



# CVIP FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

12C International Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824  
Telephone: (517) 353-1735; E-mail: [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu); Web: [www.isp.msu.edu/cvip](http://www.isp.msu.edu/cvip)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



If you haven't checked out our new web-site, go to [www.isp.msu.edu/cvip](http://www.isp.msu.edu/cvip) and take a look! Thanks to CVIP's **Pat Barrett** and **James White** of International Studies and Programs for their time, energy and creativity on this project. It is now easier to navigate on our website and to locate activities, apply for programs (e.g. to be a friendship family) and learn of other benefits. Check us out!

The financial meltdown has had serious consequences not only for MSU but for many of us as well. When budgets decrease, the need for volunteers grows. Opportunities are available within CVIP for short-term and longer volunteer efforts. We currently need someone with editorial skills and/or interest to assist with our twice-yearly newsletter. Additional volunteers are needed for the Global Festival to welcome people, distribute passports to kids, work with nationality groups or assist in selling at the World Gift Shop.

The number of international students at MSU has increased to over 5,000 students from 133 countries. (See Briggs' article, page 3.) For those who think in economic terms, this number of

international students, plus an additional 1,000+ international scholars, will bring over \$125M to the Greater Lansing area in economic benefits.

For the first time in recent MSU history, the number of undergraduate international students exceeds the graduate international student count. This demographic change presents challenges while providing opportunities for community members to connect in meaningful ways with these young future leaders. The mutual two-way international learning opportunities are real.

We all benefit from interactions with the international student population. Please encourage your friend, neighbor or colleague to become a **Community V.I.P.** by assisting with the Global Festival, donating items to the Lending Center, becoming a Friendship Family, making a donation to the scholarship fund, or contacting us with ideas about working with our international students and scholars.

**David Horner**, CVIP President

### ***DON'T MISS THE GLOBAL FESTIVAL!***

**NATIONALITY CLUB EXHIBITS**

**WORLD GIFT SHOP**

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD**

**STAGE PERFORMANCES**

**CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS**

**CHILDREN'S GAMES**

***NOVEMBER 15, FROM 12-5 P.M.***

***AT THE MSU STUDENT UNION***

## ESL STUDENTS ENJOY HOME VISITS

On a beautiful fall Tuesday in October, nineteen students from the Haslett A+ English Language School participated in CVIP's Home Visits Program. This program links students with community members for home tours/social interactions. The students, divided into groups, each enjoyed an hour and a half visit in one of four homes in East Lansing and Okemos. The most prevalent comments referred to the homes as "big and beautiful" and the hostesses as very "kind and welcoming".



The home of one of the hosts in East Lansing once belonged to Robert Shaw, the president of Michigan State University from 1928 to 1941, and the students got a little history lesson.

Another of the hosts, in Okemos, had a newborn baby and when one of the pregnant students saw the baby, she immediately scooped her up in her arms and held her during her entire visit. Instant attraction! All in all, the students, hosts and drivers had a pleasant morning.

Thank you to the **hosts and drivers: Erin Boland, Cynthia and Ralph Johnston, Mitsuko Marx, Jodi Wiley, Elizabeth Ramos, Bonnie Ghavami, Shari Coulson and Kathleen Niemeyer.** If you are interested in opening your home for a short visit and/or are available to chauffeur for the next

Home Visits activity in the spring, please fill out the volunteer form on the CVIP website.

Questions? Comments? Contact Chair **Lisa Homeniuk** (337-2297 or [lhomeniuk@att.net](mailto:lhomeniuk@att.net)).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

At the CVIP Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon last May, **Certificate of Appreciation Awards** were presented to four individuals who had made significant contributions of their time and talent on behalf of our organization.

**Arline Roe** was recognized for her long record of outstanding service to CVIP. (Arline is over 90 years of age and still volunteering; she will be at one of the Welcome Tables at the Global Festival.)

**Pastor Fred Fritz** of University Lutheran Church received an award for his strong support of CVIP programs and his leadership on the Visioning Committee.

**Jim Lazar** of MSU University Building Maintenance was granted an award acknowledging his instrumental role in moving the Lending Center from Cherry Lane to Spartan Village.

**Muzi Yu**, a Chinese graduate student in human resource management, was given an award for her service to the Speakers Bureau since 2007.

**DID YOU KNOW...** This newsletter is being sent to over 830 families and individuals in the greater Lansing area, all of whom give some of their time and resources to welcome MSU's international students and scholars and help make their stay in our community more comfortable and rewarding. That adds up to **a lot of goodwill!** Thank you!

