



Our Mission

is to bring together people of diverse national origins to foster intercultural understanding, to promote awareness of our roles as citizens in the wider global community, and to create goodwill.

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Global Connections is a nonprofit organization supported by the Centre County United Way, Penn State's Global Programs, and members of the community.

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Connections

A Global Connections Publication

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Celebrating 50 Years!

Global Connections' 50th anniversary has been a celebration of tolerance and friendship, learning and understanding, interaction and collaboration, and incredible generosity and compassion. Over these fifty years, countless volunteers have given so much of themselves to Global Connections' programs – reaching out to help and understand their new neighbors, or share their culture with their new community – eagerly and happily bridging cultures and differences to create a more accepting community and world. Volunteers are



the architecture of Global Connections. We are... these volunteers. We are... neighbors. We are all... creating an intercultural community.

We are grateful for the continued support of so many community members, area businesses, the Centre County United Way, and the University Office of Global Programs. Thanks to Penn State's Global Programs, we moved this past year into improved office space in the Boucke Building, and continue our direct connection with international students, scholars and their families. And through the Centre County United Way, we are part of a collaboration of agencies working to improve lives and the quality of life in Centre County, to provide the support of a community safety net, and to gain fiscal support for our significant programs.



This has been a sweet year of celebration — of old friends and many new, increased exposure, and of increased fundraising as well. And we are very pleased to announce that with the help of our remarkable volunteers, we've raised \$53,935 in sponsorships alone this anniversary year — surpassing our goal of \$50,000.

As Ella Fitzgerald said, "The only thing better than singing is more singing," and we look joyously forward to 50 more years of fostering acceptance and understanding in an ever more diverse community and world.

Passport on a Plate: A Global Odyssey



Japan Table by Sue Moore Hiester and Daniel Vaughn.

Global Connections' 50th Anniversary edition of our Passport on a Plate gala dinner was *A Global Odyssey*. The evening of Sunday, January 30th, at the Ramada Inn, was co-hosted and emcee'd by State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham and Penn State President Graham Spanier, and featured a reception with entertainment by Richa Lal and Sribindu Pisupati performing Indian Odissi dance; an exciting



Local artist Kim Brooks Filkins (Me Kim Design Studio) (left) made the gift plates given by GC to the Passport dinner co-chairs Elizabeth Goreham (shown right) and Graham Spanier.

silent auction with a wide variety of 77 items— from travel packages such as a one-week stay at a Dubai villa or two-nights at the Algonquin in NYC including VIP tickets to an ABC studio taping, to items such as works by local and global artists, theatre tickets or a glider ride. The Ramada dining hall was transformed by local artists and designers with 23 tables each individually designed with a different country's theme. A pre-dinner *Tour des Tables* allowed attendees to travel from table to table—from Italy to Ireland, New Zealand to Belize, a magical and delightful global adventure around the dining



Olga Buchko from Ukraine, Jacqueline Austin from Barbados, and Ephraim Govere from Zimbabwe.

room. Dinner also carried the odyssey theme with selections from such countries as Vietnam, Jamaica, Thailand and France. Words from Mayor Goreham and President Spanier added a truly special note to the evening, and a lively pre-dessert concert by Nadia Tarnawsky and Sounds of Ukraine was the icing on the anniversary cake! All in all, the perfect gala evening was a delightful celebration of Global Connections that also raised \$36,765 for Global Connections' programs!



Pablo Tosta and Mercedes Cortes from Venezuela.



Joan Ritchie, Tom and Kris Charles.



Plato Ghinos, John and Lisa Dimakopoulos.

More Photos from Passport on a Plate: A Global Odyssey



1. The New Zealand/Australia Table—
Designed by Patricia Gordon (Riley on Main)

2. The Greece Table by Lisa & John Dimakopoulos
and Cassandra & Plato Ghinos

3. Graham Spanier with volunteer wait staff Pei-Wei
Lee, Anissat Salamy, Ake Rahtanasolpol, Kanokporn
Kungwalsong and Dong Lin.

