



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018
OCTOBER 1ST-7TH

INTERNATIONAL BUCCANEER BUDDIES

It's never too late to join IBB! Email IFP-IBB@etsu.edu for more info.

IBB EVENTS THIS WEEK:

IBB TAILGATING & ETSU FOOTBALL GAME

On Saturday, October 6th, join IBB at our tailgating tent on the lawn outside of the Multicultural Center, and then attend the ETSU football game with us! Go BUCS!

Tailgating: Starts at **1:00pm** on the lawn outside of the multicultural center—come and eat snacks, play corn hole, and hang out with IBB students before the Homecoming Game.

Game: Starts at **3:30**. Where you best BLUE ETSU gear for the Blue-Out!

IBB MID-WEEK MEETUP & DINNER MEETUP

Join IBB at our mid-week and dinner meetups! Come and eat lunch with other international and domestic students at the **Marketplace at 12:15 p.m. every Wednesday**, or eat dinner at **7:30pm every Thursday**. This is

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, 10/2

*Free lunch at Campus House
11:30am-1:30pm*

Wednesday, 10/3

*IBB Mid-Week Meetup
12:15 p.m.
Marketplace*

*Dinner for \$1 6:00 p.m.
Campus House*

Thursday 10/4

*English Table
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Sherrod Library Room 128*

IBB Dinner Meetup

*7:30 pm
Market Place*

Friday, 10/5

*World Café
8:00 p.m. – Midnight
Campus House*

Saturday, 10/6

*International Taxi
10:30-12:00, Sherrod Library*

*IBB Tailgating &Football
Game*

*Multicultural Center Lawn
1:00pm Tailgate*

Sunday, 10/7

*Homecoming Gospel Choir
3:30, Brown Hall 112*

a fun, informal way to meet new people and see your friends in IBB. (You don't have to be part of IBB to come.)

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:

INTERNATIONAL TAXI

Need a ride to Walmart? Campus House is offering International Taxi this Saturday, **October 6th** from **10:30am-12:00pm**. Email Daniel Curtis (curtisjdot@gmail.com) and let him know you are coming. Show up on Saturday morning in front of Sherrod Library, at the water fountain.

JOHNSON CITY FARMER'S MARKET

Head to the Farmer's Market to enjoy fresh produce, baked and canned goods, arts and crafts and community fellowship. It happens every **Wednesday and Saturday, 7am-2pm**, for rest of the month of October.

GOSPEL & INTERNATIONAL HOMECOMING CONCERT

Gospel Choir and International Choir will host its annual fall concert along with special performances from guest choirs and praise teams.

Sunday, October 7th, 3:30pm in Brown Hall 112

ENGLISH TABLE

Want to improve your English speaking and listening skills? Want to learn more about American culture? Head over to English Table, a weekly learning group. Contact English Table leader Hannah Absher (absherh@etsu.edu) for more information.

Thursday, October 4th
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Sherrod Library, room 128 (1st floor)

CAMPUS HOUSE

Officially known as the Christian Student Fellowship, Campus House provides weekly activities and opportunities for international students.

Weekly Activities:

Tuesday - Free Lunch from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

International Student
Success
ETSU Multicultural
Center
1st Floor Lucille-Clement
423-439-4853
IFP-IBB@etsu.edu
Brooksbl@etsu.edu

NEED TO SEE BRITTANY?

ISS OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Thursday: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

OR

**EMAIL/CALL FOR AN
APPOINTMENT**

MULTICULTURAL CENTER LOUNGE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
8:00am – 7:00pm

Saturday
11:00am-4:00pm

Sunday
2:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday - Dinner for a dollar at 6 pm and a **worship service** at 7 pm
The worship service is for those interested in a Christian worship/study outlet.

Friday - World Cafe from 8pm to Midnight (snacks, games, conversation)

CAMPUS RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

ETSU COUNSELING CENTER:

The counseling center provides **FREE**, confidential, short-term mental health counseling to all currently enrolled ETSU students.

- To receive counseling:

Go to the Counseling Center in Neil Dossett Hall, 3rd floor, during walk-in hours to do an initial assessment. After the initial assessment, appointments can be made at your own convenience.

- WALK IN HOURS:** Monday-Thursday, 10:00am-11:30am, 2:00-3:30pm
- To make an appointment after initial assessment: 423-439-3333

- Link to website for more information:

<https://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling/default.php>



IBB STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Aleksanteri Rönkä!



Aleksanteri Paavo Matias Rönkä, or Alex, whose first name has been in his family for generations, is from Jyväskylä, Finland. Jyväskylä is an average-sized city of around 120,000 people. It is known for its beautiful hills and Lake Jyväskylä. Jyväskylä is known as the “Athens of Finland” because of its large number of students and its role as an educational center. Alex arrived at ETSU in August, and he’ll stay here for one semester. His mother, Tiina, teaches special needs children, and his father, Juha, is a nurse anesthetist. Alex has two sisters, Anniina and Annastiina. His older sister is a teacher, and his younger sister is studying for the university entrance exams. Alex has lived on his own for a while now, but this his first time being away from Finland for this long.

A senior at the University of Jyväskylä, Alex majors in computer science. He enjoys ice hockey and plays on the school’s team for an amateur adult league. He is a fan of the Chicago Blackhawks, and he is going to see a New York Rangers game in New York City over fall break. In addition to hockey, Alex enjoys playing many other sports including tennis, golf, and soccer. He also enjoys hanging out with his friends, playing computer games, and building websites for a small company owned by his friends.

Alex chose to study in the US after being encouraged by his older sister, who had studied in the US twice. ETSU was attractive to him because of the number of students, the numerous subjects that could be studied, and Tennessee’s warmer climate (compared to Finland). He’d also heard that the South’s culture is not as similar to Finnish culture as some other US regions are, so he wanted to experience it. Having never traveled to the US before, Alex views his time here as an adventure!

Alex has noticed many differences during his time at ETSU. First, college life is quite different. Universities in Finland do not have dorms, so dorm life has been an adjustment for him. Also, students in Finland have more academic freedom. It is not mandatory to attend classes; they can choose to watch the lectures online instead, and there is also less homework. Additionally, college is free for all students in Finland. Transportation is another difference. Most people in Jyväskylä do not own cars but rely on walking, cycling, and public transportation to get around the city. In Johnson City, it is harder to get around without a car, and most people use them to travel even short distances. His favorite aspects of life here so far are the friendliness of the people, the fun events, the focus on volunteering and contributing to the community, and the importance of personal freedoms and individualism.

During his time here at ETSU, Alex hopes to improve his English, learn about many different cultures, make friends from around the world, and travel around the US. An active member of IBB, Alex has already achieved one of his goals: IBB has helped him make friends from around the world. Because of IBB, he always has someone to turn to for help, which is the greatest benefit.

After his semester at ETSU, Alex plans to return to Finland and finish his Bachelor’s degree. He then hopes to get a job and work on his Master’s degree. Alex’s dream is to run his own software company one day. However, before any of this, Alex’s goal is to become the most well-known Finn on ETSU’s campus.

Welcome, Alex! We are happy to have you with us.