



CVIP Spring 2014 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

Telephone: (517) 353-1735; E-mail: cvip@msu.edu; Web: cvip.isp.msu.edu

HOME VISITS

Are you looking for a fun and relatively easy way to welcome MSU's international students? Home Visits needs people who are willing to open their homes from approximately 9:30 am to 11:00 am. for one morning each semester.

International students love this chance to tour an American home and practice English conversation while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a light snack provided by the home host.

Last November, one first-time home host enjoyed the students and their reactions so much that she is already looking forward to the next time that she can do this. Another host said that it is a delight to read the students' thank you notes that mention things that she never realized would be of special interest to them. And one host couple decided to invite some of the students to join their family Thanksgiving Day dinner.



Please contact **Iris Horner** at 349-1865 or hornerio@yahoo.com (with the subject line saying "Home Visits"). We will be happy to put you on the list of possible volunteers to host a home visit for November 2014.

CVIP SCHOLARSHIPS

The CVIP Scholarship committee is working with **Joy Walter**, the outreach coordinator in the Office for International Student and Scholars (OISS), to advertise the CVIP Scholarship program to international spouses who qualify for this tuition award.

The two Spring 2014 recipients are **Behdad Davoudi** (Iran), who is studying mechanical engineering and **Liz Vivian Loayza-Herrera** (Bolivia), a music student in violin performance.

We need to stress the requirements more and get the word out to a wider audience. Joy helped us by putting up flyers in OISS and at the Friday Coffee Hour. Students also will get more information about us in the weekly OISS email sent to all international students.

If you know of an international spouse at MSU who needs a scholarship, check the online application: cvip.isp.msu.edu/scholarship/. The deadline for Fall 2014 applications is **April 14** at 5:00pm. All applications should be submitted to Joy Walter in the OISS.

To donate money toward CVIP Scholarships, please contact **Dottie Schmidt** at 351-2812 or **Peggy Arbanas** at 669-1239.

CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Stacey Bieler
Pat Barrett
Patrice Klein
Mary Barrett

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 Potluck Salad Luncheon**

Wednesday, May 7
at the University Lutheran Church
1020 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI

Reception 11:30 am
Luncheon 12:00 pm

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Spring is a time of celebration. Please join us for our potluck **Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, May 7**. We will recognize the accomplishments of our outstanding volunteers and celebrate the successes of our programs this year. Traditional homemade salads will be the fare, so dust off one of your recipes and join the fun.

This is also the time of year when we begin planning for the fall. We hope to launch the “Buddy” program pilot in August, helping new international students and families moving into Spartan Village get acclimated a bit to life in America. Are you willing to serve as a local friend for a two-week assignment? Read more about the new program in the article that follows.

CVIP is about making a difference in the lives of the students we reach. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS** – whether providing direct service through any of the programs, donating items to the Lending Center or World Gift Shop, staffing the CVIP office, serving on a committee, or befriending an international student, you are appreciated for all you do. Together, we make a difference.

CVIP is losing a great friend with the retirement of **Peter Briggs** in the fall. Peter has served as the Director of the Office for International Students and Scholars since 2001. We wish him the very best. Thank you, Peter, for your unwavering support of CVIP.

“BUDDY” PROGRAM PILOT

This program idea is so new and hot, it is without a name. For now, we are calling it the Buddy Program. This pilot program would offer an opportunity to give a great first impression to a new student and his/her family as they arrive at MSU and settle into Spartan Village.

The premise is simple – a local buddy will be assigned to an incoming student who has requested the service. As a volunteer with this program, you will email the student prior to arrival and arrange a meeting at the Lansing airport or Michigan Flyer (by the Marriot Hotel in East Lansing), then drive the student to Spartan Village, assisting him/her in the check-in process as necessary.

Then, for two weeks (not more) you will serve as a guide to help the student get established, helping him/her learn about the CATA bus service (we’ll provide the information), being available to go grocery shopping, and perhaps assisting with other stops, such as a bank or phone store.

Volunteers are needed mid-August for a two week period. We are excited at the prospect of being able to provide this service. If you are interested in learning more or willing to help, please call **Pam Sievers** at 703-4705 or email at psievers2@yahoo.com. You can also email cvip@msu.edu or call the CVIP office at 353-1735.

Two weeks – that’s all it takes to leave a lifetime of great memories for a new student.

LENDING CENTER

The Lending Center welcomes two new volunteers this spring, **Dottie West** and **Lola Lynch**. Both will be filling in on Thursday afternoons.

