

## Martin Luther King Jr.

**M**artin Luther King Jr. was a clergyman from Atlanta, Georgia. When King was a child, he learned that black and white people were not allowed to mix in public places.

Black people sat in different parts of restaurants, movie theaters, and at the back of the bus. Moreover, black and white children went to different schools. This kind of separation was called segregation.

The early 1960's was the first time in American history when African-Americans began to organize protests against discrimination in American society.

Martin Luther King Jr. became one of the most powerful leaders of this movement for change. Although he called for non-violent protests, there were many beatings, shootings, and killings throughout the 1960's.

He believed in peace and helped African-Americans protest in peace.

King wanted equality for everybody in the United States. This was called the civil rights movement. In 1963, King was the leader of the civil rights march in Washington D.C. where thousands of people listened to his famous speech "I Have a Dream" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. King described his dream of freedom for all and reminded people that violence was not the way to reach the dream. In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. This award is given to people who help bring peace to the world. Sadly, four years later in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He was only thirty-nine years old.

After he died, his birthday (January 15) became a national holiday in the United States in his honor.



## Welcome! Taiwanese Friends

**O**n August 12th, Sister Nancy (Vice President) and Grace Philson (Director of International Students office) attended the International Fair in Taiwan. Sr. Nancy stayed one week and Grace stayed two weeks. Sr. Nancy participated in the fair for the second time.

Sr. Nancy and Grace went to three schools in three different cities in Taiwan. They visited Thashia High School, two campuses at Alhethia University, and met more than one thousand students. There were 70 different schools from the United States who participated in the fair to introduce their school programs. During the fair, Grace and Sr. Nancy presented Madonna's unique characteristics to students.

"It is a good way to promote the university," Grace said. She also said there were a great number of students who were interested in coming to Madonna. Many Taiwanese alumni who graduated from MU came to the fair to help Sr. Nancy and Grace.

This trip was very special to Grace because she was born in Taiwan. It made her happy to visit her mother country again and many of her relatives came to see her. Sr. Nancy and Grace had a great time in Taiwan. "I'm looking forward to see many students come to Madonna University", Grace said.

## 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 \$180.
- ++ 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>.

## International Festival

Many countries and cities around the world have their own national festivals and holidays that represent their cultural backgrounds. In Michigan, for example, the Renaissance Festival is held every September in Holly as well as the Tulip Festival, which takes place in May in Holland.

These events are famous for their unique characteristics. Furthermore, national holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day continue to be celebrated by people worldwide.

This month, the international students at Madonna University will celebrate their holidays and remember their native countries during the 10th annual International Student Festival on January 31st in the Take Five Lounge beginning at 12 noon. Students from different parts of the world will introduce their countries, cultures, foods, and have souvenirs for sale.

All are invited to attend - bring your families and friends! It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the world and make new friends.

For more information about the International Student Festival or if you would like to participate, please call 734-432-5791, e-mail Grace Philson (gphilson@madonna.edu), or visit room 1207. Hope to see you there!

*Written by Hyeon-Woo Park*

## January International Student



Natalja Tinina, a senior at Madonna University, was born in Latvia's capital, Riga. She was invited to attend MU in recognition of her outstanding performance in Riga as a scholar and an athlete. At Madonna, she plays Outside Hitter in the University's acclaimed volleyball team, the Crusaders. Her dream job is to be a part of the organization of the Olympic games. After graduating from MU, she will return to her hometown and work for a few years in her field to gain more experience. She plans to get her Master's Degree in Sports Management.

Natalja enjoys reading classic books, along the lines of Crime and Punishment. She also likes to cook, listen to music, play guitar, and dance. She is even taking a guitar class at MU to learn more about what she calls "an easy concept."

During her last semester, she will divide her time between volleyball, coaching, working as a referee, classes and her internship. She points out that even though it is difficult for an athlete to graduate on time because of the high demands, she has somehow managed to finish in four years.

Good luck Natalja! Good luck in everything you do!

*Written by Ana-Marie Maier*

## Newsletter Members

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## Dia de los Reyes

In Mexico, Christmas is still celebrated after December 25. One of the days between December 25 and February 2 (Candlemas, the closing day of the Christmas season) is Dia de los Reyes (Day of the Kings) on January 6. Dia de los Reyes is a Mexican holiday that commemorates the coming of the three wise men (kings) from the orient to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. On the night of January 5, families add three wise men figures to their Nativity scene sets. This is a holiday where children continue to receive gifts as they did on Christmas day. They leave their shoes either in the living room or under their bed and are told the three wise men will come and leave presents in their shoes. The children go to sleep excited and look forward to the next day. On the morning of the holiday, the children find gifts in or by their shoes and spend the day enjoying them while the grown-ups prepare to celebrate with each other during the Merienda de Reyes (a special evening dinner celebration for Dia de los Reyes).

*Written by Joel Rivera*

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