



Madison International Partners' Newsletter

The Global Mind

ISSUE 1, VOLUME 6

SEPTEMBER 2019

Inside this Issue:

Page 2

A picnic in the Heat to Wrap up the Summer.

Page 3

Welcome to America! & Shopping Trip to Target and Walmart

Page 4

Having Fun at Apple Picking & Picnic

Page 5 & 6

MIP Volunteer Highlights.

Page 7

Program Highlight

Upcoming Events.

Donate to support MIP at :

<https://internationalmadison.org>

A busy Fall

For Madison International Partners, fall is usually its busiest season. Indeed, it marks the beginning of a new cycle as a new academic year starts with thousands of new internationals coming to Madison to pursue their academic dreams. For many of them, it is their first time to leave their families and countries to be here in America. Some of them need help with their English, while others struggle with culture shock and adapting to life here. These are unique challenges that Madison International Partners has been able to respond to through its many programs and activities. In fact, our dedicated body of volunteers always enthusiastically respond to the call to duty to make international feel welcome and at home here even though they live far away from home.

This fall, we were able to provide airport and bus depot pick ups to more than 180 new international students and visiting scholars, provided temporary housing to 5 internationals, took 19 of them to the traditional Tour of Madison and had 150 internationals participate to our annual Apple picking and Picnic.

We also respond to the needs of internationals as they arise. For example, we noticed that over the years most internationals we pick up from the airport or bus depots are usually dropped off in dorms or apartments with no equipment such as bedsheets, lamps, plates, silverware, brooms and more, items that can be found only at retail stores such as Walmart and Target. Given that those retail stores are not easily accessible from the campus area, we decided to provide on 2 separate Saturdays 2 shopping trips to Walmart and Target which allowed more than 125 new internationals to get items they needed to equip their dorms and apartments. Our new van was very instrumental in making these trips possible.

A busy fall set tone for an exciting academic year full of meaningful activities, connections, and stories which we are all looking forward to.



A Picnic in the Heat to Wrap up the Summer



MIP annual picnic which usually takes place in July is one of the most anticipated events that internationals look forward to. It happens once a year and gives them the opportunity to enjoy one of American's favorite activities: cook out. They like the picnic because it allows them to hang out with Americans in a relaxed environment, learn about American culture, play games, and enjoy some typical American food (burgers, brats, hot dogs, baked beans, and ice cream).



This year's picnic held on July 19 was a great success despite the high heat and the power outage that affected Madison. We had a great picnic with about 175 people in attendance, many of whom were able to still play outside despite the high heat and come inside to cool off in the air conditioned room. Food was excellent, the camaraderie was great, and we had fun. Everyone went home happy.



Welcome to America!

Picking up new internationals at airports and bus depot to drop them off at their dormitories and apartment is a welcoming service we have been providing with internationals for many years in partnership with student organizations and high education institutions such as UW Madison and MATC. These are new international student coming to the university to further their education. They range from freshmen to PhD students. We understand that the first impression made on someone who moves to a new place can last with them for a lifetime. That's why we think this is a very service we offer as many new students and parents worry about the unknown as they embark on the journey. This year, we provided airport and bus depot pick ups to about 180 new international students, visiting scholars and families. Kudos to our wonderful volunteers who made all this possible.



Shopping Trips to Walmart and Targets for New Internationals

This year we launched a new service to welcome and hospitality package to internationals by providing trips to Walmart and Target where they could buy some of the supplies they so much need for their dorms or apartments and which they cannot find easily around campus. We set up two of such trips. The first one happened on August 17, with our volunteers taking 27 new international students to Walmart and Target. The second shopping trip took place on August 31 and involved 17 volunteers who took 85 new internationals shopping at Target & Walmart.



Having Fun Picking Apple and Hanging out on the Country Side . By Brendan Caldwell

The Apple Picking and Picnic this year was a huge success and a great time. It was a crisp and sunny morning when we loaded 2 bus-loads of internationals to the Appleberry Orchard. I am always really impressed with the turnout for Madison International Partners' events. Jean-Rene has really built a strong and expansive community of internationals who love attending these events.

When we arrived at the orchard it was just starting to get warm out. The grass was still wet and there were tons of people walking all around the property. It was really fun to see all the college students taking photographs of themselves near the pumpkin patch, and to watch little toddlers trying to bite into apples the size of their heads.

Everyone seemed to be having a great time. The apples were absolutely delicious. Better than from any grocery store. For many of those attending, this was their first time to a pick-your-own apple orchard. Other internationals had done something similar in their home country, like strawberry picking patches in China, but this was their first time at an orchard in the United States. I am really glad to be part of an organization that helps facilitate these new cultural experiences.

After what seemed like a short time, we headed over to the Henderson farm for food and games. I was asked to help grill along with Greg, a volunteer. We must have cooked over a hundred burgers, brats, hot dogs and veggie burgers. Tons of food. And some really dedicated volunteers helping to set up the farm to receive the whole group of internationals. While they waited to eat, kids played with toys all over the lawn while adults sat down on blankets and socialized. I saw so many adorable moments and had so many great conversations.