Our year has gone fast, but not as fast as the merchandise. We've had more than 100 lamps returned, but we've had to come up with over 100 more to meet the demand.

Already we have loaned out 10,724 items this school year. That's 500 more items than we had given out by the end April last year. Thank you to all of you for donating this year and for helping us spread the word.

We have been wondering for some time why we have so many new students visit us in the middle of the school year. We questioned whether our advertising was at fault, or just how we could improve our communication process so it would not take students so long to discover that we were there to assist them. This year, finally, it dawned on us. The southern hemisphere's seasons are the reverse of ours. So those "new" students we have come in during January are just starting their new school year same as we do in September!

We feel sorry for those students who have come from their hottest time of the year to our coldest time of the year, and this year they were in for an especially rude awakening.

Just a reminder, although many students do return items they've borrowed, we always need more donations. We carry household items such as the wares that Bed Bath and Beyond sells. We always need lamps, especially floor lamps, pots and pans, extra lids, glasses, and blankets, sheets and pillow cases. Since our space is limited, we do not take furniture or electrical appliances.

Since CVIP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Lending Center can give you documentation for your taxes on request. We are located at 1434 F Spartan Village. If you use a GPS to locate us, type in 77 Middlevale Rd., East Lansing.

The Lending Center is open two days a week: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00. To contact the Center, call **Erika Larson** at 517-351-4548 or *enwank@yahoo.com*; or the CVIP office at 353-1735 or *cvip@msu.edu*.

CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR FRED!

Fred Fritz, Senior Pastor of the University Lutheran Church of East Lansing, received the CVIP Homer Higbee International Education Award at the 2014 International Studies and Programs awards ceremony in March. This prestigious award is given each year to a CVIP member who has made significant contributions to the advancement of international communication, understanding and cooperation through his/her service and activities.

Fred was a founding member of the CVIP Visioning Committee and also served as Secretary to the CVIP Board for three years. He supported our organization with information on issues ranging from volunteer management and leadership development to organizational structure and budget matters. His church also provides rooms for the monthly meetings of the CVIP Board and the Executive Committee as well as our annual Business and Luncheon Meeting. Also, our Every Tuesday group held its weekly meetings in the church for over 20 years.

Thank you, Fred, for all the ways that you support CVIP!

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM (IFP)

More than 7,000 international students are attending MSU during the current academic year. This record number reflects the growing globalization of higher education. The students are here to earn degrees or complete special programs, but they are also exposed to American culture. Though the students will interact with their professors, instructors, university staff and other students, most will never have the opportunity to visit an American home or interact with community members.

The International Friendship Program (IFP) gives students the opportunity to know local community members and learn about American culture and traditions. Our community friends enjoy helping the students and learning about other cultures. These mutually rewarding friendships may last long after the students leave MSU.



This story is written by an international student matched with a local family:

I learned about the International Friendship Program from one of my friends who joined the program 2 months earlier than me. There are a lot of international students who attended high schools in the U.S. as exchange

students, therefore most of them used to have one or more host families. Compared with them, I felt I lacked the experience in engaging with American families or American traditional life. I felt really upset about myself being in the States but not living like in the States. After I joined the program, I met a very nice couple, who are the best people I have ever met in America. Their kindness, sincerity and hospitality made the last year of my college life the best year. My American friends and I share an interest in music and as a result, I have the opportunity to play in a local community band and perform in concerts. My friends invite me to have dinner with them almost every weekend. Every time they prepare an American traditional meal for me, which I really enjoyed. After dinner, we would play games or watch movies. Since I met them, they gave me a lot of “first times”. During Thanksgiving, they invited me over to celebrate the festival and eat turkey with them. Last Christmas, I had my first time to cut a Christmas tree and decorate it with my friends. I have also learned how to play the game “Michigan Rummy” and have watched a lot of fun movies that are “elder” than me. I am the lucky one that I could meet my American friends before I graduate from MSU. I really appreciate the opportunity provided by International Friendship Program.

During the current academic year, the IFP matched more than 70 students from 24 different countries with local community friends. In addition, many more friendships continue from previous years. Still, **less than 5%** of the international students at MSU are matched with Americans through IFP.

More information about IFP, including the on-line applications, can be found on the CVIP website (www.cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship). You may also contact **Larry Karnes** (lbkarnes@att.net) or leave a message at the CVIP office at 353-1735.

I SPEAK IS INTERGENERATIONAL!

Requests for international speakers or visitors come from a variety of community organizations whose members may be 6 years to 96 years of age!

