



# February, 2015

## International Festival



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chinese New Year 2

Meet Our Students! 3  
Ludvick Asigo and Leping Qui

ISO Trip to Kensington 4

Madonna Miles: Detroit Pistons 5

Black History Month 5

Deans List Students 6

Spring Break Reminder 6



Martial Arts demonstrations included Tai Chi and Kung Fu

cultures, while other students displayed their culture and skills through demonstrations and performances, including Chinese calligraphy, music performance and composition, and martial arts demonstrations.



Liam Morgan (Northern Ireland) and Camille LaLoupe (France) pose in front of their display boards

Madonna's annual International Festival, put on by the Institutional Standing Committee on Campus Diversity and Inclusion was held on Wednesday, February 11.

The International Festival is a celebration of different countries, cultures, ethnicities and diversity. This year the festival had many visitors and participants representing our very diverse faculty, staff, and student body.

Thanks to donations from local restaurants, and the help of student and staff volunteers, a variety of foods were served including Japanese, Lebanese, Italian, Polish, and Chinese.

Students with diverse backgrounds created informational posters about their countries and

**\*\*Thank you to all the students, staff, donors, volunteers, participants and everyone else who helped in creating this spectacular event!\*\***



Above: Mutailifu Lutubula (China) plays guitar



Students and staff line up for a gastronomic world tour.



Below: Viviana Garabello (Italy) conducts a piece she composed for Madonna

# HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!



Lunar New Year occurred Thursday, February 19. The Lunar New Year, which is based on the lunar (moon) calendar is also commonly known as Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival. It is celebrated in many countries across Asia, and even in non-Asian countries with large Asian populations. Although the New Year fell on 2/19, the festival is celebrated for multiple days.

Traditionally the New Year is a time for honoring deities and ancestors. Festivities are often characterized by special traditional dress (often new clothes are purchased), an assortment of traditional foods, gift exchanging, games, parades, fireworks, bowing to ancestors and elders, and receiving a gift of money from elders—famously known as the

“red envelope” in Chinese culture due to the special envelope in which monetary gifts are given. Even though similar themes exist for the holiday, every country, culture, and region celebrates in a unique way! Read Chinese graduate student Fei Zhao’s account of some New Year customs in China, below:



## Spring Festival in China

The Spring Festival is the most important festival for the Chinese people. Before the eve of the New Year, everyone tries to come back home from every corner of the country to join the entire family, just like Americans’ practice for Christmas, to greet the New Year.

Now, *Chunyun* period is coming. *Chunyun* refers to the extremely high traffic load of transportation in China around the time of Chinese New Year. The high traffic load usually begins 15 days before the New Year, and lasts for around 40 days. The number of passengers during the *Chunyun* period has exceeded the population of China, hitting the 3.6-billion mark in 2014.

On New Year’s eve, people set off fireworks from around midnight to see out the end of the previous year and welcome in the New Year, called “*shou sui*”. “*sui*” means year. On the first day of the New Year Chinese people usually stay at home. On the 2nd day people get up early and exchange New Year’s greetings

with relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. The tradition is to have different main courses every day from the 1st day of the New Year to the 15th day of the New Year, from *Jiao Zi* (dumplings), noodles, spring rolls, sticky rice cakes, and *Tang Yuan* (stuffed rice balls). Besides culinary satisfaction, each food has a meaning as well: for instance, *Jiao Zi* looks like gold, implying a wealthy year ahead.

