

Hello, friend,

Greetings from Valparaiso University! We are wrapping up our first semester during the pandemic. It was a unique experience with all the measures that were taken to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Students had to adapt to the new normal, which means hybrid and online classes, limited in-person social interaction, and face coverings. Read more about some of our current international students attending classes during the pandemic below. In addition, take a look at the events we were able to have this semester — some even involve our international alumni.

And don't miss the "Stay Connected" links at the bottom of the newsletter!

— [The Office of International Programs](#)

## **Panel with Valpo International Alumni**

This semester we held two virtual panels with Valpo international alumni who shared their experiences and the lessons they learned searching for and obtaining work in the United States. The panels were a great success. If you would like to participate in a future alumni event, please get in touch.



October 27th panel:

[Panelists information](#), [panel recording](#) (passcode: PANEL 10/27)

November 5th panel:

[Panelists information](#), [panel recording](#) (passcode: PANEL 11/5)

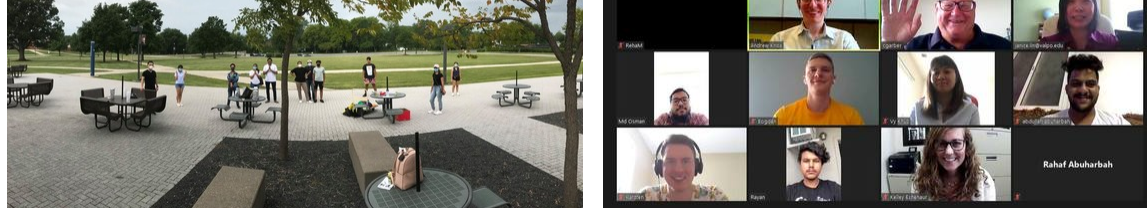
## **VISA Virtual Food Bazaar**

The pandemic couldn't stop the annual Food Bazaar from happening during Homecoming, but this time it was virtual. Check out the videos made by current international students.

