Volume 14, Issue 3 December 2014

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VIPP *e*Newsletter

Professional Development - Cultural Enhancement - Global Awareness

A Visit to Meridian Charter Township in Ingham County, Michigan

written by Young Ho Kim & Dr. Kiwon Kang

On May 28, 2014, I visited the Meridian Charter Township government, an administrative agency to the front-line in Michigan. The main purpose of the visit was to perform case studies on the relationship between the front-line government agency and its residents. As a government officer in the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, I wanted to benchmark the best practice of their administration and to bring it back to my work in Korea. I was accompanied by Professor Dr. Kiwon Kang, the advisor of my VIPP program.

Meridian Charter Township is a local self-governing body, adjacent to East Lansing where Michigan State University is located. Surrounded by hills, its office is located where the Meridian historical village and Central park meet. The Township is composed of two villages, Okemos and Haslett. I live in Okemos and I feel that Okemos is an eco-friendly city that takes advantage of its surrounding nature. The Meridian Township is one of 1,240 Townships in the state of Michigan, and is the smallest township in Michigan.

Once we went entered the Meridian Charter Township government building, we could see the clerk's office for voter registration to our left and a board filled with lots of placard notices and flyers on the wall. We met with Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Director of Communications. She provided a briefing of the Township and summarized the considerable advantages to living in Meridian Township, including its educational accessibility, eco-friendly and natural environment and easily accessible location. Ms. Guthrie informed us that the most important task the Township government has been performing is to improve the residents' quality of life

From left to right: Dr. Kiwon Kang, Ms. Deborah Guthrie and Mr. Young Ho Kim

by supporting residents' outdoor activities through running various recreational programs. The township also runs various cultural programs operated by the Nokomis Native American Learning Center and the Harris Nature Center.

Ms. Guthrie, who is also the HOM TV program producer, was very enthusiastic and informative in our hour-long meeting. She provided us with data on the concerns of the residents, which was very helpful for me in understanding the activities of the Township government. I want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Ms. Guthrie again. After the meeting, we exchanged gifts. I received a HOM TV coffee mug and, in return, I gave Ms. Guthrie a symbol of Jeju Dolnarbang character. It was a great chance to learn more about the Township government's efforts and contributions that make a strong society.

MSU-CSC Higher Education Administration Workshop

written by Dr. Xiaoqing Chen

Higher Education Workshop participants with MSU Professor Steven Weiland (center)

From September 18 to October 9, 2014, VIPP hosted the Higher Education Administration Workshop, which touched upon topics regarding student affairs and services in higher education. Twenty-four administrators from fifteen Chinese universities participated in this workshop. The purpose of the workshop was threefold: first, to introduce the participants to the U.S. higher education system and the ways diverse issues of student affairs and services are handled; second, to familiarize them with what MSU does to help its faculty and staff with their professional development; and third, to provide them with opportunities to visit relevant offices and programs in charge of student affairs and services, as well as to meet with various levels of MSU students and faculty.

During the workshop, the group attended a total of fourteen lectures, all of which were tailor-made to meet the interest and needs of the participants. Two lectures given by Professor Roger Baldwin (from MSU's College of Education) focused on the categorization, the quality control and revenue and budget issues of U.S. educational institutions. Professor Steven Weiland (also from the College of Education) explored with participants the changing views of the concept of career in the U.S. over time. MSU Assistant Provost for Faculty and Organizational Development, Dr. Deborah DeZure, explained in detail the resources that MSU faculty and staff depend on for their professional development. Other presentations were more specific and pertinent to the job responsibilities of the participants, including: career service and development (by Maya Craft), university service (by Kim Kokenakes and colleagues), student registration (by Dr. Nicole Rovig), on-line, blended and active learning (by Ryan Yang), college admissions and recruitment (by Bo Liu), residential living service (by Karen Korley and colleagues), community service and civic-engagement (by Tina Houghton) and student advising (by Kang Li). In these lectures, the participants gained knowledge on how their U.S. counterparts dealt with student affairs and services, and shared with them their own experience and reflections. Many topics covered in these lectures sparked heated discussions and debates. The exchanges of ideas certainly benefitted administrators from both countries.

