



Madison International Partners Newsletter *The Global Mind*

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Inside this Issue:

Meet the New MIP
Board Members &
Interns

Page 2

Fall Highlights

Apple Picking,
Halloween Party &
Baby Showers

Page 3

Inside Stories

TJ & Kailene

Page 4

Mariko

Global Spouse

Page 5

Citizenship Class

Giving Tuesday

Page 6

Volunteer with MIP

Page 7

I Am So Grateful!

By Jean-René Watchou, MIP Executive Director

Another MIP newsletter? We just received one a few weeks ago ... you are not mistaken. Indeed, the frequency of MIP's newsletter changed. It is now published quarterly instead of twice a year, as that was the case for previous editions, so that you are kept informed more frequently about what's going on. This edition brings you plenty of fresh news about MIP.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and enter the 2018 holiday season, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders of MIP. It's because of you that we can strive and fulfill MIP's mission of building a vibrant global community in Madison centered on welcoming, hospitality, cross-cultural exchanges, friendships, and mutual understanding between people from all over the world. So thank you to all of you; internationals, MIP programs and activities participants, you are the visible face of the organization. Thank you to all our volunteers who donate their time, talents, and resources so that MIP can thrive. Thank you to MIP's donors and supporters without whom we

would not have the resources needed to pursue our mission. Thank you to the Board of Directors – which has added three new members recently – for its vision and leadership. Thank you to Christ Presbyterian Church for its invaluable support.

I hope that you will all have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with families and friends – including internationals that many of you have included in your family celebration of this holiday. I also wish you all a great holiday season.

Finally, I hope you will continue to support us through our end of year giving campaign which will be launched on “Giving Tuesday,” November 27, the international day of giving that marks the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. This year, your gifts will once again have double the impact and will be matched up to \$10,000 thanks to a generous donor!

Thank you!



Meet New MIP Board Members

Terry Tao is an advisor to the Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA) and works at the UW Extension where he provides instructional design support for collaborative degree programs. He has designed and developed distance education online courses with campus faculty and supervised the design and development of online courses, degree programs, and training projects. Terry has been instrumental in the partnership between MIP and CSSA.

Sumudu Atapattu is the Director of Research Centers and Senior Lecturer at UW Law School. She teaches in the area of International Environmental law and climate change and human rights. She holds an LL.M. (Public International Law) and a Ph.D. (International Environmental Law) from the University of Cambridge, U.K., and is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Ms. Atapattu has received numerous awards and scholarships for academic excellence, including a Cambridge Commonwealth Trust scholarship and a Benefactor Studentship awarded by St. John's College, Cambridge. Sumudu has so much to contribute to MIP.

Nathan Barnes is a regular volunteer at English Conversation Time. Nathan grew up in Taipei, Taiwan, and is currently studying to improve his rusty Chinese. He lives on the east side of Madison and works remotely as a software engineer. Nathan is looking forward to contributing more to MIP as a board member.

Meet Our New Interns

Olivia Smith

Lets welcome our Social Media/graphic design Intern Olivia! I am a senior at University of Wisconsin Madison pursuing a degree in International Studies with a certificate in Global Health. My major has taken me across the world from Singapore, Thailand, Mexico, and Nicaragua learn about social and political issues affecting the regions. I have experience working in non profits abroad and at home." I decided to apply for MIP because of its mission of making international families and students feel right home. It is important to build communities. I also really enjoy English Conversation Tim. I learn so much about different cultures and customs. I enjoy dancing and traveling. One of my many goals is travel to all seven wonders of the world!



Laura Hietpas

Let's welcome our new Outreach Intern! Hello! My name is Laura Hietpas and I am so excited to be interning at Madison International Partners this semester! I am a sophomore at UW-Madison studying Community & Nonprofit Leadership and Spanish. I was so glad to find an opportunity at Madison International Partners to meet people from all over the world, participate in different programs and see how they are run, and learn so much about the similarities and differences that each culture has! In my free time, I love to go for long runs, sing and play the ukulele and guitar, read a good book, and get coffee at Madison's many amazing coffee shops.



