



## SPRING 2018 NEWS

**Lillian Kumata  
Scholarship Program  
p.1**

**President's Corner  
p.2**

**International Spouse  
Connection p. 3**

**Home Visits p. 3**

**I SPEAK p.4**

**Lending Center p.5**

**Homer Higbee Award  
p.5**

**International Friend-  
ship Program p. 6**

**Alumni Association  
Award p.6**

**Volunteer English  
Tutoring Program  
p.7**

**Global Festival World  
Gift Shop p. 8**

### EDITORS

**Patrice Klein  
Pat Barrett  
Mary Barrett  
Raj Wiener**

# 2018 Spring Newsletter

## Community Volunteers for International Programs



### Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program

*The Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program awards scholarships to MSU international student spouses.*

The Scholarship Committee is happy to report that two partial tuition scholarships were awarded for the current Spring semester. Congratulations to the recipients, who are:

**Qian Xu**, who is from China. He is studying for a Masters in Biostatistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

**Nugroho Murti**, who is from Indonesia, where he has been a lecturer at the College of Economics Adi Unggul Bhirawa Indonesia. Here he is a Life-long Education student. He is taking a course in the Department of Community Sustainability on Survey Research

and Design. He plans to pursue a PhD when he returns home this summer.

It is always very interesting and rewarding to personally meet and interview our applicants. Their enthusiasm and commitment toward their goals is contagious.

The amount that can be awarded for scholarships annually is based on income earned from an endowment designated for this purpose and proceeds from the annual World Gift Shop at the Global Festival. CVIP would like to increase the number and/or amount of scholarships awarded each year and is working on plans to raise the funds needed to accomplish this. See page 2.

*Program contacts: **Peggy Arbanas**  
arbanasp@msu.edu or  
**Dottie Schmidt**  
dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com*

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

(517) 353-1735

cvip@msu.edu

www.cvip.isp.msu.edu

## President's Corner



*Rick Emerson, President*

In most organizations, the president is the key figure. Little happens without the direct oversight of and management by the top leader. In my experience, however, the CVIP program leaders are the ones who are truly indispensable. The dedication of these volunteers is inspiring to me. Their energy, resourcefulness, and creativity in problem solving leads to better and better programming.

One of my most important roles is to sincerely recognize and thank these leaders on behalf of all of the international students that benefited by their efforts. Therefore, I hope you'll join me in thanking **Lisa Homeniuk, Dottie Schmidt** and **Raj Wiener** of the Global Festival Gift Shop, **Iris Homer** and **Wendy Pope** of Home Visits, **Larry Karnes** of the International Friendship Program, **Carol Towl** of I SPEAK, **Don Christensen** of the International Spouse Connection, **Barbara Sawyer-Koch** and **Marge Weldon** of the Lending Center, **Peggy Arbanas** and **Dottie Schmidt** of the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program, and **Mary Hennessey** of the Volunteer English Tutoring Program.

I encourage you to attend the CVIP Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon on May 9 (see cover page). This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize some very special volunteers as well as our scholarship recipients, and it's also a great opportunity to get to know others who are involved with our various programs.

## Board Announces

### Special Capital Campaign

*By Rick Emerson*

This past Fall, the CVIP Board decided to undertake a capital campaign to increase the endowment that supports the Lillian Kumata Scholarships. The goal for this three-year fundraising initiative is set at \$38,000, which will increase the total amount in the endowment fund to \$100,000. Of course, we would love to raise \$62,000 or more to double what is now in the endowment!

I asked around and could not find anyone to give us \$38,000, but I'm sure that some of you would be willing and able to give \$300 or more per year for three years. Many more of you could be willing to give \$50 or more per year for three years. If enough of our friends will agree to help out like this, we can meet our goal. As a result, we can provide more and/or larger scholarships to international students each year.

The endowment that supports our scholarships is the Park Endowment, and it is administered by MSU. The MSU Development Office has graciously agreed to support our campaign by mailing our request to our members.

Soon (within the next few weeks), you will receive a request from MSU Development to contribute to the Park Fund. Please watch for it. We hope you will support this important request and help make this campaign a success. Thank you!

## ISC ACTIVE OVER THE WINTER

*The International Spouse Connection (ISC) fills a need for contacts and socialization by international spouses who are in our community while their husbands or wives attend MSU.*

During the past few months, ISC has had good turnouts for its sessions, averaging 15 participants each week.

