

CONTACT

gkcptp.org



Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

February 2010, Volume 4, Issue 1

Inside:

Annual Meeting	1
IMS Sponsorship	2
President's Message	3
Membership Report	4
News from PTPI	4
Bylaw Changes	4
Board Candidates	5
Calendar	5
Member Travel Story	6
GKCPTP Happy Hour Recap	7
Saturday Well Spent	8
Board Vote	8

ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 21

*You are enthusiastically invited to
The Greater Kansas City People to People Chapter's
Annual Meeting*

Sunday, March 21, 2010, 2 p.m.

*Thompson Commons Student Center
Park University, Parkville, Missouri*

Cost: \$15 per person

*International Food & Entertainment,
In addition to the annual business meeting
and election of 2010-11 board of directors*

RSVP no later than March 17 in one of the following ways:

- 1. At the GKCPTP website: www.gkcptp.org/annual_meeting2
(RSVP and pay - preferred method) -or-*
- 2. Call Jane Kohl at 913.631.6454*

*Park University campus map can be found at
www.park.edu/about/campusmap.pdf*

Vote Today!

Your vote for the 2010-11 board of directors is an integral part of your membership. Whether you attend the annual meeting or not, please vote! Thanks for your commitment!

See page 8 for the ballot!



SPONSORING OUR INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STUDENTS: AN ONGOING SERIES

Our board has identified sponsorship of international military students (IMS) as our chapter's #1 focus. Coupled with the U.S. Army's intention to increase the number of international officers studying at Ft. Leavenworth each year, the board agreed that it's time to publish a series of articles designed to encourage you and others to become or remain sponsors. To feel successful, you must be confident that you are armed with the best information and an appropriate understanding of expectations.

Each newsletter edition during 2010 will focus on a different aspect of sponsorship. We welcome your input and your questions, as we encourage the best cadre of sponsors ever! We also hope that you will share these articles and ideas with others outside our membership who will consider sponsorship as an exciting and fulfilling venture, just as you have!

There are certainly as many reasons for becoming a sponsor as there are sponsors! For many, it accentuates years of international travel; for some, it's a way of giving back to the U.S. military; for others, it's a way of sharing the hospitality that was shown to them when they were new on America's shores.

There are individuals in our chapter who have been sponsors for over 30 years! With years of success and friends around the globe, they continue to be the stalwarts of the program. Others of us are newer... more the novices! We are learning as we go and are proud of our new-found friends, but often we're a little bit unsure of certain situations or disappointed by occasional blunders. We all know families who started as sponsors but quit because "it just didn't work out." Wanting to sponsor and feeling 100% confident don't always work in tandem.

With that in mind, the IMS committee last year put together a wonderful overview of expectations and guidelines for successful sponsorship. You'll probably want to look on our website for the entire guideline article: www.gkcptp.org/sponsorguidelines. Using that guide and the input of some successful sponsors, this month's article focuses on the earliest parts of sponsorship.

Preparing to Sponsor

Each international military student (IMS) is assigned three sponsors upon arrival at Fort Leavenworth: a military sponsor, a Leavenworth/Lansing sponsor and our GKCPTP sponsor, known more commonly the "Kansas City sponsor." This combination helps provide a net of support and friendship around each of the IMS families. Communication and

coordination among all three sponsors is a superb way to ensure that students are consistently supported and included in significant activities.

The Army's Command and General Staff College provides much information about the upcoming year at scheduled orientation sessions prior to the arrival of each student class. Information is shared at these meetings that applies to seasoned, as well as novice sponsors. Attendance is highly recommended.

Initial Contact with Your IMS

Our IMS committee matches GKCPTP member-sponsors and student families based on detailed criteria for each IMS class. As soon as the match is completed – usually about 2-4 weeks before the student's arrival – you will be contacted with as much information as the committee has been given. (Occasionally, the information is incomplete.) Almost without exception, you will be given an email address for your future IMS.



Indonesian officer, his family, sponsors Denise and Everett Os-good (GKCPTP) and Margaret Long (Leavenworth/Lansing).

This is a perfect opportunity to send an introductory email, explaining who you are and briefly introducing yourself and your family. Many IMS students have told us that this first contact immediately put them and their families at ease and set the stage for a warm welcome. During the period before the student's arrival, you will likely have the opportunity to exchange numerous emails that can pinpoint plans and further set the stage for their arrival.

Most officers bring their families with them. Some, however, do not for financial or other more personal reasons. Your sponsorship information may detail that information. If not, you will probably determine that information through your emails.