4. Odissi dancers Sribindu Pisupati & Richa Lal

5. Jackie Tawse, Pieter Ouwehand and Patricia Best

6. Ilangalibalele Dhlamini, Armen Tahirsylaj, Susan and Lewis Steinberg

7. Talat Azhar, Karma Thinley and Mayor Elizabeth Goreham

8. The Thailand Table by Oi Borden

9. Paul Esqueda and Sandra Spanier

10. Singer Nadia Tarnawsky sang
with Sounds of Ukraine



Photo M. David



Thank You to Contributors to *Passport on a Plate: A Global Odyssey!*

Chefs, In-kind Donors, Table Designers, Auction Donors, Performers, Student Wait Staff and Guests

CHEFS

Craig Hamilton, *The Village at Penn State* • William Benedetto, *Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel* • Tracy Coleman, *For Heaven Cakes* • Robin Dunn, *Zola New World Bistro* • Tamra Fatemi-Badi • Roger Fisher, *Penn State Food Service* • Paul Kendeffer, *Zola New World Bistro* • Pam Lear, *The Village at Penn State* • Justin Leiter • Zachary Lorber, *Lock Haven University Dining Services* • Andrew Monk, *Nittany Lion Inn* • Grace Pilato, *Cooking with Grace* • Renee Reed, *The Village at Penn State* • Suksan Ruangpatana, *Cozy Thai Bistro* • Amy Seaton, *Le Jeune Chef* • Jaime Stover, *The Village at Penn State*

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TABLE DESIGNERS

Steve Artz, *Gift Adventures* • Allen R. Baney, *Avant Garden, Inc.* • Lisa Baumgartner and Kelly Keefe • Oi Borden • Josephine Carubia • Alice Clark and family and friends • Michelle Damiano, *Impressions* • Katie Dawes and Joan Grant, *Kitchen Kaboodle • Desert Rug Company • Designer's Studio* • Lisa and John Dimakopoulos & Cassandra and Plato Ghinos • Jessica Dolan, *Room to Breathe Home Organizing & Staging*, Nyssa Smith, *Kissinger Bigatel & Brower Realtors*, and Lisa Peters, *Epic Settlement* • Suzanne S. Elder, *School of Theatre Arts, Penn State University* • Kim Brooks Filkins, *Me Kim Design Studio* • Charlene Friedman, *Mountain Edge Alpacas, LLC* and Jerry Jordan, *Tayse, A Lifestyle Company* • Susy Glenn, *Best Event Rental* • Patricia Gordon, *Riley on Main* • Sue Moore Hiester and Daniel Vaughn, *Daniel Vaughn Designs* • Jana King, *King Printing*, and Shelly Kendeffer • Sue Lacy, Ruth Kempner, and Joan Lampman, *Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania* • Joy Mitra and Ranadhir Mitra • Gretchen Moody, *American Philatelic Society* • Kitty Patterson, *Graphics & Design*

New ways to register for GC programs this fall

Global Connections will have on-line registration available for its programs this fall. The move, combined with the development of a new electronic database, will allow us to store our information electronically, access client and volunteer information better and reduce the amount of paper we use in the office. Instead of filling out individual application forms for Global Connections' programs, clients will be able to register for everything at once using a site powered by Survey Monkey. A comprehensive paper registration form will also be available for those without computer access. We plan to have the system up and running by international student orientation in August.

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.

-Anais Nin



Find us on
Facebook

Be sure to "Like" Global Connections on Facebook!
(Look for our logo as profile pic to be sure it's us!)

50 and Forward!

