



# CVIP Spring 2012 Newsletter

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

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articles and other  
features by email.  
Please send them to  
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## CVIP's New Program: International Spouse Connection



The International Spouse Connection (ISC) is CVIP's latest program. It is an independent, registered MSU activity group that was formed by international spouses in the summer of 2009. **Cheryl Highstreet**, former CVIP President, has been the advisor since the beginning.

ISC meets weekly for the purpose of acclimation to a new culture, mutual support and empowerment, and cultural sharing. It has its own Facebook page to communicate with current, past and potential members. It is well organized and committed to its goals.

Last Fall the leaders of ISC asked Cheryl to see if the CVIP board would make ISC a permanent CVIP program. The problem is that the spouse leadership is constantly in flux and the founding members have, or soon will, return to their home countries. Their concern is for a permanent, stable foundation to guarantee ISC's ongoing status at MSU. They felt that CVIP would provide the permanence they seek.

The CVIP Executive Committee discussed the proposal at the December meeting and unanimously recommended that CVIP adopt ISC as a new program. **Barbara Toman**, ISC's co-chair writes:

"All are spouses of MSU students or faculty, and all desire to expand their experiences. All are highly educated, but lack the proper visas to be employed in this country. Each semester, a group of coordinators gather information and selects which week to do special things. Of course, some things happen around the calendar, such as Lunar New Year Carnival, Girl's Day or Winter Solstice.

This group shares in the joys and sorrows of everyday life and is grateful to CVIP for their sponsorship and help to secure its future as International Spouse Connection."

Several members tell about ISC activities: **Angel Kwan**, from Hong Kong, is one of the founders. She wrote: "The feeling of being in the ISC meeting is just like traveling the world. We always talk about our cultures and we take turn to introduce our countries. This Spring, Dana introduced us her country, Trinidad and Tobago. She told us about their history, the beautiful scenes and their mixed culture. Zhi Wang gave us a very interesting presentation about comparing the culture between Chinese and Japanese. Shanze talked about Southwest of China and the minority group in China." *Continued on Page 2:*

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

Wednesday, May 9,  
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



We send a special invitation to all our CVIP friends and supporters to our annual meeting and scrumptious salad luncheon on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We use this occasion to celebrate students selected for a CVIP scholarship and to recognize individuals who have made

significant contributions to the goals of our organization. This year our invited key-note speakers will be the scholarship students. We want to hear their stories!!

Our annual planning retreat parted with tradition by meeting in February rather than September. The venue was Brody Square cafeteria on campus, which provided excellent food. Facilitated by **Fred Fritz**, the retreat featured lively interaction among current board members, invited guests and MSU faculty/staff. Our retreat goals were to identify effective programs to support the increasing undergraduate international population and enrich our community as a result of their presence. What rich opportunities are available to our communities for armchair travel while engaging in good cross-cultural conversations!

**Peter Briggs**, Director of the Office for International Students and Scholars, gave us an update on global international student trends and the impact on MSU. The latest statistics on the international population at MSU are available at: <http://oiss.isp.msu.edu/about/statistics.htm>.

MSU's significant increase in the number of international students raises several questions that go to the core of CVIP's mission:

\*Which students are in greatest need for support from CVIP's traditional programs?

\*How does the organization and management of these programs need to change to meet the increased demand?

\*CVIP's primary programs were designed to support graduate student families. How does the sudden increase in international undergraduate students impact our traditional programs? In what ways are the new undergraduates interested in connecting with our communities and

what is CVIP's role in providing programs? What should we be doing differently?

\*How do we identify volunteers with appropriate skill set/s needed for our new initiatives?

**Jessica Mesaros**, a first year student in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, has been an intern with CVIP. She was supervised by **Dorinda Van Kempen**, **Nicole Namy** (OISS) and **Pam Sievers** (Vice President of CVIP). Jessica assisted CVIP on expanding our social networking efforts. Her support of CVIP has been appreciated.

We welcome a new program, **International Spouse Connection**, which was approved by the CVIP Board in December 2011. The program is organized by international spouses to be a support network for helping participants make connections and find support within the international community in the Lansing area.

We look forward to seeing you on May 9<sup>th</sup>!

**David Horner, CVIP President**

*Continued from page 1*

**Dana Kanhai**, from Trinidad and Tobago, tells about a visit to the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden.

