



CVIP FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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CELEBRATING A WEDDING!

When we hosted our first international student through the International Friendship Program, we had no idea of how these young men and women would impact our lives. Our latest student from China was no exception. When she graduated in May with her master's degree in Hospitality Business Management, we drove her to a country club setting in Ohio for a summer internship. It was an incredible experience for her, working with other college age students, as the only Asian person among the staff and members. As her internship neared the end, she began applying for jobs in the United States and was hired by a Burmese company.



Shortly after she began her training in North Carolina, I received an email from her with exciting news. Her boyfriend was coming to visit and they were going to get married. She told me they wanted to be married in East Lansing and wanted us to witness their marriage because "you are my American parents." Of course we were honored! We made sure she had something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. I made a bouquet, a boutonniere and taped a penny in her shoe. The wedding was lovely. We took pictures at the Sparty statue and in the MSU Horticulture Gardens. Then she and her new husband cooked an incredible meal for us and her many friends.

They just returned from their honeymoon in Florida and she has returned to her training. Her new husband will stay with her here for

another week, and then return to China and his job, while they plan for their life together on one continent or the other.

The International Friendship Program offers so many rewards to both student and family, rewards so unique we can hardly describe them and which we never anticipated when we became involved. We cannot wait until February when we can be matched with a new student!

Mike & Midge Morrow

You are invited to the 2010 Global Festival

**Sunday, November 21
From Noon to 5 p.m.
MSU Union
Food from Noon-3 p.m.
World Gift Shop**

CVIP Newsletter Editors

Stacey Bieler,
Juexiao Xu,
and Pat and Mary
Barrett.

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

President's Corner

Fall Semester 2010 is off to a busy start as we plan and ponder ways to address the changing demographics of the international students at Michigan State University.

David Horner,
CVIP President



“ Thanks to all of
you for your
contributions to
creating a
welcoming climate
for our
international
students at MSU. ”

The official number of international students for the 2010 Fall Semester stands at 5,351 from 138 countries. MSU is in the top ten universities in the country for international enrollment.

The top five sending countries: China (2408), Korea (778), India (334), Taiwan (211) and Saudi Arabia (130). For the second year, the number of international undergraduates (2,992) exceeded the international graduate student population. This trend has significant impact on the type of support services needed for their academic success. To address CVIP's role with this changing population, the focus of the retreat this year was on strategic planning.

Strategic Planning Retreat

Sarah Bannon, CEO of Lakeview Consultants in DeWitt and a member of CVIP's Visioning Committee, facilitated the half-day program and encouraged the thirty-six participants to focus on clarifying our mission and vision statements.

New Developments in CVIP:

Friendship Family Program changed its name and focus to **International Friendship Program** (IFP) to provide

a broader reach to the community. We need additional leaders to keep this valuable program running.

The Lending Center now offers tax deductible forms!

The Global Festival has new volunteers to support the World Gift Shop as Lillian Kumata is recovering from an extended illness.

CVIP is pleased to have **Dasha Shamrova**, a graduate student from Russia working toward her MS degree in Social Work, assisting with various CVIP programs as an intern. Dasha has been working with the Speakers Bureau and the retreat follow-up.

The **CVIP website** has been improved. Check out cvip.isp.msu.edu.

New Faces on CVIP's Visioning Committee:

Lisa Barron, who has recently returned to the greater Lansing area with extensive experience in fund raising.

Ruslan Mursalzade, president of the International Student Association (ISA), an umbrella organization of MSU's international student clubs and organizations. Ruslan, from Azerbaijan, is an undergraduate student studying finance at MSU.

Barbara Sawyer-Koch, a community activist, former member of MSU's Board of Trustees, and a long-time friend of CVIP.

Christine Zhou, a counselor in MSU's Counseling Center who hails from China and brings energy, enthusiasm and knowledge.

Global Festival

On Sunday, November 21, from noon to 5 p.m. at the MSU Union, travel around the world at the Annual Global Festival! MSU students, representing dozens of countries around the world, will share their culture and talents with exhibits and demonstrations, exciting and colorful performances, and children's activities and games.

Bring your family and friends. **ADMISSION IS FREE!**

Have your "passport" signed as you wander through the different country exhibits. Purchase gifts at the World Gift Shop. ALL proceeds are used for scholarships for spouses of international students. Enjoy delicious foods found at the international cafe. The cafe is open from 12-3:00 and ala cart foods are available all afternoon.

