



Congratulations on Another Successful Semester!



November/December, 2014



We would just like to thank all of our wonderful students who have made this last semester a pleasure, and congratulate you all on completing the Fall Semester—especially our students who were new this Fall, and those who completed their last semester! We hope to see you back in January!

F-1 students, please keep in mind there are some things you must do before the Winter Semester:

1.) Leaving the Country:

Whether you are going back home or traveling, if you are leaving the country over the break you **must** get your I-20 signed by either Amy Dickerson (rm 1209) or Grace Philson (rm 1207) **only**. If you do not get a signature before you leave, you will not be able to return to the U.S. In order to receive a

signature, you **must be registered full-time for the Winter Semester. —no exceptions.**

2.) Registration/Tuition:

Please register before you leave. In order to register you must pay any remaining balance from the Fall Semester.

If you took ESL classes in the Fall Semester, you will need Hadeel Betti to sign your registration sheet before you can register.

The first tuition due date is December 17. You **must** pay at least half of your balance by this time, or you will be dropped from your classes.

If you are having trouble registering online, please go to the Registrar's Window to register in person, or email them: registrar@madonna.edu

3.) Residence Hall/Moving:

You must move out of the Residence

Hall this week, unless you have already applied for Winter Break residence. There is an additional charge for staying in the Residence Hall over break. Please see Tanisha McIntosh for more details.

The move-in date for those returning for the Winter Semester is Sunday, January 4. If you need to move in early (for an additional fee) please contact Tanisha McIntosh.

If you are **not** returning to the Residence Hall, please also let Tanisha know. If you are moving, you must fill out a change of address form within 10 days of your move at the International Students Office.

Please keep in mind the school will be closed from December 24 through January 1. If you need to register or get your I-20 signed, you must do it before 12/24.

Staying in Detroit this Winter Break?

If you are not returning home for the Winter Break, there are plenty of Holiday events happening in and around Detroit!

See a Holiday Show:

Cirque Dreams: Holidaze will be at the Fox Theater in Detroit December 16--20, and the Moscow Ballet will perform the Nutcracker at the Fox for one night only: December 21. <http://www.olympiaentertainment.com/fox-theatre>

The Metropolitan Detroit Chorale will perform Handel's Messiah at the Macomb Center For performing arts on 12/14, and you can catch A Joyful Christmas on 12/21. <http://www.macombcenter.com/>

Hit up a city festival:

All kinds of city events are taking place over the coming weeks, including holiday markets and tree lighting ceremonies. Visit Birmingham, Clarkston, Royal Oak, Detroit or Rochester for some local festivities!

Go Ice Skating!

Try some outdoor ice skating in Detroit's Campus Martius Park, and check out other weekend events in the area! <http://www.campusmartiuspark.org/>

Historical "Holiday Nights" at Greenfield Village

"Take a lantern-lit journey into a living snow globe filled with live music, skating, fireworks and tons of winter wonder during America's premier celebration of the season."

<http://www.thehenryford.org/events/holidayNights.aspx>

Inside this issue:

Thanksgiving with a Host Family	2-3
Viviana Garabello's NATS Competition	4
Meet Your Professor Over Lunch Mentorship Program	5
Meet Our Students! Marcel Schmid	6
Meet Our Students! Agatha Mensah and Viviana Garabello	7
Winter Driving Tips from AAA	8



Have a very Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, everyone!



Thanksgiving with a Host Family!

THANKSGIVING is a favorite holiday among Americans, and this year many of our international students were able to experience this beloved American Holiday thanks to some generous Madonna staff members!

At the blessed day of Thanksgiving, I was offered an invitation to go Olga's house. There, I met Ralph, the husband of Olga and three sons, Sam, Allen and Noah. Noah was a 5 months baby, and [it] was possible to see bounced lights from Noah's surface of his eyes. He was an adorable and loving baby.

