IUB’s Newest International Students Benefit from Mid-Year Orientation

Imagine how you might feel if you were a new student in a foreign country. After traveling thousands of miles away from your home and your loved ones, you suddenly find yourself in a strange, unfamiliar place— you have no friends, and you know nothing about your new environment.

The New International Student Orientation, which took place at IUB’s Leo R. Dowling International Center Jan. 5-9, provided not only practical assistance but also a warm welcome for approximately 130 new international students.

During the orientation sessions, students got their immigration documents checked, signed up for such important programs as English Proficiency exams, computer classes, and sports center tours, and obtained useful information on INS regulations, employment on- and off-campus, health insurance, transit procedures, social security number applications, taxes, campus safety, and so on.

More than 50 volunteers, mostly other international students already at IU, devoted themselves to assisting and comforting the newcomers in every possible way. Some community members also came from Bloomington Worldwide Friendship to offer tours of Bloomington and Indianapolis, match international students with American host families, and lend various household items that new students might need. The orientation was supported by several local businesses, who donated needed items. The Center also hosted three nights of popular American movies.

Those who came to the orientation were pleased that they were able to find new friends from different countries so quickly. By the final day of the orientation, IU’s newest international students seemed to be feeling more comfortable with their new life at the university and in Bloomington.

— Mayumi Nakano
International Center Volunteer

Asian Student Aid Fund

Several hundred Indiana University students who receive funding for their education from Asian sources now face financial difficulty and uncertainty because of the devaluation of Asian currencies.

In response to this development, a fund has been established to assist students who have been affected by the Asian financial crisis. Money raised will provide aid in the form of loans and grants. The fund will be managed by a special committee of the Office of International Services.

If you wish to contribute, please send a check or money order payable to “IU Foundation” and mark it for the Asian Student Aid Fund.

Please send your contribution to:
Office of International Services
ATTN: Kenneth A. Rogers
Franklin Hall 306
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

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