



CVIP Fall 2014 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE CONNECTION

International Spouse Connection is the only CVIP program that meets regularly year around. Its purpose is to acclimate spouses of MSU students to a new culture, and to provide mutual support, culture sharing and an opportunity to practice English. One of ISC's strengths is its diversity and supportive nature.



Visiting Andy T's Pumpkin Patch

ISC offers a variety of activities, presentations and field trips to help members form friendships. This past summer, the group took a field trip to Huhn Strawberry Farm in Eagle, where members picked their own strawberries, most for the very first time. Another favorite field trip was to the MSU Botanical Gardens. We also enjoyed a picnic at Lake Lansing Park South, despite having to quickly seek shelter because of a sudden rainstorm.

Presenters this summer and into fall spoke on a variety of subjects. **Swati**, a member from India, introduced us to the wonders of India and Nepal, as well as some Indian culinary delights. **Stefanie**, from Brazil, taught us how to make Brazilian candies. **Paola** from Peru and

Andrea from Canada talked about Michigan highlights to visit during the summer. This fall, **Gaell** from Belgium gave an overview of her country, including the troubling division between the Flemish and the Walloons. **Cynthia** from Nicaragua and **Paola** from Peru displayed their beautiful original jewelry made of beads and Peruvian silver.

One of the recent highlights was our baby shower for **Halima** from Oman, one of our spouse leaders. We had an opportunity to discuss how new babies are greeted around the world.

We recently took a tour of the East Lansing Library where we could apply for a library card. We discussed a DVD, "In a New Land," about the difficulties of international spouses adapting to their new living situations.

We welcome all international spouses to join us every Friday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:30 at Friendship House, 929 Sever Dr., East Lansing, for fun, and interaction with other cultures. For more information, please email us at isc@msu.edu.

GLOBAL FESTIVAL



2014

See the world in a day

Sunday
November 23rd
Noon - 5pm
MSU Union

- International exhibits
- Live performances
- World Gift Shop
- Children's activities
- Global cuisine

CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Stacey Bieler
Patrice Klein
Pat Barrett
Mary Barrett

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Stacey Bieler, CVIP President

In mid-September we had our annual retreat in Brody Hall. **Peter Briggs**, former director of OISS, and **Steven Hanson**, new Dean of International Studies and Programs, gave insightful presentations. We then divided into five working groups to look at aspects of our Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. Lively conversations in the groups were followed by short presentations to the whole group. We are now working out manageable yet challenging goals for the next three years.

In late September I went to a week-long class on archiving. I wanted to understand the process of acquisition, accession and appraisal of materials so that the wonderful history of CVIP would not be lost.

The last time that CVIP turned in materials to the MSU Archives was in 1986, the year of our 25th Anniversary. If you have materials you would like to give, please call me (332-0464) and I will pick them up. These can include pamphlets, newspaper articles, banners, pictures, correspondence, programs of special events, etc.

The search for the new director of OISS is in process right now. Two of the three candidates have given presentations and spoken with international students.

I hope you are enjoying your friendships with internationals!

GLOBAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 NOON-5:00 -- MSU UNION

Country-specific exhibits, cultural demonstrations and live performances by inter-national students will bring the community together to share in a celebration of cultures around the world. Pick up souvenirs at the CVIP World Gift Shop, where all proceeds go to international student spouse scholarships. Take home some new dance moves, as for the first time students will be teaching traditional steps in an open dance studio following their performances.

Exhibits open at noon, and live performances will begin around 12:30, following a parade and cultural fashion show.

The Global Festival is sponsored this year by The Office for International Students and Scholars, MOSAIC, University Activities Board, MSU Union and Community Volunteers for International Programs.

For more information, visit <http://cvip.isp.msu.edu/globalfestival> or contact **Joy Walter** (joyw@msu.edu).



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

The International Friendship Program (IFP) provides the opportunity for international students at MSU to get to know an American family or individual and to feel welcome in the community. The American friends benefit by getting to know international students and learn about their countries, cultures, and languages. These relationships are mutually rewarding and often last well beyond the conclusion of the student's studies at MSU.

The IFP Committee was very busy during the past few months accepting and processing new applications from students and community volunteers, interviewing all new applicants, and matching volunteers with students. Our Fall semester orientation meeting was held at the International Center on October 5.

