



**2019 FALL
PROGRAM NEWS**

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EDITORS

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Pat and Mary Barrett

2019 Fall Newsletter

Community Volunteers for International Programs



Sunday, November 10

MSU Union Building 12:00 – 5:00 pm

Begin the festivities at the Global Festival Gift Shop on the 3rd floor. Then, explore student-led international cultural activities and CVIP information station, starting at 1:00 pm on the 1st floor. Enjoy entertaining music, costumes, and performances. Closing ceremony is at 4:45 pm.

**Global Festival Gift Shop
Open 12:00 – 5:00 pm**

Visit this international bazaar of unique treasures – fabrics, carvings, silver, home décor, clothing, art and more. . . from over 50 countries!

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Congratulations to Stacey Bieler

Long-time CVIP volunteer **Stacey Bieler** received the prestigious Hugh M. Jenkins Award for Excellence in Community Programming at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators national conference in May.

The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting global understanding and international exchange in a local community. It especially highlights those who exemplify a spirit of volunteerism and long-term dedication to cultural exchange.

Stacey was recognized for her outstanding work with Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP). *(cont'd on p. 2)*

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President's Corner



Thank you to all of the CVIP program chairs who continue to demonstrate their commitment to our international students in so many ways. A special shout out to the Lending Center volunteers who kept the center open all summer for the first time. That initiative was re-

warded by serving a large number of short-term visitors who expressed their amazement that we could accommodate so many of their needs--as demonstrated by our now nearly exhausted inventory. (Check out the Lending Center article for our current needs.)

Also during the summer, Global Festival Gift Shop volunteers sorted and priced donated items each week to ensure they would be prepared for their big sale at the Global Festival on November 10. The International Friendship Program also keeps busy much of the year, as they process applications from and interview students and local residents who are interested in being matched as friends through this program.

Our annual Board retreat in September focused on identifying unmet student needs. A group of students shared great suggestions during a panel discussion. Special thanks to **Connie Wolfe** and **Matt Buckley** for their leadership of that successful event.

I have focused on engaging several community partners for the purpose of enlarging our volunteer base: the MSU Community Club, the Greater Lansing United Nations Association and MSU's Age Alive initiative. If you think of other organizations we should approach, please let me know.

May this year be one of growth and compassion for our students and terrific volunteers!

Barbara Sawyer-Koch, CVIP President

Congratulations (cont'd from p. 1)

Over the nearly 30 years that Stacey has been involved with CVIP, she has played a role in almost every branch of the organization.

Stacey first volunteered with CVIP in 1990, during her graduate studies, helping with the CVIP newsletter. She has served as the president and vice president of the organization several times and presently co-chairs the Lending Center program. Stacey has also hosted students in her home for the Home Visits program and currently serves as historian for CVIP.

Stacey said she felt welcomed by the CVIP Board members when she first joined nearly three decades ago. "They are great models of care, hospitality and service. It has been a joy to work together with people who have the same goal," she said.



Other members of CVIP who have received the Hugh Jenkins award in the past are **Pat and Mary Barrett** (2014), **Lillian Kumata** (2009) and **Nancy Kopka** (2007).

CVIP Mission

Promote mutual cross-cultural education, understanding, appreciation and friendship between the Greater Lansing Community and MSU's international students, scholars and their families through a variety of programs and services.

International Spouse Connection

The International Spouse Connection fills a need for contacts and socialization by international visitors while their spouses attend MSU.

In September, the International Spouse Connection (ISC) launched its 2019-2020 season under new leadership. After many years of faithful service, **Don Christenson** stepped down as the facilitator of ISC. The program is now coordinated by CVIP Board members **Laura Bowman** and **Kate Williams**.



ISC participants and coordinators at one of their first meetings this semester

Our first meeting was a meet-and-greet pizza party attended by approximately 16 women from around the globe. An ice-breaker activity and conversation helped everyone get to know each other. We also discussed ideas for future meetings and field trips. One of the great aspects of ISC is that the participants plan and lead the meetings, while the coordinators act as advisors.

During our most recent meeting, we enjoyed a lively (and competitive!) game of charades. Our first field trip in early October was to Country Mill Orchard in Charlotte. We had a great turnout as nearly 20 people signed up for the trip. Participants enjoyed a beautiful Michigan autumn day and took home goodies as well.