"Visiting the garden has become an annual outing for ISC. This year, toddlers Landon and Ryuma delighted in finding the Zebra, Julia, and Monarch butterflies flying around or drinking nectar from the many vibrant flowers in the enclosed garden. Although designed for children, the adults among the group also enjoyed following the quaint brick pathway around the garden to discover its hidden features. One of the fun features of the garden was the fish pond with its cute bridge that led to a beautiful rainbow that was the perfect backdrop for a group photo. Visiting the butterflies in the garden was an ideal way to appreciate nature without being out in the chilly March weather."

International Spouse Connection meets every Friday afternoon throughout the year at the Friendship House, 929 Sever in East Lansing, from 1:00-2:30. For more information, contact the two co-chairs: **Cheryl Highstreet** (517-775-4837) and **Barbara Toman** (517-489-3335).

## International Friendship Program

In February, we were happy to place twenty-six students and scholars with their new American local volunteer friends. These students represented China, Colombia, Iran, Korea, Kenya, Vietnam and Germany. There were ten men and sixteen women, ranging in ages from 19–36, of which eight were undergraduates, seventeen graduate students and one was a Visiting Scholar. We were also excited to engage sixteen new local friends during this matching period.

For students who remain in the area during the summer, this is a great time to take advantage of the many festivals, art fairs, and day trips and enjoy all that mid-Michigan has to offer. One of our volunteer friends shared a picnic lunch with her student on the banks of the Red Cedar...very calming.



*Sue McDonald (left) and her Turkish student, Ozge, enjoying East Lansing's 2011 Art Fair.*

In late March, IFP surveys were emailed to both student and volunteer participants. If you got a survey, please return it so we can measure the impact of the program and continuously improve it. One of our challenges is to develop an efficient system to maintain communication with the 350+ volunteers in the IFP database and track how long volunteer friends remain matched with their students.

In the fall of this year, we have tentatively set the next matches to be on Sunday, September 30 at the International Center.

We welcome new committee members **Peggy Champion, Larry Karnes, Pat Klein, Stacey Kotecki, Sue McDonald** and **Teri Walters**. They join

**Bonnie Bankson, Midge Morrow, Pam Sievers** and **Cindy Walter** on the committee.

In order to grow the IFP program we will need additional committee members to help recruit new community friends, conduct phone calls, submit notices in public buildings, and promote it at work places. Please call **Pam Sievers** at 517-321-8348 or email [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu) if you are interested in being part of this singular group of volunteers.

## Tales from the Lending Center

**Alice Deck**, one of our seasoned Lending Center volunteers, sent in the following:

"I have been associated now with the Lending Center for over 10 years. I started my volunteering with **Jean Lockwood**, one of the early originators of the idea to help incoming foreign students for CVIP. When she first led me downstairs to the basement in the old Cherry Lane apartments I thought it was a pretty dismal place, especially to greet new visitors to campus...The people who came to take items were very appreciative and didn't seem to notice. We had little storage space for incoming donations, so it was necessary to limit the amount of items that people could borrow. We tried to accommodate to the borrower's special needs...

Sometimes we might just happen to have the perfect table cloth or a silk flower arrangement they were looking for, saving them having to take the bus out to the mall. With the move to the new location two seasons ago, Erika Larson has really enhanced the program and we are much busier than we used to be. Sometimes it will be as one of my volunteer friends said "like a tour bus just pulled up outside the door!" It is always interesting, and sometimes frustrating. Who knew that the pillow stuffed with tiny styrofoam beads had a hole in it!? It can also be challenging to understand what the people are in need of (moss-balls?! It is always fun, so I guess that's why I've stayed for as long as I have." Thank you Alice for your ten years!

**Bohnet W F Electric** has helped us out by donating used lamp shades and selling us lamp parts at affordable prices. Since we gave out 149 lamps already this year, many of which had to be repaired or reassembled, their help has been important to keeping our supply of lamps going. **Thank You, Bohnet Electric.** (Continued on page 4)



## A New Adventure Every Tuesday

You never know what to expect at Every Tuesday! Of course, you will always find women from different countries, enjoying friendship and conversation across cultures while participating in a fun activity together. But beyond that, you never know what will happen.



One afternoon we had twenty-six ladies representing fifteen countries, and accompanied by fourteen preschool children--whew! It was our scheduled "Day of Beauty", and three representatives from Arbonne valiantly demonstrated facials and makeup techniques until long after our usual ending time.

