



**PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®**

Office of International
Students and Scholars

BRIDGING BORDERS

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2020

Host and student participants' favorite parts of Fall captured in a word doodle at the First Friday event in October.



You shared your stories!

What has this Fall meant to you? How are you enjoying IFP so far?

"We met at a park at picnic tables (6' apart and different tables), had lunch and went for a mile hike down a trail. For all of us it felt great to get out and talk to others face to face, something so normal and common but so special during these strange times we are living in right now."

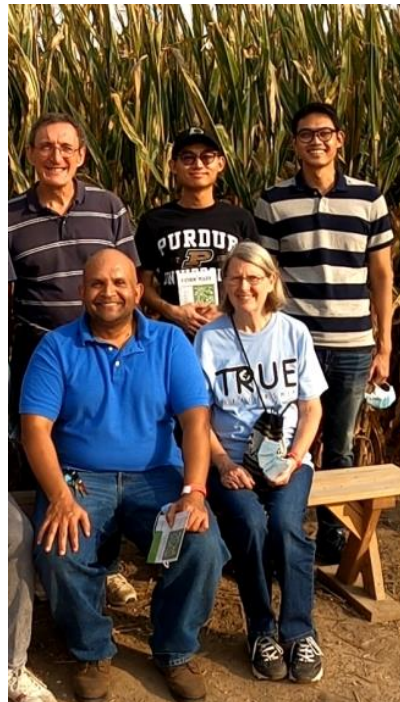
"We visited the Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette, ate lunch at Frozen Custard, watched the baby goats frolicking at the petting zoo and the wallabies hopping around the Australian exhibit. Our international friend told us something kind of sad. Zoo's are no longer open in Argentina."

"I have enjoyed every moment Skyping with my super kind, loving and open-minded host family. We've gotten to know each other very well. I learned a bit of history since my host used to be a history teacher. I'm excited. I feel like I have a family awaiting me already!"

"We went to Prophetstown State Park, then Battleground for lunch where we had cheese curds and breaded tenderloins! My three-year old daughter adored her new "sister." It was lovely to "see" their smiles through their masks!"

A Trip To Exploration Acres

Deep in the heart of Lafayette lies Exploration Acres, a popular spot for the curious of all ages. Its famous corn maze, pumpkins, and hayrides offer a healthy outdoor alternative during a pandemic. Hosts Steve and Sandy Flamini connected with Abdullah, KD and Cho-Hsin over hiking the corn maze and tail-gating from their own vehicle.



Taiwanese PhD ECE candidate Cho-Hsin Tai welcomed taking a day trip with the Flamminis to experience a corn maze with IFPers from Ecuador, India and Bangladesh. For Cho-Hsin the day trip felt like "coming back to life" after extended study time at his computer. Exploration Acres was the best experience he's had at Purdue so far!

On Board with IFP

Kristina Pelfree came to ISS in March 2020 to widen her professional horizons. In her role as an administrative assistant within IFP, Kristina has been able to extend a warm welcome to Purdue's international students, a goal she finds deeply satisfying.

Beyond welcoming students, Kristina would like to help create programs that unite students from all races, genders, religions, and nationalities. She believes all people should be treated equally with love and respect.

Service to Purdue runs deep in her DNA with sister, Kyra, operations manager in PMU; sister, Makyla, at PMU in catering; and sister-in-law, Kym, operations manager in the Civil Engineering Joint Transportation Research Program.

They are a Boilermaker family.

Favorite things? Beaches, parks, movies, and Purdue football games! She enjoys various activities with husband, Nick, and daughters, Hannah, Laynee, Brynlee, and Rylee. Nick coaches the girls' basketball team, and Kristina enjoys keeping the books and running the time clock for the team's games. Most of all, Kristina wants to instill in her daughters that hard work, education, and family lead to good futures.

Kristina loves a good challenge and her new position offers an opportunity for professional growth. She recently began her journey to finish her bachelor's degree in business management with a focus in human resources. Her own future at Purdue looks bright indeed.

Spotlight on Boilermaker

Baking in Bogota

Emily Cassanmagnago, from Italy, is currently living and working in Colombia in this her first semester at Purdue. She thoroughly enjoys her Skype sessions with hosts Joan and Joseph Briller.

Although a freshman in her studies, Emily has reached "masters level" in her baking. In addition to her Purdue online classes, Emily logs orders, shops for ingredients and bakes breads and pastries before driving through the heavy traffic of Bogota to make deliveries.

Emily is scheduled to arrive on the Purdue campus in January when Joan and Joseph will get to sample Emily's baking first hand.

[Inside an IFP "First Friday" - "Tea or coffee, anyone?"](#)

Hosts and students met on Zoom to debate the merits of tea and coffee. What followed was a stimulating discussion on the benefits of these favorite beverages. British American host, Pat Short, shared about British customs of tea. A photo of her fabulous tea cup collection is pictured at right.



Students shared stories of coffee and tea customs in China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Mexico. And hosts shared stories from travels in Bosnia, China, Jordan and Switzerland, as well as southern Indiana, where iced tea is the year-round beverage of choice.

Coffee Culture

Student Highlight

For grad student, Luis Maldonado, a discussion about coffee would not be complete without talking about Colombian coffee and the coffee culture of his beloved homeland. Drinking coffee in Colombia is as common-place as drinking water elsewhere said Luis. It's a staple!

