



CVIP Fall 2012 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300 F, International Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824

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CVIP's International Speakers and Allen Neighborhood Center: A Long-Time Friendship

No contest! CVIP's International Speakers has furnished more speakers to the Senior Citizen Coffee Group at Allen Neighborhood Center over the



past eight years than to any other single audience.

This long-term friendship has brought together over 50 different international students with seniors at the Center's monthly coffee hours. Each month on the first Wednesday morning, 15 to 20 retirees who live in the Allen Street Neighborhood gather to give a warm welcome to an international speaker.

In the recent past, the senior citizens have greeted students from Pakistan, Chile, Brazil, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Libya and Egypt. They have viewed pictures, artifacts, and Power Point presentations, examined traditional cultural costumes, and asked MANY questions. These seniors are always highly engaged!

They were delighted when **Astrid Klettenhammer** brought an Austrian dessert she baked just for them, **Xiaoxiang Xu** played his Chinese flute, and **Yuwares Malila** performed a classical Thai dance. Also, **Lyonel Laulie** demonstrated a 10-stringed Chilean musical instrument, **Vinicius Rodrigues Gal-dino** introduced them to Brazilian music, and **Dwi Rivami** from Indonesia brought along her two young daughters to meet the group.

Our international speakers come away from their visit to Allen Neighborhood Center feeling that they have made friends with Americans who are truly from the "Heartland"!

Thank you to **Joan Nelson**, the director of the Neighborhood Center, and our contacts **Judy Cox**, and **Connie and Gordon Swix**. Many thanks to **Mitsuko Marx**, the liaison from I SPEAK to the Center. She has provided the transportation for most of the speakers over the years.

Contact **Carol Towl** (882-4391 or ctowl@comcast.net) if your organization or class would like an international student presentation.

CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Stacey Bieler
Pat Barrett
Jing Yang

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

You are cordially invited to the
2012 Global Festival

Sunday, November 11
From Noon to 5 p.m.
MSU Union

Food at the Global Cafe
World Gift Shop

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The arrival of students and the start of the new school year is not only a busy time for MSU faculty, staff and students, but also busy for CVIP. Whether we greeted students at the airport or promoted CVIP at the student orientation at Breslin and the new faculty/staff orientation at the Kellogg Center, or participated at the Family Resource Fair at Spartan Village, our goal was to introduce all of CVIP's great programs.

This fall we are excited to welcome a new program that helps us fulfill our mission. For many years the Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP) has been facilitated through the Dean's Office of International Studies and Programs and now has been shifted to CVIP. **Mary Hennessey** has recently been selected as the director and we welcome Mary and all of the tutors and students/scholars into CVIP.

In October 25 members of the board and several committee members engaged in a dynamic retreat to review and discuss issues relating to our strategic goals. We focused on financial management, volunteer recruiting and management, and communications and marketing. **Cathy Adcock**, CPA, of Adcock CFO Solutions, and **Melissa Sherry**, Director of Volunteer Services for Sparrow Hospital, offered advice and tools for us to incorporate into our work. Thanks you, Cathy and Sherry, for helping us look to the future.

This is an exciting time for CVIP. We have volunteer opportunities to fit many schedules and interests. Contact us through the CVIP office (cvip@msu.edu) or fill out a community volunteer application on our website: cvip.isp.msu.edu.

Pam Sievers, CVIP President

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TUTORING PROGRAM JOINS CVIP

Mary Hennessey has been named the new director of the Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP). The program matches university and community volunteer tutors with international students and scholars in one-on-one as well as small group tutoring.

Delia Koo, the founder of VETP, came from China to the United States as a graduate student at Radcliffe College. In 1943 she married Anthony Y.C. Koo, an economics professor at MSU from 1950-1988. Delia taught at Eastern Michigan University for almost twenty years.

Delia started VETP on the MSU campus in 1983. Later she donated money to add a third floor to the International Center. The Delia Koo International Academic Center was dedicated in May 2003. VETP has an office on the third floor.

After Anthony retired, the Koos started spending time in Florida where Anthony taught at the University of Florida. Delia asked **Dottie Schmidt**, a long-time tutor with VETP, to oversee the program while they were away. As Delia's health declined, Dottie became the director. After seven years in the job, Dottie retired last spring and a search was held in early fall. **Jeff Riedinger**, Dean of International Studies and Programs (ISP), asked CVIP to assume oversight of the program.

CVIP is happy to welcome VETP, another program that helps MSU international students and scholars. Last fall 20 tutors and over 100 students participated in the program.

If you would like to volunteer to tutor through VETP, please send an email to VETP@msu.edu.