The Chinese character “fu” means good fortune and happiness, and during Spring Festival virtually every family would paste it upside down on their doors in the hope that the word could bring blessings to their families. As to why “fu” should be placed upside down there is an interesting interpretation. The interpretation attributes the practice to Fu Jin (means wife), the Princess of Gong of the Qing Dynasty. Once, on the lunar New Year’s Eve, the butler of the mansion of the Prince of Gong wanted to curry favor with his master. He followed past practice and had several large “fu” written and pasted on the front gates of the warehouse and the mansion. One of the men sent to do the pasting was illiterate and

put the character upside down on the front gate of the mansion. Enraged, Fu Jin wanted to punish the perpetrator by whipping him. The butler, who had the gift of the gab, hastened to go down on his knees and pleaded:

“Your humble servant often heard people say that Your Excellency is a man of longevity and great fortune. Indeed, great fortune did arrive today; it is a good sign.” Fu Jin was convinced. “This is why the passers-by were saying that great fortune had arrived in the mansion of the Princess of Gong,” she thought, “Once an auspicious saying is repeated for a thousand times, my wealth could increase by 10,000 taels of gold and silver.” She then awarded the butler and the servant who pasted the paper upside down fifty taels of silver. Since then the practice of pasting “fu” upside down during Spring Festival has become a tradition followed by both imperial aristocrats and commoners.

—Fei Zhao (China)—



2015  
YEAR OF THE  
GOAT



**This year on the Chinese Zodiac calendar is the Year of the Goat/Sheep. People born in 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, or 2015 belong to this year.**

**Goats/Sheep are characterized as kind, polite, mild-mannered, calm, and imaginative. However, they can also be shy, pessimistic, unrealistic, and short-sighted.**

**Be careful! People are said to experience a volatile year in terms of fortune and misfortune in the year of their animal.**

\*Interviews are conducted and written by undergraduate ambassador and international student April Chen (China).\*

## Ludvick Asigo (Kenya)

Ludvick Asigo comes from Rongo, Kenya, where the climate is warm and humid. So, when he got here, Ludvick felt that the climate was real different from his hometown. Currently, Ludvick is majoring in computer science and he also plays soccer and cross country for Madonna University. Ludvick came to America because of the good quality of education. Right now, his favorite thing at Madonna University is playing soccer. Ludvick said that he was soccer forward and he can use both of his legs to play. Before graduations, Ludvick want to help Madonna Men's Soccer team qualify for national level. After that, he wants to stay and keep playing soccer in America. When we ask about how he feels about American Culture so far, he says, " I like that people have their own cars".

**April: Do you have a favorite class or favorite professor?**

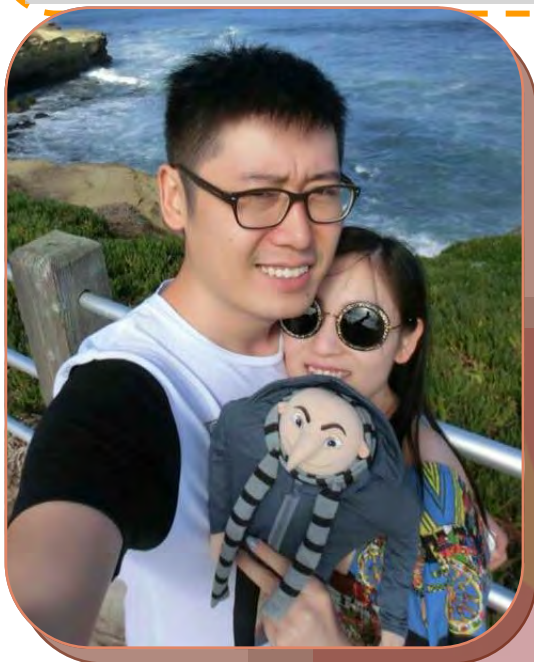
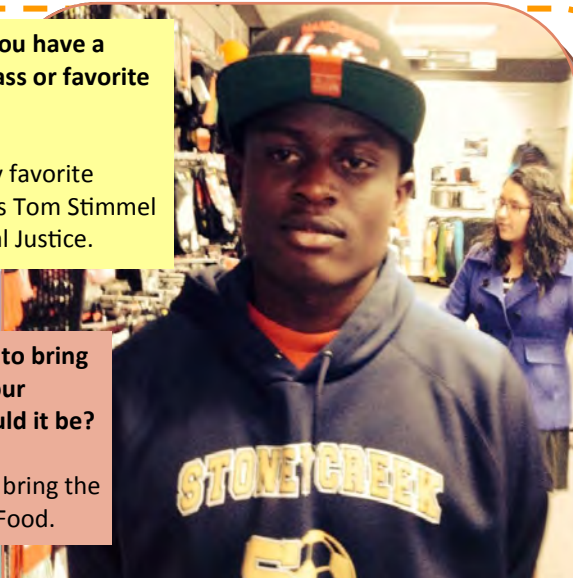
**Ludvick** My favorite professor is Tom Stimmel for Criminal Justice.