## LOOKING CLOSELY AT MSU'S INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENTS

MSU should take great pride in the fact that there are more international students enrolled in the fall of 2009 than ever before in school history. This is a tribute to MSU's great reputation as an internationally friendly institution, but it is also a reflection of many changes taking place in the world. We live in fascinating times and the pace of change is extraordinary. Below are a few of the international student enrollment trends we observed this fall.

International student undergraduate enrollments have enjoyed a dramatic upward surge over the past several years. For the first time in MSU's history, undergraduate international students outnumber graduate students. The fall 2009 total international student enrollment of 5,056 is up from 4,509 just a year ago.

With 1,934 students, the biggest enrollment trend comes from China, which now represents close to 40% of MSU's total international enrollment. The number of Chinese undergraduates has grown from 94 just five years ago to 1,223 this year. The jump from 676 Chinese undergraduates in fall 2008 to this year's total is an extraordinary spike. One factor in this increase has been the number of students admitted provisionally. Provisionally admitted students have met the academic qualifications for admission, but their ability to demonstrate proficiency in English is still below MSU's standard. Those students are tested upon their arrival on campus to determine an appropriate placement to take ESL full or part time as they get used to life at MSU.

The number of sponsored students continues to grow. There are now about 470 students who are sponsored by their countries, an exchange scholarship or their companies. It was only a few years ago that there were only about 100 students who came to MSU as sponsored students.

Contrasted against some of these gains are some interesting declines from countries that have traditionally been the leaders in international enrollments. The falling value of the Korean currency lies behind the drop in the number of Koreans from 950 a year ago to 815 this fall. Japan's decline has been more gradual, but with only 79 students enrolled from Japan, there is less than half the number at MSU than there were just three years ago.

There are some other countries whose numbers have increased significantly from last year to this year, but without the same magnitude as China. Enrollments from Brazil, Malaysia, Libya, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia and Iran are all trending nicely upward.

Some of the countries that have steady enrollments but are not trending up or down include Thailand, India, Canada, Taiwan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey and Hong Kong.

Overall, we are pleased with our international enrollments and this continues to be a major part of MSU's goals of internationalizing the campus.

**Thanks to Peter Briggs, Director of the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars, for this update on the enrollment of international students at MSU.**

## THE CVIP INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LENDING CENTER: AN UPDATE

**We're in! We're open! WE ARE BUSY!**

*"Wow! It's so bright and clean! It's SO much better than the old place!"* exclaimed **Dottie Schmidt**, a long time CVIP Board member, as she came in to volunteer.

**Anne Thompson** dropped in to make a first time donation and **decided on the spot to join our staff**. (I learned later that Dottie had already dropped a bug in her ear about volunteering with us; thanks, Dottie.) Anne came in thinking we only had *"a few items like sheets and such"* but found it *"amazing how many things we have to lend out"* and how we *"trust people to bring the things back!"* She found the whole concept *"unusual"* and felt the items must be extremely useful to the students.



We agree that the **CVIP International Student Lending Center** (new name) is quite unusual. We don't know of any other university that provides such a service to their foreign students, lending out donated house ware items with the understanding that the recipients will return the items when they leave MSU.

One student commented that he'd been to at least three other universities in the US and none of them had free items to loan out to the students like we have.

**Pat Mukherjee**, another very recent volunteer, had a different slant on our service after working with the students just a couple of times. She found the Lending Center *"a very happy place for students to come and gather items to set up their new homes."* She remarked, *"They all leave with smiles on their faces. The recycling and sharing is a good idea."* Our new location is indeed a much more pleasant place to be; it's **downright inviting**.



We always need more items as we reach more and more students. **Think Bed, Bath and Beyond** if you wonder what items we stock. Also, this fall we've had a new **demand for queen size sheets**; apparently the university is supplying queen size beds as well as the usual twin and double. Another surprise is the increased requests for **duvet covers, aprons and tablecloths**, so if you readers have extra house wares just taking up space in your cupboards, closets or drawers, keep us in mind. Oh, and, **thank you for spreading the word about the CVIP International Student Lending Center at 1434 F Spartan Village, phone 351 – 4548. We are open on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 and Thursdays 3:30 – 5:00.**

Questions? Comments? Contact Chair **Erika Nwankwo Larson** (351-4548 or [enwank@yahoo.com](mailto:enwank@yahoo.com))



## SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED FOR FALL

The Scholarship Committee granted one scholarship for Fall Semester 2009 from cash donations, Younkers Community Day receipts, and the sale of items donated to the Global Festival's World Gift Shop. The recipient was **Emma Ogutu** (masters in Environmental Journalism) from Kenya.

Applications for Spring Semester 2010 scholarships are available in the Office for International Students and Scholars, Room 101, International Center, and online at the CVIP website. The scholarships are for three credit hours. Spouses who meet ALL of the requirements listed on the form are encouraged to apply.

