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VIPP eNewsletter

Professional Development - Cultural Enhancement - Global Awareness

VIPP's Spring 2014 Course Site Visits

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

During our spring 2014 semester, several VIPP courses have had the opportunity to visit exciting organizations and field sites. For instance, VIPP faculty Dr. Erika Butler took her VIP 483: Organizational Behavior course to Peckham, Inc., a nonprofit community vocational rehabilitation organization that provides job training and competitive employment for people with disabilities from different countries and regions. Ingrid Gharai's VIP 415: Conversation course traveled to the Michigan Historical Museum, located in the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing, so participants can uncover the story of Michigan's past from pre-contact to the late 20th century. Dr. Joseph Cousins planned several interesting and engaging site visits for his VIP 451: American Culture course, including a trip to the Capitol Building, the MSU Athletic Facilities and MSU Business-CONNECT, an organization that helps companies leverage MSU's wealth of resources more efficiently to align with business goals. VIP 451 along with VIP 466: Food and Agriculture Issues and Policies in the U.S., taught by Jessica DeForest, took a joint trip to the Fenner Nature Center's Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday, March 15, 2014. VIPP opened up the Maple Syrup Festival trip to all VIPP participants, families and friends. Over 70 people were in attendance. DeForest also took her course to the Lansing City Market to explore more than 20 merchants who offer a wide variety of goods, including local produce, organic meat, house-baked breads, natural health-care products, photography and much more. There will be more site visits in the upcoming months, so be sure to watch out for VIPP emails!

VIPP's VIP 479: Introduction to U.S. Media Laws with Instructor Dr. Eric Freedman (fourth from the right) at the Michigan Supreme Court in downtown Lansing, where they met the Supreme Court Judges, who briefed participants on the judicial system

Future Collaboration of VIPP Alumni and MSU Alumni in Malaysia

written by Dr. Kiwon Kang

The VIPP Alumni Luncheon was held on November 2, 2013 at the Grand Millennium hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Special guests from the MSU Alumni Association in Malaysia were invited. VIPP Program Coordinator Dr. Kiwon Kang delivered his speech on the importance of the connectivity of VIPP alumni to Michigan State University. During the Luncheon, President of the MSU Alumni Association in Malaysia, Dr. Salleh Mohd Nor, officially invited VIPP alumni who attended short-term executive workshop programs at MSU to the MSU Alumni Association in Malaysia as regular members. He also agreed that the Association would be pleased to help VIPP in recruiting more programs from Malaysia. VIPP is looking forward to working with the MSU Alumni Association in Malaysia on future programs.

From third left to right, in the first row:
Dr. Kiwon Kang (Visiting International Professional Program, MSU)
Dr. Salleh Mohd Nor, Tan Sri (President of MSU Alumni Association in Malaysia; Bell Enviro)
Ms. Anne Schneller (College of Agriculture, MSU)
Mr. Baharudin Yaacob (Representative of 2013 Workshop group; UUM)

VIPP Rings in the New Year with Coffee and Tea

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

In celebration of the New Year and our newly renovated offices, VIPP hosted an informal "coffee hour" with coffee, tea and cookies to unveil the much-anticipated, remodeled décor to VIPP participants, faculty, staff and colleagues. In addition, invitations were also sent building-wide throughout the International Center. Representatives from departments, including the Dean's Office of International Studies and Programs (ISP), Office of Study Abroad (OSA), Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), African Studies Center (ASC) and the Office of International Research Collaboration (OIRC), were also in attendance. This event was a great opportunity for VIPP staff and participants to network, meet new people and build, as well as, strengthen relationships throughout the International Center.