**April: If you want to bring one thing from your culture, what would it be?**

**Ludvick:** I want to bring the traditional Kenya Food.

**April: How do you like American culture so far?**

**Ludvick:** I like people have their own car, and I think the education here is pretty good.



## Leping Qiu (China)

**A: Why do you choose to come to Madonna University?**

**L:** At first, I chose to come to Madonna University because the tuition fee is relatively cheap comparing other private colleges. However, after two years here, I found out that Madonna University is a very professional and practical university, and I really enjoy the friendly atmospheres on campus. In addition, the small class size is another benefit for students. I really enjoy the one on one time that we get with the professors.

**A: What is your favorite thing about attending Madonna University?**

**L:** My favorite thing here is participating in various activities. For example, when I was an ESL student, we went on Madonna Miles trips which consist of Cedar Point, Detroit Institution of Art, and the auto show. After taking the regular classes, I am attracted to on campus events, such as international festival.

**A: Do you have a favorite class or favorite professor?**

**L:** My favorite professors are Michael Johnson and Rupam Das.

**A: What do you want to do after you graduate?**

**L:** I want to find an internship in one of the big three automotive companies here in Detroit, and I also want to pursue a master degree for auto engineering.

**A: What is one goal that you want to accomplish before you graduate?**

**L:** I want to make more friends but also continue to improve my overall GPA.

**A: How do you like American culture so far?**

**L:** American culture is so different from Chinese culture, it was difficult for me to adapt when I first arrived here. After a while, I felt very comfortable being here due to all the nice people, beautiful scenery, and culture diversity.

**A: If you want to bring one thing about your culture what would it be?**

**L:** I wish I can bring Chinese New Year which is also called Spring Festival here.

**April: Can you tell me a little about yourself?**

**Leping:** My name is Leping Qiu. Before coming to America, I studied at a technical school in Shanghai, China, and my major was auto repairing. I have been fascinated by cars, since I was a child. Due to my passion for cars, Detroit Michigan was always my dream place when I was young. When I was in middle school, I found myself watching the automotive technology news channel every day. Then I chose a technical school to study automotive repair. Right now, I am studying Pre-engineering at Madonna University. My favorite hobbies are fixing cars and traveling with my wife.

# Ice Fishing at Kensington Park

On February 7, International Students Office took a group of 11 students to Kensington Park. The weather on that day with sunny sky and mild temperature was perfect for this outing. At the park, we first visited the Farm Center, and saw various animals, including a mother pig and her 3-day-old babies, oxen, cows, goats, horses, geese, etc.



Students were very excited when they got to pet and feed the animals. Then we went to the Natural Center. At the Natural Center, we were lucky to run into a park rancher with a live owl. We were able to



*Maimaiti Dilihumaer, Linhan Mei, and Jing Yuan (China) try to stay warm at Kensington Metropark*

take a close look at the owl. What a beautiful creature! After the Natural Center, we walked along the trails and fed the birds. We sprinkled bird seeds in our hands, and stood very still to wait for the birds to come. After a while, birds did come down from the sky and fed directly



*Jiarun Fan, Mutailifu Lutubula, and Jun Jie Ma (China) wait for birds to come feed.*

from our hands. It was an awesome experience.