The committee has been active during the past months. We have received many 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, of course, 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.

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry! Contact **Lillian Kumata** (351-6046) for Younkers Community Day money saving booklets! The November 14<sup>th</sup> event booklets cost a \$5 donation to CVIP and are a significant fundraiser for our Scholarships. The booklet includes coupons for \$10 off an item of \$10 or more, 20% off coupons, and bonus buy coupons. It is a win-win opportunity for you and for CVIP. Your holiday purchases can be completed in one weekend at Younkers Community Day and the World Gift Shop!

Questions? Comments? Contact **Lillian Kumata** (351-6046 or [kumata@msu.edu](mailto:kumata@msu.edu)) or **Lois Sollenberger** (349-1862 or [hsolly@msu.edu](mailto:hsolly@msu.edu)).

## TRAVEL TO CHINA, ANGOLA OR...

When **Mike and Midge Morrow** joined the Friendship Family program in February 2006, they had no idea that Mike's business would send him to China the following year. Their first Friendship Family student was Chinese and is still studying here, but he told his father that Mike was going to Shanghai. His dad met Mike at the airport and gave him a tour before taking him to his hotel.

**Rick and Amy Oldejans** hosted a young couple from China in 2007. They became such good friends that when the Oldejans went to visit them in China last August, Jingyi and her husband gave them a "year's tour" in two weeks, going to Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hainan. Amy said the Great Wall was most impressive.

**David and Iris Horner** have been invited by one of their past students to go to Angola and stay with his family next summer for the preliminary World Cup games. This is something that neither of them had ever thought about doing. Hmm...when you become a Friendship Family, you never know where you might end up.

We encourage any of our Friendship Families to share your experiences with us, so that we might share them with others.

A big "Thank you" to new Friendship Family committee volunteers **Midge Morrow**, **Wendy Sylvester-Rowan** and **Linda Kimball** for their efforts in helping to recruit new families and to place students.

Questions? Comments? Contact Chairs **Iris Horner** (349-1865 or [hornerio@yahoo.com](mailto:hornerio@yahoo.com)) or **Bonnie Bankson** (482-6657 or [jbanksn@yahoo.com](mailto:jbanksn@yahoo.com)).

### CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Pat Barrett and Stacey Bieler

**Editorial Assistants:** Mary Barrett, Ann McCall, Christine Van Nada

Submissions of articles and other features by email are welcome. Please send them to [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu).

## INTERNATIONAL SPOUSES MAKE NEW FRIENDS...EVERY TUESDAY (ET)

ET hit the ground running this semester! We've had terrific attendance, with 18 to 28 international women and up to 15 of their young children participating each week. Fortunately, we have also had a flood of new volunteers (if four or five can be called a flood!) to augment the "old faithfuls," or we would have been completely overwhelmed. Since a large part of ET's purpose is to provide interaction with American conversation and culture, it's great when there are enough American helpers to place one with each group of international ladies, and still have two or three to help with the toddlers!

Activity-wise, we've decorated pots and filled them with houseplants, painted jewelry boxes, made *daifuku* (a Japanese dessert) and prepared apple recipes, along with a "tasting" of apple varieties. We also visited a local farm to have lunch, pick pumpkins and enjoy a hay ride, a first for many (see right). Later this fall, we'll carve pumpkins, prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and make seasonal decorations.



So far we have enjoyed getting to know women from Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China, Indonesia, India, Libya, Brazil and Texas. At our first meeting, many women reported having been in the States only one to three weeks. Others have been here several months and come as a group from morning English classes. All are eager to make new connections, improve their English and learn their way around our community. One day we arranged for the CVIP Lending Center to stay open late for us after ET, and took a group of new arrivals there to find kitchen and house wares for their university apartments.

A very encouraging aspect of this year's program is the degree of responsibility taken by returning international women. **Nana Yuni** and **Angel Kwan** handle much of the publicity, send email reminders, help with planning, offer rides and welcome newcomers. **Saori** from Japan organized and led a "hands-in" cooking demonstration that got over thirty women involved in either teaching or learning a new skill.

Last week I watched a young mother, newly arrived from Japan with moderate English, welcoming and connecting with another young mother, newly arrived from China with moderate English, who was visiting ET for the first time. They sat in the play area with their slightly cranky toddlers and enjoyed the beginnings of a friendship based on shared circumstances and undeterred by barriers of communication and culture. That's what ET is all about.

Questions? Comments? Contact **Shawn Gallagher** (989 723-9363 or [galshawnn@yahoo.com](mailto:galshawnn@yahoo.com)); **Sarah Phillips** (324-5447 or [sarah.phillips@ballstate.bsu.edu](mailto:sarah.phillips@ballstate.bsu.edu)); or **Christine Van Nada** (333-2072 or [cavannada@hotmail.com](mailto:cavannada@hotmail.com)).

## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE SPEAKERS BUREAU THIS FALL?

Meet our newly formed advisory committee!

- ✚ **Eric Bailey**, MSU student from Jamaica
- ✚ **Kathy Bossen**, retired teacher from Okemos Public Schools
- ✚ **Mindy Emerson**, Principal, Red Cedar School
- ✚ **Mary Hennessey**, East Lansing Public Library
- ✚ **Mitsuko Marx**, long-time CVIP volunteer
- ✚ **Barbara Sawyer-Koch**, retired State of Michigan administrator and a former MSU Trustee
- ✚ **Sue Seyfarth**, teacher in Holt Public Schools
- ✚ **Alicia Trotman**, MSU student from Trinidad and Tobago and leader of LATTICE, an organization linking area teachers with international students for learning experiences

Speakers Bureau leaders will look to this advisory group for input on how best to reach the people in the surrounding community who will benefit from our services. We especially hope to increase our visibility in the K-12 school community. Speakers Bureau recruits MSU international students, trains them to make effective presentations about their countries and cultures, and then matches them with requests from schools and community organizations.

We are privileged to have **Yi-tsen (Ashley) Wu**, a Masters Degree student from Taiwan, working with us this semester. She is using the Speakers Bureau as the focus of an independent study, and has joined us for meetings to learn more about our mission and goals. She



suggested using Facebook as a tool to communicate with international student volunteers, and did the work needed to get this Facebook presence up and running.

Our fall Speakers Bureau orientation on Oct. 8 (see picture above) attracted about 50 international volunteers, advisory committee members, OISS and CVIP leaders. **Nicole Namy** provided a handout for speakers and gave helpful suggestions for using it to plan for successful speaking experiences. Experienced speakers from previous years shared ideas on what worked well for them and what fell short. A glance around the meeting room left no doubt that our committee needs to work on diversifying our pool of volunteers to include more Europeans, Africans and Latin Americans!

In response to requests from last year's end-of-year meeting, Speakers Bureau is scheduling more frequent meetings for volunteers to share experiences and presentations. Veteran speakers **Dwi Agus Yuliantoro** from Indonesia and **Kingdom Kwapata** from Malawi volunteered to give sample presentations about their respective countries at a meeting on November 12.

Questions? Comments? Contact Co-chairs **Carol Towl** (882-4391 or [ctowl@comcast.net](mailto:ctowl@comcast.net)) or **Carol Bryson** (351-5976 or [carolanncb@yahoo.com](mailto:carolanncb@yahoo.com))



## COME TO GLOBAL FESTIVAL 2009!

The Global Festival Committee is preparing for a fabulous afternoon on November 15<sup>th</sup>! This year we expect international student participation to surpass even last year's outstanding involvement. Once again student exhibits are expected to take up the majority of the first and second floors of the MSU Union. Young people can pick up a passport at one of the Welcome Tables and have their names written in many different languages upon visiting a variety of exhibits. They may hear Chinese, Hindi or Arabic spoken for the first time and learn how to say "hello" in a dozen different languages.

This year the children's area has been moved to the middle of the second floor lobby just east of the Union Ballroom doors. Here children will be treated to international games, face painting, story time and other fun activities.

The Publicity Committee again informed Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, teachers and area elementary school children about this chance to experience the many cultures and languages represented by MSU international students at the Global Festival. The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) used the Global Festival Page on Facebook and a special dinner for international student leaders on October 21 to recruit student participation.

With more than 5,000 MSU international students and at least 30 clubs representing countries and world areas, instructions to student groups stress that only one performance from each group will likely be accepted. Performances will not be a mere talent show, but hopefully will be a learning experience for all, showing the culture of the students' country or world area.



### "Are you coming to the Festival?"

So....Are you interested in volunteering this year? Although we receive strong support from dedicated CVIP volunteers, more help is always needed for the World Gift Shop and for display set up and take down. Don't hesitate to fill out the volunteer application form on the CVIP web site [www.isp.msu.edu/cvip](http://www.isp.msu.edu/cvip), or contact Peggy (see below) so you can talk about your area of interest and times you would be free to volunteer.

Remember to mark your calendar for **November 15, 2009**, and if it's not too early, plan ahead and mark November 21, 2010 too!

Questions? Comments? Contact Co-Chairs **Peggy Arbanas** (669-1239 or [arbanasp@msu.edu](mailto:arbanasp@msu.edu)) or **Nicole Namy** (432-1899 or [namynico@msu.edu](mailto:namynico@msu.edu)).