We have had both women and men in attendance this fall, and it has been encouraging to see the participants engage with one another and form friendships. Each participant has talents, knowledge, and experiences to share with others.

Future plans for the semester include pumpkin-carving, preparing a Thanksgiving meal, and possibly a trip to Bronner's in Frankenmuth.

Program contacts:

Laura Bowman bowmanlm@gmail.com

Kate Williams k8irene@gmail.com

Global Festival Gift Shop

Global Festival 2019 will be held on **Sunday, November 10**, at the MSU Union. In addition to all of the exhibits and activities from international students, the Global Festival includes a fantastic Gift Shop that is organized and sponsored by CVIP. To prepare for the Gift Shop, a team of several volunteers has been meeting for two hours every other week since May to price and pack up all of the donated items which will be for sale.

We have some great bargains for you — beautiful, unique items from all over the world! Do you enjoy treasures made from wood, metal, or pottery? Wouldn't it be great to find a beautiful item of clothing from another country? Lots of lovely art from international artists is available too. Come do your holiday shopping early, or find a special treat for yourself. And remember, all proceeds go towards the Lillian Kumata Scholarships for some worthy and very appreciative international spouses.

We accept donated items year-round for the Gift Shop, until two weeks before the Global Festival. To donate international items, or to volunteer for a couple of hours at the Gift Shop itself (open noon-5:00, Nov. 10) or for set-up midday on Friday, Nov. 8, please contact **Dottie Schmidt** at dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 517-351-2812. Thank you!

International Friendship Program

IFP matches international students with community “friends” who help the students learn about American culture and the greater Lansing community.

Did you know...

...that more than 5,600 international students are attending Michigan State University this year, representing 11% of the entire MSU student body?

...that these students come from 140 different countries and a wide variety of cultures?

...that most international students want to learn about and experience American culture, but a vast majority of them **never** have the opportunity to visit an American home or get to know Americans other than those they meet on campus?

The International Friendship Program (IFP) team recently matched 43 students from 23 countries with local friends (individuals, couples and families). Students’ home countries included Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Germany, India,



Kira James with Olamide Eniola, from Nigeria, at IFP Orientation on Oct. 5

Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. The students represented all levels of academic study, including Bachelor’s, Master’s, Ph.D. degrees, as well as exchange students from overseas universities, and visiting scholars.

It was wonderful to have 25 new community friends/families apply to be matched with students

this fall! Of course, it is also wonderful to have previous volunteers return to be matched with a new student. Many community friends enjoy this program so much that they ask to be matched with a new student when their previous student friend graduates or leaves MSU.



Eunhee Choi, from S. Korea, with Bonnie and John Bankson at IFP Orientation

IFP provides an important link between international students and the local community. The students can get a taste of American life by visiting with their community friends and participating in local events, and they often improve their English language skills. The local volunteers have the opportunity to learn about the students’ home countries, cultures, and languages.

Many students remain in contact with their American friends after they have completed their studies and returned to their home countries. Quite a few students and their friends have reunited for visits, either in the United States or abroad.

If you want to participate in IFP beginning in early 2020, applications are now being accepted from new friends and interested students. Visit our website at cvip.isp.msu.edu, click on Programs and then select International Friendship Program for further information and an on-line application. If you are a returning volunteer and are ready for another international student next semester, just send us an email (see below).

Program contact:

Larry Karnes lbkarnes@att.net

Or email: cvip@msu.edu

Home Visits

The Home Visits Program arranges visits to community homes twice yearly for international students in designated MSU programs.

International students who might otherwise not have an opportunity to visit an American home enjoy spending a few hours with gracious residents who have agreed to open their homes to these visitors. Participants are shown around the home, enjoy refreshments, and engage in some stimulating conversation. Some groups walk around the neighborhood if the weather is good.

This Fall, the Home Visits will take place in the afternoon of **Thursday, October 24**. Participants have been invited from CVIP's I SPEAK and VETP programs, as well as from the Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP). Volunteers will host a total of up to 50 students and scholars at their homes that day (4 – 6 students per home). Participants all gather at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing, where volunteer drivers then transport them to their designated homes.

We are always looking for friendly drivers and hosts. Please contact us if interested.