Know Your Officer's Country

Read the "Culture Gram" country information that will be mailed to you when your student is assigned. In addition, go to the Internet or library to learn more about the country. The IMS will be delighted that you've taken the time to learn about his/her country, and you'll avoid making cultural mistakes with him/her.

continued on p. 3

Know Your Own City

There are many sources available to become more familiar with Kansas City. Check these two great websites: <http://www.visitkc.com> and <http://www.kansascity.com/visitors/>. Make sure you are ready to show off your beautiful city and region.

Meet Your Officer as Early as Possible

Establishing a face-to-face relationship with your officer and his/her family early helps to create a strong bond with them. The best way to forge an early friendship is by meeting them at the airport when they first arrive. Greeting your students with a welcome sign, a basket of goodies for the first night, and a few miniature flags of their country and yours is a perfect welcome. (Did you know that GKCTP sells those miniature flags for only \$3.75? Go to our website: www.gkcptp.org). This is an ideal time to coordinate with the other sponsors to work out details of transporting people and luggage to Leavenworth.

What if you are unable to meet them at the airport? In this case, talk with the other sponsors and ask them to tell the IMS that you could not be there, but will call soon. Sending a small welcome gift with a note is also a simple way to ease the transition.

Keep in mind that some international students attend English language school in San Antonio prior to the beginning of the Leavenworth session. In this case, they may purchase a car in advance and drive into our area. Arrangements can then be made to meet them as soon after their arrival as possible.

This is just the beginning of a beautiful opportunity for you and for your officer family. These students are often the cream of the crop in their country's military, and their experiences in the U.S. help round out an already successful career. Your time with them will be valuable all around. Enjoy!

Future topics will include:

- Ideas for welcome gifts, farewell gifts and all gifts in-between
- Who's responsible for housing, cars and other necessary items?
- Activities with single officers, families and children
- How often should we get together...and why don't they always return my calls?
- What if it just doesn't work out?

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



"Give yourself an even greater challenge than the one you are trying to master and you will develop the powers necessary to overcome the original difficulty."

~ William Bennett

Happy New Year! As we enter this new decade, we look forward to the challenges ahead as opportunities. CGSC is projecting that the IMS program will expand to 195 officers by the year 2014. We have some work to do to recruit sponsors for that proposed increase!

Our annual meeting will be coming up on Sunday, March 21. I hope you will put it on your calendar. It will again be held at Park University and will feature an ethnic food buffet; the talented Park University international students will provide entertainment. The slate of officers will be presented and voted on during the short business meeting.

It is important to note that some bylaw changes will be proposed at the annual meeting. Though the purpose of our organization remains the same, periodically the bylaws need revision to accurately reflect the needs of the chapter. A committee has been hard at work scrutinizing and updating these bylaws. In addition to the board, a panel of past presidents has also reviewed them and recommends their adoption.

Two noteworthy programs were coordinated for the membership during the month of January—a happy hour and a volunteer service activity at Operation International Children. Kudos to Jane Kohl Waggoner and Candice McField for their efforts on these successful events.

Remember to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us as members! We are awarding a free, one-year membership to the GKCTP member who recruits the most members during the 2010 year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following outgoing board members for their service: Candice McField, Nelson Markel, Alan Felton and Inga Barringer. Each has given of their time and talent to further our chapter's mission. They are great assets to our organization.

The new proposed board of directors brings a wide variety of experience and I am eager to begin working with them. I appreciate their willingness to accept the challenge!

Warm regards,

Pat

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Karen Haber

We are still waiting on some members to renew their annual dues for 2010. Notices were sent out in early November and are now past due. Those members who joined or renewed by February 1, 2010, will have their information included in our upcoming membership directory. As always, please contact Karen Haber at karen@kchaber.com or 816-741-9518 with questions or other membership information. We ended January 2010 with 165 members!

<u>Welcome New Members!</u>	<u>Recruited by...</u>
David & Daphne Bitters	Sharon Valasek & Terry Smitka
Richard & Yvette Grabmeier	Nelson Markel
Derek & Wendy Hedin	Kim & Joel Nitz
Leslie Kupka	Sharon Valasek
4 Joseph & Jenny Melookaran	Sharon Valasek & Jim Malouff
Craig Miller	Alan & Pam Felton
Everett & Denise Osgood	Gary Lofstrom & Sharon Valasek
Linda Sutton	Siew Lau

NEWS FROM PTPI WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band Concert & OIC

PTPI is excited to announce plans for a benefit concert to support Operation International Children (OIC) featuring OIC co-founder Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. The concert will take place Sunday, April 25, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at the Uptown Theater in Kansas City.

