



# February, 2014

## International Festival

February kicked off with the International Festival sponsored and organized by the Madonna Institutional Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (ISCCDI) on February 11. The International Festival was a great way to showcase the diverse backgrounds, nationalities and ethnicities of our Madonna Community—complete with food, displays, and performances!

International student Ian Christie educated us about his home country of Ireland with a beautiful display and infamous Irish wit.

Additionally there were wonderful (and humorous) Canadian, Chaldean, Chinese and South Korean displays.



Qi Mao and Aiyi Xie (of China) with Evelyn Stilwell give festival-goers a lesson in Chinese Calligraphy.

JingJing He (of China), pictured here with Sr. Victoria, shared her fantastic skill in the art of paper folding to teach Origami.



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## International Festival (cont.)

Insoo Shim (of South Korea) skillfully played renditions of famous songs on his guitar. Many spectators commented on how beautiful his music was!



Fei Zhao (of China) gave an incredible display of Chinese martial arts (Kung Foo).

His performance was captivating and made for many gasps and cheers from the audience.



Yongshu Zhang, Lili Wen, Xiaoqian Dai, and Qian Zhao (of China) sounded extremely professional singing the Chinese song "A Beautiful Jasmine". The song was gorgeous!



Hanzhao Wang (of China) introduced us to the *Hulusi*, which is a type of reed flute, made from bamboo pipes and a gourd, that produces lovely, silky music.



Festival participants enjoyed some delicious Chinese and Arabic food while watching the performances.

Thank you to all of our participants and a special thank you to the performers and organizers for the festival!

# Madonna Miles

Li Zhu, Amber (Meng Ting) Chen, and JingJing He (of China) watch a video before the laser tag battle

For a special Valentine's Day-inspired Madonna Miles trip, international students spent February 14th getting out and enjoying the holiday. The first stop was to Emagine Theater in Plymouth where they had their choice of seeing the buddy cop comedy "Ride Along" or the romantic fantasy drama "Winter's Tale". A few students did opt for the comedy, but most went along with the theme of the day and saw Winter's Tale. Adding to the romantic atmosphere, one of our new ESL students, Zinb Wehishi (from Libya), brought along

her husband for the outing.

That romantic atmosphere didn't last long, though. As soon as the movie ended we headed down the street to Zap Zone for a 20-person game of laser tag.

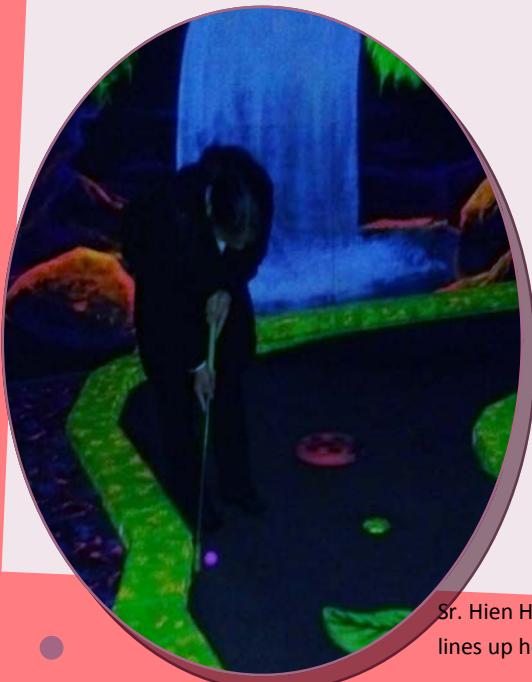


Junhyeok Kim, Minji Jung, and EunJu Seo (of South Korea) gear up for laser tag



Keren Bossio (of the Congo) and Ernaldo Koleci (of Albania) looking to win the game

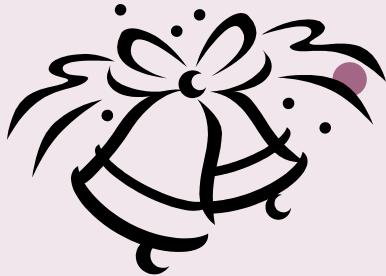
The afternoon festivities concluded with a delicious Valentine's Day lunch at a local Middle Eastern restaurant, while some students, Sr. Hien Ho (from Vietnam) and Ludwick Asigo and Douglas Ogolla (from Kenya) opted to stay on at the Zap Zone and play another game of miniature glow golf. Though the game of golf was a new experience for them, after a brief lesson on how to play and keep score, they quickly became experts—each of them sinking multiple holes-in-one! Our champion of the day was Douglas, though Sr. Hien and Ludwick were not far behind, tying for second. All three did amazingly well for a first time!