MSU Global Festival Brings You the World

The MSU Global Festival, a festival showcasing MSU's international community, will be held noon to 5 p.m. **Sunday, November 11** at the **MSU Union**. The festival will feature exhibits, demonstrations, performances, food and crafts. Admission is **free**.



This is an ideal event for anyone ready to travel the globe through sights, sounds and tastes. Families will want to participate in the **children's games** and visit the **exhibits** to get their "**passport**" stamped. **Performances** by international students can be enjoyed all afternoon. Shoppers, make sure to check out the **World Gift Shop**, which offers unique and beautiful items for sale. Enjoy the **Global Café's** menu of international cuisine from noon to 4 p.m. during the festival.

The MSU Union is located at the corner of Grand River Ave. and Abbot Rd. on the campus of Michigan State University. Parking on campus is free.

For more information, go to <http://cvip.isp.msu.edu/globalfestival/> or contact **Nicole Namy** (432-1899) or **Lisa Homeniuk** (337-2297).

The MSU Global Festival is sponsored by **the Community Volunteers for International Programs, the Office for International Students and Scholars, the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions and International Studies and Programs.**

World Gift Shop

The World Gift Shop at the Global Festival is an ideal place to buy Christmas gifts for others or yourself. Enjoy "visiting" foreign lands through browsing through their artifacts.

The Gift Shop is our most successful fundraiser. For **43 years**, your support of the Gift Shop has made it possible for CVIP to grant **352 scholarships** to spouses of international students from **46 countries**. These scholarships aid the spouses in gaining expertise which can help them improve conditions in their home countries.

Thanks to the many donations last year, we earned over \$8,000. All proceeds went to the **CVIP Scholarship Fund**. This year we hope to match or even surpass that amount.

The World Gift Shop has articles from all over the world: pottery from South America, carvings from Africa, fabrics from Asia, paintings from Europe, and jewelry, vases, scrolls, toys, native crafts from many exotic corners of our globe.

Thank you to **Pat Mukherjee, Mona Brandon and Gengen Chan** for organizing the Gift Shop in the last years. We appreciate all those hours of collecting, sorting, pricing and setting up the gift shop with all its wonderful treasures.

Donations can be dropped off at the Lending Center **all year long**. Please contact Mona (332-6972), Gengen (332-3773) or Pat (332-6761) to find out the times.

Every Tuesday

Welcome to Every Tuesday, the CVIP program that brings together international student wives with women from the local community. We meet Tuesday afternoons* during the school year for friendship and fun, crafts and conversation. Women who have recently arrived in the U.S. have an opportunity to learn about their new community, and women from here have the chance to broaden their experience of the world without having to get on a plane!



Our first Every Tuesday activity of the Fall was a great success, even though we made a great big mess, painting pots and filling them with houseplants. Everyone was excited about creating something beautiful for their home, especially those who have only been in the US for a few months, and who live in a very "spartan" university apartment! Once each lady had created their first pot, they divided up the left-over plants into every available bag, box and plastic plant pot, so that their homes could overflow with greenery. All who donated plants and cuttings for this project would have been thrilled with the enthusiastic and appreciative reception these greens received.

Our third meeting was the annual visit to Alice Cook's farm for a picnic-style lunch, farm tour and hayride. This is the premier event of the season, with well over thirty adults participating, plus about ten toddlers and infants, who enjoyed the big lawn, the riding toys, and the sunshine. Alice's hard work and generosity make it possible for our ladies to be welcomed into an American home, learn something about the American family farm, and enjoy great fun bumping around the fields together in a hay wagon.

Every Tuesday Needs YOU! One of the keys to a great get-together is to have a good mix of international women and women who are native English speakers and familiar with what the greater Lansing area has to offer. Lately, due to job changes, health issues, and relocation, our pool of American participants has shrunk. If you are a friendly woman with a welcoming smile and an interest in the world, come check us out!

Every Tuesday meets from 1–3 pm at the University Lutheran Church, 1020 Harrison Road in East Lansing. *Every Tuesday does NOT meet on the second Tuesday of each month!

FALL '12 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

September

18 – Decorating with pots and plants

25 - Horrock's Farm Market Trip

October

02 – Luncheon at Alice's Farm

16 -- Quilting

23 – Zumba

30 – Making Halloween treats

November

06 – Day of Beauty

20 – Thanksgiving Dinner

27 –Holiday Crafts and Ornaments

December

04– Potluck Luncheon

For more information contact: **Christine Van Nada** (517-333-2072, or cavannada@hotmail.com) or **Sarah Phillips** (517-324-5447, or sarah.phillips@ballstate.bsu.edu).