*Jiarun Fan and Louis Wang (China) build a snowman*

Jiarun Fan (China) with the help from Shaodong Wang (China) also built a large snowman. It was the first snowman that Jiarun had ever built. He couldn't believe that a small snow cone could be rolled into a gigantic and heavy snow ball. Finally we went to the lake and did some ice fishing. Students learned how to drill holes in the ice and how to set the bait.



*Jiarun Fan and Louis Wang (China) drill a hole in the ice.*



*Gyuree Kim, Hyunjee Kim, Sunhee Joh, and Eunhee Jung (South Korea) try ice fishing for the first time.*

We had a few bites, and almost caught a 10-inch fish, but the fish managed to get away before it got pulled out of the water. It was the first time for all the students on this trip to try ice fishing.



*Mutailifu Lutubula (China) and Eunhee Jung (South Korea) check to see if there are any fish under the ice.*

Even though we were not able to bring fish home for dinner, we were not too disappointed because we all had a memorable experience. We left the park at around 6:00 p.m. and promised one another that we will go fishing again in the summer. Overall, we had a wonderful trip, and look forward to the next adventure.

—Grace Philson, ISO Director

*The trip to Kensington park was more than I expected. The cold weather did not stop us from walking around the forest and feeding the bird. Luckily my friends and I packed some thick clothes and were able to stay outside for a longtime so we could enjoy ice fishing. 5 hours wasn't enough for us. It was one of the best trip ever that I went to.*



—HyunJee Kim (Korea)

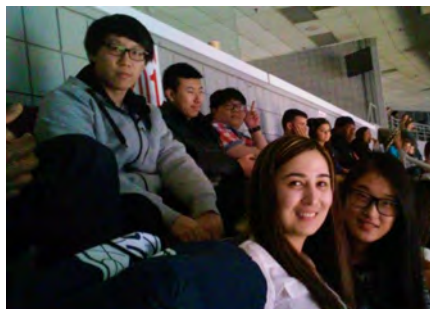
# Madonna Miles



Keren Bossion (Congo) and CJ Ezeani (Nigeria)

This month the Madonna Miles group took a road trip up to the Palace of Auburn Hills to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the Chicago Bulls.

The theme of the night was "Friday Night Out" which meant in addition to basketball there were many great performance, prize giveaways, and more food offerings. The half time show was performed by hip hop artist B.o.B., and was incredibly entertaining. Additionally there were performances from male and female dance groups, local schools, and other musicians.



Jack Geng, Dilidaer Saipiding (China), and Pei Yi Lai (Taiwan) [Bottom Right]

Despite living in Michigan, our student group was split almost half-and-half supporting Detroit and Chicago, which made the back-and-forth game even more exciting.

In the end, though, Detroit prevailed and took down Chicago 100-91. (Sorry, Bulls fans!)

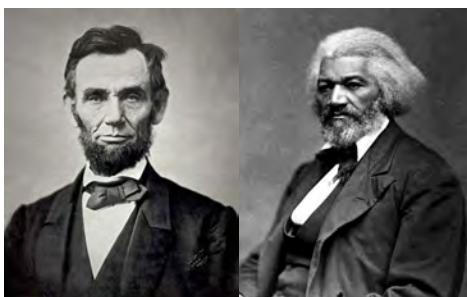


Jiarun Fan [left] and Louis Wang (China)

Madonna Miles trips are open to all students. You can find more information on dates and costs in the Student Life Office, room 1411.

You may have noticed recently some posters and flyers around the school, or maybe even programs and commercials on television, that talk about Black History Month.

Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926. The second week of February was chosen because it fell near the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14), who were both very



instrumental to the emancipation of slaves in the U.S.. Many African-American communities already celebrated their birthdays, so this week was selected by a historian named Carter G. Woodson and The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which still exists today.

## Why is February is Black History Month?

The purpose of Negro History Week was to implement greater teaching of Black history into education, so that the records and culture would not be forgotten.

