



**2018 FALL
PROGRAM NEWS**

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2018 Fall Newsletter

Community Volunteers for International Programs



**Sunday, November 11
MSU Union Building 12:00 - 5 PM**

Festivities begin at the *Global Festival Gift Shop* on the 3rd floor. Explore student-led international cultural activities and CVIP information station at 1:00 pm on the 1st floor. Enjoy delightful music, dance, costumes and performances. Closing ceremony is at 4:45 pm.

Global Festival Gift Shop

Open 12-5 pm

an international bazaar of priceless treasures ...fabrics, carvings, bronze, silver, home decorations, stamps, clothing, art and more... from over 50 countries!

Teaching Conversational English Classes with VETP

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

Dr. **Connie Wolfe** is a retired professor who brings a wealth of ideas to the VETP classroom. She says that when she first started leading VETP classes, she thought, "How can I get to know each student beyond the 'Hello, my name is... and I am from...'"? Her ideas show her creativity and determination to help students not only practice their English, but to learn about American culture as well. *(continued on p. 3)*

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Lisa Homeniuk, President

“Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.” - *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by JK Rowling

The past few months have been busy ones for CVIP. In response to ongoing programming discussions on how to improve with the times, we held three focus groups this past summer to assess perceptions/needs regarding CVIP programming. Two of the focus groups were with international students and the third was with community members. Thank you to board members **Connie Wolfe**, **Mary Hennessey** and **Dottie Schmidt** for spearheading and conducting these groups this past summer. An additional thank you goes out to all participating community members/students.

The results of the focus groups were shared with the CVIP Board at the annual retreat this past September. A student panel also joined us at this retreat, providing additional insight into their experiences as international students at MSU. We will be using the results from both the focus groups and the brainstorming session at the retreat to help shape our discussions on future programming.

I continue to marvel at the accomplishments and effects CVIP has on the MSU international community. After using the CVIP brochure as a conversation starter in my VETP class, I was touched by one

of the student scholar's comments. Referring specifically to the Lending Center staff, she said she was so grateful for the people in CVIP who have chosen to volunteer to help international students. “It is wonderful!” I concur wholeheartedly with the sentiment. Thank you to all of the CVIP volunteers for your commitment to international students.

Speaking of volunteers, we welcomed two new at-large community members, **Laura Bowman** and **Carlos Fuentes**, and two new at-large international student members, **Marisol Masso** and **Molade Osibodu**, to the CVIP Board. We're looking forward to the new energy, heart and perspective!

Please take the time to read about our amazing programs in this newsletter and on the website. Whether you choose to volunteer with one of our programs, make an in-kind donation, or write a check, thank you for your support.

CVIP Appreciation Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals, who received Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the CVIP Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon this past May:

Pat Barrett, for being a problem-solver extraordinaire for the International Friendship Program when there were website and online application issues that needed to be fixed.

Charles Curry, for his dedication to the I SPEAK program and his many years of driving speakers to their presentations.

Bill Durkin, for generously sharing his time and talents with the Lending Center. He repairs donated lamps so they can be lent out, and he installed new shelving this past year.

Ou Ni, for her outstanding volunteer work in the CVIP office, where she kept membership and mailing lists up-to-date, among other duties.

Carol Towl, for her outstanding leadership and coordination of the I SPEAK program for many years, and her active involvement on the CVIP Board.

Shop for Priceless Treasures at Global Festival Gift Shop

Stop on the 3rd Floor of MSU Union on Sunday, November 11, during the Global Festival and explore international delights at the Gift Shop offered by CVIP!

All of the proceeds from the international treasures that you donate or buy at the Global Festival Gift Shop are turned into scholarship funds to benefit spouses of international students. The 2017 Gift Shop made \$4,772.95, which funded 4 Lillian Kumata scholarship awards for partial tuition during the 2017-18 academic year. (See *Scholarship article on page 6*)

If you'd like to help us, either as we set up for the Gift Shop (planned for Friday afternoon, November 9) or as we sell on the day of the Global Festival itself, contact **Dottie Schmidt**. We are always looking for eager volunteers. Thank you to the bevy of busy volunteer bees who have been collecting and sorting items throughout the year in preparation for the Global Festival Gift Shop extravaganza.