After the early conversation, Sam brought 'Uno cards', so we played it together. I played hard to [beat] Sam. Yet, I was attacked too much by reverse phase cards. While we were having fun, Olga and Ralph made foods, including the turkey, so I had a wonderful meal with Olga's family as their guest.

After the delicious meal, Ralph and I started to play some card games. The first one we played was 'Rummy'. This was actually the card game that I learned from other American students, which Ralph already knew. The game went tense that for the most of times, Ralph did win a lot. There, from Rummy to King's Corner, we had a great time together.

When the game was finished, I had a chance to have conversations with Ralph. He works at a school as the principal and it was an obviously a leading position. The main topic there was the attitude and the mind set as the leader. Due to the conversation, I had a chance to look myself in a different angle.

Thanks to the invitation, I was able to have a good time there. I wish my best luck with Olga, Ralph and their three sons. I hope I may have another chance to have a good meal with them later!

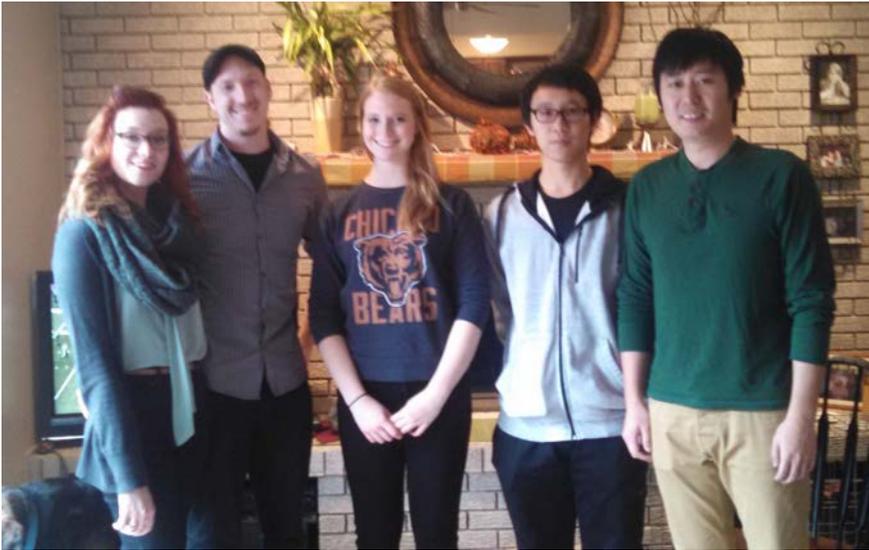


—TaeHun Park

p.s
So Sam was good at Uno, and Ralph was 'totally' good at Rummy.
I think I was good at King's corner, maybe.



Thanksgiving, cont.



(Right) "[This] is a photo of Jack & Leping with my son, Nate, his girlfriend, Molly and my daughter Kyla on Thanksgiving Day.

It was an honor to have Qi Geng (Jack) and Leping Qui spend time with my family on Thanksgiving Day. Some of our activities that afternoon included watching the Detroit Lions beat the Chicago Bears (unfortunate for my husband and daughter who are loyal Bears fans) and shared stories about our families, culture, and places to which we've all traveled."

—Carol Cieslak

(Right) Jingjing He {China} eats Thanksgiving dinner with Chuck Derry and his Family.



(Left) Han Zeng {China}, Aiyi Xie {China}, Yifeng Zeng China}, Yu Min Huang {China}, Hong Yu Chang {China}, ShaoDong Wang {China} spend Thanksgiving with Grace Philson and her family.



