In this issue:
• What a Welcome Event!
• ILW
• Cozy at the Kalahari
• Greetings from your BRIDGE Staff!
• Event Reminders

Upcoming event

BRIDGE ON WHEELS
Saturday, March 5th 1-4pm
Fast Forward Skate Center

Join us for a night of rollerskating! We’ll take a short bus ride from the Chazen Museum to the skate center for some classic fun! More details to come.

Save the date!

BRIDGE on Wheels
Saturday, March 5th

Mega Game/Trivia Night
Saturday, March 12th

Around the World in 40 Foods & Performances
Wednesday, March 30th

Prom! Tropical Paradise
Saturday, April 9th

BRIDGE Olympics/Barbecue
Sunday, April 17th

Awards Ceremony & Banquet
Wednesday, May 4th
(Subject to change)

What a Welcome Event!

Over 200 students from around the globe poured into Gordon Commons for the BRIDGE Welcome Event! In addition to our new participants and returning US students, we were joined by our international friends from last semester who are now acting as co-team leaders along with our American team leaders. After much anticipation, participants met their partners and teams; the air was buzzing with energy as new connections were made and animated dreams for the semester were shared. ALPs led the group in team building activities that ended with an intense rock-paper-scissors tournament where our winners were cheered to victory. After teams expressed their creative, and might I add intense side as we took team photos, we ended our event with a little “Jump Around.” We are Badgers after all! Cheers to another amazing semester with BRIDGE!

Intercultural Leadership Workshop

Our Intercultural Leadership Workshop gave all BRIDGE participants a chance to begin examining deeper topics relating to the cultural similarities and differences between each other. Each group was led by a U.S. facilitator and an international facilitator who explored topics such as family, education, dating, marriage, government and more with their group. Next teams planned out their events for the semester and introduced themselves to all of BRIDGE. We ended the night with a 240 strong human world map that helped everyone feel the immensity and reach of this program. The night was a success as members walked away with new knowledge and new friends.

Ultimately, we encouraged everyone to continue these conversations throughout the semester.

Cozy at the Kalahari

On a bone-chilling cold February day, BRIDGE partnered up with the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) and took three bus-loads of students to Wisconsin Dells for a day of fun at the Kalahari! The water and theme park brought out the inner kid in us all as we frolicked amongst families and couples celebrating their Valentine’s day weekend. While everyone had their own adventure, we all crossed paths throughout the day, bonding over the adrenaline rush of a sudden plummet, the simple joy of being warm in an outdoor hot tub while surrounded by frigid cold winter air, and the success of “surviving” an intense round of laser tag. While our fingers pruned and our skin reeked of chlorine, what better way to spend a winter day than amongst friends new and old. Let’s keep the BRIDGE love pulsing!

Greetings from your BRIDGE Staff!

Hello friends! Whether this is your first time, last time, or somewhere in between, we hope you are all enjoying your semester in BRIDGE! While at this point we hope we have conveyed how very excited we are to have you with us this semester, it never hurts to reiterate our appreciation and gratitude for your presence and participation in the program. The three of us are invested in making this semester one of the best as we will all be headed off into the wide-world next year. Sabrine is off to tackle the professional world with her amazing leadership skills. Lindsey will spend the year abroad in Spain and hopes to see some of you there. Sara is also headed to Europe for a bit of travel before attempting to figure out adult-life as a new graduate.

As we say each semester, you get what you give to this program and its participants. If you make the time for the events and for your team and partner, you will come away with some powerful, lasting friendships and memories. Memories can only be made if you take the time to create them; we are thrilled to see that many of you have already bonded and began memory-making. Glad you are all along for the ride, can’t wait to see where the semester will take us!