Messages From the FIN Staff

Welcome to Foster International! The community celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008 and we are very excited about another great year in 2009-2010. I look forward to meeting with each of you individually and learning about your academic and personal interests. My current research is on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture in Jamaica, but I am also interested in such things as: performance poetry, service-learning, ecovillages, urban farming, and trail running. I’m training for my 5th marathon in December if anyone wants to join me for a run sometime!

Dr. John Galuska, Director
855-6215  jgaluska@indiana.edu

Welcome to FIN! As an avid traveler and internationally-influenced ceramic artist, I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with all of you! Please stop by and introduce yourself - I would love to hear about all of your own travel experiences and cultural interests. Personally, I have travelled to Japan, England, Vietnam, and Korea, and I am very interested in learning about various arts from around the world. You are welcome to come by my office any time! If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss ideas for the FIN community, I am here to help.

Meredith McGriff-Miller, Office Assistant
855-0284  mcgriffm@indiana.edu

Upcoming Events

August 30  Foster International and Global Village Picnic
Get to know our neighbors at the Global Village, in Foster-Martin! This annual picnic is a great way to get to know the Global Village LLC residents, who are just as internationally minded as we are here at FIN! Come enjoy some great food and meet some new friends!

September 4  E-Board Elections
Come vote for the new FIN Executive Board Members! The E-Board is responsible for planning events in our community, so it’s important to choose great leaders who will represent your interests! Think you have what it takes to help run Foster International? Check on the Community Announcements on the back of this page.

September 24-27  Lotus World Music & Arts Festival
Enjoy this popular and exciting local music festival, which features live performances by artists from around the world! Those who attend this event will be provided with a one-day ticket to the festival AND dinner at a local ethnic restaurant!

Check out these links for future event ideas!

If you see an interesting activity that you would like to participate in, let us know! FIN often sponsors group activities and outings, and we want to hear your ideas!
Get involved with FIN!

The 2008-2009 school year featured many exciting events. We hope you will help us make 2009-2010 even more exciting! Check out the FIN website and blog for more event ideas, and talk to your RA or the FIN staff about events you would like to help plan! Joining the E-Board or an E-Board committee is a great way to get involved in the Foster International community!

Don’t Forget Your Passport!

Your passport is an important part of life at Foster International! Be sure to bring it with you when you attend events, meetings, and your Q-100 class. You will receive stamps or stickers to keep track of what you have participated in each semester.

Students who participate in at least 5 events will be rewarded at the end of each semester! If you have stamps from at least 5 events, you will be invited to attend a special event, and your name will be placed in a drawing for great prizes! More information will be available as the year progresses.
During the 2008-2009 school year, Foster International LLC proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary! Part of the celebration included planting and dedicating a new tree on the Foster grounds. Check out the plaque and our new tree near the entrance to Foster-Shea!

During their trip to Washington D.C. in January of 2009, the FIN Ambassadors kept us up to date by writing in the FIN blog. Below are some excerpts - view the complete blog entries at: http://finblog.edublogs.org.

**The Schlep (1/17)**
MapQuest estimates a trip from Bloomington to DC takes at least 11 hours, so none of us were expecting a simple journey. And, we’d be liars if we said that spending such a long time in a car was something we’d now like to do often. However, the voyage provided the opportunity, which we quickly seized, to bond with our fellow car members.

**A Night Tasting DC (1/17)**
We visited presidents Roosevelt, Lincoln, and Washington, and the monuments erected after the wars in Vietnam and Korea. We made a serious effort to study, revere, and clown around our nation’s capital. After discoveries, such as where the first statue of FDR in a wheelchair is (the WWII room of his memorial, and it’s literally just a chair with wheels) and whether or not the ice in the reflection pool is thick enough to support a person (it’s not), we called it a night and returned to our homes.

**Barack n’ Roll (1/18)**
A little after two, the Star Spangled banner was played, and a procession of VIP’s rolled in. Vice President Biden, his wife. When the Obama’s arrived, shrieks of joy and waving arms filled the air. I couldn’t help but awe at the effect this one man has on such a large group of people. Throughout the concert Obama bobbed his head to the music, laughing at impersonations done of him, while his daughters took pictures of people of “celebrities” on stage. The Obama family wooed the crowd once again with their ability to make people feel that they are one of us, we are one and together we will change the fate of our country.

**Good Morning Mr. President (1/20)**
In the distance ahead was the capital building. To our left was one of the Smithsonian buildings, complete with a set of snipers milling around on top. And to our right, our left, and especially our front and back were the crowds. Vast and colorful, a sea of people waiting for something we could all see comfortably at home on our couch. But, this was much more than we would find on our couches. This was anticipation breathing between our shivering lips. This was giddiness at the thought that in front of us way out in the distance was something really big. The rest is history, pun completely and utterly intended...

Would you like to blog about your own FIN experiences? Here’s how:

**Step One - Get involved in life at FIN, and be observant!**
**Step Two - Stop by the office and talk to Meredith to get access to the FIN blog!**
**Step Three - Tell us about your experiences and opinions!**
**FIN Bloggers will also be invited to a monthly dinner to discuss their writing ideas!**
**Community Announcements**

**Sign Up for the Q-100 Class**

All new Foster International LLC residents MUST register for our community development course, FLLC Q-100. This 1-credit class will help you meet other students and get adjusted to life at IU and Foster International. It is a 1 credit hour, 8 week course taught during the fall semester. If you have not added this class to your schedule, please do so immediately! To see the class times that are available and to sign up for a section that fits your schedule, please visit [www.fin.indiana.edu](http://www.fin.indiana.edu).

**Foster International T-Shirt**

In years past, FIN has designed a t-shirt for all residents. We would love to continue this tradition in 2009-2019! Please submit your t-shirt ideas via email to fin@indiana.edu.

**Newsletter Contributions!**

Every year we seek out photos from residents' home towns and home countries to feature on our website and in our newsletter. We are also interested in featuring short stories about students' experiences, interests, and activities. If you have something to share, please contact the FIN office assistant, Meredith.

**Executive Board Elections**

The FIN Executive Board (E-Board) will be holding its annual elections on September 4th, 2009. The available positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, and Educational Trustee. These positions are open to ANY student who is interested in planning FIN events and making Foster International a fantastic community this year! Contact the FIN staff to complete a self-nomination form and to get information about campaigning opportunities.

**FIN Website and Blog**

Did you know Foster International has it's own website and blog? Keep up to date on FIN events at [www.fin.indiana.edu](http://www.fin.indiana.edu) and [http://finblog.edublogs.org/](http://finblog.edublogs.org/).

**Seeking FIN Bloggers!**

Do you love to write? Why not share your thoughts on life at FIN via the FIN blog? If you are an avid blogger or writer and would like to make weekly or monthly contributions to the FIN blog, please contact the office assistant, Meredith, to discuss your commitment to the blog and set up access to the account. All FIN Bloggers will be invited to a monthly dinner to discuss their writing ideas!

**Yearbook Committee**

We are actively seeking residents to participate in the development of our 2009-2010 yearbook! This is a great opportunity for you to display your artistic ability by photographing events, conducting interviews, and writing narratives of life at FIN. Contact the FIN staff if you would like to participate!

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**For more information about the stories in this newsletter, please email mcgriffm@indiana.edu or call 812.855.0284**.

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**Foster International LLC**

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