



## Meet the IEI Office Staff



**Rhonda Kissling** is the IEI's Admissions Secretary. She processes the applications, prepares the I-20s, and answers questions from students and advisors before they come to the IEI. Rhonda is usually the first person students meet when they arrive at the IEI. Rhonda has been working on campus for almost 15 years. She loves working at the IEI because she enjoys meeting students

from all over the world. However, Rhonda says it is always sad to see when students finish their studies at the IEI and move on with their lives.

**Deb Ackerman** handles the IEI finances. She processes payments and commissions and prepares students' bills for tuition and fees. Deb has worked on the U of I campus for 23 years, but she just joined the IEI in September. She says that she enjoys the challenge and excitement of learning a new job. She also likes it when the IEI students recognize her outside of the office and say hello.



## International Student Enrollment

The number of international students enrolled in American colleges and universities rose by 3.2 percent last fall - the first significant increase since 2001. According to the latest report, in 2006 there were 582,984 foreign students in the United States. Higher-education officials attribute the growth to stronger recruitment efforts by universities, the rising numbers of students who seek education abroad, and continued efforts by the U.S. government to smooth the visa-applica-

tion process. The countries with the most students in the US are India, China, and Korea.

What is the situation at the University of Illinois? The University of Illinois ranked 4th among US universities in total number of international students enrolled, placing after the University of Southern California, Columbia University, and New York University. In Fall 2006, international students made up 12% of the population of students enrolled at the University of Illinois - 5,000 international students out of a total enrollment of over 41,000. Nearly 70 percent of international students at the University of Illinois are studying for a graduate degree.

## From the IEI Students

**Why I appreciate the IEI - by Hsuan-Ning Ching**



I appreciate the IEI because they care about me and give me what I need and what I want.

From placement test to choosing what classes I like, IEI did their best to put me in the level that was suitable for me. Even though it was hard for me in the beginning, teachers helped me patiently to overcome every difficulty both in school and in my new adopted environment.

Because my teachers never hesitated to answer my all questions, I improve a lot, from a person who had difficult reading Toefl articles to a person who can read Time magazine; from a person who didn't really clearly understand daily conversation to a person who can understand a 50 minute lecture now. Also, they offered a lot of resources or held a lot of activities besides regular classes. In every activity, I not only learned English, made new friends, but also had lots of fun. There are always countless interesting activities waiting for me like the Valentine's Day and Halloween parties or game night every week. I appreciate the IEI because even they gave me more than my expectations. They help me make learning English fun this year.

## REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR SPRING 2008 APPLICATIONS DECEMBER 14, 2007!

### Useful Links for Advising Students About the IEI Click Title to Access

**Handbook for International Agents and Advisors**

- Latest information and assistance!

**Apply to IEI!**

- Application, dates, costs

**Student Newsletters**

- Stay up-to-date with student information

**IEI Program**

- Program descriptions

**Deadline for applications for the Spring 2008 term is December 14, 2007!**  
**Spring registration starts January 11, 2008 • Summer registration starts June 2, 2008**

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