



# OCTOBER, 2015



## Happy Halloween!

This Saturday, October 31, marks one of the most beloved holidays in the U.S.: Halloween.

Halloween is well-known for its scary costumes, fun activities, spooky decorations, and, of course, delicious candy. Trick-or-Treating is a popular Halloween activity among school children, at which time they dress in costumes and go door-to-door asking for treats. After a full night of collecting candy from their neighbors, they go home to count their loot and make trades with friends. But where do these Halloween traditions stem from? Turn to the next page to read about some Halloween History!

### **Where to find Trick-or-Treaters:**

*If you would like to see local children Trick-or-Treating, Wayne county will have trick-or-treating hours from 5:00-8:00 pm throughout the neighborhoods. Please remember to drive slowly and carefully at this time, as many children will be out walking around.*

*If the weather is too cold for you, you can observe children trick-or-treating in Laurel Park Mall on 6 mile and Newburgh from 5:00—6:00 pm on Saturday, October 31.*



## In This Issue

- Culture Corner: History of Halloween
- What have our students been up to this month? *Eastern Market, Renaissance Festival, Workshops*
- Presidential Inauguration
- Meet Your Professor: *Jennifer McArdle and Jingjing Zhang*
- Thanksgiving Host Family Sign-up

# Culture Corner



## Where Do The Halloween Traditions Come from?

Halloween, though immensely popular in the United States, can actually be traced back 2000 years to Ireland. The Gaelic festival *Samhain* on October 31, which celebrated the end of the Harvest season and beginning of Winter, was also believed to be the date on which the realms of the living and dead overlapped, and deceased spirits could return to wreak havoc. Bonfires were often burned and people wore costumes, in attempts to either mimic the spirits or disguise oneself from them. Spirits were thought to go to houses seeking hospitality, and so too did people in costume, reciting poetry or plays in exchange for food and other treats.

With the spread of Christianity to the region, Samhain merged with the Christian holiday All Saint's Day (November 1) and became Halloween. These Halloween traditions were revived in the U.S. by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the 19th and 20th Centuries, and by the mid-20th Century became the holiday we know today. Samhain is still celebrated, as well, as a religious holiday by some religions, such as Wiccan and Pagan religions.

### Some Common Modern Halloween Traditions:

#### Costumes:

Costumes used to be scary in attempts to imitate spirits, but these days costumes range from funny to scary to cute to creative.



#### Trick-or-Treating:

Children in costumes go door-to-door and yell out "Trick or Treat!" in order to receive candy and other goodies from the home owner. Traditionally this is done in one's own neighborhood, but this year Target announced *Treatster*, a new app to help trick-or-treaters find the best neighborhoods for trick-or-treating. <https://treatster.target.com/#/walkthrough>



#### School Parties:

Usually primary, and sometimes secondary schools, will have parties and invite students to wear their costumes to school. Elementary school kids create a Halloween parade, during which time parents and teachers get to see all of the students in their costumes.

#### Jack-O-Lanterns:

Jack-O-Lanterns are created by cutting a hole in the top of a large pumpkin, scooping out the insides, carving a face into the front, and lighting a candle inside. Jack-O-Lanterns are then put outside in front of one's house.



#### Haunted Attractions:

Due to the spooky nature of the holiday, haunted houses, hayrides, amusement parks, and forests are common attractions during October. Additionally, in recent year many Zombie Walks have popped up, where participants dress as zombies and slowly move around the city.

#### Devil's Night:

Devil's Night is the night *before* Halloween, October 30. On Devil's Night some people attempt to pull pranks of various degrees, such as smashing jack-o-lanterns, covering someone's house in toilet paper, or even vandalism. In recent year many police officers have been on patrol during this night to prevent the mischief (much of which is illegal).



#### It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

This beloved Peanuts Movie is a classic and played every year on television. It tells the story of the gang going trick-or-treating, while Linus chooses to wait in the pumpkin patch to see if the Great Pumpkin appears.