We matched 49 international students from 21 different countries, including Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, China, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Korea, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. These international students represent various levels of academic programs at MSU, including Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Ph.D. candidates, exchange students, and Fulbright scholars.

Applications from new friends and new students are now being accepted for participation beginning in Spring semester. The next deadline for student applications will be early January 2015.

To learn about the International Friendship Program or to become a community friend, visit our IFP website (www.cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship), which includes an on-line application. If you are a returning volunteer and are ready to be matched with another international student, contact **Larry Karnes** (lbkarnes@att.net).

PEGGY HAZEN HIGBEE ENDOWMENT



The late Peg Higbee appeared at all of the CVIP award ceremonies to personally hand out the prestigious Homer Higbee Award.

The creation of Peggy Hazen Higbee Endowment was announced by **Marge Weldon**, Peg and Homer's daughter. Expenditures from the endowment will be used to support CVIP. Both Peg and Homer, the former Assistant Dean in International Studies and Programs, were strong and important supporters of CVIP. Homer assisted in the founding of CVIP over 50 years ago, and Peg assumed many important roles in the group. The endowment is a wonderful and generous gift that gives CVIP additional flexibility in programming and assisting in the professional development of our volunteers.

Approximately \$1,500 will be available to CVIP each year from the endowment. Two awards have been made so far this year: One improves our ability to archive our historical documents and the second supported attendance at a regional NAFSA conference.

Applications for funds from the endowment should be addressed to the CVIP president.

Formal recognition of the Peggy Hazen Higbee awardees will be made at the CVIP annual meeting in May.

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TUTORING PROGRAM (VETP)

My name is **David Winder**, and I enjoy being a tutor for the VETP program. It's a unique opportunity to meet people from various parts of the world who are here at MSU, often for a few months or a year. Students in my VETP classes are here as international scholars or students, or as spouses of international students.

As I join in English discussions and introduce new vocabulary in my classes, I look through a window to the world. As I teach, I also learn. What is the climate like in various parts of China? What does a party for friends look like in Italy? What food is available in Seoul? I have the opportunity to ask many such questions, and to hear answers from my students as I work with and enjoy the international folks in my classes.

After I retired from teaching at the university level, I still wanted the stimulation of being in a classroom. The VETP format gives me the chance to work with people who are improving their English speaking skills and reading abilities in English.

My students have come from backgrounds in law, medicine, education, business, and various scientific fields. While providing tips on English pronunciation and idioms, I have learned about the popularity of golf in South Korea and the custom of taking coffee with friends in Istanbul.

I enjoy walking into my VETP class and feeling that I am providing a service to international people at MSU, who are dealing with a new environment and striving to improve their skills.

The emphasis is on conversation. I try to "mix it up" with my group, encouraging students to speak in English with one another, learn new vocabulary, and work on reading skills using an English-language newsletter provided by the VETP program.

Being in a group gives me an audience to talk to about a favorite subject, Spartan sports! It's fun to see students enjoying the familiarity they share with others in class from their home country, and also to see them making friends from other lands.



VETP offers both small classes and individual tutors, or "conversation partners," in which an American works with an international student, scholar, or their spouse. If interested, you may sign up as a volunteer on our web page (www.vetp.isp.msu.edu). VETP also has a Facebook page that you may join (www.facebook.com/vetpmsu). If you have any questions, please contact **Mary Hennessey** (vetp@isp.msu.edu).

CVIP VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS

The CVIP Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon was held on May 7, 2014.

Six Appreciation Awards were given to **Mona Brandou**, **Gengen Chan** and **Mitsuko Marx** for their years of service to the World Gift Shop; **Midge Morrow** for her work with International Friendship Program; **Christine Van Nada** for her leadership in Every Tuesday; and **Stacey Bieler** for her years of service to CVIP.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS MEET AMERICAN SENIOR CITIZENS

Most Americans in the "autumn of their lives" appreciate interacting with the younger generation. The International Speakers Program, I SPEAK, is making it happen!

Yamina Lordemus from France came to MSU this fall with her husband, who is a graduate student in economics. Yamina has been meeting and socializing with other spouses in CVIP's International Spouse Connection. **Mitsuko Marx**, a volunteer with I SPEAK, recruited Yamina to visit at Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility in Okemos. The residents at Bickford respond well to one-on-one conversation, and Yamina cheerfully circulated among those who gathered in the living room there. **Arlene Roe**, a Bickford resident who is a former volunteer with CVIP, was especially delighted by Yamina's visit.