Apple Picking & Picnic By Laura Hietpas

When I signed up to go apple-picking with Madison International Partners, I was excited to meet new people and have a fun fall day, but I was also a little nervous. I didn't know a single person that would be going, and I didn't know if I would be able to start conversation that anyone else would be interested in. I got on the bus feeling nervous and isolated, but when I got off the bus, I felt like I was part of a new community. I made many new friends, I knew more about several different cultures, and even had plans to try a new bubble tea restaurant with some of the people I met.

From teaching my friend Lillian to play bean bag toss, to sampling (maybe too

many) apples with my friend Mila at the apple orchard, to learning what a "pipa" is (it's a Chinese instrument similar to a guitar), to giving my best Farmer's Market stand recommendations, it was a day filled with so much fun and so many new opportunities to get to know people.

I was blown away by the incredible hospitality of the hosts, Rich and Martha Henderson and the friendliness of everyone I encountered. The experience of picking apples and having a picnic was very fun, but the friendships, conversation, and connection made this event truly unforgettable.



Halloween Party

On October 26, MIP held their annual Halloween Party during English Conversation Time to introduce our international friends to this unique American holiday. Through pumpkin carving, a costume contest, and a presentation about Halloween and its origins, everyone was able to both learn about and enjoy this spooky holiday.

I have been participating in Halloween celebrations since I was very young and I learned so many new things about it! I didn't know that it combined traditions from so

many different cultures and that there were reasons for each of the traditions that Halloween. I really enjoyed seeing all of the costumes that everyone found and seeing how excited everyone was after the pumpkin was carved and the lights were turned off so everyone could see how it looked lit up in the dark.

Overall, this event was a lot of fun to be at and was a great way to learn about a holiday that may not make a lot of sense to internationals (or native speakers) at first glance.



Baby Shower

On October 19, MIP had a fantastic double baby shower celebration for Alice and Giselle, two expectant mothers who are regular participants to MIP programs. They respectively gave birth to a baby boy (Alice) on October 31, and a baby girl (Giselle) on November 6. As we congratulate the families on their bundle of joy, we want to thank all those involved and who made these two ladies feel so special and gave them a real sense of belonging to a global family.



Making the World a Smaller Place

By Kailene & TJ Devries, English Conversation Time Volunteers

Kailene and I started volunteering at English Conversation Time (ECT) in early 2017. We didn't understand the profound impact that it would have on our lives when we first arrived, but are grateful now that we look back on the past year and a half. We've made so many friends and had so many great experiences that it's hard to imagine our lives without this enriching experience.

We enjoy getting to know new friends every week and also getting to deepen our relationships with established friends. For Halloween, we were able to go trick-or-treating with two of our close friends. We knew that our little friend would be dressing up as a butterfly, so Kailene and I decided to go as a "butter"-fly. It was truly an honor to be able to participate in these friends' "favorite holiday traditions" and to enthusiastically run from house to house on that chilly Autumn night.

We've met many wonderful families through ECT, and recently had the opportunity to take a trip to Spring Green and Taliesin with one of these families. It was a great experience for all of us. I've been a big fan of Frank Lloyd Wright for a long time and to be able to share the tours of his estate with them was fantastic.

Our friend and I are both involved in the software business, so we're able to talk and connect about many different aspects of the industry. We find that many jokes or situations within software companies apply to both of us - even though we worked in different companies in different countries all the way across the world from each other. It has been so great getting to know his whole family.

Our great friends have taught us many things far beyond counting to ten in Mandarin. These discoveries are things that make the world seem like a smaller place. We are able to laugh at many of the same observations and find that many things around the world are not so different as they first appear. Through Madison International Partners, Kailene and I have been moved, grown, and loved because of the wonderful people involved. We cherish this opportunity and the dear friends it has brought us.



How I Felt Very Welcome in Madison

By Mariko Hayashi, Spouse of a visiting scholar

When I moved from San Jose, California, to Madison in November 2016, I was so depressed by the drop of the climate. In addition I felt lonely and helpless because there was no acquaintance.

