

News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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Greetings from Our Chapter President

Dear GKCPTP members:



I hope you and your family are doing well and you are ready for the holidays. I know this holiday season is not quite what we are accustomed. Our day-to-day lives have not been easy and many of our family and friends have been through very difficult times. The good news is the vaccine is being distributed and hopefully our lives will have a degree of normalcy in the coming months.

I am thankful to all the sponsors who are doing their best during this pandemic to take care of the distinguished officers and their families. Your phone calls, emails, Facetime interactions or Zoom meetings will be remembered for the rest of their lives. International military students are going through challenging times as well, but your connection gives them new energy. Please don't feel badly if you can't invite your officer and family for holiday meals: they will understand. You can send them flowers, cakes or other gifts by mail or other ways of delivery. The point is please keep connected even if it's through

video chats or phone calls.

Winter is already started and so far, we have been lucky that we haven't had the snow as our Northeast incurred. There are a lot of officers who have never seen Kansas winters so please guide them properly. Explain to them the perils of driving on snow and icy roads, the importance of wearing warm, water-resistant shoes and being careful when walking on snow or ice.

Holidays are also a great time to reconnect with your previous officers and send them greetings. The pandemic was not only tough for us but it was for everyone around the world, so your kind words can make a huge difference in their lives.

I am also thankful to all those members who did not sponsor this year for various reasons and gave an opportunity for new sponsors to experience the program. Our military and program committees are working hard to make the coming year exciting for all members. Sharon and Nancy will update you in this regard.

Our organization is proud of you and your families. Your dedication and love of service as a volunteer is priceless. You are not only making friends from all over the world at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, but your relationships are making a huge difference. These officers and their families will never forget the care and hospitality provided to them during their stay in the Greater Kansas City area.

We have some news within our membership. On a sad note, our Administrative Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors, Steve Duxbury's father died from COVID-19. Our heartfelt condolences go to him and his family. He has resigned from the board and other official duties, but he will continue sponsoring.

We have some good news from Board Member and Military Committee Member, Pat Burnett. Pat has a new grandchild, a little boy named Theo. He is such a cute bundle of joy.

I want to thank once again all our chapter members, especially our military committee, program committee and board members for their most valuable contribution, which is their

time for this organization, this country and the nation.

I encourage those members who are willing to help out and join the board, any committee or even backup for any position. Please come forward and talk to me or any of our board members.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (or any board member).

Happy holidays and Happy New Year to you, your families and your officers. Stay safe and warm.

Zahid Awan
President
Board of Directors
Greater Kansas City People to People International
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PS: New chapter members and sponsors offer an infusion of new ideas and energy to our organization; and I love their courage to give us their valuable time.

"Circle of Knowledge" Events Offer International Learning Opportunities

Please join GKCPTP as we seek to make a difference, through personal involvement, in the lives of people from different parts of the world by learning from cultural presentations representing countries throughout the world. We have two talks, via Zoom, that will highlight the countries of Bangladesh and Poland.

Please invite your neighbors and friends to learn about our unique relationship with the foreign officers, some of which will be represented in these talks. These presentations are similar to those given on post before COVID-19 (called "Know Your World"), without the

need to leave your home.

Note: Zoom links will be sent out just ahead of the events.

Presenting Country: Bangladesh

Sunday, January 31 at 2:00 p.m.

Presenting Country: Poland

Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 p.m.

CARES Act Provides Increased Tax Incentives for Charitable Giving

Consider a donation to GKCPTP before December 31, 2020 expiration

The Federal government offers a special incentive for charitable giving called Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which expires December 31, 2020. This Act changes of charitable contributions to reduce the amount of your taxable income.

Under this act, if you do not itemize and instead take the standard deduction, you may still reduce your taxable income by up to \$300 per person or per tax return for cash donations made to public charities (501(c)(3) organizations).

To be sure, please consult with your tax advisor before donating if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.

To donate now, [click here](#)! Thank you.

A Message from David Bornn, Jr.

Dear sponsors,

A couple things to share with you.

COVID-19 disrupts Internationals military students travel plans

Please be aware that we have instances where our students must be quarantined due to exposure to the coronavirus. Student travel plans may have been canceled or postponed, unfortunately. Our sponsors may hear from officers and learn of their disappointment. Please be assured that we take the pandemic and our responsibility to care of the officers seriously. Officers were apprised that their plans could be disrupted and that it could lead to lost deposits, etc. We ask sponsors to avoid taking sides. There are no sides, we all want the best outcomes for all the officers, instructors and the many people on base.

Suspect Emails and Scams

It seems that the holiday season brings an increase in attempted scams and this season is no different. A GKCPTP member recently informed us of an email that appeared to come from an officer that he and his spouse sponsored in the past. The "officer" requested money for a sick friend. It appeared to be a scam and we advised the sponsor to be cautious since we find such emails often come from a nefarious source. Additionally, we hold that it is inappropriate for current or past officers to ask for financial support. Please contact your sponsor organizations' leaders or me if you receive a suspicious email, social media interaction, etc.

Thanks you again for your passion, service and love to our program and its IMS families. Have a very blessed, healthy and happy new year!

David M. Bornn Jr.

International Field Studies Program Director

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Calendar

| Date | Event | Place | Time |
|-----------------|--|-------|-------------|
| Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Break | --- | --- |
| Dec 19 – Jan 13 | Winter Break | --- | --- |
| Jan 31 | Circle of Knowledge: Bangladesh | Zoom | 2:00 – 3:00 |
| Feb 21 | Circle of Knowledge: Poland | Zoom | 2:00 – 3:00 |
| Mar 13 – 21 | Spring Break | --- | --- |
| May 20-28 | IMS Gettysburg/DC Trip | — | — |
| Jun 10 | IMS Officer Farewell & Sponsor Recognition | TBD | --- |
| Jun 17 | Badge Ceremony Class of 2020 | TBD | --- |

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