If you have already donated international items from your travels (or gifts from others' travels), thank you! You will receive a contribution acknowledgement letter within a few weeks after the Global Festival that you may use for federal tax purposes.

If you haven't already donated, you still have time. We are accepting donations until the end of October. Please call to make arrangements for drop off or pick-up. Call the CVIP office (517) 353-1735 with your name, contact information and types of items you want to donate. Someone will return your call within 72 hours.

Program contacts:

Dottie Schmidt (517) 351-2812

Barbara Sawyer Koch (517)775-6000

...VETP Continued from p. 1

Connie begins each week's class by asking students their name, country and their experiences that past week. She says this promotes cross-talk with other students and ultimately builds a community of friends and learners. Indeed, many students say that what they like most about VETP classes is not just practicing their English, but meeting and becoming friends with people from around the world.

Connie believes that names are an important piece of our identity. With that in mind, she might spend one whole class discussing names and their meaning, based on each participant's culture.

Each week, Connie has a theme that she introduces using audio, video, and often kinesthetic styles. Students may taste different kinds of apples, carve pumpkins, or paint a picture. She also talks with the students about Michigan and East Lansing, helps them learn idioms, and discusses U.S. holidays.



Over the course of one semester, Connie noticed how students who attended class regularly began to speak English with more fluency and confidence. They are much more apt to engage in conversation with other students in the class, ask questions, and volunteer.

Connie says, "For me, this journey has been particularly rewarding as the students have taught me so much about identity and our place in the world."

Program contact:

Mary Hennessey vetp@msu.edu

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 I SPEAK Program welcomes **Connie Wolfe** and **Samira Khosroshahi** as new coordinators working with **Carol Towl**, who has led this program for many years. Connie has been a valuable part of the Volunteer English Tutoring Program, and is expanding her CVIP involvement to include I SPEAK. She helped with the I SPEAK Fall Semester Orientation and has met individually with several volunteer speakers who were not able to attend the September orientation. Samira, the wife of a PhD student from Iran and mother of a young daughter, is helping with correspondence and record keeping.

The September 6 Orientation and Pizza Supper was attended by 15 international speaker volunteers and three volunteer drivers, as well as by Connie, Carol, Samira and **Joy Shantz** from OISS. Thank you to Joy and OISS for their support of this event each semester.

Four speakers have given presentations already during Fall semester. **Kanjana Thana** (Thailand) and **Jing Li** (China) gave presentations for our friends in the Senior Discovery Group at Allen Neighborhood Center at their September and October meetings. **Michael Lawrence** (Nigeria) and **Samwel Mnanga** (Nigeria) gave presentations for the Alternative School at Eaton County Youth Facility, another of our regular audiences.

Our program is hoping to attract additional American volunteers. You can count on receiving more than you give as you work with the international students involved in I SPEAK! We need a few more volunteer drivers to transport the student speakers to their presentations. We have 11 on the list now, but several go south for the winter. Our experienced drivers tell us that they thoroughly enjoy conversing with the students and scholars

during the drive, as well as learning about the speakers' homelands during their presentations.

In addition, we will need administrative help during Spring Semester, because both Connie Wolfe and Carol Towl are "snow birds" for most of the semester. Administrators enjoy the same cultural exchange with students.

Are you interested in joining the fun? Contact one of us at the e-mail address or one of the phone numbers below. Or, you can visit our website, www.cvip.isp.msu.edu, and submit the online application for "Community Volunteer."



Kanjana demonstrates hand movements used in traditional dances

Program Contacts:

Carol Towl (517) 231-0268

(ispeak.cvipmsu@gmail.com)

Connie Wolfe (517) 980-6373

Samira Khosroshahi (517) 330-8781

LENDING CENTER

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

"Hi! Welcome to the Lending Center. Is this your first time here?" "Yes, it is my first week at MSU. A grad student in my department brought me here. He told me I should come here first because you give students things for their apartments."

