Annual Meeting

Save the Date!

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 1st

MFIS once again invites you to its annual meeting where you will have the opportunity to meet others who volunteer to host and befriend international students and provide welcoming services throughout the year. This year we will be celebrating a West African theme, with a delicious dinner provided by a local caterer and entertainment by West African students from Madison College and the UW. A flyer will arrive soon with more details. Please mark your calendars. It should be a wonderful night!

The dinner will be held in the fellowship hall of the First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin, on the near west side. The church is located just south of University Avenue at Franklin Avenue. (Look for the Spirit Gas Station.) Parking is to the rear of the church building.

To order tickets: You may register for the dinner by returning the flyer which will arrive soon, by visiting the MFIS website, or by contacting the MFIS office directly at 608-263-4010. Please remember, payment is expected with your order.

Silent Auction: Last year the Silent Auction was a HUGE success, and provided valuable support for our programs throughout the year. If you are interested in donating items for this year’s auction, or if you would like to help with organizing this fun event, please contact the MFIS office at 608-263-4010.
Annual Appeal Results

Annual Appeal Results are in!
A BIG thank you to all those who contributed to the annual fundraising appeal. We raised $2,500, which was 87% of our goal. This is how your dollars, plus other sources of revenue, are spent on programming for the fiscal year 2013-14:

![Pie chart showing budgeted expenditures for 2013-14]

* Denotes program that operates to breakeven

Defining a Member of MFIS...

According to our bylaws, a member is anyone who has ever supported MFIS in any way. We collect no dues. Rather, our organization is supported through the contributions of community members, local grants, and the nominal fees collected through our furniture program (small fees that add up to remarkably BIG support for MFIS). We also get in-kind support from International Student Services at the UW.

A few years ago, the Board decided it wise to institute the Volunteer Application Form or VAF. When a person expresses interest in volunteering with MFIS, that person is asked to fill out the form. This protects both our organization and our international guests, and provides valuable basic information for our internal database to ensure volunteers are contacted about opportunities related to their specific interests. We also use this database to communicate news and upcoming events. If you have not updated your contact information recently, or have not filled out a VAF, please contact the MFIS office and we will send one out to you pronto!
Seed Collecting

In September, a crew of MFIS students, MFIS volunteers, Prairie Enthusiast volunteers and DNR conservation specialists travelled to Muralt State Natural Area 45 minutes south of Madison, to learn about native prairie plants and gather seeds to expand state prairies. Students and volunteers alike enjoyed the fresh air, amazing scenery and love of nature shared by our highly-committed and ‘enthusiastic’ friends. Thank you to Culver’s on the Beltline for our delicious and WARM meal afterwards, too! Consider joining us next year – it was loads of fun!

Capitol Reception

This year, the Capitol Reception for new international students implemented the theme “Something Special from Wisconsin”. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture provided buttons and sticky notes with the theme, and volunteers provided delicious treats that featured Wisconsin products. Kathryn Lederhause and Senator Risser both highlighted Wisconsin’s contributions to the world food supply. And, as always, Senator Risser provided an excellent overview of Wisconsin government and fielded questions. While students toured the Capitol, volunteers assembled goodie bags with the remaining treats. These were much appreciated by our guests!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this warm welcome for students possible!
Financial Support is Crucial

Thank you for volunteering your time and energy with MFIS. We want to remind you that we can also use your support financially. Your financial support is vital to our programs running because these programs are the key to maintaining our partnership with International guests.