



CVIP Spring 2011 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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ESL Students Enjoy Home Visits

Twice a semester, CVIP teams up with the Okemos A+ English Language School to provide international students a visit with Americans in their homes. This spring it occurred on March 15, 2011.



Hostess **Sandy Gebber** wrote this: "One of my visitors whose English was incredibly good was explaining why learning English in America is so much more difficult than learning British English. Americans slur so many of their words, like "boddle" instead of "bottle," "Innernational Cenner" instead of "International Center". Of course there is the "wanna," "gonna," etc. This causes them to stop and have to figure out what we are saying while the conversation goes on. I guess we need to clean up our act some."

"We laughed a lot about dialects and slurring. Originally coming from New York, I could demonstrate another dialect."

Jeff Lapinski wrote of his visit with five students to Dr. A's home in Okemos. "Dr. A has spent many years in education and one could tell that she was well-prepared for this lesson. When we all sat down in the dining room to enjoy our tea and snacks, we noticed there was one chair missing. That's when Dr. A announced that she would stand while she talked and took questions, very much like a teacher and her students.

Dr. A told us about her life and hobbies in a very upbeat manner and gave us a tour of her large ranch house. She then took the "class" into her finished basement, where she asked her visitors about the houses in their countries and then got us all to tell her about our goals and dreams. For some, the dream was simply to have families come to America, another wanted to become a flight attendant and a third wanted to design and build her own home.

It was easy to see that Dr. A had put a great deal of effort into the visit. She was a gracious host and a wonderful teacher. I think we all learned something about each other that day."

A Chinese student, **Jihun Ju**, wrote: "Home visiting was a very fresh experience since my life of 3 months in Michigan. The family that invited me were very kind and comfortable. I could feel the warm atmosphere that they have. I thank them for giving me a good chance to look inside a house closely. I will remember that for a long time."

A big **thank you** to the drivers and hosts: **Mitsuko Marx, Carol and Ken Parr**,

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CVIP Newsletter Editors:

**Stacey Bieler
Pat Barrett
Mary Barrett
Christine Van
Nada**

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

*You are cordially invited to the
**CVIP Annual Meeting
and Salad Luncheon***

Wednesday, May 11,
at the University Lutheran Church,
1020 S Harrison Road, East Lansing, Mich.

**Punch at 11:30
Salad Luncheon at 12 noon**

Bring a salad to share. Bread, beverage and
table service will be provided.

President's Corner

DAVID HORNER
CVIP PRESIDENT



We look forward to seeing you at the **salad luncheon and annual business meeting** on Wednesday, May 11, from 12 noon until 1:30.

As the international population at MSU passes the 5,000 mark and undergraduate international students outnumber international graduate students, CVIP is challenged to determine appropriate ways to better serve our students and scholars. At times it may be a matter of designing new structures or strategies for old programs while providing additional opportunities for the Greater Lansing Community to engage in arm-chair educational travel around the world.

CVIP is engaging this new environment in a number of ways including (1) three-year strategic planning, (2) developing our social networking skills, and (3) planning the celebration of CVIP's 50th anniversary.

Strategic Planning: As reported in this column last October, the focus of our Fall 2010 retreat was the development of a strategic plan for the years 2011-2013.

Five areas of concentration were identified: (1) Program Development; (2) Volunteer Management; (3) Communication and Marketing; (4) Resource Management; and (5) Organizational Structure and Management. A rationale, current status and action plans have been prepared for each goal, and are available on our web site: (cvip.isp.msu.edu). Needless to say, it's a large undertaking for a volunteer organization.

Social Networking: Besides e-mail, social networking is the preferred method of communication among uni-

versity students, yet for many in CVIP it is still not common. We have identified a task force to guide us through these uncharted waters, to ensure that we have more effective communication with our students while protecting CVIP and its members' privacy. What is routine for one generation is a challenge for another!

Fiftieth Anniversary of CVIP: On November 15, 1986, the Michigan Legislature passed concurrent resolution #923 honoring CVIP's 25th anniversary. This fall, 2011 marks our **50th anniversary** and we're planning to be sure that the Greater Lansing Community is aware of the many contributions that our 850+ members have made to foster better international understanding through their interactions with our international students and scholars. A big **thank you** to all of you!!

Please come to the salad luncheon and annual meeting on **Wednesday, May 11th**. We look forward to seeing you there, especially if it's your first time to attend!!

