

International Newsletter

November, 2006

JOIN ANN ARBOR TRIP!



What was your first impression of MI? Since most of us go to MU, I assume the impression of Livonia may be all we can think of it. I know so well that students may feel bored in Livonia so easily. Therefore, I urgently recommend for you to visit the city of Ann Arbor this coming November 25th! Ann Arbor is best known for the University of Michigan. In Ann Arbor, you will be pleased to find a fascinating, cosmopolitan Midwestern town with plenty of things to experience. Much of the city is built around the University of Michigan and the students who attend it. The uptown area is filled with theaters, restaurants, bars, clubs, and other facilities that satisfy students' thirst for fun.

Michigan stadium, one of the largest stadiums in the world, can be found on the campus. Several good

museums are operated by the university including the Archaeology Museum, Natural history Museum, Art Museum, and also Botanical Gardens. Ann Arbor is also a perfect place to taste other culture's food. Interesting options include the Chocolate Cafe? for an overwhelming chocolate experience, Zingerman's Deli for sandwiches, and Blimpie Burger's, Krazy Jim's for classic style burgers. For Middle Eastern and Asian look no further than the Blue Nile for Ethiopian, Banh Na Laos and Thai Cuisine for Southeast Asian, Arirang for Korean, Earthen Jar for Indian, and Godaiko for Sushi. The journey team will take off at one o'clock. Make sure you take a camera with you so that you do not miss the fascinating landscapes of Ann Arbor! For more information, contact International Students Office.



Written by Il-Han Park

If you need a break...

How is your life going at Madonna? Are you frustrated and disappointed about yourself because of the result of the mid-term? No, it is too early to give up. You have to have a good time here. The following are some tips for you to freshen up your mind and enjoy your school life at Madonna University.

International students office (ISO) offers a welcome party for all international students especially freshmen, and American students. In this meeting, you can make many friends, communicate and get information about each other.



Also, Coffee Time, which is held once a month at the Colonnade Lounge, has the same purpose as the welcome party. This gathering is sponsored by many religious groups such as Korean Presbyterian Church Metro Detroit, Ward Presbyterian Church and Korean Catholic Church. If you have had a hard time studying, ask your friends here and get some tips!



Moreover, if you are really interested in foods from other countries, you are going to love this class, "CookingClass." ISO is planning cooking classes this coming November and also January, February and March in 2007. As you cook, you can learn about different cultures and the great thing is you can taste the food you prepare! The details of the cooking class will be announced later.



For more information, you can contact Grace Philson or Joy Cho at the International Students Office.

Written by Hyeon-Woo Park

ISO: Event Calendar

November 17 (Friday) Coffee Time 1pm - 2:30pm
Sponsored by Korean Local Church
November 25 (Saturday) Field Trip: Ann Arbor

Newsletter Members

Advisor	Grace Philson	
Coordinator	Sun-Kyung Cho	
Editor	Myoung-Ki Chang	Regine Estrellas
	Han-Na Gu	Bo-Young Kim
	Ana-Marie Maier	Hyeon-Woo Park
	Il-Han Park	Joel Rivera
	Eun-A You	Jaime Young

Short time, long memory



Madonna University receives several exchange students every year. This year, we have one exchange student from Hong-Kong. Pui-lam Ho (Tracy) is her name. When asked about her age, she smiled and said, "it is a secret." She was attending Hong-Kong Baptist University as a senior in her home country.

An interesting fact she told us is that most university programs in Hong-Kong take three years, not four years like the US and other countries. Her major in Hong Kong was physical education & recreation management. She is taking sports management classes at Madonna University. "Basically I can take any classes I want," she laughed.