The spouses who are involved in ISC help decide which activities should be included in the programming. Among the recent activities were visits to the East Lansing Library for an art exhibit, Impression 5 Science Center, and a local bowling alley, and a tour of the Michigan Capital building. Other activities included a discussion about "St. Patrick, The Man, The Priest, The Saint," a session on tips for buying or renting a place to live, and game days. Valentine's Day was celebrated by making valentines.



*ISC participants at Impression 5 Science Center*

Plans for the rest of the spring include a discussion about "Navigating the Local School System," as well as some outdoor activities, weather permitting. The group had so much fun bowling that they are considering another outing to the alley.

Participants represent countries including Italy, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Venezuela, Columbia, Bolivia, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Japan, and Indonesia. Leadership by **Livia Do Vale** (Brazil), assisted by **Ruba Alfar** (Jordan) and **Sandra Jimenez** (Columbia), has been important to the success of this program.

Program contact: **Don Christenson**  
[christ10@msu.edu](mailto:christ10@msu.edu) 517-339-2230

## HOME VISITS

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

The very popular Home Visits program has undergone some disruption during the last year following the closure of the Okemos A+ English Language School, which had partnered with CVIP for the semi-annual visits to local homes.

A decision has been made to offer Home Visits to the VETP and VIPP (Visiting International Professional Program) programs for students and scholars who are here on a short-term basis and who might not otherwise have an opportunity to visit an American home. University Lutheran Church will serve as the new gathering place for participants to meet the volunteer drivers who will take them to their assigned home. The visits will be held once each semester in the afternoon from 2:30–4:00, rather than in the morning as they were in the past, because the volunteer hosts have said they would prefer this change in time.

Overall, the Fall Home Visits on Wednesday, October 25, went very well. The Hosts were welcoming and gracious, and they provided an interesting and positive experience. Thank you to **Tom and Lynn Bartly**, **Arlene Brophy**, **Chris Dolan**, **Sandy Gebber**, **Anne House**, **Val and Jerry Nilson**, **Barbara Sawyer-Koch**, and **Connie Wolfe** for so kindly opening up their homes.

Thanks also to **Tom Bartly**, **Mary Hennessey**, **Bernard Pope**, **Barb Hoevel**, **Susan Ventocilla**, **David Horner**, **Bob Tobey**, **Wendy Pope** and **Marge Weldon**, who volunteered to drive a few students each to one of the homes. A total of 35 students and scholars participated; they were divided into groups of 6 or 7 to visit one of the six homes that were open for this event.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, there will be no visits held this Spring. The Home Visits program will resume activity in the Fall.

Program contacts: **Wendy Pope**  
[pope@pa.msu.edu](mailto:pope@pa.msu.edu) and  
**Iris Horner** [hornerio@yahoo.com](mailto:hornerio@yahoo.com)



## I SPEAK

*I SPEAK arranges for students to present talks about their country and its culture and customs to community organizations, schools, and other interested groups.*

The CVIP volunteers involved with I SPEAK have wondered why they receive so few requests for international speakers from elementary school teachers in the area. A new trend has emerged this year that does not answer this question specifically, but offers an alternative way to bring international culture to area schools. In recent months, I SPEAK volunteers have been invited to participate in several evening events with international or diversity themes. Typically, the parent support groups plan these events and often there are students at the school who come from international backgrounds.

During the 2017-18 academic year, I SPEAK volunteers were invited to events with an international or multi-cultural focus at **William Donnelly, Glencairn and Pinecrest Elementary Schools** in East Lansing, as well as at **Wexford Montessori School** in Lansing. The international student volunteers who participated came from Germany, Nigeria, Venezuela, Taiwan, Argentina, Vietnam, Colombia, Mexico, China, Rwanda, Kenya, and the Philippines.



*Kanjana Thana, right, talks with students at Scott Elementary School in DeWitt about Asia.*

These special events were patterned after MSU's Global Festival, where young students, together

with their parents and siblings, visit table displays from various countries and cultures, carrying with them "passports" so they can collect stamps from the countries they visit. They have the opportunity to see pictures, maps, artifacts, and traditional clothing while they talk with a citizen of the country. In some cases, they can taste samples of ethnic food, play a game, or learn a song, dance or skill (think eating with chopsticks). Many of our international speakers find this format more comfortable than giving a stand-up presentation. Certainly, the young students remember the experience more vividly!

The challenge now is to connect with the parent leaders who volunteer at area elementary schools. We have a list of volunteer international speakers we can contact to recruit participants.

