



CVIP SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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CVIP LENDING CENTER

Our new location has tremendously enhanced our ability to reach foreign students. Our shelves were full to overflowing with pillows, blankets, tea kettles, dishes, glasses, and lamps. Students poured in at an unprecedented rate of up to 25 at a time.

We added six new workers to our staff: **Ruth Fienup, Sarah Games, Marion Cummings, Hope Akaeze, Pat Mukherjee and Anne Thompson.** We finally have at least two workers at the lending center every time we are open.



Then came January. All the pillows were gone. We had two twin size blankets left, one tea kettle, no pots, a few fry pans and not one lamp. The room was not totally empty. We still had a lot of other items, but those **items in highest demand were cleaned out.**

Bob Larson, who almost single handedly keeps up our lamp supply, was out of commission due to shoulder surgery. He always needs more parts to make the ones we have usable. The shades we had didn't fit the bases, and the harps we could buy needed to be ground down to fit the brackets.

Then came February; word of mouth spread news of our needs to the right people, and now we have healthier-looking shelves for the time being.

We need to replenish our supply for the fall: lamps and lamp parts (new, used, even broken but especially floor lamps); bedding in queen sizes; tea kettles; pots, pans, stray lids; bake ware (oven or microwave); kitchen linens (dishtowels, table cloths, aprons); food prep items; **Just think Bed, Bath and Beyond**, and you'll have the picture.

Downsizing? Clearing the clutter? Preparing a home to be put on the market? Emptying out a parent or relative's home? Think of us.

We recycle, reuse, and give new life to innumerable objects. AND, if we can't use it, we can find a happy home for many unwanted small household items. Call **Erika Larson**, Lending Center coordinator, at (517) 351-4548. If I'm not home, leave a message, and I'll call you back.

CVIP Annual Luncheon

May 12th ANNUAL MEETING

11:30 a.m. punch and conversation.

12:00 noon: salad luncheon and
CVIP award ceremony afterward

University Lutheran Church,
1020 S. Harrison Road in East Lansing.

Price of admission: Bring a salad to share.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CVIP has come a long way this year! We continue to have an impressive group of dedicated people who find enjoyment and gain from their involvement in CVIP's programs and their interactions with members of the MSU international community. It's a total win-win environment! Our challenge is that given the recent astronomical growth in MSU's international student population, CVIP needs to expand our programs and develop new avenues to introduce our international students to our community.

We're making progress! One of the biggest changes this year has been the creation of a user-friendly web-site. Check us out at cvip.isp.msu.edu. We appreciate the hard work of **Pat Barrett**, CVIP's web-master and **James White** at International Studies and Programs at MSU for their hours of work. Thanks also to **Bonnie Bankson** and **Yi Huang** for their important contributions.

This year board meetings included an educational component each month. We have such good teachers available!! Programs this year included: **Peter Briggs**, Director of the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) on International Student Enrollment Trends; **Christine Zhou**, Counselor in MSU's Counseling Center; **Barbara Roberts Mason**, Chairperson of the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission; an introduction to Social Networking organized by **Michelle Allen** of the MSU Library; and **Ravi Ammigan**, Assistant Director of OISS, with the results of the International Student Needs Survey. We also have evaluated CVIP programs to make them run more efficiently.

A new slate of officers will take over CVIP's reins in June. Our many thanks to those who are moving on (often within CVIP) for their dedicated service to our organization.

Finally, as I finish my second and final year as President of CVIP, I must thank the solid core of volunteer board members who have provided guidance and support. We are extremely fortunate to have the longevity and organizational history that we do, and still be open to new approaches to fulfilling our mission. The organization's support from International Studies and Programs through the Office for International Students and Scholars is essential for CVIP's survival. The Visioning Committee under the able leadership of **Arlene Brophy** has been excellent.

The relationships that those of you in the community make on a daily basis with our international population are what really matter in the long run. Those experiences and interactions create memories that contribute significantly to making this earthly home of the human race better for our kids, grandkids and future generations.

