

CVIP Fall 2017 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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The World Gift Shop at the Global festival

Looking for unique gifts for family and friends? Come on out to the Global Festival at the MSU Union on Sunday, November 12, and shop at the **World Gift Shop**.

Many years ago CVIP was looking for a way to raise money to provide scholarships to the spouses of international students. The **World Gift Shop** was the answer! **All proceeds** from the gift shop are designated for the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Fund.

Offering unique and beautiful international items donated for sale and staffed solely by community and student volunteers, the **World Gift Shop** is truly a community effort. From large art pieces to small paper cuttings, from scarves to saris, there is something for everyone. Dolls and other children's toys, jewelry, and decorative items such as plates, wood carvings, and ceramic mugs, all make affordable holiday gifts.

The World Gift Shop will be open from 12 – 5 pm at the Global Festival at the MSU Union on November 12.

Please remember that the continued success of the World Gift Shop depends on donations. More than ever, we need your assistance. If you have handicrafts and other articles from your travels, please consider donating some of them as a tax-deductible contribution. Suggested items include figurines, pottery, fabrics, antiques and reproductions, native cos-

tumes, pictures, vases, dolls, carvings, scrolls, toys, jewelry, stamps, coins, and native crafts.

Items must be received by the end of October for the November 12 Global Festival. You can contact the following CVIP members to drop off items for the Gift Shop: (Please call first.)

Mona Brandou (2356 Emerald Forest Circle, East Lansing; Phone: 332-6972)

Dottie Schmidt (1854 Ridgewood, East Lansing; Phone: 351-2812)

For more information and/or to **volunteer** at the World Gift Shop, go to cvip.isp.msu.edu/programs/globalfest.



Sunday, November 12
1–5 pm at the MSU Union

World Gift Shop opens at 12 pm

International exhibits
Live performances
Children's activities
Performance workshops
Fashion show

CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Patrice Klein
Pat Barrett
Mary Barrett
Katy Bahrami
Stacey Bieler (on leave)

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

President's Corner

As I consider a message for CVIP members this fall, I think it is important that I share a story from this summer:

We entered the season without a chair for our World Gift Shop at the Global Festival. The Gift Shop is the major fundraiser for our scholarship program benefiting spouses of international students, and it is therefore central to our mission. No one felt able to step forward and fill the shoes of **Wendy Pope**, who had so successfully run the program in the past.

A small group of CVIP folks gathered to brainstorm what to do. The result was that this group brought in a few more friends, and slowly they began the task of getting the donated items ready for the Gift Shop sale. This team isn't quite done yet. There is more to do, including organizing the items for the sale, moving the inventory to the Union for the Gift Shop, staffing the sale itself, and then returning any remaining items to our storage space to be ready for the following year. I have every confidence that all of this will be accomplished successfully.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this effort, especially **Lisa Homeniuk**, **Raj Wiener**, and **Dottie Schmidt**. They not only did a great deal of the work, but also acted as hubs of communication for all the others who helped.

The main reason I am sharing this story with you is so that you can see that it is really true that many hands make light work. Many of you would like to help us with one of our programs, but you may feel that you just don't have the time that is needed to devote to something like this. This story serves as an example of how a

group of individuals with limited time to spare can work together to make a positive difference and get the job done.



Rick Emerson, CVIP President

If you are not currently active with one of our CVIP programs, please consider joining us. All of our activities and programs can use some additional assistance. We really need you to keep our organization vital. A few hours can make a huge difference. If you can help, please contact the person in charge of your favorite program. If you aren't sure who that is, please contact me at rickemerson447@gmail.com.

As always, it is important for me to acknowledge the assistance we receive from **James Dorsett**, Director of the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS). His support is critical to our success. I especially want to thank **Joy Shantz**, our main contact with OISS. She really is a "joy" to work with.

Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program

During the 2016-2017 academic year, CVIP scholarship grants were awarded to nine MSU international students studying in eight different MSU departments and from seven different countries: India, China, Korea, Vietnam, Brazil, Iran, and Pakistan. Most of these students were helped with a one-credit scholarship.

In this coming year we plan to continue helping a diverse group of international students with important tuition aid. However, this fall semester we could only afford three one-credit scholarships, because of limited financial resources.

The recipients of the Fall 2017 awards are:

Oleg V Bezuglov from Russia, who is completing his DMA in Music;

Ahmed Seada Haitham from Egypt. a PhD student in Computer Science; and

Irem Gokce Yildirim from Turkey, who is a PhD student in Mathematics.

Interviewing students and learning more about their future goals and academic plans has been a fascinating activity for our committee members. For more information, or to volunteer to help the Scholarship Committee, go to cvip.isp.msu.edu/programs/lillian-kumata-scholarship-program.

Peggy Arbanas (arbanas@msu.edu) and **Dottie Schmidt** (dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com) co-chair this program.