Recognizing 50 years of fostering real and meaningful intercultural understanding, Mayor Elizabeth Goreham hosted a very special birthday reception on May 22nd to mark the end of the year of celebrations of Global Connections' 50th anniversary, and to help us look forward to the next 50 years of community-minded and global-minded work. Mayor Goreham and PSU president Graham Spanier generously co-hosted GC's 50th anniversary celebrations. And while our kick-off in October was held at Schreyer House, the home of Graham and Sandra Spanier, this closing event covered the other half of town/gown, held in the heart of the community, at the State College municipal building. The program included a proclamation given by the mayor to Global Connections, recognizing and celebrating GC's 50th anniversary and supporting GC's efforts into the next 50 years. *(See next page for Proclamation.)*



Mayor Goreham (right) presents a proclamation to Global Connections director, Merrill David.

As President Spanier was out of town for this event, Tom Poole, Vice-President for Administration at Penn State, graciously addressed the attendees in his stead. Poole spoke of the vital necessity of GC to PSU's internationalization efforts and in meeting the needs



of PSU's students and scholars. Kathy Dittman, Director of Service Excellence at Mount Nittany Medical Center, also spoke, offering words of praise and gratitude for GC's initiation and implementation of cultural competency panels held for MNMC staff, nurses and doctors. The reception was covered by C-Net.

Tom Poole, PSU's VP for Administration, and Kathy Dittmann, Mt Nittany Medical Center's Director of Service Excellence, addressed the attendees of GC's 50th & Forward celebration.



Entertainment was generously provided by the Turkish dance group, Turquoise. Other volunteers wrote guests' names in Hindi, Farsi, Thai and Korean.

Internationals File Taxes, Too!

Once again this past spring, Global Connections helped some 939 international students and scholars from over 60 countries file their tax returns. Thanks to volunteer tax advisors Bob Bernlohr, John Diercks, Reinhard Graetzer, Gordon Hamilton, Donna Hamao Langdon, Bob Malcom, Marcia Patterson, Mimi St Clair, and Bob Minard, and to volunteer tax receptionists Dechang Chen, Gay Morelli, Janis Nickerson, and Hong Ruan.



John Diercks helps a young man from China file his returns.

We can always use more help, no experience is necessary and we'll train you! Contact us if you might be interested in becoming a volunteer for the Tax Assistance Program for spring 2012!



Bob Bernlohr (right) explains the tax forms to a student from China.

Proclamation

Global Connections' 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Global Connections is a Community non-profit organization that has promoted intercultural understanding in Centre County and the surrounding region for 50 years, and

WHEREAS, the mission of Global Connections is to bring together people of diverse national origins to foster respect, appreciation and understanding of other cultures, and to promote awareness of our roles as citizens in the wider global community, and to create goodwill, and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to interact with people from other countries can dispel stereotypes and challenge prejudices on both sides, Global Connections has contributed 50 years of opportunities for children and adults to meet and communicate; to experience generosity, kindness, and friendship, and to work together toward creating a more welcoming atmosphere for international students, scholars, employees, refugees, immigrants, and families, and

WHEREAS, Global Connections provides programs and services that benefit over 7,000 internationals and Americans each year, including English-as-a-second-language (ESL) Classes, International Speakers Program, Conversation Partners Program, Cultural Luncheons, International Friendship Program, Tax Assistance Program, Women's Intercultural Book Groups, World Affairs Forums, International Children's Festival, World Sounds at Noon Performance Series, Cultural Competency Trainings, and Translation Services, and

WHEREAS, Global Connections is an indispensable bridge between Americans and internationals, between Penn State and our diverse community, committed to fostering intercultural learning, sharing and respect for all people as they seek to flourish in our community on both sides of College Avenue,

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Global Connections' founding, and applaud their pledge to increase understanding between people of different cultures in our region and our world for 50 more years.



