Many cultures celebrate the New Year on January 1, but some cultures use other dates. Chinese is one of them. Chinese celebrate their new year according to the lunar calendar. In the past, Chinese people recorded time and created the lunar calendar based on the movements of the moon. Chinese New Year is celebrated on the first day of the first full moon, which usually comes between January 21 and February 19. The Chinese New Year celebration lasts for fifteen days. This year the first day of the Chinese New Year falls on February 9.

This new Chinese year will be the Year of the Rooster.

On the first day of Chinese New Year, the younger people bow to the older people. The Chinese call this K’ou T’ou or kowtow. This means “to touch the ground with the forehead.” Then the younger people wish the older people a happy New Year. The older people give children money in red envelopes. After that, People eat rice-cake soups and many other delicious traditional foods with their family members.

This year Chinese New Year will be celebrated on February 10 at Madonna University. International Students Office is organizing the annual International Festival on February 10 to celebrate Chinese New Year as well as the Valentine’s Day. The celebration will include performances, arts and crafts displays, international fashion contest, international friendship matching game, and food from around the world. “We would like to invite everyone on campus to join us on this happy occasion. We want to use this opportunity to introduce our cultures to our American friends. At the same time, we are also raising money to help victims in the Tsunami disaster in South East Asia”, said Grace Philson, Director of International Students office.

So mark your calendar and come to celebrate with us on February 10, 2005!

Written by Jung-Won Lee

Influential Off-campus “International Helpers”

Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Austia Hickey, from Ward Church, have done tremendous work for international students. Austia noticed a lot of international students wanted to practice their English with native speakers. Thus, after her retirement from public school teaching, she suggested to Pastor Phil that Ward Church have an English as a Second Language program. Under her control as the Director of ESL, it has been running for nearly a year and a half now, and Joe has supported her emotionally and physically by landing help.

Austia and Joe also help international students by being a host family. Like many other American host families, they enjoy sharing Christian values with their international students. They hope the international students feel more comfortable being in a foreign country with the help of their program.

Austia will be the Director of ESL only until this March. However, Deborah Burger, a Madonna student of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), will continue her work. Moreover, Austia and Joe will still be a lovely host family for the international students. Lastly, they had something to say to the international students: “Please plan to join us in all the events we organize at Ward Church; we can help you be a better bilingual.”

Written by Hwa-Jung Ryu

Announcement!!!!!

1. International Festival  
   Location: Take 5 Lounge  
   Time: 12:00 am ~ 4:00 pm  
   Date: Feb 10 (Thursday)

2. Cooking Demonstration  
   Location: Room 1502  
   Time: 11:00 am ~ 1:00 pm  
   Date: March 18 (Friday)

Compiled by Sun-Kyung Cho

Advisor: Grace Philson  
Coordinator: Sun-Kyung Cho

International Cooking Demonstrations

Since last fall the International Students Office has organized several cooking demonstrations for international students to share their ethnic cuisine and cooking techniques with the entire Madonna family. Tatiana Natsik from Russia presented Pelmeni, a kind of Russian dumpling. Catherine Rivera, from Korea, a culinary art major at Henri Ford Community college, prepared three different kinds of Korean dishes. Due to the limited space in the kitchen, each class is limited to ten participants. Each participant pays $5 to cover the costs of ingredients, recipe, and food. More demonstrations will be held in the winter semester. If you want to demonstrate food from your country or if you want to learn to cook something new, sign up for the cooking class by contacting International Students Office at 734-432-5791 or 734-432-5763.

Compiled by Sun-Gyu Um

Immigration & Naturalization Service

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Students who have been maintaining F-1 student status for at least one academic year are eligible to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). To apply for OPT, you must bring to International Students Office the following documents:

- F-1 Student Expected Graduation Date Form.
- Form I-538 (The forms can be downloaded from the USCIS website.)
- Form I-765.
- Two photos (Full-frontal passport photo in color.)
- A check for $175.
- Photocopy of I-94.
- Photocopy of visa page.
- Photocopy of passport photo page.

Note that you can apply for OPT in the last semester of your study and the application must be submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services before your program end date. For detailed information about OPT, check out International Students’ Office’s website at http://www.madonna.edu/pates/IntlStudents.cfm.

Compiled by Maha Dahdal

“Happy New Year!”

In Arabic  تَسْأَلُونَ كَيْدَمُ الدِّيَاسُ
“In Chinese  ‘Sanah Jadeeda Sa-ee-da!”
In Japanese  “shin-nen akemasesu gozaimasu!”
In Korean  “Se hae bok mani badeaseyo!”
In Russian  С новым годом!
In Spanish  "Feliz Año Nuevo!"

Compiled by Jung-Jun Hwang

“MADONNA UNIVERSITY OFFERS”

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION IN MEXICO

Study Spanish language in context with trained Mexican language teachers

Excursions and activities (city tours, market visits, archeological sites)

Where: Cuernavaca (modern Mexico with plenty of historical sites on view)

When: Friday, April 29 ~ Sunday, May 8

Cost: $1375

(includes airfare, home stays, registration, course costs, excursions)

For more information:
Professor Adine Golemba *office: 2431  )734-432-5540

Compiled by Tatiana Natsik

Sources: www.romanceeverafter.com/valentine’s_day_around_the_world.htm, www.historychannel.com/exhibits/valentine/history.htm

International Cooking Demonstrations

On February 14th of each year couples all around the world celebrate Valentine’s Day. Giving small gifts on this day, such as flowers, candy or cards are customary in America. The origins of Valentine’s Day go back to the times of Roman Empire. The famous day is named after St. Valentine, who was, according to one of the many legends, a Roman priest who lived in the third century. When the emperor Claudius II, who ruled at the time, outlawed marriage for young Romans to have more single soldiers, St. Valentine married couples in secret. He was imprisoned and put to death, but was able to write the first ‘valentine’ greeting himself, to a young jailor’s daughter whom he fell in love with while in prison…

Valentine’s Day is celebrated differently around the world. In Russia you can send a ‘valentine’ not only to someone you have romantic feelings for, but also to your friends, parents and teachers! In Japan women give chocolates to men, and in Denmark people send each other poems without signing it. The reader has to recognize who wrote the card, and send the response. In China, police can confiscate a Valentine’s gift, because the holiday is against the law, due to its religious connotation...So be happy you can celebrate Valentine’s Day, and don’t forget to send a ‘valentine’ to someone you love on February 14th!

Compiled by Tatiana Natsik

Sources: www.romanceeverafter.com/valentine’s_day_around_the_world.htm, www.historychannel.com/exhibits/valentine/history.htm

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Location
11Mile & Novi Road.
24257 Novi Rd. Novi, MI 48375

Compiled by Mahan Dahdal