It gives me a great pleasure to introduce the VIPP fall 2015 newsletter. I’m Xinyu Wu, the new Director of VIPP. I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this edition, and join us in celebrating VIPP’s new achievements as a global leader in executive education and professional development. It is important for us to stay connected with our alumni, sponsors, supporters, and prospective participants through newsletters.

As a new member of the MSU Spartan community, I learn everyday the proud history of MSU and VIPP, as well as the spirits and achievements of Spartans. MSU is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in the United States, and has been consistently ranked among the world top 100 universities. MSU leads the world in the most critical research areas, including Environment and Energy, Food and Water Safety, Poverty, Global Health, Access to Education, Social Justices and Financial Inclusion. Similarly, global Spartans, including more than 4,000 VIPP alumni in over 30 countries, work hard every day to positively impact the world and improve people’s lives. It is such a privilege to be a part of this community.

President Lou Anna Simon recently set the great vision to transform MSU from the nation’s pioneer land-grant university to a world-grant university. I am certain that VIPP will take an important role in elevating MSU to a world-grant university. VIPP has a long and successful history in supporting and educating visiting scholars and professionals from Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Turkey, Mid-East and Africa countries. VIPP facilitates international collaboration across individuals, organizations, businesses, and countries. It is my ambition to raise the bar and further develop VIPP to the home of today’s professional and tomorrow’s global leader. This would not be possible without your participation and support. Let’s work together to move forward and be proud Spartans.

Autumn is harvest time. To our on-campus VIPP participants, I wish you a fruitful and enjoyable time at MSU and in Michigan. Autumn is certainly a beautiful time to enjoy outdoors in Michigan as millions of trees change their colors. To our alumni, sponsors, supporters, and friends, I wish you a fabulous autumn wherever you are. I hope to welcome you back to MSU in the near future.

Xinyu Wu, PhD
Director of VIPP
MSU
Higher Education Administration Workshop-Student affairs, China
written by Dr. Xiaoqing Chen

From May 24 to June 11, VIPP hosted the Higher Education Administration Workshop that is focused on student affairs in higher education. A delegation of eleven student affairs administrators from several Chinese universities participated in this three-week workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce to the participants the U.S. higher education system and the ways U.S. universities handle diverse issues on student affairs. In addition, VIPP encouraged the participants to interact with their U.S. counterparts and exchange ideas with them, thereby maximizing mutual benefits.

During the workshop, the group attended a total of 13 lectures, all of which catered to the interest and needs of the participants. Dr. Weiland from the MSU College of Education kicked off the workshop by giving a lecture on the changing minds of career development in the U.S. Two other professors from the same college, Dr. Roger Baldwin and Dr. Matthew Wawrzynski, examined various topics on the American higher education system, quality control, as well as the development of student affairs in U.S. higher education.

Besides the above theory-oriented lectures, the participants also attended lectures given by people from various MSU offices or programs that are related to student affairs, including: career network and service (by Maya Craft), student counseling (by Director Scott Becker and colleagues), student registration (by MSU Registrar Nicole Rovig), college admissions and recruitment (by Bo Liu), residential living service (by Associate Director Karen Corley and colleagues), community service and civic-engagement (by Renee Zientek), international student service (by Charles Liu), MSU Engagement Center (by Kelly McCord), and student advising (by Dr. Kang Li). In these lectures, the participants gained new ideas on the way their U.S. counterparts dealt with student issues and responsibilities held by each student affair administrator. They also engaged in further discussions with the presenters over information that interested them.

To enhance the participants’ understanding, VIPP also scheduled some field trips to some student service-related offices, programs, and institutions, such as the main library of MSU, student organic farm, the counseling center, Bailey residential hall, and MSU student service center. They also visited Wayne State University, a comprehensive university located in Detroit. All people the participants met on their field trips showed them their approaches to deal with issues on student affairs. The participants were all impressed by their devotion to serving students better. During their visits, the participants asked numerous questions. Comments and suggestions were also made regarding the feasibility of these approaches in the Chinese context.

