

CVIP BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President, David Horner at 9:34am. Thank you to the Office for International Students and Scholars for our refreshments.

Attendance: Dottie Schmidt, William R. Eubank, Lillian Kumata, Peggy Arbanas, Charles Gliozzo, Nicole Namy, Carol Towl, Iris Horner, Anna Kortemeyer, Mary Barrett, Lisa Homeniuk, Ann McCall, Pat Barrett, David Horner, Bonnie Bankson, Arlene Brophy, Jo Pamment and Stacey Bieler.

Minutes: The February minutes were approved as emailed.

Treasurer's Report, February 2009: Ann McCall

Savings Account (Shares)

Balance 2-01	1719.08
Dividend 2-28	<u>1.32</u>
Balance 2-28	1720.40

Percentage rate 1.01%

Checking Account

Balance 2-01	162.28
Deposit 2-16, from Church Women United, for shelving	<u>150.00</u>
	312.28
Withdrawal Draft Acct Fee	<u>-2.00</u>
Ending Balance 2-28	310.28

Associate Pastor for University Lutheran, Melinda Halom, who is working with children from Birth through Middle School, passed around pictures of the downstairs children's area including a picture of a new play house. The church wants to partner international fathers with local fathers to build the new play house together. David Horner would like to receive an email when the build date is determined.

Administrative Services Report: William Eubank and Pat Barrett

Membership

As of this meeting the membership of CVIP numbers approximately 915 individuals and families. Since the beginning of the year, we have added six new persons or families and dropped about ten of the same that had retired. We hope to keep the membership list as current as possible; thanks to the help of the program chairs, we are doing better this year with drops and adds than at any time in recent years.

Public Relations

Special thanks to all of you who came up with human interest stories for our Spring 2009 issue of the *CVIP Newsletter*.

Pat Barrett and Stacey Bieler met with Andrea Parker of the MSU University Services Mail Processing service recently to examine some mockup copies of the *CVIP Newsletter* that Andrea had prepared for us. We were especially pleased with the color rendition in one of the drafts and decided to place our next printing order with Mail Processing. The total estimate for printing and mailing (in #10 addressed envelopes) is about \$100 less than our Fall 2008 issue cost us for the same service. We hope to continue ways to improve the quality of the newsletter, both in content and in production and mailing.

Report from ISP Dean's Office: Charles Gliozzo

I. INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

ISP has selected Claire Bender as the first International Alumni Relations Director. She will work in collaboration with the MSU Alumni Association.

This position fills an important gap in ISP and will extend its mission in working with overseas alumni.

Claire Bender's former position was at Wayne State University where she was Director of World Bridge, the public affairs, outreach and development arm of the Office of International Programs.

Bender is an MSU graduate with Bachelor's degree in Chinese language and literature and has MBA in international business and business economics from the University of Chicago. She speaks and reads Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. Another interesting item in her background is that she has worked and lived in China and Japan.

II. CULTURES OF BHUTAN AND MYANMAR

"The Changing Faces of Mid-Michigan: Introducing the Cultures of Bhutan and Myanmar" will be presented by the American Red Cross International Services Forum Committee, American Red Cross, St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services and Refugee Development Center. As the ISP representative I bring this event to your attention. It will be held on Thursday, March 19, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church.

The cultures of Bhutan and Myanmar will be celebrated with international food donated by local restaurants, performances from ethnic refugees as well as speakers from local government.

OISS Report: Nicole Namy/Peter Briggs

OISS is pleased to announce the hiring of two new international advisors. Neringa Tuyilingire was born and raised in Lithuania, and came to the U.S. in 1999 to pursue a college education. Neringa graduated from MSU's James Madison College with a degree in International Relations. Prior to MSU, she spent two years working with international scholars at Rutgers University. She has traveled to several European countries during her undergraduate studies, and studied abroad in Brussels, Belgium. Jung Koral joined OISS in February of 2009. He graduated from Hope College with a BA in German and International Studies/Business Management minor. Prior to working for MSU, he worked for over two years in recruitment and undergraduate admissions at the University of Michigan – Flint where he also pursued an MA in Social Science – Global Studies. Prior to his position as an admissions counselor, Jung spent two years in rural Austria with the U.S. Fulbright TA program. Jung was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to the United States when he was just two years old.

Haslett A+ ESL Report: Jo Pamment

We are still open for registration, and individuals are coming in daily. Our Child Care program is still full with a waiting list.

The State office is restructuring adult education and our funding system. Currently the new proposed Section 107 of the School Aid Act is in the house Appropriations Committee. The way this proposed wording is structured we are no longer guaranteed State funding for our program. The money will be put out for bidding and whoever is selected will find out how much money they get at the end of October. School Districts are currently preparing their budgets for next year, and Adult Educators have to tell them how much money they will have for the next year. This has always been a problem because I can't say for sure how much grant money we will be receiving, but I can point to past history. This year, I can't do that. Our District can't keep us open if we won't have any money to run on until the end of October, and even then we won't know how much. If we have no guarantee of funding prior to the start of the school year 09-10, our ESL School and our Childcare program will be shut down at the end of this semester. This leaves a large number of international students in need in our area, and teachers and staff jobless. And not just in our area, but throughout Michigan. The State is also proposing to do the same with our Federal funding.

