



CVIP Fall 2013 Newsletter

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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Global Festival Sunday, November 17, 2013 At Brody Hall

The Global Festival will be at the Brody Hall on November 17 from noon to 5 p.m. This afternoon event is FREE.

Brody Hall is across Harrison Road from the Kellogg Center. Parking will be available at the Kellogg Center or in visitor lots around the campus for a fee.

Step into Brody and experience countries from all over the world as international students offer glimpses into their home cultures through exhibits and live performances.

The CVIP Global Festival Gift Shop will also be on the lower level. Please come and buy those special gifts for those on your gift list.

The Brody Square Cafeteria, on the second floor, will be offering a spread of international food – all you can eat- for \$10 per adult.

Please contact Global Festival coordinator **Joy Walter** (walte196@msu.edu) if you are interested in volunteering at the event.



World Gift Shop 2013

The World Gift Shop will again be a part of the Global Festival. Sales from the Gift Shop are the largest source of revenue for the CVIP Scholarship for International Spouses.

Lillian Kumata recruited **Wendy Pope** to be the chair of the Gift Shop Committee. She replaced **Pat Mukherjee** who was leaving the area. Pat had worked for many years with the collection, pricing, packing and displaying of the donated items. We have an excellent team of hard workers - **Mona Brandou**, **Gengen Chan** and **Mitsuko Marx**, who have spent many hours pricing and packing since April. **Lois Sollenberger** has helped price items of jewelry.

Pat Barrett helped with the letter requesting donations. Thanks are due to **Dottie Schmidt** and **Jo Pamment**, who organized the volunteer helpers for the Festival. As usual, we will be depending on **Carlos Fuentes** and his band of students for transporting items from storage to the Festival site.

We will be accepting donations of international items until October 31. For further information, contact **Wendy Pope** (381-9039).



CVIP Newsletter Editors:

**Stacey Bieler
Pat Barrett
Mary Barrett
Jing Yang**

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

President's Corner



Pam Sievers, CVIP President

I was traveling in Europe during the recent U.S. government shut down and it was interesting to hear how the international news media reported it, and to hear comments from innkeepers and fellow travelers from around the world. It was not the best example of the U.S.'s skills in grace, compromise and diplomacy on the global stage.

So how does this relate to CVIP? Part of our mission is to connect the Greater Lansing community with MSU's international students. This is a critical strategy in continuing to help educate local children, families, employers, community, government and business leaders about the value of cross-cultural communications and cooperation. This is CVIP's opportunity to help foster harmonious relationships, respectful dialogue and diplomatic respect between cultures that often have huge differences,

The Global Festival is the single best event in mid-Michigan to get a taste of cultures representing every corner of the world. The event is free and will be held at Brody Hall.

I encourage you to attend and invite your neighbor, fellow church member, co-worker, friends and any children you know. Plan on joining us to arouse your curiosity, expand your tolerance and stretch your appreciation of other cultures. You won't be disappointed!

International Students and Scholars at MSU

The international student population at MSU is growing. This fall there are more than 7,000 students and scholars coming from 131 countries.

The largest number of international undergraduates come from China – 3,458. There are 1,301 new Chinese freshmen international students and they make up about 13% of MSU's total freshman class. The second through fifth largest undergraduate countries represented are Korea (309), Saudi Arabia (113), Taiwan (89) and India (73).

“Imported from China” is a thirty-minute documentary that was shown on campus in September. The directors are two Emmy Award winning MSU professors, **Geri Zeldes** and **Troy Hale**. They followed the lives of three Chinese undergraduates living in MSU dorms to show some of the difficulties in understanding cultural differences. The film was so popular that two other rooms were opened for the showing and the discussion that followed had standing room only.

The MasterCard Foundation of Canada has funded MSU in the amount of \$45 million over the next nine years to educate talented, but economically disadvantaged, Africans. They selected six U.S. universities for this program and MSU was awarded nearly half of the total funds allocated to this project. Currently there are 28 undergraduate and graduate MasterCard funded students at MSU.



Meet *Miaoyun Chen*, a Volunteer Student Speaker from China

Miaoyun Chen, a Master's degree student in social work from China, is returning for her second year as a valued member of I SPEAK, our volunteer international speakers group. In the 2012-2013 year she was warmly received at Allen Neighborhood Center and at the Holt High School World Language Week.