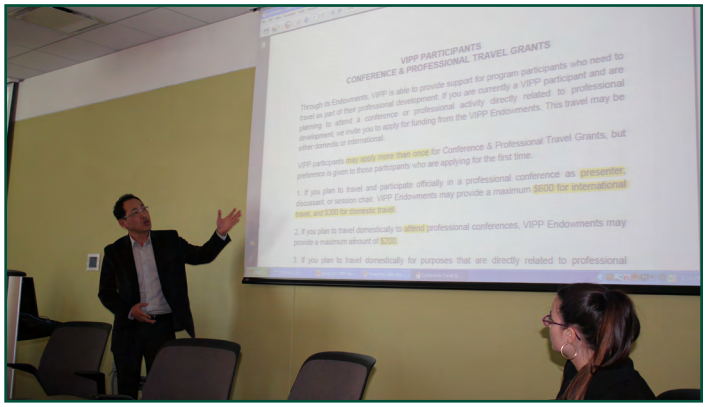
VIPP Participants (from left to right) Lili Zhang, Xiangjun Cheng and Zhizhong Gu enjoying a cup of coffee and laughs with VIPP faculty Dr. Joseph Cousins

VIPP's Spring 2014 Orientation

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

During VIPP's Spring 2014 Orientation on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, attendees received helpful information on VIPP program requirements and research, on-campus services available to MSU research scholars, MSU sports and intramural teams, law and personal safety and life at MSU and in the Greater Lansing area. In addition, the Orientation gave the eighteen new VIPP participants and their families the opportunity to meet each other, as well as VIPP staff.

New VIPP GPEP participant, Jaesung Kim, introduces his family to fellow VIPP participants and staff



VIPP Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor, Dr. Kiwon Kang, informed participants of travel grant opportunities offered by VIPP

Hitting the Slopes

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

During the winter season, we tend to find ourselves "hibernating" and staying in the warmth of our own homes. Determined to break this habit, VIPP took around 25 interested participants and their families on a fun-filled ski trip to the Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort in Mt. Holly, Michigan, on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Through our endowments, VIPP was able to provide transportation for the trip and funding for participants' lift tickets. Accompanied by bright skies and cool temperatures, participants certainly enjoyed hitting the slopes for the first time!

KangRui Tang, son of VIPP GPEP participant Weixia Tang, strikes a pose in his ski gear

VIPP participants and their families hitting the slopes on Mt. Holly

VIPP Celebrates Spring Festival with Music, Dances and Much More

written by Dr. Jian Liu

The arrival of Spring marks the most important holidays and festivals for countries all around the world. It's the time for family gathering and reunion. MSU's Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP) organized the Spring Festival Celebration on the evening of Friday, February 7, 2014. Over 100 VIPP participants, staff and faculty members, as well as their family and friends, attended the celebration at the Spartan Village Community Center.

The Spring Festival performance included a variety of acts, including music, singing, dancing and games. In addition, many participants brought home-cooked dishes to share with others. All attendess had a great time at the event. A special thanks to VIPP Spring Festival Committee for organizing the Festival!

VIPP participants Shou-Chi Lin (left) and Na Liu (right) sing a duet, "Together for a short-time"

Winner of the raffle, VIPP participant Lili Zhang, shows off her prizes

VIPP participant Weixia Tang preparing dumplings for the Festival potluck

VIPP participants and their families conclude the Festival with a song

Dr. Ying Chen's Graduation Speech: December 2013

written by Dr. Ying Chen

Dear professors, friends, family members and, most importantly, today's graduates. Thank you for taking the time to attend this celebration. This is a memorable day in our lives. I'm so glad I'm having this chance to express my feelings.

First, I want to thank all the VIPP staff and faculty members; you have provided us with an excellent education and sincere services, which have helped us to achieve this academic success. How time flies! A year's time has passed in an instant. I still remember the first day I came to MSU. It was in the middle of December and the weather was a bit warmer than today. I had absolutely no idea what I would do in this strange place. I even told my friends that I was not sure if I was going to stay here for a year. I kept asking myself several questions. Fortunately, with my friends and teachers Xia Qing, Wang Chen and Peggy Gallandt, as well as many other classmates' help, I gradually adapted to the environment. After I had studied here for a while, my mind changed completely. This program is amazing and wonderful. The teachers of VIPP and the staff are all excellent. Through these courses, I learned American customs, idioms, some basic knowledge of macroeconomics and how to write and speak properly. I have enjoyed every minute of my studies here.