To ensure that OIC can continue sending school supplies to children around the world, PTPI wants this event to be a giant success. GKCPTP members can make that possible by working on one of two committees:

- PR and Ticket Sales
- Sponsorship

Contact Liz Wegman, Director, Public Relations and Development, at PTPI (publicrelations@ptpi.org or 816-531-4701). More details will be in GKCPTP emails and in the April newsletter.

Haiti: How You Can Join with PTPI to Help

To assist the tremendous need in Haiti, PTPI has given a donation from its International Friendship Fund (IFF) to Partners in Health, an NGO providing health care and assistance in Haiti for more than 20 years. PTPI members are asked to help match PTPI's gift of \$2,000 USD by donating to the IFF. Donations can be made on the PTPI website at "Donate Now" (note that your donation is for Haiti): www.ptpi.org.

Contact Newsletter GKCPTP

PTPI Book Club

What a wonderful way to spend these gray and cold winter days: reading a book and discussing it with other internationally-oriented people. PTPI's second book club pick is *Strength in What Remains* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder. He recounts the heroic, true story of Deogratias (Deo), a young man from Burundi. Along his path, his life is altered by the kindness of strangers. This is a powerful and enlightening book that gives new meaning to "peace through understanding."

A portion of the proceeds from all Amazon.com book purchases will go to the Village Health Works, the nonprofit health clinic highlighted in the book. It's not too late to jump into the weekly discussion questions that are posted on PTPI's <http://blog.ptpi.org/category/global-book-club/>.

BYLAW CHANGES

Please note: Bylaw changes will be posted to GKCPTP's website prior the annual meeting. Members are asked to look the changes over, as a vote will be taken at the meeting on March 21.

BOARD CANDIDATES

Renee Stevenson



Renee was instrumental in raising awareness of Asian American businesses in Kansas City, through mid-2008. As the first executive director of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, she refined the chamber's mission to serve all segments of the Asian American business community. Her broad influence in the community-at-large enabled

substantial progress to be made toward the goals of creating opportunities for Asian Americans and educating others on Asian culture.

She served as Director of Corporate Membership at the Mid America Minority Business Development Council from 2005-06, Membership Services Manager at the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association from 1996-2004, and Group Sales Manager at The New Theatre Restaurant from 1992-95. Prior to these positions she ran her own company (ACTS) 1987-92, and worked as a registered nurse for several years. She most recently served on the Fairness in City Contracts Board for the City of Kansas City, the board of the Institute for Supply Management-Kansas City Chapter as Co-Director of Diversity, and the Missouri Small and Minority Business Coalition.

Paulette Markel

Paulette has spent much of her career in International business. In Scotland, where she spent five years, she established a strategic sales management, and market research and planning business. At Sprint's International Division she conducted large international projects involving multicultural teams as well as developing international training programs. She has also worked for Harmony NCCJ as Director of Workplace Diversity Solutions where her responsibilities included business development, work with diversity councils to create cultural diversity programs for organizations, and facilitation of those programs.



5

She is the Managing Partner of Imua Associates, LLC in Kansas City. The company provides domestic and intercultural diversity programs and international consulting. Her experience spans over 30 years of sales, management, marketing and project management for companies such as: Xerox, Prudential Bache Securities, and Castle and Cooke. She was an adjunct professor at Napier University .

Paulette has been a member of GKCPTP for 15 years. She is a proponent of peace through understanding. Serving on the People to People board will allow her to make a contribution in this endeavor.

continued on p. 7

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Time
3/5/10	10-1 Spring Food Fair-bring 2 dishes. Invitation only. RSVP required!	Riverfront Conference Center, 123 South Esplanade, Leavenworth, KS 66048	6:00 p.m.
3/21/10	GKCPTP Annual Meeting – see information page 1	Thompson Commons Student Center, Park University, Parkville, MO	2 p.m.
3/26/10	10-2 Spring Food Fair-bring 2 dishes. Invitation only. RSVP required!	Riverfront Conference Center, 123 South Esplanade, Leavenworth, KS 66048	6:00 p.m.
4/8/10	International Hall of Fame Induction	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis & Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	TBD
4/14/10	Know your World: Zambia	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis & Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
4/23/10	Park University cultural sharing evening: Mongolia	Thompson Commons Student Center, Park University, Parkville, MO	4:30 p.m.
4/25/10	Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band concert: fundraiser for Operation International Children	Uptown Theatre, 3700 Broadway, KC, MO 64111	7:00 p.m.
5/12/10	Know your World – Slovenia	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis & Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
5/21/10	Sponsor Recognition Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis & Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.

