



# Madison International Partners' Newsletter

## *The Global Mind*

ISSUE 1, VOLUME 5

JULY 2019

### Inside this Issue:

Page 2

*Meet New MIP Staff.*

Page 3

*Goodbyes.*

Page 4

*Focus on Airport Pick ups Program.*

Page 5

*Being Family to Internationals in Madison.*

Page 6

*Spring & Summer Activities.*

Page 7

*MIP Volunteer opportunities.*

*Heartfelt Gratitude to our Generous Donors for the new MIP Van.*

## Moving in the Right Direction!

Madison International Partners (MIP) continues to thrive to provide welcome and hospitality to internationals in Madison and help promote cross-cultural exchanges and friendships between Americans and internationals.

This past quarter has been marked by number things that will affect MIP work going forward.

1. **The Retirement of Rev. Dale Chapin as the senior Pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church.** Pastor Dale is the one whose vision and leadership led to the creation of the International Outreach Ministry which later became Madison International Partners. Before leaving, Pastor Dale ensured that there was a Memorandum of Understanding in place between MIP and CPC to ensure the continuity of our partnership and the sustainability of the organization. Pastor Dale and his wife Marlene have been the most ardent supporters and cheerleaders of MIP. After 18 years of loyal service at Christ Presbyterian Church, they earned a deserved retirement and will be enjoying it with their children and grandchildren in the Atlanta area. We thank them and wish them all the best.
2. Madison International Partners has recently hired 2 part-time program assistants who will help alleviate the workload of the executive Director and help the organization move forward.
3. MIP just completed a major overhaul of its website which looks much more improved: afterward: Check it out at: <https://internationalmadison.org/>
4. MIP was also underwent its first audit conducted by Wegner CPAS. We are pleased that the auditors did not find any discrepancies in our accounts.
5. A group of generous supporters just made a donation of \$35,000 to MIP to buy a gently used 15 passenger van. This new tool which is crucial to our mission will be acquired on time so that it can be available this fall during our busy season. We would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their generosity and support.

We would also like to Thank Ellen Murdoch who is stepping down from the MIP board after more than 2 years.

We look forward to the busy fall season and wish you all a very nice summer.



# Meet MIP New Staff

## Program Assistant #1: Yeung Oi Lau “Milli”

Hello MIP friends! My name is Yeung Oi Lau, but everyone calls me Milli. I am so happy and excited to be a part of the MIP team as a program assistant. I visited the English Conversation Group in mid-June and had a great time meeting some of you; I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months.

I am from Hong Kong. I have been living, receiving education, and working in Madison for about ten years. I love Madison because it is a city with the feeling of the countryside. It is convenient for me to do whatever I want, such as hang out with my friends, visit my family, take enrichment classes, and taste different kinds of cuisine.

After moving to the U.S., I started working on learning English while getting my associate degree in Internet Technology from Madison Area Technical College. Now I am a senior in college at UW Milwaukee; I am studying Information Science and Technology.

Before I came to the U.S., I was able to do some traveling to many different Asian and European countries, such as Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, India, United Kingdom, Italy, and France. I love visiting other countries and learning about other cultures and beliefs, as well as discovering the things we all have in common as human beings no matter where we live. I also enjoy photography, especially architecture and landscape.

Since coming to the U.S., I have worked as a special needs tutor, tax preparer, accounting and office assistant, and an internet library page. I also have volunteered as an English Language Talk Time assistant and as an assistant in beginning computer classes at the public library. Currently, I volunteer in the computer lab at the Catholic Multicultural Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of MIP!



## Brendan Caldwell, Program Assistant # 2

My name is Brendan Caldwell. I'm a native Madisonian. I'm also a local painter, musician and neuroscience researcher in the Madison Area. I love to travel and meet new people from diverse backgrounds. I am extremely excited to be joining Madison International Partners and helping them to create a greater global community in Madison.