Student Achievement Spotlight



My Amazing Experience at The Singing Competition

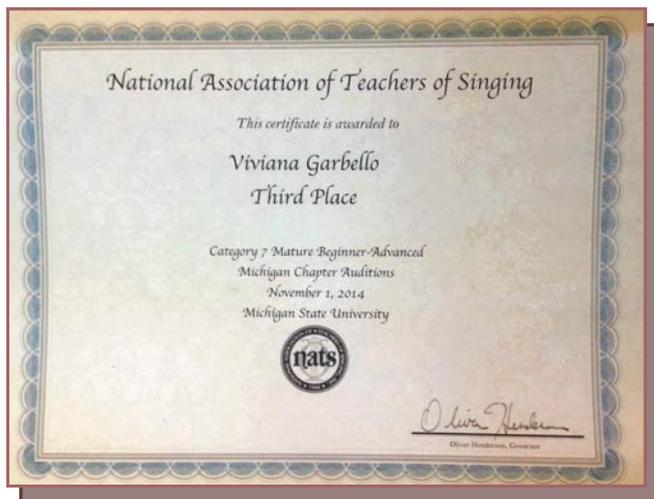
By Viviana Garabello {Itlay} –Double Major in Music Education and Vocal Performance

On November the 1st, 2014 I have been involved by my Voice professor at Madonna, **Dr. Linda Meehan**, in a **Singing competition at NATS, the National Association of Teachers of Singing**. The event was in Lansing, at the Michigan State University and this year the participation has been particularly significant: 256 students from all the Universities of Michigan were divided in about 10 categories.

I was in the Category number 7, Mature Beginner – Advanced and I performed three songs: the first one, in French language, titled “Villanelle”, was written in 1856 by the composer Hector Berlioz. It is an extract from “Les Nuits d’Ete” and the text his about the springtime, with beautiful images about the nature, the animals and the flowers. The second song is an Italian aria, “Lungi dal caro bene”, by Antonio Secchi (1761-1833), and it is about the sufference for a far away love. I love to sing this song with an almost crying interpretation: who loves somebody at distance fully understand the struggling melancholy of this condition. The third song, “Where the music comes from”, by the American composer Lee Hoiby (1926 -2011), has been my best performance, probably because is my favorite one, and all my friends and family agree I gave my best on it. It is about love, music and life and I really feel my personality so close to the one described in this wonderful text.



I have appreciated so much the feedback from the three judges who evaluated me, because on their comments, they have been totally able to “see” me, like in a X-ray procedure! They have highlight my points of strenght and they have identified the proper suggestions of improvement, in an incredibly honest and correct way. Thanks to their job I have had a clearer focus on what I need to work on to become a better singer and performer. Also, the work of my professor Linda Meehan has been incomparable, because she is teaching me, since the beginning of the semester, exactly the same technical skills the three judges were focusing on. My professor has been able to create a crisis moment for me, just a couple weeks before the competition, necessary to make me jump on the next level, allowing me to place and achieve the **Third prize** in my category, after only 2 months of studies here at Madonna.



I cannot describe the surprise and the joy to be called on the scene to receive my Award by the event Governor in person, Oliver Henderson. An amazing experience and satisfaction! I am so thankful, and I desire to give a special hugs to my professor and to all my classmates who participated, coming to see my performance.

I dedicate this result to all the people who make me feel so loved and so special every single day, allowing me, thanks to their presence and ethusiastm, to express my full heart.



Viviana also participated in this year’s production of A Christmas Carol at Madonna! To learn more about Viviana, check out page 7!

Meet Your Professor Over Lunch: Mentorship Program

Louis (Shaodong) Wang {China} and Dave Piasecki



"I'm glad to met professor David, and had lunch with him. we ate noodles in the Noodles [and Company]. He is so nice and gentleman."
— Louis Wang

Last Friday, Shaodong Wang (Louis) and I went to Noodles and Company for an enjoyable lunch. We talked about Louis's American Culture class and how much he was enjoying it. He enjoys being part of our International Business program. He

mentioned his friend Blanca who was a former student of mine. We also talked briefly about my work in the Information Systems department and the 2 courses I am teaching this term. We also talked about the American custom of Halloween, costumes and trick-or-treating. He mentioned that the students had a Halloween celebration in the Residence Hall. Louis also mentioned that he was going shopping with a group later that day and that he was headed to Chicago with friends this upcoming weekend. Louis is a very polite, young man whose English is continually improving. I noticed when walking in the hallway with him that his fellow Residence Hall students enjoy his company as well and are friendly toward him and vice versa. He appears to enjoy being at Madonna and is well-adjusted to life in the US and likes working out in the fitness room in the Athletic wing in between classes. Louis and I have enjoyed our conversations and plan to continue them via e-mail and in person by meeting for lunch again before the end of the semester.