One day I saw a flyer that Jean-Rene handed out at Eagle Heights. I went to Madison International Partners with courage, and found they have a lot of activities such as international cooking, field trips, seasonal parties, and so on for us foreigners!



I gladly joined as much as possible and had wonderful fun time. I met people in a similar situation from all over the world! The encounter with warm people made my life rich and happy. I learned American culture and hospitality as well. I really appreciate the staff and volunteers.

I highly recommend their programs to everyone especially who feels isolated. I discovered the excellence of Madison by leaving there. Boston has exciting downtown, but I haven't found such a great community so far.

I would like to use what I experienced in Madison to help and love people as they did for me. I wish you and Madison much prosperity.

With my heartfelt gratitude,

Mariko Hayashi ♡
Wife of a visiting scholar

Global Spouse Circle Field Trip

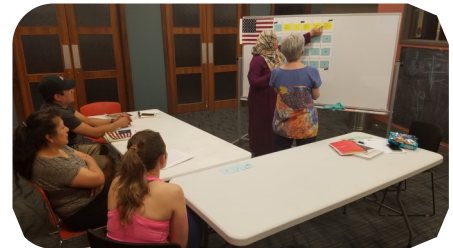
On October 25, Global Spouse Circle experienced a typical Wisconsin fall fun activity by going to a corn maze trip to Schuster's Farm in Deerfield. Fun Activities in the farm include: a hayride through the pumpkin patch, walk through a maze of corn, and Barnyard fun. The trip included children who had fun playing in the pumpkin patch and the barnyard. The group walk through the small corn maze and nobody got lost. The group is looking forward to doing it again next year.



Citizenship Program Produces its First U.S. Citizens

MIP's citizenship program has produced its first class of U.S. Citizens in November. In fact three students, Case, Donia, and Nisren, enrolled in the program have earned their citizenship. As a reminder, the program helps lawful permanent residents learn United States civics and history, and pass the United States Citizenship test and interview that are required to become a U.S. Citizen. The program helps make the dream of citizenship come true for many.

Starting January 2019, MIP is partnering with the Literacy Network to offer morning citizenship classes which will be held at Christ Presbyterian Church every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11:30 am. This will come as an addition to the evening class that is currently offered on Thursday nights. Many thanks to our teachers and volunteers.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

On Tuesday, November 27, 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.

Help us continue our impactful programs by donating to MIP. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 and we are off to a good start, thanks to a generous donor who gave \$10,000 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!

CONNECT

Through its programs and activities, MIP connects than 2,500 internationals with a Madison community member every year

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: (MIP) 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/
- Send a picture or short story on how our programs impacted you to jeanrene@cpcmadison.org

How to Get Involved with MIP

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!

International Friendship Program

This program pairs you up with an International student or family for conversation and friendship purposes beyond the Friday gatherings. You help your partner transition to life in America while learning about your partner's culture. Sign up link: <https://tinyurl.com/y7eha6u7>

English Conversation Time: Fridays, 6-8pm

English Conversation Time is a flexible program where International students have meaningful interactions 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.

Global Spouse Circle Volunteers, Thursdays, 1-2:30pm

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.

International Cooking & Dinner

Since the beginning of 2018, MIP has held four International Cooking and Dinner events (in January, February, April, and May) which drew more than 500 people. These cross-cultural events gather a global community in Madison around authentic food, cultures, and help build friendships and fellowship between people from around the world. The Next one is scheduled for January 26.

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/y8yxggnr>

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the opportunities above, please email Jean-René Watchou with the following information: name, address, phone number(s), and email address.

Jean-René Watchou – (608) 217-3008 or jeanrene@cpcmadison.org.





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Madison International Partners (MIP) is a non-profit organization in Madison, that extends welcome and hospitality to internationals, helps raise global awareness, promote global citizenship, and foster better understanding between people of different races, cultures, religions, and social backgrounds.

Internationalmadison.org



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