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Here is a reminder to everyone interested in helping with the scholarship program:

Monetary donations to the Scholarship Fund are always welcome -- and tax-deductible. Make your checks payable to CVIP and indicate "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Send to Community Volunteers for International Programs, 427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300 F, International Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

And thank you for your past donations!

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a new volunteer opportunity with CVIP? Here are some great options to consider:

Lending Center: Help staff the Lending Center for 1-1.5 hours/month.

I Speak: Drivers take international student speakers to presentations and return them to campus.

International Friendship Program: Become a friend with an international student, and help him or her learn about American life and our customs through fun activities or just getting together for a meal.

Volunteer English Tutoring Program: As a conversation partner, meet for one hour a week to help an international student improve his/her ability to use spoken English.

For more information and to apply online, go to cvip.isp.msu.edu.

I SPEAK

We love having international students come back as volunteer speakers with I SPEAK semester after semester during their time at MSU! It confirms that they value the opportunity to meet Americans in our community beyond those they meet in the academic setting.

We also love having community groups repeatedly request international speakers to enrich the programs for their groups. We especially want to give a shout-out to these friends:

Allen Neighborhood Senior Discovery Group: This group of 15-20 retirees has welcomed international speakers nearly once each month for more than 10 years. Our international volunteers always feel welcomed and valued as these folks ask questions that help expand their horizons beyond Lansing's eastside neighborhood. Already this semester, **Zi-Shin Lin** has shared with these folks the culture of her home country, Taiwan, and **Roberta Manunta** and her friend Eduardo have taken the seniors on a vicarious trip to Italy, featuring Sardinia, their island home.



*Roberta & Eduardo at
Allen Neighborhood Center*

Alternative High School at Eaton County Youth Facility: Several times each year, a pair of speakers travels to this Charlotte facility to meet these students who are in a diversionary program because of negative encounters with the law. The two groups at the school each get to meet and learn from these international volunteers. In September, **Andrea Sosa**, a graduate student from Ecuador, and **Marisol Masso**, a graduate student from Argentina, shared their South American cultures with these students. Scheduled for later this semester are speakers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Italy and Germany.

The International Interest Group of the MSU Community Club: **Roberta Manunta** will be visiting this group in November with her presentation about Italy, focusing on Sardinia. Four additional speakers will be scheduled with this group during Spring Semester.

Kiwanis Club of Lansing: This group meets weekly for lunch and learning. During November, they will entertain speakers from Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam, and Algeria. Our volunteer speakers enjoy meeting folks from the local business community in this context of a service club meeting.

We eagerly welcome new community groups that want to expand their horizons by meeting international volunteers. If you wish to request a speaker for your community group or school classroom, visit the CVIP website at cvip.isp.msu.edu. Click the "Programs" tab and choose "International Speakers Program" to find the on-line speaker request form. Or you can e-mail ispeak.cvipmsu@gmail.com. If you prefer phone contact, call **Carol Towl** at 517-882-4391.

Volunteer English Tutoring Program

In the Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP), volunteers help international students and scholars navigate the English language, so they can speak and carry on conversations more fluently.

One thing Americans may be unaware of is how many idioms we use. And there are so many ways we speak that follow no rules! Why do we “make” a bed, but “do” the laundry?

VETP tutors meet with international students one hour a week for conversation to help unravel these anomalies of the English language. On the way, they learn much about their student and a new culture. Here is the experience of **Rachel Beard**, who just started as a VETP tutor this semester:

“The first time I met my English conversation partner, Ye, we met at a small café at the campus library. Somehow, this led to a conversation about food in American and Chinese cultures, and next thing I knew, Ye was promising to make me Chinese food for all of our weekly meetings.

“Last weekend, Ye invited me to her apartment to have lunch with her roommates, who are also Chinese students at MSU. Ye and her roommates seemed happy to have someone to share their culture with and someone to practice their English with. When Ye’s roommate asked me where I was from, I told her Michigan and then I added that my parents were coming to visit the next day. “Oh, that is happiness!” Nancy said. I laughed and said, “yes, it makes me very happy!”

“I was surprised to learn that Ye’s roommates were all more than five years

older than me. One was even married. When Ye and I joked that we were still single, her friend pointed at us and said “but you are still short.” We all gave her a confused look, and the table was quiet for a minute. “Young!” she shouted out once she remembered the word. “You are still young!”

“But for everything I taught them about English, they taught me something new about their culture. They showed me how to use chopsticks, and we all ate off of communal plates of food -- something I had never done before. Although many Americans balk at a lot of Chinese dishes, I’ve found that pork and tomatoes, which are common ingredients in many of the dishes Ye makes, are starting to grow on me. I’m beyond grateful that I was able to meet Ye through the Volunteer English Tutoring Program -- and I’m definitely looking forward to making her and her roommates some American food next week!”

To learn more about VETP or to volunteer, go to vetp.isp.msu.edu or contact **Mary Hennessey** at vetp@msu.edu.

Give Us Your Feedback!

The CVIP Newsletter is published twice each year, generally in late October and late April. We would like your thoughts about how we can make it better.