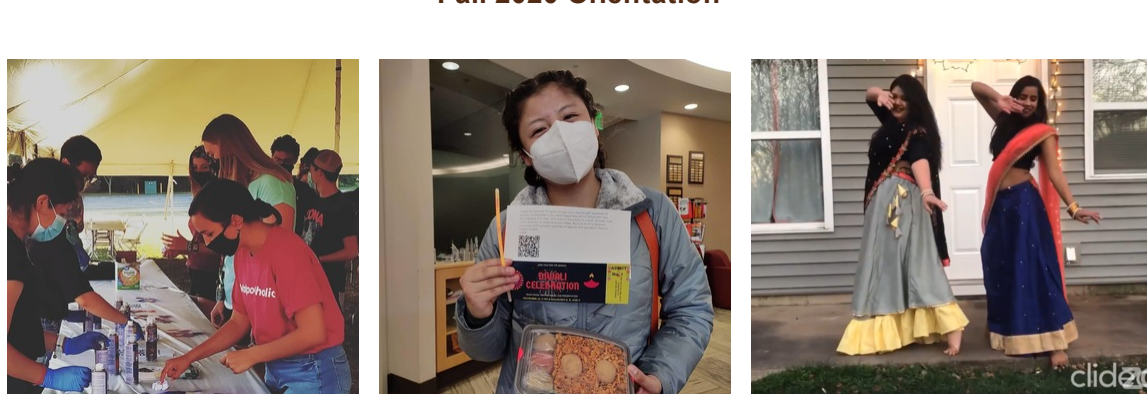


## **Looking Back at Fall 2020**

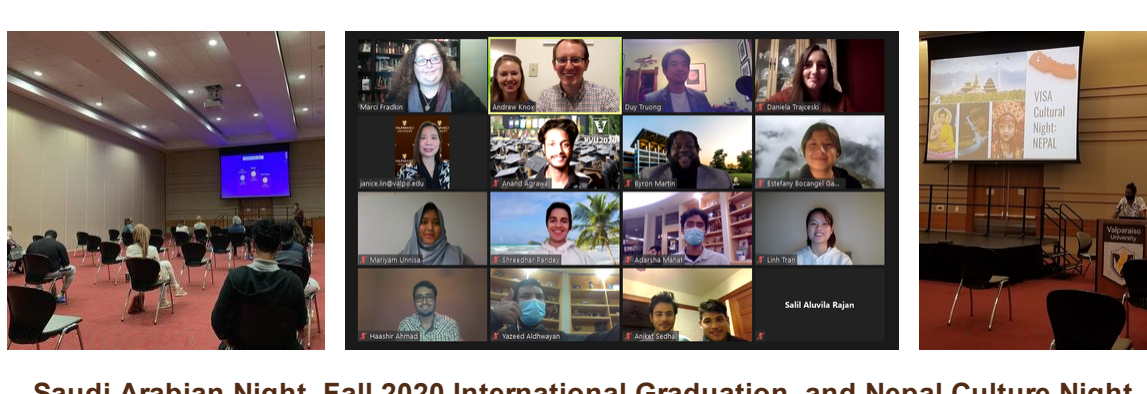
Fall 2020 has been an unusual semester, and while we couldn't have our usual events, we didn't let the pandemic stop the fun. We held virtual events, and in-person events while maintaining physical distance, and made the best of the situation. Look back with us at the international student activities in fall 2020!



Fall 2020 Orientation



Tie-dye with VISA, Diwali goodie boxes give away, and Virtual Diwali Celebration



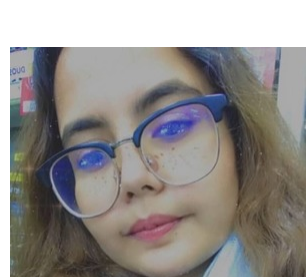
Saudi Arabian Night, Fall 2020 International Graduation, and Nepal Culture Night

## **School During the Pandemic**

We asked some of our current international students to tell us about how this semester feels different than previous semesters, here is what they had to say:

### **Muaad Alamoudi, Saudi Arabia**

It is my first semester, and unfortunately it is during the pandemic. I started with two classes online and two in person, but after the midterms, it all became online. The worst thing about the semester is that it is hard to make friends with online classes. However, I engaged in different events that happened during the semester, and sometimes I studied in the library so I could meet new people. Overall, it was a weird semester.

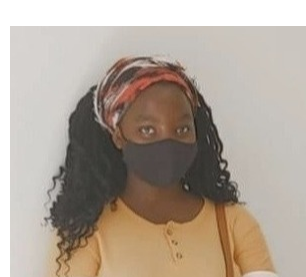
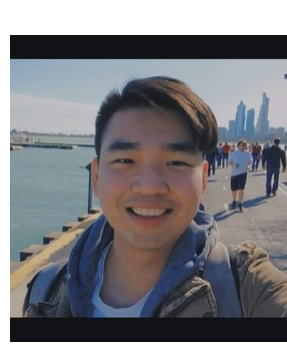


### **Prechya Bhatta, Nepal**

This semester is similar to previous semesters, except that we feel far apart, we have online options for all classes, and we are wearing masks and sanitizing our hands all the time.

### **Duy Truong, Vietnam**

It's not the most exciting experience. This was my last semester, and I wanted to spend more time with my friends before graduating, but the pandemic limits the places we can go, and we also have to practice physical distancing even when we're together. It's a little sad that my parents cannot come to my graduation either.



### **Iso Ogli, Nigeria**

Essentially, my school experience, that is inclusive of classes as well, is very different from previous semesters because it required me to put in an extra effort in order to adapt. By this I mean the structure of this semester was very different from previous ones, and without breaks and time off, it was really hard to keep myself motivated. In addition to that, the fear of COVID-19 really did hinder me from making as many connections as I would have liked to. Despite that, this semester, I have found comfort in the bonds I had already formed and found joy in being empathetic with others.

## **Stay Connected**



VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

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