The lectures were intertwined with field trips to some student service-related offices, programs and institutions, such as the main library of MSU, Student Organic Farm, Holden residential hall, MSU Student Service Center, MSU Job Fair and Aquinas College, a private liberal arts college located in Grand Rapids. The staff in these destinations showed the participants their different approaches to issues on student affairs and university services, but they also reached a consensus with each other on many perspectives concerning how to serve students better. During their visits, the participants asked numerous questions. Comments and suggestions were also made regarding the feasibility of these approaches in the context of China.

The three-week workshop was definitely conducive to their future work back in China, as indicated by many participants at the graduation ceremony held in the Kellogg Center on October 8. In addition, the participants had come to like MSU and its impressive campus culture that's ingrained into each individual member of the university. In short, the workshop was quite a success, not only in providing professional training to the participants, but also in building up an everlasting friendship between MSU and multiple Chinese universities.

Thoughts & Reflection - SGPEP Workshop for Thailand Teachers Science Education

written by Mr. Wutthichai (Nick) Naksaeng

As Thai teachers, being selected to participate in the Specialized Global Professional Education Program (SGPEP) Workshop for Science Education, was a wonderful experiencing in promoting our professional development in the STEM education fields in the United States. Sixteen teachers, including myself, came together from different backgrounds and schools throughout the country of Thailand on September 27, 2014 for the month-long workshop on MSU's campus.

Michigan State University, the Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP), in collaboration with the CREATE for STEM Institute and with the support from the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), made it possible for us to have traveled such a long way to engage and learn more about science education in the U.S.

During the workshop, we had the opportunity to attend a number of CREATE seminar sessions. The workshop also provided many valuable activities, such as visiting MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Lab, the MSU Planetarium, Kellogg Biological Station Bird Sanctuary and Agricultural and Ecology Trails, the MSU Botanical Garden and many site school visits. In addition, we got to observe an educational course and listen to interesting reflections and questions from MSU student teachers on teaching practices. As a result, I have been inspired and gained several concepts and ideas to improve my teaching skills. Not only did we learn about U.S. education, but we also learned about American culture, which helped us adjust our lifestyle and live comfortably in a new environment while in East Lansing, MI.

It was a wonderful, fruitful and productive month, making it one of the most meaningful moments of our lives. We gained another perception of the U.S. and U.S. education, which will be very beneficial for our careers. We also established a strong connection to MSU and hope the workshop was not our last visit. Many thanks to Professor Kiwon Kang and Professor Chanyah Dahsah for their help and support. Without them, we would not have been able to visit MSU and grow professionally. Go Green! Go White!

Mr. Wutthichai Naksaeng (far right) at the certificate presentation ceremony

A Day at the Michigan Hall of Justice

written by Teresa Svec

On September 16, 2014, participants from the Visiting International Professional Program traveled to the Michigan Hall of Justice in downtown Lansing to visit the Michigan Supreme Court and learn about the United States Constitution. The event was particularly relevant in honor of Constitution Day, the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. Many of the participants have a background in law, and found the trip to be a unique opportunity to learn more about the legal system in the United States. The trip was organized by VIPP Program Coordinator Dr. Mina Shin, and participants were also accompanied by VIPP Professor Teresa Svec.

VIPP Program Coordinator Dr. Mina Shina (fifth on the left), VIPP instructor Dr. Teresa Svec (fourth on the left) and VIPP participants with Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Markman (center)

The group visited the courtroom where the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, the highest court of the state, hear cases and rule on important issues. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Markman. Justice Markman joined the participants in the courtroom for a discussion about the common law system, how the U.S. government is structured and the important role of the judicial branch of government. Xianyong Wang, an attorney visiting from China, was excited to meet the Justice. "Justice Markman introduced us to the U.S. Constitution and answered our questions," said Wang. "It's an enlightening trip which gives me further understanding about American government and the U.S. Constitution."