International Spouse Connection

International Spouse Connection (ISC) is a unique CVIP program because it is planned and facilitated by the spouses themselves. This year's spouse leaders are **Jing Yang** from China and **Dana Kanhai** from Trinidad-Tobago. Both women are creative, hard working and inspiring.



ISC is off to a very good start for fall semester. Our kick-off event was an ice breaker so that returning members and new members could get to know each other. After all, ISC is a support group that helps to acclimate spouses to a new culture and to explore ways to navigate in their new and often confusing setting.

Health care and insurance is one of the most confusing topics for international spouses. One of our members, **Chien-ying Wang**, did a two-part presentation on the American health care/health insurance system, which proved to be very popular. One week she lead a discussion in which the members talked about health care and costs in their respective countries. The second week, she took the information supplied by the members and compared it to costs and options here in the U.S. and discussed various health insurance plans and how each person could decide what was best for her/his family.

Other topics that will be explored this semester include a presentation of Iranian culture by three of our newest members and a discussion of the role of a midwife in Japan by **Aiko Shiraishi**, our member who actually performs this important role. We also intend to take a field trip to the new MSU art museum after it opens.

In addition to culture presentations and field trips, future discussions will include members choosing a person from their country whom they admire and explaining their choice to the group. Members have already brought publications from their country so we can become better acquainted with what is popular. Discussions are often very lively on these topics!

Of course, our semester will end with our ever popular potluck in December. We will ask each member to bring a dish typically served at one of their holiday celebrations, along with the recipe for our cook book, which we plan to publish.

The group meets every Friday, 1-2:30pm. For more information, contact **Cheryl Highstreet**, ISC Advisor, at (517-775-4837) or check ISC out on Facebook: *International Spouse Connection (Lansing)*.

New Friends of CVIP - as of October 24, 2012

The CVIP Board and our program chairpersons wish to thank the **Church Women United** for their generous contribution to the "Friends of CVIP" Fund.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to CVIP, you may send a check (made payable to "Community Volunteers for International Programs") to the CVIP Treasurer. Please see the "CVIP Office" article on page 10 for our new address.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to three spouses of international students for fall term 2012.

Two recipients received stipends of \$2,500 to be applied to tuition costs, and a third received \$1,173.00. A fourth student was granted a scholarship by the committee, but returned it when her funding was reinstated by her government. The fall term awardees are as follows:

Maritza Orozco-Santos from Colombia is a student in the LL.M. Program in the College of Law and expects to have completed her degree by September 2013. Maritza already has a law degree from her home country, and upon her return home, she plans to help people protect their rights. She is gaining valuable knowledge of international law that will help her accomplish her goals.

Ahmed Rady from Egypt is completing a Ph.D. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. He is currently doing research and plans to complete his degree by August 2013. His dream is to build an advanced post-harvest engineering lab, which would help Egyptians increase their exports of fruit and vegetables to international markets.

Wen Gao from China is enrolled in a Master's degree program in Applied Statistics. She was an environmental engineer in Beijing before coming to MSU. Upon her return to China, Wen hopes to use her knowledge of statistics and environmental science to help solve the air pollution problems in Beijing.

The Scholarship Committee continues to solicit donations to the Scholarship Fund. These donations and the proceeds from the World Gift Shop at the Global Festival are the TWO sources of income that determine the number of awards we can give in 2013.

Anyone wishing to contribute can send a check made payable to MSU, with "Scholarship Fund" noted on the memo line, to the CVIP Office, Center for International Programs, Michigan State University, 427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300F, East Lansing, MI 48824. For more information about the Scholarship program, contact Christine Van Nada (333-2072 or cavannada@hotmail.com.)

CVIP Alumni

The CVIP Alumni Group held its spring meeting at the East Lansing Grand Traverse Pie Company. The group is composed of volunteers who were very active over a long span of time, often as chairs or co-chairs of various CVIP programs. Now in their late 70s and 80s the alumni wish to remain connected to CVIP as well as to their CVIP friends they volunteered with—often over a span of 15-20 or more years.

The attendees were **Mary and Pat Barrett, Charles Gliozzo, Peg Higbee, Marjorie Weldon, Cynthia and Ralph Johnston, Lillian Kumata, Bill McGee, Ann McCall, Elizabeth Rimpau, Shirley and John Walter and Emily Wolf.**

David Horner, then CVIP President, and **Barbara Sawyer-Koch**, chair of the CVIP Visioning Committee, gave an update regarding the great increase in international undergraduate enrollment at MSU. The alumni were gratified that both David and Barbara took note of their suggestions on how CVIP can better cope with this challenge.