Dave Horner, CVIP President

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Ralph and Cynthia Johnston, Stacey Bieler, Karen Hudson, Jeff Lapinski, Mary Hennessey, Ann McCall, Pauline Adams, Christine Van Nada, Shari Coulson, Kathleen Niemeyer, Renee Terrault, Linda Efaw, Becky Lesmez, Beth Jueckstock, Kathryn Kilpatrick, Sandy Gebber, Gale Gower, Alice Hamachek, Marion Chapman, Pat Barrett, Bonnie Ghavami, Dianne Syal, and Erin Boland. Thank you to **Cathe Hughes, Isolde Jamison, and Gigi Saunders** from the A+ English Language School.

If you would like to participate as a host or driver next fall, please call **Erin Boland** (347-2931 or jonerinb@sbcglobal.net).

Global Festival: A Great Partnership

The theme of people working together to accomplish positive goals reminded me of the title of the book by Hillary Rodham Clinton, *It Takes a Village And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*. We are reminded in this book of the impact individuals and groups outside the family can have on children's well being.

In November young people had the chance to meet MSU international students face to face and carry their CVIP passports to the exhibits representing many different countries. Of course the international students enjoyed dressing up and showing off their culture in their exhibits and performances. Crowds attended and wound their way through the exhibits discovering new unexpected displays at every turn.



Treasures to be found at the World Gift Shop

International students were the center of attention and appeared to be having the best time of all.

The student groups were supported and organized by **Nicole Namy** from the Office of International Students and Scholars and her team of five interns. A special thank you goes to **Dasha Shamrova**, a graduate student from Russia, who took charge of organizing the large number of student performances, making sure they were both diverse and entertaining.

The Global Festival especially needed **Ruth Fienup** and **Dilek Kirca** to advertise our event to teachers, school children, girl and boy scouts and many other groups. They used all media resources available and even recruited student volunteers to help put up posters around town.

Many volunteers jumped in to make the World Gift Shop a successful fund-raiser for the CVIP Scholarship Committee. Large numbers of international items were donated and special volunteers, **Pat Mukherjee**, **Mona Brandou** and **Gengen Chang**, spent hours organizing, pricing and packing everything. Many people walked out of the sale with a new treasure.

Carlos Fuentes found and organized a large group of student volunteers. They helped move the boxes into the Union Building, and at the end of the day they packed up everything that had not sold. This was greatly appreciated by the sixty-plus volunteers who worked in the Gift Shop on Sunday afternoon.

CVIP envisions a local global community that welcomes and appreciates people from all nationalities. The Global Festival captures this goal and gives international students a chance to feel especially appreciated. All in all, the Global Festival is a great partnership among community volunteers, the MSU staff, and MSU's international students.

The next Global Festival will be on **Sunday, November 13, 2011**. If you are interested in being a part of the Global Festival planning committee, we will have more information on the CVIP website: cvip.isp.msu.edu.

Contact people are **Peggy Arbanas** (669-1239 or arbanasp@msu.edu) and **Nicole Namy** (namynico@msu.edu).

Speaker's Bureau: An Engaging Visit to Charlotte

I was privileged to escort three international graduate students to speak to a large group of residents at the Eaton County Day Treatment Center in Charlotte in mid-December. During the drive to Charlotte, I learned that the three students are all Masters degree candidates in the College of Education. The lead presenter, **Imam Wahudi Karimullah**, is from Indonesia. To add cultural diversity, Imam recruited **Jianyang Mei** and **Xiaoxiang Xu**, both from China, to share their rich cultural backgrounds as well.



The Day Treatment Center is a residential facility for young people who have run afoul of the law or have encountered family conflicts. **Tamiko Rothhorn** coordinated the visit and had obviously prepared the overflowing class to greet the speakers with genuine interest. Indeed, the enthusiasm was every bit a two-way connection between speakers and students. Imam had prepared an excellent video presentation, complimented by his national dress clothing. He delighted the group with his totally engaging style of

questions, answers and discussion. Jianyang, clothed in a traditional Chinese dress, impressed everyone with her examples of Chinese items and cultural traditions. Xiaoxiang displayed both Chinese artifacts and his talent playing a traditional Chinese song on a small flute-like instrument, similar to a recorder. The students' attentiveness and excellent questions were tributes to the speakers.

As a member of the transportation support team for the CVIP Speaker's Bureau, I have had many opportunities to continue the new friendships formed by virtue of my "chauffeur" services. This particular trio was so thoroughly engaging that we invited them to dinner at our home just prior to their Christmas holiday break, along with a Korean friend, **Sung Ho Hong**, who is enhancing his English language skills in the Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP). The three students immediately embraced Sung Ho with their own tales of woe in learning "American English" and offered their support and friendship. Experiences such as these continually remind me of the wonderful opportunities available through CVIP volunteer roles to experience globalization on this very personal level. Please consider getting involved in one or more of the wonderful CVIP programs which rely on community volunteers. The tasks are small and the rewards are huge!