The three-week workshop was definitely conducive to their future work back in China, as many participants indicated at the graduation ceremony held in University Club on June 10. In addition, the participants were glad that they had become a member of the MSU family. According to them, in these three weeks, they not only had a successful professional training, but also had made friends with VIPP staff, MSU student affair administrators, and faculty.
A Global Professional Workshop on Urban Regeneration, Urban Transportation and Environment for the Seoul Metropolitan Government of South Korea was held from May 26th to June 4th, 2015. Dr. Mina Shin, VIPP Program Coordinator, developed the 10-day long program for 16 public officials from the Seoul Metropolitan Government and traveled with them to Chicago, New York City, and Washington D.C. to explore the various urban sustainability issues in three major U.S. cities. Coming from various divisions of the City Government, such as Transport Policy, Urban Planning, Environment Policy, and Taxi & Logistics, delegates were passionate about learning new urban sustainability initiatives and projects and benchmarking them for the better, greener, and healthier urban living in Seoul.

Dr. Shin designed the innovative and engaging program that balances professional visits to the U.S. government agencies, location site visits, hands-on learning activities, and cultural tours. Here are some of the highlights. The workshop began with a visit to Chicago Department of Transportation which successfully operates an environment-friendly city bicycle rental system called Divvy. After learning about the details of its operation, delegates test-drove and enjoyed a Divvy bike ride along the Lake Michigan lakeshore for hands-on experience.

The High Line Park Tour in Manhattan with volunteer docent Bridget. Most park tours are led by community volunteers. Delegates were very much impressed by Bridget’s knowledge, passion, and love for the park.

The exciting and hands-on site visits continued in New York City; a docent-guided tour at the High Line Park provided delegates an up-close look of the most recent and successful urban regeneration project in New York City. The High Line Park, 1.45 mile-long lush linear urban park transformed from the deserted elevated freight rail line, attracts millions of people around the world every year since its opening in 2009. Korean delegates were impressed by the fact that the High Line Park project was initiated and mobilized by its residents’ group, which is now expanded to a non-profit organization called “the Friends of the High Line.” The park is owned by the City, but it is maintained, operated, and programmed by the Friends of the High Line. Similarly, New York’s proud Central Park, one of the world largest urban parks in the world, is managed by the Central Park Conservancy, a non-profit organization; Delegates learned this fact from the ensuing guided tour by one of the Conservancy staffs at the Central Park.
Global Workshop on Urban Regeneration (cont.)

In fact, these non-profit organizations raise most of the parks' annual funds (millions of dollars) to manage the parks and operate various programs for New York residents. Tours at two of the most popular and famous urban parks in New York reminded delegates the importance and value of civic engagement and public-private partnership in government affairs and community building. Among others, New York residents' love and pride of these urban parks demonstrated by their volunteerism and fund-raising impressed delegates most.

A visit to a Tesla Motors dealership, the U.S. Automotive company that designs, manufactures, and sells electric vehicles, was another exciting up-close and personal exploration of urban sustainability issues, especially in relation to urban transportation. Electric cars are considered energy efficient and environment friendly in regard to reducing urban pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Considering Tesla Motors has not landed in South Korea yet, a visit to the Tesla dealership in Manhattan, offered delegates a glimpse of cutting-edge technology in electric cars and energy storage.

The last stop of the workshop was Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by DC Water, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority. A guided bus tour in the plant seemed very popular for many international delegates who want to explore one of the largest advanced wastewater treatment plants. The DC Water staff informed us that she had another delegate group from China that morning. Korean delegates looked around all treatment facilities by bus, even the control room. The Wastewater Treatment Plant was a perfect spot to wrap up the workshop; as DC Water's slogan “Water is Life” says, sustainable urban living absolutely would not be possible without clean water resources.

