



October, 2013

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Madonna Miles!



At the end of September many of the International Students, along with a number of American students, staff, and their families were lucky enough to see one of the last regular season Tigers games at Comerica Park as the first Madonna Miles trip of the semester! Unfortunately we weren't too lucky with the weather, and it was a very wet game. But the students stayed strong, braving the cold and the rain, to cheer our Tigers onto a 12-5 win over the Chicago White Sox! The game also marked Tigers' pitcher Max Scherzer's

20th win in the season, making him the first and only MLB pitcher this season to reach 20 wins. (He finished the season at 21-3.) We like to think the Madonna University cheering section was a major influence on this extraordinary feat!

Last weekend the Madonna Miles program took students to Cedar Point



in Sandusky, Ohio for HalloWeekends. HalloWeekends is an annual event at Cedar Point that celebrates Halloween by "spookifying" the park and encouraging the patrons to come in

costume. Attractions this year included 4 haunted houses, a corn maze in which the "Cornstalkers" follow you, a sideshow of crazy clowns, haunted dinners, in addition to some of the wildest, biggest, most numerous rollercoasters in the world!

Next week the Madonna Miles group will take its final trip of the semester to Detroit for a Parade Company Tour and a battle of the Coney dogs. Madonna Miles trips are open to everyone, and if you are not enrolled in the American Culture class, you can sign up to go or get more information in the Student Life Office (room 1411).



Corny A-Maze-Ment

Last week the ISO took a trip to Maybury Farm in Northville to experience something well-known to most who grow up in the Midwest: a corn maze. For our group of students from various countries, though, it was something new. "So, what is it?" students questioned me throughout the week. "It's a corn field. You go into it, then you have to find your way out."

The hesitant glance followed by the question, "And it's,,, fun?" assured me that the entertainment value of corn did not translate too well cross-culturally. But I promised them a truly Michigan experience, and yes, fun.

I, for one, had a blast. By the time we wrestled through rush hour traffic and took the wagon ride out to the corn field, the sun

was nearly set and those extra flashlights I brought were about to come in handy.

I had a fantastic time winding through the 12-acre corn field searching for all 8 stamps in almost complete darkness, save the tiny gleam of our flashlights. After a good hour or so of work, and several questions of whether or not we'd ever make it out, we emerged from the field victorious, in good spirits, and just a little bit closer to one another.

Thank you to everyone who joined me on this adventure! I look forward to more in the future!

—Amy Dickerson,

International Advisor



Halloween is right around the corner!

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Halloween is a favorite holiday among people of all ages. This holiday, celebrated on October 31st each year, is also called “All Hallows Eve” as it precedes All Saints (Hallows) Day on November 1st and All Souls Day on November 2nd. (Together the 3 days are called “Hallowmas”.) While Halloween is primarily celebrated in Western countries, nearly all cultures have a day of commemorating the dead, as All Saints Day is. Halloween celebrations, in the Western tradition, can even be seen around the world due to the influence of Christianity and American pop culture.

Although the history of Halloween cannot be pinpointed exactly, its customs are thought to have originated primarily from Celtic culture (both Pagan and Christian) which moved throughout Europe, influenced by local culture. The appearance of Halloween celebrations in North America followed the mass immigration of people from Ireland and Scotland—first starting as local celebrations among Scottish and

Irish communities, then eventually becoming mainstream.

Jack-O-Lanterns

The extremely popular tradition of carving a face into a pumpkin, then lighting a candle inside comes from the Celtic tradition of carving turnips. When immigrants arrived in the U.S. they began using pumpkins rather than turnips because they were larger, easier to carve, and readily available. Eventually, the use of pumpkins spread back to Europe. It is thought that the carvings are meant to represent the souls of the dead, and bonfires were an important part of both the Pagan and



Christian celebrations.

Trick-or-Treating

The Christian Hallowmas celebrates the passing of souls

who have not yet reached Heaven. Traditionally people (often children) would go door-to-door praying for and collecting “soul cakes” (a type of biscuit) for the souls

in Purgatory. Consuming the biscuit would release a soul into Heaven. This is thought to be the origin of Trick-Or-Treating. Today Trick-Or-Treating is extremely popular among young children, who spend Halloween night going door-to-door to collect candy.

Costumes

In some areas, early “trick-or-treaters” would wear masks to conceal their identity from the souls and ghosts that wandered the earth on this night. Costumes of supernatural beings (witches, goblins, ghosts, monsters, etc.) became standard. Some religious perspectives suggest that these fearful costumes poked fun at the devil, showing him that the wearer wasn’t afraid of him. These days costumes also present pop culture icons, heroes, princesses and other alter egos.



How to carve a Jack-O-Lantern

Step 1:

Select a large pumpkin from your local supermarket, farmers market, or pumpkin patch. Pumpkins with smooth, even surfaces are best for carving

Step 2:

Using a carving knife, cut the top of the pumpkin off in a circle in one piece. (If you cut a shape into the circle, it will be easier to fit the top back on.) *Specific pumpkin carving knives are sold at all major grocery stores this time of year.*



Step 3:

With a large spoon or scoop, scrap out the gooey, stringy insides of the pumpkin. You can save the pumpkin seeds to roast in the oven for a snack!

Step 4:

Decide on the shape of the face you want to carve, and draw it onto the front of the pumpkin. Remember, what you cut out will be illuminated by light.

Step 5:

Carefully carve the shapes you have drawn.



Step 6:

Place a candle inside the pumpkin. (It does not need to be large.) Put the top back on the pumpkin and place outside in a safe place.



Bonus:

Rinse off the pumpkin seeds you saved well (so all the pumpkin is gone) and toss them with a little oil and salt. Place them on a baking sheet and bake in the oven at 325 F for about 25 minutes (checking and stirring them every 10 minutes for even roasting). Eat after they have cooled!

