

# CVIP Fall 2016 Newsletter

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### I SPEAK

**Rabia Khalid Faizan**, from Pakistan, is one of our I SPEAK volunteer speakers. She was among the Muslim women who participated in "We are all One," an art fair at the East Lansing Islamic Center on October 1 to combat Islamophobia in our community.

Her paintings were on display along with



art and craft items created by several other Muslim artists and other artists from this area. The *Lansing State Journal* published a feature story about this event on September 29, including a photo of one of Rabia's floral paintings.

Rabia and her husband **Faizan** are both MSU students in the School of Planning, Design and Construction. Rabia is studying for the Master of Arts in Environmental Design, while Faizan is a candidate for a PhD in Construction Management. They have volunteered with I SPEAK since coming to the United States.

Faizan arrived at MSU in the Fall of 2015, and Rabia joined him here in January 2016. Since Rabia was not yet a student during Spring Semester, she was available to give presentations about Pakistan to a number of groups, including the International Interest Group of the Michigan State Community Club, the Senior Discovery Program at Allen Neighborhood Center, and the World Culture Classes at Mason Middle School.

We in the I SPEAK program thank Rabia and Faizan for helping bring global awareness to the Greater Lansing Community as part of our group of volunteer international speakers. Truly, we are all one!

For more information about I SPEAK or to invite an international student to your classroom or club meeting, please contact **Carol Towl** at 882-4391 or [ispeak.cvip@msu@gmail.com](mailto:ispeak.cvip@msu@gmail.com).

## GLOBAL FESTIVAL



2016

*See the world in a day*

**Sunday**  
**November 13th**  
**1-6pm**  
**MSU Union**

- International exhibits
- Live performances
- World Gift Shop
- Children's activities
- Performance workshops
- Fashion show

**International food available!**

#### CVIP Newsletter Editors:

Stacey Bieler  
Patrice Klein  
Pat Barrett  
Katy Bahrami

We welcome your submissions of articles and other features by email. Please send them to [cvip@msu.edu](mailto:cvip@msu.edu).

## President's Corner



*Rick Emerson, CVIP President*

It's exciting to be around East Lansing at this time of year. Fall is the time for new beginnings and a return to the vitality that defines the MSU community.

We at CVIP anticipate another year of providing a bridge between the MSU international students and scholars and the greater Lansing community.

As we begin a new year, I want to thank all the many volunteers who are the backbone of CVIP. The service and friendship that you provide to international students form an important part of the student experience at MSU. I hope that each of you understands the value of what you are doing through volunteering. Without you, their time here would not be as rich.

I have three important things to ask of you. First, if it has been a while since your last active involvement, please consider becoming active again. Many of our programs would welcome new volunteers (see Volunteer Opportunities on this page).

Second, please let us know how we can make your experience easier, more convenient or more rewarding. You can send this feedback to me (rickemerson447@gmail.com) or to any of the leaders of our programs.

Last, please talk about CVIP with your friends who might be interested in what we do. Person-to-person is THE best method of recruiting more people from the community.

I look forward to meeting many of you during my term as President. And again, thank you for all of the great things you do for international students and scholars at MSU.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Consider a new volunteer opportunity with CVIP. Here are some great options!

**International Friendship Program:** Become a friend with an international student. Meet once a month, at your convenience.

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

**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.

For more information, and to submit a volunteer application, go to [cvip.isp.msu.edu](http://cvip.isp.msu.edu) or call the CVIP office, weekday mornings, 353-1735.

## Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program

Each semester, CVIP awards scholarships to students whose spouses are graduate students at MSU. The funds for these scholarships come from the proceeds from the World Gift Shop at the Global Festival, as well as monetary donations from CVIP members.

The Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program committee met in August and interviewed a total of 11 qualified students. This year was the first time students were able to apply online through the CVIP website. Committee members **Dottie Schmidt**, **Peggy Arbanas** and **Wendy Pope** (helped by good advice from **Bernard Pope**) worked together to rank the most needy married student applicants, as this is one of the top priorities for CVIP scholarship awards.

