

MFIS *newsletter*

Annual Meeting, Save the Date!

When: April 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Where: First Baptist Church fellowship hall,
518 N. Franklin St.

Cost: \$15 per person.

The MFIS annual dinner meeting is a great opportunity to meet other volunteers, while enjoying delicious ethnic food and entertainment. This is a time when you can learn what others are doing, and share your own experiences.

This year the dinner will celebrate Vietnam. Food will be catered by a local restaurant and will include steamed pork rice flour balls, spicy lemongrass tofu, PPBQ pork fried rice, and yellow chicken curry.

Make reservations early because space is limited.

Location: First Baptist Church is on the near west side, just south of University Avenue at Franklin Avenue (Look for the Spirit Gas Station.) Parking is to the rear of the building, and the fellowship hall is downstairs. Street parking is also available. The church also has an elevator.

To Make Reservations: You can use the enclosed form, order online at <http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/secondary/vannual.html>, or contact the MFIS office. Please remember, payment is expected with your order. If you order online, you can use PayPal.

Registrations must be received in the MFIS office by Thursday, April 23 by 5:00 pm. If you are registering online, you can still register on that Thursday.

Why Volunteer Application Forms are important

We have over 900 volunteers, so we aren't able to know everyone any more. (That's one of the downsides to our tremendous growth.) The VAF provides us with information about members' interests, helps us match people with appropriate volunteer opportunities, and helps us safeguard the students who need our services. If you haven't completed a VAF, or want to update your information, please contact the MFIS office, or download a form from the website.

Silent Auction

Every year, the silent dinner

helps to provide valuable support for all the MFIS programs. This auction has been a big success, and we hope that success continues this year. If you are interested in donating items for this year's auction, or if you would like to help with the event, please contact the MFIS office at 608-263-4010.

Auction items that have an international connection are especially welcome. Some of the items that have been especially popular in the past have been special dinners or other experiences. Keep in mind that many of us don't need a lot more "stuff," but we could use various services that you may be able to provide. What are your secret skills? Can you make a dinner, bake bread, brew beer, provide music? Be creative.



*Martha Olsen, Joanne Lenburg
and Chongyu Zhang at Helen
Findlay's Silent Auction
Chinese dinner.*

MFIS Board Election

MFIS Board members for the 2015-2016 fiscal year will be elected at the May 7 board meeting at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church. All members and friends are invited to attend. Check the MFIS website, for more information.

Slate:

President: Daryl Sherman

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Mara Helmke

Board members: Casey Garhart, Susan Jacobs, Kathryn Lederhause, Umesh Khadaria, Bob Nolan, Martha Olsen

As you can see, the Vice President and Secretary positions are currently vacant. Would you, or someone you know, like to be part of the MFIS Board? This is another way you can help MFIS. Nominations need to be in 10 days before the May meeting.

We are sorry to say goodbye to two long-time MFIS board members who have decided to move on to other endeavors. **Anisha Akula, Joanne Lenburg, and Sherry Caves**, thank you for your valuable service to the MFIS Board.

Finances

Your contributions of time and money make MFIS possible. This year our Annual Appeal brought in \$3,500. The graph above shows how we used our 2014-15 budget.

In addition to all our regular contributors, we want to give special thanks to the families of Mollee Sanger, Elaine Murphy and Kay Newton, who honored their involvement with MFIS during their lives by asking that donations be made to MFIS in lieu of flowers. We also want to thank Mike von Schneidemesser and Giovanna Jeffries for their great work with the furniture program. If you know anyone with furniture they no longer need, remind them about the MFIS furniture program, which helps furnish students' apartments.

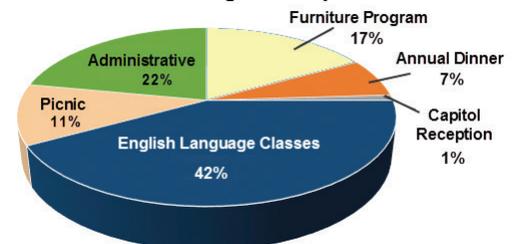
You can also remember MFIS when you use Amazon.com. Go to Smile.amazon.com when you want to make a purchase, select Madison Friends of International Students, and .05% of your purchase will be donated to MFIS. And don't forget that you can make your tax-deductible donations online at www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis.

