

Welcome new international students



UPCOMING EVENTS OF ISO~!!

For those who need something more than just doing school works, here are several events waiting for you from International Student Office (ISO). As usual, many new international students have arrived on campus in this fall semester. In order to help them adjust to a new environment, ISO has been planning various events. Welcome Party is one of them. It is going to be held on September 14th, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Colonnade Lounge. At the party, you will have an opportunity to meet staffs, professors as well as students from foreign countries. You can also try various foods as well. Oh, are you curious about American homes and families?

Ward Presbyterian Church is recruiting American host families for international students. Students will be invited to their host family's house and spend time together, having a meal, talking, and enjoying other activities. Stop by ISO to learn more updated news regarding host family. If you are interested in participating in an outdoor activity, you can go in a: field trip to Apple Orchard on October 5th, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The last one I want to introduce today is "Coffee Time," which is going to be held on the 2nd Friday of October at Colonnade Lounge. Come and have some recharging time with friends! This usually takes place two to three times per semester, so you don't need to be discouraged even if you miss the first one. For more detailed information, contact ISO at 734-432-5763.

Written by Il-Han Park

Independence Day In Brazil

In Brazil, Independence Day is celebrated on the seventh day of September every year. That day is also known as Dia da Independencia in Portuguese. The people of Brazil declared their independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822 when a man by the name of Prince Pedro openly declared his opposition against the Portuguese colonial government and said, "By my blood, by my honor, and by God: I will make Brazil free." Pedro, the prince-regent of Brazil, was faced with two choices. It was either to return to Portugal in disgrace or fight for independence. In a famous scene at the shore of the Ipiranga River on that day, Pedro tore the Portuguese insignia off his uniform, drew his sword, and voiced out the declaration of independence. The motto of those fighting for independence was "Independencia ou Morte!" ("Independence or Death!"). Thus, the Brazilian War of Independence was fought for five years between 1821 and 1825. On August 29, 1825, Brazil finally gained independence from Portugal when the Portuguese recognized Brazilian independence and signed a treaty for that. Afterwards, the declarer of Brazilian Independence, Prince Pedro, became Emperor Pedro I of Brazil.

Written by Joel Rivera

Become Comfortable with Your Surroundings through Community Engagement

I recently had a conversation with Ryan Gatuz, a pre-Nursing student from the Philippines. We spoke about his experience last summer, when he regularly volunteered in the Mother House's infirmary. Every day for about two hours, Ryan would play games with the Sisters and assist them in going to the prayer room. I asked Ryan how the Sisters felt about his service. He said, "When I would arrive, the Sisters were very happy when they saw me. I was very much welcome. Of course I feel happy because now they are here welcoming me. I really appreciated it." In addition to making him feel welcome and comfortable, the Sisters also helped Ryan with his English skills: "The experience helped to improve my English and to understand what they were saying. It especially helped with my accent." Ryan has noticed that a lot of international students at Madonna tend to group with students from their home countries. He has this advice to give to those students: "Don't be shy! Everybody is there to help you." The experience also inspired Ryan to reach out to more people and help in many different ways. This year will be full of great service opportunities on campus and in the community. For example, students will be volunteering in Detroit at Habitat for Humanity, St. Aloysius, and All Saints soup kitchen. Students will also be going on trips to places such as the Gulf Coast (to do Hurricane Katrina rebuilding) and Mexico (to help build a community center). These are all great opportunities to get more comfortable in this community, to improve English skills, and to really help people out. If you are interested in service activities like these, please contact me!

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New Associate Dean of Academic Advising



We'd like to introduce the new Associate Dean of Academic Advising at MU, Chris Benson. In her last job, Ms. Benson oversaw the first year experience of incoming freshmen. Now she also oversees advising for all students.

Students are doing the best they can, but sometimes need help adjusting to college life. In the 3rd or 4th week of September, she is trying to organize a walk-in for the Advising Office (next to the ODR). That week, students will be able to stop in and find out how the Advising Office works, and ask any questions about college.

Ms. Benson received a BA in Communication from Madonna University, and a secondary teaching certificate for teaching high school. She has taught 11th and 12th grade English, but left when a job opened at Madonna University. She got her Master's degree at Madonna University in teaching and learning. This fall, she is starting the PhD program at Wayne State University. She hopes this program will give her better skills to help students at Madonna University.

Chris has some advice for International students: "First, please ask questions. I know it's intimidating, but it's even worse not to ask. Second, get involved in activities and get to know people." Often, international students isolate themselves, she says, and they miss out on exactly the experiences they came here to have. And, "third, network. Get to know a lot of people. It builds confidence."

Written by Ana-Marie Maier



ISO event calendar

October	5 (Friday)	Field Trip : Apple picking Erwin Orchard	1:00p.m.~5:00p.m.
October	19 (Friday)	Coffee Time Colonnade Lounge	1:00p.m.~2:30p.m.
November	16 (Friday)	Coffee Time Colonnade Lounge	1:00p.m.~2:30p.m.
November	30 (Friday)	Go Bowling	6:00p.m.~9:00p.m.

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We always welcome new members!