The 10 days in Chicago, New York City, and Washington D.C. were unforgettable experiences for all 16 public officials from Seoul Metropolitan Government of South Korea. VIPP has offered a global workshop for the city officials for a few years. This year's workshop was another great success; the collaboration will continue as long as VIPP provides an innovative and engaging training programs.
From June 13 to June 27, the third annual MSU-Faculty Development Workshop was hosted by VIPP at Michigan State University. Twenty professors and physicians from Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SHUTCM) and three affiliated hospitals attended this two-week workshop.

One of the goals of this workshop was to improve the participants’ career development. On the third day after the participants’ arrival, Dr. Deborah Dezure, Assistant Provost for Faculty and Organizational Development at MSU, gave the first exciting lecture on faculty development, which impressed the participants very much. Dr. Dezure also gave another informative lecture on June 17 about active learning, which included an array of efficient teaching approaches. Dr. Roger Baldwin from College of Education gave two lectures, describing a big picture of the higher education system and the current status and reform of medical education in the United States. Dr. Steve Weiland from the same college introduced diverse pathways of career development in current society of the United States. In addition, a total of five lectures provided by three VIPP faculty members (Jessica Farrar, Ruth Mendel and Joe Cousins) were aimed to improve the skills in communication, academic writing and cultural competence in medicine and medical education.

Another goal in this workshop was to provide the participants an opportunity to directly interact with researchers in American medical studies. Along this line, Dr. Reza Nassiri, Director of Institute of International Health at MSU, as well as Dr. Edward Rosick and Dr. James Trosko, gave four lectures covering Osteopathic Medicine, Global Health, American Herbal Medicine and American Healthcare System. These interesting lectures stimulated hot discussions between the professors and the participants. Particularly, the concept of Osteopathic Medicine strongly resonated with the participants who found common philosophies between the modern osteopathic medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. To further improve their teaching skills in medical education, Dr. Debby Sleight from College of Human Medicine gave a vivid lecture concerning medical curriculum design. Besides the academic lectures of medical education, the group also observed and experienced various medical practices in local hospitals and clinics. For many participants, one of the most interesting activities was visiting the two largest hospitals in the Great Lansing area; Sparrow Hospital and McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. During the tours at the hospitals, the participants visited Emergency, IUC, Pediatric and Gynecology departments and talked with their American peers. Moreover, the group observed a medical class at MSU and visited the Creative Wellness Center where traditional Chinese Medicine is provided as a way of alternative health care.

By the end of the two-week workshop, everyone felt that it was a great experience and they hoped they will have another opportunity to visit MSU in the near future for further career development and collaborations.
From July 23 to August 16, for the fourth year in a row, VIPP hosted the 2015 Master of Science in Accounting Preparation Program (MAPP). MAPP is a program specifically designed for new, incoming international students who are admitted to a master degree program in Accounting. Sixteen international students participated in the three-week program this year. Before classes started on July 27, the students were helped to settle down and get familiar with MSU and the environment.

Three parts structured the program: communication skills, an accounting class, and an English class. During the first week, The Ernst & Young Communication Center at MSU provided hands-on experiences and practices on professional skills. After one week of intensive training, the students felt much more confident regarding interview strategies, elevator speech preparation, resume building, etc. In the following two weeks, the professors from the Accounting Department delivered informative lectures on Information Systems, Management Accounting, Taxation, Auditing, and Financial Accounting. Those lectures helped the students build a solid foundation for their future academic success at MSU. Meanwhile the three-week English class introduced the group to American culture and well prepared them to adjust to living in the U.S.

Besides academic courses, MAPP students also enjoyed a variety of social events and activities. In the section of Student Panel, senior accounting students and alumni shared their experience about internships, job hunting, and networking skills with the participants. On August 12, the group visited two of the Big Four Firms, PwC and Ernst & Young in Detroit and successfully networked with their working professionals. During the program, the group also visited the Michigan historical museum, watched an exciting baseball game in Cooley Law School Stadium, and had a wonderful BBQ party with faculty and students from the Accounting Department, ELC, and VIPP at Lake Lansing Park.