Tea Time

Host Highlight

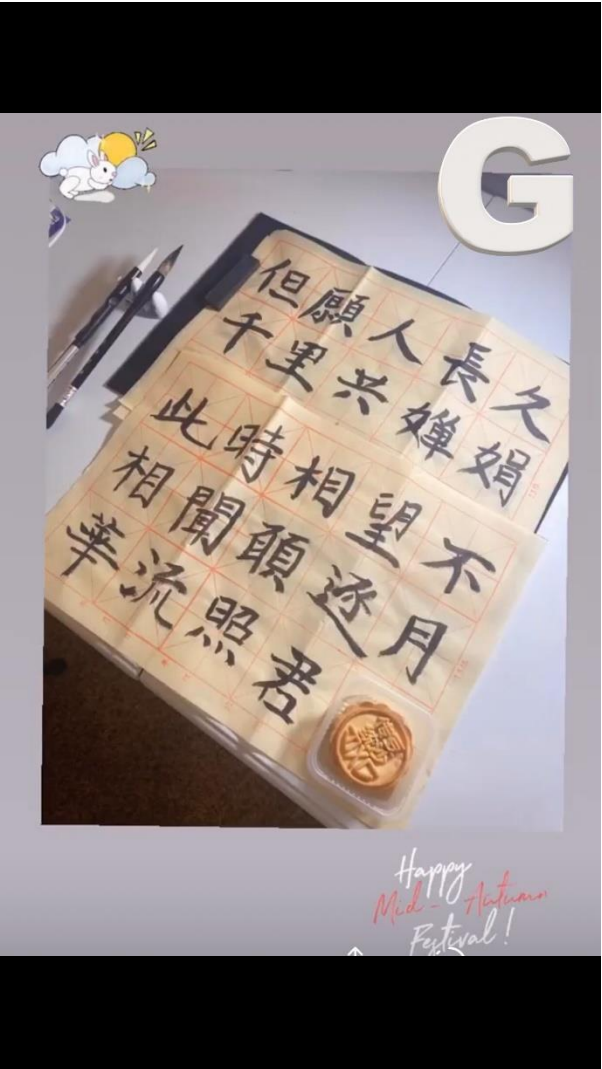
For host, Paul Brennan, a discussion about tea brought to mind "Aunt Lizzie's cookies" made from an old family recipe passed down through generations and introduced to Linda when Linda and Paul were dating. "A bit hard to eat" Linda recalls but when dunked in a cup of hot tea, a sweet treat to savor.

IFP Fall Memory Photo Contest

The fall photos you submitted are ready for your review! Please click on link below to select your favorite photo under each category by Thursday, November 19th. Winners and prizes will be announced on Friday, November 20th.

[**Vote Here**](#)

Fall Event Category



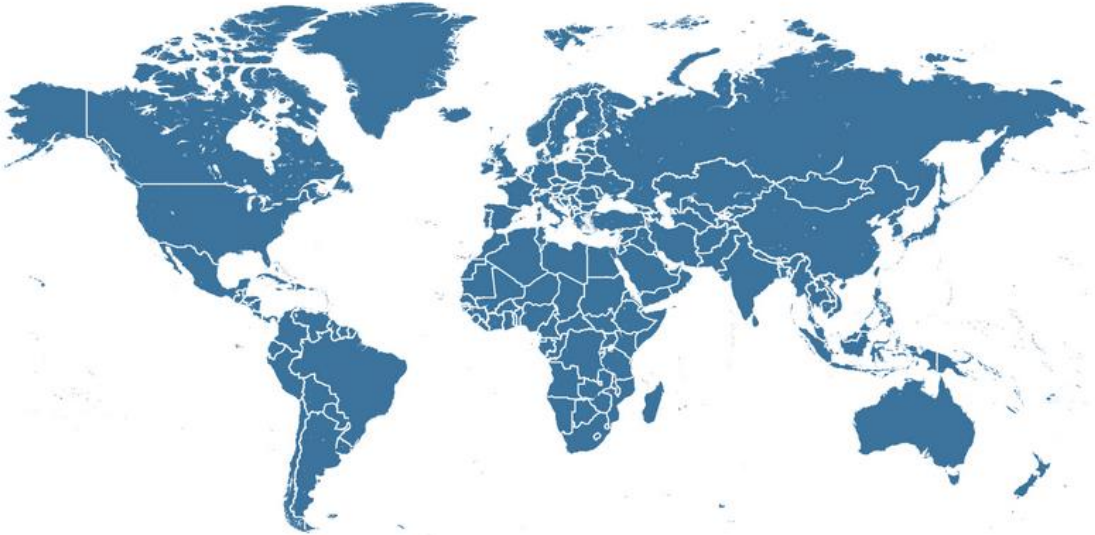
Fall Nature Category



People or Animal Story Category



Where are Fall 2020 IFP students from?



Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Macao, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, S. Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, Vietnam

Students

Hosts

94

66

Coming Up!

Last IFP First Friday!

***"Twas the Night Before
Christmas..."***

**December 4th, 2020
7:00-8:15 PM**

**Join other hosts and
student for this Host-A-
Boiler holiday themed
event.**



[Student Sign Up](#)

[Host Sign Up](#)



Office of International
Students and Scholars

Students and hosts, are you interested in meeting up online for a virtual holiday experience over the Thanksgiving and/or winter break?

Join *Host-A-Boiler Virtual 2020* and be matched for fun and friendship. Choose an online activity hosted by ISS or a virtual community event. First come, first serve. Sign up today!

[MORE INFO](#)

[Student Sign Up](#)

[Host Sign Up](#)

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