—Dave Piasecki

Lily Wen {China} Gloria (Qian) Zhao {China} and Pat De Guia

Lily and Gloria,

Thank you for inviting me to lunch last week. And most of all, thank you for the opportunity to meet both of you and get to know you more. I am impressed of the enthusiasm and professionalism both of you demonstrated. Your warmth and friendliness are notable. Both of you are great, committed students and we are here to help you to be successful in your academic endeavor at Madonna University. The pictures turned out to be beautiful. I will treasure them. It was such pleasure to know both of you. I hope to see both of you again in the near future. We can arrange another lunch again at the end of the semester.

—Pat De Guia

Dear professor,
Thank you for spending time with us last Friday!
It was really a wonderful experience, and we really had a happy time!

Thank you so much!
—Gloria Zhao

This semester, Gloria and I participated in the mentorship program of ISO. On Halloween, we had a wonderful lunch time with Professor De Guia in a Thailand restaurant. During the lunch, we talked about culture differences between China and the U.S. Professor De Guia likes Chinese food. She recommended a lot of good Chinese restaurants to us. She also encouraged us to make more American friends and have more communication with them. She told us to attend more activities and get used to the new environment. Professor De Guia is a very nice person and we communicate smoothly. It was really good experience. At the end of our lunch, we happily made another appointment with Professor De Guia. Thank ISO for providing such a good opportunity for us. Thank professor for spending time with us!

—Lily Wen



Meet Our International Students!

Each month our newsletter features a few international students attending Madonna, so that we can learn more about them and where they come from. The interviews are conducted and written by international student and Student Ambassador, April (Yaohui) Chen {China}. April and her wonderful interviews, that connect us across the globe, have been a fantastic resource for our newsletter.

Thank you, April!

If you would like to be one of our featured students, please contact Amy Dickerson in the International Students Office.



Marcel Schmid {Germany}

April: Can you tell me a little about yourself?

Marcel: My name is Marcel Schmid, and I am 25 years old right now. I come from Stuttgart Germany. I played soccer at my hometown, and right now, I am a soccer player at Madonna University and I coach soccer at Schoolcraft College. I am the director of goalkeeping for AC Milan Detroit.

April: Why do you choose to come to Madonna University?

Marcel: I wanted to go to Florida at first. Then I got a coaching job at Schoolcraft College. Then I went to Schoolcraft for 1 year. Then I transferred from to Madonna University for International Business and Economics.

April: What is your favorite thing about attending Madonna University?

Marcel: I have a lot of friends here. Due to it is a small school and small class size, I can get attention from professors. Also, as being a soccer player here, athletes are more like family members for each other more than just a number in a big school.

April: Do you have a favorite class or favorite professor? If so, which class

and which professor?

Marcel: Prof. Conrad for Macroeconomics and Prof. Stahl for Accounting are my favorite professors and classes.

April: What do you want to do after you graduate?

Marcel: I love my hometown, and it is a good idea to go back to Germany for international business, but I also like here. I guess it will depend on the visa situation in the future.

April: What is one goal that you want to accomplish before you graduate?

Marcel: I want to win National Champion for Men's soccer! I also want to know people, travel to different places and gain different experience as much as possible.

April: How do you like here/ American culture so far?

Marcel: Before I went to Michigan I thought I would not like weather, but right now, I really love Mi. I enjoyed the weather and beautiful landscape during summer. In addition, everyone here is very open mind and friendly.

April: If you want to bring one thing about your culture what would it be?

Marcel: It would be German beer!