For ten years, we have provided a speaker almost every month for the Senior Citizen Coffee Hour group at Allen Neighborhood Center, thanks to a friendship developed by **Mitsuko Marx**, a member of CVIP.

We have provided culture representatives for Girl Scout World Thinking Day, an event sponsored by Girl Scouts of Area 351 in Holt for several years. A few of these girls are high school age, but most of them are 6 to 9 years old, "Daisies" or "Brownies."

We have also provided speakers, performers and participants for Holt High School's World Language Week. The high school students are 14 to 18 years of age, just a little younger than many of our international speaker volunteers. The speakers and audience identify strongly with each other, despite cultural differences.

Recently we have provided international speakers for some area service clubs: Kiwanis, Rotary, Zonta and Lions.

Last spring Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care in Okemos requested a speaker from South Korea. The activities director thought residents would enjoy learning more about Korea, the homeland of one of their residents. **Hyun-Seung Kwak**, a PhD student in education from South Korea, brought pictures and music to share. When she played the National Folk Song common to both North and South Korea, the Korean senior citizen immediately stood up and heartily sang along, a joyous moment for all.

Frederic Vautard, a research associate at MSU, volunteers with I SPEAK. His presentation about his home country of France was so popular with the folks at Allen Neighborhood Center that they invited him back for a second presentation. Fred also volunteered to staff the culture table about France for Girl Scout World Thinking Day in Holt. The young girls enjoyed seeing a doll dressed in a traditional French outfit and Fred's plush stork. (He explained that storks nest on roof tops in France and that there is a French legend about storks delivering babies.)



The 7th grade social studies classes at Holt Junior High School warmly welcomed **William Njobvu** (Zambia), **Nyasha Makoni** (Zimbabwe) and **Hailu Abreha** (Ethiopia) to multiple classes in early March.

Would you like to **drive the international students to their speaking assignments?**

Would you or your group like to **request an international speaker** from the I SPEAK program?

Would you like to **give us a hand with this program?**

Please let **Carol Towl** or **Mary Hennessey** know of your interest at ispeak.cvipmsu@gmail.com, or complete the online request form at cvip.isp.msu.edu/speakers/.

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE CONNECTION (ISC)

The International Spouse Connection (ISC) group has stayed active during the very cold weather this semester with a great combination of programs. One of our leaders, **Soenmi Yoon**, gave a fabulous presentation on the Korean Lunar New Year that included slides, a video, playing a Korean game, and eating delicious Korean food. **Pedro and Patty Mazeriegos** took us on a video bus tour of their country, Guatemala, and demonstrated some Latin dancing. **Alejandra Chavez** and **Araceli Mendoza** taught us about Mexico, with the support of their husbands and Alejandra's visiting mom. They ended their session with a wonderful Mexican feast.

CVIP volunteer **Mitsuku Marx**, with several Japanese helpers, taught us how to make origami cranes and other animals. **Sarah Shaw**, a leader of the International Book Discussion Club at the East Lansing Public Library, showed slides from her travels and talked about writing a blog about one's adventures. Volunteer **Barbara Toman** led our Valentine's Day session that was attended by over twenty people.



Also in February we had an informative session on home schooling in the U.S., presented by Friendship House volunteer **Katie Bermeister**. A DVD from Stanford University called *Women in a New Land* prompted the participants to share their own experiences.

Upcoming programs include a guided visit to the Broad Art Museum and programs by our own members about their countries, Brazil, Oman, and Iran. We will end the semester with an international potluck.

Halima Al Riyami from Oman and **Stéfanie Fares Sabbag** from Brazil will become our new leaders. For more information, call **Seonmi Yoon** at 213-944-4175 or **Jan Bernsten** at 351-5063.

FAREWELL TO PETER BRIGGS

Peter Briggs, the third director of the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS), is retiring from MSU to move back to his roots in Oregon after 13 years at MSU.

Peter came to MSU from the University of Oregon, where he had established a very strong base for the support of volunteer activity. At MSU, Peter identified and recruited key community leaders to serve on CVIP's Visioning Committee, which he created during his first years to better enable CVIP to expand contacts within the Greater Lansing Area.

Under Peter's leadership, an OISS staff member was designated as liaison between OISS and CVIP to ensure good communication and support. He worked closely with the CVIP Board and leadership to keep them informed about issues at MSU that could impact our programs. He invited CVIP to the periodic meetings of "Friends of OISS" to share information with other campus units.

Peter's sharp wit, ability to conceptualize the "big picture," his forward thinking, his philosophy to empower people and his support for volunteers are appreciated, recognized and valued.