Program contacts:

Iris Horner (517) 349-1865

Wendy Pope (517) 381-9039

Lillian Kumata

Scholarship Program

Thank you to the many people who have contributed money to the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Fund since its inception in 1970, just nine years after the founding of CVIP. As the endowment balance approaches \$100,000 (currently just over \$93,000), we are very pleased to have awarded a total of 380 scholarships to worthy spouses from all over the world.

The amount of each scholarship varies, but they are generally in the \$1,500-2,500 range. Even the higher amount does not fully pay for one course of graduate work at MSU, but the recipients are always grateful to receive whatever support we can award to them. The scholarship funds come from the interest earned on the endowment plus the proceeds made from the annual Global Festival Gift Shop.

The Scholarship Committee awarded just one scholarship for Fall Semester 2019, primarily because few applicants qualified. Please help us spread the word about this scholarship program, so that worthy students can be supported! Remember, the main criteria for applicants are that they must be an international student accepted and enrolled at MSU, and they must be married to an enrolled MSU student.

Program contacts:

Dottie Schmidt

dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com

Wendy Pope pope@pa.msu.edu

Current Needs

- * Volunteer drivers to take student speakers to I SPEAK engagements at area schools and community organizations (See I SPEAK article on p. 7)
- * Donations of household items to lend to international students living in apartments (See Lending Center article on p. 8)
- * Donations of international items (see article on p. 3) to be sold at the Global Festival Gift Shop to raise funds for scholarships for spouses of international students. Items are needed by Oct. 28, please.
- * Volunteers for all CVIP programs are ALWAYS welcome—contact information is with each program article

Volunteer English Tutoring Program

The Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP) matches community volunteers with international students and their spouses who want to improve their English conversational skills.

“How ya doin’?” “I’ll touch base with you later.”
“Fire up the projector!” “I went to the U.P. for vacation.”

We often use these phrases in our conversations with others. If someone has studied English in another country, though, chances are good that they wouldn’t have learned idioms that Americans use every day.

Seven hundred new international students arrived at MSU this fall, eager to meet Americans and learn about our way of life. They join the 5,000 international students who have been here for a year or longer. But language can often be a barrier. One student was puzzled when people enthusiastically told him about tailgating. “I looked it up in the dictionary and it said a tailgate was the back of a truck!” he said in confusion. Another woman wondered what her professor was talking about when he said near the end of the semester, “It’s getting down to the wire!”

You can help international students navigate their new life at MSU by becoming a Conversation Partner through the Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP). Conversation Partners are native English speakers who act as guides to the language and culture of the U.S. You don’t need to work through a textbook or assign homework. By meeting for an hour a week at a library or coffee shop for conversation, you’ll be modeling correct, naturally spoken English.

It is not just a one-way exchange. Many American volunteers have said that they get more than they put in. One said, “It is a perfect volunteer activity for me due to the flexibility. I’ve loved getting to know people from other countries on an individual basis.” Another commented that what they enjoyed about the program was “learning about another culture, sharing about our culture, helping a stranger, creating good will.”

Program contact:
Mary Hennessey vetp@msu.edu

In Memoriam — Ann McCall



CVIP was saddened to learn of the death of **Ann McCall** this past July. Ann was involved with CVIP for many years. She served as Treasurer and Historian, chaired the Finance Committee, and co-chaired the CVIP Office Committee. In addition, she drove for Home Visits, staffed the Global Festival Gift Shop, and most recently was the Co-Chair of the CVIP Alumni Group, an affiliate organization of CVIP.

Ann’s dedication and outstanding work were recognized in 2008, when she was selected to receive the Homer Higbee International Education Award.

We send our condolences to Ann’s five children and their families.



I SPEAK

On September 17, CVIP hosted an I SPEAK sign-up meeting at the International Center for all new participants this semester. Four graduate students and two spouses of PhD students attended, as well as **Mary Hennessey** and **Connie Wolfe**. The group enjoyed pizza and drinks while introducing themselves. **Joy Shantz**, Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) liaison, explained to the group how to register to be a speaker for an I SPEAK event through the app *Give Gab*.

Faizan Shafique, a Fulbright PhD scholar from Pakistan and an experienced I SPEAK volunteer, gave a talk on how to present your culture for an I SPEAK event. The new volunteers had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss some of their experiences. Each participant left with an I SPEAK Handbook including tips and ideas for presentations.