Aurea Gonzalez, the wife of a student from Mexico, recently visited with senior citizens who live at Crosaires Elder Care Home in Williamstown Township. **Todd Walter**, owner and director at Crosaires, planned a Mexican Fiesta for residents and their visiting families. Aurea participated whole-heartedly, helping to blind-fold grandchildren so they could try breaking the pinata that contained treats. **Cheryl Highstreet**, co-chair of the International Spouse Connection, drove Aurea to Crosaires and recounted the fun.

Barbara Kotei, a student from Ghana who is studying economics at MSU through a grant from the MasterCard Foundation, gave a presentation at Allen Neighborhood Center about her homeland and about her recent experience as a MasterCard summer intern. **Mitsuko Marx** again provided transportation and introduced Barbara to the group.

The senior citizens and the international visitors claim mutual benefits as the Americans

meet students from countries they probably will never be able to visit, and the visiting students learn how Americans seek to enrich the lives of their elderly population. A true cultural exchange!

To request a speaker for your classroom or club, please contact **Carol Towl** (ctowl@comcast.net) or **Mary Hennessey** (maryhenn@sbcglobal.net).



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are the latest openings:

Home Visits: Open your home to international ESL students for 1.5 hours once a semester for refreshments and conversation.

International Friendship Program: Volunteer to meet an MSU international student once a month or be part of a team that helps recruit new community members.

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

Public Relations: Help promote CVIP using visual and artistic skills.

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 **Barb Sawyer-Koch** (337-9576).

WORLD GIFT SHOP

The World Gift Shop is an important feature of the Global Festival. The shop is an ideal venue to browse for holiday gifts from various countries. Proceeds from the shop are a major source of the funds for the CVIP Lillian Kumata Scholarships that are awarded each year to spouses of International students.

The Global Festival and Shop return to the MSU Union this year, with the World Gift Shop being housed in Room 50. The Shop will have many interesting items collected from around the world. There will be paintings, ornaments, fabrics and clothing, jewelry, toys, etc.

Our team of **Mona Brandou, Gengen Chan, Mickie Marx, Betty Vlahakis** and **Wendy Pope** has spent many hours pricing and packing the items into boxes. **Pat Barrett, Dottie Schmidt, Peggy Arbanas** and **David Horner** have assisted in the planning and organization. **Carlos Fuentes** and his helpers will transport the boxes from the Lending Center to the Union and return the unsold items back to the Lending Center at the end of the sale.

Donations of international items can be dropped off at the Lending Center or by arrangement with **Gengen Chan** (332-3773), **Dottie Schmidt** (351-2812) or **Wendy Pope** (381-9039).



PAT AND MARY BARRETT WIN NATIONAL AWARD



Pat and Mary Barrett received the Hugh Jenkins Award at the annual conference of the NAFSA: Association of International Educators in San Diego this May. The Hugh Jenkins Award for Excellence in Community Programming recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting global understanding and international exchange in the local community. It honors people who exemplify a spirit of volunteerism and a long-term dedication to international exchange.

Mary began volunteering for CVIP in the early 1970s, first with the English conversation classes and later with Every Tuesday and the CVIP Alumni Group. Upon retirement as a professor in MSU's English Language Center for 30 years, Pat began volunteering in the CVIP Office and later assumed responsibility as Office Manager. The couple served as Co-Presidents from 1994-96 and again in 1997-98. Pat served as the President of the Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language and was honored with a Lifetime Membership in NAFSA:AIE.

Congratulations to Pat and Mary!

ESL STUDENTS ENJOY FALL HOME VISITS

Thursday, October 23, was a cold morning but the sunshine put a smile on everyone's face as 70 students from the **A+ English Language School** visited local American homes. The students were divided into groups and driven to one of 10 local homes for a house tour, conversation and refreshments. The ESL students came from 15 different countries, which created a very good mix of cultures for communicating and sharing ideas. Thank you to the 18 drivers who transported the students to and from the host homes.

Thank you also to former chair **Iris Horner** for all of the time she devoted to this fall's Home Visits program before her departure for the winter season. Without the background work and contacts which Iris has developed over many years, it would not have been as smooth a process. Thank you to **Karyn Goven** and all of her staff at the A+ English Language School for their work in coordinating the students and drivers.

