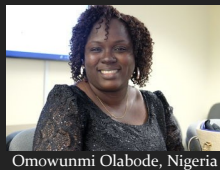




# WVCIP News

Summer 2020



Omowunmi Olabode, Nigeria



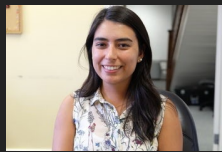
Frederike Wiedemann, Germany



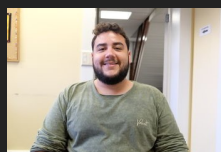
Luisa Gabriela Espinoza Rosales, Bolivia



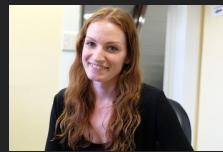
Nicole Ibler, Germany



Estefania Lopez, Mexico



Rafael Vial, Brazil



Sina Vogt, Germany

Looking back on  
**2019**

## Message from President, Paula Martinelli

Dear WVCIP Friends,

I am so pleased to report on the wonderful successes of our program this past year. There are always new challenges and new friends to meet. We learn something about our wonderful, welcoming Morgantown community, and we are asked to open our homes and our lives in different ways. What amazes me is how we rise to each new task.

We began the year by being selected for a new programming opportunity, Open World, which brought 7 Ukrainian women veterans to Washington D.C. and Morgantown for a week in early June. It gives me great pleasure to recognize our hosts, who volunteered their homes, and Dee Epps, WVCIP Coordinator, who worked to develop a schedule of meetings with the WVU Veterans Office, and community and WVU leaders alike.

In August, our participants arrived on schedule! They jumped right into their new roles and a full schedule of activities, including being salespersons extraordinaire at our most successful yard sale ever! So many thanks are due, to new and regular hosts and agency leaders and to our community members who embraced WVCIP and not only participated in our programming, but are helping to create new traditions. Words that come to mind are dynamic, exciting, joyful, supportive, accepting, loving, and resilient.

The coming year due to COVID-19 will be very much different than anything we've experienced before. We have some great ideas for bringing our very wonderful world of friends, hosts, and participants together. Video conferencing has presented a new way of building communities and what a community we have! Stay tuned for some exciting programming this Fall and Spring. And, that isn't the only reason to embrace our 2020-2021 year. We are also about to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a community operated, WVU supported international professional and cultural exchange of ideas and experiences. Let's look forward to the joy of meeting up with old friends and family, to holding up the accomplishments of so many wonderful participants and to celebrating the creativity and energy that will carry us to into the future.



## How to Get Involved

Choose WVCIP as your non-profit to support through the Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile Programs. Sign up today!



Please visit <http://www.smile.amazon.com> to choose WVCIP as your non-profit and then start shopping!



Please visit <http://www.kroger.com/> community rewards to connect your card with WVCIP under the Community Rewards tab on their website. You may do this over the phone by calling 1-800-409-4438.

### this issue

Message from the President  
Page 1

Past Participants Send Masks  
Page 2

What's New  
Page 3

Who's Who  
Page 4

# Former CIP Participants Donate Surgical Masks to Friends and Host Families

The West Virginia Council of International Programs (WVCIP) recognizes that friendship, understanding, and peace are created through cross-cultural experiences. WVCIP provides international participants with personalized opportunities for professional development and integration into community life while providing opportunities for U.S. citizens to experience and understand other cultures. All of the participants, while they work in the U.S. for several months, stay with host families, becoming a part of that family. The current pandemic provided a backdrop for former CIP participants to demonstrate their commitment to international peace, good will, and friendship.

It was this commitment and friendship that motivated Huaxia Liu, a Chinese medical professional, to help her Morgantown friends. Liu, a participant from 2013, learned of the need for masks at WVU Hospital and friends in Morgantown. She got together with other former Chinese CIP participants, most of them former participants employed at the Taisan Medical University and the Taisan Vocational Nursing College, to donate masks to their CIP friends. Huaxia Liu sent the masks to Lisa Dunn, former WVCIP Coordinator, who lives in Morgantown, to distribute the masks.

Huaxia Liu said in a note; "We wish the American friends will get through the pandemic!"

Wang Jing, another former CIP participant and Emergency Medicine nurse, noted, "I checked the news every day about the situation in your area, and we knew your country is short of surgical masks in some area so

School of Nursing from our college mailed some masks to the School of Nursing of West Virginia University." She added "I hope the situation in your area will be better soon!"

WVCIP members and friends are so pleased and proud that our friends through the Program have not forgotten their friends in West Virginia. Bonds were developed and were not forgotten!

As one WVCIP member commented, "This is so awesome and so sweet! I'm very proud to be a member of the WVCIP Family." And another member quoted, "That helps to bring our poor world together – to share and care for us all."

Paula Martinelli, WVCIP President, thanks Huaxia Liu, MingHua Han, Wen Lu, Xia Sun (Sunshine), Xiaolie Wang (Lily), Lei Li, and Jing Wang, who sent the masks.

Developing relationships with Americans who are part of the WVCIP program, worksite professionals and other international participants is a one of the most important outcomes of the program. Interpersonal relationships, both professional and personal, increase the value of the program. These bonds often transcend government issues and relationships that often separate people and likeminded professionals.

