



MADONNA UNIVERSITY

# International Newsletter



## Festival Preparation

I am a new international student at Madonna University; this year was the first time that I participated in the international festival. When I first heard about the festival, I didn't think that it was going to be a really big event in the university. However, I was totally wrong. The atmosphere, preparation and the performances were great. I went to help with the preparations the night before the festival, and I realized that it took really hard work to do all the decorations and arrangements. First of all, all the chairs, tables and sofa had to be arranged in order. We were lucky that there were more than twenty Korean students that were strong enough to move all the furniture. Even with so much man power, it still took us a long time to finalize the table setup. After we arranged the tables, we had to blow some balloons. Blowing balloons was very fun, but at the same time exhausting, because there were hundreds of balloons waiting to be filled with air. Lastly, we put the posters on the wall to make Take-5 Lounge look lively. The International Festival was really an interesting and exciting experience for me and I am looking forward to take part in the festival again next year!

• Written by Raden Tonev

## 2008 International Festival



## Savor of International Festival

The annual international festival at Madonna University has always been a good occasion for culture exchange. The festival this year held on February 13 is no exception. At the festival, there were many displays from different countries and cultures, such as: Brazil, America, Puerto Rico, Korea, China, Philippine, India, Poland, Mexico, Bulgaria and Cameroon. On the Brazilian display, there were flags and some snacks. On the displays of Puerto Rico were some pictures, maps, hats, and dolls. The Korean one also contained dolls, posters, and Taekwondo uniforms. In addition, they also had a video showing students practicing Taekwondo. On the Chinese display table there were fortune cookies and some Chinese decoration. At the India's display table, Indian students sold earrings; they also offered tattoos of Henna. Many people participated in the festival. We had much fun. I was also pleasantly surprised to notice at the festival that there are lots of international students from various countries on campus. I believe the international festival really provides all of us with an excellent opportunity to meet new friends and to learn about each other's culture. I am already looking forward to the festival next year.

• Written by Soei Gen



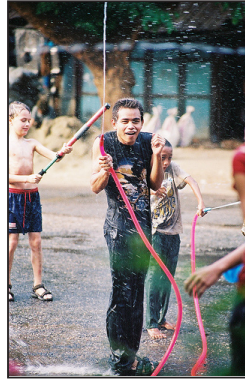
## St. Patrick's Day

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day. It is to celebrate and commemorate Irish bishop Patrick. He was a missionary of the Roman Catholic Church and made a radical change of Ireland's religion. After his death on March 17th 461 A.D, the day he died became a memorable day by the Roman Catholic Church and it has been celebrated by both sacred and secular parts of society. The three leaf clover, shamrock, is a symbol of the day. Since Patrick explained the concept of the trinity, which is unity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through the figure of the plant. In America, Irish colonists introduced this custom first and it soon became popular. The first celebration in America was held in the colonial era in Boston Massachusetts. Even General Washington, who later became the first president of country, allowed his Irish descended troops to take a day off on March 17th. Nowadays, St. Patrick's Day has become the day for festival rather than commemorating the great Catholic priest. Unlike Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is not an official holiday in America. However, many people enjoy this day by wearing the color green, watching parades, eating Irish corn beef, and dying a river into green! Hence, take out your green shirt from the wardrobe and be Irish for a day!



• Written by Seung Hyuk Baek

## The Water Festival of Burma



Every year in Burma during the celebration of the Burmese New Year, the Water Festival occurs on the second day. Upon a given canon-shot signal, people go out into the open and pour water onto the ground and on each other while reciting prayers. The pouring out of the water is meant to symbolize the washing away of one's sins from the previous year. Since the weather in most parts of Burma is either hot or warm all year long, the soaking of each other is

generally wanted and accepted with a sense of humor. People not to soak, however, are monks and pregnant women. Other features of this festival include dancing, music, puppet plays, and comedy shows. During the Water Festival, children are also told that if they have been good, their names would be listed in a golden book, but if they have been bad, their names would be listed in a book covered with dog hair.



According to a traditional Burmese religious belief, the prophesy for the new year that is announced during this part of the Burmese New Year celebration is determined by whichever animal Thagya Min (a deity in a Burmese religion) is riding on his way to earth.

• Written by Joel Rivera

## International Student of the Month



Madonna University has always been a home to all of our students when pursuing our academic goals and success. With excellent faculty, staff and facilities, Madonna University has something to make each student, regardless of race and cultural background, determine to achieve his academic goal. Soei Gen, a student of Japanese origin, has

had a lot of positive experience at Madonna University. When she first arrived on campus, Soei Gen found it hard to communicate with other students in English because of her limited knowledge of English. However, after a few months and with much assistance from her teachers and fellow students, Soei Gen is feeling more at home now. Soei Gen has also gradually become used to the food served in the dorm because Asian cuisine is offered quite often there. Activities offered on campus, such as Coffee Hour and International Festival, also have given Soei Gen an opportunity to meet new friends and to learn more about other cultures. Though Soei Gen does not have enough time to participate in all the activities she would like to, Soei Gen feels well adjusted on campus. Soei Gen is determined to succeed in her study. She said, "I am prepared to depend on myself, and I know I will do well at Madonna University"

• Written by Njabi Fombad

### Appreciation Day of International Festival

- March 28, 2008
  - 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Colonnade Lounge.
  - Slide Show, Birthday Celebration, Snack & Music
- For more information, contact with **Joy Cho (734-432-5791 or 5763)**

### Bowling Party

- April 4, 2008
  - 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, Plaza Lanes (Plymouth).
  - \$10/person: Snack, Shoes, Game & Prizes.
- For more information, contact with **Grace Philson & Joy Cho (734-432-5791 or 5763)**

### Coffee Time + Accents in Writing

- April 18, 2008
  - 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Colonnade Lounge.
  - Slide Show, Birthday Celebration, Snack & Music
- For more information, contact with **Joy Cho (734-432-5791 or 5763)**

## Newsletter Members

**Advisor:** Grace Philson

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