Mayor Elizabeth A. Goreham
May 22, 2011



More Photos from the 50 and Forward Community Reception

1. Sara Parks, John and Barbara Coyle, Henry Parks and Denise Rodriquez
2. Jack Matson and Mayor Elizabeth Goreham
3. Hari Swarup Jammulamadaka, Adena Minassian, Ake Rahtanasopol, Youngjo Yang
4. Ruth Sauder, Jesse and Barb Ballenger and Lucy Green
5. Janet Tang and Ping Ping Gan
6. Laura Reidy, Anne Ard and Tom Poole
7. Gail and Reid Hendershot and Barbara and Bob Minard



Found in Translation

Global Connections' sixth annual poetry reading, *Found in Translation: World Poetry Read by World People*, featured the poetry of 22 countries, Nov. 18th at Irvings on College Ave. Twenty-five internationals read poetry in their native languages, then followed with an English translation. The event even inspired Irving's customer Tatiana Bibikova, from Russia, to offer her own impromptu translation of a Russian poem from her laptop computer.



Volunteer Conversation Partners and Friendship Hosts Greatly Needed!

This summer, start a friendship that lasts throughout the year (or lifetime!) by becoming a Conversation Partner or International Friendship Program host. Internationals faced a lengthy waiting list for matches this year, as their numbers exceeded our American volunteers. Many remain in State College in the summer and are eager to practice their conversational English one-on-one through our Conversation Partners program. No foreign language experience is needed, as you meet with your partner to chat in English.

Summer is also a great time to become a host through the International Friendship Program, as the season is filled with many of State College's signature events—the summer Arts Festival, Spikes games—not to mention the many picnic and recreational opportunities in local parks. No housing is involved, and the experience is mutually beneficial as you and your new international friend(s) learn about each other's cultures. *Please contact us for more information!*



From Tiger Moms to Helicopter Parents: Parenting Across Cultures

An international panel of parents shared their perspectives on how their culture shapes the choices they make in raising their children, as part of Global Connections' April 14 *World Affairs Forum* at Schlow Library in State College. Titled *From Tiger Moms to Helicopter*



Ernesto Carriazo, Talat Azhar, Krishna Jayakar, GC Coordinator Barb Ballenger and Jie Xu.

Parents: Parenting across Cultures, the program was moderated by Talat Azhar, outreach coordinator for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Penn State.

Panelists were Jie Xu from China, a mom and research assistant in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at PSU and former principal of the Happy Valley Chinese School; Krishna Jayakar from India, a dad and associate professor in the College of Communications; and Ernesto Carriazo from Colombia, a dad and Sparks Fellow in the Spanish Department.

Global Readers to help boost bilingual literacy in preschoolers

Global Connections is partnering with the Bennett Family Center at Penn State to help international preschoolers develop English literacy by hearing stories in their native language at school. Called Global Readers, GC's pilot program will feature international volunteers who will read stories to the pre-schoolers in their own language throughout the day.



The program is inspired by research that shows that learning to read in a child's first language boosts reading achievement in the second language. This was the finding of a 2008 Stanford University study, which reviewed more than 500 studies on English-language learners, according to a May 08 article in the Los Angeles Times, "Dual-language immersion programs growing in popularity."

The benefit occurs because children are able to take reading skills learned in their first language — such as linking sounds to words — and apply them to their second, San Jose State University professor and language specialist Kathryn Lindholm-Leary told the LA Times. Additionally, being able to speak more than one language at an early age has been found to aid memory, problem-solving, decision-making and other brain functions, she said.

Second language-learners can also feel isolated by their lack of English, and having a fellow speaker read with them gives them a period of comfort and familiarity. Global Connections volunteers will read books in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, French and Turkish, perhaps expanding to other languages, and GC hopes to develop the program for other institutions such as area nursing homes, as individual clients are identified.

Community Travels the World at Lunch Hour

Global Connections' Cultural Lunches took us to Africa, Asia and Latin American in 2011. Humphrey Fellow Anne-Marie Niandou Gbobia guided lunch participants on a culinary tour of her home country of **Côte D'Ivoire** in January. February brought a journey to **Ecuador** led by Humphrey Fellow Mateo Estrella and his wife Isabella Ontaneda, with the help of students from the School of Hospitality Management. The members of the Latin American Graduate Student Association (LAGRASA) followed in March



Dayoung Lee and Hyeseon Kim

by hosting a tour of the cuisine of **Latin America**. The season's cultural lunches culminated in April with the flavors of **South Korea**, hosted by Hyeseon Kim.