Submitted by Phil Leinbach



Wang Jing and Amanda Filippelli

# THANK YOU!

## Kudos to WVCIP 2019 Agencies and Host Families



### Host Families

Margaret Rosenecker  
Linda Herbst  
Sandra Cotton & Karen MacKay  
Christine Shaw  
Lisa Sharpe  
Phil Leinbach & Geri Dino  
William Hutson  
Tracy Dingess  
Nancy Spillane  
John & Gloria Sofranko  
Catherine Whitworth  
Nancy Smaltz  
Gonzalo Bravo & Gretchen Peterec  
Barbara Howe  
Paula Martinelli  
Larry & Cindy O'Brien

### Agencies

WVU Child Development Laboratory  
*Supervisor Melissa Workman*

WVU's School of Nursing  
*Supervisor Dana Friend*

Human Resource Development Foundation  
*Supervisor Mandy Filippelli*

Morgantown Area Youth Services Project  
*Supervisor Danny Trejo*

WVU's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
*Supervisor Victor Mucino*

Morgantown City Planning Board  
*Supervisor Chris Fletcher*

WVU LaunchLab  
*Supervisor Sonja Jewell Kelley*







### WVCIP 2019 Program Year

WVCIP's 2019 Fall cohort consisted of 7 participants, from Bolivia, Nigeria, Mexico, Germany, and Brazil. Since they came from extremely diverse backgrounds, they were placed both within WVU departments and within the Morgantown community. Such placements included, WVU's School of Nursing with Dana Friend, Human Resources Development Foundation with Amanda Filippelli, WVU's Child Development Laboratory with Melissa Workman, and the Morgantown City Planning Board with Chris Fletcher.

This cohort was very interested in participating in the community and often our participants could be found working for Salvation Army, attending free University Yoga classes, or sitting in on WVU classes. During orientation week, the group used their time to volunteer at Dorsey's Knob, assisting in the restoration of the mural (pictured). Their sense of community was instantaneous.

Some of the activities that the group participated in during the program year included; attending WVU football games through the Blue and Gold Ambassadors program, going to HersheyPark and touring Amish Country, attending the Buckwheat Fes-



tival, participating in WVU OGA's International Street Fair, and of course, some good old-fashioned fun at the annual square dance WVCIP holds.

This group was an absolute pleasure and while we were sad to see them go, we do hope that they continue to stay in touch. We wish them success in their future endeavors.

Submitted by Deanna Epps



Welcome to our new Board Members!



Lisa Sharpe



Neil Wallace



Gretchen Peterec

### Alice Elizabeth Frost

August 24, 1935 - October 26, 2019

WVCIP lost a great friend this year, Alice Frost. She will always be remembered fondly throughout the community. She held too many titles to count throughout her years as a WVCIP Board Member but will always be recalled fondly by the many CIP participants she hosted over the years and all the lives she touched.

### In Memoria



# Friends of WVCIP

George Lilley & Mavis Grant-Lilley  
Gregory & Elizabeth Juckett  
Frank Lafone & Barbara MacLennan  
Ann Sauvageot & Edward Price  
Pablo Gonzalez  
Margaret Rosenecker  
Janice Spleth  
Teddi Cox  
Cindy & John Fitch  
Bill & Linda Hagerty  
Larry Harris  
Leonel Mendellin & Lola Contreras  
Junior Sodi  
Grace Atebe  
Betty Maxwell  
Barbara Howe  
Andrew Cockburn & Anne Cronin  
RaeJean Sielen & Ken St. Louis  
Linda Yoder

Corey Ferris  
Roz Becker  
Patricia Ryan  
Jackie Mier  
Gabriela Martin-Barbosa  
Marty French  
Lisa Dunn  
Chris Hall  
Betsy Pyle  
Christine Shaw  
Evelyn Andrews  
Sue Overman  
Marian & Emil Lindell  
Marcia Pops  
Rudey Filek  
Caroline Mudd  
John Pearson  
Christine Titus  
Angela Reh

Ruthellen Phillips  
Perihan Celik  
Candice Elliot & Jim Kotcon  
Rocco & Leigh Lasala  
Anne Pittman  
Gail O'Malley VanVoorhis  
Sue Hein  
Trevor & Sylvia Harris  
Diana Frum  
Allen & Merle Stolzeberg  
Earl Melby  
Teresa Neves Seesink  
Jordan & Lindsey Rinehart

## WVCIP Board Members

President: Paula Martinelli  
Vice President: Sandra Dixon  
Treasurer: Tracy Dingess  
Secretary: Vacant  
Linda D'lugos  
Margot Racin  
Semoa Desousea-Brown  
Melody Gwilliam  
Amanda Filippelli  
Cindy O'Brien  
Taylor Runner  
Phil Leinbach  
Kelley Rose  
Neil Wallace  
George Lies  
Nancy Smaltz  
Gretchen Peterec  
Lisa Sharpe  
Andrew Barnes

### **Program Manager**

Tara George- Jones

### **Program Coordinator**

Dee Epps

## Thanks for your continued support!

## West Virginia Council of International Programs

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