VIPP participants are given an introductory lecture by Justice Markman

The tour concluded in the Hall of Justice Learning Center, with an explanation of a replica of the Constitutional Convention, and the opportunity to explore a variety of educational exhibits featuring aspects of the judicial system, such as the role of the jury and the structure of a courtroom. "This trip is a good opportunity for us to enhance our knowledge about the U.S. legal system," said visiting professional Chao Zhu. VIPP participants enjoyed the unique learning experience offered by this trip, and were very appreciative of Justice Markman and the staff at the Hall of Justice for sharing their time and knowledge.

VIPP instructor Teresa Svec with VIPP participant Dr. Xianyong Wang

Global Workshop on ICT and e-Government for South Korea

written by Dr. Mina Shin

Oakland County IT Department's Great Hospitality - A special thanks to Phil Bertolini, Deputy County Executive & Chief Information Officer Steven Weiland

A Global Professional Workshop on ICT (Information & Communications Technology) and e-Government for the Ministry of Security and Public Administration of South Korea (MOSPA) was held at MSU's campus and in Washington D.C. from September 28 to October 7, 2014. As VIPP Program Coordinator, I designed the 10-day program that consisted of three lectures and site visits to Oakland County's IT Department in Michigan, Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies in General Services Administration (GSA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the IBM Center for the Business of Government.

South Korea has established its reputation as a world-leader of e-Government. Twenty-four public officials from various departments of the South Korean Government further sharpened their expertise in ICT and e-Government by meeting researchers, practitioners and U.S. government officials. The workshop was focused on learning the new trends in ICT, such as the Internet of Things and the U.S. government's new initiatives and strategies, including Open Government and Digital Government initiatives.

VIPP has annually hosted the MOSPA group for the past few years, but one thing I implemented this year was to initiate global conversation between Michigan's local government and MOSPA. Through a special arrangement I made with Oakland County, participants spent a whole day in Oakland County's IT Department; they attended a series of presentations, had a tour of the building and participated in a tailgate party. The workshop participants not only enjoyed an intensive dialogue on topics, such as data warehousing, cyber security and cloud computing with the county's IT experts, but also appreciated the great hospitality of Oakland County. I'd like to thank everyone in Oakland County's IT Department for hosting us. In addition, I'd like to extend my gratitude to all presenters and contacts in GSA, NIST and IBM Center for the Business of Government for accommodating our visits and sharing their knowledge, expertise and insights on e-Government.

Quello Seminar Series for SK Telecom Program Fall 2014

written by Dr. Mina Shin

Mr. Wonsuk Lee and Mr. Gye-In Lee (center), VIPP Participants from SK Telecom, with their program coordinator Dr. Mina Shin (second to the right) along with those from the Quello Center – Director Dr. William Dutton (far left), Dr. Sung Wook Ji (second to the left) and Professor Johaness Bauer (far right), the first speaker of the series, in Department of Media and Information at MSU

In the fall 2014 semester, as VIPP program coordinator, I organized a series of lectures for SK Telecom, the largest telecommunication carrier in South Korea, in collaboration with the Quello Center at Michigan State University. Affiliated with the Department of Media and Information in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, the Quello Center has been a long-time partner of VIPP, specifically for the SK Telecom program. The lecture speakers included Professors Johannes Bauer, Charles Steinfield, Steve Wildman, Constantinos Coursaris and Sung Wook Ji of the Department of Media & Information, as well as Professor Adam Candeub of MSU's College of Law. Topics included an introduction to U.S. communications law and policy issues (focusing on Internet policy), content regulation, spectrum management, ICT4D and new media business models and trends in multichannel video distribution and consumption.

Congratulations to all VIPP Graduating Participants!

written by Samantha Shaugnessy

Friday, September 19, 2014, marked VIPP's Fall 2014 Graduation Ceremony. VIPP faculty and staff, as well as graduates' families, joined our recipients at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in support of this event and great accomplishment.

The ceremony featured a number of speakers. Jessica DeForest, a VIPP faculty member, gave congratulatory remarks. Additionally, VIPP graduate representatives Qi Huang and Zhizhong Gu gave farewell remarks. (Read Gu's speech on page 5.) The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Qing Xia, VIPP's current Interim Director.

