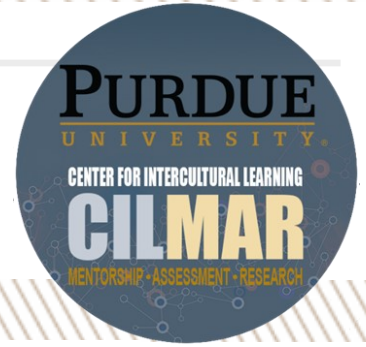


Bridging Borders

The International Friendship Program



IFP FALL EDITION 2018

Tim and Renee Cason, 2018 IFP Host Award Recipients

Each year the International Friendship Program awards a host/family who exemplifies the heart of IFP.



On September 12th, IFP presented this year's award to Tim and Renee Cason. Tim, a Purdue professor of economics, and Renee, a nurse at Unity Outpatient Surgery Center, have lived in the area for over twenty years and in IFP for eight years.

In addition to hosting students, the Casons invite new hosts and their new Colombian students to their lovely home for the June Mixer Picnic, the time when newly arrived students and their new hosts/families meet for the very first time. Situated on a golf course at the end of a cul-de-sac, the Cason home is the perfect place for a summer gathering.

Beth Tucker, IFP Coordinator, recalls the time Renee asked if they could host the 2016 Mixer Picnic at their home. "They wouldn't be in the country to host students that year but they could host an event. "Little did we all know this would become one of our most anticipated annual events."

IFP Community Liaison Wendy Medbourn appreciates Renee as recruiter of new IFP hosts. "We can always count on the Casons with a last minute placement," said Wendy. "They have many friends, neighbors and colleagues, and their enthusiasm for IFP is contagious!"

Thank you, Tim and Renee, for opening your hearts and home to students and hosts from around the world.

June Mixer Picnic, A Smashing Success! by Joseph Briller

On June 21st, 22 IFP hosts and their families welcomed 30 research students from the Universidad Nacional in Bogota at the Mixer Picnic. Everyone loves an American hot dog and hamburger (or veggie burger), especially charred from the grill. Most students had to try both. Popular American picnic sides—potato salad, baked beans and watermelon—were prepared by hosts and rounded out the menu.

Although wet grounds from earlier heavy rains knocked out soccer and Ultimate Frisbee, there was plenty to talk about. Nataly Chacon, majoring in earth and planetary sciences, summed it up well: "We were all excited to get to know our host families. We enjoyed the delicious food, but most of all the good company." Thanks again to Tim and Renee for hosting another IFP special welcome.

Fall Harvest Party, Oct 13th



Fall IFP Participants

159 Hosts and their Families
matched with 234 Students,
Scholars and their Families
from 47 Countries

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh,
Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China,
Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France,
Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana,
Hong Kong, Hungary, India,
Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan,
Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico,
Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan,
Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Russia,
Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore,
South Korea, Spain, Sweden,
Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan,
Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, the U.S.,
and Vietnam.

Updates from Students and Hosts!

From **Khadija Masood**: Really happy to be paired with **Juliane Voorhoeve**. She's so warm and is one of the nicest people I've met here!

From **Juliane Voorhoeve**: **Khadija Masood** and I had a wonderful time at dinner tonight. The conversation flowed beautifully. It was just a lovely evening.

From **Sally Moore**: I've enjoyed two visits so far with **Bárbara** and her friend **Helen**. Neat ladies! The second time with them was the Brazilian Student Association callout. I'm pretty sure it's what heaven will be like for me.

From **Carol and Bob Stwalley**: Bob and I have enjoyed **Camillo** and his fiancée. They are similar in age to our daughter and new husband, so I hope they will become biking friends. Camillo is an ag engineer. Same department as Bob's! Perfect match!

From **Omar Tantawi**: I had dinner with the **Sheffields** and we're planning breakfast this weekend. They're very nice and I love the experience with them.

From **Suzan and Chuck Mertes**: We are still in touch with all of the students we have hosted and are so enjoying watching them move into the next phases of their lives. We were even lucky enough to meet **Satwik's mother** and **Zitao's parents and aunt**. We have visited **Satwik** and **Zitao** in their new homes and continue to correspond with **Yumeng, Fatin, Dyana**, and **Jona** (a Mandela Fellow) and **Simon** (our exchange student from France). Some of the kids may come for Thanksgiving or over Christmas. We hope to visit China, southern Africa, and France in the next couple of years. It has been incredibly rewarding for us!

From **Pat and Charlie Short**: **Kartikeya, Vivek, Maria, Philippe** and **Santiago** all had a great time working at Feast of Hunter's Moon. See photos on IFP Facebook page!