Is there CVIP-related news that should be included but has not been? What would make the newsletter more interesting to you?

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send an email to cvipmsu@gmail.com and your input will be passed on to the newsletter editors.

International Spouse Connection

The International Spouse Connection (ISC) had a busy summer. Our activities included visiting various venues, hearing several speakers, and enjoying a 4th of July celebration. We finished up the summer with a potluck luncheon.

One of the highlights was a visit to the Capital building. **Rich Bearup** arranged a special tour where we saw the chambers where the House of Representatives and the State Senate hold their sessions, the Governor's office, and committee meeting rooms. Participants appreciated seeing portraits of all the governors and flags representing units of the Michigan regiments who fought in the Civil War.

There were 26 participants in a tour of the Greater Lansing Potters Guild. Several potters demonstrated techniques of throwing pots and the necessity for drying the clay very well before firing. We also saw the equipment used in producing both artistic and functional objects. The afternoon was rounded out by a visit to an American home for refreshments.



In recent months, the ISC group has also visited the Potter Park Zoo, Van Atta's Greenhouse and the Capital Area Humane Society.



Other meetings included a presentation on *Tips Concerning the Purchase of a Car* by **Dave Knecht**, President of the International Student Ministry Board and retired executive from Oldsmobile, and a talk by **Dr. Jeff Andressen** of MSU on *Climate Variability in the Great Lakes and Beyond*. Both talks were well attended and very interesting.

Activities are under way for fall semester. We have already visited the RE Olds Transportation Museum and will pick apples soon.

Contact **Don Christenson** at 339-2230 or christ10@msu.edu for more information about ISC.

CVIP Lending Center's New Location

The CVIP Lending Center now has a new home at 1622D Spartan Village, just off Crescent Road. Spartan Village is transitioning to a much smaller housing complex for non-students (visiting professors, special international visitors, etc.) which made it necessary for the Lending Center to move.

We spent the months of May through mid-August moving all items from our previous location to three adjacent apartments provided by MSU for our program needs. While the apartments are small, they provide space for our Lending Center “store,” as well as space where we can keep items for restocking the store and doing lamp repairs and an additional place to sort, price and prepare items for the annual World Gift Shop. The Lending Center remains available to hundreds of international students who live on or off campus.

Our thanks to the volunteers who participated in packing thousands of items and to the University Housing staff for physically moving the items to our new space. In total, over 200 volunteer hours were needed to prepare the Lending Center space for students arriving throughout the summer. We officially opened our new space, which is adjacent to the Spartan Village Leasing Office, on August 15. We have had a very large and constant stream of new and returning visitors who so appreciate receiving our services.

We are in short supply of the following items and welcome your contributions to help us fulfill the demand:

- * Floor lamps
- * Area rugs

- * Frying and soup pans
- * Wastebaskets
- * Dish racks
- * Bed linens
- * Pillows
- * Blankets and bedspreads.

If you have items to donate, please call **Barb Sawyer-Koch** at 517-775-6000 or **Marge Weldon** at 517-582-1369 for pickup, or you can drop items off on Tuesdays (1-2:30 pm) or Thursdays (3:30-5 pm). If you would like to join our team in a most rewarding volunteer activity, volunteer online at cvip.isp.msu.edu.

Home Visits

The Fall Home Visits are taking place after the deadline for this newsletter. The next issue will include information about both the Fall and Spring Home Visits.



Students check out the photos on the refrigerator of a Home Visits host (CVIP file photo)

International Friendship Program

The International Friendship Program (IFP) committee was busy during the summer and early fall of 2017 with recruiting new and returning local community friends, reviewing applications from both students and local volunteers, and interviewing all students and new volunteer friends. The IFP committee consists of **Elisha DeFrain**, **Larry Karnes**, **Patrice Klein**, **Midge Morrow**, **Cindy Walter**, and **Susan Ventocilla-Gailey**.

The Fall IFP orientation meeting was held on October 8 at the International Center on campus. Local friends were matched with 28 international students from 18 different countries, including China, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. The students represent all levels of academic study, including Bachelor's, Master's, Ph.D. degrees, exchange students from overseas universities, and Fulbright scholars.



The students who participate in IFP feel more welcomed in our community through getting to know an American

family or individual. They get a taste of American life by visiting their community friend's home, participating in local events, and learning about our culture, traditions, holidays and more. The local volunteers benefit by learning their student's country, home life, culture, and customs. These relationships are mutually rewarding and often last well beyond the conclusion of the student's studies at MSU.



Applications are now being accepted from new friends and international students for participation in the program beginning early in 2018. If you are interested in learning more about the International Friendship Program or becoming a community volunteer, visit our website at cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship, where you will find an on-line application for new friends.

If you are a returning volunteer and are ready to be matched with another international student, just send us an e-mail at cvip@msu.edu or leave a message at the CVIP office (517-353-1735). You may also contact **Larry Karnes** at lbkarnes@att.net for further information.