We were pleased to offer one student our maximum full scholarship award of \$2,500 and three students a partial award of \$1,250.

The Fall 2016 Scholarship recipients are:

**Deepak Gunsekaran** from India, a Doctoral student majoring in Electrical Engineering and Power Electronics in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

**Yunjeong Choi** from Korea, a Doctoral student in Second Language/Literacy Education in the Teacher Education Department.

**Yanbo Shen** from China, a Master's degree student majoring in Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Probability.

**Vinicius Rodrigues Galdino** from Brazil, a music student seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies from the Music Department.

Our committee expects to interview students applying for Spring Semester 2017 tuition awards in late November or early December. The deadline date for applications is on the CVIP website.

We are expecting a fabulous Global Festival to be held on Sunday, November 13. Remember the

treasures you buy at the World Gift Shop will help to support CVIP's scholarship program.

For more details, contact **Peggy Arbanas** at 669-1239 or [arbanap@msu.edu](mailto:arbanap@msu.edu) or **Dottie Schmidt** at 351-2812 or [dottieschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:dottieschmidt@gmail.com).



*2015-2016 Scholarship Recipients*

## World Gift Shop

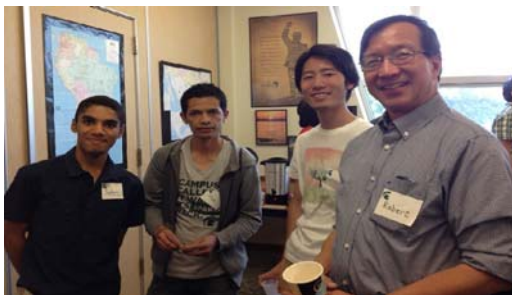
The World Gift Shop will be open at the Global Festival at the MSU Union on Sunday, November 13, from 1 – 6 p.m. It will be located in the Lake Huron Room on the third floor of the Union.

Varied global items will be on sale, including artwork, ornaments, jewelry, and fabrics. Please stop by and see all the treasures that are available!

Thanks to our team of **Gengan Chan**, **Mona Brandou**, **Teruko Miyazaki**, and **Tina Awokuse**, who have been pricing and packing. We had assistance from **Pat Barrett** and **Bernard Pope** with the mailing and from **Dottie Schmidt** and **Joy Shantz** for arranging volunteer help. Contact **Wendy Pope** at 381-9039 or the CVIP Office at 353-1735 for more information.

## Volunteer English Tutoring Program

International students and scholars appreciate attending social events on campus in the summer. For the second year, the Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP) and CVIP sponsored Summer Coffee Hours, with the help of OISS and **Joy Shantz**. They were held in the VETP classroom in the International Center on Friday afternoons in June and July. The graduate students and visiting scholars enjoyed the casual atmosphere, the location, and the food brought by volunteers.



VETP also held six conversation classes during the summer, with 407 people attending these classes.

This fall, VETP is holding eight conversation classes. In addition, we have matched 54 native English speakers with 57 international students and scholars, helping them to practice their English speaking skills and to understand American idioms and culture.

The primary purpose of VETP is to help international students, scholars and their adult family members practice their conversational English. Through weekly classroom discussions or one-on-one Conversation Partners, VETP Tutors assist with pronunciation and answer questions about American culture.

If you are interested in meeting with an international student one hour a week, contact **Mary Hennessey** at [vetpmsu@gmail.com](mailto:vetpmsu@gmail.com).

## CVIP Appreciation Awards - 2016

In May 2016 at the Annual Meeting Salad Luncheon, CVIP gave five Appreciation Awards to:

**Patrice Klein**, for her role in the International Friendship Committee and for her editorial work on the *CVIP Newsletter*.

**Bernard and Wendy Pope**, honored for Wendy's leadership in managing the World Gift Shop and Bernard's management of the CVIP Office.

**Michael and Ndeshi Conteh**, for exceptional service as presenters for I SPEAK.

**Carlos Fuentes**, for his long time logistical support of the World Gift Shop.

**Peggy and Robert Teoh**, for their support and participation in the VETP.

Congratulations to each of them!