VIPP wishes the following Fall 2014 VIPP graduates the best of luck on all their future endeavors.

Go green, go white!

Above: *VIPP Fall 2014 graduation participants enjoying good food and conversation*

Below: *VIPP staff, faculty and recent graduates in front of the Kellogg Center building*

Global Professional Education Program

- **Rong Chang**, Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication, China
- **Dawei Chen**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Zhizhong Gu**, Anhui University of Finance & Economics, China
- **Yichen Guo**, CCTV, China
- **Qi Huang**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Dapeng Lang**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Wanquan Liang**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Weixia Tang**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Wenzhong Tao**, Capital University of Economics & Business, China
- **Huisheng Wu**, Guangxi University, China
- **Wei Xia**, Dongbei University of Finance & Economics, China
- **Yang Yu**, Capital Normal University, China
- **Hui Zhang**, Anhui University of Finance & Economics, China
- **Lili Zhang**, Anhui University of Finance & Economics, China
- **Yang Zhou**, Capital Normal University, China

Fall 2014 Graduation Speech, September 2014

written by Dr. Zhizhong Gu

Zhizhong Gu presents his speech at the VIPP Spring 2014 Graduation on Friday, September 19, 2014

Distinguished professors, my friends and, most importantly, the VIPP Fall 2014 graduates: thank you for coming out to celebrate our graduation together with us. My name is Zhizhong Gu and it's a great honor for me to represent my colleagues from Anhui University of Finance & Economics to speak on this grand occasion. To be honest, never in my wildest dreams have I ever thought that I will have a one-year-overseas-study opportunity at MSU, let alone to give a speech at the graduation ceremony. But when I got off Delta 188 in Detroit on October 15, 2013, I knew my dream was coming true and until this moment on September 19, 2014, my beautiful dream is actually fulfilled. So, first of all, I would like to thank Anhui University of Finance & Economics, the China Scholarship Council and the Visiting International Professional Program of Michigan State University for making all this happen and realize my "study-in-America" dream.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all VIPP faculty and staff for their devotion and service. VIPP teachers offered us many useful courses, such as Business English, Public Speaking, American Culture, Pedagogy of University Teaching, Academic & Professional Writing, Cross Cultural Business Communication Skills and many more. With the help of VIPP, I even took one course, "Education Reform and Policy Analysis," through MSU's College of Education. VIPP staff also did a fantastic job in making our life here more comfortable and exciting than we can ever imagine by organizing lots of parties and interesting events, such as the Tailgate Party, Halloween Pumpkin Carving, Thanksgiving Potluck, Spring Festival and the Mt. Holly Ski Trip. There are too many others to list!

Looking back to this past year, I feel very happy and grateful. My on-campus life is pretty good, but my vacations are even more fascinating. Before I flew tens of thousands miles across the vast Pacific Ocean to conduct my research here at MSU, I was determined not to confine myself in the ivory tower. Therefore, during the winter and summer vacations, I went out and explored America in great width and depth with my friends. We visited some metropolitan cities, such as Chicago, Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Boston and Philadelphia. It's more of a soul's pilgrimage than a tourist's sightseeing. We took quite a few campus tours to some of the most prestigious universities, like Stanford University, Harvard University, Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Those trips quenched our thirst for knowledge while we paid tribute to the masters of science and art. All these experiences broadened my horizons, enriched my life and changed my perceptions about America in ways that were never before possible.

VIPP participant Zhizhong Gu shows his certificate of completion

Time really flies and our one-year program is coming to an end. At this very moment at our graduation ceremony, I have a mixture of feelings. On the one hand, I'm excited about completing my research program at MSU and going back to China and reuniting with my family; on the other hand, I feel sad having to say goodbye to my new friends.

This sentiment echoes a famous poem, "Farewell to Cambridge," written by Zhimo Xu, a romantic Chinese poet in the 1920s. Here are a few lines I'd like to share with you:

Very quietly I take my leave,
As quietly as I came here;
Gently I flick my sleeves,
Not even a wisp of cloud will I take away.