It is always great when new students and scholars are brought by their friends to the Lending Center. They are impressed by the generosity of this place, and are grateful to all the donors who provide the items that stock the shelves. Some say that when they return to their home countries, they would like to organize a group of volunteers to offer such a service to others. Often, new visitors are "shy" and don't take much, but then they return the following week once they have a better idea of what they need.

At the beginning of Fall semester this year, one student returned three lamps that she and her roommates had borrowed from the Lending Center. Within ten minutes, all three lamps were headed out the door to their new homes for this coming year. This is a good example of how in demand some items are, and how helpful it is when students return the items they borrow.

Currently, the Lending Center has an urgent need for pots and pans and lamps, especially floor lamps. Also needed are small kitchen appliances, routers and with winter coming, blankets and throws. Some international students have young children, so games and kids' toys are welcome.

The Lending Center is open Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:00 during the MSU school year. If you would like to volunteer once a month giving out items, or if you have items to donate, please contact one of the Lending Center co-chairs.

Program contacts:

Barbara Sawyer-Koch (517) 775-6000

Marge Weldon (517) 582-1369

Stacey Bieler (517) 332-0464

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.

HOME VISITS

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

Home Visits will take place this Fall on the afternoon of Thursday, October 25. Several hosts have volunteered to open their homes to international students, and other volunteers have agreed to transport the students to and from the homes. Student participants are from the VIPP (Visiting International Professional Program), I SPEAK and VETP programs.

The next Home Visits event will be in Spring 2019. If you would be interested in hosting a few students for an afternoon, we are always looking for more homes to welcome our international students for a short visit and conversation with tea and a simple snack.

Program contacts:

Iris Horner (517) 349-1865

Wendy Pope (517) 381-9039

Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program

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

This past Spring, the CVIP Board embarked on a three-year capital campaign to increase the endowment that supports the Lillian Kumata Scholarships. With the assistance of MSU Development, CVIP set a goal of increasing this endowment to a total of \$100,000 and sent letters to all CVIP members asking for support. Since then, the endowment has increased by \$9,845 to a total of \$73,628. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to each of you who has already donated. Thank you!

And, there's more good news! We have learned that some of the interest monies generated by an endowment started by the late Peggy Higbee can be used for CVIP scholarships, allowing us to award one \$2500 tuition scholarship annually from this account. **Shayonee Chakraborty**, a Construction Management master's student from India, is our first recipient.

Unfortunately, not all the news is rosy. With the closing of Younkers stores, there is no longer the opportunity to raise money by selling their Community Days coupon booklets. This amounted to \$669 last year. We need to consider other ways to replace this money.

Welcome to **Wendy Pope**, who will be working with **Dottie Schmidt** on the Scholarship Committee. Thank you to **Peggy Arbanas** for her many years of active involvement with the scholarship program.

The deadline for Spring Semester 2019 scholarship applications is Friday, November 30. The application and criteria to qualify are on the CVIP website. Please pass the word on to any international MSU student spouse who needs some financial help.

Program contacts:
Dottie Schmidt
dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com
Wendy Pope pope@pa.msu.edu

Support the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program!

To give online, go to: givingto.msu.edu/3672, and be sure to note that your gift is for the Park/CVIP Endowed Scholarship Fund (AP0015).

To give by check, make check payable to Michigan State University and on memo line write Park/CVIP Endowed Scholarship Fund (AP0015). To give by credit card, write a note including credit card number, expiration date (mm/yy), name on card (please print clearly), signature of cardholder, and date signed, plus note that your gift is for the Park/CVIP Endowed Scholarship Fund (AP0015). Mail check or credit card information to: University Advancement, Spartan Way, 535 Chestnut Rd., Room 300, East Lansing MI 48824 **Thank You!**



CVIP Board members who attended the Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon in May 2018



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

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

The International Friendship Program (IFP) provides an important link between international students at MSU and the local community, with many benefits for all involved. As **Cindy Walter** says, "We have hosted students through the IFP program since 2004. My children have grown up interacting with students from around the world, which has given them a wider perspective on world issues and greater ability to communicate across cultures now that they are college students themselves."



