Welcome New Students!

The International Students Office welcomed over 45 new international students to Madonna this semester! Our new students come from a variety of countries including:

- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- France
- India
- Ireland
- Japan
- Kenya
- Korea
- Lebanon
- Nigeria
- Palestine
- Romania
- Spain
- Saudi Arabia
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

Orientation was held on Thursday, September 4 and was quite a success! Several of the new students also attended the Student Convocation and ice cream bar afterward!

**New students who did not attend orientation:**

If you did not attend the international orientation, and you have not stopped by the International Students Office (room 1207 and 1209) please do so as soon as possible to pick up your paperwork. You will not be able to register for the next semester until you have done so.
The Renaissance Festival!

On September 13 some of our new international students experienced one of the most beloved Michigan Summer festivals: the Renaissance Festival. Pei Yi Lai, Zeng Han, Jun Jie Ma, Jian Jiang, Hong Yu Chang, Yu Min Huang, and Yifeng Zeng enjoyed a day outside in Holly, Michigan exploring the replica Renaissance-era village.

The Michigan Renaissance Festival is a summer weekend festival that creates a village reminiscent of 16th century England, during the English Renaissance—including buildings, food, shops, costumes, and performances. Each weekend is a different Renaissance theme. This weekend was "Shamrocks & Shenanigans", a Celtic theme including Highland Games, Dancing, jousting and kilt competitions!

Students’ Renaissance Experience

I enjoyed this festival which is my first American activity attended. This was a memorable experience to join Renaissance Festival. At first, I think renaissance is important for western countries. Because in history is an important event about western world developing.

This is an interesting festival which looks like a big party. Everybody wears traditional clothes in the party both adult and children. Become renaissance period person. Even though, [the] weather is very cold for me. But their enthusiasm let me get warm so much. There are a lot of shows which you get interested you can watch. Then, there are games which you can try to enjoy but need to [pay].

"I think this trip was great!"
—Shaodong Wang

"There are many people dress up like Renaissance peoples. Like old clothes, old skirt, old building...
I watched many different shows. [My] favorite show is the knight show. Many special foods in there, like the big turkey drumsticks and the soup in a bread [bowl].
So the festival is a very special experience for me.”
—Yu Min Huang

Finally, I am joyful to participate in this festival. Because I can be experience the life of USA. I look forward to going to another activity.
—Pei Yi Lai
Rumi is a Japanese exchange student studying at Madonna University this semester. She is studying English and after graduation, she hopes to become an English teacher in Japan and teach American culture to Japanese students. Although Rumi has only been at Madonna University a few weeks, she says she is already really enjoying her time here. Rumi said, “I really like it here. American people are very friendly and open and I have made a lot of friends. Comparing to American people, the Japanese are a little bit shy. So I really enjoy the friendly atmosphere here.”

— April Chen
This summer, I got married with my husband in China. Here I am very glad to share my wedding experience and some Chinese customs with everyone.

On August 15th, I had my wedding ceremony and banquet. It was a Chinese traditional wedding. The date was selected for wedding based on the Chinese lunar calendar. In the morning, my husband, accompanied by close friends and younger relatives, went to my house. First he must give money to my young relatives who set up obstacles to keep him from finding me. The money helped him in his quest to successfully find me. Then there were some customs for us. For example, we ate noodles together, and he needed to remove the veil for me.

After being granted permission by my parents, we departed for his house. The house was beautifully decorated in red which is the most auspicious colors for the wedding in China. After this ceremony, we were considered validly married by Chinese tradition.

The wedding banquet was the highlight of the wedding celebration. It was served as lunch. The dining place was a big restaurant. Before the banquet, our parents and we were introduced to the guests. Also, my husband and I officially exchanged our rings. After the blessing which was conducted by our parents and elder relatives, the banquet begins. During the banquet, there were shows such as violin performance and so on. In addition, liquor was a compulsory item at the wedding banquet. We were encouraged to drink a toast with the guests and convey thanks to relatives who helped with the wedding. The wedding ended with blessings from all the guests. Although we all felt a little tired, we were very happy. Also, I hope I can get blessing from all of you!
25 international students will have the opportunity to select a faculty or staff member to be their mentor! Students and mentors will first meet for lunch on a day of their choosing. Lunch cost is covered by the ISO (up to $10/person) and students will have additional chances to meet with their mentor throughout the semester. This is a great chance to get to know your professor, or another faculty/staff member better! Please see Amy Dickerson in room 1209 if you are interested in signing up! Email: aldickerson@madonna.edu

How to participate:

Step 1: Contact the International Students Office to sign up!

Step 2: The ISO will match you with a faculty or staff member

Suggested restaurants are listed on the ISO website: http://www.madonna.edu/admissions/international-students/meet-your-professor-over-lunch

Step 3: Arrange a date and time to meet for lunch and inform the International Students Office of your plans.

Step 4: Enjoy lunch with your mentor!

Step 4: Arrange to meet regularly with your mentor!