## Good Byes!

*The turnover for participants to MIP programs and activities is quite high. We are always sad to see those who have come to know and built friendship with leave to go back to their countries. Some of those leaving wanted to let us know their feelings*

### Thank you from the bottom of my heart by Corinne Tedesco, Exchanged student from Italy

I want to thank MIP again for its commitment in organizing for everybody the English conversation class and the international cooking. I enjoyed the time with you, with the volunteers and with the other students/people that I knew there. I liked to come because I had the opportunity to improve my English with help and without feeling judged that it's very important for whom that are trying to learn a foreign language, and because I met new friends and I shared my culture and knew different too. The support for the language and also to share the local culture and habits is important for the own improvement, but also for feeling part of a new city, of a new family. I tried to share my experience with the new students in WESLI. Hope to come back in October, hope to see you again!!!

Wish you all the best and thank you so much!



### I made a lot of great friends in Madison. By JINGJING PAN, Visiting Scholar from China.

Thank you for you and all the volunteers who helped me with my English and showed me the American Culture! At Madison International Partners' Programs, I made a lot of great friends, which is a great place for me to know Jerry, Mike, Marty, Ann and Kate, as well as many Chinese. In the group, I feel the friendliness, happiness and more safety. For me, this is a home to relax. I like English conversation time, the International cooking and other activities. But unfortunately, I cannot go to the picnic this summer. I am very sad. Thank you, Jean-Rene! You are so nice to find ride for me every Friday, and the most unforgettable thing is that I learned how to cook the fried plantain because of you, haha! When I go back home, I will cook that for my families and tell them that who taught me to cook. Definitely, the person is you, haha! Thank you a lot! Hopefully, I can come back to MIP program in the future! Looking forward to the reunion!



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES! BY RAN AN, VISITING SCHOLAR FROM CHINA.

Before I came to Madison, I had already heard of the great event of English Conversations. All my acquaintances thought highly about it. During the first few days when I was in Madison, a visiting scholar from my country said, he found the ECT was the best English Conversation event. So I went to ECT at the first weekend after I came to Madison.

There the organizer welcomed me warmly, as I introduced myself, people applauded for me, which initiated my happy time at ECT. I have known many kind hearted, friendly, intelligent and knowledgeable American volunteers who devoted their time and skills to share American culture and help international people practice English Conversation. Besides the informational conversations, there are also other events through which internationals get to know America well, such as the Thanksgiving Dinner with American Families, Apple Picking, International cooking, super bowl, etc. All activities are well organized and free. As an international, I feel overwhelmed by the generosity and caring towards us.

MIP is like a family, a friend, a guide and an ambassador. It means a indispensable part during my stay in Madison, for it helps me to dispel loneliness and homesickness as a foreigner, for it has given me mental and practical support, and for it has impressed us with American people's kindness! I hope it will be known to more people and can become better and better.



## Voluntary airport pickup program helps first-year international students & visiting scholars feel welcome in their new home

[By Defang Zhang, The Daily Cardinal Reporter\\*\\*.](#)

[\\*\\*The Daily Cardinal is one of UW Madison Online newspapers](#)

The airport pickup program, which is a key component of the partnership of CSSA and MIP, helps incoming international freshmen arrange better transportation from the airport to the dorms.

American universities, which for half a century have attracted the world's best and brightest students, are flushed with international students who made their journeys from all over the globe.

According to the 2017 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees report from the Council of Graduate Schools, in Fall 2017, international graduate students constituted approximately 20 percent of total enrollment.

The number of international graduate students enrolled at UW-Madison is significantly higher. The number of international graduate students was close to 2,652 in Fall 2017, close to half the number of American graduate students at 4,780, according to the office of the registrar at UW-Madison.

For incoming international students, many of whom have never been to the US, finding transportation from airports to campus dorms is challenging due to lack of familiarity of transportation options.

"It's hard for us to get around because it's such a large country," said Yanling Wang, a UW-Madison freshman majoring in computer science. "It would be difficult if nobody picks me up when I first arrived at the airport. Honestly, I don't even know which bus to take to go to my place."

Driven by the increasing demand for transportation assistance, the Chinese Student Scholars Association (CSSA) at UW-Madison initiated a partnership with Madison International Partners (MIP) in 2013 to help incoming international students with transportation.

According to Jean Rene, the Executive Director of MIP, he and his staff try their best to help the international community because of the difficulties that international freshmen might face when they first arrive in town.

"Their parents & new students are usually very anxious about what's going to happen once the child arrived here," Jean- Rene said. "To relieve that fear, we have a number of programs and activities that make them feel welcome help them feel at home in Madison, even though they are living away from home."