In 1969 students at Kent State University proposed expanding Negro History Week into Black History Month, and first celebrated the month in 1970. In 1976 the month-long observation was officially and joyfully recognized by the United States Government, with then-President Gerald R. Ford issuing this message:

In the Bicentennial year of our Independence, we can review with admiration the impressive contributions of black Americans to our national life and culture.

*"One hundred years ago, to help highlight these achievements, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. We are grateful to him today for his initiative, and we are richer for the work of his organization.*

*Freedom and the recognition of individual rights are what our Revolution was all about. They were*

*ideals that inspired our fight for Independence: ideals that we have been striving to live up to ever since. Yet it took many years before ideals became a reality for black citizens.*

*The last quarter-century has finally witnessed significant strides in the full integration of black people into every area of national life. In celebrating Black History Month, we can take satisfaction from this recent progress in the realization of the ideals envisioned by our Founding Fathers. But, even more than this, we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.*

*I urge my fellow citizens to join me in tribute to Black History Month and the message of courage and perseverance it brings to all of us."*

(GERALD R. FORD, February 10, 1976)

I urge you to follow Former President Ford's advice and challenge yourself to learn something new about African-American history. Not just in February, but in all months of the year!

# Congratulations Dean's List Students!

Below is the list of the 59 International Students who made the Fall 2014-15 Dean's List. The Dean's List will also be posted outside of the International Students Office. Congratulations! We are very proud of you and look forward to your continued achievement!

**Congratulations! We are very proud of you and look forward to your continued achievement!**



	First name	Last name		First name	Last name		First name	Last name
1	Cristina	Adami	21	Hien	Ho	41	Liam	Morgan
2	Huisoo	Ahn	22	Chukwuebuka	Igbokwe	42	Nga	Nguyen
3	Ludvick	Asigo	23	Hyein	Ji	43	Douglas	Ogolla
4	Monica	Brydges	24	Sunhee	Joh	44	Ashley	Parent
5	Doo Won	Chang	25	Min Ji	Jung	45	Tae-hun	Park
6	Hong-Yu	Chang	26	Sung Chan	Jung	46	Kunchan	Park
7	Yaohui	Chen	27	Jonathan	Kasongo	47	Ye-Been	Park
8	Seong-In	Cho	28	Dong-Woo	Kim	48	Sang Hyun	Park
9	Young	Cho	29	Gyu Ree	Kim	49	Hannah	Poole
10	Ye Bin	Choi	30	Cayle	Lackten	50	Adam	Prashad
11	Jin sol	Choi	31	Caitlyn	Lackten	51	Leping	Qiu
12	Sung Soo	Chung	32	Thao	Lam	52	Marcel	Schmid
13	Bridget	Coffie	33	Levi	Larmour	53	Robert	St Pierre
14	Sabahat	Contractor	34	Sang Hyun	Lee	54	Alexandru	Vlad
15	Monique	DeGrandis	35	Su Young	Lee	55	Shaodong	Wang
16	Chase	Dobbie	36	Jun Jie	Ma	56	Sala	Yang
17	Ryan	Freemantle	37	Hui	Mao	57	Mo	Yang
18	Viviana	Garabello	38	Dayna	Meloche	58	Yang	Zhang
19	Peter	Gitwekere	39	Agatha	Mensah	59	Jack	Zimmerman
20	Felipe	Guimaraes	40	Deanna	Mollicone			

## Spring Break Reminders:

You must have your I-20 signed by either Grace Philson (room 1207) or Amy Dickerson (1209) before you leave the U.S. Please make sure your passport and visa are still valid, and will be valid when you return. Visas cannot be renewed anywhere other than your home country.

The school and staff offices will be open during Spring Break. Classes will resume on Monday, March 9.

Students remaining in the Residence Hall during Spring Break, please check with Residence Hall staff about additional fees and dining hall schedule.

**Have a great break! Safe travels—we'll see you in a week!**