If any of you could call your Representative as soon as possible and let him/her know the value of our program to the community it would help us immensely. The more people who raise this issue with a Representative, the more it will be paid attention to.

We have a proven, successful program that has been in existence for more than 40 years, with highly trained, experienced and certified teachers to provide the basic skills needed in order for students to obtain work, and enter higher education or career training programs. The higher education institutions are not set up to work with the low skill sets

that we work with. It would be a huge loss to the international community if we no longer exist.

VETP Report: Dottie Schmidt

Dottie handed out the latest Volunteer English Tutoring Program brochure and answered questions about the program.

Anna Kortemeyer was invited to share information about Friendship House which also has an ESL program.

VIPP Report: William Eubank

VIPP staff and visitors have been mourning the death of a newly arrived participant who was killed by a car on the corner of Harrison Rd. and Mt. Hope Rd. Eighteen Chinese school administrators have been here for a week. William and several others will be attending the National TESOL Conference to be held in Denver, CO. Two Bolivians will come to East Lansing in late March to explore future programs with Bolivia and other South American countries. At least three short term Chinese programs are planned for the summer.

Visioning Committee: Arlene Brophy

1. **VIDEO:** The committee working on the video is looking into possibly doing it with a person who works at WKAR. The cost would be about \$1400.00. This is more expensive than another option they had talked about earlier, but the group felt it would be a very professionally done video that CVIP would find very helpful to have. This cost is still very reasonable compared to what is often charged for videos of this length and quality. Length of time the video should be was discussed with the possibility of doing a longer version that could be used in segments, and a summary version that could be used with new audiences and for general purposes. (Group coordinator – Tamiko Rothhorn).
2. **BROCHURE/AFFILIATIONS:** This committee is looking into putting together a brochure that CVIP could use when talking to groups, passing out when showing the video, or using with prospective volunteers or people interested in CVIP. The group has a draft, and is continuing to work on the brochure. This group is also working on group affiliations that would be helpful to CVIP. MSU faculty target groups, service clubs like Rotary and Zonta, churches and teachers (elementary and secondary) are groups that the committee suggested as appropriate affiliations with CVIP. (Group Coordinator – Marc Thomas).
3. **SCHOLARSHIPS:** The committee working on CVIP scholarships will look into the possibility of working with a person in the Communications Department at MSU that has expertise in political science. This could involve a letter writing effort about the difficulties that spouses of international students working on advanced degrees are having because they cannot take a course at a university unless they are full time students. The

scholarship committee has been able to find a few married students who qualify for CVIP's scholarships. However, being allowed to give them only to spouses who are full time students has made finding appropriate people much more difficult. (Group Coordinator – Lillian Kumata).

4. **VOLUNTEERS:** The committee working on ways CVIP can implement and strengthen volunteer recruitment has put together an information sheet entitled "How to Identify, Engage and Empower Volunteers." Fred Fritz will go over the information from this committee at the April CVIP Board meeting. (Group coordinator – Fred Fritz).
No report

Note: Iris Horner moved that we retroactively approve the appointment of Judith Moore to the Visioning Committee. Length of term ??

OLD BUSINESS

Web-site update: Pat Barrett

The Website Committee is happy to report that we are in the home stretch and hope to have all the needed content for the new website ready by the end of the month. All of the program chairs will play a role now by helping to critique the new content and their own program pages.

The new website will offer some great opportunities to display color photographs, and you may want to have five or six good ones to choose from. Don't forget your camera when you go to your next program activity.

The one area of website development that may give us a problem is programming the data base, which will be the foundation of all our new application forms. So far we have not found anyone to help us with this task. Therefore, we may have to use the present set of application forms for some time with the new website. If you know of anyone who is proficient in data base development, please let us know, especially if they might volunteer some time to this project.

Logo: David will lead a committee to revisit the CVIP logo issue. David, Nicole, Iris, Ravi, Tamiko and Marc will meet to talk about the logo.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM REPORTS

Global Festival: Peggy Arbanas

Global Festival will be November 15, 2009. Most all members of the GF committee will continue this year. Our biggest need is to find volunteers to organize and price items for sale in the World Gift Shop. We hope volunteers from CVIP will be able to help in this way with support from previous volunteers. We think our ability to store items in the new Lending Center will be a great benefit and make this project

much easier. Our first planning meeting will be later this Spring. If you are interested in volunteering, remember that there are many opportunities and committees that can use help, just let Peggy Arbanas know.

