

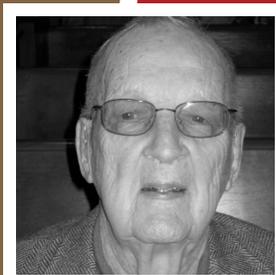
MFIS *newsletter*

Meet Some Long-Time MFIS Members

Marzo Bliss, a Madison native

Tell us about your experiences with MFIS: My wife, Eliza, and I were always involved in many community activities. In the mid-1960s, all the international students were in graduate programs. We hosted, then "adopted" a student for family gatherings and Sunday dinners. We also hosted an AFS student and enjoyed introducing students from different countries to one another. Our kids were teenagers during our exchange-student hosting. The entire family benefits.

Share a reason why people should volunteer with MFIS: It's a good way to broaden everyone's view of the world.

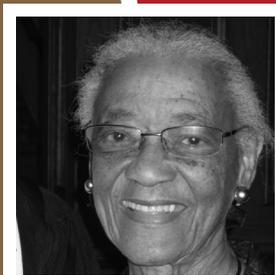


Fannie Hicklin, grew-up in the South

Tell us about your experiences with MFIS: I've been involved since the 1970s and have served on the Board. I've enjoyed hosting students, getting to know both grads and undergrads. It's a good opportunity to learn about other cultures and show international students the "real" U.S. I enjoy attending the Annual Meeting and especially like hearing from current students, hearing their perspectives. My interest stemmed from my childhood, growing up near an integrated college campus. My parents always treated people as individuals, and I learned not to see people in terms of race, culture or country of origin.

Share a reason why people should volunteer with MFIS: MFIS is like Friendship Force International; it's good for world peace.

Congratulations to Liba Daub, another longtime supporter of MFIS! Thank you, Liba, for your 40 years of service to MFIS and the ESL program!



Save the Date for the Annual Dinner Meeting for MFIS Volunteers!

When: April 25, 2013

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: Lussier Community Education Center, 55 South Gammon Road, Madison

To sign up: Go to our website, call the office, or see the flyer coming soon.

Cost: \$12.00* per person. Sign-up by April 21.

*If you are bringing along someone interested in becoming a new volunteer, s/he pays half-price.

Theme Country: Turkey!

MFIS' annual meeting is an opportunity for volunteers to meet others who provide invaluable services to international students throughout the year, and to enjoy some delicious ethnic food and entertainment. This year, Oliva Restaurant will cater traditional Turkish food.

In addition, we will have a silent auction. If you are interested in donating something to the auction, please contact the MFIS office at 608-263-4010 or Sandy Drew at 608-833-5811. Hope to see you there!

Around the Table with the MFIS Furniture Program

Most rental units near college campuses are not furnished. Overseas travel means it's not plausible to bring along furniture, nor is it economical to buy furniture for a 6-month to 3-year stay in Madison.

Michael von Schneidmesser ("Mike von S") estimates that each year, 150 people directly benefit from the MFIS Furniture Program he coordinates. International students and their families seek his help in getting furnishings and transporting them to their new homes.

The great success of the program this past year means there's now empty space in the storage room waiting to be filled. The items needed fit into three basic categories: sleeping, storing, and studying.

Items Needed:

Desks

Dining/Kitchen Tables

Chairs (desk, table, easy chairs or recliners if small, light, and in fair condition)

Bed frames (not headboards or bedroom sets, but the actual metal frame that a box-spring is set into)

Shelving units

Dressers

Lamps (small size, not those with huge shades)

Small appliances: microwaves, coffee makers, vacuum cleaners

There is a lesser need for: dishes, silverware, kitchen tools and utensils, ironing boards, and mirrors.

White goods are not needed.

If you have a large piece of furniture to donate (a heavy sofa or sofa-bed, for example) it will be accepted if you are able to provide delivery directly to the student's home.