Sr. Hien Ho (of Vietnam) lines up her shot

# Love is in the air...

## Wedding Photography on the Other Side of the World



The wedding industry in the United States is a multi-billion dollar industry. Each year in the U.S. there are approximately 2.5 million weddings—and 40 billion dollars spent on those weddings. But Americans are certainly not the only ones who take weddings so seriously. In Asia, for example, the wedding culture is just as extravagant: 15 billion annually in South Korea, nearly 40 billion in India, and a whopping 80 billion in China.

Wedding photography in particular has seen an explosion in recent years in Asia, as couples look to create luxurious photo shoots that are the stuff of fantasy.

While it is common in the United States to take wedding photos on the day of your wedding (traditionally during and after the ceremony), you may be surprised to learn that wedding photo albums in China and Korea are created prior to the wedding at a studio and/or outside locations.

While teaching in Seoul, South Korea, I was invited for dinner to a student's house, who had been married a few years prior. She showed me her wedding album and the first thing I noticed was that she and the groom were photographed together in their dress and tux—before getting married! Of course, to a Westerner who has grown up with the superstition that it is bad luck for the couple to see each other in their wedding attire before the wedding, this was a very strange tradition.

The second thing I noticed was that the bride was wearing at least 4 different wedding dresses in the photos—each as beautiful and extravagant as the last. She pointed out the one she had “actually worn” for her wedding. Western-style wedding dresses have become quite popular in many areas in East Asia, even becoming the norm in some places, like Seoul. But while many Western brides might purchase their white flowing gowns, I learned it is more common for Korean women to rent one for the ceremony—and three more for photos, of course.

Though western-style dresses and tuxes may have become standard in South Korea (as well as many areas in mainland China), the bride and groom still don the traditional style of wedding dress for the traditional part of the ceremony (which usually happens in private with the immediate family). And of all my student's beautiful photos and gorgeous ball gowns, the traditional photos with their vibrant colors were definitely my favorites!

—Amy Dickerson, International Student Advisor

\*\*Take a look at the next page for incredible wedding photos from two of our Chinese students, Aiyi Xie and Yifeng Zeng!\*\*



# Love is in the air...

Graduate students Aiyi Xie and Yifeng Zeng recently had wedding photos taken to celebrate their upcoming nuptials, and were kind enough to share a few of their stunning photos with us!

Yifeng Zeng (left) and Aiyi Xie (right) are both from Guangzhou in China. They met, however, at University when they had a class together.



They took wedding photos last December, when they traveled back to China for Winter break.



They will get married this year in the U.S.!



Congratulations  
Aiyi and Yifeng!

# Announcements:

## Employment Workshop:

Learn how to use MU JobLink to create a profile and find an on or off-campus job or internship!

Date: Wednesday, February 26

Time: 3:00 pm — 3:45 pm

Location: Computer Lab Rm #1106



## Spring Break:

Spring break will start on March 1st! Classes will be on break for one week, but staff offices will still be open.

F-1 students who are leaving the country MUST have a signature on their I-20 from either Grace Philson or Amy Dickerson before they leave.

Remember: Students who are leaving the country and have expired visas must renew their visa before they can return to the U.S.



## Madonna Miles:

**Detroit Pistons vs. Miami Heat**

**Friday March 28, 2014**

**At the Palace of Auburn Hills**



Come and join us as YOUR Detroit Pistons take on the defending champion Miami Heat!!

**Trip Cost: 40 dollars ( including ticket and bus ride)**

To register contact:

**Office of Student Life: Room 1411**

**Phone: 734.432.5426**

**Email: studentlife@madonna.edu**