During the graduation ceremony of the 2015 MAPP Program, three students won the leadership awards from the Accounting Department: “Enthusiastic learner”, Ying-Tzu Lin; “Homework Hero”, Yun-Yi Liao; “Positive Character”, Danyang Zhu.

The three-week program has successfully adapted the sixteen international students to American campus life, filled the knowledge gap in accounting between the U.S. and their home countries, and prepared them for future career.

Video of 2015 MAPP is available on Youtube via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XR0X9gvurFc&feature=em-upload_owner
EAST LANSING: A total of 15 participants from universities in Malaysia successfully completed the Global Executive Workshop for Higher Education and Management at the Michigan State University. The graduation ceremony, which took place on August 5, 2015 at the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development was graced by Dr. DeAndra Beck, Associate Dean for Research at the International Studies and Programs (ISP) at MSU. In her speech, she praised all participants for successfully completing the program. She also welcomed them as alumni of Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP) and Michigan State University (MSU). It was a memorable ceremony to all participants as they received their graduation certificate. The ceremony was also graced with the presence of Interim Director of VIPP, Qing Xia, and Academic Advisor/Coordinator of VIPP, Dr. Kiwon Kang.

For more than two weeks, participants went through the welcome orientation which included a special presentation about MSU and a tour of campus, followed by a series of professional lectures and visits to relevant departments at MSU.

The interactive professional lectures were organized around major topics such as “Program Planning and Evaluation,” “Educational Reform and Policy” and “Finance and Funding” by Professors John Dirkx and Roger Baldwin of Higher Adult and Lifelong Education at the Department of Educational Administration; “Transforming Human Resources” by Todd Bradley, Organizational Development & Talent Management Specialist; “Managing Non-traditional Learning” by Ryan Yang, Assistant Director of Learning Design & Technology at IT Services; and “Organizational & Leadership Development” by Dr. Deborah DeZure, Assistant Provost for Faculty and Organizational Development.

The extensive use of case studies blended with interactive discussions have encouraged participants to engage more in the sessions and all greatly benefited from it.

“We covered almost all main topics of interests during the first intense week of the workshop. Group discussion and presentation not only provide an opportunity to develop our vital skills and confidence, but also enable us to understand and deliberate further about the issues and challenges and suggest possible ways of how to overcome them. I have really enjoyed this active learning experience,” said Mr. Sayed Muhammad Arif Sayed Yahya, a Senior Assistant Bursar from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI).

Fellow participant, Mr. Mohd Fairus Abd Majid, a Senior Assistant Registrar from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) concurred when he expressed that speakers’ engagement and peer assistance have added value to the breadth of class discussions.

“I have really enjoyed every class discussion with my friends on the topics discussed - a fantastic atmosphere was created amongst the group members. Although it was a dense day with intense discussion, I can really say I benefited a lot in terms of personal development and learned new things that I can apply in everyday situations.”

Meanwhile, professional office visits to related departments of MSU such as the International Office, Office of the Registrar, Office of Planning and Budget, Department of Student Life, and Main Library provided further insight into practical applications of university strategies and initiatives in real settings. Office visits are an essential part of the training program since it offers participants an up close and personal understanding of university operations and administrative services. Innovative technology and creative solutions towards teaching & learning as well as engaged and collaborative support services were uncovered during active Q & A sessions.

