

International Friends

of Tucson, Arizona

Many Ways to Enjoy Time with IFriends

We really enjoy trying new things with our students (we even went ziplining this year, see photo below), but sometimes the most rewarding times don't cost anything.

We always enjoy sharing our holidays with the students; anything with food goes over well. . . from decorating Christmas cookies to letting them take over the kitchen and prepare one of their native traditional meals.

We really like to take advantage of our beautiful weather, and their first introduction to a giant saguaro is an experience they can't

get anywhere else. While we often share a



Student Brad Posch from Australia; winner of the bike at last year's Fall Social

Welcome to This Fall 2016 Edition of the International Friends Newsletter

Last year, we presented articles from the perspective of various community hosts. This year, we are giving our students, past and present, the opportunity to share their experiences and present their perspectives.

One of the articles was written by a student who has been with his host for eight years, illustrating the fact that many friendships

between host and students go well beyond the one-year duration of the program.

We hope that you enjoy reading these articles, and that they will inspire you to create your own stories and lifelong memories.

Robert Woerner/
IF Treasurer

note back and forth with parents, its very special when they get to come and visit. Then we get to meet our student's parents.

Don't forget game night with family and friends. This is always a fun evening!

Jody Friend/
IF Co-Chair

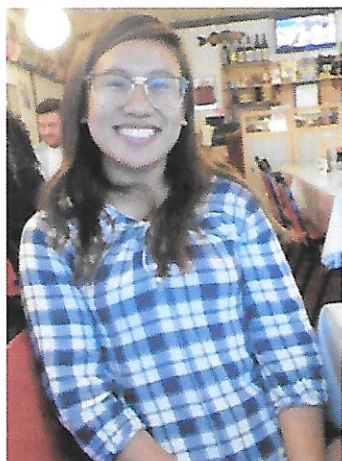


Georgia Reis from Brazil having fun while ziplining

IF Host applications are available online at:
www.ifriendstucson.org

International Students Describe Their Many Experiences with Hosts in Tucson

Being a part of IF was one of the best parts of my exchange semester in Tucson. I'm a shy person with a tendency to feel homesick rather easily, but my host was incredibly welcoming, warm, genuine, and made me feel right at home. She shared her experiences with me over several



Sean Nicholas/Singapore

lunch outings, giving me advice and exchanging views on relationships, religion, and values, and I was very comforted by her presence. As a whole, the IF Committee also organises events for students like picnics and gatherings. Aside from the delicious home-cooked food (something you'd definitely miss while overseas!), these events also give students a chance to meet other international students.

I made a few close friends through this and we would hang out together outside of IF events. IF has a rare inclusiveness that is very refreshing and

well-received. I'm really glad and grateful that I got to be a part of it.

**Sean Nicholas
from Singapore**

I was a part of IF organization for the 2 years of my graduate studies and I believe that every International Student should be a part of this brilliant organization. I was lucky enough

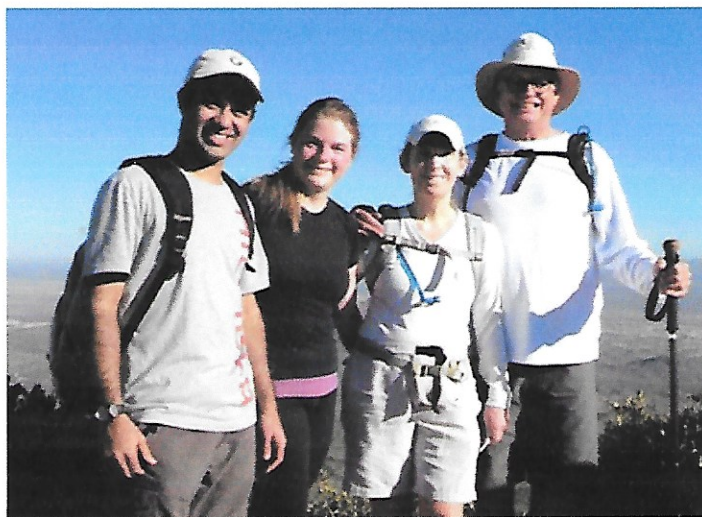
I thoroughly enjoyed the experience being part of the international friends family for two semesters and counting! I was fortunate to have been assigned to LuAnn and Dennis as my host family and this truly has been a home away from home experience. I have gone out with them on a countless number of dinner dates, attended events inside and outside of college with other international friends and host families, gone hiking, and even have had the

pleasure of inviting them home for dinner once. Having met with many other host families who are also part of the IF program, I know that everybody is here to have a good time and lots of fun.