Barbara Sawyer-Koch, Chair, CVIP Visioning Committee

Every Tuesday (E.T.)

Every Tuesday is a social gathering with more than one purpose. Established to serve the wives of MSU's international students, it provides a place where women new to this country can learn a little bit of American culture and customs, giving them a window into life in this town where they will spend their next few years. Every Tuesday is a safe place to make new friends, practice English, and ask questions about American life.

The benefits of Every Tuesday are hardly one-way, however. American participants find their lives enriched by friendships with women from around the world. Young mothers bring their preschool children, who enjoy the play area together in three or four different languages. Every week is like a window on the world, as international participants have an opportunity to share parts of their own story with the group.

At the Lunar New Year, friends from China brought foods, decorations and clothing to show us, and explained some of the many (over 1000) traditions and symbols associated with this most important Chinese holiday. On another week we enjoyed the elaborate Japanese Girls' Day doll display belonging to one friend's young daughter, and learned about its meaning in Japanese family life. Next week, three Iranian women will explain some of the traditions associated with one of their important holidays.

Every Tuesday activities may be as American as apple pie (which we made together on Apple Cooking Day) or as exotic as belly dancing, taught by our Russian friend (who is a biochemist back home, researching something to do with mitochondria that is too difficult to explain in English).

Conversation and laughter swirl around the tables where women work together on the week's craft or art activity, or fill the kitchen where we learn how to make Brazilian beijinhos de coco (coconut kisses) or construct beautiful sushi rolls.

As lighthearted as Every Tuesday often is, at times life isn't all about cooking and crafting. The recent disaster in Japan prompted emails to Japanese Every Tuesday friends around town and to ones that have returned to Japan:



"Are you all right?" "Are your friends and family safe?" Through Every Tuesday, former strangers from around the globe have become a network of friends prepared to help each other through a crisis, if necessary.

This year, Every Tuesday participants span the spectrum from undergrad to great-grandmother. Every one of us is richer for being a part of the group. If you would like to drop in once or join us every week, you are most welcome!

Every Tuesday meets at 1:00 to 3:00 during Fall and Spring semesters in the basement of the University Lutheran Church on Harrison Road. Note: We do **not** meet as a group on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, as this is our planning time.

For more information, please contact:

Shawn Gallagher 989-723-9393

Sarah Phillips 517-763-3676

Christine Van Nada 517-333-2072

THE LENDING CENTER

We have had a **fantastic year**. We served more international students this year than ever before. If it weren't for all the donations that "**Jennifer New and Crew at MSU**" collected over at the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, we would never have been able to meet all the needs we had.

We also had a **record year of donations from all you CVIP supporters**. Thank you. Additionally, the international community is catching on to the idea of donating unwanted items to us before they return to their respective countries.

The **volunteers** at the Lending Center continue to comment on how much they enjoy helping out our international students. One day last fall we received a quantity of cheese cloth. I thought, "Put it out - who knows?" No sooner was it on the shelf than a Romanian lady spotted the cloth and grabbed it joyfully. **She had been looking for just this!** She had spent some time in Texas and had to use nylons to make cheese there, but here she now had the proper cloth to make her own cheese. Curious, I asked what kind of cheese she made. "Feta cheese," she told me.

On another day a man came in. During the process of trying to help him it came out that he had **mailed**, mind you, his laundry home to Egypt for his wife to do for him. It seems he had tried to do it himself and just could not get it as clean as it should be. During a subsequent visit we all laughed again, this time with his wife present.

As always, we need **tea kettles, good pots and pans and lids**, matched or not. We also need about 100 more lamps every year. We do have the lamps returned and we patch

them up to go out again, but when we **give out about 200 a year and have about 100 returned** a year, obviously we need more.

Our most popular style is floor lamps, but we also need **lamp shades, harps, and finials** to complete the stock we have on hand. Bedroom and bathroom linens too are always in demand. Think **Bed Bath and Beyond**.

We can give **tax credit** to donors for their donations. Just ask when you bring your items in to the Center. At present we are **open Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Thursdays 3-5 p.m.** If these times will not work for you, contact **Erika Larson** (517 351-4548 or *enwank@yahoo.com*).

And we always **need more volunteers** to "man" the center for one or two shifts per month.

COGRATULATIONS, CHERYL!