Remember everyone, be careful, stay safe, and have a Happy Halloween!!!



# Michigan Renaissance Festival

*What Have Our Students Been Up To?*



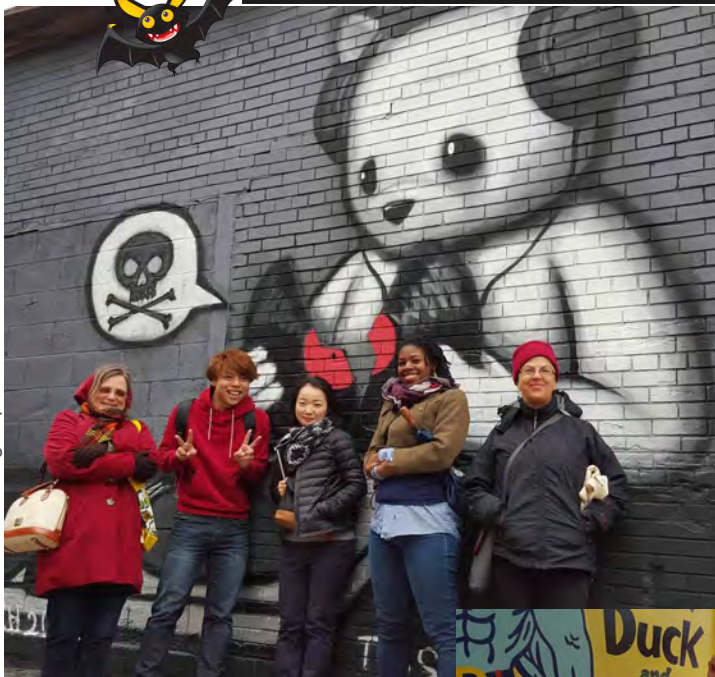
International Advisor Amy Dickerson with Soyeon Kwon, Jinsol Choi, and Hyun-Jee Kim (front) of South Korea



On Sunday, October 4 the Madonna Miles group headed to the Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly, MI, where they watched shows, saw costumed characters from the European Renaissance, and ate giant turkey legs.

## Eastern Market Tour

Kento Hioki (Japan) and Soo Jeong Ha (South Korea) pose with other international groups in front of Eastern Market mural art.



On Saturday, October 3rd a group of international students braved the chilly October weather to meet up with the Welcome Mat Detroit group for a tour of Eastern Market. In addition to the marketplace, we saw recently commissioned building murals, and learned the history of the market and many of the building that line the streets today.



Front: Mayu Suenaga and Miki Ogawa (Japan) Back: Kento Hioki and Shintaro Matsubara (Japan)



## Madonna One Card Workshop



On October 7, Ms. Peggy Finnigan from Student Accounts helped our international students activate their Madonna One Cards.

**New and Returning Students:** If you have not yet activated your Madonna One Card, you must do so immediately.

New Students Should have received their cards in the mail by October. (They came in a bright green envelope.) If you have not received your card, or have lost your card, please contact the Student Accounts Office.

If you still need help activating or using your card, please contact the International Students Office.