## Lending Center

The Lending Center has been quite busy over the last six months. It was open to customers in May, then closed during June and July while the workers were actively gathering, washing and setting out household goods for the new Fall semester crowds.

During the summer months individuals and groups donated items. Also, the co-chairs picked up items at yard sales or purchased items at second hand stores. The **East Lansing Prime Time Senior Program** invited us to come after their garage sale, and we happily filled three cars with items. **MSU Communication and Arts** sponsored their eighth annual drive to gather items for the Lending Center from across campus. In July, **Hidden Treasures** gave us a voucher for \$150 and offered to sell us items at half price every day in order to restock the Center.

The new co-chairs, **Barb Sawyer-Koch**, **Marge Weldon** and **Stacey Bieler** are thankful that most of the volunteers are continuing to work at the Center. **John Alzubaydi** repairs donated lamps, the commodity most needed in Spartan Village. Five of the experienced workers came to the Pie Party hosted by the three new co-chairs at the end of June.

We re-opened the Lending Center on August 2 for longer hours as well as adding hours on Wednesdays to welcome new students. Six veterinary professors from various African countries could not come during regular hours so we opened the Center after hours one day. New students are surprised at the variety of items available and thankful to save money.

When the Center was open in May and August, 90 return customers and 84 newcomers came and took 2,568 items, including 65 lamps.

Five graduate students (and their friends) returned items they had borrowed. We celebrated and congratulated them as they prepare to return home with their degrees.

With WINTER coming, we need throws, blankets, comforters, etc. as well as all types of household items for the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Pots and pans are difficult to find at thrift stores. Lamps are the only electrical item we lend.

The Lending Center is located at 77 Middlevale Road, East Lansing (1434F Spartan Village). If you have items to donate, please call to make an appointment with **Barb Sawyer-Koch** at 775-6000, **Marge Weldon** at 582-1369 or **Stacey Bieler** at 332-0464. We can provide donation receipts for tax purposes.



Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP)  
**Lending Center**

Students and Scholars can borrow used household items in good condition from the Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP) Lending Center. This opportunity is made possible by volunteers around the East Lansing community.

**Located at:**  
1434 F Spartan Village, 77 Middlevale Rd  
East Lansing, MI 48823.  
Open Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00pm and  
Thursdays from 3:30-5:00pm

**Items available to borrow include:**

- Tableware
- Food Preparation
- Cookware
- Table linens
- Bedroom linens
- Bath Linens
- Miscellaneous



For more information contact Stacey Bieler  
by phone at: (517) 332-0464.  
The CVIP Office can be reached at (517) 353-1735.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Office for International Students and Scholars

www.osi.msu.edu  
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## Jim Steadman Wins Award



*Karyn Goven & Jim Steadman*

**Jim Steadman**, chair of Home Visits, recently won the Community Program Advocate award at the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education fall conference. Home Visits places A+ English ESL students and VETP students in homes for a visit.

Congratulations, Jim!

Note: Please read the following article for more about Home Visits.

## Home Visits

The recent Home Visits program presented some interesting challenges. Initially, we did not have enough drivers for the original number of students who had indicated that they wanted to go on the tour. However, with a strong response to a second request for volunteers and the enthusiastic support of all involved in this program, the home visits were once again quite successful. Thanks to **Karyn Goven**, director of the A+ English Language School, for her extra assistance, which ensured that the visits ran smoothly.

Though just 25 students showed up on the day of the event this fall, having fewer students than usual actually was an advantage for the

overall experience. They received more personal attention from the hosts and drivers. Thank you to all the drivers and hosts who participated this year.

The primary purpose of Home Visits is to give international students the opportunity to visit a local home, enjoy a light snack and a tour of the home, learn about their host and his/her interests, and practice their English conversation skills.

Home Visits are held twice a year. If you would like to participate as a driver or a host in Spring 2017, please contact **Jim Steadman**, 248-568-7717 or [jas12745@aol.com](mailto:jas12745@aol.com).

