

Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Spring 2026 Newsletter



A Note from ISSS

On April 14 ISSS celebrated the 25th anniversary of FIS. It was a truly celebratory evening. ISSS Staff, Carolyn Dahm and Jess Schlotfeldt, as well as special guest and founder of FIS, Kathy Foley, spoke about the program's history & success, as well as its personal significance. Long-time host, Lyn DeGraff, shared personal stories and highlighted the profound impact it has had on her family's life. Highlights of the evening were our beautiful photo slide show as well as our bingo game (both created by our student intern and international student, Munira) where hosts and students had the chance to win gift cards to local places they could enjoy together. And of course, thank you to all our hosts and students from the past 25 years and those who were able to join us for this momentous occasion! Click [here](#) to see the gratitude and memories banner from our event.

You can read more about FIS in this recent article featured in our student newspaper, [The Middlebury Campus](#).

Are you planning to attend Commencement for the Class of 2026? If so, you can find [Commencement details](#) on the Middlebury website. Congratulations to each of our international graduates, and best of luck as you embark on a new journey!

Given the current immigration climate in the United States, you may have questions and concerns regarding your international host student(s). As mentioned in our last email to all FIS hosts, you can find current travel, regulatory, and informational guidance on our [Timely Updates](#) website page.

Are you or any of your friends or family members interested in being matched with a student in the fall? If so, please share this [Google flyer](#) with them. You can also check the [ISSS website](#) for the latest FIS news.

Important Dates

Exam Period

The spring exam period begins on Thursday, May 14, and ends on Tuesday, May 19. Why not invite your student to take a study break and enjoy a walk around town or meet up for a coffee or tea at a local café? Maybe send a text or handwritten note of encouragement? Just knowing you're thinking about them can make all the difference!

Summer Break

Summer break begins on Wednesday, May 20, with dorms closing for the general student body at noon; for Graduates and Senior Febs, the dorms close at 6 pm on Sunday, May 24. If possible, check in with your student before the break so you're aware of their summer plans. If your student is leaving campus, remember that hosts are not expected to provide lodging, storage, or transportation to the airport. Helpful year-end advice can be found in the "Tips & Tricks" section on the [Residential Life website](#). You can remind your student to check out the May departure schedule for [Student Government Association buses](#). Tickets can be purchased through the [Box Office](#). There are also other [transportation options](#) in town for end-of-year travel.



Upcoming Campus & Local Happenings...

Here are some things you may enjoy doing with your student that are free and open to the public.

48 Hour Itineraries in Addison County

Why not discover more of Addison County before the term ends?

<https://www.addisoncounty.com/48-hours-in-addison-county>

Senior Week Choral Concert

Friday, May 22, 7:30 – 9 PM

Middlebury College, Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

The Middlebury College Choir performance includes repertoire selected by the graduating senior singers.

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/senior-week-choral-concert-2>

****Note:** You can also enjoy it via livestream. <https://www.youtube.com/@robisonhall>

Celebratory Luncheon for Seniors and their Guests

Saturday, May 23, 2026, 12:15 – 2 PM, no tickets required

Proctor and Ross Dining Halls

Graduates and their guests are invited to enjoy lunch at Proctor & Ross Dining Halls.

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/celebratory-luncheon-seniors-and-their-guests-2>

Commencement Ceremony

Sunday, May 24, 10:00 AM – 1 PM

Middlebury College, Central College Lawn (or via live stream – see the website below for details)

<https://www.middlebury.edu/college/commencement>

To find other exhibitions, performances, and events at the College and the local area, visit the following websites:

- The College Calendar: <http://www.middlebury.edu/events>
- Middlebury College Museum of Art: <https://www.middlebury.edu/museum/>
- Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs: <https://www.middlebury.edu/rohatyn/2024-2025-events-calendar>
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.addisoncounty.com/>
- Burlington happenings: <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/>

FIS Story Corner

Enjoy the latest images from our hosts. Please submit photos and stories anytime [here](#).



Changchang Ma enjoyed a bit of cross-country skiing this winter with host Lily Snow.



Host Barbara Pelton shared her passion for skiing with Bella Irakoze at The Snow Bowl this winter.



Exchange students Naoki Beppu and Chisaki Kishino experienced sugaring season and a delicious pancake breakfast with host Fumiko Brown at Palmer's Sugarhouse. Yum!



Host Kathryn Haralambous and Yuzhuo Wang enjoyed a hike as well as a gorgeous view at the top of Buck Mountain.



Maya Atmani and host Kathryn Haralambous expressed their Middlebury spirit while staying warm and cozy at the same time!

Highlights from our FIS 25th anniversary event on April 14, 2026...









Thank you for celebrating with us and supporting our international students!

With sincere appreciation,

[The ISSS Team](#)