If you would like to donate international items for sale at the World Gift Shop we have two convenient drop-off locations listed at the end of this article. The CVIP Scholarship Committee has sent out solicitation letters. We are still hoping for more donations as many people find this an intriguing place to do their Christmas shopping.

The CVIP Scholarship Committee has prepared a form to list your donations, especially noting the country of origin, to be sent with the items. The form will be returned to you with acknowledgement for tax-deduction substantiation according to your valuation. Forms are available at the Lending Center or can be sent to you by email. Contact **Peggy Arbanas** if you need a donation form: arbanasp@msu.edu.

To drop off items, contact **Dottie Schmidt**, 1854 Ridgewood, East Lansing, 351-2812 or **Lois Sollenberger**, 4105 Naubinway Rd, Okemos, 349-1862.

Scholarship Committee

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry! Contact **Iris Horner** (349-1865) for **Younkers Community Day** on November 13th. The event booklets cost a \$5 donation to CVIP and is a significant fundraiser for our scholarships. The booklet includes coupons for \$10 off an item of \$10 or more, seven percentage-off coupons, and bonus buy coupons. Your holiday purchases can be completed at Younkers Community Day on November 13th and the Global Festival's World Gift Shop on November 21st!

The Scholarship Committee granted **three scholarships for Fall Semester 2010** from cash donations, Younker's Community Day receipts, and sale of items donated to the Global Festival's World Gift Shop. The recipients were **Yuping Yang** (Peoples Republic of China) M.A. in Higher Education, **Hope Akaeze** (Nigeria) M.A. in Statistics, and **Aliya Tariq** (Pakistan) in Psychology.

The Scholarship Committee has been active during the past months. We have been sorting and pricing items to sell at the World Gift Shop in response to solicitation letters.

As the cost of our three-credit scholarship nears \$3,000, the committee appreciates **cash donations** for this worthwhile cause. Donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Michigan State University (with a notation that the funds are for CVIP Scholarships) and send them to the CVIP Office in the International Center, Room 12C, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824.

Find out more about the Scholarship Program from **Lois Sollenberger** (349-1862 or hsolly@msu.edu).

The Friendship Factor

Last August several members of CVIP assisted the Office of International Students and Scholars by greeting international students at the Lansing airport. During my shift I manned a table near baggage claim. I approached arriving internationals, offering snacks and asking if there was any way I could help. During my three hour shift I met newcomers from various countries. An Arabic student and her mother needed to fill out claim forms for their lost luggage. A young Chinese man heading for CMU wondered why the promised shuttle bus had not arrived for him. (I made a phone call and discovered that the bus was indeed coming, but not for another four hours.) A pair of Thai undergrads just wanted to know if they could pick up the key to their university apartment that night, or if they would have to wait until the office opened the next day. Most were in the United States for the first time, none were at their best after 20+ hours of travel, and all were appreciative of a little help and a warm welcome from someone who was familiar with the system.

One encounter stood out in my mind. A young Chinese man approached the table, but his voice was so soft and his English so tentative that I could hardly understand his questions. He said that he had lost his cell phone in Tokyo, and he seemed quite lost himself. I explained to him that, No, my cell phone would not call his parents

in China; No, he could not walk to campus from the airport, even if the taxi fees seemed exorbitant; and, No, he could not spend the next three days in a 24-hour fast food place, waiting for his dormitory to open. Eventually he found a place to stay and a way to get there, but my overriding impression was that this boy was too young to be moving half way around the world all alone. If I were his mother, I would have wanted to tell him to hop back on the plane and come home!

Last week I ran into this very same student on campus. He was with another Chinese student and an American undergrad. The three of them had been matched up through CVIP's International Friendship Program. What a difference a friend can make! My airport acquaintance, though instantly recognizable, was a changed young man. Speaking eagerly, smiling and laughing, I could tell that his English had improved a bit but his confidence had grown immeasurably. His new friend was not only someone with whom to practice English, but an "in" to all kinds of social events and activities that would remain mysteriously inaccessible to an international student on the outside. Through the International Friendship Program, a young man who seemed too young to leave home is thriving in his new home here at MSU.

Christine Van Nada

A+ English Language School

The A+ English Language School has changed its association from Haslett Community Education to Okemos Community Education.