"MU is such a great place to learn English," she responded when I asked her why she chose Madonna University. She liked Madonna University because there are not many Chinese students and this gives her more chance to speak English. Tracy also told me that she likes to compare the US and her home country - there are so many differences. She described Hong Kong as a busy, crowded place with thousands of tall buildings and a lots of traffic. For Tracy, Madonna University and Livonia were just quiet and calm when she got here at first. "I wish there were more public transportations that I can go more places." It is true that exchange students have such a short time to experience the US and Madonna University. Tracy stays here for only one semester, but I hope that she will go back to her country with unforgettable memories.

Cheers for you, Tracy.

Written by Bo-Young Kim

"Experiencing American Culture through Community Engagement"

Hello! My name is Stephen Rahrig, and I am an AmeriCorps*VISTA. That means I am a full-time volunteer at Madonna University and I work with the Office of Service-Learning, the Office of Student Activities/Community Service/Wellness, and the Office of First Year Experience to promote community engagement on campus.

What is "community engagement"? Community engagement is any activity that involves students helping to make the surrounding area a better place to live for everyone. For example, in Detroit, there is a problem with poverty. There are many people who live in Detroit who are working very hard, but they are not making enough money for a good house to live in. So, Madonna regularly brings a group of students to Detroit to help build houses that do not cost very much money to buy. People living in poverty are then able to own a house of their own. The organization that runs this activity is called Habitat for Humanity. Madonna will be going to help Habitat for Humanity once a month. If you want to come, please contact me, 734-432-5712 or srahrig@madonna.edu.

I hear many international students say they want to go out and see Detroit, and experience more American culture. Being involved in the various community engagement activities is a great way to do this. It is very cheap, transportation is provided, you get to see one of the biggest cities in America (Detroit), and you get the satisfaction of helping people and making a good difference.

Written by Stephen Rahrig

New Director of Campus Ministry

Please welcome Deacon Gonzalo Viana to Madonna University. He is stepping into Father Xavier's shoes and taking over the direction of our Campus Ministry Office and activities. Deacon Viana is a member of a religious order named the "Miles Christi," and is originally from Argentina. He speaks Spanish and English quite well. He has happily accepted this assignment at MU because he believes providing ways for students to help others is a way of showing love to God. He is also fulfilling his vows by helping to "lead souls to God and serve God's people," as he puts it. The Campus Ministry Office is, he reminds, open to anyone from all walks of life. And you do not need to be involved with a particular religion to help others. "Campus Ministry is a social service," he says, where interested students can volunteer their time to improve other people's lives in such places as soup kitchens or Habitat for Humanity. You will see Campus Ministry organize many events this year, including food donations, Homeless Experience, seminars, inviting guest speakers to Kresge, retreats,

Masses, etc. So far, Campus Ministry has four committees which anyone can join: Peace and Justice, Caritas (meaning "Charity"), Respect Life, and the Spirituality Subcommittee.

You can learn more about Campus Ministry and its interesting upcoming activities by picking up a schedule from the International Student desk or visiting the Campus Ministry Office.

Written by Ana-Marie Maier



Celebrating All Saints Day in the Philippines

All Saints Day (November 1) is considered a holiday in the Philippines. It is the day to commemorate deceased family members and friends. There is something unique in how Filipinos celebrate this holiday. A week before November 1, cemeteries, graves, and pantheons are cleaned and spruced up. Some are painted with white colors symbolizing purity, love, and peace. Cemeteries in the Philippines are extremely busy on the day itself since most Filipino families and friends from all walks of life gather together to visit their love ones' graves. They set up tents, decorate the graves with flowers, candles and offerings, prepare different kinds of food, and play card games in the cemeteries. There is a festive air in most cemeteries up to the wee hours in the morning. Some Filipino families build and decorate altars or small shrines with flowers, cross, candles, statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus, and place the pictures of their departed love ones at the altar. Prayers are offered, stories are told, memories are cherished, relationships are strengthened, and food is shared during this special holiday. Given all of these festivities, celebrating All Saints Day in the Philippines is truly a significant holiday not only to commemorate and remember their departed love ones but also to renew and strengthen the relationships among the family members, friends, as well as townmates.

Written by Regine Estrellas