Second, I have benefited greatly from VIPP's professional training. Because my field is landscape design, I have had many opportunities to practice what I have learned in the classroom. I also got the chance to do sightseeing; I visited many famous places in America and enjoyed the beautiful scenery, which broadened my horizon on the valuable pictures of landscape.

Third, I have become even more independent on dealing with life. For example, I have ordered hotel reservations, planned tour routes and rented cars. I've become more used to online business and I know now how to deal with such issues. That's really useful for future United States travel and even around the world. I also got the chance to meet more Chinese and international friends on campus; networking is important for us. After talking with my friends here, we have a common opinion that after one year's visit we will be excellent chefs. The diverse foods in the supermarket awakened our desires for cooking. It gave us a sense of fulfillment, exploring the ways of cooking online. Treating friends to taste our dishes and practicing together has enhanced our friendships and enriched our lives. There is great satisfaction in our stomachs, too!

In addition to our academic achievements and life experiences, our family members also have many thanks to this program. In September, I brought my daughter to school here. I was thinking about whether it will be the right decision to let her give up her studies in China and come here. After a while, I think I have made a great decision for her to experience a different education. Last but not the least, during this year of studying at MSU I connected with tutors from Friendship House and

VIPP GPEP graduate Dr. Ying Chen is from the Heilongjiang University in China

the Trinity Church. I have learned a lot; not only the language, but also the attitude and contribution of life. That will affect my future and keep my mind and heart peaceful.

Today, we have gathered here to celebrate our graduation. It is a momentous event because it marks the end of our university life. Most of us will probably meet only here. My friends, the time has come to say goodbye. Let's remember this moment.

Once again, I would like to warmly thank all of the staff, faculty and friends of VIPP and our families and friends for all that you have done for us because, without your unfailing support, we wouldn't be so happy here. Thank you!

- Dr. Ying Chen

Congratulations to our Graduates!

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

VIPP would like to congratulate our December 2013 and mid-Spring 2014 graduates:

- **Abdullah Khalifa Al Guaimi,** King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia
- **Jingtao Cao,** Capital University of Economics and Business, China
- **Wei Chen,** Capital University of Economics and Business, China
- **Ying Chen,** Heilongjiang University, China
- **Ziyuan Cheng,** People's Insurance Company of China, China
- **Jaewook Eom,** KOSCOM, Korea
- **Do Yeon Kim**¸ Korea Exchange, Korea
- **Byeongho Lee,** Korea Deposit Insurance Corp., Korea
- **Heeyoung Lee,** GyeongGi Provincial Govt., Korea
- **Chae Won Lim,** SK Telecom, Korea
- **Fengjuan Liu,** Wuxi City College of Vocational Technology, China
- **Xudong Liu,** China Women's University, China
- **Na Lu,** China Internet Information Center, China
- **Szu-Chi Lu,** National Sun Yat-Sen University, Taiwan
- **Aiping Meng,** Anhui University of Finance and Economics, China
- **Byung Ho Moon,** Korea Exchange, Korea
- **Batchimeg Namsraidorj,** National University of Mongolia, Mongolia
- **Hongmei Tao,** Anhui University of Finance and Economics, China
- **Lifeng Tian,** Beijing Municipal Engineering Consulting Corporation, China
- **Fanlin Wang,** Capital University of Economics and Business, China
- **Huahong Yan,** Capital University of Economics and Business, China
- **Jia Yu,** China Pictorial Publications, China
- **Hong Zhang,** Hebei Vocational & Tech. College of Building Materials, China
- **Wei Zhou,** Capital University of Economics and Business, China

VIPP GPEP graduate, Byung Ho Moon, presents farewell remarks during the Fall 2013 Graduation on Sunday, December 8, 2013