Isabella Ontaneda
and Mateo Estrella



Anne-Marie
Niandou Gbobia

Greater Collaboration: Women's Resource Center & Global Connections

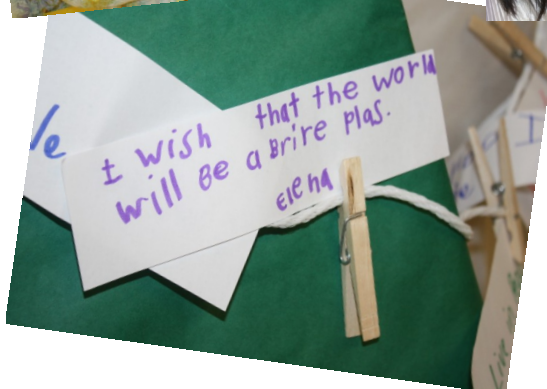
The needs of international women victims of violence are evident in our community. As a result, back in the spring of 2008, Global Connections was invited to join the Centre County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force. Task force members, including the CCWRC, have become more aware of the unique needs of international victims of violence against women, and GC has since been working with CCWRC staff and with law enforcement on behalf of victims. Beginning in January 2010, Global Connections has been collaborating with the Centre County Women's Resource Center to reach out to the international community in Centre County through the *Addressing Violence Against International Women Project* grant. The grant, funded through the STOP Violence Against Women/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, gave GC the opportunity to help CCWRC with greater outreach to international women—enhancing victims' understanding and awareness of the resources available to them, providing interpreter service for clients, coordinating the translation of WRC materials into other languages prevalent in our community, and providing cultural competency training for CCWRC staff and volunteers.

Global Connections was also a proud sponsor of the CCWRC/State Theatre's Lunafest 2010 – a national film festival that features international short films by, for and about women – with all proceeds benefitting CCWRC and the State Theatre.

International Children's Festival!

Global Connections' 2011 International Children's Festival, held April 2nd in collaboration with PSU's Global Programs, proved to be one of the best attended yet, with over 500 kids and their families enjoying a day of international crafts, dance, food and music. In the auditorium of the south building of State High School, attendees took in 14 performances, such as Korean martial arts, Irish dancing and Japanese drumming. In the cafeteria, activities varied from learning Egyptian hieroglyphics to crafting Ecuadoran sea turtles, playing a Korean tossing game and challenging a Russian to a game of chess. More than 16 countries as well as a variety of community organizations were represented. Festival-goers also enjoyed judging an international finger-foods competition and bidding in the silent auction. Falling just a few weeks after the earthquake in Japan, the festival this year also featured a

"Save Japan" fundraising area where participants could purchase Japanese food and crafts to support tsunami recovery efforts.



Working with a Diversity of Cultures:

GC Offers Cultural Competency Workshops!



Global Connections has been informally offering Cultural Competency Workshops to local organizations since 2007. Now we're coming out! With such positive responses from previous workshop participants, the Cultural Competency Workshop (CCW) Program is officially a GC program!

The primary goals of the workshop are for participants to learn about the make-up of the local international community, and to understand cultural differences beyond foods, clothing, and holidays — what culture means, how it defines us, and how to incorporate culture into every day! With this information, participants have been able to better serve the international community of Centre County. Previous participants have included the Centre County Women's Resource Center staff, Global Studies teachers, Liberal Arts Advisors, Work Force Education's New Teachers Workshop, and first responders to domestic violence and sexual assault at the Stop Violence Against Women Training Institute (SVAWTI). Workshops have ranged from one hour to all day and have included a panel of international speakers with experience in the workshop participants' field in their own country or the US.

If your organization would benefit from a CCW, contact our office and we can tailor a workshop to meet the needs of your organization.

Thank You to Global Connections' 50th Anniversary Sponsors!

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