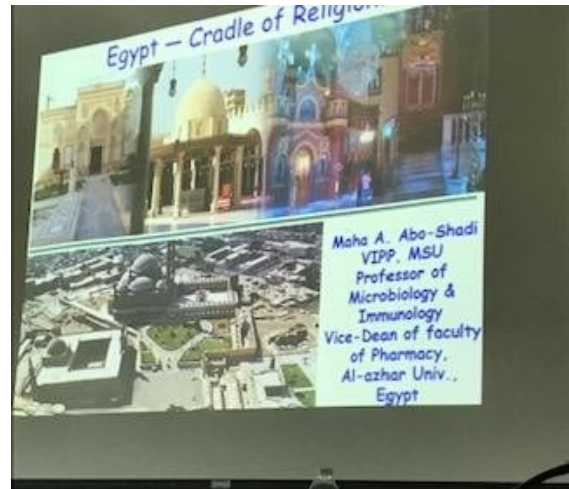


A student speaker from Egypt addresses a community group in early 2019

The I SPEAK program needs volunteer drivers to take participants to speaking engagements. This will typically involve just a couple of hours of your time, and you can sign up for as many or as few drives as you want. If you are interested, please complete the general CVIP volunteer application on the CVIP website or contact **Connie Wolfe** (see below).

Several community organizations (MSU Community Club, local schools, service clubs such as Lions and Kiwanis) invite speakers on a regular basis to share their culture and stories with their members or students. We encourage any interested organization to

request an international student speaker for your group. To request a speaker for your community or school event, please fill out the request form on the CVIP website (cvip.isp.msu.edu, click on Programs, then select I SPEAK, and look for the link to the Speaker Request form).



Student speakers often prepare excellent PowerPoint presentations to show while they speak to community groups

Program contact:
Connie Wolfe, Ed.D.
cbwolfe@comcast.net





We hope to see you
at the

**Global Festival
and
Gift Shop**

Sunday, November 10

MSU Union

Noon—5 pm

See p. 1 for details

VOLUNTEER!

Learn more about
all CVIP programs
and complete the
online Volunteer
Application.

Please go to:
cvip.isp.msu.edu

Lending Center

The Lending Center welcomed many students, scholars and families in August and September. With so many people borrowing items, some of our shelves are looking bare! Most of the new international undergraduates who arrived at MSU recently stay in dorms, but many graduate students often live in Spartan Village or other apartments. They greatly appreciate being able to borrow items when setting up their temporary homes.

MSU has many short-term visitors throughout the year who also are grateful for the Lending Center. The Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP) has 200 participants who come for a year to improve their English and learn more about their fields. Other scholars come to MSU for an intensive three months of learning, including Egyptian nurses and doctors, veterinarians from Nigeria and Ethiopia, nurses from China, and Social Work students from Turkey, China, and Korea.

Humphrey Scholars, mid-career professionals sponsored by the U.S. Department of State come for one year. In September, one man arrived alone and came to the Lending Center to pick up one place setting of dishes and a few items of basic cookware. After his family was able to get their visas and arrived a month later, this man returned to the Lending Center to pick up several more place settings of dishes and more pans so they could set up their home together.

Thanks to **Magelone Bollen** for the many hours she spent over the summer organizing the Lending Center. Thanks to all of the Lending Center volunteers who greet and help the internationals each month.

Last year the Lending Center had 841 visitors who took 8,752 household items. Some of these were repeat visitors who came back once they had a better idea of what they needed.

Current needs include all kinds of kitchenware such as pans, dishes and silverware. Floor lamps are always appreciated. We are now accepting small appliances such as rice cookers, ovens, blenders, etc. With the cold weather coming, we need twin and queen size blankets and quilts. We do not lend clothing or furniture.

Please tell your friends (or people having garage sales or downsizing) about the wonderful opportunity to be hospitable to students and scholars from around the world by donating household items in good condition to the Lending Center.

If you want to drop off items, the Lending Center is located at 1622 D Spartan Village, and is open on Tuesdays 1-2:00 pm and on Thursdays 3:30-5:00 pm. We can give donation receipts for items, if desired.

Program contacts:

Barbara Sawyer-Koch (517) 775-6000

Stacey Bieler (517) 332-0464