“Sustainable and green campus concept, alternative solutions of power supply & renewable energy, well-planned university landscape and automation building system in MSU have captured my full attention during the visit. I was able to comprehend the best practices and I would love to apply them in my institution back home. I definitely will share this experience with my colleagues and propose practical solutions to the university management wherever possible,” said participant, Eng. Mohd Faizal Mohd Noor, Deputy Director of Asset and Development Office of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

“In addition to that, a diverse group of participants’
“Learning by Doing in Global Context” (cont.)  
written by Abdul Shakur Abdullah, Assistant Registrar, Universiti Utara Malaysia

professional background has enriched our learning experiences since people offer different perspectives. I come from a technical background and I may not understand what an assistant bursar or a librarian has in mind – but from these visits I understand the need to engage with different stakeholders in a decision-making process; a decision that would reflect a holistic solution,” he further added.

Mr. Hassan Djibrine Abdelrassoul, a participant from Chad, who is currently working in Malaysia as the Director of Pusat Bahasa Maju Jaya (PBMJ) said that visits enabled him to learn new things beyond the classroom. “We learned about budgeting and funding policies and processes, internationalization policies and strategies, student services, library management as well as facilities management. The cleanliness of the Campus and thorough maintenance of facilities and resources are something that are astonishing to us. The concept of “Bolder by Design”, which serves as university shared values - is embedded in different university departmental functions. The branding of the university by recognizing the Spartan spirit in all faculty, staff and university students was something that should be emulated by every university back home,” he said.

Dr. Subramaniam Sri Ramalu, a Deputy Dean at Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business (OYAGSB) at UUM, expressed his gratefulness for a wonderful opportunity to be at MSU campus and learn how a top university is governed.

“I am deeply thankful for this opportunity. My objective, which I believe shared by all participants, was to get some exposure on how an American higher education institution like MSU is managed to become one of the top universities in the world. It was also an opportunity for us to compare east and west model of higher education institution, and thereby taking best practices that we may adapt for our own institution back home. Generally, I observed MSU has a good governance system with the stress on sustainable development. MSU promotes organizational culture that inculcates high performance spirit and sense of belonging among employees at all levels, a kind of organization citizenship or identity. Engagement of alumni and society’s willingness to contribute back to MSU could be seen everywhere and it has become a culture”.

The workshop is jointly organized by OYAGSB, UUM and MSU. It is made up of two modules which aimed at enhancing the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of the participants in the global context, as well as to help them return to work with comprehensive leadership skills. It will empower them to influence their organizations and, ultimately, succeed them at the highest level.
Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to our graduation ceremony. For those of you who don't know me, I am Selahattin Togay. I am from Gazi University Economics Department. We have been here since January 13th. There are many things that I would like to say about Michigan State University. Michigan State colors are green and white, but for a long time we have just seen the white. I have never seen such a harsh winter since my childhood. And who knows, maybe we will never witness such a hard winter again. And now, I understand better why universities in the northern part of America are the top ones. In such a winter, the best thing you can do is stay home, grab a cup of coffee, then study hard! So we did. We worked hard. We have spent wonderful days here. We joined many different activities; for example, we went to a Michigan State ice hockey game. We cheered loudly and wildly. And now, I want to repeat it again: Go green, Go White! I would like to thank all my colleagues for their effort and enthusiasm.

There are a lot of people we would like to thank. First of all, we would like to thank our honorable rector, Süleyman Büyükberber who gave this chance to us. We would like to thank our international cooperation coordinator, Professor Can Balas, too. Also, Dr. Deborah DeZurre, who organized our leadership program and attended all the stages of this program. She is a great narrator and speaker; I can listen to her diligently for days. We thank her for her contributions. I would also like to thank Professor Norman Graham, who is the Director of the MSU Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian studies. We made our presentations in this Center. He always makes us feel like we are at home. I remember when I went to Professor Norman's office, the first thing that got my attention was the Turkish flag on the Wall. It will always be in my memories. And of course, I would like to thank Professor Timur Kocaoglu. He has really taken care of us and supported us in joining in on all the presentations in our program. He also has a poetic side to him, and has great taste and talent in Turkish poetry. I sincerely hope one day the poems he has accumulated will be in a poetry book.