Sr. Agatha Mensah {Ghana}

April: Can you tell me a little about yourself?

Agatha: My name is Agatha, and I come from Ghana. I am a sophomore here, and I am major in history. My hobby are reading and singing.

April: Why do you choose to come to Madonna University?

Agatha: Because Madonna University can provide excellent education to me. And I learned this school from my supervisor in Ghana.

April: What is your favorite thing about attending Madonna University?

Agatha: The way of professors' teaching. Professors here are very nice and helpful for her.

April: Do you have a favorite class or favorite professor? If so, which class

and which professor?

Agatha: Prof. Prough for my history class.

April: What do you want to do after you graduate?

Agatha: I want to go back to Ghana to teach history.

April: What is one goal that you want to accomplish before you graduate?

Agatha: I want to complete my education here.

April: How do you like here/American culture so far?

Agatha: I like the people here. They are very nice. I really like Halloween and Thanksgiving here.

April: If you want to bring one thing from your culture, what would it be?

Agatha: In my culture back home, people use their right hands to show respect. So every time, they give



something, wave, or greeting to someone, they will use their right hands.

Viviana Garabello {Italy}



April: Can you tell me a little about yourself?

Viviana: My name is Viviana, and I come from Calliano d'Asti, Italy. I am double majored in Music education and vocal performance, and I am a freshman.

April: Why do you choose to come to Madonna University?

Viviana: I always want to have a study abroad experience in America. When I was applying universities on

line, I found that Madonna University was very welcome to me. So I decided to come here.

April: What is your favorite thing about attending Madonna University?

Viviana: My favorite thing here is that people are always very friendly. They accept each other, and they make me feel as a family member among them.

April: Do you have a favorite class or favorite professor? If so, which class and which professor?

Viviana: I love all of my classes and professors, since they always encourage and promoting other people's strengths.

April: What do you want to do after you graduate?

Vivian: I want to find a job in the U.S. and continue my life here. I want to be music teacher, composer, or a singer.

April: What is one goal that you want to accomplish before you graduate?

Viviana: I want to make my English perfect. I wish one day that I can say nothing I don't understand in English.

April: How do you like here/American culture so far?

Viviana: I really like American culture that they promote people to pursue dreams and believe in themselves.

April: If you want to bring one thing from your culture, what would it be?

Viviana: Food! If you put any authentic Italy food, it will melt your tongue. My favorite Italian food is Risotto al Barbera. It is rice cooked in wine and added a little bit cheese.



AAA winter driving tips: (Courtesy of www.aaa.com)

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated. (Check often. Tires deflate easily in cold temps.)
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

Tips for long-distance winter trips:

- Watch weather reports prior to a long-distance drive. Delay trips when especially bad weather is expected. If you must leave, let others know your route, destination and arrival time.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in peak operating condition.
- Keep at least half a tank of gasoline in your vehicle at all times.
- Pack a cell phone, blankets, gloves, hats, boots, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment with the engine running.
- Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps.
- If possible run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and to conserve gas.

Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- Increase following distance (distance between cars).
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

Things to keep in your car during winter:

- ◆ Ice Scraper (for windows)
- ◆ Warm clothes (coat, blanket, boots, hat, gloves) in case you get stuck or have to walk
- ◆ Emergency food (like granola bars or beef jerky)
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Extra batteries
- ◆ Extra cell battery
- ◆ Tire Pressure Gauge (Tires deflate in cold weather, you should check your pressure often)
- ◆ Jumper cables (especially if you have an older car)
- ◆ Small car tool kit
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Bag of kitty litter (cat litter can stuck cars gain traction. The weight of the bag will also weigh down your car to provide traction while driving)
- ◆ Road Flare
- ◆ Road map



For more information on winter driving visit:

<http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/roadway-safety/winter-driving-tips/>

Click on the "How to Go on Ice and Snow" and "Get a Grip" brochure at the bottom for more winter tips and driving techniques!