

News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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President's Note

We have some good news to report in this edition of our chapter newsletter. As you will see in the following article by **Betty Olberding**, membership is up, with twenty new members. Thanks to Betty Olberding, our vice president for membership, and all the other members who have worked so hard on recruiting new members.



Please review Betty's information on the **Meet and Greet** program and participate in it if at all possible. This has been a very successful program, and Betty's cookies are worth participation alone. We will need new sponsors to support the change in the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) class scheduling at Fort Leavenworth. Starting in 2015, there will be only one class of students in June 2015. There will be no more January classes, and the June class will have about 125 officers. We will have to

work hard to support the new larger single class and continue to recruit new members.

In August, many of you attended the Gala at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, honoring the international military students. Barbara and I were in Scotland and therefore not able to attend, (see *Barbara's article on our visit to the United Kingdom*). All the reports I received about the event were positive, with some areas for improvement noted. It appears we will have the event again next year, and we will work hard to make it even better.

On September 21, we had our annual event at **Deanna Rose Farmstead** for the international military students, their families and sponsors. This has become a very popular event with about 300 attending. The weather was perfect, the food was great, and the fish were biting. I want to send special thanks to **Julie Vosilus**, the **Nitz family**, and all the others who worked so hard to make the event a success. I also want to thank People to People International for their generous grant that helped make the event possible again this year. The support from PTPI is particularly important since budget reductions have resulted in the CGSC withdrawing financial support for the event.

Please continue to recruit new members and potential sponsors as we move into the last quarter of the year. We value new and existing members, whether they wish to sponsor an officer or not. We need and welcome them all. Julie Vosilus, our vice president for programs, is always looking at events to appeal to all our members. If you have any ideas for new programs please send them to Julie, jvosilus@gmail.com.

I want to thank all of you for the support our chapter receives from you. I want to thank all of you for the support our chapter receives from you. With your support, I am sure we can continue to grow as an organization that will appeal to a variety of interests and continue decades of service to the community. I am very proud to work with all of you.

Warm regards,
Larry Dolci

PS: The Organization of International Spouses and Sponsors (OISS) has a **Thanksgiving Feast** the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It's a great event in general and it offers members a chance to celebrate this great American holiday with their international military students - even if they might be traveling or unavailable on the actual holiday. See the "Chapter Calendar" for more information and contact your officer in advance.

Membership Update: 2nd/3rd Quarters 2014

By Betty Olberding

We are in the process of hosting "Meet & Greets." These are held in the homes of our members and organized by zip codes. We hope that you'll attend when you're invited sometime in the future. Or let us know that you're eager to be included. This will be an opportunity to invite your prospective member to meet current members in a casual setting.

And please make a special effort to thank new members for joining, get to know them on a personal basis, offer your own tips on getting the most out of CGKPTP, etc. And give a big "Thank you" to those who've recruited new members; better yet, join their ranks!

New Members are:	Recruited by:
Matthew and Nancy Butner	Randy and Marquita Pace
Chuck Jasper and Pat Friesen	Howard and Sonia Eichenwald
Anne Anderson	Duane and Betty Olberding
Laurie Licata	PTPI
Patricia Smithson and family	PTPI
Dr. Thomas C. Black	PTPI
Maria Paula Alzate	Gene and Linda Jacobs, Jim Malouff
Drs. Lillian and Manuel Pardo	PTPI
Bill and Maria Koch	Nelson and Paulette Markel
Sri and Kali Nalamachu	IMSD
Robin and Magda Snyder	Returning Members
Liz Wegman	PTPI
Florian and Terra Waitl	IMSD
Byron and Martha Long	Larry and Vicki Hedlund
Joseph M Ndifor	IMSD
Jim and Schatzi Ball	Karen and Chuck Haber
Ron and Toni Ortiz	Peggy and Bill Parolin
Mathevee Perumal	Returning member
Ashley Durkan	PTPI
Peter and Jeanine Hanson	Joan and Ray Barrett

Welcome to our organization! It's truly wonderful to have these new members in our organization. Many thanks to our members listed above who have shared this opportunity.

Deanna Rose Farmstead 2014 Review

by Julie Vosilus



See many more photos at our [Facebook page \(click here\)](#). If you've not "liked" our page yet, do so while you're there. It will help us spread the news about our chapter, programs, etc.!

On the International Day of Peace, also known as September 21st, we once again celebrated with our families and friends at the Deanna Rose Farmstead in Overland Park, KS. The perfect weather provided just the right atmosphere to enjoy fishing, eating ice cream at the General Store and Ice Cream Parlor, and hanging out at the Milk Barn.

Approximately 300 IMSD students, their families and their sponsors (both GKCPTP and those from Leavenworth) gathered to share an all-American meal and explore the grounds of this 1900s-era farm. Artistic talents were brought to light under the encouraging watch of the Nitz family as children were able to color and sticker to their heart's content creating personal masterpieces to remember the day. The staff at Deanna Rose once again rolled out the red carpet for our group – our visit is known to them as the day the world comes to the Farmstead.