When you come to the Global Festival, remember that at least eight of the CVIP Alumni Group will be greeting you as you walk by the Welcome Tables. Stop and say, "Hi"!

For more information, contact **Mary Barrett** (337-2212) or **Ann McCall** (332-6984).

Lending Center

Just about the time we thought we had the Center looking attractive for our August 9 opening, a new student from Bosnia visited. We had put our flowers and vases right up front. We thought they gave the Center a light, colorful, inviting feel, but this beautiful young lady frowned as she circled the “flowery” display and then came back again for a second and a third look. We asked her what was wrong. She was surprised (shocked) that artificial flowers were there for students to borrow. In her country, they have live flowers in their homes. To have artificial flowers in their homes shows bad taste. Artificial flowers are only used at cemeteries. We all had a good laugh over our differences.



This year we have had over **five hundred visitors** to the Center and already have given out **over five thousand items**.

We have added two more volunteers to our staff: **Mona Brandou**, who also works at the Global Festival Gift Shop, and **John Alzubaydi**, who is especially valuable working on lamps.

Many items have been donated at the end of rummage sales. They include: **Church Women United, University Lutheran Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Prime Time Seniors, Zonta Club, and First Assembly of God.**

Thank you to all of these groups as well: **Jennifer New and Crew** from the Department of Communication Sciences collected items on campus and **Bonet Electric** donated many lamp shades again this year. The MSU **Give or Take Center** “gave” us the types of items we carry; in exchange we “gave” them the clothing items we do not lend. **Meijers** gave a \$100 gift card again.

The students have begun returning more items than in the past and have caught on to donating additional items when they return the borrowed items.

We always need more household items, but this fall we especially need **blankets**. We also need more lamps, especially floor **lamps**. We welcome shades and lamp parts. We have forms for tax credit if you desire them.

The Center has NOT moved, but it has a NEW address: 77 Middlevale, 1434F, Spartan Village. Hopefully that will help people find us with their GPS! We are open Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:00 and Thursdays 3:30 - 5:00. Call **Erika Larson** at 517-351-4548 for directions or questions.



International Friendship Program

The International Friendship Program (IFP) had an orientation on Sunday, September 30, where 32 students and scholars were matched with friendship partners.

The program included comments by **Midge Morrow** directed to the students/scholars, comments by **Larry Karnes** directed to the friendship partners and **Nicole Namy**, from Office for International Students and Scholars who conducted the Cultural Communications session. MSU Provost **Kim Wilcox** also gave a special welcome and thank you to all participants. He and his wife were there to meet their new student during the orientation.

The students represented 14 countries: Bangladesh, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Senegal, South Korea, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Earlier this year, IFP conducted a survey. **Students** said they enjoyed the following **benefits**:

- (98%) learn about American traditions, holidays and etiquette
- (98%) opportunity to share their culture and traditions
- (95%) increase their use of English
- (95%) a feeling of family
- (90%) relieve homesickness

Friendship Partners reported that IFP gave them a chance to help a student learn about the US (84%) and to learn about another country's culture (78%).

A second matching orientation is scheduled for later this fall, and a winter session will also be held.

If you would like to become an International Friendship partner, please complete the online application at <http://cvip.isp.msu.edu/apply/ffp-family.htm>.

Home Visits

Many international students appreciate and enjoy having the opportunity to visit an American home. Home Visits occur only one morning each semester. It is a fun and relatively easy way to extend a warm welcome to international students.

International students attending the **A+ English Language School** classes love this chance to tour an American home and practice English conversation while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with a light snack provided by the Home Host.

One of the Home Hosts said what a delight it was to meet the students and see how interested they were in viewing her basement. (Homes in many parts of the world do not have basements.) Another host said she has saved the "thank you" notes from her students because they were such a joy to read and mentioned things that she never thought about as being of special interest.

Our next Home Visits occurs as this newsletter goes to press. On Oct. 24, about 65 students will be divided among 14 homes for a Wednesday morning home tour.

We welcome you to participate in the April 2013 Home Visits program. If you are willing to open your home or become a driver, please contact: **Iris Horner** (349-1865 or hornerio@yahoo.com) with the subject line saying: "Home Visits".

Note: If you are already receiving the **CVIP Newsletter** by email, read no further. However, if you are getting the paper copy through the U.S. mail and would like to get the email copy from now on, here's what to do: Just **send an email message to cvip@msu.edu, with "EMAIL" in the subject line.**

Be assured that your email address will be kept secure and will never be shared with others. And **thank you** for helping us make our money go further.