Another day we enjoyed "Drama Queens," led by Kat Chamberlain. She shared experiences from her years in New York theatre and led our group in some acting games and dramatic expression. Though there were only six of us present that day, we represented six different countries, and agreed that the group size was perfect for maximum participation and enjoyment. Some felt comfortable being wildly expressive, others were imaginative but more reserved, and all of us had a blast!

Every Tuesday wraps up each semester with a potluck and planning meeting for the next semester. After a summer break, Every Tuesday will re-commence on Tuesday, September 18, for the Fall semester.

We are always looking for women of any age who would enjoy meeting other women. If you have ever lived overseas, you know what it means to the wives of international students when they arrive in a strange place, with no connections and no idea where to shop, where to find friends for their children, or how to see a doctor. Why not join us and see if ET is your cup of tea? You can always expect to have fun!

Every Tuesday meets from 1:00 to 3:00 on Tuesday afternoons during the MSU Fall and Spring semesters. We do NOT meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Find us in the basement of the University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Rd, East Lansing.

For more information, contact **Sarah Phillips** (517-324-5447), **Christine Van Nada** (517-333-2072) or **Shawn Gallagher** (989-723-9262).

### *Lending Center: Continued from page 3*

All your donations are especially valuable since we have almost doubled the number of items we gave out just three years ago. Then we gave out 4,700 items and this last year, it's been 9,066 and we're still counting. If you hadn't given us the items in the first place, we wouldn't have been able to do all that. Please help us restock the shelves before the new Fall semester students arrive in early August.

We often wish our donors could hang around a little longer just to witness the rush on the items they just brought in, or to **see the smiles** of the students as they leave the Center with their arms loaded up with borrowed items. Malaysians have a saying, **"Nothing free is good."** We prove it wrong every day.

Students are catching on to the concept of donating items when they bring back the items they borrowed. They even have slipped some money into our "donations" jar occasionally.

We always need **lamps, especially floor lamps** working or not, and lamp parts like shades, harps and finials. We always need **tea kettles, good clean pots and pans, and lids**, with or without the pots. Now our **bedding** supply is particularly low, so if you have **blankets, sheets or other bedding items** that you no longer use or need, please donate them to us. We can give **tax credit on donated items** if you would like it.

If you want to donate your time, we always are in need of more volunteers to man the Center.

The Center is open for donations Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 or Thursdays 3:30-5:00 until mid May. The Center is closed June and July but can be opened by appointment at a time that would be more convenient for you. Please contact **Erika Larson** at [enwank@yahoo.com](mailto:enwank@yahoo.com) or 517-351-4548.

## CVIP Hosts Visiting Fulbright Scholars from Iraq

In the summer of 2010 five visiting scholars from Iraq came to MSU for two months to interact with the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



*David Horner (right) hosting Iraqi scholars*

CVIP was asked to find community hosts who would invite the scholars to their homes and go to social and cultural activities in the Lansing area.

The MSU community did such a good job in 2010 that the State Department's Fulbright program placed half of the entire program—twenty-three scholars—at MSU in the summer of 2011! Again CVIP played a crucial role of finding friends for the Iraqi scholars during their two-month stay while the colleges provided faculty mentors for each scholar.

Last summer, the scholars (and their faculty and community hosts) were formally greeted by President Simon in an active, engaged dialogue. Various families and faculty escorted their scholars on trips to Niagara Falls, Mackinac Island, Detroit, Dearborn and Lake Michigan. Outings included a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game; a potluck picnic at Potter Park, and a farewell/awards potluck dinner. As a final event, the scholars were hosted in the President's Box at the opening football game of the season. High level administrators of the Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture actively participated in each event as well.

The occurrence of Ramadan in August of both 2010 and 2011 prompted the MSU hosts to find suitable

alternatives to events focused on food, while learning a great deal about the meaning of Ramadan to the Muslim scholars.

In addition to the lasting friendships made during the two months, all participants agreed that the depth of cultural exchange was superb and both guests and hosts felt fully engaged with one another.

CVIP expects that seven scholars from Iraq will be at MSU for two months in the summer of 2012.

If you are interested in serving as a community host for July and August, 2012, feel free to contact either **David Horner** or **Barbara Sawyer-Koch** at the CVIP office (517-353-1735).

## Home Visits

Home Visits provides international students enrolled in English language classes the opportunity to visit American homes for an hour and a half. The students love to tour an American home and practice conversation while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with a light snack provided by the host.

