



Madison International Partners' Newsletter

"The Global Mind"

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Donate to support MIP at :

<https://internationalmadison.org>

Finish the Year Strong! By J.R Watchou, Executive Director

It's hard to believe that we are heading toward the end of the year. We focus so much on our programs and activities and the people we serve week in, week out that we don't see the time fly. As we approach the end of the year, I couldn't prevent myself to look back and review some of the highlights of our year at Madison International Partners. A lot has been accomplished including:

- We were able to strengthen existing programming and activities while launching new ones such as the shopping trips to Target and Walmart for new internationals in Madison. The impact of our work is felt not only here at home, but also around the world. Two of our volunteers just toured China and Hong-Kong as a result of their involvement with our programs. Our citizenship program produced two new American Citizen!
- We also engaged in a rebranding that resulted in an upgraded website, a more effective social media and communication and promotional materials, including the "MIP Global T-shirt" which has become a big hit.
- We recruited 2 part-time program Assistants who are very helpful in running the organization.
- Through the generosity of a group donors, we were able to acquire a new 15 passenger van which is a crucial tool for our mission.

All this would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of our faithful volunteers, our generous donors and supporters including Christ Presbyterian Church, and our amazing Board of Directors which work incredibly hard to advance our mission. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, it's our opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all for the invaluable support. We will continue to work even harder to hospitality a tangible reality in our community, and make our interconnected world a smaller place where our different cultural backgrounds become an asset that makes us stronger.

The end of the year is also a crucial time for Madison International Partners because that's the time the organization raise most of its funding through the Giving Tuesday campaign (December 2, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) and the end of year campaign which runs through December 31st. Our goal this year is to raise \$45,000. And we are off to a good start as a generous donor family has committed to match dollar for dollar up to \$13,000. This means that the donations have the potential to be doubled.

Thank you for considering making a gift to support the work of Madison International Partners.



The Decline in International Student Enrollment: What it Means and What We Can Do About it.

By Brendan Caldwell

Nationally, international student enrollment has been falling steadily since 2016. New international student enrollments declined by 0.9% during the 2018-2019 academic year, following a 6.6% decline in new enrollments in the year prior, according to the US Department of State.

A recent survey from NAFSA cited two major reasons for this decline. First, recent screening procedures setup by the current administration have significantly increased the processing time for student visas and reduced the number of visas approved. Second, anti-immigration rhetoric by the current administration, as well as a fear of gun violence in the US, has reportedly made many international students feel unwelcome and unsafe in the US.

"There's many variables, but largely it's been the policies and rhetoric from the current administration that's really driven the numbers to move in that direction," said Rachel Banks, director of public policy at NAFSA. The current administration denies their role in this decline, citing the cost of US education as the primary reason internationals aren't enrolling at the same rate.

Whatever the reason, the cost to the US economy is real. The three year decline in international enrollment has cost the US economy an estimated \$11.8 billion and more than 65,000 jobs.

Defying the national trend, UW Madison has seen an uptick in international enrollment over the past few years. The freshman class of 2022 has 595 international students, up from 550 last year. Programs like Madison International Partners help international students and their parents feel like they will be welcomed and supported locally, even if the national political climate may be hostile. As services like ours grow, Madison will increasingly become a top choice amongst international students; which will support our economy and maintain diversity in our city.

To read more in-depth about this issue, check out our blog: internationalmadison.org/blog

MIP Volunteers Spotlight: Giselle & Andrew Bennet

I'm Andrew Bennet, I'm from Melbourne Beach Florida, my wife Giselle is from Pasadena California. We have 1 daughter, Malala Ngoc Ahn Bennett –she is very cute! Giselle is a nurse at UW Hospital. I came to Madison to attend grad school UW and now I'm a teacher. We have been volunteering since we arrived in Madison, 8 years ago.

Professor Sanskrit class was too hard and made me feel bad about myself, MIP on Fridays helped me feel good about myself again. For both of us we don't have family in this part of the country, so MIP has helped us feel like we have a family community. We also like provided that community and support network to other people who are new to Madison or to the United States. This is something I actually learned backpacking in Thailand, but it is reinforced with MIP - laughter is the same in every language. Where ever you go in the world, people are pretty much the same, there is much more commonality than there is difference.



Everybody Bakes: International Families Bake Apple Pie and Cake Together

By Milli Laua



November 14 was a special day for the Global Spouse Circle. We did not discuss our different countries' cuisine, culture or customs. Instead we learned how to bake desserts that are as American as apple pie and cake. In fact, Master Baker, Jacque Evenson, came to visit us and taught us how to make and bake these very iconic and scrumptious desserts!