Jo Pamment, Director of the Program, has hired new staff, who are all excited about the numbers

of registered students this fall. The classrooms are full for the first time in years! Teachers are finding new and fun ways to teach English.

Students from A+ Language School enjoy the **Home Visits** that CVIP organizes twice a year. (See Page 6.)

International Friendship Program

The International Friendship Program (formerly Friendship Family) has grown and evolved tremendously over the last five years since it was resurrected by **Iris Horner**. The name change was made this summer to better represent the variety of participants in our community. In September we matched forty students with Community Friends. Feedback tells us that our community friends and students are really enjoying their time together. There is such a special relationship that can form through the International Friendship Program!

I really enjoy interviewing all the students who apply. Each student has their own unique way of describing themselves, which often makes matching them a breeze. **Cindy Walter** has joined me in the interview process as we continue to try to grow the program and match even more students. **Wendy Sylvester Rowan** works with the Community Friends side, looking for those special families willing to befriend an International student and give them a sample of life in America. **Susan Russick** and **Pam Sievers** have also been meeting with us looking to help out as well.

Unfortunately the International Friendship Program is currently on hold as Iris has retired. We will definitely miss Iris and thank her for all her hard work to make this program one of the best in the country. When we find that **special person** to lead the group, we will work hard to make this program better and better. Maybe that person could be YOU!!

Please call **Midge Morrow**, 339-0797 if you are willing to keep this vital program thriving.



Pumpkin Carving at Every Tuesday

**“Connecting Community
and Cultures!”**



Japanese Tea Ceremony

Where Would You Like to be Every Tuesday?

Are you a woman, between the ages of 18 and 108, who enjoys making friends? Perfect! You are invited to CVIP's Every Tuesday, a group where local women and the wives of international students meet to chat, craft, cook, share culture, and generally have a blast! Each week our gathering centers on a different activity. It may showcase an aspect of American life like pumpkin carving, teach a skill like line dancing, or give opportunity for international women to plan and teach a craft from their own culture, like making Japanese Girls' Day dolls. The final meeting of each semester is an international potluck which you don't want to miss!

Every Tuesday (ET) was designed to be a window into the life of our community for the wives of international students, and a window on the world for the local women who participate. It is a low-stress place to make friends, practice English and experience something new every week. Young children who accompany their mothers play together in a supervised area, gaining cross-cultural experience right from the start!

For visa reasons, international student wives

are often unable to work or take classes while in the U.S., no matter how prestigious their profession or how many degrees they might have earned back home. ET participants often say boredom is their greatest enemy, and that ET is a high point in their week.

Last week we said good-bye to a friend who has been participating in Every Tuesday for a year, but will now return to India with her family. For her last visit she came dressed in beautiful traditional Indian clothing, all sparkling with gold thread and ornaments. ET has been a bright spot in her life here, and she has been a bright spot at ET! Hugs were exchanged; pictures were taken; and all were assured that if we visit her state in India, we have a place to stay.

Every Tuesday meets during fall and spring semesters from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Tuesdays, in the basement of the University Lutheran Church on Harrison Road. Every Tuesday does NOT meet on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact:

Shawn Gallagher	989-723-9363
Sarah Phillips	517-763-3676
Christine Van Nada	517-333-2072

Home Visits

Hospitable: a. given to generous and cordial reception of guests, b. promising or suggesting generous and cordial welcome.

Do you enjoy welcoming people to your home and interacting with international students? If the answer is yes, read on.

The CVIP Home Visits program provides an opportunity for community members to host

international students from the A+ English Language School in their homes for social and cultural interactions. Many international students have never been invited inside an American home before. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity with a limited time commitment (two hours, once a semester). Opportunities are available to host and/or drive the students. For more information, contact **Lisa Homeniuk** at lhomeniuk@att.net or 337-2297.

Welcome to MSU!

A cadre of local volunteers, many of them members of CVIP, made sure that MSU international students felt welcome to the East Lansing area from the minute they stepped off the plane at Capital City Airport! The Office of International Students and Scholars organized the early welcoming activities. Those who arrived before the MSU dorms were open learned where they could stay in the meantime. All were helped with transportation to campus. New arrivals in a foreign country couldn't have been more appreciative, especially after as many as 24 hours in flight.

Once settled in their dorms or apartments, students were invited by the University to orientation sessions and a resource fair that helped to connect them to the services they need. Community Volunteers for International Programs had a table at this resource fair, and volunteers explained the opportunities and services that were available through CVIP.