Peace...**David Horner**, CVIP President



SPEAKERS BUREAU SPEAKS OUT

At the Speakers Bureau final dinner for the 2008-2009 academic year, several students expressed an interest in more frequent Speakers Bureau meetings. They wanted a chance to practice their speeches and also to learn more about the countries represented by fellow Speakers Bureau members. These talks would serve as examples of various presentation styles, providing ideas to new members planning their speeches.

As a result, in fall 2009, the Speakers Bureau launched a new initiative, which was dubbed by one member a "Speak Out." During the past few months five international students have shared presentations at three "speak outs."

Dwi Yuliantoro, the first to present, brought friends to help sing and play the guitar, sharing with all the music of Indonesia. In addition, he wore and explained typical Indonesian dress.

Kingdom Kwapata talked about Malawi, using a power point presentation to introduce his country and share his passion for helping his fellow countrymen. Kingdom explained how his research at MSU could be used in Malawi.

Norseha Unin volunteered to prepare a presentation for elementary school students. She had three Malaysian students, one her daughter, help her. They used paper strips to explain traditional weaving, performed a Malaysian dance, and told a well-known children's tale. To complete the presentation, Norseha showed slides of her family home in Malaysia.

Both **Chen Chen Wang** from China and **Isabel Laczkovich** from Germany shared presentations appropriate for high school students. Chen Chen discussed a typical school day in China as part of her presentation, and Isabel talked about Karneval in Germany. Their power point presentations provided pictures of pandas (China) and the Berlin

wall (Germany), for example. As a member of an MSU Toastmaster Club, Isabel also gave suggestions for making a good speech.



At our last "Speak Out", **Eric Bailey**, one of the most experienced members of the Speakers Bureau, discussed ways speakers can talk about their country and help area schools meet required educational objectives. He gave examples of ways he could talk about Jamaica and meet geography requirements at a particular grade level.

As the year ends, the Speakers Bureau will evaluate the program with hopes of continuing to "Speak Out" in 2010-2011.

Contact **Carol Towl** at (517) 882-4391 for more information.

CVIP Newsletter Editors

Stacey Bieler, Juexiao Xu, Isaac Kalumbu and Pat Barrett.

Submission of articles and other features by email are welcome. Please send them to cvip@msu.edu.

Check out the updated CVIP Website:

cvip.isp.msu.edu

HOME VISITS

Once each semester, CVIP Home Visits partners with the Haslett A+ English Language School. Hosts/hostesses from East Lansing, Holt, Mason, and Okemos welcome students for hour and a half visits that include a house tour, treats and English conversation. The students come from Mexico, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, China, Congo, Brazil, Burma, Iran, Liberia, Nicaragua, and Japan.



On March 31, 53 students and four teachers were driven to homes by 14 drivers. Considering some of the students knew very little English, this visit could have been challenging. With the assistance of their friends, hosts, and teachers, the students participated as much as they were able.

The hosts/hostesses ranged from retirees to a mother with two young children at home. All shared stories and artifacts with the students. One hostess called the next day to say that she had received a bouquet of flowers from one of her guests. After the students return to school, the hallways buzz with everyone wanting to share their experiences.

THANK YOU to the drivers and hosts: **Misuko Marx, Peggy Arbanas, Ralph and Cynthia Johnston, Malia Pruitt, Stacey Bieler, Karen Hudson, Elizabeth Ramos, Brian DeLany, Jeff Lapinski, Iris Horner, Mary Hennesey, Barb Scott, Ann McCall, Pauline Adams, Christine Van Nada, Dave and Carolyn Schuurmans, Shari Coulson, Kathleen Niemeyer, and Erin Boland.**

If you would like to participate next fall, please contact chair **Lisa Homeniuk** (517) 337-2297 or lhomeniuk@att.net.

CONGRATULATIONS, IRIS!

Iris Horner, CVIP Co-chair for the Friendship Family Program since 2005, recently received the 2010 Homer Higbee International Education Award at a ceremony hosted by the MSU's International Studies and Programs.

Due to Iris' relentless organizational and recruiting efforts, the CVIP Friendship Family Program attained a high level of effectiveness and growth.