The airport pickup program is where American volunteers, who live in town, volunteer to drive first-year international students from the Dane County Airport to their dorms. The sign-up form can be found on both CSSA's WeChat account and MIP's websites.

MIP was created initially as the international outreach ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church but became an independent organization after a large involvement of more members of the Madison community.

Kao Yong Thao, the international student advisor who oversees International Student Orientation at UW-Madison, views the airport pickup program between CSSA and MIP as a good opportunity for international students, though said she has not heard about this program since she is new to her position.

"I think it is a cool opportunity," Thao said. "I am always really amazed by the effort that our students currently devote towards supporting their peers and making sure they are getting the resources they need as they are transitioning to campus."

## Like most internationals I have no “blood relations” in Wisconsin. But I have “family” in Madison.

By Mary Rathbun, MIP Volunteer.

This is also true for many of the internationals who participate in MIP programs. You hear it from them all the time. They say the people in the program they participate in, whether it is English Conversation Time or International Spouse Connection or whatever, have become their family in Madison.

But in some cases, they carry it even farther. I know because a young Chinese man asked me to take one of the family seats he was allocated at the UW Law School hooding ceremony this month.

I met John (whose real name, Yuzhen Shang, I didn't learn until the hooding ceremony) last August when I picked up he and a Shanghai Jiao Tong University Law School classmate at the bus stop by Memorial Union. It was a warm, clear night with stars sparkling overhead. But they weren't enjoying it. They were tired, jet lagged and stressed. They had had a problem with immigration at O'Hare and missed the bus they intended to be on.

So, rather than rushing them into the car, I walked us around the side on the Union to where a Terrace After Dark event was just finishing up. They saw the throngs of young people laughing and having a good time in one of Madison's most iconic settings and had their first real American hotdog and a beer.

Then, I dropped the now smiling but still disoriented and exhausted pair and their tons of suitcases off at the AirBnB where they were staying until their apartments were available to them and arranged to come get them and their stuff in a couple of days to take them to their new homes away from home.

On that second ride, I invited them to English Conversation Time. They both came that week, but only John, whose English was much better than his classmate's, returned week after week. When his girlfriend arrived unexpectedly from China with the intention of staying for the entire school year on a tourist visa, he brought her and introduced her to me. Jean Rene and I turned out to be the two Americans she was most comfortable with.

John and Vicky became some of most regular Friday night attendees for the entire school year and every time I was there I drove them to their apartment after the session. That let us talk one-on-one in private, building a cross generational friendship.

John and I were already friends on WeChat, the Chinese equivalent of Facebook and Messenger and a whole lot of other apps rolled into one, and we carried on even more private conversations there. At times, there are things you can't talk to your mother or your girlfriend about but that you can talk to an unrelated, old female -- who is even from another culture -- about.

By the time Thanksgiving arrived, it was natural to make sure John and Vicky were among my holiday guests. When they went back to China for winter break the next month, I heard from John on WeChat frequently as he got ready to go meet Vicky's parents and then when he was about to introduce her to his parents. It turned out, much to everyone's delight, that all those encounters went well.

When they returned for his second semester in the Legal Institutions Masters of Law Degree Program they participated in even more of the MIP programs, going skiing at Devil's Head and volunteering at Second Harvest, while continuing as regulars at English Conversation Time.

In April, when the 40 students in his program elected John to be their speaker at the hooding ceremony, he asked me to be his family there. Although the ceremony was live-streamed to China where his parents could see it and Vicky was with me, John wanted me there in loco parentis – not in that disciplinary way that people my age are familiar with from their college years, but to truly stand in for his parents. I was proud to do it! Family is important.

## Spring & Summer Activities

MIP's flagship program, English Conversation Time held every Friday continues to be strong

### International Cooking & Dinner:

April & May International Cooking & Dinner were two of the most attended this academic year. They both drew more than 160 people each



June 23, MIP held a successful Brunch at CPC as a way to thank the church for all its support. It was also a great opportunity to showcase MIP and recruit volunteers.

