The Office of International Affairs already has checked in about 750 new international students, and is expecting another 500 before the first day of classes. Our undergraduate population continues to grow and Ohio State should welcome 250 new international freshmen this fall, the majority of whom hail from China, Korea and India.

Our international student orientation sessions are geared toward introducing our newest Buckeyes to life at Ohio State and the Columbus community. We not only provide them with information about immigration and academic requirements, but we offer ways in which they can become involved in social activities on campus, so that they nurture their both their minds and souls during their stay.

This year also brings new ways in which we will be helping students understand the importance of having international experiences during their college careers. We will begin offering Getting Started sessions Monday - Thursday where our study abroad coordinators will provide basic information about studying abroad including, how to select a program, along with other practical information about finances, the application process and other resources available to students.

So that we can learn more from students, we will be forming a Student Advisory Committee focused on study abroad. We are looking forward to working with this group of students and to hear their perspectives about study abroad and how they may be able to help us increase visibility of and access to international academic opportunities at Ohio State.

As we put the finishing touches on these and many other new initiatives, I hope that you will take the opportunity to welcome our new international students and share with those around you the benefits of engaging in international experiences to enrich their lives and the lives of others.