Greetings from the Office of First Year Experience Programs

The spring semester is officially underway. Most likely your student has fallen into a normal pattern of classes and social activities. In this month’s student newsletter, we challenged first year students to venture beyond their normal schedules and explore other programs and events offered on the IUB campus! Below are some related topics that may be of interest to you, including:

- Spring Break- Another "Letting Go" Experience for Parents?
- A Multicultural Perspective in a Culture of Care
- FAFSA reminder - it's an annual task
- Welcome Week Assistants
- Parents Weekend 2015

Spring Break – Another “Letting Go” Experience for Parents?

An Excerpt from College Parents of America

If it is spring semester, spring break is on the minds of most students – and many of their parents.

Not all students travel for spring break. The reality is that many of those students who do head for the typical spring break destinations receive a lot of publicity, but these students represent only a portion of the number of college students in the country. Many students cannot afford expensive spring break trips. Many students head home for some quality down time with family, or extra study time. Some students spend break working to increase income. Increasingly, many students opt to spend an alternative spring break traveling and doing community service work. More and more colleges are offering organized alternatives to their students. College athletes may travel...
with a team. Some students spend the break doing internships. And some students choose to travel – but not to prime student destinations.

If your student does choose to travel, you may or may not feel completely comfortable about it. This often is a difficult moment of letting go – partially because you may be concerned about your student’s safety…. Talk to your student. Express your concerns. Agree on expectations. Trust your student. Support wise choices and responsible behavior. And congratulate yourself on one more step in the college parent journey.

See entire article [here](https://www.indiana.edu).

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### A Multicultural Perspective in a Culture of Care

An important consideration as a member of the IU community is how your student engages with others in the community and develops an understanding of other cultures. This isn’t just “an IU thing” - it supports preparation for life after IU, too, as more and more careers and employers expect a global awareness. As part of the **Indiana Promise**, each student pledges to respect the dignity of others, treating them with civility and understanding. Through exposure of different cultures and learning about others’ differences, students can contribute to creating a Culture of Care where every individual is respected and valued. Indiana University Bloomington offers a wide array of resources and programs to help students with this process. These resources include the **Culture and Support Centers**, **Incident Teams**, and the **Culture of Care** Initiative. The Office of First Year Experience Programs highlights many programs that can also help expose your student to different cultural perspectives through the **Trading Laces** program. We encourage students to check out these upcoming programs, co-sponsored by FYE:

**Tim Wise**

Tim Wise, whom scholar and philosopher Cornel West calls, “a vanilla brother in the tradition of (abolitionist) John Brown,” is among the nation’s most prominent anti-racist essayists and educators. Wise is the author of six books, including his highly-acclaimed memoir, *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. Union Board and the Office of First Year Experience Programs will be hosting Mr. Wise on **March 11** for two lectures, one at 12 p.m. in the Maurer Law School Courtroom, and one at 7 p.m. in the IMU Whittenberger Auditorium.

**It’s Not So Black and White: Talking Race, From Ferguson to Bloomington**

**March 26** from 7-9 p.m. in the **Alumni Hall of the Indiana Memorial Union**

Encourage your student to join us for a campus and community-wide Teach-In that examines the historical roots and current incidences of state-sanctioned violence against black people in America. Recent tragedies in Ferguson, MO and elsewhere have led many of us to confront hard realities about the challenges of living in a racially diverse, yet also highly segregated, society. The forum will feature three speakers: Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Criminal Justice, IU-Bloomington, a specialist on racial profiling, policing, and the War on Drugs; The Hon. Valeri Haughton, Judge of the Circuit Court, 10th Circuit and Presiding Judge, Monroe County Board of Judges; and Professor William Jelani Cobb, History and Director of Africana Studies, University of Connecticut, and journalist for The New Yorker. The session will be moderated by Professor Jeannine Bell, Maurer School of Law, IU-Bloomington and author of *Hate Thy Neighbor: Move-in Violence and the Persistence of Racial Segregation in American Housing*. 
**Final Reminder - Complete the FAFSA**

Did you know? Students must complete the FAFSA each year in order to be eligible for any kind of aid for the following academic year. The deadline for the 2015-2016 academic year is March 10. Student Central is your on-campus resource for FAFSA questions. You can find their contact information [here](#).

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**Welcome Week Assistants**

Your student can be a part of one of IU's largest traditions by **applying** to be a Welcome Week Assistant today! Welcome Week Assistants help with the planning and leading of activities offered by each residence center on campus during Welcome Week. Each residence center will select up to 12 volunteers for the Welcome Week Assistant position. As a bonus, Welcome Week Assistants can avoid the rush and move back to campus early!

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**Online Resource Guide**

A reminder: the Online [IU Resource Guide](#) is full of helpful information related to academic life, campus involvement, housing, health and wellness, transportation, and more. We encourage frequent use of this resource, as well as other parent information resources. Two great places to start are the Parent Pages on the FYE website and the Parent Resources information provided by the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President.

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**Campus News**

If you are looking for the latest information about campus, visit the [IU News Room](#), where you can search for news and press releases by topic, campus, or keyword. For additional information about the Bloomington campus, the Indiana Daily Student, our student newspaper, is a great resource.

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**IU Parent Association**

The [IU Parents Association](#) is coordinated with the assistance of the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Dean of Students. They also work with planning Freshman Family Weekend and Parents Weekend each year. As a heads up for those interested: Parents Weekend 2015 has been set for the weekend of **November 7**. Have questions or want more information about the Parents Association? Send them an email at mykids@indiana.edu.