Thanks to all of those who volunteered their time and talents in making this event another day to remember! Their behind-the-scenes efforts and friendly faces there to ensure families are able to make the most of their day are the reasons why this event has come to be an annual event.

Thanks to all who were able to make it this year! It is truly the people who make this event what it is!

Chapter Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
11/14/14	14-02 Holiday Dinner-Dance, by invitation only; RSVP required	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6:30 p.m.
11/21/14	14-02 Sponsor Appreciation, by invitation only; RSVP required	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
11/23/14	Thanksgiving Feast* for IMS. (Must join/register via Organization of International Spouses and Sponsors)	Riverfront Community Center, Leavenworth, KS	3:45 to 5:30 p.m.
11/27/14	Thanksgiving Holiday	-	-
12/11/14	14-02 Badge Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD
12/12/14	14-02 Graduation Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD
12/20/14 - 1/04/15	15-01 IMSD Holiday Break	-	-
2/11/15	Line Dancing (Must join/register via Organization of International Spouses and Sponsors)	TBD	TBD
3/6/14	15-01 Spring Food Fair, by invitation only; RSVP required	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
04/9-17/14	Gettysburg-DC trip	Officers Only	-
5/29/14	15-01 Sponsor Appreciation, by invitation only; RSVP required	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
6/11/14	15-01 Badge Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD
6/12/14	15-01 Graduation Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD

Note: 14-02 class graduates Dec. 2014; 15-01 class graduates June 2015

* To attend Thanksgiving Feast (and other OISS events), you must join Organization of International Spouses and Sponsors (OISS). Member fee is only \$10 per year. [Download membership form here](#). Cost of Thanksgiving feast is \$7 per person for those age 12 and older.

International Military Students: No January Class, Next Group Comes in June!

Help the chapter make the transition

By Sharon Valasek

Is your international military student graduating in December? If so, please be advised that there is no longer a January to December class. We're back to one class starting in June. We hope you'll sign up for an officer for the June class. You'll have a few months to anticipate beginning another great year of sponsorship.

And we ask you to help us manage through this transition. We'll have a larger, single class of about 125 international military students, and a significant need for more GKCPTP sponsors. Class sizes used to be about 70 and 50 students in the respective classes, and many of you were extra generous with your time and sponsored officers in each class.

How can you help?

- Continue to tell your family and friends about the program. Encourage/help them learn more and consider joining. Can't hurt to ask!
- Bring prospective members to your homes when you entertain international military students and their families.
- Bring prospective members to events like: "**Know your World**," "**Meet and Greet**," **Flag Day**, **Badge Ceremony** and other events. *(Notably, the Army has relaxed rules on who can attend certain official Army-sponsored events. For example, if you want to bring guests to a **Food Fair**, just let us know so the Army can have guest names in advance and allow for additional seatings.)*
- Let us know of organizations that might allow us or Army IMSD personnel present to an audience of people. Many organizations have an international slant and our program could be "just the ticket" to enhance their members' experiences.
- Offer to host a "**Meet and Greet**" in your home.

Contact [Sharon Valasek](#) if you have ideas or can help. Contact [Betty Olberding](#) if you can help with "Meet and Greets." And please note that you will not hear from our assignment committee this fall; it will occur in a March-April timeframe.

Travel Share: Dolcis visit United Kingdom/Scotland

By Barbara & Larry Dolci

A trip to United Kingdom is always a treat, and Larry and I had been to England before, but had never been to Scotland. The visit to Scotland this year would be special. My sister had completed genealogical research of our mother's family, the Burnetts, that connected our heritage to 1324 and Crathes Castle near Aberdeen.



Scottish driver dressed in kilt and playing bagpipes welcomes Barbara and Larry Dolci

And indeed, it was a special trip. Being history buffs we had immersed ourselves in Scottish history before we departed. We knew the story of Mary Queen of Scots, the various Jameses, John Knox, wars for independence with England and the Scottish Enlightenment. We thought we were ready, but many surprises were in store.

We started our custom-designed tour with our friends and were greeted by our Scottish driver who welcomed us dressed in kilt and playing bagpipes. We attended the Royal Tattoo in Edinburgh, then to Highland Games and Stirling Castle. We included a cruise on Loch Lomond, learning the real story of the childhood tune. Venturing to the Highlands, we took in Loch Ness and enjoyed many adventures. Crathes Castle was wonderful, and I was treated to a special tour as a member of the Family of the House of Burnett! Of course, I bought plaid to make a skirt and a copy of the Family Tree!

Just 2 years ago, we sponsored Major Stephen Campbell and his wife Heidi. Stephen is

Scottish from the Isle of Bute. We were invited to stay with his mum and developed a love of the Isle and of porridge. By the way, to those of you who remember them, they are now proud parents of Agnes Rose, as of a few weeks ago.