Note: 10-1 class graduates June, 2010. 10-2 graduates December 2010.

DISCOVERING DOWN UNDER: KIDS, KOALAS AND KANGAROOS

Kim Nitz

Our involvement with People to People has really heightened our children's interest in geography – and the international travel bug has bitten! So, with the strong endorsement of our 5- and 7-year old kids, we decided to travel over this year's winter break, with Australia as our destination. We had plenty of people questioning whether a 36 hour total travel time to our first Aussie destination was really a good idea...but we were off and planning. And the only remaining question was whether Santa would find us in South Australia!

9 We settled on three destinations during our 17-day trip, ensuring a good blend of native animals, nature, and warm beaches. We were eager for our kids to experience international travel, and felt this was a perfect spot for their ages and interests. And amazingly, it proved to be just that! We did a lot of advance preparation, to make sure the kids knew what to expect from the flights and layovers. We equipped ourselves with the needed travel essentials of a portable DVD player and video games, lots of books and coloring pages, and one large bag of snacks. We were good to go!

We discovered a fun time-passing activity for the kids during airport layovers. We created a scavenger hunt for each airport in advance, with an official envelope the kids would open upon arrival, containing simple quests such as finding the airport price for a bottle of water, the name of a baby in the

waiting area, or listing other departing flight destinations near our gate. It was a fun way to wait out the stopovers!

Our first destination, Adelaide, was perfect, and combined the excitement of being in the heart of the city with multiple nearby day trip options. We stocked our hotel kitchen with



Hungry and happy kangaroos at Cleland Wildlife Park. From left: Kim, Annabelle and Jack Nitz

yummy choices from the Adelaide City Market, including kangaroo sausage and fabulous produce – and Aussie doughnuts, of course. The city tram was a hit, taking us straight to the beaches of Glenelg with the Beachouse amusement park and its bumper boats and water slides. We ventured to nearby wildlife sanctuaries, where wallabies, emus and kangaroos roamed free for us to pet and feed. We enjoyed a guided tour at dusk of all the amazing nocturnal animals. We quickly realized, though, that our kids were not nocturnal, but sleep-deprived with the time change and falling asleep on the trails! Fortunately, our hotel was both comfortable and festive with a Christmas tree the kids assembled from pipe cleaners. Sure enough, on Christmas morning, the balcony door was ajar, and a note and small bag from Santa were left in our room!

On Boxing Day (December 26), we flew to the Whitsunday Islands, arriving on Hamilton Island for the ferry to Daydream Island. We loved being greeted with seashell necklaces and finding the reef next to the hotel lobby with its sharks, rays and lots of fun fish. The island was perfect, but the stinger



Annabelle, at Brighton Beach on St. Vincent's Gulf.



Finding our way to fun in Adelaide! From left: Jack, Annabelle and Joel Nitz

season put a damper on ocean swimming, so we walked the beautiful coral beaches and swam in the fantastic resort pools instead! The kids loved the nightly bingo, outdoor movies and mini-golf. We set out for the Great Barrier Reef for a snorkeling adventure, stopping first at stunning Whitehaven Beach, then to Hook Island for snorkeling, clad in stinger suits! Mom even survived having her 5-year old jump off the side of the boat into a school of fish – and loved every minute.

After several days on the island, we headed to our final destination, Sydney, where we would celebrate New Year’s Eve ahead of our Kansas friends and family! We had serendipitously googled and secured an apartment on the north shore of Sydney overlooking the harbor, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. The apartment was a perfect spot for all the New Year’s fun and just what the kids needed for some comforts of home. The nearby wharf provided much-loved 7-minute ferry rides across the harbour to all the Sydney sights.

The end of our trip coincided with the increased security measures for international flights. We kept the kids informed of the special measures that were being taken, and wow, were they good going through customs and security, telling us later they could sense it “was serious.” They earned one last bottle of Lift, (their new favorite fizzy lemonade drink) for withstanding a pat down and inspection of their backpacks, bravely protected by a stuffed koala and Tasmanian Devil from the Taronga Zoo. Yes, it was a lengthy journey, but a fantastic experience for our family, and one we would do again in a heartbeat!

LESSONS LEARNED ON TRAVELING WITH KIDS

ICBD – the world renown traveling phenomenon of Ice Cream Before Dinner (or lunch in select cases). Who can resist a gelato stand heaped high with cookies and cream gelato? And it always serves as a good motivator for tired kids to explore another hour or so!