Scholarship: Lillian Kumata

Lois Park and I met with Arlene Brophy to discuss ways to increase applications for the CVIP scholarship. After reviewing applications for the past year, it seemed that we had good applicants and that Ravi Ammigan of OISS was doing a good job of notifying international students of the scholarships and deadlines. For Spring term 2009, we had applications from 15 students. Of these, 8 were not qualified. We interviewed 7 students (one by phone from Pakistan) and awarded 4 scholarships, three of them only partial scholarships because they needed only one or two credits to finish.

Since Peter Briggs and Ravi were not able to be at the meeting, we did not discuss possibilities of changing the requirements for applicants. Instead we discussed a letter writing campaign to Washington to change the policy of the spouses not being able to be part time students. This occurred because Lillian had met with the Development Officer and recipients of the Kumata Fellowships and their advisors a few days before the meeting and she was talking to them about the policy of no part time students. One of the professors suggested that we contact a faculty member in the Department of Communications who is a Political Scientist that may be able to help us get something going. I will look into the possibility. I know that NAFSA is working on this but a grassroots effort may have some effect.

Every Tuesday: Mary Barrett

E.T. continues to have 8-12 internationals and 5-7 Americans (and a handful of preschoolers) at each meeting. On February 17 we had Table Games Day, with three tables going simultaneously. One table had Jenga, another had a game of chance and at the third table we taught card games, such as Fish, Crazy Eights, and Son of a Gun. On February 24 we sewed fabric sleeve protectors, very popular with the Asian women. At the March 3rd meeting, we had five sewing machines going and made sturdy reusable shopping bags.

We were again filmed by the Palestinian student and his assistant. He is including University Lutheran Church and Every Tuesday in his Master's thesis. He promised us a viewing when it is finished. Stay tuned if you are interested in seeing it.

Home Visits: Lisa Homeniuk

I am still recruiting volunteer hosts and/or drivers for the **Tuesday, March 31, 2009** Home Visits. The time commitment is 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Several of the 20 community ambassadors already signed up are returning volunteers and are looking forward to the experience. If you would like to help out, or know someone that might be interested, please contact me.

Friendship Family: Iris Horner

Three new students have applied for a Friendship Family, even though a notice on the student applications site has been posted saying applications are temporarily closed until next semester. These students plan to remain at MSU during the summer months so we hope to find a family for them soon.

We are currently planning a Friendship Family Dinner Party on Sunday, April 5 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Spartan Village Community Center. Meat and drinks will be provided through OISS funding. Families are asked to invite their international student and bring along a salad or dessert. Music and a few interactive games will be played.

There are currently 280 families on our active list being a friend to 310 international students. It will be interesting to see what percentage of the families will want or be able to attend this gathering.

Speakers Bureau: Carol Bryson and Carol Towl co-chairs, Mitsuko Marx member

The Speakers Bureau is experiencing the usual increase in demand for international speakers and performers that comes with the Spring Semester. Interest from service clubs has increased, as well.

Feb. 11: Nabil Al-Somaiti from Yemen greeted senior citizens at Allen Community Center in traditional dress as he spoke about his culture.

Feb. 17: Muzi Yu's presentation on the changing status of women in China was very well received by members of the Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area.

Feb. 18: Farzane Bedizaji from Iran substituted for Tayebeh Yazdani for the International Interest Group of the MSU Community Club

Feb. 25: Six students staffed tables from four countries as Girl Scouts from Service Unit 151 celebrated World Thinking Day. After traveling from table to table to get their passports stamped, the girls enjoyed dance performances by Muzi Yu (China), Pei-Hsun Kao and Han-Wei Chang (Taiwan) and Assem Abzakirova (Kazakhstan).

March 6: Kingdom Kwapata spoke about life in Malawi to the Pioneer Civitan Club.

The orientation and pizza party on February 12 was well attended by 21 international students and five people from the Speakers Bureau committee, OISS staff and transportation providers. New members received handbooks, and experienced speakers shared many good ideas for successful presentations. One student suggested setting up an on-line Google calendar to let student volunteers know about requests for speakers. Nicole Namy has set up this calendar, and it is proving to be a very useful tool. Holt

High School Language Week, beginning March 23, offers many opportunities for speakers, and most have been filled through the Google calendar.

In addition to the Zonta and Civitan presentations mentioned above, we have requests from a Kiwanis Club and from Meridian Senior Center, as well as the on-going monthly request from Allen Senior Center.

We continue to nurture our relationship with LATTICE, a very active organization that promotes including international studies in the K-12 schools, sponsored by MSU's College of Education. One or both of our chairpersons attend meetings of that group each month.

Lending Center: Erika Nwankwo Larson

It is hoped that the Open House date for the "new" Lending Center can be established before the CVIP newsletter goes out. Moving date should be sometime in April.

Leadership: Fred Fritz

No report

DATES TO REMEMBER

CVIP Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Refreshments at 9am and meeting begins at 9:30am.