Iraqi Delegation

For the third consecutive summer, CVIP partnered with MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in recruiting community families to connect with Iraqi scholars. The Fulbright-sponsored scholars worked with faculty who share their research interests for ten weeks at MSU. Four of the seven scholars this summer came from the Kurdistan area of Iraq.

Outside of a brief group orientation program, activities involving the entire scholar group and families were not planned. Most scholars were teamed up with more than one family, a win-win for all. The families entertained their scholars in their homes, took them to the East Lansing Folk Festival, shared in celebrating Lansing's Diversity Through Unity Dinner, and many other activities. As in previous years, the scholars were interested in visiting churches in the area, including the Okemos Presbyterian Church and the Lansing Union Mission Church.

One scholar was particularly adventurous and arranged a sky-diving experience for himself. He texted his CVIP family before jumping out of the plane and again once he had landed safely. His East Lansing family was his home away from home.

So much of our summer social life involves food. The Islamic month of Ramadan presented a challenge for our families because it comes in the middle of the program and the scholars did not eat from dawn to dusk. The scholars noted that the days are long here, but not nearly as hot as they are in Iraq.

CVIP appreciates the families that participated: **Joyce Chai and Bob McGoughy, Frank and Katharine Dennis, Russ and Gerry Erickson, Shawn and Teri Grady, Ralph and Pat Hepp, David and Iris Horner, Doug and**

Jane Patterson, Wes and Susan Reedy, MC and Tamiko Rothhorn, Tom and Jill Schaberg, and Mike and Alice Townley.

Though summer is a busy time for most families, the time is enriching for both groups. One of the benefits is that scholars who have had family members, friends and relatives directly impacted by the war in Iraq can form new and positive impressions of Americans.

Let us know if you would be interested in sharing some time with an Iraqi scholar next summer.



Congratulations!

Five awardees were given the **CVIP Certificate of Appreciation** at the CVIP Annual Luncheon in May. They were **Peggy Arbanas**, for her many years of valuable participation in CVIP and her leadership as Co-Chair of the Global Festival Committee; **Lyonel Laulie Cerda**, for his outstanding service as an I-Speak presenter; **Kathryn Gardner**, Communication Specialist for the City of East Lansing, for her excellent contributions to the CVIP 50th Anniversary celebration and the design of the CVIP logo; **Angel Sin Man Kwan**, for exceptional service as a volunteer with the Every Tuesday Group, the International Friendship Program and the International Spouse Connection; and **Anne Serotkin**, who was named *Volunteer Friend of the Year* by the International Friendship Program.

CVIP Volunteer Opportunities We Need You!

The CVIP Leadership Committee is looking for several new volunteers for CVIP. Short summaries are given here, but please read the articles in this newsletter for more information about each program.

Every Tuesday Co-Chair

Participate in the planning of Every Tuesday activities. Interact with spouses of international students while enjoying a craft or other activity.

International Friendship Program

Make a difference in the lives of MSU's internationals by becoming a community friend to an international student or family.

Scholarship Co-Chair

Help select spouses of international students for scholarship awards.

Global Gift Shop

Work with a team to gather, sort and price donated international items throughout the year. A list of trained gift shop volunteers is already available to work on the day of the Global Festival.

Newsletter Co-editors

The CVIP Newsletter is published twice a year. Help edit the articles submitted by the CVIP board. Ability to work on layout software desired, but not necessary.

Administrative Services Assistant

Help with data base (membership) 1-2 hours each week.

Please contact Leadership co-chairs, **Stacey Bieler** (332-0464) or **Iris Horner** (349-1865) for more information about any of the above volunteer opportunities.



CVIP Office -- Moving Up!

October 22, 2012 was an ordinary Monday for most of people. However, for CVIP it was **moving day!** We moved our office from Room 12C on the garden level of the International Center up to Room 300F on the third floor. Moving was the easy part. Arranging the office and finding a place for our brochures, files, and equipment will take a lot longer.

Our new office address is:

**Michigan State University
International Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300F
East Lansing, MI 48824
Same phone number: 517-353-1735.**

The office staff and open times are:

John Alzubaydi	Monday mornings
Pat Barrett	Tuesday afternoons
Iris Horner	Wednesday mornings
Carol Towl	Thursday mornings
Richard Hesse	Friday afternoons

We **always** need more volunteers to staff the CVIP Office. If you would like to help, contact **Pat Barrett** (337-2212 or barrett9@msu.edu) for more information, or see the "Administrative Services" page of our website (cvip.msu.edu).

Stop in and say "hello" whenever you can.