*Anne Wilson and her student friend,
Andala Yakuba from Ghana,
enjoyed Spartan football together this Fall*

Gary and Gwen Spinks have been matched with several student friends from Asian countries. They say, "Together we have enjoyed seasonal activities like decorating Easter eggs, carving pumpkins and decorating the Christmas tree. Our friends were aware of these customs, but never experienced them or fully understood the significance of the activities. It has been great fun explaining customs and sharing them. One of the greatest benefits is forming lasting relationships with a number of our friends." Last year, Gary and Gwen visited four of their Malaysian friends who had returned home, and they are planning an upcoming reunion with their Turkish friend from three years ago.

"This program is like traveling without traveling! I cannot say enough good things about it!" says **Wendy Sylvester-Rowan**, whose family has been involved in IFP for many years. "We learn the perspectives, opinions and traditions of our students while cultivating relationships that have lasted for years. We enjoy sharing dinners with our students and holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving. We attend events together, such as games and the Global Festival. I think it is comforting for the international students to have a family to touch base with and explain things about American life but I feel we gain so much more. Our kids have grown up exposed to different languages, customs and cultures and to us that is so important!"

The IFP committee was busy during the summer and early fall recruiting new local community friends, reviewing applications from both students and local volunteers, and interviewing all students and new friends. Committee volunteers include **Midge Morrow, Patrice Klein, Cindy Walter, Elisha DeFrain**, and **Larry Karnes**, chairperson.

The Fall Semester IFP orientation meeting was held on September 30 at the MSU International Center. Local friends were matched with 41 international students from 22 different countries, including Australia, Botswana, China, Congo, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. It was great to have such a geographically -diverse group of new students join this program. The students represent all levels of academic study, plus exchange students from overseas universities and visiting scholars.

Applications are now being accepted from new American volunteer friends and from students who would like to be matched with an American friend/family. Apply online at cvip.isp.msu.edu/Programs. If you are a returning volunteer and will be ready for another international student next semester, just send us an email at cvip@msu.edu or call the CVIP office at 517-353-1735.

Program contact:
Larry Karnes lbkarnes@att.net



2018 –19

IMPORTANT DATES

You won't want to miss!

**Global Festival
& Gift Shop**

Sunday, Nov. 11
12-5 pm MSU Union

OISS Coffee Hours

4-6 PM Fridays
Spartan Rooms B&C
International Center

VOLUNTEER!

Learn more about
all CVIP programs
and complete the
online volunteer
application.

Please go to:
cvip.isp.msu.edu

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE CONNECTION
HAS AN ACTIVE SUMMER

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

The International Spouse Connection was busy over the summer. We averaged 12 participants in the weekly activities. Indoor activities included games, along with watching movies and soccer matches (sad day, Brazil lost). One of the fun games participants played was Taboo, which is similar to Charades in that clues are given to get a team member to guess the word.

Erica from Mexico presented an interesting and program concerning the culture of her country. She shared YouTube examples of dress and dance from eight regions of Mexico. At another get-together, participants viewed the movie *Dangel*, a true story about a father training his daughters to wrestle leading to medal winning participation in the Olympics.

Trips to several venues were well attended. A small group went to Lake Lansing Park for fun in the sun at the beach. We saw an art exhibit at Broad Museum on campus and learned about services available at the East Lansing Library. The tour of the Cyclotron on campus included 15 participants. Eight hundred scientists, technicians and support personnel are employed there. Expectations of results from the laboratory are huge, beyond any previous developments in nuclear science.

A full slate of activities is being planned for the fall semester.

Program contact:

Don Christenson christ10@msu.edu
517-339-2230