Introducing VIPP's Brown Bag Lunch

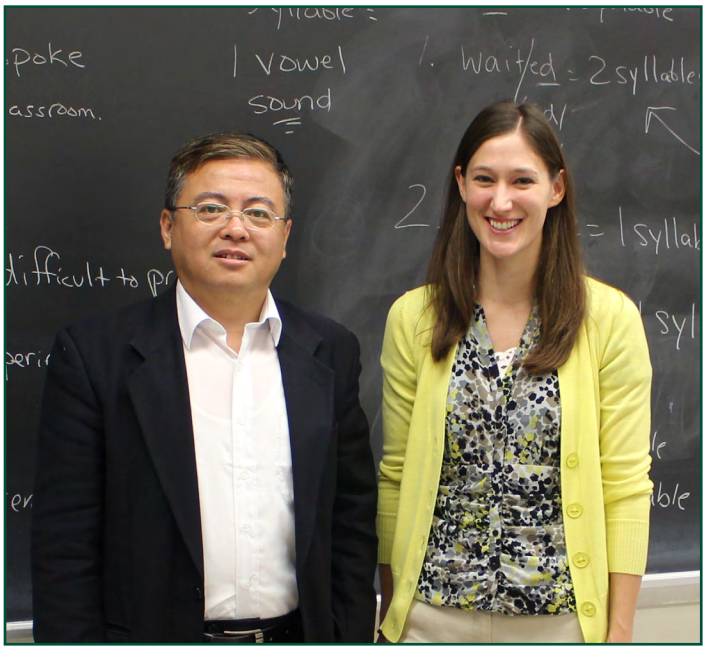
written by Samantha Shaughnessy

This spring, VIPP has kicked-off a new lecture series called VIPP's Brown Bag Lunch. This informal lecture series allows VIPP participants the opportunity to learn helpful information on topics such as family services and activities, the role of the MSU Police Department, cultural assimilation, government, business, local health services and other topics of interest. Guest lecturers are invited to speak for one hour, followed by a question and answer session. If you are interested in presenting a Brown Bag Lunch lecture, please contact our secretary, Samantha, at shaugh17@msu.edu.

Dr. Wei Zhou's Photo Essay

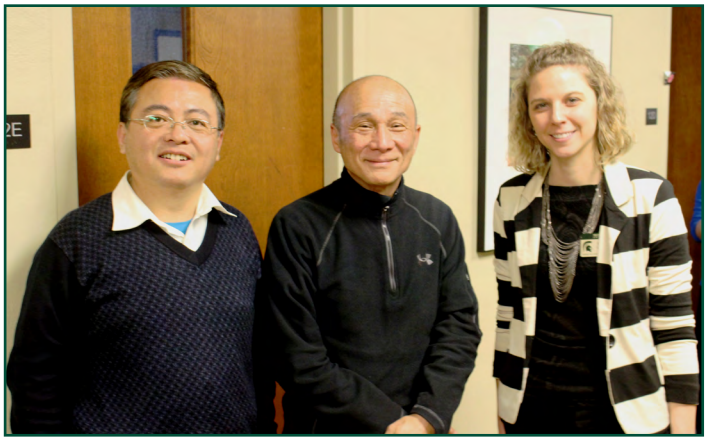
Global Professional Education Program (GPEP) participant, Dr. Wei Zhou, began his year-long research and VIPP program in September 2013. Since his arrival, Wei Zhou has visited several national parks and traveled throughout California, Nevada, the east coast and Michigan. He was kind enough to give us a sneak peek into his travels and life at VIPP.

Wei Zhou with representatives from the Arab Cultural Society



Zhou and Jessica Farrar in Farrar's VIP 414: Idioms course

Zhou and an expansive view of the Grand Canyon, located in Arizona



Zhou with Dr. Joseph Cousins and Emelia Hammond at the VIPP Coffee Hour

Zhou at the MSU Student Organic Farm

Dr. *Wei Zhou is an Associate Professor and Master Tutor in the School of Urban Economic and Public Administration at the Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing, China.*

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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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