This year, a new "niche market" for her services has come to light. We no longer match her as a speaker with random requests from organizations in the community. Now we choose assignments that will help her to experience social work in action in the U.S. Thus far in 2013-2014 year, she has visited and spoken with residents at the Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility in Okemos and the residents at the Crosaires Elder Care Home in Williamston Township.

Miaoyun tells us that social work as a field of study does not practically exist in China, because the extended family is primarily responsible for carrying out such functions as elder care, child care, helping with special needs children and other assistance needed in daily life. The very limited social services funded by government or individuals have not yet been able to respond to this vulnerable population.

Why would Miaoyun choose to major in a field that has no jobs to offer upon her return to China?

She explained this to the senior citizens at Crosaires Elder Care recently. "In China, children are responsible to care for their parents as they grow older and more dependent. My parents have siblings, and my grandparents live with each of their children for three months at a time, sharing this responsibility. My generation is a product of the "one child" policy China put in place to control over-population. That means that many of us have no siblings to share responsibility for supporting and caring for our aging parents."



She went on to explain that her plan is to study social work through the doctoral level, participating in internships and service opportunities to learn all that she can about the U.S. social service system. Her goal is to return to China to help develop the social service system Chinese people need now and in the future.

We wish Miaoyun success with this wonderful plan!

If you would like to schedule a student or scholar to speak in your classroom or at your club, please contact **Carol Towl** (ctowl@comcat.net) or **Mary Hennessey** (maryhenn@sbcglobal.net).

International Friendship Program

International Friendship Program (IFP) provides the opportunity for MSU international students to get to know an American family or individual and to feel welcome in the community. The community friends (hosts) benefit by getting to know international students and learn about their countries, cultures, and languages. The relationships that are established can be mutually rewarding and often last well beyond the conclusion of the student's studies at MSU.

IFP is not a home stay program. Typically, the American host meets with their student at least once a month by inviting them to their home for dinner or going shopping, celebrating holidays, attending a concert, play or sports event, etc. Many students find the IFP the only way to get away from the academic environment and be invited into an American home. The program requests only a one-year commitment on the part of the student and the host.

Who are our American hosts? They may be married, with or without children, or single. A sample of recently active hosts indicates a wide range of occupations, including professors, therapists, administrators, teachers, ministers, managers, researchers, writers, homemakers, brokers, attorneys, journalists, bus drivers, analysts, and engineers. Still other hosts are retired.

Who are our international students? They represent all levels of academic programs at MSU, including Bachelor's and Master's degree students, Ph.D. candidates, visiting scholars, Fulbright scholars, and participants in the Visiting International Professional Program.

During the Fall Semester 2013, more than 50 new students are participating in the IFP

and come from 22 different countries, including Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Pam Sievers**, current President of CVIP and former Chairperson of the International Friendship Program, for her valued and expert leadership of the program during the past three years.

If you would like to become a host, please see the International Friendship Program, online: (www.cvip.isp.msu.edu/friendship). You may also contact **Larry Karnes** (lbkarnes@att.net) or by leaving a message at the CVIP office (353-1735).

Welcome Joy Walter!

Joy Walter is the new liaison to CVIP from the Office of International Students and Scholars.

Having grown up overseas in Bangladesh and Malaysia, Joy has spent her whole life learning about cultures other than her own. She returned to the U.S. to attend MSU and earned her degree in Journalism and International Relations.

After working in Washington, D.C. at an international development nonprofit, she returned to MSU to work in the Office of Study Abroad and now OISS. Joy loves spicy food and Bollywood movies, and she really likes finding new restaurants or scenic spots in and around Lansing to explore.

She recently said that she appreciates the commitment and expertise of the CVIP community. "OISS can't do our work without them."

International Spouse Connection

International Spouse connection is one of the few CVIP programs that meets during the summer. Our members appreciate our weekly activities and the opportunity to go on several field trips. One of the popular programs this summer was our annual trip to Eagle, MI, to the Hahn Strawberry Farm to pick strawberries, a delicacy that many countries don't have. Members love to drive into the countryside, and many of them are surprised at the size of the farms we pass. Another educational trip was a guided tour at the state capitol. Other popular programs were a Chinese woman's photo safari to Kenya and a demonstration of silk embroidered pictures by one of our Russian spouses.