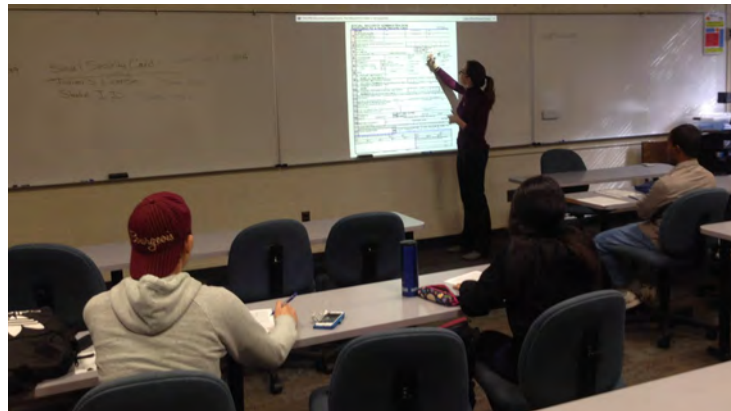


## Driver's License Workshop

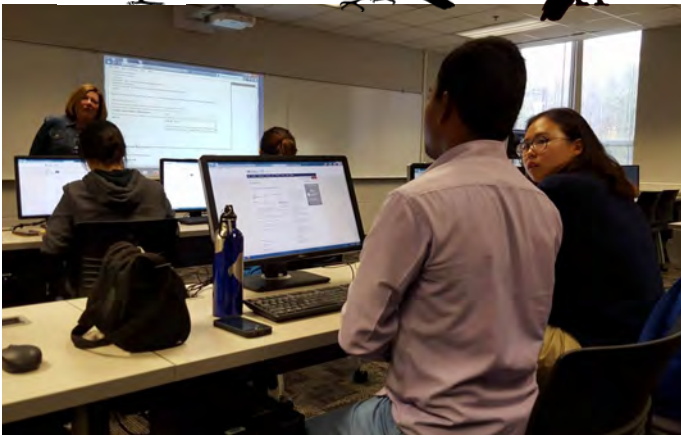
On Wednesday, October 14 the ISO held a workshop to help students navigate the difficult process of obtaining a driver's license, state ID card, or Social Security Card. If you need information, please stop by the International Students Office.

You can also obtain more information on the Secretary of State Website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/>



## Employment Workshop



On Wednesday, October 28, Ms. Chris Brant and Ms. Lisa Farkas from the Career Services office held a workshop for utilizing the MU Job Link website to find on-campus employment. If you need more information on registering for or using the Job Link site, please stop by Career Services, room 1411.



**Please remember:** All F-1 students can **only** work legally **on campus**. Any student who is caught working illegally will have their F-1 status revoked with no chance for reinstatement.

***This is a very serious matter!***

*What Have Our Students Been Up To?*



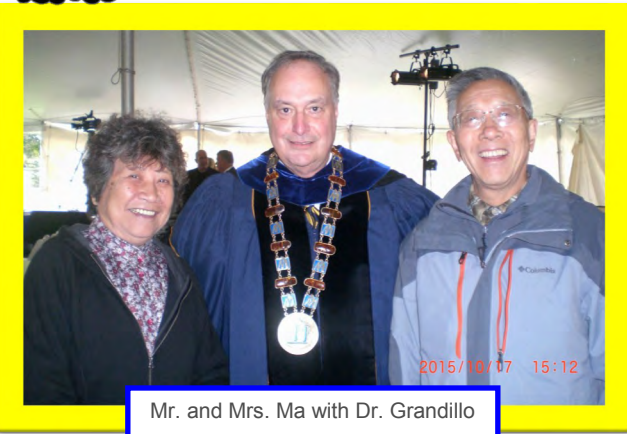
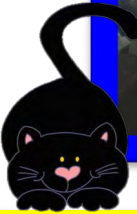


# Presidential Inauguration

The inauguration of Madonna's new president, Dr. Grandillo was held on Saturday, October 17, 2015, and was attended by many staff, faculty, students, and their families. Among those were Li Zhu, an international graduate student from China, and her parents who were visiting. Li Zhu's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ma, who are nuclear engineers from China, offered their thoughts on the event:



Mr. and Mrs. Ma with Dr. Grandillo's wife, Nancy



Mr. and Mrs. Ma with Dr. Grandillo

*"We are honored that we took part in the President inauguration of Madonna University. All though we just can speak a little English and understand a little, Professor Grace helped us to know well about the activities. She introduced the details of our school's history. It made me realized that the catholic paid more attention on the education. The president made a prefect presentation to us. When we were listening, there was always warm applause in the auditorium. This implied that staffs were very respectful to the President and they hold confidence on the future of our school. We are appreciated that the staffs helped her to deal with many difficulties when Li Zhu came to study here. It was honored that we have chance to take pictures with the President. We hope the friendship of China and USA forever!"*

—Mr. and Mrs. Ma



The event was also preceded earlier in the week by a student and alumni reception on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, which some of our international students were able to attend.