And how about an old mini-van? Specifically, Mike is looking for a Chrysler (Dodge or Plymouth) mini-van of a 1995 model or older. Rust, dents, or broken air conditioning are not a concern, as long as the van is still operable. An old work/tool van could also be of use, but the most important thing is that the van have rain gutters. Why? Well, vans with rain gutters are the best, says Mike, for securing rooftop carriers for – you guessed it – hauling furniture! While a donated van is preferred, he's willing to pay a reasonable price for one that fits the need. He'll even consider one with a transmission problem.

Drop-offs of furniture or household items can be made without reservation on the first Saturday of the months April, May, and August from 11:30a-12:30p at the storage site: Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, 5501 University Avenue in Madison. (Enter Norman Way between the church and BP gas station.) Or, contact Michael von Schneidmesser at vons@aae.wisc.edu or through the MFIS office at 608-263-4010 to set-up an appointment. Donations of furniture (or mini-vans) are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt.

Mike encourages you to join him at the storage site on August 24, 31 or September 7 from 9:00a-12:30p. He considers these dates a sort of "Open House" for all MFIS members to meet new international students. "Sometimes the only contact a student ever has with MFIS is through the Furniture Program," he says, "and, unfortunately, I'm not able to keep in contact with each of them. I'd like your help in supporting the MFIS mission."



*Free digital
photo by
Sura Nualpradid*

*Students and families
taking advantage of
the Furniture Program
pay a modest handling
and delivery charge.
These monies go directly
back to the MFIS treasury
as a source of income
for the organization.*

The Importance of Volunteer Application Forms (VAFs)

MFIS takes seriously its responsibility to provide safe experiences for international students, including those times when students are within the homes of volunteers. With a membership list of 900+, we no longer know all our volunteers. Please understand our need to do what we can to safeguard those with whom we engage, even if you are a veteran member. Your cooperation in completing applications to volunteer with us is appreciated. If you haven't filled out a VAF and you volunteer with a program for MFIS, please email the office to request one: info@mfismadison.org

Temporary Home Stay

Temporary Home Stay

MFIS is always looking for hosts for the THS program. If you are able to host or coordinate student-host matches, please contact the MFIS office at info@mfisoffice.org or 608-263-4010. The email below, written by a student, wonderfully captures the efforts of our THS volunteers.

Dear Joanne,

Thank you very much for telling me the information of (my host.) She is so hospitable and has sent me an email immediately after knowing my information. I have replied to her just now. Thank you very much for your hospitality! ... I am quite warmed by your volunteer work in receiving new-comers! So my knowing about UW actually begins from your excellent work. Thank you! All the best wishes for you and your colleagues!

Sincerely yours,

C.Z.

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MFIS Nominees for Board and Officers of the Board for 2013-14

Please note: Information below was accurate at the time of printing. For an up-to-date slate, go to www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis after May 10, 2013.

The election will be May 22, 6:30 at Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd.

All members are welcome to observe.

If you wish to make a nomination, please contact Sherry at shercaves@tds.net by April 21, 2013.

Slate:

President or Co-President: awaiting nominations

Vice President or Co-Vice President: awaiting nominations

Secretary: Marian Piekarczyk

Treasurer: Mara Helmke

Board members: Anisha Akula, Ellen Burleigh, Sherry Caves, Joanne Lenburg, Kathryn Lederhause, Daryl Sherman, Erin Vander Loop.





Photos from the Capitol Reception on February 24.



Volunteers Needed

In addition to the opportunity to serve on the MFIS Board, other places needing leadership include: Fund Raising, Temporary Home Stay, Publicity, database assistance, and office assistance. Our events and programs can always use more hands. See the MFIS website for details. www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis

Donations - Did You Know?

MFIS can accept your tax-deductible donation via check or online! It's easy! Go to the MFIS homepage at www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis and click on the red DONATE button. It will connect you to paypal. From there, you enter the amount of your donation and can even earmark the monies for a certain program or need. As always, THANK YOU for your support!

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