



## NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Each year, U.S. News & World Report publishes a list of "America's Best Colleges" and "America's Best Graduate Schools." In its 2007 rankings, U.S. News & World Report rated Illinois as the number 10 public university in America and the number 41 public university worldwide. Many of the University's programs were also nationally ranked:

- the College of Business is the number 28 graduate college for business and ranks number 12 in undergraduate business education
- the College of Engineering's graduate and undergraduate programs are ranked in the top five nationally
- the Master of Fine Arts program is listed among the top 25 in the country
- the Graduate School of Library and Information Science's program is tied for first in the nation
- the College of Veterinary Medicine is tied for 12th in the US

## NEWS FROM THE IEI

### Record IEI Enrollment for Fall

Classes for the fall term at the Intensive English Institute began on August 28<sup>th</sup> with a record enrollment of over 240 students. With this large enrollment, we are able to provide more elective classes for our students to choose from.

### Conversation Partners Program

The IEI Conversation Partners program matches 2-3 IEI students with a University of Illinois student volunteer for weekly informal conversations. Now in its third year, both U of I students and IEI students give the program great reviews:

*"[My Convo Partner] took me to a Korean restaurant today and despite being a little nervous experimenting with her culture, I had an amazing time and absolutely loved the food and afternoon I spent with her. I tell you, this is such a great program you have going - for both the international students AND their partners. I've learned so much and truly cherish the time we share together. Thanks so much!" — Katie Coppin, UI student*

*"I think the Convo Partner Program is so useful for IEI students. I spent a lot of time with my conversation partner. During these days we eat food, make cookies, play games and talk about American culture. My friends went to see their conversation partner's friends and family. Most foreign students have language barriers and the IEI students have the help of their conversation partner. I sometimes think if I didn't attend this program, I couldn't make such a good friend. So, I'm thankful to IEI." — Min Hee Hwang, IEI student*

### Students and Housing Contracts

IEI students have a wide range of housing options to choose from, including university and private dormitories, private apartments, and homestays. You can find more specific information on housing for IEI students on our website at [http://www.iei.uiuc.edu/housing\\_index.html](http://www.iei.uiuc.edu/housing_index.html).

Please be sure that students understand that when they apply for housing they may actually be signing a **contract** that requires them to live in the dormitory or apartment to which they have applied. Even homestays require a minimum period of stay. For example, students who submit an application to the University of Illinois Housing department for a dormitory

are signing a document that commits them to live in the University dormitories if they attend the IEI. If students change their minds about where they want to live, they must cancel the dormitory contract by the housing deadline (which is several weeks before the beginning of the term); if they do not, they will be charged a substantial fee.

### Health Insurance Reminder

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requires that all students have health insurance. This includes students attending the Intensive English Institute. Students can get health insurance by (1) purchasing University of Illinois student health insurance when they register at the IEI (the cost is approximately \$167 per semester and is subject to change); or (2) purchasing private insurance in their home countries. If students purchase private insurance, there is a MINIMUM amount of coverage required as follows: (1) a minimum of \$200,000 major medical coverage for each illness and each injury; (2) no less than an 80%/20% benefit plan for inpatient, outpatient and surgical procedures; (3) the maximum annual deductible should be \$500. Students who purchase private health insurance must bring proof of coverage to the IEI office at the time of registration. This proof must be in English; it must include information that shows the minimum coverage has been met; and it must show the coverage amounts in US dollars. If students do not bring proof of adequate insurance at the time of registration, they will be charged for University of Illinois student health insurance.

## WHY I APPRECIATE MY IEI EXPERIENCE

Akira Iwamoto, IEI Alumnus



**Akira Iwamoto is currently a graduate student in Computer Science at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.**

Attending the language program at the University of Illinois Intensive English Institute helped me to improve not only my English skills but also my knowledge of the American academic culture and campus life. The IEI academic listening and speaking and pronunciation classes helped me a lot in the

discussion classes I have later had in the graduate school. I could learn the academic American English communication styles that I could use. Although writing styles are varied from one academic field of study to another, what I learned in the IEI academic reading and writing courses can be applied to any field. Besides, the academic reading and writing teacher cared about the academic area each student came from. I also was given the chance to take a special class at the University of Illinois, given in collaboration with the Intensive English Institute. This was my first course experience at an American university, and getting an A grade in that course helped me gain self-confidence.

One of the services offered by the IEI is the Conversation Partners program. University of Illinois students volunteer to become conversation partners with IEI students. They get together and discuss various campus daily life topics. This way many students built good friendships with American students. My conversation partner is now a very nice friend of mine. I keep in touch with him, and we go out together and share many university experiences.

The IEI experience has helped me tremendously in what I am doing in the graduate school now. I really appreciate it and I am proud that I could attend the IEI!

## Favorite Links - Click Title to Access

**Handbook for International Agents and Advisers**

- 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 2007 term is December 15, 2006!**

**Spring registration - January 11 and 12, 2007 • University dormitories open January 10, 2007**

**<http://www.iei.uiuc.edu> • [iei@uiuc.edu](mailto:iei@uiuc.edu)**