On Thurs. November 10, 2011, eleven home hosts and nineteen volunteer drivers provided seventy students with this opportunity. Thanks to **Pauline Adams, Stacey Bieler, Cathy Claypool, Chris Dolan, Sandy Gebber, Bonnie Ghavami, Alice Hamachek, Susan Leavitt, Rebecca Lezmez, Kathleen Niemeyer** and **Carol Towl**, who opened up their homes to welcome the students.

We had five new home hosts and seven new drivers participate in the April 18, 2012 Home Visits. Thanks to the following fourteen people who opened up their homes: **Pauline Adams, Stacey Bieler, Cathy Claypool, Gerry Erickson, Sandy Gebber, Helen Hagens and John Casbergue, Pat Hepp, Alice Hamachek, Jean and Jim Kocher, Rebecca Lezmez, Mary Mather, Pat Mukarjee, Milt and Sue Powell, Lois and Harold Sollenberger.**

We welcome anyone willing to open their home or become a driver. Please contact **Iris Horner** at 517-349-1865 or email: [hornerio@yahoo.com](mailto:hornerio@yahoo.com) (with the subject line saying "Home Visits").

## The 2012 Global Festival is November 11!

This year the festival is expected to be bigger and better. Here is the exciting news: **Nicole Namy** from the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars has arranged for the CVIP festival to be announced in the Arts Council of Greater Lansing online brochure under "Greater Lansing Festival Alliance." We are proud to be listed there and expect this new advertisement to draw a bigger and more diverse crowd from our Greater Lansing community. GLFA brochures are available online at [lansingfestivals.org](http://lansingfestivals.org).



Secondly, CVIP volunteer **Lisa Homeniuk** has agreed to be the festival co-coordinator with **Nicole Namy**. Lisa said "My daughter and I have attended the Global Festival together faithfully for many years, until of course, Sundays became homework days. I continued to attend and always thought how cool it would be to get involved in CVIP. So here I am, the new kid on the block in the co-coordinator position with Nicole. What a treat!"

Lisa would like to see the Global Festival community expanded to include more groups that might provide people power or money to offset the

costs of advertising, outreach, passports, truck rental, etc. If you belong to a group that might be interested in helping out, please contact **Lisa** at [Lhomeniuk@att.net](mailto:Lhomeniuk@att.net) or (517) 337-2297.

**Peggy Arbanas**, the GF co-coordinator for the last six years, is looking forward to working with Lisa, Nicole and the committee members as they lead the way.

## A+ English Language School

We are always excited when we hear our ESL students share ways they have been successful with their English. Here are a few stories from students in the Beginning Literacy class:

Beginning Literacy students who could not read or write the alphabet were able to write their names and addresses on an application for a library card.

A mother in the literacy level who could not read or write said after two months in the class she could read a note from school without having her child read it to her.

A mother of ten children who had lived here for nineteen years learned to read and passed the citizenship test.

Many women who had never been allowed to touch their husbands' computers learned how to turn them on and use them to study.

A man who entered the program at 0 level English, completed all six NRS levels, obtained citizenship and began a career as a chef. He has since won two Iron Chef awards.

**Jo Pamment**, A+ English Language School, Wesley Foundation, 1118 S. Harrison, E.L.

## CVIP Volunteer Opportunities--**NOW**

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact CVIP at [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu) or visit our website: [cvip.msu.edu](http://cvip.msu.edu).

### ***International Friendship Program***

Volunteer to "adopt" an MSU international student and meet with him/her monthly.

### ***International Student Lending Center***

Help staff the Lending Center--Flexible time.  
Donate household items to lend.

### ***Every Tuesday***

Share friendship and culture with international women through cooking and craft activities.

### ***Public Relations***

Assist in editing the CVIP Newsletter.  
Help manage the CVIP MSU Facebook page.



## International Speakers from Post-Colonial Nations Participate in Panel Discussion

“How have the lingering effects of colonialism and imperialism affected you and your fellow citizens in post-colonial nations in Africa and Asia?”

This was the question **Jeffrey Smith**, World History teacher from Haslett High School, posed to four international students/scholars from MSU as they prepared to participate in a panel discussion for eighty high school students on March 13.

During the first hour of this two-hour event, **Victor Ezenwoko** from Nigeria and **Felix Yeboah** from Ghana shared their experiences of learning in English-speaking schools in their homelands. Many of the schools in these two African countries were started by their British colonizers or by missionaries from Britain or the U.S. Learning in these schools prepared them well for the university in their own countries or abroad. They saw improved infrastructure, health care and sanitation in their cities. They acknowledged that previous generations of their countrymen suffered some oppression under colonial rule while this modernization was taking place.

