Middlebury
International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
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Friends of International Students (FIS)
Host Program Newsletter
Fall 2014 - A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner

A Note from ISSS
Greetings from ISSS! The fall semester is in full swing and as usual we want to check in with you and give you an update of what is going on at the College.

On Saturday, October 25th, the ISSS office held its annual matching event for the Friends of International Student (FIS) Host Program in Bicentennial Hall. The event kicked off the 14th year of the FIS program and the end of an involved matching process. Approximately 52 students were matched with 39 host families (either during the event, or shortly thereafter) in a manner much like a massive “blind date.”

Students eagerly awaiting their hosts at the 2014 FIS matching event.

At the end of the morning, more than a hundred participants took their first steps in what we hope will blossom into great friendships. The matches spanned a variety of people – the students were a combination of first years, exchange students and some upperclassmen, while the group of hosts consisted of community members, parents of students, Middlebury alumni, as well as current and former employees of the College. See pages 3 and 4 for additional photos.

We want to thank everyone involved – students, hosts and volunteers – for making this a truly memorable event.

The 2014 FIS matching event, our big “blind date”.
February Student Hosts
More international students who would like to be matched with great hosts will be arriving in February 2015. If you or someone you know would be interested in hosting one of these students, please contact the ISSS office at isss@middlebury.edu or at (802) 443-5858.

Important Dates
Thanksgiving Break – Thanksgiving vacation begins on Tuesday, November 25th at 4:15pm. Most students will leave campus. Due to the brevity of the break, many students choose to stay on campus during the Thanksgiving break. If they choose to stay on campus, they must register through Self-Service Banner to have access to their residence hall. We have found that it is a great time for host students and their families to connect. The students who remain on campus will be allowed to stay in their rooms but Dining Services will be closed for the break. The last meal served in the dining halls will be breakfast on Wednesday, November 26th. However, Dining Services will serve a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 28, in Atwater Dining Hall (exact time to be announced) for students who are registered to stay on campus. Tickets are required for this event and will be on sale starting November 10th from the Box Office in the McCullough Student Center or at: http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/. The first meal after the break will be dinner on Sunday, November 30th. Classes will resume on Monday, December 1st.

Final Exams – Final exam period begins on December 9th and runs until December 14th. Students have varying exam schedules, including take-home exams and term papers depending on their courses. Exams may be scheduled during the day or the evening. Exam time is always a hectic and stressful time for students. You may want to ask your student about his/her exam schedule. A care package or a message of encouragement can go a long way in making this period a little less challenging.

Winter Break – The winter break starts on December 14th this year and runs through January 4th. We expect most students to leave campus for the 3-week vacation. Students who have absolutely no alternative option may request permission to stay on campus from their commons dean by the 12th of November. The College officially closes for the break period with almost all College offices closed for the majority of the break period. Some first-year students may be worried about what they will do during this time. It may be worth having a conversation with them about their plans to help brainstorm ideas and/or to encourage them to request permission to stay, if necessary.

The winter break is a very quiet time for students who remain on campus, and can get lonely. You can check in with your student to see if they will be around and would like to spend time with you and your family. Some students have expressed a keen interest in sharing a meal over the holidays with their host families.

Dining services will be closed after breakfast on Monday, December 15th and will re-open for brunch on Sunday, January 4th. Students staying on campus during break will have access to kitchens, but must provide their own food. If you are able, consider inviting your student to join you on your next trip to the grocery store and/or offer to share any of your family’s favorite recipes.

Many students may be seeking rides to and from the airport. This is completely voluntary. Please do not feel obligated to provide this service if it does not correspond with your schedule. The College is providing discounted bus services to and from the airport in Burlington ($15 each way) and to some of the major metropolitan areas, which students can purchase through the College Box Office or at: http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/. You could also direct your student to the following link for alternate transportation options: http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/transportation.
January Term – Residence Halls open at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 4th. Winter Term classes run from January 5th to January 30th. Students take one course during the winter term, which may allow for more time to be spent outside of the College. We encourage you to connect with your student to extend invitations as you are able.

Upcoming Events
ISO Cultural Show: Saturday, November 15 – A “not-to-miss” show! Save the date! Where dances and songs meet to showcase spectacular performances, the International Students’ Organization (ISO) Cultural Show is one of the most anticipated shows of the year, featuring acts from around the world, brought to you by the Middlebury students. There will be a showcase from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and a complete show from 8:00-10:30 p.m. on the stage of McCullough Social Space. Tickets are available through the Middlebury College Box Office in the McCullough Student Center, on their website at: http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/, or by phone at (802) 443-2390.

November 17 - 21: International Education week – Please read more about the Department of State program at: http://iew.state.gov/index.cfm.

As usual, the College always has something lined up that might be of interest to a member of the FIS community. Find out what is happening at the College by clicking on the following links:
The College Calendar: http://www.middlebury.edu/events
The Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events

FIS Story Corner
The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share pictures and stories within the FIS Community. If you have pictures or a story you would like to share, please send us an e-mail to isss@middlebury.edu. We always enjoy hearing ‘match’ stories and feel the rest of our community would as well. Here are more great photos from our recent matching event!
As always, thank you for being a part of this valuable program! Warm wishes to you and your family over the upcoming holiday season!

ISSS Staff

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