



# March, 2014



## Spring has Sprung....?



**Despite** the cold, harsh weather these days, Spring officially kicked off on March 20th! As the days begin to get longer, soon the weather will warm up (hopefully!). In addition to the promise of Spring, March also brings a lot of spirit and tradition with events like St. Patrick's Day, Le Marche du Nain Rouge, and March Madness.

### St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day happens each year on the 17th of March, and is a celebration of the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. Because Irish immigrants are very prominent around this area and have played a very big part in the development of Detroit, there are many St. Patrick's Day events to commemorate the holiday. One of the most well-known events is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit. This year the parade was held on Sunday, March 16, and wound through the Irish neighborhood of Corktown in Detroit, which is also one of Detroit's oldest neighborhoods.



St. Patrick's Day Parade Chicago 2014

Madonna Students (from left) Tyler Rumbold, Ian Christie, Jessica Klapko, Sean Lee, and Delvonta Pinkston traveled to Chicago for the 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This year our very own Irish ambassador, Ian Christie, marched in both the Detroit parade on 3/16 and the Chicago Parade on 3/15!

On Monday, March 17th, Ian also organized a St. Patrick's Day event in the Take-5 Lounge in which Irish food was provided and a game of Celtic Football was organized. Read more about Gaelic Football on page 3!



Every year Chicago dyes the Chicago River green in honor of St. Patrick's Day—a tradition born in 1961. The dye used is actually a shade of orange, but turns green after making contact with the water!



The event started off with the Corktown 5k race down the parade route, followed by the parade. Parade marchers come from all over the state and included floats, marching bands, veterans, bagpipers, Knights of Columbus, Detroit police and firefighters, and many more.



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# March Madness

Maybe you've heard the term "March Madness" floating around lately. You can't turn on the TV or read the news without seeing it! For many people March and basketball go together like peanut butter and jelly.

March Madness refers to the Division 1 college basketball championship that takes place every year in March. The games begin with 68 teams and are separated into 7 rounds:

## **Round 1 (The First Four):**

Four games are played between the lower-ranked 8 teams to determine who will make it into the competition.

## **Round 2 (The round of 64):**

All 64 teams play one game (32 games total). Teams are separated into 4 groups of 16 (based on region), and ranked highest (#1) to lowest (#16) based on their performance during the regular season. For the round 2 games, the teams are matched highest with lowest, so the #1 team plays the #16 team, the #2 team plays the #15 team, #3 plays #14, and so on.

## **Round 3 (The round of 32):**

The winners from Round 2 each play a game (16 games total), and like round 2 they are matched highest with lowest within their regional bracket. After round two 16 teams will remain and this is known as the "Sweet Sixteen".

## **Round 4 (Regional Semi-Finals or "The Sweet Sixteen")**

16 teams each play one game. The remaining 8 teams are known as the "Elite 8".

## **Round 5 (Regional Finals or "The Elite Eight")**

8 teams each play one game (4 games total) to determine the champion of each region.

## **Round 6 (The Final Four)**

The remaining 4 teams play one game (2 games total) to determine who will go to the national championship game.

## **Round 7 (The National Championship)**

The last two teams play each other for the championship title!

The winner of the championship game participates in the "net-cutting" tradition in which they cut the net off of both hoops on the court. Each player (starting with seniors) cuts one strand of the net, and the Head coach cuts the last strand.



Teams are also awarded trophies: the winning team receives a gold trophy, the losing finalist receives a silver trophy, and all final four teams receive bronze trophies. An award also goes to the most outstanding player of the winning team.

The winning team also gets to keep the hardwood floor from the court of the championship game. The current floor of the Breslin Center at MSU is from their last championship win in 2000.

## **Why is March Madness so popular?**

This basketball tournament is a beloved event because it moves so quickly and is very high-energy! Every round of the championship is single-elimination, which means if a team loses one game, they are out of the whole tournament. Because of this, anything can happen! Even though it might seem like a #1 team will always win against a #16 team, this is not the case and many upsets can happen with low-ranked teams beating high-ranked teams. In fact, this year we have already seen many!

