Have Space for Summer Visitors?
Host a student this summer!

This summer, why not make a new friend? MFIS encourages you to volunteer as a host for an international student through our Temporary Home Stay program.

International students arrive before the on-campus housing opens, and you can make a big difference in one student’s life by welcoming him or her to Madison and providing a place to stay for those first two or three nights. You might meet your new friend at the Dane County Regional Airport or the Memorial Union, if they arrive in Madison by bus. Show off your neighborhood, share stories about your countries, and show your friend where to go on campus for orientation. MFIS will help you have the information you need.

Most students will arrive in Madison between August 20 and 25. If you are not available during that time, do not worry. You will have other chances to make new friends throughout the year, especially in January, before the spring semester.

Interested in hosting a student? Contact the MFIS office via e-mail (info@mfismadison.org) or phone (608-263-4010)

A Piece of Pakistan
Highlights from the Annual Dinner

On April 12, MFIS hosted its Annual Dinner at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. Holy Wisdom recently received a LEED Platinum rating, as the greenest building in the USA. The dinner included an optional tour of the monastery’s hiking trail. Approximately 100 people attended the dinner and 12 explored the trails.

MFIS president Tina Hatch greeted guests at this year’s dinner. Taj restaurant provided the food and the featured country was Pakistan. Madison College students Manzoor Alam and Amin Muhammad—both from Pakistan’s Hunza Valley—delivered a presentation on Pakistan’s culture. MFIS volunteer Samina Khan wore traditional Pakistani clothing and presented traditional Pakistani handicrafts, including a type of hand-carved brass pitcher known as a Surahi. Special guest Dr. Joe Elder (Department of Sociology, UW-Madison) talked about his experiences in Pakistan and the creation of the UW’s study abroad program. In all, the dinner was an enjoyable get-together, an interesting look at Pakistani life, and a great chance to network.

To provide the best and safest experience for our international students, and to learn more about our volunteer interests and backgrounds, MFIS has implemented a Volunteer Application Form. Whether a new volunteer or an experienced one, you will be asked to fill out this form, particularly if involved with Global Friends, Thanksgiving Hosting, or Temporary Home Stay. This will allow us to maintain the strength of our key programs. Thank you for your patience as we transition to this new form.
From the Board

The MFIS Board of Directors was elected on May 19.

Board Members for 2011-2012 are:

Sherry Caves and Joanne Lenburg, Co-Presidents
Marian Piekarczyk, Secretary *
Mara Helmke, Treasurer
Anisha Akula, Fall Picnic Chair
Eng Braun, General Board
Mary Ann Fahl, Fundraising Chair
Hedda Goodman, General Board
Kayo Hardiman*, General Board
Tina Hatch, Past President
Lisa Jackson, General Board
Shere-Ling Kraus-Yao, Annual Dinner/Meeting
Daryl Sherman, Volunteer Applications
Erin Vander Loop, General Board
Katie Wirka, General Board

*Denotes new Board member

Student Feedback

Home stay eased transition to life in Madison

Dear MFIS,

I just wanted to say thanks a lot for your help! I took the great opportunity you have for a temporary home stay (stayed a good three days with Bruce Helmich) and had an awesome time!! It was a really big help to start off this way and so far has made my move to Madison so much easier. Getting picked up at the airport and not have to worry about a lot of practical things for the first couple of days just made it so much less stressful and really was a huge contribution in leaving a super first impression of Madison. Having somebody who knows the city and can help with a lot of questions during the first period is really a great help, so I just wanted to take the time to say thank you to you guys for doing this thing, cause I really feel it is a very valuable contribution in having international students feel welcome and having a great time while studying in Madison.

So thank you very much!

Kind Regards

Jacob Matzen Thomsen
Have a Seat!
International students need your furniture

Do you have a chair you keep planning to sell? Do you have an extra table in your basement? Now you can unclutter your house and help out an international student. This year, lend that extra furniture to an international student through MFIS’ Furniture Loan program.

We are looking for gently used furniture for international students: beds, dressers, shelves, chairs, small sofas, tables, desks, and lamps. Any useful furniture that can be easily moved is welcome; please, no sofa beds or other excessively heavy items. Most international students cannot afford to buy these furnishings for just a year, and lending furniture is a great way for you to help a student feel a little more at home.

If you do not have any spare furniture, you can still help. Our Furniture Loan program also needs volunteers to help pick up and drop off furniture. Our long-time volunteer Mike von Schneidemesser—himself a former international student—coordinates the Furniture Loan program and would welcome your help.

Do you have furniture to donate or time to volunteer? Call or e-mail Mike von Schneidemesser (608-233-3051 or vons@aae.wisc.edu) or Ann Sowaske (608-238-7903 or bsowaske@sbcglobal.net).

Call for Volunteers
Help welcome students to Wisconsin

It just isn’t summer in Madison without a picnic. Food, games, and conversation in a great park are the best parts of Madison summers, and now you can help share that experience with our international student guests. Consider volunteering for the 49th Annual “Welcome to Wisconsin!” picnic, to be held on Sunday, August 28 at Rennebohm Park (115 N. Eau Claire Ave., west of Hilldale Mall).

We are looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the annual picnic. We need help:

- Setting up before the picnic
- Organizing games and sports
- Providing rides for a few students to and from the picnic
- Socializing with students at the picnic
- Cleaning up after the picnic

If you are interested in volunteering, contact MFIS via e-mail (info@mfismadison.org) or phone (608-263-4010). We hope to see you there!
In Recognition
MFIS thanks Coe Williams

This spring, Coe Williams, stepped down from her position as English as a Second Language Program Director. MFIS would like to thank her invaluable service to our programs, especially her skills in guiding the ESL programs. Coe has served the Madison international student community for almost 30 years. Her parting gift to MFIS was the careful search for and selection of her replacements: Anna Biermeier and Kathy Johnson. If you know Coe, you know her energy and warm smile. Be sure to thank her when you meet her.