Meet Your Professor Over Lunch!

The Meet Your Professor Over Lunch Program is in its first semester and proving very successful! Already a number of faculty, staff, and students have gotten to know each other better over a good meal, paid for by the ISO! Take a look at some of the excerpts from their experiences below!

Ana, Irene, and Prof. Sally Freels

Ana: My name is Ana Marmaneu Gil and I am an International Student from Spain. I am studying Tourism in my country and here in Madonna I have ESL courses and some of my major.

Last 26 September my friend Irene Bartoll Gonell and I had the opportunity to meet for lunch one of our ESL professors Sally Freels. This is thanks to a new program that offered at Madonna University called “Meet Your Professor Over Lunch”. It consisted in get to know some of the faculty/staff members here on campus better. This program offered for all International Students, gave us the chance to have an interesting conversation over lunch with our Professor.



From Left: Irene, Ana, and Sally enjoy lunch at Max and Erma's.

Sally: We had a lovely lunch. The students told me about their home in Spain, how they learned of Madonna University, how they greatly wished to study beyond one semester and some cultural differences between the Midwest, USA and their region in Spain. Surprisingly, we didn't discuss school or homework!

Ana: During the lunch we could enjoy the food and at the same time talk about a lot of things. We compared Spanish culture with American culture and we discovered that there are so many different things but there are also similar things that bring us together.

We ended the lunch with a delicious dessert, hot chocolate cookies and I have to say that everything was excellent. We really glad to have had this great experience. This is a fabulous way to enjoy practicing English. We would like to encourage other International Students to do it because it is worth it.

Sally: I truly hope the other instructors in this project are able to have as much fun as we.

“...we discovered that there are so many different things but there are also similar things that bring us together.”

Abdulla Ali and Prof. Marian Gonsior

Abdulla: I would like to Thank you so much for give me chance to know other prof., so I met with Ms. Marian yesterday and we talked about many things .Really she is nice prof. She give me many advice to support me. I enjoy with my time.

Marian: Abdulla Ali and I met at “Sheesh,” a local Middle-Eastern restaurant... Abdulla is very easy to talk to, and we had no problem keeping our conversation going. The first thing I told Abdulla was that I was happy to have a chance to talk to an international student. I love meeting students from other cultures, but I usually have these students in class and don't have the chance to talk to them outside the classroom. Abdulla told me

about his family and his decision to come to the US from Libya. Finding out about what he thinks of Libya was so interesting because I usually only hear about Libya in the news. We both agreed that it was great to have this opportunity to meet with another member of the Madonna family in a relaxed, casual environment.

Ian Christie and Nancy Cross

Ian: I found my lunch to be a wonderful experience. I really enjoyed the meal, equally I found Nancy very engaging and had a great conversation with her. I have found Nancy an extremely valuable source of information pre my arrival to Madonna and also when I arrived. When I pass her office I find myself just popping in to say hello.

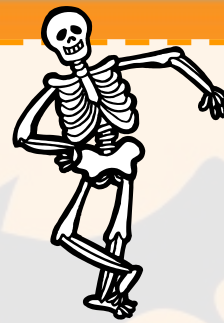
Very good company. An absolute lady.

Nancy: We had a very good visit, conversation roaming over a number of topics about U.S. experiences plus things such as how Ian's classes are going and comparing his different instructors and the fact that he now has a lot of course assignments to be working on..

Since Ian is a very sociable person with an active mind, and an engaged student with his studies, it was easy to find many things to discuss over lunch.



More Madonna Halloween Happenings:



Thursday, October 24

5:30 pm — 6:30 pm

Halloween Read n' Treat in the W. Colonnade Lounge

For students, faculty and their families. Halloween activities include story telling, arts and crafts, mask making, and refreshments! Open and free to all!

Saturday, October 26

11:30am-4pm

Linda Smith's SOC 1010 and Johann Eberhardt's and Sally Freels's ESL 4010 will run a indoor and outdoor carnival style children's games and facilitate them for an urban neighborhood in Detroit in celebration of Halloween. This service-learning project is the culmination of the two classes along with Olga Martinez and Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, and is a project they have been planning and working on since September. What a great cause! Good luck everyone, I'm sure you'll do great!

Tuesday, October 29

1:00 pm

Residence Hall Door decorating contest. Faculty and staff will judge the residents' doors for the best decorations! Good luck contestants!

Tuesday, October 29th

8:00 pm

Murder Mystery Dessert Theater in the East Dining Hall. You must reserve a spot **no later that Friday, October 25** at the front desk of the Residence Hall. The cost is **one swipe plus 5 points** and a Halloween dance and costume contest will follow.

Thursday, October 31

6:00 –8:00 pm

Trick-Or-Treating throughout Livonia! You may be a little old to get candy from your neighbors, but it is a nice time to walk through our surrounding neighborhoods and see the kids' costumes! If the weather is too chilly for you, from 6:00pm — 7:00 pm Laurel Park Mall will be open to Trick-Or-Treaters to get candy from stores, so you can spot them there!



Other Events:

Academic Achievement Workshop

Date: Monday, November 4

Time: 3:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Location: Room 1312

Topics will include admission requirements for nursing and pre-nursing programs. Strongly recommended for all considering or enrolled in the pre/nursing program.

Medical Insurance Workshop

Date: Wednesday, November 13

Time: 3:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Location: TBD

Health insurance and health care can be very confusing and frustrating. Where do you go when you're sick? How do you pay? What does insurance cover?

Whether you have the Madonna insurance, foreign/ travelers insurance, or other American insurance, we will discuss how to interpret it and what your benefits are, as well as what to do when you're sick. ****Very important information!****