Hats off to **Cheryl Highstreet**, who was the recipient of the coveted 2011 Homer Higbee International Education Award. At the International Studies and Program's annual award ceremony held on March 23, Cheryl's service to CVIP was noted: her outstanding leadership as the chair of Speakers Bureau and as CVIP president, her contribution in helping to launch the Visioning Committee, her initiative role in the revision of our website and her work as CVIP Coordinator with MSU's international student orientation. Cheryl is currently a co-chair of the Leadership Committee and the Community Liaison with the International Spouse Connection.



Happy Trails, Bill!

William R. Eubank, better known as “Bill” to his friends, has been the CVIP Office Manager since 2005. Many of his friends among MSU’s international student community will be disappointed to discover that he



is no longer in the office and ready for convivial English language practice and conversation. However, they will learn that Bill has left MSU and is seeking a new life in retirement—in China!

This will come as no surprise to those who have seen the endnote on all of Bill’s email messages. It reads “*I love living on a frontier! Alaska – Yunnan, China – the Yucatan – Internet – Globalization.*” He has had an amazing career as a teacher, website developer, construction contractor, policeman, census taker, salesman, politician and textbook writer. Bill took over the management of the CVIP website and maintained it until 2008, when his teaching with MSU’s Visiting International Professional Program became a full-time job.

Bill, all of us at CVIP want to thank you for your selfless volunteerism and your many contributions to CVIP. We wish you much happiness and fulfillment as you begin life on your newest frontier.

International Friendship Program

A very successful orientation was held on Sunday, February 27, which resulted in twenty-two matches between MSU international students and community friends. All of the students were eager for a community friend, and more than half of the “friends” were new to the program. The program will continue to identify prospective friends, but the next orientation will not be until the fall. Please continue to promote the IFP to people who would like to engage with an international student while broadening their own cultural horizons.

Following is the breakdown of the seventeen female students and the five male students that were matched:

15 from China	2 from Korea
2 from Malaysia	1 from Vietnam
1 from Indonesia	1 from Turkey

Of the twenty-two new matches, nine are undergrads, seven are working on their Masters, two are PhD candidates, three are visiting scholars and one is studying at the English Language Center. Nineteen are single students.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact **Pam Sievers** (517-321-8348 or psievers2@yahoo.com).

Visioning Committee

The task of the CVIP Visioning Committee (VC) is to take a “big picture” view of CVIP’s current and future opportunities to insure that MSU and the greater East Lansing/Lansing area is a globally friendly community that fosters citizen diplomacy and supports international students.

We need active volunteers such as you, helping us to get the message of CVIP’s programs and vision to both the students and the community. Also, the Visioning Committee wants to actively engage both international students and returning Study Abroad students to identify their wants and needs as related to the larger community.

To bolster the outreach to community interest groups, several new committee members have agreed to provide their diverse skills to meeting that challenge: **Barbara Sawyer-Koch (chair), Deanna Richeson, Tremaine Phillips, Dan Redman and Mike Van Egeren.**

It will be hard to replace the dynamism and productivity of two long-serving members of the Committee, **Arlene Brophy and Tamiko Rothborn.** Our sincere *thank you* for their terrific service to CVIP. We look forward to harnessing their passion for international exchange when they return from their “sabbaticals.”

The meeting on March 23 was characterized by brilliant ideas flying around the room. This bodes well for this group. In order to create a community dialogue as to how we can best value and support the expanding presence of over 5,000 international undergraduate and graduate students, the Committee is just beginning the process of asset mapping MSU and corporate and civic organizational stakeholders. This will lead to guided focus groups to flesh out ideas related to the Visioning Committee’s

assigned Strategic Plan initiatives: *Volunteer Recruitment & Management; Communication & Marketing; and Resource Development.*

Now is a great time to buttonhole your bridge partners, church friends, and the civic organizations with which you are affiliated and encourage them to participate in creating a welcoming global community. Please contact **Barbara Sawyer-Koch** (337-9576 or sawyerkoch1@gmail.com) to express your interest and ideas, as well as those of your organizations.

Celebrate CVIP’s 50th !

This fall CVIP will be FIFTY years old. Quite a milestone! Through the fall semester, we will be celebrating at different venues, such as the Global Festival.

Our **major event** will be a reception in East Lansing on **Sunday, October 2.** The exact time and place will be announced later. The reception will include food from some of our local international restaurants (**yumm**) and short talks. Entertainment will be provided by MSU international students.

If you would like to help us plan the celebration, please contact **Stacey Bieler** (332-0464 or jsbie@earthlink.net).