**Mohammed Mujtaba
Mohiyuddin (Zak) from
Bangalore, India**

So grateful I found out about International Friends and met very nice people who made my stay in Tucson simply wonderful.

**Maja Subelj/MD from
Slovenia**



Students Zak and Maja Subelj and Host LuAnn and Dennis

as a part of her family and I am really thankful to International Friends. It definitely made my life in Tucson exciting.

Amey Rane from India

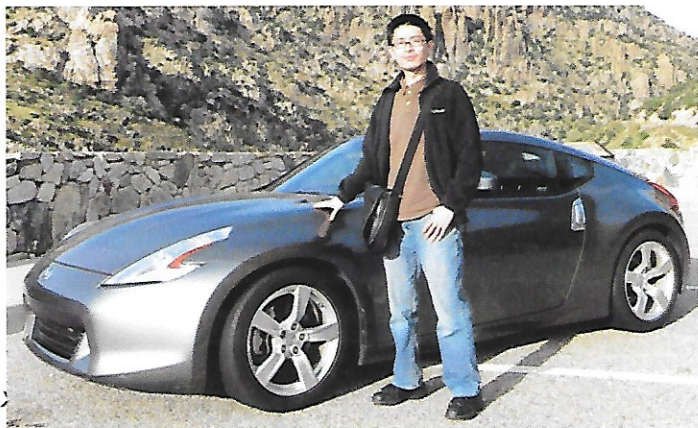
My host is the best that a student can have. We were invited for every Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Chinese New Year and also went for hikes at Christmas. Birthdays were celebrated. Other hosts like Belle and Diana and their students also joined us for many events. We found new friends because of these events. We went to the Arizona Desert Museum and Sabino Canyon to hike; she invited us for dinner and lunch in Indian restaurants; etc. She was more like a mother than a host.



Laxminarayan Reddiar and Amey Rane at their graduation

I strongly recommend that every International student should participate in IF and find a host. You will feel relaxed when you participate in activities or events hosted by your host. Students with a host will not miss their home.

**Laxminarayan Reddiar
from India**



* Xun Dong (Sam) on Mt. Lemmon driving adventure

Eight Years of Friendship & Fun

Eight years have passed since I first met *Robert*. I can still remember the Welcome Luncheon where we first met. I was young and new to Tucson, so I got lost and was late for the party. When I arrived, it was almost over and I was confused. *Robert* noticed me and helped me to sign up. From that moment, my life walked on a different path. In this eight years, we have become very good friends, and it has enriched both of our lives. The things we have done cover everything, from discussing the difference between "heartly welcome" and "cordial reception" to driving a sports car on the winding mountain roads of Mt. Lemmon.

Robert is deeply into cars, and he likes to share his enthusiasm with his friends. He gives tips to new drivers and helps them with car hunting and purchasing. With his "lifelong" driving experiences and knowl-

edge of cars, our life is much easier.

I also have to thank *Robert* for teaching me how to drive. I never knew how frustrating and scary it is until I started to teach someone else how to drive. When I brought my first car, I had not gotten my driver's license yet, so my car was just sitting there. Most of my other friends were either too busy or unavailable to teach me how to drive. Then *Robert* stepped in and helped me out. With him in my passenger seat, it became so much easier and I was able to relax and learn.

Another thing I am amazed about *Robert* is that he has been driving his students to go grocery shopping every week nonstop for eight whole years. I have to remind you that he does not host just one or two students; instead, he has eight or ten students at any given time. This is a huge help, because I don't need to tell you how inconvenient it can be without a car, and most students do not own one.

**Xun Dong (Sam)
from China**

Friendship and Family Connections

I was back in fall 2009 when I went to UA as a freshman and met *Jashio* through International Friends. I remember the first time I met her on University boulevard. She was walking to me with a smile. She looked energetic and friendly. I had a good feeling at the first sight.

Since she was a docent at the Tucson Museum of Art, we went to museums and art fairs. We also went to IF picnic activities. On Halloween, with many other students, we



Zoe Deng at her graduation

painted masks using our own face at her house. We also learned from her husband how to make Italian pasta, picked fresh herbs from the garden and made salad, and went to a street parade. It was such a delightful and fun experience. Every Thanksgiving, *Jashio* invites her students to participate with her family. We would sit together with her husband, children, and grandchildren, eating turkey and delicious pumpkin pies. It just made me feel that I am a part of her family, and

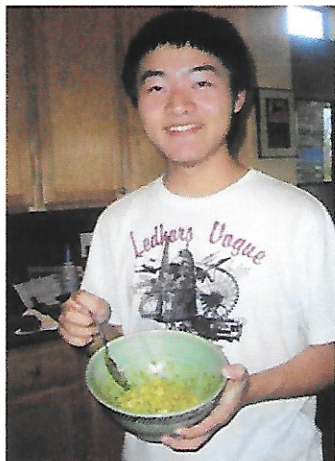
I found a sense of belonging.