**Global Spouse Circle** continues to meet on a regular basis every Thursday afternoon and undertook a few field trips at the **Chazen Museum**, on March 28, the **Arboretum** on May 30th and a **boat ride on Lake Mendota** on July 3.



### **Breakfast on the Farm:**

38 people took part to Breakfast on the Farm on June 8 at a grain farm in Brooklyn WI. As usual it was an eye opening for internationals.



**Brewers Game:** In partnership with WESLI, MIP organized on June 22, its first trip to a professional baseball game. We gave the opportunity to 35 international to attend a Brewers game at Miller Park



**Mark Your Calendar: MIP Annual Picnic: July 19 from 6 to 8pm at CPC. You are Invited!**

# MIP Volunteer Opportunities

## Temporary Hosting (August 1st-31st)

The Temporary Hosting opportunity allows you to open your house to an international student for up to four nights when he/she first arrive in Madison as a way to welcome them and help ease their transition to their new environment. This is an invitation to provide welcome and friendship; there is no charge. If you have a spare bedroom and can host for 2 to 4 days anytime between August 1st and August 31st, please let us know.

## Airport/Bus Station Pick up (July 30th - August 31st)

Through this opportunity, you will help pick up a new student at the Dane County airport or the bus station and deliver them to their apartment or dormitory. All the information about the student and the place to drop them off will be given to you in advance. Again, this is a wonderful way to show American hospitality to someone who arrives to America for the first time.

## Tour of Madison (Monday September 2nd from 1 to 5:30 pm, )

The Tour of Madison is a unique opportunity to welcome new international students in Madison, meet new friends, and make a long lasting impression on new comers. Volunteer drivers use their own cars to help transport the student around town following a route specially designed for the occasion. The tour begins with an orientation for drivers and readers and ends with a light reception at one of our members' home. We need more volunteer drivers and readers.

## Volunteer Drivers and participants to the Apple picking and Picnic (Saturday, Sept. 14)

Apple picking at Appleberry Farm followed by the picnic at Martha and Rich Henderson's home has become a fall tradition for MIP as it offers internationals an excursion in the country side. Volunteer drivers are needed for this activity.

## English Conversation Time (Fridays at CPC from 6 to 8 pm).

The English Conversation Time is a very flexible program where international students have a meaningful interaction with native speakers. The program helps international students practice their English, and gives them the opportunity to learn more about American culture while sharing their own customs and culture with Americans. You can make a huge difference in the life of someone through this opportunity.

## International Friendship Program.

This program pairs you up with an international student/family for conversation and friendship purpose beyond the Friday gatherings. You help your partner transition to life in America while learning about your partner's culture.

## Global Spouse Connection Volunteer (Thursdays, 1 to 2:30 pm).

Moving to the U.S. can be challenging for the spouses of international students and visiting scholars. We know that it can get lonely being at home with their children or alone while their husbands/wives or partners are busy with their studies and research work. The goal of this program is to help international spouses/partner make connections with Americans and find friendships and support within the Madison community as they embark on a new life in the United States.

If you would like to volunteer with any of the opportunities above, please sign up through this link:

<https://internationalmadison.org/volunteer/>

You may also contact Jean-Rene at [jeanrene@cpcmadison.org](mailto:jeanrene@cpcmadison.org) or call 608 217 3008.

## We've Got a New Van!!!! Thanks to our Generous Donors

A few months ago, a group of Madison International Partners 's supporters raised \$35,000 to help equipped MIP with an important that will help advance its mission. We are pleased to announced that MIP has recently acquired a 2018 Ford Transit 15 passenger van. This is a dream come true for us. This has been made possible only because of the generosity of our supporters. Those who believe in our mission. To all of them we would like to say " **THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR ANGEL**"





## **MIP**

**Contact:**

944 E. Gorham St.

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608 217 3008/608 257 4845

E-mail: [jeanrene@cpcmadison.org](mailto:jeanrene@cpcmadison.org)

Madison International Partners' mission is to extend welcome and hospitality services to internationals and promote in-depth cross-cultural exchanges between Americans and internationals in the Madison community. Through its various programs MIP creates opportunities for global awareness and better understanding between people of different races, cultures, religions, and social backgrounds.

Visit and Support MIP at : [Internationalmadison.org](http://Internationalmadison.org)



@MIP.ECT

