

February 2013



Ring in the New Year with some love and friendship!

Last week the International Students Office teamed up with the Paper Hearts Workshop hosted by the Library and Writing Center to celebrate the Lunar New Year and St. Valentine's Day. International and American students enjoyed a hodgepodge of cultural foods including Chinese fried rice, Korean tteokbokki (chewy rice cakes in a spicy red pepper sauce), pizza, cupcakes and fortune cookies.

Some of our students showcased their various talents with performances: InSoo Shim on guitar, JunYoung Lee with card tricks, and XuDong Shang on guitar and Piano.

Other students competed to win Red Envelopes and got to know each other better by playing our adaptation of "The Newlywed Game", in which contestants answered questions about their friends,

classmates, coworkers or significant others. We were impressed with how well some partners proved to know each other (like Soobin Kim and Sewoung Oh, or Nina (Quixi) Meng and Mina (Mo) Yang), while some partners looked like had never met before (eh-hem... Ms. Grace Philson and Mr. Thomas Laabs)! Everyone, winners and losers alike, had fun and our winners even received a much-coveted Red Envelope! What is a red envelope? Turn to page two to find out!



Page 2:	Chinese New Year
Page 2:	Are You Compatible?
Page 3:	Chinese Zodiac
Page 3:	Groundhog Day
Page 4:	Meet Our Staff!
Page:5	Birthdays!
Page: 6	Upcoming Events

What's in this issue?



Happy Lunar New Year! ~ Year of the Snake

Lunar New Year (commonly called “Chinese New Year” in many western countries) is actually celebrated by the many Asian and Middle Eastern countries. China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Tibet and Vietnam all celebrate them at a similar time—usually in January or February of the Gregorian calendar. It is also celebrated in many other countries with significant populations of Chinese people.

In China, the holiday (also called The Spring Festival) lasts for 15 days. To prepare, many families clean the house (to make room for the good luck to enter) and hang scrolls with words of good luck in calligraphy over doors to ward off evil spirits and welcome peace and good fortune. Interestingly, homophones play a very important

role in Chinese New Year. On New Year’s morning many people in northern China eat *jiaozi* (Chinese dumplings). The changing of the old year to the new year in Chinese is called *Geng Sui Jiao Zi*, so the name of the dumpling sounds very similar to “changing time”, and thus it is eaten to bring in the new year. In southern

China, however, people are more likely to eat a sweet, sticky rice cake called *niangao* (similar to *mocha* in Japan or *tteok* in Korea) because the homonym of “*nian*” (cake) means “year” and the homonym of “*gao*” (sticky) means “high or tall”, so it has a meaning of “higher and higher with each year”.

Traditionally people dress up in new

clothes for New Year’s Day and , upon greeting their parents, children receive a red envelope with money inside as a New Year gift.

On the streets different festivities take place: like lion dancing, dragon lantern dancing, lantern festivals, and lighting firecrackers. piety in which children bow to their elders and wish them blessings for the new year.

In Korea the Lunar New Year (called *Seollal*) is three days. Many people return to their hometowns to visit families and often wear traditional clothing called *hanbok*. In Korea, no matter when your birthday falls, everyone ages on the same date: Lunar New Year. Therefore, people eat *tteokguk* (a soup made with chewy rice cakes), because it is an important part of the aging process. After you eat your *tteokguk* you become one year older.



Like in China, Koreans also receive money from parents and older relatives. Money is given after *sebae*, which is a ceremony of filial piety in which children bow to their elders and wish them blessings for the new year.

HOW COMPATIBLE ARE YOU???

The Chinese zodiac matches people to one of the twelve zodiac animals based on birth year (on the lunar calendar). Just like the western zodiac, it is used to make predictions about many areas of life, like personality traits, the future, and love. In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, take a look at the table below to find out how compatible you are with your valentine!
(If you don’t know your zodiac symbol, take a look at the next page!)

	Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit	Dragon	Snake	Horse	Goat	Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Pig
Rat	9	6	4	7	10	7	3	4	10	6	8	8
Ox	6	8	4	8	7	9	5	2	4	9	7	7
Tiger	4	4	5	5	6	3	9	4	2	4	9	7
Rabbit	7	8	5	8	7	7	5	9	4	2	8	9
Dragon	10	7	6	7	9	8	8	7	10	9	2	8
Snake	7	9	3	7	8	8	4	7	4	9	8	4
Horse	3	5	9	5	8	4	8	8	5	6	9	6
Goat	4	2	4	9	7	7	8	9	5	5	4	9
Monkey	10	4	2	4	10	4	5	5	9	4	8	7
Rooster	6	9	4	2	9	9	6	5	4	4	5	5
Dog	8	7	9	8	2	8	9	4	8	5	7	7
Pig	8	7	7	9	8	4	6	9	7	5	7	8

Did you know...?

In some Asian countries, like Japan and South Korea, On Valentine’s Day women give chocolates to men! This is because when the holiday was first being promoted in Japan in the 1950’s, one chocolate company used a poor Japanese translation that suggested it was customary for ladies to give chocolates to gentlemen... and so they do! But don’t worry, ladies. The candy companies wouldn’t let this injustice be for long, and so “White Day” was created on March 14th for the gentlemen to return the favor. White Day is celebrated in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China (although in China the gender-giving in swapped).