In spring, with many of her Chinese students, we celebrated the traditional Chinese festival. Many fond memories. I think the point of IF is not just making a friend; there is always someone like your family there caring and supporting you. I also had great career and life advice from *Jashio*. She is a very wise lady. I went to New York University after I graduated; she kept helping me and made sure I felt comfortable in New York. She introduced me to her son who lives in NY. *Jashio* came to visit, and we got together at her son's house. She made dumplings and shared her secret honey chicken recipe. Every time I met her, we had a great time together because I feel she cares about me like her family. We still keep in touch after I graduated from NYU.

Now I'm back working in China. She sends me emails asking about my jobs, and gives me advice.

I have known *Jashio* for six years now. She is like my family, always there guiding, caring for, and supporting me. If you would have *Jashio* as your host, you will be the luckiest person ever.

**Zhuo (Zoe) Deng
from China**



Tianzuo Peng Learning how to cook pasta and sauce from scratch

I have a very kind and nice host. She took many of us students to various interesting events, such as the international student talent show, Desert Museum, hiking on Mt. Lemmon, and picnics with other international students.

My host and other hosts made many delicious foods for picnics, and there were foods for students to take home. We had dinner at festivals and Thanksgiving, and we viewed Christmas lights during winter holidays.

It was very nice and warm with my host and other hosts when I was

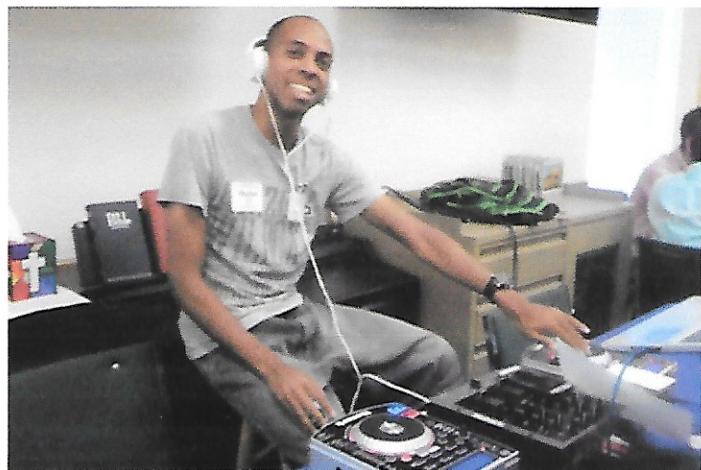
far away from my family.
Tianzuo Peng from Chong Qing, China

When I first arrived at the US, I could not speak English and my host family treated me really well and helped my life in Tucson. Also she took me to many interesting places in Tucson, so I had a lot of fun there. When I got a cold, she gave me chicken soup. When I felt lonely, she was always with me. I could not spend satisfying life without her in Tucson. I highly recommend to be a host or student of IF!