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Editor of Newsletter, Casey Garhart

2014-15 Budgeted Expenditures



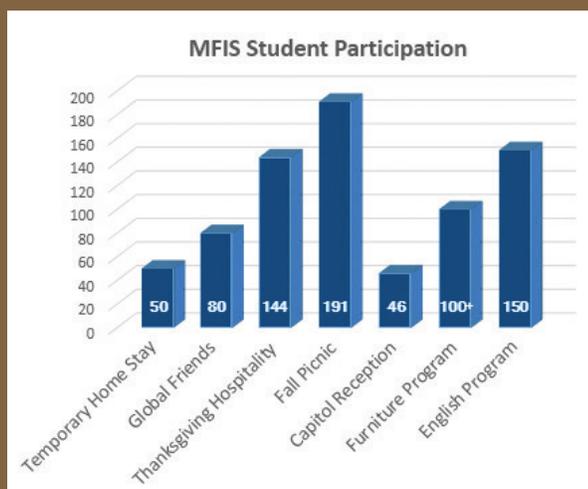
Kudos to Stephanie Belmas

We congratulate Stephanie Belmas, International Student Specialist at Madison College's Center for International Education, for winning the college's award for Outstanding Achievement in Student Development & Success. Recipients of this award are people who have demonstrated "distinguished achievement in developing new, innovative, creative and effective programs for meeting student development needs." Stephanie is a great friend of MFIS and the award is well-deserved. Madison College says they appreciate MFIS' support of both Stephanie and international education.

What Can You Do?

MFIS is always looking for volunteers. Maybe you know about hosting for Thanksgiving, because that's what you do. Or maybe you have provided temporary housing. But are you aware of all the other ways you can help MFIS? Right now, we are looking for the following:

- People to provide temporary homestays
- People to host students for Thanksgiving
- Temporary homestay matchmakers
- People to help with publicity
- Teachers for English classes
- Global Friends conversation partners (we especially need Global Friends volunteers)



The chart above shows the number of people participating in each program.

And don't forget that a great way to help is by recruiting more volunteers to MFIS. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you when you are hosting international students. Bring friends along to the picnic or the annual dinner. They'll probably find it just as rewarding as you do.

Who's a member?

Being a member of MFIS couldn't be easier. There are no annual dues. All you need to do is support MFIS with a financial contribution of any size, or a donation of your time. But we do ask that volunteers complete a Volunteer Application Form (VAF).

MFIS Picnic, Save the Date!

This year the annual MFIS picnic will be August 29.

Capitol Reception

This year's MFIS Capitol Reception, organized by Kathryn Lederhause, was a great success. The reception was held in the State Senate parlor, where Sen. Fred Risser told students about the work and history of the legislature. He also answered questions about their concerns for continued state funding for the various university programs in which they are enrolled.



After a chance to enjoy typical Wisconsin foods and conversation with each other and with MFIS volunteers, a guide gave them an extended tour around the Capitol building. While they toured, MFIS volunteers made goody bags with the leftover food, which students could then take home with them.

The appreciation students have for these receptions is shown in the emails Kathryn received after the event.

I write you to thank you all yesterday's reception. I have a lovely time at the Senator Parlor meeting Senator Fred Risser and also with the guided tour, where I found the amazing chambers this building have. Thank you very much.

Greetings, Veronica Piloneta

Thank you very much for having organized the reception for all of us on Sunday. It is such a wonderful event! I am so grateful for your efforts and everything. Please kindly extend my gratitude to your team members as well. It has been the most unforgettable experience for me at Madison.

Thank you so much indeed! Have a nice day. Hope to see you soon, Wai



Who does MFIS help?

Ye Zi Yip (who uses the Anglicized name Leafia, because her Chinese name means “leaf”) arrived in Madison on January 13 as a foreign exchange student from Hong Kong. As an exchange student, she had learned about various services that would be available at UW, including MFIS, but she first encountered the organization at the January 17 activities fair.

When she arrived, she knew no one, but she looked forward to meeting not only fellow students but also people in the community. She wanted to make the most of her time in the US and that included experiencing the local culture. At the MFIS table, she met volunteer Daryl Sherman and they became conversation partners.

Since then, he has become her tour guide and friend. Initially, Leafia spent all her time on campus or State Street. Daryl has taken her to Vilas Zoo, the capitol, Olbrich Botanical Garden, and the Arboretum – where she saw her first wild turkeys and Indian effigy mound.

With other friends she has been skiing and skating, played laser tag, and gone to the movies. She’s learning American slang and idioms, and is exchanging her British English accent for an American one. “I was worried about having no friends,” she said. “But it has turned out much better than I expected.” Now Leafia is thinking about eventually returning to Madison for a post-graduate degree.

www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis



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