## Cynthia Johnston



We are sad to report the passing of **Cynthia Johnston** in mid-October. Cynthia was a long time member of CVIP, chairing the former Transportation Committee and supporting the World Gift Shop and Welcome Tables at the Global Festival. She was active with Home Visits, IFP and the Lillian Kumata Scholarship Program. In recent years, she and her husband Ralph were regulars at meetings of the CVIP Alumni Group.

We will all miss our friend and her passion for helping international students.

## International Spouse Connection

The International Spouse Connection (ISC) has enjoyed good participation for both summer and fall semesters this year. Our attendance is way up this fall, due to successful recruiting at the Family Resource Fair in August.

This summer, some of our more popular events included field trips to the Huhn Strawberry Farm in June to pick berries; a tour of the State Capitol; a tour of the MSU Dairy Store with a tasting of cheese and ice cream; and our potluck at Lake Lansing Park, where, of course, it rained!



Other activities included making s'mores in the backyard of Friendship House; learning to play the Anklung, an Indonesian musical instrument; making American pancakes in the Friendship House kitchen; a presentation on Bangladesh by one of our members; and various craft-making sessions.

We started fall semester with an introduction of both old and new members and an orientation video of ISC activities. As a follow-up, we devoted an entire session to questions about American culture by members with answers by our American advisor.

In addition, we had a game session featuring Uno and Apples to Apples, a flower arranging session by a member from South Korea, and presentations by two members on their home countries of Turkey and South Korea.

Our fall field trip will be to the Okemos Library where we will be given an introduction to all the facilities and resources of the Capital Area District Library system. At our ever-popular Halloween Party, we will play Pin the Hat on the Witch and make masks out of orange paper plates. Our members thoroughly enjoy these activities and request them year after year!

In November, new advisor **Starla Dietrich** will replace **Cheryl Highstreet**. Cheryl has worked with the ISC program since its inception and has expressed her wish that these new advisors experience the same enjoyment she has had in interacting with this talented, fun-loving and inquisitive group of internationals.

The ISC meets weekly on Friday afternoons at Friendship House. For more information, contact **Starla Dietrich** at 899-8925 or [starla26@icloud.com](mailto:starla26@icloud.com).



## International Friendship Program

The International Friendship Program (IFP) committee of volunteers 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. The IFP committee consists of veteran members **Larry Karnes, Patrice Klein, Midge Morrow, Cindy Walter,** and **Susan Ventocilla-Gailey,** and new member **Elisha DeFrain,** who joined IFP as a community friend in 2015.

The Fall Semester IFP orientation meeting was held on October 16 at the International Center. Local friends were matched with 42 international students from 19 different countries, including Bangladesh, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Saudia Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zambia. The students represent all levels of academic study, including Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D. degrees, exchange students from overseas universities and visiting scholars.

IFP provides an important link between international students and the local community. Students who apply to the program are matched with local volunteers for the purpose of developing friendships and sharing cultures. The students get a taste of American life by visiting with their community friends and participating in local events, and often improve their English language skills. The local volunteers have the opportunity to learn about the students' home countries, cultures, and languages. While not a "home-stay" program, the students and their local friends get together regularly.

Applications are now being accepted from new friends and new students for participation in the program beginning in Spring Semester 2017. Visit our website at [cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship](http://cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship) for further information and an on-line application. 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](mailto:cvip@msu.edu) or call the CVIP office at 517-353-1735.

## A+ English Language Program

A+ English Language Program is excited about another great school year! Doors opened for students on August 29, with 120 students registered. A full house!

We have many fun events scheduled, including our Home Visits, Fall Harvest Party, Family Literacy night and Thanksgiving Luncheon. Students have been studying topics such as job/career readiness skills, cultural awareness, academic language usage and practical everyday language use.

This past year has been wonderful thanks to our staff and volunteers. One of our volunteers, **Joanne Cameron,** works tirelessly with our students in helping them earn their American citizenship. In the past year seven students and one of our long-time teachers have obtained their citizenship. **Vera, Shadi, Mwahib, Fatemeh, Sughra,** and **Sagal, Saynab,** and **Isolde** all became citizens in very joyous, touching, and inspirational ceremonies. Many cited their families as inspiration for their continued education. We look forward to a great year of expanded programming and working with our community partners.