Iris improved matching procedures, instituted a comprehensive orientation process, and sought student feedback through email surveys and incorporated this input into Friendship Family Programming.

In 2010, 310 families participated in the program, directly serving 387 of MSU's international students. Iris stays in close communication with both families and students and is a gifted, hardworking, and dedicated MSU volunteer.

Send Your Email Address to CVIP!

We are updating our member files.

Please send your name and email to [cvip\(at\)msu.edu](mailto:cvip(at)msu.edu).

Looking for CVIP Newsletter Co-Editors

Do you have creative ideas for the Newsletter?

Please contact Stacey Bieler at [jsbie\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:jsbie(at)earthlink.net)

CONVERSATION, CULTURE, FOOD, AND FRIENDSHIP!

Ever wish you could travel abroad, experience new cultures, taste exotic foods, and talk with people from all over the world? You can do all that, with no jet lag, right here in East Lansing. Every Tuesday (ET)--a CVIP program that meets *almost* every Tuesday of the MSU school year--brings together the wives of international students with American women for an afternoon of friendship and conversation around a craft project, cooking, or even exercise.

Examples of typical American activities include pumpkin carving, the cooking and consuming of a traditional Thanksgiving feast, and the crafting of personalized Valentine cards. Part of ET's purpose is to provide a window into American life.

ET is also a place for questions. One friend from Japan wanted to know where she could ride a horse. Another woman wanted to know where to buy fleece fabric. After making fleece hats and scarves at ET, she got so many compliments that she decided to make hats as gifts. Another was looking for a hairdresser who was good with Asian hair.

Women who come to MSU as spouses of students are often highly educated professionals in their own countries, yet cannot study or get a job while here. They bring a wealth of skills and experience they would love to share; they want to understand *and* be understood in their new home.

This past year at ET, three women from India, robed in richly embroidered and bejeweled traditional costumes, presented a Bollywood-style dance. One of the young women had trained in classical dance in college. She taught the others, and together they practiced two hours a day for six weeks to perfect their performance. Afterward,

they tried to teach the rest of the group a few of the more "simple" moves in the elaborate dance. Much hilarity ensued as we all tried to imitate the turn of the foot, the angle of the hip, and the tilt of the head.



Other ET afternoons have found twenty women in the kitchen, learning to cook Japanese *daifuku* (a slightly sweet rice and bean cake) or Indian *biryani* with spices you've never smelled before. Once we had "Pancake Day" with Mexican, Chinese and American forms of pancakes. We always leave plenty of time for eating and conversations that deepen friendships.

The third day of the third month is Girls' Day in Japan, so in March, two Japanese ladies told us the history and meaning of Girls' Day, both traditionally and as celebrated in their own homes, with pictures and examples. Did you know that Japanese clothing is always wrapped in one direction, because clothing is wrapped in the other direction only on persons who have died?

So if you are curious about the lives of women around the world, you have skills and interests you would like to share, and you believe language barriers are no barrier at all where friendships are blossoming, come to ET next fall. We would love to have you!

For more information, please contact **Shawn Gallagher** at (989) 723-9363 or **Sarah Phillips** at (517) 324-5447 or **Christine Van Nada** (517) 333-2072.

SPRING CLEANING AND GLOBAL FESTIVAL

The Global Festival is coming. Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 21, 2010. Each year the students and community members appreciate the wonderful opportunities and connections made at the Global Festival.

Have you started spring cleaning? Please remember the World Gift Shop if you have international items you would like to donate.

When you find special treasures you want to donate, you can contact one of our committee to arrange a drop-off time. Tell your friends and garage sale persons to also contact the committee: **Pat and Mary Barrett** (517) 337-2212, **Peggy Arbanas** (517) 669-1239 or **Nicole Namy** (517) 432-1899. This year we will gather items at the convenient location of the CVIP Lending Center located in Spartan Village.

The CVIP Scholarship Committee has prepared a form to list your donations. It will be returned to you with acknowledgement for tax deduction substantiation according to your valuation. This form becomes your tax receipt. A copy is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Global Festival has a strong committee with most members having plenty of experience. However, we have several openings: (1) Several co-chairs to coordinate and oversee the World Gift Shop. Remember a large group of experienced volunteers wait to help out with this committee. (2) The GF publicity committee needs volunteers with good ideas and communication skills. This committee only works in September and October.

