon everyone was on the floor, smiling, laughing and having a joyous time. Every dance insured a frequent change of partners - each gentleman danced with all the ladies and each lady had a turn with all the gentlemen.



Barriers created by age, geography and table seating had all come down by the end of the evening. It had been a Mixer in the best sense of the word and a wonderful debut to IFP and Spring 2018.

Editor's Note: Joseph Briller welcomes your experiences, stories and suggestions. In addition to his service as editor, he and Joan are also IFP hosts. He can be reached at [jjbriller@gmail.com](mailto:jjbriller@gmail.com).



### ***Welcoming the World*** by Joseph Briller

While many of us are enjoying mid-summer vacations, IFP Coordinator, Beth Tucker, and IFP Community Liaison, Wendy Medbourn, are preparing to "welcome the world."

Arriving on the Purdue campus in a few short months is the Fall 2018 class of new international students. who come from many different cultures and often have English as a second or third language. Far from home and family, many sign up for IFP hoping to find welcome, support and encouragement which IFP hosts and families can provide. So often hosts provide just that and become second families for them.

Many elements are involved in facilitating IFP, and it all needs to happen in a relatively short time frame. Developing new marketing and recruiting brochures and videos, sending emails, visiting community organizations, and conducting orientations—all with the goal of easing the transition for students and facilitating relationship building for hosts and students.

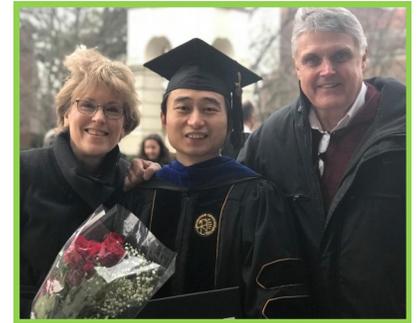
Without the help of community coordinators, Beth and Wendy could not accomplish all the planning and logistics that's required to match so many hosts, families and their students and to coordinate welcome events and activities. In the end, it's all about students and hosts spending quality time that can lead to friendship.

Beth came to IFP and CILMAR from ISS where she was an international student advisor. Wendy's background is in matching hosts and students in high school international exchange. Both share the desire to welcome the world to our campus and community, indeed a rewarding endeavor.

## Hosting In Action by Joseph Briller

IFP hosts, Dave and Betsy Ayers, along with Andrea Waclawek, enjoy welcoming and introducing international students and scholars to the American scene and Indiana living.

Dave and Betsy represent a number of retirees in IFP who love serving as hosts. Dave's initial interest in all things global was piqued when he was a study abroad student in Romania. Later, Dave and Betsy taught ESL in China and in returning to the U.S., Dave pursued graduate studies and a career in international higher education. Dave retired in December from Purdue where in his job as Associate Director of CILMAR, he oversaw IFP.



Dave, Betsy and Chao



Feng, Andrea and Ming-Hsuan

Andrea is here finishing a two year internship in fulfillment of a graduate degree from Notre Dame. Upon moving to the area, Father Patrick at St. Tom's encouraged her to check out IFP. She quickly felt an unexpected ease in connecting with students in spite of cultural differences and new cuisine.

Dave and Betsy like to involve their students in family celebrations at Thanksgiving and Christmas along with cookouts, games and ping-pong tournaments.

To get beyond cultural stereotypes, Dave, Betsy and Andrea advise hosts to start by asking students good questions and listening to their stories. "Be sensitive, respectful and kind," Andrea says. "The students will come to understand you as well."

Dave and Betsy will continue serving students in retirement, and Andrea upon graduation this May will work with a program that welcomes and supports unaccompanied minors who have immigrated to the U.S.

We will certainly miss having them around but wish them well in bridging new borders!

**It's a great way to meet people!**

**Colombians bowl and play ping pong.**

*Bowling is not big in Thailand. Used to be a fun way to learn math!*

**PEOPLE BOWL THE WORLD OVER!**

**Kids have birthday parties at bowling alleys.**

**I like to eat ceviche when I bowl.**

**IT'S EXPENSIVE IN INDIA! Surprised it's even played in the U.S.**

**In Germany we use a smaller ball and NINE pins.**

**BOWLING IS A HIGH SCHOOL PE CLASS IN TAIWAN.**



**BOWLING & PICNIC, APRIL 7**



**THIRTY COLOMBIAN STUDENTS ARRIVE ON JUNE 15.**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A HOST?**

**LET BETH OR WENDY KNOW TODAY!**