Readers, you can play a role in this process. Contact I SPEAK by phone (517-353-1735) or e-mail ([ispeak.cvipmsu@gmail.com](mailto:ispeak.cvipmsu@gmail.com)) if your child or grandchild learns of a diversity or international event being planned at their school.

And, speaking of volunteers, I SPEAK is recruiting new volunteers. Community members are needed to help plan orientation sessions, to interview new international volunteers, or to drive international students to their assignments. Many long-time international friendships have their beginning in this way. In addition, help is needed with maintaining the list of volunteers and staying in e-mail contact with them (computer skills required).

## LENDING CENTER

*The Lending Center lends a variety of household goods to MSU international students at no cost.*

NEWS FLASH! The Lending Center now accepts donations of small electronic appliances such as rice cookers, coffee makers, compact microwaves, can openers, small flat-screen TVs, modems and routers. Household items such as towels, bedding, dishes, storage, cooking utensils and lamps continue to be accepted as well.

Of special need are floor lamps, area rugs, pillows, brooms, dustpans and mops, which are always in short supply. If you can donate any of these items (new or gently used), please do so. The Lending Center also welcomes games, small toys and dolls for international students' children.

CVIP extends a huge thank you to the staff of the **Communication Arts Department** at MSU. They coordinate a campus-wide collection of items for the Lending Center each year and also donate a generous gift card that is used to buy parts for lamps that need repairs. Their continued support is greatly appreciated. In addition, the **Prime Time Senior Center** in East Lansing and the **Asbury United Methodist Church** donate leftovers we can use from their rummage sales. We are grateful for their generosity.

The Lending Center can always use more volunteers. Volunteers are typically scheduled for 1 to 2 hours per month to work in the "retail" center at 1622 D Spartan Village. Those interested in volunteering who are unavailable during the limited "retail" hours can help on their own schedule by sorting, organizing and cleaning donations in the storage apartment next door to the Lending Center.

Even though Spartan Village is housing fewer students this year than in the past, the Lending Center continues to be utilized regularly. International students and scholars from on and off campus are finding us, and MSU departments are contacting us to bring incoming groups such as the Humphrey Scholars over for special "shopping trips."

Since the regular hours for the Lending Center are limited, there are sometimes requests from students asking if they can be accommodated at another time. Also, community members offering donations who cannot get to the Center during our regular hours have called for an alternative option. **Barbara Sawyer-Koch**, **Bill Durkin** and other volunteers have picked up donations and opened the Center for newly arriving visitors.

Visitors to the Lending Center are so appreciative. They can't believe that something like this exists. More than one person has said "I want to start something like the Lending Center when I go back to my university in their home country."

Program contacts: **Barbara Sawyer-Koch** (517-775-6000) and **Marge Weldon** (517-582-1369)



### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Barbara Sawyer-Koch**, who received the Homer Higbee International Education Award at the International Studies and Programs Award Ceremony in March. She was recognized for her outstanding commitment to helping international students in a variety of ways for many years through her involvement with several CVIP programs.

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

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

The 7,000 international students attending Michigan State University come from over 100 countries. Their purpose in being here, of course, is to further their education. In addition to studying at one of the country's finest research and teaching universities, these students want to learn about American culture. For most of them, it is their first time in the United States. With this in mind, those of us who live in the MSU community also have a great opportunity – and that is to get to know some of the international students and learn about their cultures, customs, and lifestyles.

In general, international students have limited opportunities to visit an American home or get acquainted with community members outside of their educational program. This is where the International Friendship Program (IFP) comes in. Thanks to the welcoming involvement of scores of area individuals, couples and families, interested students from other countries have been matched with American friends who help them learn about our culture and adjust to life in our country.

International students and their IFP friends get together on a periodic basis (monthly or more often) for activities and/or conversation. Typical friendship activities include enjoying a meal, a holiday or a special celebration together; sightseeing around the area; or attending festivals, concerts, sporting and other events.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, students participating in the IFP came from 24 countries: China, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Taiwan, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The students represent all

levels of academic study, including Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees, as well as exchange students from overseas and Fulbright scholars.

The International Friendship Program is always looking for additional volunteers to be matched with international students. If this sounds interesting to you, check [www.cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship](http://www.cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship) for more information and a link to the online application. Applications are due by early September for the upcoming Fall semester. Previous participants in the program who are ready to be matched with another student just need to email [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu) or leave a message at the CVIP office (517-353-1735). Please include any changes in your contact information, interests, and family status.