The next Home Visits tour will be in April 2015. Please contact **Jim Stedman** (jas12745@aol.com) if you would like to participate.

CVIP ALUMNI GROUP

One of the newest and least formal of committees under the CVIP umbrella is the CVIP Alumni Group. Former CVIP committee and program chairs, who have pulled back from active involvement, enjoy meeting twice a year with old friends to get caught up on one another and on CVIP. Their main volunteer activity is staffing the Welcome Tables at the annual MSU Global Festival.

The CVIP Alums met for lunch and pie at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on October 15. CVIP President **Stacey Bieler** gave an update on recent CVIP activities.

Those attending were **Peggy and Larry Arbanas, Mary and Pat Barrett, Stacey Bieler, Carol and**

Sandy Bryson, Bonnie Ghavami, Charles Gliozzo, Cindy and Ralph Johnston, Mitsuko and Bill Marx, Ann McCall, Kathy Niemeyer, Lois Park, Barbara Sawyer-Koch and Don Koch, and Emily Wolf.

If you would like to join other former CVIP Board members at the next Alumni Group meeting in April 2015, please contact **Ann McCall** (332-6984) or **Mary Barrett** (337-2212).

LILLIAN KUMATA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Fall 2014 semester scholarships were awarded to **David Formula** from Indonesia, an MBA student in Business Analytics, and to **Mona Shaaban** from Egypt, who is in a Master's program in Horticulture.

We are pleased that **Wendy Pope** and **Christine Van Nada** will join our committee and help us interview eligible students when we meet them during the first week of December.

The deadline for applying for Spring Semester 2015 scholarships is **December 2, 2014**. Encourage your friends to take a look at the CVIP website at <http://cvip.isp.msu.edu/>. Follow the links to the Lillian Kumata Scholarship and choose the link to download the scholarship application. The application has been updated with clearer instructions.

This scholarship is funded by individual **donations to CVIP** and largely by **sales at the Global Festival World Gift Shop**. Thanks for your great support for this excellent program.

For more information about the Lillian Kumata Scholarship program, please contact **Dottie Schmidt** (dottieschmidt1854@sbcglobal.net) or **Peggy Arbanas** (arbanasp@msu.edu).



THANK YOU, DONORS

We have been observing several subtle changes at the Lending Center this year. The advertising through the housing office is reaching more students, and this year we helped more new students earlier. The donations in June kept us busy with restocking through July, so when the surge of new students hit in August, we were ready for them.

Though we continue to have smaller donations trickle in throughout the year, larger groups are agreeing to let us have first pick of the leftovers from their group sales. Asbury United Methodist Church and the East Lansing Prime Time Program have done this for several years, and the Zonta Club was very generous again. The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences helped by collecting from campus again this year. The biggest change came when the University Lutheran Church collected items just for us, instead of holding their usual yearly yard sale.

Another change is in the number of students who visit the Lending Center. We have always had increased numbers visit in August and September. The surprise came in October when we continued to have 15 to 25 visitors per opening, twice as many as usual.

Thanks to all of you who donate your items to us. The students are happy and grateful to be able to borrow these used items instead of spending hundreds of dollars to buy new items that they will only need for a short time.

Our greatest needs are pots and pans, lamps and tea kettles. We need more of everything: glasses, dishes, blankets, sheets, pillows, etc.

We need more workers. Many of our volunteers are “world travelers” so we need substitutes for them when they are out of the country.

Note: We still give tax credit documentation - just ask. We are located at 1434 F Spartan Village. For GPS, enter 77 Middlevale Rd., East Lansing.

We are open Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:00 and Thursdays 3:30 - 5:00. To contact the Center, contact **Erika Larson** (enwank@yahoo.com) or 517-351-4548.



A + ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Every year Okemos A+ English Language School offers classes to international students, refugees and immigrants with limited English skills. This year we had over 80 students registered and had to open another classroom. Our students come from countries in Africa and Central America, as well as Brazil, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Somolia, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, to name a few.

We have had many great experiences, including visiting Fenner Nature Center to see how apple butter is made, touring MSU gardens, and listening to a speaker on cyber safety. Students enjoyed CVIP's Home Visits where they visited local homes and had a chance to ask questions about American lifestyles. Other fall activities include a Halloween party, a visit to the Frederik Meijer Gardens, and touring an art studio. We will also be creating a cookbook!