Our big event of the summer, to which we devoted much time and energy, was our first New Spouse Orientation. This event was held on September 5th, and the spouses who attended were very enthusiastic about the information we supplied. Many have been attending meetings ever since. The focus was mainly on CVIP programs that they

might be interested in, as well as classes at the Friendship House. Our thanks to **Mary Hennessy** for talking about VETP, **Larry Karnes** for discussing IFP, **Rich Bearup** for presenting Friendship House, and our own **Pam Sievers**, who graciously agreed to be Master of Ceremonies. In addition to programs, we supplied information about the CATA bus schedule, the newsletter from the East Lansing Public Library, the Hannah Center activities and course offerings, a list of international grocery stores and a list of free English classes. Participants were very thankful for all this information.

Our fall semester has included a presentation by **Tina Houghton** from Service Learning at MSU on volunteer opportunities for internationals, a tour of the East Lansing Public Library and library card distribution by **Jill Abood**, and a discussion of services available from the City of East Lansing by **Megan Clark** and **Kristen Shelley**. Interspersed have been sessions on American and international superstitions on Friday, September 13th, a lesson on making probiotic foods, and a travelog on Columbia. Future plans include Halloween traditions, a presentation about France, a presentation about Oman and a discussion of Thanksgiving. We will end the semester with our traditional international pot luck.

Our spouse leaders for fall semester are **Seonmi Yoon** from Korea and **Francesco D'Onofrio** from Italy. For more information, please contact **Seonmi** (213-944-4175) or **Cheryl Highstreet** (775-4837).



Volunteer English Tutoring Program (VETP)

Do you enjoy talking with people? Would you like to meet people from around the world? Would you like to be an ambassador to the MSU and greater Lansing community? You can teach a small group or become an individual tutor with VETP.

Individual tutors don't actually "tutor". These volunteers act more like "conversation partners" with an MSU international student or scholar or their spouse. Many internationals have studied English in their home countries, but they may not be used to having an ordinary conversation with an American and would like practice speaking and responding.

VETP matches students with tutors, and then the pair arranges to meet for an hour or so, once or twice a week, in a public place, such as a coffee shop or library. Partners can then talk about the news, happenings in the area, or the native speaker can explain certain American concepts that may be confusing, such as "homecoming" or "Thanksgiving". VETP has resources and topics for conversation, if needed.

Besides practicing their English speaking and listening skills, students in VETP classes often find "kindred spirits" and become friends. One tutor had two women from Korea in her class. Both were new to the US and MSU and were here with their husbands. They didn't know each other, but soon found that they had interests in common, including cooking! They are both now taking a cooking class and brought some treats in to share with their VETP

class. So you never know what will happen when you tutor!

There is a waiting list of students who are hoping to join a small class or have a partner to talk with. Sign up today on our web page (www.vetp.isp.msu.edu). VETP also has a Facebook page that anyone may join (www.facebook.com/vetpmsu). If you have any questions, contact **Mary Hennessey** (vetp@isp.msu.edu).

Home Visits

Home Visits were held on October 23, 2013. Fifty-one ESL students from Okemos A+ English as a Second Language School were hosted in fourteen homes.

Thanks to the new home hosts, **Cathy Claypool, Sandy Gebber, Ann House, Beth & Kurt Jueckstok, Becky Lesmez, Barbara Reinke** and **Barb Sawyer-Koch** and the returning hosts: **Stacey Bieler, Mona Brandou, Helen Hagans & John Casberque, Alice Hill, Lois & Harold Sollenberger, Jim Stedman,** and **Kathie Woefel**.

The students who participate in the Home Visits always come back to class excited and full of stories about what they saw and experienced. One of our home hosts last spring later invited his students back for a dinner party. Other home hosts have said that they look forward to meeting the next group of students. Consider becoming a Home Host or Driver. It's a great experience for everyone involved! Please contact **Iris Horner** (349-1865) for more information about Home Visits opportunities.

CVIP Scholarship Program Helps Married MSU Students

As new chairs for the CVIP Scholarship Program, we have many things to be thankful for. In 1970 **Lillian Kumata** had the foresight to spearhead the establishment of CVIP tuition scholarship awards for international spouses, a program that perhaps was unique in the university world at that time.

In past decades it was usually the woman who was the one accompanying her student husband. Lillian, through her CVIP activities, realized that many of these women also wanted educational opportunities before returning to their home countries, hence the idea for spouse scholarships. The World Gift Shop at the annual Global Festival is our most successful fundraising event, the primary source of revenue for the Scholarship Program. Thanks to all who have generously donated goods sold at the Shop.