When it was time to eat, Jean-Rene stood on a chair and gave a speech. He talked about the importance of friendship, being welcoming to those from other places, and spreading God's love. He made it clear that there were food options for vegetarians and Muslims, and that they should line up first. As soon as the speech was over though, it was a bit of a free-for-all. Luckily, I'm confident everyone with a restricted diet got plenty of food they could eat. There was just so much food to go around!

As people ate they socialized more, played some yard games, and relaxed in the shade. Just before heading home, the Henderson's friends brought over some horses for us to interact with! This was really cool. I learned that horses can grow to be as old as 50 years old! The ones brought to the farm were between 24 and 30.

I really enjoyed Apple Picking and Picnic this year. It was a great event with a great turnout. Hats off to Jean-Rene and all the volunteers to help make this possible.



MIP Volunteer Highlight: Mike Barnett.

Madison International Partner's English Conversation Time (ECT) has afforded me the opportunity to meet smart, young people from every corner of the world and travel the world all over without leaving Madison. I have learned that everyone is unique and we are all the same in that regard.

My ancestral family migrated to USA about 130 years ago from the northern European countries of Germany, Poland & Sweden. I was born over 70 years ago in northern Wisconsin at Rhinelander. This was just after modern India achieved independence and just prior to the formation modern China (PRC).

The State of Wisconsin has been my home for most of my life. I first came to Madison 52 years ago as an undergraduate. My two adult children and I are proud UW-Madison alums while my wonderful wife is a UW-Milwaukee Panther. The State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture was my employer for over 30 years and afforded me the opportunity to have a satisfying, fulfilling career working with food safety issues. I have been retired for over 8 years and spend time babysitting 3 grandchildren.

My friend & work colleague, Marty Kehrein, introduced me to Friday evening English Conversation (ECT). Marty & his wife Barb, who I first met about 40 years ago, are ECT native speaker volunteers. I have also known ECT volunteer Mary Malischke for over 40 years. Many of the Internationals - who I only know for a few months or couple of years - are rather brave, keep me young and give me hope for the future.

Over the past 8 years, in an effort to achieve some level of physical fitness, I "work out" at my gymnasium/health club. Occasionally I see Jean-Rene at the gym!

The one downside to ECT is when I need to say good-bye to so many super people after only knowing them for several months – it can be sad. I miss many people that I have met on Fridays over the past 4 years.

I hope that any International who returns to their home country will consider:

- a. forming a ECT-like class in your home country and help visitors to your country master your native language,
- b. encouraging your local university/college to create a Senior Guest Auditor program,
- c. keeping in touch with ECT volunteers AND returning to Madison and visit me & other volunteers during Friday ECT.



MIP Volunteer Highlight: Marylyn Smetzer

Volunteering with the Global Spouses group is very rewarding. It is a great experience meeting other people from other countries and hearing of their concerns as they adapt to living in Madison. I have learned so much from this group - it is a continuing education for me.

I was born in Kansas City, Missouri and later moved to Kansas and Arizona. I studied music and loved playing violin in orchestra and planned to work in the field of education.

I was married in Arizona and then we moved to the Dallas, Texas area where my husband worked as a product engineer. I was able to go with him to France for his job and where I enjoyed trying to speak French (not very well) and visiting with new people. Since we loved to travel we also enjoyed visiting New Zealand, Hawaii, Curacao, Lesser Antilles Island, etc.

We had 2 children who went to school while living in the Dallas area and when they went to college my husband's job took us to Colorado Springs, Colorado. While there we took vacations to the Rocky Mountain National Park where we enjoyed hiking in the mountains. The mountains are lovely when covered with snow and skiing in winter is great fun for many people.

I now live in Madison where my daughter, her husband and 2 granddaughters live. People are friendly and there are so many things to do. May the Global Spouses enjoy their stay here and know they are welcomed.



MIP Volunteer Highlight: Schar Braxton

A Char is my name and I love to help people! Madison, Wisconsin is my birthplace and my grandparents came here in the 1940's! They instilled in me the value of giving back and loving one another regardless of beliefs and skin color!

My inspiration to volunteer at the MIP International Program fits in with my love of "giving back" and learning about other cultures! I have been volunteering for a couple of months and enjoy the conversations and people!

I love reading, cooking gourmet meals, and spending time with my Mom!

My dream is to teach English in China one day!



Program Highlight!

Global Spouse Circle's Visit at Olbrich Garden.



Global Spouse Circle, is program which helps connects lonely spouse of internationals with the Madison community. In addition to helping them English practice and answering questions about life in Madison, we also show them around. The group takes a monthly field trip. This month, the group visited Olbrich Garden and still had fun despite the light rain.



Upcoming events

International Halloween Party.

Join us Friday October 25, from 6 to 8 pm for our International Halloween celebration.

RSVP: jeanrene@cpcmadison.org or call 608 217 3008.



International Cooking & Dinner

Join us Saturday October 26 for our last International Cooking & Dinner of 2019.

Authentic food from all over the world, great fellowship, and a fantastic atmosphere as usual.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/y7fubwok>



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



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

Contact:
944 E. Gorham St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608 217 3008/608 257 4845
E-mail: 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



@ MIP.ECT