*"Last week, there was a big event welcoming our new [president], Dr. Grandillo. I have never experienced that kind of event before, so it was really new and interesting. I had a little crusader burger and salad our school provided for this event and it was so great!! Also, everyone got a juice with blueberry from some waiters and we drank it together to celebrate Dr. Grandillo. Overall, it was really great experience for me and I am really excited to see our new school with this nice [president]."*



—Ye Bin Choi, South Korea



Speaking fondly of the event, Fang Fang, a current graduate student and Madonna undergraduate alumna added:



*"I think our new president has a fine sense of humor."*

—Fang Fang, China



# Meet Your Professor/Mentorship Program



The Meet Your Professor Over Lunch Mentorship Program pairs a participating student with a participating staff or faculty member and sends them to lunch to get to know each other better. The goal of the program is to foster mentorship relationships between our international students and Madonna faculty and staff, so that they may continue to meet throughout the year (or longer!).

Recently Jingjing Zhang, a new undergraduate student from China, met with Jennifer McArdle.

*I had a great time with Jingjing when we went out for lunch together. We weren't sure where we wanted to eat, so we chose to eat at Bob Evans because they serve American food. Neither of us had ever been there before. I am so glad that Jingjing and I were partnered together because we had a lot to talk about. Jingjing is from China. I have never been, but she says if I ever go she will show me around and be my tour guide. I hope that one day I can visit China and meet her family. We talked about our families and I shared with her that my mom learned English as a teenager in Germany.*

*Jingjing came to Madonna to study English. Jingjing already speaks English, but she wants to improve. She shared with me that the courses in the program include grammar, speaking, listening, and writing.*

*Jingjing likes being in America. I've been in Michigan for 5 years and Jingjing has already been to more places in the state than I have! We plan on meeting again soon for lunch. Jingjing likes to cook so she said she is going to cook some authentic Chinese food for me. We talked about how food in the US differs from food in China. She said they spend time cooking in China whereas many of our meals here in the US come pre-packaged and ready to eat.*

*In the short amount of time I spent with Jingjing I could tell that she is a dedicated student and a quick learner. I am confident that she will excel in her program here at Madonna. I look forward to getting to know her and for her to teach me some Chinese.*

—Jennifer McArdle



## My Happy Lunch

*I had lunch with my professor Jennifer in Bob Evans restaurant on Oct,15. It was my first time to go to traditional US restaurant when I came here. We ordered stacked hotcakes and classic breakfast. These food were very delicious. I learned a lot from Jennifer. We discussed many different culture between China and US, such as foods, life-style, family values, education and so on. I shared my travel experience with her and invited her to travel to China. After all, I was very happy to meeting her and I hope the next [meeting].*

—Jingjing Zhang, China

If you would like to participate in the program, please contact the International Students Office.



# Thanksgiving Host Families Needed!

October is almost over and Thanksgiving is around the corner!

Many of our international students live in the Residence Hall, and the Dining Hall will be closed over the Thanksgiving holiday. Although many students take the opportunity to travel, others do not and would love to be able to experience an American Thanksgiving! If you would be interested in hosting an international student for Thanksgiving, please contact Amy Dickerson in the International Students Office by Monday, November 16: [aldickerson@madonna.edu](mailto:aldickerson@madonna.edu)

Please keep in mind that most international students in the Residence Hall do not have transportation, and will therefore need to be picked up and dropped off. Additionally, all types of Thanksgiving celebrations are welcome! In the past our students have had traditional turkey dinners, volunteered serving dinner to the needy, celebrated religious and cultural holidays, gone to grandma's house, experienced family football rivalries, and many more great traditions!

\*If you are willing to host more than one student, please let me know! Many students would prefer to bring a friend!\*