CVIP is a stronger organization due to Peter Briggs' influence and support. We wish him continued success and happiness as he returns to Oregon.

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TUTORING PROGRAM (VETP)

Each week brings something new to VETP! One was the first ever VETP Skype session. When **Svetozar** returned to his native Bulgaria, he said he missed **Tom Almer's** Thursday afternoon class. One day the class Skyped with Svetozar on an iPad. The whole class had fun.



Some potential tutors are not available during the week and international women who live in Okemos were waiting for tutors, so a new class was begun. **Hannah Witt** has started a VETP “outreach” class on Sunday evenings at Schuler Books in Okemos. One student wrote, “I enjoy the meeting and I think it will be helpful to practice my speaking ability.”

Several new tutors have started recently, bringing the total to 38. One of the new tutors was matched with a law student from Turkey. The tutor’s husband is a lawyer who works for the Attorney General’s Office of the State of Michigan. The tutor took the student, her husband and a friend on a tour of his office at the Capitol.

Join our 66 VETP “followers” on Facebook. For more information, contact **Mary Hennessey** at vetp@msu.edu.

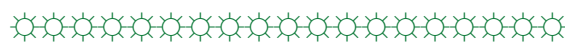
CVIP ALUMNI GROUP MEETING

The CVIP Alums met on October 29, 2013, at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing for lunch and conversation. The group includes long-time volunteers who no longer participate fully in CVIP activities, but help with one-day assignments, such as the Annual Luncheon or the Global Festival World Gift Shop or Welcome Tables.

Attending were **Mary and Pat Barrett, Cynthia and Ralph Johnston, Bill Magee, Mitsuko Marx, Ann McCall, Kathy Niemeyer, Emily and Al Wolf, Barbara Sawyer-Koch and Don Koch**. After lunch each person enjoyed a piece of berry pie furnished by the Office for International Students and Scholars.

The group shared updates on the Global Festival and on our Youngers fundraising for the Scholarship Fund. The passing of Shirley Walter and Peg Higbee was sadly recognized. Emily Wolf told about some of the background of Shirley’s activities in the later part of her life after she moved to Traverse City. Mary Barrett reviewed Peg Higbee’s early involvement with CVIP and her establishment of the Homer Higbee Awards. It was pleasant sharing some memories and learning of some current activities of CVIP.

For more information about the Alumni Group, contact **Ann McCall** at annhmccall@gmail.com or **Mary Barrett** at barrett9@msu.edu.



GLOBAL FESTIVAL 2013

Revenue from the Global Festival World Gift Shop, sale of Younkers coupon books and extra donations netted \$9,000 for the CVIP Scholarship program for the spouses of international students.

The sale of Younker coupon books yielded \$676; extra cash donations/rounding-up \$645. The sale of international items totaled \$7,685.

In her first year as chair of the World Gift Shop, **Wendy Pope** had to be flexible! The Global Festival moved to Brody Hall, and the World Gift Shop started accepting credit/debit card payments for purchases. Also, patrons were given the opportunity to round-up their purchase or add a contribution to the CVIP Scholarship fund. Some people did not realize that ALL revenue generated at this event is earmarked for the Scholarship fund.

Thank you to **Mona Brandou**, **Gengen Chan** and **Mitsuko Marx** for their help with pricing and packing items. Thanks to all those who moved the items from storage, set up the shop and were clerks during the sale and for the students who repacked the left-over items.

Spring Cleaning!?

If you would like to donate international items to be sold at the World Gift Shop at the Global Festival in November 2014, please contact **Dottie Schmitt** at 351-2812 or Dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are the latest listings of volunteer openings:

Home Visits: Arrange visits (1.5 hours) to a variety of local area homes once each semester for refreshments, conversation and a first-hand look at the way Americans live.

International Friendship Program: Volunteer to meet an MSU international student once a month or help recruit other community members to welcome international students into their homes.

International Student Lending Center: Help staff the Lending Center once or twice a month.

Scholarship Program: Help select spouses of international students for scholarships.

Global Festival's World Gift Shop: Work with a team to gather, sort and price donated international items throughout the year.

CVIP Newsletter: The CVIP Newsletter is published twice a year. Help co-edit the articles submitted by the CVIP Board and others. Ability to work on layout software desired, but not necessary.

Public Relations: Help promote CVIP using visual and artistic skills to revise and develop media.

CVIP Administrative Services: Assist in updating the CVIP membership database for 1-2 hours a week. Training is provided.

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, please look at the descriptions of the CVIP programs on our website (cvip.isp.msu.edu) or contact **Pam Sievers** at 321-8348 for more information.