We also have a lot of great memories with our English teachers Kim, Carol, and Kristen. One of the memories is the rubber band—a magical tool. Kristen explained the number of syllables in words and where the stress in syllables occurs, via this rubber band. Probably not just me, we will all remember this rubber band.

I would also like to thank Emelia and the other VIPP staff for their help. We all will remember each of you with regards.

We all believe that these programs not only make contribution to the relationship between Gazi University and Michigan State University but also contribute to friendship between Turkey and the USA.

Before I finish, I want to emphasize one point. Success is not a coincidence; and success stories do not just happen. We are all aware that we should put more effort in each day. And I want to say, if we can take it we can make it.

Kind regards.
Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. My name is Shuang Li, I came from Shanghai, China. “Shuang”, means “pleasure”. It’s such a great pleasure to represent Chinese visiting scholars at this graduation ceremony. I will share our visiting experience and all sorts of pleasures.

First, I will share our pleasure of learning at MSU. Most of us are teachers in the University, but we study here as students for one year. We went through classrooms, studied different courses, did various homework, emulated our classmates, and learned teaching methods from every instructor. Plus, VIPP arranged series of lectures; we also enjoyed the learning resources from libraries and colleges. Learning in MSU was satisfactory and enjoyable.

Second, I will share our pleasure of life in Michigan. Life in Michigan is a whole new ball game to us, but we sailed through it. The various weather became a good topic; cooking, shopping and traveling constituted part of life; music, art, festivals, holidays, activities became important vehicles for cultural exchange. We enjoyed the blue sky, the fresh air, the cute plants and animals, the beauty of scenery, and the kindness of people.

Third, I will share our pleasure of friendship in the United States. When I transferred to another plane in Los Angeles, because of my terrible English, a feeling of utter helplessness washed over me. But, VIPP members and other visiting scholars helped me. I always remember Qing told us to keep smiling and saying the magic word “thank you”; Dr. Chen sent us all kinds of information; Xuefei lead us to try the fashion show in the Spring Festival; Leigh gave me a big hug to support to go to because of the transportation, I felt like that I have a disability. I felt so sad. And then, I accepted it. Just like Gump’s mother said “Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you’re gonna get.” Correctly, the only one thing we should do is to accept it. When we accept all the things that occurred in our life, we can enjoy the pleasure of life.

So, I really appreciate this experience in the United States. Thank you, my family and University. Thank you, all VIPP members. Thank you, all classmates. You are very welcome in Shanghai, China. I hope we meet again.

Thank you very much.
Contact and Giving Information

VIPP Contact

Mailing Address
Visiting International Professional Program
Michigan State University
International Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 1
East Lansing, MI 48824

Office Phone Number
Domestic: 517-423-3663
International: 1-517-423-3663

Office Fax Number
Domestic: 517-353-3010
International: 1-517-353-3010

Web Address
http://vipp.isp.msu.edu

Email Address
vipp@msu.edu

Find Us on Facebook, Twitter and WeChat

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If you would like to support the Visiting International Professional Program through a financial contribution, please visit the Giving To MSU website at http://www.givingto.msu.edu/give.html or the “Support VIPP” page located on VIPP’s website.

You may also send a check to:
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University Advancement
Spartan Way
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Please make your check payable to “Michigan State University” and be sure to include the name of the fund you wish to support on the memo line of your check. You may also find a list of the VIPP Endowment Funds on the “Support VIPP” page of the VIPP website.

http://vipp.isp.msu.edu/endowments

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Dr. Xinyu Wu
Staff Writer and Editor

Dr. Mina Shin
Staff Writer and Editor

Dr. Xiaoqing Chen
Staff Writer

Xuefei Hao
Staff Writer

Joseph Murphy
Editor

Dr. Selahattin Togay
Guest Writer

Shuang Li
Guest Writer

Abdul Shakur Abdullah
Guest Writer

Zokhid Ibragimov
Designer

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