But different from Poet Zhimo Xu, I will take a lot of valuables: your warmth, care, friendship, expertise, skills and unforgettable fond memories, which I will bring back with me to China. I'm sure all these valuables will definitely serve me well in my future academic pursuits and professional development. Life can be good; life can be bad. Life is what you make it, so try to make it beautiful. Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the people for making our life here not only beautiful, but also meaningful. I wish you all the best of luck and greater success in the future.

Thank you!

Zhizhong Gu

Event Highlights

written by Samantha Shaugnessy

VIPP's Fall Welcome & Luncheon – Friday, October 3, 2014: During VIPP's Fall Welcome & Luncheon, attendees received helpful information on program requirements, MSU IDs, American office etiquette and life at MSU and in the Greater Lansing area. In addition, the Welcome gave the 40+ new VIPP participants the opportunity to meet each other, as well as VIPP staff.

VIPP's Tailgate Party – Saturday, October 4, 2014: Brisk temperatures did not stop VIPP participants, staff and faculty from showing off their Spartan spirit during VIPP's Tailgate Party. Attendees enjoyed classic tailgate cuisine, including sub sandwiches, chips, fruit and veggies, candy and cookies, as well as traditional tailgate festivities, such as face-painting, games and a giveaway of MSU merchandise. A great day full of laughter and new friends ended with a defeat against our friendly rivals, Nebraska University, 27-22. Go Green!

VIPP Staff Arrivals and Staff Changes

Since Spring 2014, there have been a few changes within VIPP's staff. VIPP would like to extend a warm welcome to Program Cordinator to China Programs Dr. Xiaoqing Chen and Fiscal Officer and HR Administrater Leigh Baker. VIPP is also pleased to announce that Qing Xia has been appointed as the Interim Director of VIPP.

Qing Xia is an academic specialist and currently serving as the interim director of the Visiting International Professional Programs of Michigan State University (MSU), and the assistant director of MSU China Programs. She started working on various China focused programs since mid-90s and has played a very important leadership role at MSU in many educational programs and projects with China and other countries. Educated in China and the United States, she got her B.A. and M.A. from Sichuan University and M.A. from Michigan State University. She has worked at MSU for more than 15 years. She has advised, organized and managed numerous educational programs and leadership programs for students, scholars and professionals, including higher education administration and leadership, faculty development, K-12 education administration, journalism and communication, hospitality business management, finance and accounting, human resource management, agriculture, etc. Throughout the years, she has built up extensive partnerships and working relationships with people from the U.S, China and other countries.

VIPP Interim Director Qing Xia

Dr. Xiaoqing Chen became a member of the VIPP team in the fall of 2014. As a program coordinator, Dr. Chen develops and coordinates workshops and provides various kinds of services to current and prospective visiting international professionals of VIPP. He makes every effort to ensure that all VIPP participants will survive and thrive at MSU.

Dr. Chen earned his Ph.D. degree in Second Language Studies at Michigan State University. His major field of study is conversational interaction, with a focus on the effect of corrective feedback on foreign/second language learning and the factors affecting the effect of corrective feedback; for example, working memory, language aptitude, and so forth. Before attending MSU, Dr. Chen had earned a master's degree in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, and had been a teacher in several universities in China for a few years.

VIPP China Programs Coordinator Dr. Xiaoqing Chen

Leigh Baker is the Fiscal Officer and HR Unit Administrator for the Visiting International Professional Program in the International Studies and Programs at Michigan State University.

As the Fiscal Officer and HR Unit Administrator for VIPP, Ms. Baker provides fiscal, operational and logistical coordination for VIPP programs, projects and events. She also provides support for VIPP cultural events, workshops, and conferences.

Ms. Baker holds a BA degree in Business Administration and previously worked in the College of Social Science. Prior to joining Michigan State University she held the positions of Operations Manager and Marketing Manager with RE/MAX Real Estate Professionals.

VIPP Fiscal Officer and HR Unit Administrator Leigh Baker

VIPP would also like to welcome all new participants to the program and to MSU!

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Giving to VIPP

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:

University Development
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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