



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018  
SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL BUCCANEER BUDDIES

It's never too late to join IBB! The program promotes friendship and international understanding. **IBB is open to new and returning international students.** Even if it is not your first semester here, you can still be part of IBB. Contact [IFP-IBB@etsu.edu](mailto:IFP-IBB@etsu.edu) for more information. **You have two opportunities this week to learn more about IBB and meet its members:**

- **IBB THURSDAY DINNERS**
- Come and meet IBB students for dinner at the Market Place **every Thursday, 7:30pm.**
- **IBB MID-WEEK MEETUP**
- Join IBB at our mid-week meetup! Come and eat lunch with Brittany, international students, and domestic students at the **Market Place at 12:15 p.m. every Wednesday.**

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

**Tuesday, 9/18**

*Free lunch at Campus House  
11:30-1:30 p.m.*

**Wednesday 9/19**

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

*Dinner for \$1 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Service 7:00 p.m.  
Campus House*

**Thursday 9/20**

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

*IBB Dinner Meetup*

*7:30pm  
Market Place*

**Friday 9/21**

*International Day of Peace  
10:00am-2:00pm  
The Quad*

*Day of Peace Vigil*

*7:00pm  
Borchuck Plaza*

*Native American Festival*

*10:30am-6:00pm  
The Quad*

**Sunday, 9/23**

*Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon  
Festival  
5:00pm CPA Courtyard*

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Come learn about and celebrate the International Day of Peace.

- **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**
- Educational tables and activities: **10am – 2pm on the Quad**
- Vigil with International Choir and balloon release: 7pm, Borchuck Plaza (outside the library)

### NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

Celebrate Native American culture with an emphasis on Cherokee culture.

- **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** on the **Quad** (with the International Day of Peace)
- **10:30am -6pm**

### CHINESE MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is celebrated when the moon is believed to be the biggest and fullest. The festival includes traditional Chinese food, interactive games, Chinese ancient costume display and prizes. It's educational and family-friendly.

- **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- CPA Courtyard
- 5:00pm-9:00pm

### 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](mailto:absherh@etsu.edu)) for more information.

**Thursday, September 20th**  
**5:00-6:00 p.m.**  
**Sherrod Library, room 128 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

### CAMPUS HOUSE

Officially known as the Christian Student Fellowship, Campus House provides weekly activities and opportunities for international students to make connections with other ETSU students.

International Student  
Success  
ETSU Multicultural  
Center

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lucille-Clement  
423-439-4853

[IFP-IBB@etsu.edu](mailto:IFP-IBB@etsu.edu)

[Brooksbl@etsu.edu](mailto: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

## Weekly Activities

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

**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

### CFAA TUTORING

The CFAA offers **free** individual tutoring in writing, math, science, many general education core courses, and select upper level courses.

- To register for tutoring:
  - Register online here:  
<https://etsu.mywconline.com/>
  - Visit their desk at the library
  - Call 423-439-7111
- CFAA Main Page:  
<https://www.etsu.edu/uged/cfaa/learning/>
- Hours
  - Monday – Thursday: 9am – 8pm
  - Friday: 9am – 4pm
  - Saturday: 11am – 5pm
  - Sunday: 2pm – 8pm



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Mei Hirata

Mei Hirata, who was named after a character in the Miyazaki film *My Neighbor Totoro*, is from Kanagawa, Japan. Kanagawa is a coastal prefecture just south of Tokyo. It is known for its beautiful beaches, including the famous Shonan Beach, and its hot springs. Leaving her parents and her little sister in Japan, Mei came to ETSU in August. She will study here until May of 2019.



A love of Disney Channel shows sparked her desire to learn English and study in the United States. After reading a paper written by a classmate who had previously studied abroad here, Mei decided to attend ETSU. The classmate discussed her positive experiences with the International Buccaneer Buddies (IBB) program, and Mei wanted to be a part of it.

Mei is a big fan of musical theater, having performed in *West Side Story* at her university in Japan. (She was a Jet!) *High School Musical* is her favorite musical. In addition, Mei has played basketball for nine years. She also enjoys traveling and has visited Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong

and Hawaii.

A marketing major, Mei is interested in the differences between Japanese and American marketing strategies and practices, specifically in the context of commercials. Mei hopes to observe and learn from these differences during her time here. Mei also hopes to improve her English and build close friendships with American students.

Mei has noticed many cultural differences thus far. First, people here like talking! Americans are much more talkative to strangers and new people they meet in public places. Second, it is acceptable in the US to invite one's friends to join in social plans, even if that person does not know anyone else in the group. Third, students do not talk or ask questions in Japanese classrooms during lectures. They wait and ask questions during the professor's office hours. However, students in the US are encouraged to interact and participate in class discussions. Finally, people eat more here! The portion sizes in the US are much bigger than Mei is used to at home.

An active new member of IBB, Mei is grateful for the program and all that it has provided for her. She has not eaten lunch alone in the Market Place once since she arrived! Mei was connected to her buddy before arriving at ETSU, which greatly increased her confidence and excitement. Knowing she had a friendly face waiting for her helped to reduce her nervousness and anxiety.

Mei has loved her time here, and she can't wait to continue to grow and learn as an ETSU student. In the future, Mei hopes to get a job in marketing and advertising in the United States. Her dream job is to work for the Walt Disney Company. After all, her love of Disney inspired her to start this journey!