Jacque started by introducing the basics in making an apple pie. She explained how to select the best ingredients, how to cut the apples, and how to mix the ingredients. During this process, many of the participants jumped in enthusiastically to make their first apple pie. Some of them helped to cut the apples into pieces, some of them helped to combine flour, sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon and salt together, and some of them helped to roll the dough to prepare the pie crusts.

After putting the pie in the oven, Jacque started to introduce the ingredients and the preparation process for making a simple cake with chocolate buttercream frosting. Once again, many of the participants proactively began helping to prepare the cake mixture and frosting. Everyone reported having fun and enjoying the process of making the two desserts.

The most exciting moment came when we gathered to enjoy the results of our efforts, savoring each bite of the apple pie and cake. Since the desserts were so delicious, the whole apple pie was gone very quickly as well as most of the large cake.

All of the participants in the Global Spouse Circle and I enjoyed this baking session. We hope to have another session to learn baking different recipes in the coming year.



English Conversation Time Has Given Us Family Across the World.

By Kailene and TJ Devries, ECT Volunteers

It has now been 7 months since the last time we were able to formally attend English Conversation Time (ECT), although the essence of ECT has continued with us in many ways. We had the pleasure of being involved in this program for the nearly 2.5 years that we lived in Madison. As we look back, this opportunity was one of the most influential commitments during our time there, and it also allowed us experiences that we would never have dreamed of before becoming involved. One of these consequential experiences was being able to visit several of our friends on a month-long trip to China earlier this year.

We departed on June 23 not knowing what to expect but filled with anticipation over getting to see some of our dear friends again. After traveling nearly 20 hours by plane, and tram, and taxi, we eventually arrived in Dalian (Northeast China). We were immediately welcomed by our first set of friends who invited us into their home and provided for us over the next 10 days. Those days were filled with visiting immense shopping malls, colorful markets, musical fountains, lighted skylines, a Japanese bathhouse, a zoo, the seashore, countless lush gardens and parks, trying our hand (or voice) at karaoke, learning Chinese chess & Mahjong, visiting a local university, taking a spin at an amusement park, sampling tea with the owner of a tea house, and even visiting “Little Venice.” We had some of the most amazing seafood and many other foods that we did not recognize (and certainly could not pronounce!). Among all these amazing activities, the best part of our trip was getting to spend time with our friends and their relatives. We immediately felt like we were a part of the family and cherished the opportunity to see what life was like in Dalian--even maneuvering public transportation and the banks.



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Leaving was again mixed with anticipation, but also sadness over having to leave our “family.” From there we flew to Lanzhou in Northwest China where we reunited with our first Chinese friends from ECT. It had been nearly 1.5 years since we had seen each



other, but it felt like we had never been apart. Here we had the opportunity to see the Yellow River, ride a cable car to the top of a mountain with stunning panoramic views of the city, enjoy Eight Precious San Pao Tai (a local tea) in a grove on the mountain, visit our friend’s university, and eat famous Lanzhou Beef Noodles. These friends were the first to introduce us to Hot Pot while in Madison, and we enjoyed an evening of authentic Hot Pot at one of their favorite restaurants. TJ and I were excited to be able to teach them Uno and Monopoly Deal, and hope they continue to play these card games frequently.

From there we took our first high speed train to Beijing, and what an experience that was! The ride was unbelievably smooth with scenes of mountains, valleys, rivers, forests, and farmlands. Our friends from Beijing, who were currently back in the United States, gave us fantastic recommendations showcasing their city and surrounding sites.

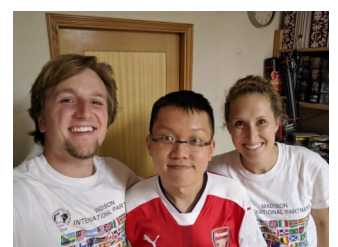
We explored the intricate architecture and vast grounds of the Summer Palace, meandered through Olympic Park--climbing in and on top of the Bird's Nest Stadium, went to the Beijing Capital Museum and the Beijing Zoo, toured the aptly named Great (Long) Wall, wandered the immense Forbidden City, and visited Tiananmen Square. Some of the best and most iconic food we enjoyed there was Peking Duck and Beijing Hot Pot. During our adventures we made friends with both locals and visitors to this beautiful, historic city.



From Beijing we traveled to Jinan to meet up with another family from ECT. They graciously hosted us for one night before we all embarked on a "family" road trip to Xi'an. After 11 hours of bonding and spectacular sights, we arrived in Xi'an where we saw the Terracotta Warriors, Bell Tower, Drum Tower, Goose Pagoda, Xi'an Museum, more musical fountains, and biked along the Xi'an wall. We also reunited with a second family from ECT who are actually from Xi'an. Together we enjoyed meals, sites, and several rounds of Uno.

