



Middlebury  
College



## **International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)**

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## **Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter, Winter 2020 A Note from ISSS; Important Dates & Reminders; Local Events & Opportunities; Story Corner**

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### **A Note from ISSS**

During winter term, students took classes in a wide variety of academic areas including the arts, humanities, languages, sciences and more. Students also had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of engaging and fun workshops on topics such as dogsledding, Tibetan dream yoga, activism on campus and backcountry cooking in winter. Other students were off campus pursuing internships. This adventurous time is over but our international students thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

On February 4, the new international students arrived for our Early Arrival Program for February students ("Febs"). After an introduction to life at Middlebury, guided by the ISSS team and our fabulous Feb Mentors, we sent them on their way so they could join the rest of the Febs for Orientation. We are happy to welcome them to our community and wish them the best of luck as they begin their studies at Middlebury.

Spring term has begun but the winter weather continues. During this snowy season students truly appreciate a home-cooked meal or a fun activity with their host family. For example, why not take a tour of local covered bridges? Many international students have never seen these amazing Vermont landmarks. For more information, visit <https://www.addisoncounty.com/covered-bridges>. See our **Local Events & Opportunities** section for more ideas.

If you or anyone you know is interested in hosting a student in the fall, please let us know at [iss@middlebury.edu](mailto:iss@middlebury.edu).



## Important Dates and Reminders

### Host Information Changes

Please keep us posted if you have any address, phone or email changes so we can keep our records up-to-date. Don't miss out on any important FIS program information!

### Student Employment Restrictions

International students are allowed to work up to 20 hours/week on campus for Middlebury College during the school year and full time during the summer and vacation breaks. However, international students in the U.S. in F-1 student or J-1 Exchange Visitor visa status (which describes most of Middlebury's international students) are not allowed to work off campus, unless they obtain specific authorization.

- International students cannot pursue informal off-campus employment (such as house sitting, childcare/babysitting, pet sitting, and yard work, etc.) for pay or any form of remuneration.
- To accept off-campus employment related to their academic major or program of study, international students need to secure special employment authorization with assistance from ISSS. (In some cases, students must apply to USCIS, which may take 4 months or more.)

Internships that take place off campus during the summer are possible, but require advance planning. See the ISSS website at <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/iss/employment> for more information. ISSS offers sessions to inform students of the employment authorization application process. Please encourage your student to attend these important meetings. It is helpful for students to attend a session well in advance of the opportunity they seek, so they are aware of the process and can anticipate the steps involved.

### Winter Carnival

Our 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival, the oldest student-run Winter Carnival in the nation, kicks off with fireworks on Thursday evening, February 27, and continues until Sunday, March 1, with a wide variety of activities. As part of the special weekend, students have the day off from classes on Friday, February 28, to participate in Carnival activities. Come join us!

<http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/annual-events/winter-carnival>

### Spring Break

Spring break this year is the week of March 23-27. Some students may go away during the break, participating in volunteer activities, traveling with friends or visiting their families. Others may stay on campus so this may be another great time to make plans with your student.

### Spring Student Symposium

**Friday, April 17, 2020, McCardell Bicentennial Hall and other locations on campus**

The 2020 Spring Student Symposium highlights the academic and creative endeavors of our students through oral presentations, performances, artwork and readings. Come support our students and be inspired!

<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/ctrl/students/uro/symposium>



## Local Events & Opportunities

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Theater Festival: Mrs. Macbeth**

**Friday, March 6, 2020 – 7:30-9:30 PM**

**Mahaney Arts Center, Dance Theatre**

Shakespeare inspired theater performance.

**Free and open to the public, no tickets required**

<http://www.middlebury.edu/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D386256034>

**Celtic Music Concert**

**Sunday, March 15, 2020 – 3-5 PM**

**Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall**

St. Patrick's Day event featuring Irish and Scottish traditional elements.

**Free and open to the public; no tickets required**

<http://www.middlebury.edu/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D386252565>

**Stargazing at Mittelman Observatory**

**April 24 and May 1, 9-10:30 PM**

**Mittelman Observatory, McCardell Bicentennial Hall**

Join fellow stargazers and enjoy a telescopic view of stars, star clusters and nebulae (interstellar clouds of dust and gases). These events will take place only if the sky is expected to be mostly clear.

Please check the Observatory web site at <http://sites.middlebury.edu/observatory/> or call the

Observatory at 443-2266 after 6:30 PM on the evening of the event for weather status.

**Free and open to the public; no tickets required**

**Vermont Byways and Driving Tours**

Why not take to the road this spring with your host student and check out some beautiful scenery and cultural sights? Visit the Addison County Chamber of Commerce website for information about Vermont's scenic byways and suggested driving tours.

<https://www.addisoncounty.com/driving-tours>

**Vermont Council on World Affairs**

Learn more about the valuable work of this organization and how to get involved through volunteer work and hosting international visitors.

<https://www.vermont.org/vcwa/>

**Find other local exhibitions, performances and events by clicking on the following links:**

- **The College Calendar:** <http://www.middlebury.edu/events>
- **Middlebury College Museum of Art:** <http://museum.middlebury.edu/>
- **Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs:** <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events>
- **Addison County Chamber of Commerce:**  
<http://www.addisoncounty.com/pages/calendar.asp?content=events>
- **More area events:** <http://www.sevendaysvt.com/>



## FIS Story Corner

Thank you to hosts who have shared these memorable moments with us. Send your stories and photos to us anytime at [iss@middlebury.edu](mailto:iss@middlebury.edu).



Hosts Susan Polk and Glen Wehrwein met up with their former exchange student, Machi Niiya, in Colorado last fall. Looks like a happy reunion to us!



Host Lyn DeGraff and her daughter, Kristen DeGraff '13.5, enjoyed a beautiful fall day with host students. Pictured (L to R) are Zale Young '20, Ariana Popa '22, Kristen, Lyn and Masud Lewis '22.

**Thank you for supporting our international students.  
Enjoy the spring term and keep in touch!**



**ISSS Staff**

**Kathy Foley, Associate Dean and Director of ISSS**

**Christy Fry, Assistant Director of ISSS**

**Kas Singh, International Student and Scholar Advisor**

**Loren Scott, International Services Specialist**

**Carolyn Dahm, Administrative Coordinator**