Please mark your calendars for October 2 and invite your international friends.

Volunteer Opportunities

Academic year: 2011-2012

International Friendship Program

- Volunteer to meet a MSU international student or scholar about once a month (Not a home stay program)
- Use your people skills to recruit other Americans to share their home and offer international students a glimpse into American culture:

Estimated time commitment: 1-2 hours per week

Contact: Susan Russick -- susanrussick@comcast.net or

Pam Sievers -- psievers2@yahoo.com or 321-8348

Global Festival (November 13, 2011; 12-5 p.m.)

- Work with others on a team to organize and run the World Gift Shop:

Estimated time commitment: one 2 or 3 hour shift

Contact: Peggy Arbanas – arbanasp@msu.edu or 669-1239

Lending Center

- Help staff the CVIP lending center (open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) that loans household items to international students and scholars living in University Apartments:

Estimated time commitment: one or two two-hour shifts each month

Contact: Erika Larsen – enwank@yahoo.com or 351-4548

Public Relations

- Share ideas to better tell the CVIP story to our local community:
- Co-edit the semi-annual CVIP newsletter:
Estimated time commitment: 6 hours/twice a year
Contact: Stacey Bieler – jsbie@earthlink.net or 332-0464
- Use your visual and artistic skills to revise/develop visual displays, print media, logo, and web-based displays to promote CVIP:

Contact David Horner, President – david.horner@gmail.com or 432-7989

Administrative Services

- Help maintain the CVIP website; some web development experience welcomed:
Estimated time commitment: 1-2 hours per week
- Assist in updating the CVIP Membership list; some experience with data base management ideal:

Estimated time commitment: 1-2 hours per week

Contact: Pat Barrett – barrett9@msu.edu or 337-2212

Contact CVIP: Phone: 517-353-1735 or Email – cvip@msu.edu

Web – cvip.isp.msu.edu



Scholarship Committee



The World Gift Shop had another successful sales event at the 2010 Global Festival, netting over \$6,500 in sales. Combined with the \$735 from the Yonkers Community Days coupon booklet sales, the total resulted in over \$7,200 for scholarships. Thank you, **Iris Horner**, for doing such a great job with the booklet sales.



Lillian Kumata with one of the recipients of a CVIP scholarship, at the 2010 CVIP Annual Meeting

Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped collect, sort, price, pack, transport, display and sell the items for the World Gift Shop. We are also grateful to the persons who donated items to sell in the Gift Shop and to the financial donors. Without the generosity of all of our volunteers and donors, we would not be able to provide the scholarships for the spouses of MSU's international students.

The Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships for Spring term. The recipients were **Emma Ogutu**, MA candidate in Environmental Journalism from Kenya, **Hua Zou**, MBA candidate from China and **Jingmin Liu**, lifelong education student in Studio Art from China.

For the next Global Festival, the Gift Shop will **not** be the responsibility of the Scholarship Committee. There will be a Gift Shop Committee that will be collecting items and preparing for the Global Festival. This committee will be co-chaired by **Pat Mukherjee**, **Gengen Chan** and **Mona Brandou**. They worked very hard last year and took over for **Lillian Kumata** whose illness prevented her from working on the Gift Shop.

The Scholarship Committee will have a new chair, **Carol Bryson**. She and her committee will accept applications, interview the students and award the scholarships. They will also solicit cash donations. This will bring more volunteers to both committees and each can concentrate on their tasks of raising funds. As tuition keeps getting higher, it is very important that we increase our revenue

Lois Sollenberger and **Lillian Kumata** will be available to both committees as needed. They say they both enjoyed their activities and thank everyone for their support and assistance through the years.

For more information about the Scholarship Committee, please contact **Carol Bryson** (351-5976 or carolanncb@yahoo.com).

Thank You, Dasha!

Dasha Shamrova is a graduate student in the Social Work Program at MSU. She is from Eastern Siberia, the coldest part of Russia, and has spent the last year as an intern with the Office for International Students and Scholars. Dasha is a Fulbright scholar in a program designed to advance community all over the world. One of her research interests is international communities within local communities. That's what brought her to work with MSU international students and scholars, and CVIP in particular.

The primary focus of her research is the CVIP evaluation system design. As a part of this project she involved program chairs to participate in setting up expectations for their programs. Thanks to their efforts they will be able create sustainable tools that will allow CVIP to be more accountable and help it keep track of progress toward CVIP's strategic plan. As a final part of the evaluation project she will present a new evaluation system sometime in May and will talk about making these efforts more beneficial for CVIP.