Questions? Contact Global Festival Chair **Peggy Arbanas**, (517) 669-1239 or *arbanasp(at)-msu.edu*.

ISAAC KALUMBU JOINS OFFICE



CVIP welcomes **Isaac Kalumbu** (picture, on right) who is working as a volunteer in the office since January 2010. He helped edit the CVIP Newsletter and has taught some classes for the Visiting International Professional Program.

Isaac was born in Harare, Zimbabwe and earned a bachelor's degree in economic history and history from the University of Zimbabwe in 1987. In 1990 he graduated from the Zimbabwe College of Music and began studying ethnomusicology at Indiana University in Bloomington, earning his Ph.D. in 1999.

Isaac joined the faculty in the College of Music at MSU in 1997 where he taught courses on African-American, Caribbean, and African popular music. He has served as a study abroad program director and instructor, taking students on trips to South Africa and to Jamaica.

Isaac is a reggae singer/songwriter who has just completed his fourth CD. This latest work was recorded in collaboration with his Jamaican namesake and veteran reggae singer, Gregory Isaacs who has received three Grammy nominations. The CD is aptly entitled, "Isaacs Meets Isaac" and is available locally at Schuler Books.

FRIENDSHIP FAMILY

Iris Horner is retiring after being the volunteer coordinator of the Friendship Family program for the past five years. She feels it is time to review and revamp the program. The number of international students versus the number of families available or willing to make long-term commitments makes it difficult to continue the program in its current format.

A survey was recently sent to all Friendship Families and students. Two of the questions were “How often had they met?” and “What were some memorable moments?” Many students and families wrote about some fun experiences, but said they wound up meeting less than once a month because they were too busy. Of course, others have bonded like “family.”

A second survey was sent out to all families regarding possible changes to the FF Program. Three families offered to help to keep the program going. Here are the results to some of the questions:

Do you think it would be easier to recruit more families if the FF was a semester only program? Yes— 57%; No— 20%; Not sure-- 23%.

Would you be willing to open your home for a one-time visit by 4 or 5 students for an hour or two? Yes – 75%; No – 5%; Maybe-- 20%.

More than half of the families were willing to drive on a half-day tour of the Greater Lansing area.

The greatest challenge will now be how to proceed. We hope to hear your ideas. Email them to the CVIP Executive Committee at cvip@msu.edu.

CVIP Volunteer Wins National Award

Last May **Lillian Kumata** co-won the Hugh M. Jenkins Award for Excellence in Community Programming at the annual International Educators Association meeting in Los Angeles, California. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting global understanding and international exchange in their local community.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2009 World Gift Shop at the Global Festival received over \$6,000 from the items donated by over 50 contributors. Volunteers helped collect, sort, price, pack, transport, display, and sell the items. The Committee is grateful to both the contributors and volunteers whose generosity has enabled this Committee to continue granting scholarships to the spouses of international students.

Participation in Younker’s Community Days provided \$535 for scholarships. This will be a great opportunity for you to purchase holiday items while donating \$5.00 to CVIP for a booklet containing a coupon worth \$10.00 toward merchandise and several coupons worth 20% discount. Please contact members of the CVIP Board for information and booklets this Fall.

The Scholarship Committee granted **five scholarships for Spring Semester**. The recipients were **Damaris Mayienga**, doctoral candidate from Kenya; **Yuping Yang**, master’s candidate from China; **Yiwen Dong**, MBA candidate from China; **Chi-Ming Hsieh**, doctoral candidate from Taiwan and **Pradeepa Sukumaran**, master’s candidate from India.

The Committee also appreciates cash donations. Donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Michigan State University (with a notation that the funds are for CVIP Scholarships) and send to the attention of Lois Sollenberger, CVIP Office, Room 12C, International Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

For more information please contact **Lillian Kumata** at (517) 351-6046 or kumata@msu.edu or **Lois Sollenberger** at (517) 349-1862 or hsolly@msu.edu.