For those who missed seeing the display board at the resource fair, CVIP volunteers came to greet them and explain resources again at the Spartan Village family picnic a few days later. Families enjoyed food and fun, learned about their host community and carried home valuable resource materials.

This year the City of East Lansing invited the community to welcome internationals at the Hannah Community Center. CVIP applauds and supports any and all activities and events that make MSU's international students and scholars feel at home here at MSU!



Speakers Bureau

Speakers Bureau is happy to welcome **Kathy Bossen** as a new co-chair for 2010-2011, and **Dasha Shamrova**, intern in the Office of Students and Scholars, as a helper with SB Committee's activities, communications and record-keeping.

Speakers Bureau's first activity was an orientation and pizza supper held on Oct. 4 in the International Center. New international volunteers, experienced speakers from previous years, and a number of Study Abroad students attended, learning about the Speakers Bureau's mission and how it is carried out, and sharing ideas and experiences. **Nicole Namy** and **Dasha** prepared a useful handout these students can use for reference as they prepare for speaking assignments. We are grateful to Nicole and Dasha for planning, setting up and hosting this orientation and meal.

Recruiting international volunteer speakers began during MSU's welcome and orientation activities, with **Carol Towl** and **Mitsuko Marx** attending several events, staffing a CVIP information table and meeting students. We are pleased to have a list of 105 volunteer international students from 45 different countries. We continue recruiting volunteers at the Friday International Coffee Hours in the International Center.

We have already had requests for presentations from the Allen Senior Center, the Meridian Senior Center, the Eaton County Day Treatment Program and the International Interest Group of the MSU Community Club. We are now focusing on getting out the word to public school teachers, service club program planners and others who want an international speaker.

For more information, please contact **Carol Towl**, 882-4391 or **Kathy Bossen**, 655-2882.

ANNABEL LARZELERE 1914-2010

Last July, CVIP lost one of its legends, **Annabel Larzelere**. She began volunteering in 1968 as Vice Chairman of the Community Committee for International Programs, the original name of CVIP, and continued through the spring of 2001.

Annabel served as CVIP Chairman from 1969-71 and again (as President) in 1986-87. Her special niche was providing a warm welcome to international visitors through her leadership in Host Family (1972-74), Special Hospitality (1975-94), Short Term Visitors (1995-96) and Hospitality (1997-2001). She was also a member of the CVIP Advisory Council during the late 1970s.



Our present-day Global Festival owes a great deal to Annabel, who was a leader in organizing the first CVIP International Festival in 1987. She was especially interested in leading international games and activities for the children attending the Festival.

In 1981, CVIP awarded Annabel and her husband Henry Larzelere with the CVIP Certificate of Appreciation. Annabel was presented with the coveted Homer Higbee International Education Award in 1991.

For those of us who knew her, these awards only begin to suggest the admiration that her dedication and competency commanded. We who now serve in CVIP will always remember Annabel, because our organization today rests on the strong foundations of volunteerism and service that she and her colleagues built almost a half century ago.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LENDING CENTER

Your response to our spring newsletter plea for more houseware items has been outstanding. Thank you. We also want to thank the faculty, staff, students and scholars in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences for taking on our lending center as their special project these last two years. This last spring they delivered ten vans full of items for us to give out. We will be able to give out more items this year than ever before.

In the past we have been hesitant to advertise the Lending Center too much because our supplies would not have been able to keep up with the demands. Now we are working with **Adam Koivisto** at the housing office and **Kathy Forman** who will give flyers to students when they first pick up their keys. Kathy Forman will also advertise for us in the communiqué she sends out to the students in the MSU apartments.

More good news: Two more volunteers have joined our crew. **Pam Sievers** works every Thursday during our 3:30 – 5:00 opening and **Susan Russick** works the 4th Tuesday opening at 1:00 – 2:00. We have had as many as thirty-one visitors at a time.

We always need lamps, especially floor lamps and lamp shades, harps, and finials. We always need tea kettles, good pots and pans, and lids with or without the pots. Now that cooler weather has hit, please check your closet for extra blankets. Thanks for your generous spirit.

We now give **tax credit to donors** for their donations. If you gave any items this year and want a document for your taxes, contact me, **Erika Larson**, at 517 – 351-4548 or e-mail me at enwank@Yahoo.com.