At the beginning of the tournament many Americans fill out a "bracket" in which they try to guess which teams will win. Getting a "perfect bracket" is extremely rare.

The games are always played over the weekend (Thursday-Sunday), so tune in to catch it!



Currently both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University are still in the running!

Round 4 will take place this Thursday 3/27 and Friday 3/28, Round 5 on 3/29 and 3/30, Round 6 on 4/5 and the Championship game on 4/6. Catch it on CBS!





# Marche Du Nain Rouge



In observance of St. Patrick's Day (and all things Irish), on March 17th Ian Christie (of Ireland) hosted a St. Patrick's Day celebration with food in the Take-5 lounge and a game of Gaelic Football in the gym.

## What is Gaelic Football?

If you're familiar with soccer, rugby, and Australian Rules Football, Gaelic Football carries aspects of each, but with its own unique elements.

The game is played on a large rectangular pitch, with a net and goalposts at both ends. There are 15 positions on each team including the goalkeeper. The game is played with a spherical leather ball that resembles a volleyball, but larger.

The objective of the game is to score points, by getting the ball over the crossbar between the goalposts (1 point), or to score goals, by kicking the ball into the net (3 points).



Photo courtesy of leagueathletics.com

Players move the ball up the field by a combination of kicking, carrying, hand-passing, bouncing and soloing (dropping the ball and kicking back up into your hands). The defense then tries to gain control of the ball through interception or tackling (which is limited to shoulder-to-shoulder contact and slapping the ball from the carrier's hands).

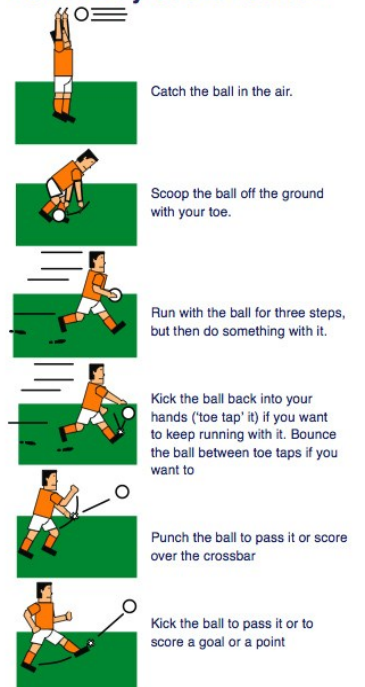


Photo courtesy of leagueathletics.com

Gaelic Football is very popular in Ireland, garnering the highest attendance of any sport. Additionally, the similarities the sport shares with Australian Rules Football, has led to the development of International Rules Football, a hybrid of the two that is played with a set of compromised rules.



## How to Play Gaelic Football



## Madonna Miles: Pistons Game on Friday, March 29



There are still tickets available for the last Madonna Miles trip of the year to the Palace of Auburn Hills to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the Miami Heat.

The trips costs \$40 (which includes transportation to and from the school, as well as the ticket).

The bus will leave at 6 pm from Kresge Hall and return around 10 pm.

For tickets or more information, please visit the Student Life Office in room 1411.

Hope to see you there!

# Marche Du Nain Rouge



Image courtesy of The Detroit News

“**Nain Rouge**” is French for “Red Dwarf” and is a mythical creature that originated in Normandy, France centuries ago. He is seen as the harbinger of doom and misfortune.



Image courtesy of The Detroit News

Reports of Red Dwarf sightings in Detroit date back as early as 1701, when it is said that he attacked the first European settler of Detroit, French explorer Antoine Laumet de la Mothe Cadillac, who lost his fortune soon after. He

was also reported to have been seen at the Battle of Bloody Run, the Great Detroit Fire of 1805, and General William Hull claimed he was attacked by the dwarf right before his surrender of Detroit in the war of 1812. Many other sightings have been reported since then, even within the last few years.