Over the years we have seen many changes. Now the woman is almost as likely to be the primary student as her husband. Scholarship awards must allow both genders equal opportunity. The U.S. government regulates who can be a student based on visa status.

In spite of the changing times, the CVIP Scholarship Committee continues to help international students who are married and both attending MSU. As new members of this committee for 2013-14, we were pleased to meet student applicants when we attended the interviews conducted by **Carol Bryson** and **Christine Van Nada**, past leaders of the program.

Four women students were chosen to receive the award for this fall semester 2013. One is an undergraduate student in music from Bolivia, The other three are graduate students, two from China in Computer Science and one student from Iran in Marketing Research.

The due date for applications for the spring semester 2014 awards is November 20. Soon afterwards the applicants will be interviewed.

Thank you to so many volunteers who have worked to make this program a success, either by donations of time or money during the year or items to sell at the Global Festival Gift Shop.

For more information, please contact **Peggy Arbanas** (arbanasp@msu.edu) or **Dottie Schmidt** (dottieschmidt1854@gmail.com).

Good-Bye to Jo Pamment

The Okemos A+ English as A Second Language School has been serving the needs of the ESL population for more than 36 years. It is located in the Wesley Foundation on Harrison Road. The program offers instruction in six class levels in the mornings and two specialized classes in the afternoons. The School has instructed over 2,500 participants from 1998 to 2013. CVIP has provided these ESL students with social activities, such as Home Visits, for many years.

Jo Pamment began as a substitute teacher in 1994, eventually became a full time teacher and then in 1999 became the Director of the program. Jo says she has had the best job, working with the best teachers and the best student population anyone could wish for. Jo will be retiring from the program at the end of fall semester.

Karyn Goven is the incoming Director of the School. Karyn has worked in adult education for 20 years. Her first job was working at Ford and GM plants helping with reading and in preparing workers for the GED and High School Certificate. She has worked in community education, alternative education and in early childhood programs in both Willow Run and Novi.

Lending Center

Thanks to your many donations of house wares this summer, our 2013-2014 year has started out with a huge BANG. By the end of August we had already given out more items than we had after our whole 2008-2009 year at the Center! Your generous donations enabled us to do all that, plus we still had more items in the back room with which to restock our shelves.

We were basically "closed" during June and July, but we did have a skeleton crew working to restock and open the door to donors, new students, and those who were returning borrowed items because they were leaving MSU.

All through August we had so many students visit that we had to restock our shelves before we could reopen again the next time.

One new student from Vietnam contacted me this summer via e-mail to find out when we were open. During her appointment she told me how an acquaintance in Vietnam had told her to be sure to visit the Lending Center before buying anything once she arrived at MSU. She was so delighted with all the items she could borrow for free and thankful to her friend back home who had recommended the Lending Center. I, in turn, was happy that the word was out.

In spite of all your donations, we still have need for lamps and lamp parts. By the end of August we had already loaned out over 100 while only 52 had been returned for us to loan out again. That leaves us with a serious need of more lamps. Floor lamps are especially popular.

John Alzubaydi worked overtime restoring the lamps we had, but now he needs more. The few we have still need harps, finials and shades. So if you have any of these lamp parts, we need them as much as the whole lamps.

We have one new volunteer on our team this fall. **Marie Kuzych-Howard**, a recently retired German teacher from East Lansing High School, is proving to be a perfect "fit" for the International Student Lending Center.

We are in desperate need of more volunteer workers. We lost several volunteers due to various reasons. We need to have at least two workers every time we open the doors. Volunteers work one or more times per month following the same schedule each month. We open the Center twice a week: Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Thursdays 3:30-5:00 p.m.. Extra time has to be added in to prepare the Center before opening and also after closing to complete bookwork, and to straighten and restock the shelves.

If you or someone you know enjoys working with internationals, is enthusiastic about recycling and reusing household items, and has a couple hours a month to help make the world a better place, please call **Erika Larson** (351-4548 or enwank@yahoo.com).

THANK YOU to **Church Women United**, the **Visiting International Professional Program** and **Nancy Kopka** for their donations to the "Friends of CVIP" fund.

Find out more about donating to CVIP on our website by selecting "Donate" on the blue menu.