This month we welcomed the year of the snake on the lunar calendar.

What is your Chinese Zodiac animal???

(Zodiac descriptions courtesy of La Choy at <http://www.lachoy.com/pdf/>)

Year of the Rat

1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

You are imaginative, charming, and truly generous to the person you love. However, you have a tendency to be quick-tempered and overly critical. You are also inclined to be somewhat of an opportunist. Born under this sign, you should be happy in sales or as a writer, critic, or publicist.

Year of the Ox

1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

A born leader, you inspire confidence from all around you. You are conservative, methodical, and good with your hands. Guard against being chauvinistic and always demanding your own way. You would be successful as a skilled surgeon, general, or hairdresser.

Year of the Tiger

1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010

You are sensitive, emotional, and capable of great love. However, you have a tendency to get carried away and be stubborn about what you think is right; you're often seen as a "hothead" or rebel. Your sign shows you would be excellent as a boss, explorer, race car driver, or matador.

Year of the Rabbit

1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011

You are diplomatic and detest conflict. You can be evasive and sometimes tell others what they want to hear instead of what you are really thinking. If others need advice you will offer them good counsel. You stay clear of the limelight, but always enjoy the good things in life.

Year of the Dragon

1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012

Full of vitality and enthusiasm, you are a popular individual (even with the reputation of being foolhardy and a "bigmouth" at times.) You are intelligent, gifted, and a perfectionist, but these qualities make you unduly demanding on others. You would be well-suited to being an artist, priest, or politician.

Year of the Snake

1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013

Rich in wisdom and charm, you are romantic and deep-thinking, and your intuition guides you strongly. Avoid procrastination and your stingy attitude toward money. Keep your sense of humor about life. You would be most content as a teacher, philosopher, writer, psychiatrist, or fortune teller.

Year of the Horse

1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014

Your capacity for hard work is amazing. You are your own person and very independent. While intelligent and friendly, you guard against being egotistical. Your sign suggests success as an adventurer, scientist, poet, or politician.

Year of the Goat

1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015

Except for the knack of often getting off on the wrong foot with people, you can be charming company. You are elegant and artistic, but the first to complain about things. Put aside your pessimism and worry and try to be less dependent on material comforts. You would be best as an actor, gardener, or beachcomber.

Year of the Monkey

1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016

You are very intelligent and have a very clever wit. Because of your extraordinary nature and magnetic personality, you are always well-liked. You, however, must guard against being an opportunist and distrustful of other people. Your sign promises success in any field you try.

Year of the Rooster

1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017

You are a hard worker, shrewd and definite in decision making, often speaking your mind. Because of this, you tend to seem boastful to others. You are a dreamer, a flashy dresser, and extravagant to an extreme. Born under this sign, you should be happy as a restaurant owner, publicist, soldier, or world traveler.

Year of the Dog

1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

You will never let others down. Born under this sign, you are honest and faithful to those you love. You are plagued by constant worry, a sharp tongue, and a tendency to be a fault finder. You would make an excellent businessman, activist, teacher, or secret agent.

Year of the Boar

1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

You are a splendid companion, an intellectual with a very strong need to set difficult goals and carry them out. You are sincere, tolerant, and honest, but by expecting the same from others, you are incredibly naive. Your quest for material goods could be your downfall. You would be best in the arts as an entertainer, or possibly a lawyer.

Punxsutawney... Who?

In every culture that celebrates Chinese New Year, a lot of folklore and superstitions exist around the holiday, but it certainly isn't the only holiday with its own folklore and superstitions! Earlier this month we celebrated Groundhog Day in the U.S. Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2nd every year. It has its roots in Pennsylvanian German culture and has been celebrated since the 18th century. According to the folklore if it is cloudy on this day, when a groundhog emerges from his burrow spring will come early that year. If it is sunny, on the other hand, the groundhog will see his shadow and, becoming frightened, will hide back in his burrow. In this case winter will continue for 6 more weeks.



These days the biggest Groundhog Day celebration occurs in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. On this day more than 40,000 people gather to watch Punxsutawney Phil (the weather-predicting groundhog) emerge from his burrow. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's *Inner Circle* wear traditional-style tuxedos and top hats (reminiscent of the 19th century) and gather around Phil to gauge his weather prediction. Phil almost always predicts a long winter, but this year, Phil did NOT see his shadow, which means Spring will be here soon! What do you think? Does it feel like an early Spring is coming?

(It is worth noting that according to the StormFax Weather Almanac, Phil has a 39% accuracy rate.)

Meet our Staff!

This month we welcomed a new staff member at the ISO! We are happy to introduce Melody (Ge) Gao!



My name is Ge Gao (Melody). I'm an international student from China. I've been in the U.S. for about two and a half years. I majored in Clinical Medicine in China, and I'm going to get my Master's degree in Hospice and Palliative Studies at Madonna University in May 2013. I like music very much, and I can play a Chinese traditional instrument called *GuZheng*. I hope that my music skill and medical background can be a good combination to assist people with end of life issues both physically and emotionally in the future.