In 2010 Le Marche du Nain Rouge developed as a community event to banish the Red Dwarf from Detroit. Since then it has become an annual

event in which participants parade down Cass Corridor in Midtown “chasing” a person dressed as the Red Dwarf. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes so that the Dwarf won’t recognize them. At the end of the march an effigy of the Dwarf is burned, thus banishing evil and misfortune from Detroit for another year.

This year’s parade took place on Sunday, March 23. If you missed it, be sure to check it out next year!



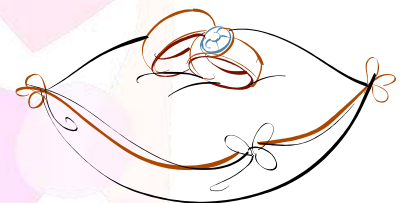
Image courtesy of MLive.com

## Congratulations to Pifeng and Aiyi!

*In the February issue of the International Student newsletter we showcased wedding photos from Aiyi Xie and Pifeng Zeng.*

*We are pleased to announce that they were married on March 21st in New York City.*

*Congratulations Pifeng and Aiyi! We wish you both the best of luck and many years of happiness!*



# The Henry Ford Museum

The Henry Ford Museum is one of the most popular attractions in the Detroit area, as well the entire state. Located in the city of Dearborn, the Henry Ford is the largest indoor/outdoor museum complex in America.

The museum is named for its founder, Henry Ford, who was also the founder of the Ford Motor Company. The museum is not only dedicated to cars, however. Henry Ford was a great collector of historical artifacts of all kinds and very dedicated to the preservation of history through artifacts.

In 1906 he began collecting historical items with a dream to build a museum

to house them. In 1929 he finished the museum and dedicated it to his good friend Thomas Edison. The original name was the Edison Institute. The Edison Institute included the museum, as well as Greenfield Village (a historical village containing buildings from the 17th century which showcases the day-to-day lives of American settlers), a Greenfield Village Schools (an experimental learning facility). The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village are still top attractions today, and the Ford Rouge Factory tour has been added, which allows visitors to view the production and assembly of Ford trucks.



The Henry Ford houses many rare exhibits and pieces such as :

- The chair from Ford's Theater that President Abraham Lincoln was sitting in when he was assassinated
- The Wright Brother's bicycle shop
- The bus Rosa Parks was riding when she refused to give up her seat
- The 1961 Lincoln Continental President John F. Kennedy was riding in when he was assassinated
- The last breath of Thomas Edison, sealed in a tube
- A collection of 17th and 18th century violins
- The first plane to fly over the North Pole
- The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile
- And many, many more!

**Next Saturday, April 5th the ISO will take students to visit the Henry Ford Museum. Space is limited to 5 students, so sign-up quickly!**

Date: Saturday, April 5

Time: 11:00 am—3:00 pm

Location: Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI

Cost: Free!

**\*\*Sign up in room 1209!!\*\***

## ATTENTION GRADUATES!

If you are graduating this year, important Graduation 2014 information can be found on MyPortal. After logging into the portal, click on the "Students" tab on the top, then on the left-hand side click "Graduation 2014". Please look at the graduation checklist to make sure you are up-to-date with graduation procedures.

You will also find a link to the Commencement application, as well as cap and gown information, if you plan on participating in the ceremony.

If you are graduating or graduated in the 2014-15 year (Fall, Winter, or Summer!), please let me know so I can include your name in the next month's newsletter! You can email Amy at: [aldickerson@madonna.edu](mailto:aldickerson@madonna.edu)

Students who are not graduating, but are interested in volunteering at the Graduation Mass and/or Commencement ceremony can sign up here:

Graduation Mass: : <http://bit.ly/MUGradMassVol14>

Commencements: <http://bit.ly/MUCommencementVol14>



***Thanks! And congratulations to all those preparing for graduation!***