*Program contact: **Larry Karnes**  
[lbkarnes@att.net](mailto:lbkarnes@att.net)*



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO...**

**Midge and Mike Morrow**, who were honored at MSU's Homecoming last fall with the Alumni Grand Service Award, given by the MSU Alumni Association to alumni who have demonstrated meritorious service to MSU. Midge has been a long-time IFP volunteer, matching international students with community "friends," as well as being a friend to students herself.



## 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.*

VETP Conversation Partner **Pa Vang**, from Lansing, is a 2017 graduate of MSU and is currently the Volunteer Coordinator at Allen Street Americorps. She is matched with **Lili Guo** from China. Lili's husband is doing a post-doc at the FRIB. Pa and Lili meet for an hour a week for English conversation practice, and Pa shared the following account of her experience:



*Pa (right) and Lili*

“When I first started volunteering as a conversation partner with VETP, I wasn’t sure what to expect. What do I talk about? What if I run out of things to talk about? Trying something new is always scary but volunteering for VETP as a conversation partner is one of the best decisions I made.

Lili, my conversation partner, has taught me many things about where she comes from and the amazing journey she and her husband have been on together. She and her husband lived in Germany for 4 years and plan to live in the United States for 3 years. Lili is extremely motivated to learn about the country she’s living in. She’s interested in learning about American culture from shopping to eating in a restaurant. Her husband has joined us on a couple of

conversations. When I see them together, I am touched by the support and love they have for each other.

A couple of weeks ago we were going over restaurant etiquette and tipping. She wasn’t sure how much she should tip. I was able to explain to her different ways she can tip and what tipping means in American culture. These are things we often don’t think about but for others it’s something they feel is important.

Being a conversation partner isn’t just about teaching. It’s also about bonding. Last week, Lili and I went to a sushi workshop facilitated by Kanako Morishita, Japanese Outreach Coordinator. We learned about the history and importance of makizushi and laughed about the size of our makizushi roll.

Volunteering as a conversation partner is something everyone should do. It’s a great way to learn about someone else’s culture, language, and who they are. At the same time, it’s an excellent way to learn about oneself. Something that’s native to us might not be native to someone else.”

Program contact: **Mary Hennessey**  
[vetp@msu.edu](mailto:vetp@msu.edu)

### **VOLUNTEER!**

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

**Please go to:**

**[www.cvip.isp.msu.edu](http://www.cvip.isp.msu.edu)**



2018  
IMPORTANT DATES

You won't want to miss!

CVIP Annual Meeting  
& Potluck Luncheon  
May 9  
(see cover page)

Global Festival  
Nov 11

**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.

**PRICELESS TREASURES AT  
THE WORLD GIFT SHOP**

*The World Gift Shop offers international items for sale at the annual MSU Global Festival, the proceeds of which fund the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program.*

CVIP can turn your donated global treasures into scholarships at the World Gift Shop, held as part of the Global Festival at the MSU Union each November. Income from last year's sale added \$4,783 to fund scholarships for international students. (See Scholarship article on page 1)

Here is how you can get involved with the World Gift Shop and help make a difference for a deserving international student:

\* **Donate international treasures you're ready to part with.** New or gently used, quality international items are needed to stock the gift shop. You'll get a contribution thank-you letter you may use for federal tax purposes. To donate items, please call one of the people listed in the contact information box below and arrange for a local drop-off or pick-up. Or call the CVIP office (517) 353-1735 with your name, contact information and specific items you want to donate. Someone will return your call within 48 hours.

\* **Sort and organize donated treasures.** Join a merry group of volunteers from April–October who collect, sort, price and prepare the treasures for sale. The Gift Shop crew meets once a week for 2-3 hours and you may help when you are available.

\* **Help on November 11, 2018 at the Global Festival World Gift Shop** on MSU campus. You may:

- ◇ **Shop!** There are true treasures to be found, and it happens just before the holidays.
- ◇ **Sell!** Help to set up the Shop, arrange and display goods and help customers find their treasures.

*Program contacts: **Mona Brandou** (517-333-6972),  
**Gengen Chan** (517-332-3773), **Dottie Schmidt** 517-(351-2812) or **Barbara Sawyer Koch** (517-775-6000)*

CVIP Office, 427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300 F International Center  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824  
(517) 353-1735 cvip@msu.edu  
www.cvip.isp.msu.edu