Hikari Kitamura from Shiga, Japan

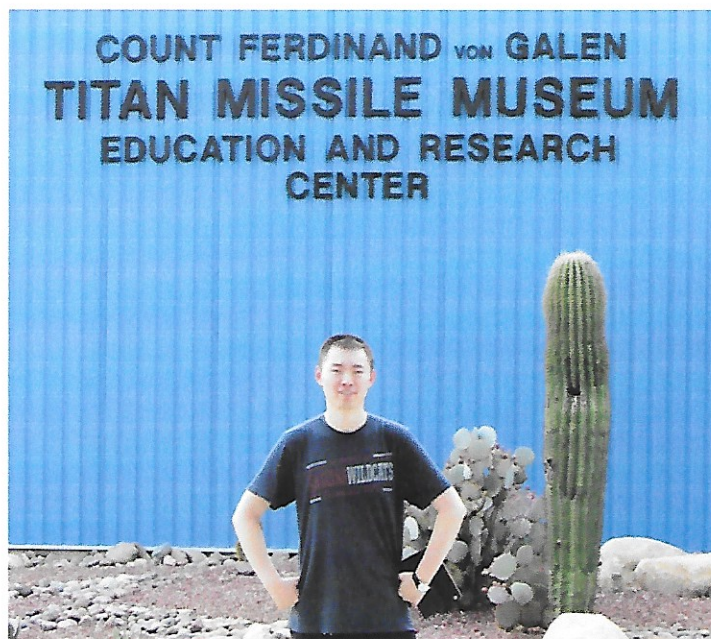


Hikari celebrating her birthday



IF Board member Andrae Jones lends his DJ talents to Fall Social event

My Adventure in Sightseeing and Learning about America



Haomeng (Ted) in front of the Titan Missile Museum

My name is Haomeng; usually American friends call me Ted. I am an international student from China. My host is Robert Woerner, who is a very friendly, knowledgeable, and kind gentleman. I have known him about 2 years since I arrived at the University of Arizona. The picture above is of me that Robert took at the Titan Missile Museum, which is 30 minutes south of Tucson. That weekend I went to Robert's home and we visited the museum, which is just 5 minutes from his house.

Normally I meet with Robert once a week. It's nothing special, it's just like friends hanging around, going to dinner or just talking. Even though I know that the age is a little different

between us, we always have a lot of things to chat about. I can't even feel he is nearly a 70-year-old man because we can talk about everything and he really knows about things such as recent news, technology, life experience, or even a joke, so there is not really a generation gap between us. Of course, my English speaking has improved a lot from that. Anyway, I just feel very lucky to know him because he helped me learn so many things, such as how to travel in the U.S., which gas station's gasoline is good, American culture facts, and so many experiences from real life. I just never knew about these things before I met Robert.
Haomeng (Ted) from China

Go online now to find your new International Friends

International Friends has an online system for matching hosts with students. The system is user friendly and easily accessible.

you with your password information.

Step 2:

Edit Profile

Once you have entered your password, it will



Cynthia Chien, Elena Chin, I-Fay Chen, and Hikari Kitamura having dinner at a host's home to celebrate Thanksgiving

Just follow a few simple steps.

All you need is access to a computer with an internet connection.

Step 1:

Log On (Begin Aug. 22)

Go to <http://ifriendstucson.org/login.html>

This will take you to a login page.

Username:

Enter your full email address.

Password:

Enter your password.

If you have forgotten your password, email

Andrae Jones at internationalfriendstucson@gmail.com, using the email address with which you log into the I-Friends system.

Andrae will then email

take you to your profile page.

Please edit or update your information.

Step3:

Select a Student

Search through the students who are seeking a host to find student(s) that look like a good match.

Select the student(s).

Step 4:

Meet Your Student(s)

Once you have selected the student(s), our assignments coordinator will confirm the match and send you and your student(s) an email with each other's contact information.

You can then contact your student(s) to arrange your first get-together.

"Friend" your students at the annual Fall Festival- Sunday, September 25, 3-5 pm

A festive Sunday gathering for new international students and IF hosts will be held **Sept. 25 at the 1st Methodist Church**, 915 E. 4th Street. The church is a close walk or bike ride from campus and free parking is available.

Students and hosts can connect with each other, **make new friends**, and discover shared interests. Beverages and light "finger foods" will be served.

Also, you might want to bring some cash to

buy an I-Friends T-shirt featuring flags from around the world. These shirts are just \$15 each and are a great way to support our programs.

This is a great opportunity to mingle with students and fellow hosts. If you have selected a student, we encourage you to attend this event together.

If you are not yet matched, you may meet the international student just right for you at this great event!

Find us on Facebook!

International Friends @Tucson, Arizona

is IF's official Facebook group. If you haven't joined, take time now to check us out and keep informed of IF activities throughout the year.

If you aren't on Facebook, there's no time like the present! Go to:

www.facebook.com

and sign up.

It's easy, fun, and a good way to connect with friends, old and new.

This is the way students communicate today, so you will be up-to-date on what your I-Friends are up to.

Coming IF Events:

2016

July 25, Mon., Board Meeting
ISS, 5:30pm

Aug. 9, Tue., Orientation
Student Union, 10am
Info Fair, Student Union/
N. Ballroom 3-5pm

Aug. 13, Sat., Welcome
Luncheon, 1st. Methodist
Church, noon-2pm

Aug. 20, Sat., Student/Host
Matching Begins

Sept. 25, Sun., Fall Social
1st. Methodist Church
3-5pm

Oct. 3, Mon., Board Meeting
ISS, 5:30pm

Nov. 19, Sat., International
Students Got Talent Show
Eller Dance Theater, 7pm

Dec. 5, Mon., Board Meeting
ISS, 5:30pm

2017

Jan. 3, Tue., Orientation
Student Union, 10am

Jan. 8, Sun., Spring Mixers
TBA

Mar. 6, Mon., Annual Board
Meeting, ISS, 5:30pm

Mar. 26, Sun., Spring Picnic
Reid Park, Ramada 22,
12-3pm