Why did you choose your English name 'Melody'? Is it because you are a musician?

My first name "Ge" means song. In China, my full name "Gao Ge" (we put our last name before the first name) could also be a good word to describe a person who is singing a good song, and I like music! Interesting, right^^?



The *GuZheng* is a traditional Chinese instrument with 18-23 strings as well as moveable bridges. The instrument dates back to the 4th or 5th century BC and became very prominent during the Qin Dynasty (221 to 206 BC). The *GuZheng* is related to many later instruments from other countries as well: the *koto* (Japan), the *yatga* (Mongolia), the *gayageum* (Korea) and the *đàn tranh* (Vietnam).



Several of our international students celebrates or are celebrating birthdays in the month of February (including our very own Melody!).

Happy birthday to all of you! Hope you were able to have some birthday cake at the last coffee time!!

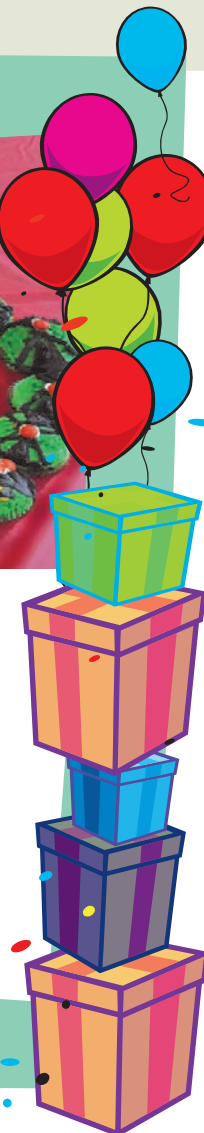
Fei Liu	February 2
Junga Kim	February 5
Dava Davaajav	February 16
Soobin Kim	February 18
Gang Ma	February 21
Melody (Ge) Gao	February 22
Qian Yun Hu	February 24

Who are YOU?



Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter? Or maybe you would like to write an article about your culture, major, activities or interests?

If so, please contact Amy Dickerson at aldickerson@madonna.edu, or stop by room 1209! Thanks!



Important Happenings!

Madonna Miles

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Institute of Arts

Date: Friday, February 22

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: \$18 (if not enrolled in ESL lab)

Did you know that February is Black History Month??? What better way to celebrate than by taking a tour of the **largest African American Museum in the world!!!**

After the museum, you will go to the world-famous Renaissance Center for lunch, and then down the street to the Detroit Institute of Arts. With more than 100 galleries, **the DIA's collection is among the top 6 in the U.S.!**

The trip is open to ANYONE who wants to go. If you are not enrolled in the ESL lab, the cost is only \$18.00, and can be paid at the Student Life Office (rm 1411). Lunch is not provided, so please bring your own lunch or money for lunch.

Madonna Miles

Michigan Historical Museum and the State Capitol Building in Lansing, MI

Date: Friday, March 15

Time: 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Cost: \$15 (if not enrolled in ESL lab)

Explore the city of Lansing, our state capitol! Take a tour of the capitol building and experience Michigan's history at the historical museum!

The trip is open to ANYONE who wants to go. If you are not enrolled in the ESL lab, the cost is only \$15.00, and can be paid at the Student Life Office (rm 1411). Lunch is not provided, so please bring your own lunch or money for lunch.



Music Department

Faculty Recital

Date: Friday, February 22

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Kresge Hall

Cost: \$5 for students

Departmental Student Recital

Date: Friday, March 15

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Kresge Hall

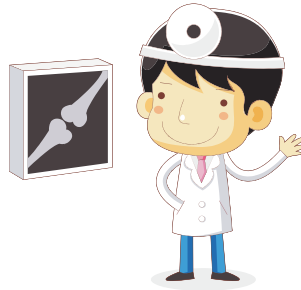
Lyric Theatre: The Phantom of the Opera

Location: Kresge Hall

Dates: Saturday, April 6
Sunday, April 7

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13



Health Insurance/ Healthcare Workshop

Date: Wednesday, February 27

Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Room 2403

This is important information whether you have Madonna Insurance, Foreign insurance, traveler's insurance, or another kind. We will discuss where to go when you are ill, how to schedule appointments, and how to use your insurance.

Coffee Time: Cooking Class!

Date: Thursday, March 16

Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Location: TBA

Come get a demonstration on how to make some tasty dishes, then enjoy what you've made! More information in coming weeks!



Job Preparation Workshop: Resume Writing, Interviewing, and OPT

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2013

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: TBA

Explore different job and internship options and learn what employers are looking for on resumes and in interviews. Gain the necessary skills to get the job you want! Also learn about applying for OPT (optional practical training), and OPT regulations.



MADONNA UNIVERSITY

LYRIC THEATRE PERFORMERS

April 6 Saturday at 7:30pm

April 7 Sunday at 3:00pm

April 12 Friday at 7:30pm

April 13 Saturday at 7:30pm
Kresge Hall

Admission \$12 adults \$10 students/seniors - general seating
734-432-5300 tickets (cash or check only)