Transportation – what a great experience to have the kids help navigate a new city, reading the maps and the schedules to help figure things out. Of course in Sydney, the ferries, buses and taxis were a huge hit. The kids also were intrigued with the “kids seating” at the back of the Virgin Blue flights within Australia.

Cool new foods – who knew the Aussies serve ice cream with their pancakes? And Fairy Bread is a favorite we were thrilled to see after experiencing it with our Swiss officer’s family. Of course the new kinds of snacks, sandwiches, and a cautious taste of vegemite were all fun!

Cool new words – it’s always good to come home with some new vocabulary. Even if it’s Fairy Floss (cotton candy), brekky (breakfast), or pikelet (pancake)!

Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic

Irina has managed the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City (ITCKC) since 2008 and ensures its smooth operations and communications between the area constituencies and board of directors. She is also vice president and former director of the Sister City Association of Kansas City, Inc. and has been actively involved with the international community in the Kansas City Metro area for almost 10 years in a variety of capacities.



She has coordinated and assisted in various programs including International Classroom Partnership, Global Future,

the Youth World Trade Center, the Coming to America Series, Operation Iraqi Children, Ambassador Student Teaching program, and the USIA sponsored Freedom Support Act-Future Leaders of Exchange program. Irina was one of the founders of the First College Chapter of People to People International in the U.S. in 2001 at Park University and vice president of the chapter 2001-2004. She was a president of the World Student Union at Park University in 2001-2002 and directed the Park University Model United Nations for High Schools in the 2009 fall semester with more than 100 participants from various school districts.

Her degree in international business and psychology is from Park University where she is currently pursuing her masters. Irina has been involved with GKCPTP and PTPI since 2001 and this is her second year of sponsoring an IMS officer. She is thrilled to join the board to help GKCPTP to expand its youth and other outreach programs.

HAPPY HOUR RECAP

After two weeks of grueling below zero temperatures, the thermometer delightfully broke through the freezing point just in time for our January 14 happy hour. Edokko Restaurant, located in Lenexa, was the venue of choice. In addition to great sushi, the setting and décor were absolutely gorgeous. Just inside the front door, guests encountered the warm and classy interior, whose ambiance felt much like an elegant Japanese garden.

Members and guests spent the evening relaxing, eating, mingling, laughing, telling great stories and enjoying each other’s company. If you’ve not had the chance to make it to one of our happy hours, make it a priority when the next one is scheduled. Watch your email for updates!

A SATURDAY WELL SPENT

It was damp and blustery outside, but inside the Operation International Children (OIC) warehouse in North Kansas City, the atmosphere was warm and bustling. For two hours, 15 GKCPTP members worked hard to package donated school supplies and brightly-colored Croc shoes, destined for children in any one of a number of devastated regions throughout the world.



GKCPTP members pose for a group shot at the end of a session of packaging OIC donations.

Originally named Operation Iraqi Children in response to a desire to support children devastated by war in that country, this most deserving organization is nationally



This photo, from the OIC website, shows happy school children who have just received OIC/PTP school kits from American troops.

headquartered right here in our area – on a back street in an industrial section of NKC. It partners with People to People International and now serves children in countries all over the world where American troops are stationed. As part of our military’s humanitarian outreach, service members distribute the school supply packages and other goods to the children in their areas of operation.

One of the GKCPTP members present commented, “After 32 years of serving in the military, it was an honor to be even a small part in a volunteer project that focused so clearly on the children touched by war.”



2010-2011 Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Members

Greater Kansas City Chapter, People to People International

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International is successful because of the caring volunteer service of MANY members. The following individuals have agreed to serve on our board of directors for the next term(s). Please express your gratitude by voting on the ballot by March 11.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
President	Pat Burnett
1st Vice President	Karen Haber
2nd Vice President	Jane Kohl Waggoner
Treasurer	Siew Lau
Secretary	Kim Nitz
Director (term expiring 2011)	Gabrielle Reilly Jerry Keith Seema Joshi
Director (term expiring 2012)	Dan Karp Jim Malouff Jane Kohl Waggoner
Director (term expiring 2013)	Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic Paulette Markel Renee Stevenson

Check this box to vote for entire slate, or enter write-ins for specific exceptions:

Your signature and date, please:

X _____

There are 3 ways to record your vote:

1. Go green and vote electronically: www.gkcptp.org/ballot.
2. Mail this ballot by March 11 to GKCPTP, P.O. Box 22365 Kansas City, MO 64113.
3. Bring this ballot to the annual meeting on March 21.