With gratefulness for what we had experienced and gratefulness for still one more destination, we took our last train to Hong Kong. The scenery was once again mesmerizing as we passed mountains and valleys, rivers and lakes, towns and cities. We were amazed at the hospitality of our friends who invited us into their home and gave us a whirlwind tour of their vibrant city. We visited a pristinely presented zoo/amusement park, explored the tourist markets, tried Dim Sum and Korean BBQ, toured via double decker bus and trolley, rode the longest outdoor escalator, viewed the city from a ferris wheel, saw our friend's secondary school, ate fresh fish by the ocean, had our breath taken by almost aerial views of the city below, rode cable cars to Big Buddha (Ngong Ping Village), and saw a white dolphin on a boat tour. Hong Kong is a beautiful conglomerate of mountains and islands and city and ocean. We also enjoyed more intimate moments having dinner at our friend's house, walking around the neighborhood, and taking an evening bike ride along the channel while a storm blew in.

Though it had been 30 days, the time raced by. This truly was a "trip of a lifetime," and for that we are extremely grateful. When we returned home, people kept asking us what was our favorite part of the trip. One might think it would be hard to pick just one favorite out of all of this, but by far the best part was seeing our friends again. Through ECT we formed cherished friendships that have survived distance, time, and language barriers. Our friends, and all the locals we had the pleasure of meeting, were beyond welcoming and generous--like family. For TJ and me, it was an interesting reversal of ECT in Madison--this time we were the foreigners, we needed to practice the language, we wanted to experience the culture. We are thankful that a program like English Conversation Time exists--that it allowed us this opportunity and allows those new to the United States a similar opportunity: to make the world a smaller, friendlier place.



Join the
Global Giving
Movement

Tuesday,
December 3rd

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Donate to Support Madison International Partners' Giving Tuesday and End of Year Campaign!

On Tuesday, Tuesday, **December 3rd**, Madison International Partners (MIP) will be participating in Giving Tuesday which is a powerful international day of giving, raising funds, and generating awareness after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

As a non-profit organization, MIP counts on the generosity of its supporters to continue to be a hub of cross-cultural exchanges in Madison and the main provider of a welcoming environment for internationals with services and activities such as Airport pick ups, Temporary Hosting, English Conversation Time, Apple picking, Ski trip, Global Spouse Circle, Breakfast on the Farm, Thanksgiving Hosting, Field Trips and more. MIP wants to continue to provide those services and needs your help on Giving Tuesday.

Help us continue our impactful programs by donating to MIP. Our goal this year is to raise \$45,000 and we are off to a good start, thanks to a generous donor family will \$13,000 to be used as a match to your donations! So your gifts to MIP on giving Tuesday and through the end of year will be matched and doubled!

GIVE

It only takes one person like you to help us continue making a difference in the lives of those MIP serves.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ◇ Donate to Madison International Partners: www.internationalmadison.org/donate/
- ◇ Write a check to MIP and send it to 944 East Gorham Street , Madison WI 53703
- ◇ Like' MIP on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MIP.ECT/
- ◇ Encourage others to donate to MIP

Program Highlights!

English Conversation Time's Winter Preparation; Global Spouse Circle's Corn Maze Trip; & 2 New US Citizen!



◇ **English Conversation Time** helped internationals prepared for the brutal cold Wisconsin weather.



◇ **Global Spouse Circle** had great field trip at Schuster Farm in Deerfield for a corn maze experience.



◇ Last October, two students from our **Citizenship Class** passed their naturalization exams and are now US citizen!



Upcoming events

Thanksgiving Without Borders

We give the opportunity to Internationals to experience Thanksgiving within American families. We are currently placing about 60 internationals into American families for Thanksgiving celebration. Stay tuned for our report on this in our next newsletter.



International Christmas Party

Join us Friday December 20th from 6 to 8 pm for our annual Christmas party

Great fellowship and a fantastic atmosphere guaranteed!

RSVP: jeanrene@internationalmadison.org



How to get involved or support MIP?

Sign up to volunteer with MIP: <https://internationalmadison.org/volunteer/>

Donate to support MIP at : <https://internationalmadison.org>

MIP Board: Martha Henderson—**President**; Rachel Janke—**Treasurer**; Terry Tao—**Secretary**;
Members: Dave Nelson; Tammy Taylor; Sumudu Atapattu; Nathan Barnes & Ellen Hansen



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.

Contact:

944 E. Gorham St.

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608 217 3008/608 257 4845

E-mail: jeanrene@cpcmadison.org

Visit and Support MIP at : Internationalmadison.org



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