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A Taste of Thailand
Highlights from the Annual Dinner

The MFIS held its Annual Dinner at the Fitchburg Community Center on April 19; this year’s theme: Thailand. This was our opportunity to focus on a country whose students are part of the UW and Madison College student bodies, to celebrate and review our programming for the past year, and to build enthusiasm for the coming year. Thawan Kooburat, a Thai student from UW-Madison and Chalermchok “Bally” Worawannotai, a Thai student who attends Madison College (formerly MATC) were our special guests. The popular restaurant Sa-Bai Thong catered the dinner. Despite competition from the Wisconsin Film Festival and the unfamiliarity of a new and slightly further location 58 people attended, including several potential volunteers, two of whom were recruited as board members at the event (see "Meet the Board" for more details). Many expressed enthusiasm for involvement with Madison’s international students. While MFIS has changed over the years – and will change again – its core mission still resonates with many.

A 'Capitol' Idea
Large Turnout Despite Frigid Temperatures

On Sunday, January 31, MFIS hosted a reception for international students in the capitol building’s elegant Senate Parlor. Approximately 50 students attended the social event, munching treats prepared by MFIS volunteers, learning about upcoming MFIS activities, and entering a raffle for a chance to win a variety of prizes, including t-shirts, hats, and bags. State Senator Fred Risser also attended, and spoke to the group about Wisconsin history. The reception ended with a tour of the capitol building. Thanks to all who made the day a success!
Notes from the Board

In 2009-2010, our programs cultivated intercultural exchange and relationships with hundreds of international students. MFIS volunteers welcomed 200 students at our fall picnic, hosted 120 international student and scholars in fall 2009 and 25 this spring through Temporary Home Stay, and taught over 75 students in ESL classes. We revised and combined two of our conversation and friendship programs into our new “Global Friends” program, which is off and running with 25 students currently paired with Madison community members.

The MFIS board looks forward to another great year. Goals for the 2010-2011 board include:

• Sustaining program vitality and impact through active recruitment and cultivation of future program leaders/volunteers.
• Broadening the diversity of individuals within our community who are aware of and benefit from MFIS’ cultural exchange opportunities.
• Increasing the use of technology and assessment to support the organization and current programs.
• Building new relationships with volunteer recruitment organizations.

Meet the Board

We would like to welcome new members to the MFIS Board of Directors. They collectively bring extensive international experience, non-profit leadership experience, and many years of involvement with MFIS. New members to the MFIS Board include:

Anisha Akula, PhD
• Originally from India, Anisha speaks several languages and was first introduced to MFIS in 1999 when she and her husband joined UW-Madison. Anisha works as a scientist with a pharmaceutical company.

Eng Braun, PhD
• Eng’s first contact with MFIS was as an international graduate student from Singapore in 1971. She and her husband have hosted many international students. Eng brings extensive leadership experience from her former work as Policy Director for the Division of Research and Policy at the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Mary Ann Fahl, Vice President
• Mary Ann has actively supported MFIS’ Temporary Home Stay program and other MFIS programs. Her professional career has been in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. Mary Ann is actively involved in the Friendship Force and has joined them on several international exchanges.

Mara Helmke, Treasurer
• Originally from Madison, Mara recently returned to the area after living in Milwaukee. She is a CPA with a public accounting background. A Spanish speaker, Mara studied in Mexico in college.

Sadie Munson
• Currently a graduate student at UW-Madison, Sadie spent the past 5 years in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan working as a Peace Corps volunteer and within the non-profit sector. She also served as Co-director of Friends of Mongolia, which facilitates cultural and educational exchange programs.

Daryl Sherman
• Daryl has traveled, lived, and taught in over 20 countries. He and his wife have hosted many students through MFIS. Daryl served two terms as President of the Madison Art Guild, three terms as President of the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association, and is actively involved in many additional community programs and board of directors.

We would also like to thank the departing board members for their hard work and service: Brian Beutter, Stephanie Cowan, Sabrina Karl, Anne Nahn, and Joy Rice.
Looking for Summer Visitors?

Become a temporary host!

One of the most popular and visible MFIS programs is Temporary Home Stay, in which local volunteers open their homes to students for 2-3 nights. Hosts provide lodging, meals, and help students learn about the Madison community. Most volunteers host students during the summer, particularly in August, but we also need volunteers for January and other times during the year.

MFIS has a committee of volunteers who work to match students with hosts. If you are interested in volunteering as a host, contact the Temporary Home Stay coordinator at temp homemestay@mfismadison.org. You can find additional information on the MFIS Web site at http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/programs/TempHouse.htm.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Granquist

As an ESL teacher with MFIS, Kathy Granquist is committed to her students, well-prepared for class, creates extra-curricular opportunities, and works with other teachers to continuously improve the English classes.

She and her husband, Dave, moved to Madison in 1986. She worked as the office coordinator for Wisconsin English as a Second Language Institute (WESLI) from 1990 – 2002, which gave her daily contact with international students. In 2000 she joined MFIS and has provided temporary housing, hosted students for Thanksgiving, and served as chair of Thanksgiving Hospitality. At WESLI, she began to dream about teaching English; when she retired in 2002, she intensified her commitment to MFIS, learning to teach with Liba Daub and Sally Hansen. Kathy has been teaching ever since.

She teaches beginning and intermediate students practical English useful for everyday life. She gathers materials about shopping, health, restaurants, family life, and travel, and integrates this material into the chapters of the class’s textbook. After meeting with new students at the beginning of each class, she tailors course content to meet the needs of the new class as a whole.

Kathy works hard to design lessons where students do most of the talking, encouraging her students to form pairs to discuss a list of topics; later the class reconvenes to discuss their opinions. Kathy uses these discussions as an opportunity to teach idioms. An experienced teacher, she is flexible and responds to the students’ needs and wishes.

Like other MFIS English teachers, Kathy also gives more of her time than is required. In May 2009, a group of students wanted to continue classes, even though the course had officially ended; Kathy obliged the group and continued teaching throughout the summer. More than once, she has remained after class to spend extra time tutoring an individual student. Kathy finds her students appreciative, kind, and enthusiastic.

From 2002 to the present, Kathy also teaches at the Literacy Network and currently participates in their Community Outreach Program at Allied Drive. She truly exemplifies the American ethic of volunteering. MFIS is grateful for her years of service.
Local Adventures
Activities to share and enjoy with international student

Farmer’s Markets
• Dane County Farmers’ Market, Saturdays, 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Capitol Square
• Monona Farmers’ Market, Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Ahuska Park, Monona

Outdoor Recreation
• Sun Prairie Sweet Corn Festival, June 18-22, Agnell Park, Sun Prairie
• Rhythm & Booms, July 3, dusk, Warner Park
• Art Fair on the Square, July 10, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Capitol Square

Gardens & Nature
• Blooming Butterflies, July 14-August 8, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Olbrich Gardens
• Curtis Prairie Walk, Sunday, July 18, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., UW Arboretum

Fairs & Festivals
• Madison Mallards, July 27, 7:00 p.m.
  Warner Park Duck Pond
• Milwaukee Brewers, July 23, 7:10 p.m.,
  Miller Park, Milwaukee
• Mad City Water Ski Team, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., Law Park