Dear ESL Students,

After eighteen years of directing the ESL Program, I have decided that it is time to retire so that I can spend more time with my family and travel to places on our "bucket list". (To find out what that means, please stop by my office and I'll explain.) To this end, my husband and I have just planned a ski trip with children and grandchildren in February, a two months visit to Texas after that, and a long journey to Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands in May. I also hope to do volunteer work at the Plymouth Women's Shelter and perhaps teach a little German in my spare time. So you are not I won't be there.

In saying farewell to you, I am reminded of the many happy years at this University and the great privilege it has been to be your teacher and counselor. You have taught me so much more than you will ever know, and it has given me great joy to have shared your progress and accomplishments. A recent example of exceptional progress was when one of you (you know who you are), presented to me your recent TOEFL score which had improved from the previous test. These are the only teachers who can appreciate, and I thank you and those who came before you for enriching my life with your quest for learning. I will remember you fondly, and I wish you much success and happiness in all of your future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Kimball

ESL Business

If you have not already done so, please make advising appointments with me so that your winter class schedule will be completed prior to January. Although I will be in my office for the first two weeks in January, I would like to remind you that students are allowed to change their course work to the extent that we may determine class sizes.

I would like to mention one thing to apply for the Kimball ESL Scholarship which was established by my husband Dr. Robert Kimball and me specifically for the graduate students of Madison University. Applications are available at the Financial Aid Office and I encourage you to apply for the next academic year.

Monika Kimball

ISO Events


Highland Park Community Service: (11/26 & 28) for serving Thanksgiving meal.

Highland Park Movie Matinee: (1/23/10) for showing movie, bingo, pizza & snack.

I'm a Fan of Coffee Time!

On Tuesday, November 10th, the Madonna University Coffee Time was held once again. Coffee Time is an event held once a month to get the international students and other Madonna students and staff together to enjoy each other's company and learn about other cultures.

This month's Coffee Time was especially interesting because I was able to watch presentations about foreign countries given by the UNY 1010 students.

Before working on the presentations, these students spent ten hours with an international student, learning about his or her culture. I could tell that the UNY 1010 students learned a lot from this project.

By watching these presentations, I gained knowledge about countries such as Latvia, South Korea, Romania, and the cultural life of another culture and its religion, foods, politics and people is not only very interesting, but it can open many opportunities for oneself in business, friendships, and travelling.

Once the UNY 1010 student's speeches were over, everyone who participated in Coffee Time enjoyed a special potluck of international food provided that day. Everybody seemed to be enjoying the food, and that the food had been gone within a few minutes. The UNY 1010 students as well as their international friends then sat down and attempted to make origami with the colourful paper that one of the Japanese students brought. Although making the origami was a bit difficult at first, the group eventually was able to make plenty of different shapes and animals out of the paper. Even this group made an effort to fold an origami panda. It was really great to see the group having fun and spending time together.

I recommend everyone at Madonna University to partake in Coffee Time. One will definitely be able to learn something new as well as have fun and meet new people.

Written by Josetty Cyan

Valid documents for visiting abroad

Before leaving for a trip outside the U.S., you need to visit the International Students Office to have your I-20 endorsed by Grace Baldwin to prove that you have received good standing in maintaining your F-1 status. Check your Individual Immigration Status with the International Students Office one month before you leave the U.S. and obtain necessary additional forms at that time.

A Week of Culture at Madonna University

This past week, the International Students Office as well as the Center for International Relations came together to present the International Week. This was a special week designated for the promotion of various cultures and customs. Throughout the week, specific events were held for the Madonna University population.

On Monday, Dr. Jonathan Swift from the Center for International Studies presented his speech, "The Importance of Learning a Foreign Language." With this, Dr. Swift's great knowledge of the world, an engrossing conversation between the audience and himself took place after the speech.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, a huge assortment of books from around the world was displayed in the Take 5 Lounge for people to look through. A "100 Facts About Poland" book, a Middle Eastern cookbook, a Korean textbook, and a Chinese poetry book are only a few examples of the many books displayed. Ethnic snacks were offered as well. The Indian cury crackers and Korean cookies were a huge hit during this display. Everyone was extremely interested in trying the new and unfamiliar snacks. The cafeteria in the Residence Hall even served international food for lunch to celebrate the International Week. Students and staff were able to enjoy cuisines from Asia, Poland, India, etc.

Thursday concluded the International Education Week with a speech by myself, Josetty Cyan. I felt my "Experience as an Exchange Student in Japan." I presented a slideshow of my presentation of pictures taken during my trip to Japan.

I spoke about Japan's school food, people and more through my photos. The International Education Week has been a great chance to learn about the diverse ways to live in and enjoy many cultures and languages in a fun and interesting way. I, as well as many others, am very glad I was able to partake in the festivities. I am extremely looking forward to next year's International Education Week at Madonna University.

Written by Josetty Cyan