After leaving Scotland, we headed south to England. Brigadier Peter Rafferty and Joanne, whom we had sponsored 17 years ago, greeted us at the train station. The years melted away, and we were again chatting gaily as if it were yesterday. We stayed with them and their beautiful daughters in the Lake District. Hannah Rose was only 3 when they were here, and Elspeth was born here. What a joy to visit Beatrix Potter's home with them and see part of England we had never visited before. Peter has fond memories of his time at Ft. Leavenworth and decorated a little room full of treasures and pictures of his time here. It was sad to leave them and head to London.

London is always full of fun, and our voyage home crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Mary 2 amazing, but the visit to our friends was the true highlight of our trip.



Larry, Barbara, Brigadier Peter Rafferty and his wife Joanne



Stephen and Heidi Campbell and Bosco on the Isle of Bute

Travel Share: Habers Cruise Russia

By Karen Haber

Chuck and I have always loved traveling and recently had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Russia, one of our “bucket list” destinations, along with long-time travel companions and fellow GKCPTP members, **Michael and Susan Newburger**. It was the first trip to Russia for three of us. Michael had visited Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Moscow, and Kiev in the USSR in 1968, while on a trip with Park College. He found that things had changed a little since then...

We left Kansas City one day early in order to deal with possible delays and with jet lag. We arrived at our hotel in St. Petersburg with no problem and promptly tried to get some sleep after 3 different flights and a 9-hour time change. The following morning, we ventured out and walked along the Neva River and to Peter and Paul Fortress. We then took a taxi to the river port to get on our ship, **Uniworld’s River Victoria**. Our cruise began in St. Petersburg on September 1 and ended in Moscow on September 13 with several days of cruising in-between on some of Russia’s rivers, lakes, and canals.



Chuck and Karen in front of the Church of Transfiguration. Go to our [Facebook page](#) to see more of their photos, and "Like" the post while you're there."

Our next three days were spent enjoying many sights in St. Petersburg with a city tour, a canal boat ride, a tour of the Yusupov Palace where Rasputin was assassinated, a tour of the **Hermitage Museum**, and a performance of the ballet, Swan Lake, in the Hermitage Theater. We also went to surrounding areas and visited **Catherine Palace** with the famous Amber Room and the gardens of Peterhof, Peter the Great's summer residence on the Gulf of Finland in the Baltic Sea.

The cruise part of our trip officially began with five "small stops" on the way to Moscow. Our first stop was in **Mandroggi**, a reconstructed village, on the shores of the Svir River. This was a pleasant stop where we could see typical buildings and crafts of the area, and we enjoyed a shashlik picnic, a Russian barbecue with shish kebab and other specialties. Our second stop was **Kizhi Island** in Lake Onega with its wooden church and buildings of the 19th century. Next, we stopped in **Goritsy** and in **Kirillov** with a chance to see the current lifestyle in a small town. Our last two stops were in **Yaroslavl** and in **Uglich**, larger towns with beautiful Russian Orthodox churches and other interesting sights.

We then set sail for Moscow, our final destination on the cruise. Part of our journey was on the Volga River. In Moscow, we visited **Red Square**, the **Kremlin** and **Armory museums**, **GUM department store**, **Bow Hill War Memorial**, and even had a tour of some of the

amazing subway stations in Moscow's Metro. In the evenings, we went to a national dance show, **Kostroma**, and to a circus competition, "**Idol—World Festival of Circus Art**" where we saw acrobats, clowns, and even an act with three very large bears.

We enjoyed our trip very much and always felt welcomed by the Russian people that we met along the way. We found the crew and staff of our ship to be very willing to help us and to tell us about their history, language, and culture. We also enjoyed getting to know our fellow passengers—an international group from the USA, Canada, Australia, Chile, Brazil, and many other places. My thanks go to GKCPTP members, **Olga Ganzen** and **Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic**, for their advice and input on visiting their home country of Russia. This trip definitely ranks as one of the best we have taken.

Cuba forum: Should US continue or terminate trade/commerce embargo?

The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, at the University of Kansas

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Program 7:30 p.m.

2350 Petefish Drive, Lawrence, Kansas

The forum will feature two prominent speakers who will present opposite points of view as to whether not the United States should lift the trade/commerce embargo and restore formal recognition of Cuba or maintain the status quo. The discussion will be moderated by Mr. Bill Lacy, Director of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics.

Co-sponsored by The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, at the University of Kansas, and the Pan American Association of Kansas City.

The Pan American Association is a Kansas City, Missouri based nonprofit, nonpolitical, organization whose mission is to educate the community about the countries of the Americas. The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, at the University of Kansas, is a prestigious nonpartisan institute whose mission is to promote political and civic participation as well as civil discourse in a bi-partisan, balanced manner.

More information at:

- www.panamkc.org
- www.doleinstitute.org