The second hour's discussion focused on post-colonial nations in Asia. **Anh Thi Lan Tran** from Vietnam singled out the influence of the French language and architecture as the most enduring signs of the colonization of her country. She pointed out that Vietnamese is the only Asian system of written language that more closely resembles the Western alphabet than Chinese

language characters. Many buildings in the major cities of Vietnam are in the French style.



*Felix & Victor with Teachers Jeffrey Smith and Art Chiaravalli.*

**Fida Hussain Chang** from Pakistan noted the influence of British colonization on his homeland, which was part of India during the colonial period. His experiences again pointed to the positive long-term effects of the colonization.

The juniors and seniors who were the audience seemed pleased to meet students who came directly from post-colonial nations. Their questions showed that this learning experience gave them a perspective they could not have gained by reading their textbooks or listening to a lecture! In turn, the international students appreciated seeing an American high school from the inside and meeting some of the American students.

To schedule an I-Speak international student to speak in your classroom or at your organization, please contact **Carol Towl** (517-882-4391) or **Kathy Bossen** (517-655-2882).

## Donate to the *Friends of CVIP* Fund

**New donors** (from November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012)

Joan and Donald Burke  
Ruth Greenbaum  
Lawrence and Mary Hennessey  
Peg Higbee

Kathryn Hunter  
Gustav and Nancy Kopka  
Wendy Sylvester-Rowan and Jake Rowan  
Carol Towl

The CVIP Board and our Program Chairs wish to thank the persons listed above for their most generous contributions to Friends of CVIP. CVIP now has 501(c)(3) status, making such contributions tax-deductible. **If you wish to contribute**, you may send a check (made payable to “Community Volunteers for International Programs”) to CVIP Treasurer, 12C International Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48823.

## Spring Scholarship Awards

Four spouses of international students were awarded scholarships for Spring term 2012 by the Scholarship Committee. Come meet them at the CVIP Annual Luncheon in May. Three recipients received grants of \$2,500, which were applied toward tuition costs.

**Jing Yang** from China, majoring in Computer Science, will receive a Master's degree in June 2012. She hopes to eventually start her own networking company.

**Eunyoung Lee** from South Korea is working toward a Master's degree in Critical Studies in Literacy and Pedagogy. In addition to her studies and her responsibilities as a mother, she has volunteered at a summer camp for Korean adoptees since 2009.

**Xinjuan Deng** from China is completing a Master's degree in Journalism with a focus on broadcast journalism. She hopes to be a reporter who "broadcasts the truth to the world, via my own voice."

In addition to these three recipients, a scholarship of one tuition credit was awarded to **Thasane Satimanon** from Thailand so she can finish her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in Spring 2012.

CVIP scholarships are possible through the generosity of donors to the scholarship program and through sales at the Global Gift Shop during the annual Global Festival. Donations in 2011-2012 have been fewer than in past years. In order to continue granting from four to six scholarships a year, the Scholarship Committee will need to increase fund raising efforts.

If you or an organization you belong to would be interested in making a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship fund, please write a check to Michigan State University with CVIP Scholarship on the memo line and send it to the CVIP office, in care of **Lois Sollenberger**. If you have questions about the program or would like to help the committee, contact **Christine Van Nada** (517-333-2072) or **Carol Bryson** (517-351-5976).

## David Horner Receives 2012 Homer Higbee Award



*David Horner and daughter, Tamiko Rothhorn*

In 2008 David Horner was elected CVIP president and has been serving for an unprecedented four years. He had served as the Director of Office of International Students and Scholars at MSU for 18 years, from 1983-2001.

The following accomplishments of CVIP under his leadership have earned him the Homer Higbee award:

- Creating a CVIP 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that strengthened the organization's partnership with the City of East Lansing.
- Leading the development of a Strategic Plan with annual operating goals to guide CVIP work for the coming years.
- Securing CVIP's 501 (c) (3) status, which allows the organization to apply for grants and receive charitable contributions.
- Creating revenue-producing partnerships with different departments in MSU, specifically with the Fulbright Visiting Scholars Program for Iraq.

Thank you, David, for your leadership, experience, and enthusiasm, and all you have done to reinvigorate the CVIP Board and our volunteers.