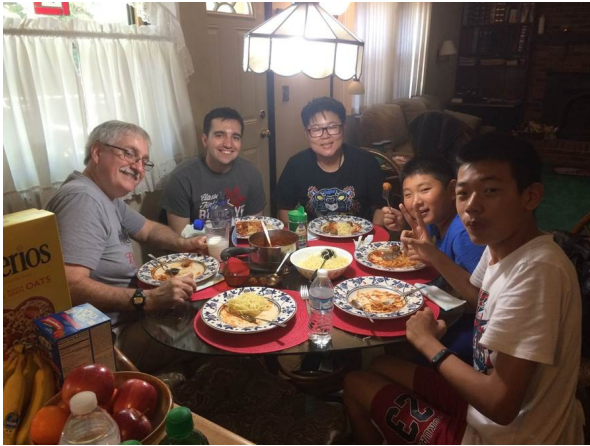


## Interested in Experiencing Intercultural Exchange? Be a Host Family!



*The Andrews Family hosted members of our 2016 Chinese Youth Delegation .*



*Debbie Andrews with one of her Chinese Guests, Beni.*

Hosting international guests provides wonderful opportunities to learn about people and cultures from around the world. Whether you are a single person, a working couple, a family with children, or a retiree, you can serve as a host to a CIP International Professional in Residence, or members of one of our group delegations. Experiencing authentic American culture by living with an American family is an enriching element in any of our international guest's experience here. Host families also benefit from being exposed to the culture of the home country of your guests, and having the opportunity to form lasting friendships with people from all over the world.

There are two upcoming hosting opportunities, meaning CIP is looking for up to **twelve host families!** Both are for upcoming delegations from China. The first is a delegation coming to learn more about American culture and customs, who will need hosts from May 6th—15th. The second is a Social Work delegation, that will need to be hosted from May 19th—29th. If you are interested, please contact [mark@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:mark@cipcolumbus.org).

## Former IPR and CIP Employee Reunite in Madrid



*Mehmet, Marcus and Melis in Madrid.*



*Mehmet and Melis enjoying churros con chocolate.*



*Mehmet, Melis and Marcus with friends Kris, Ruben and Laura in Burgos.*

Marcus Andrews, former CIP employee, is living in Spain as an English Teaching Assistant. This past month, he got the chance to visit with one of CIP's past IPRs, Melis Kahraman. Below is his recap of their time together.

*Melis Kahraman is a family psychologist in Ankara, Turkey, and I met her last October when she started her six month program training with a variety of different organizations. She was hosted by Marian Harris and was an extremely active and energetic IPR, getting involved in all kinds of organizations and activities. We've stayed in touch while working on a research project together, and when I started teaching English in Spain we talked about trying to meet some time, whether in Spain, Turkey, or in between. So, this weekend it worked out that she and her husband, Mehmet, could visit Madrid for a few days. I showed them all around the major sights, and they really enjoyed getting to know the culture - particularly tapas and wine, churros and chocolate, big traditional afternoon lunches, and the general outgoing energy of Spaniards who are out in the streets literally all hours of the day. Mehmet and I really hit it off, and he seemed to be in heaven at every restaurant or bar we went to, and they both were eager to get an armful of jamon and cheese at the supermarket to bring home. Additionally, we went to Burgos for one day to visit Melis' friend, Kris, who she met through a Council of International Fellowship (CIF) program, in Turkey. Burgos is a 2.5 hour drive north of Madrid in Castilla y Leon, and it's a quieter, non-touristy small city, with a ton of history and, of course, unique local foods and wines.*

One of the best things that come from intercultural exchange is friendships like Melis' and Marcus'! We love seeing lasting connections made through our programs.

## Farewell to Kat Moser

Kathy (Kat) Moser has a new full-time job!

Kat, our Director of Operations has taken a new, full-time job a Home Care Assistance, located in the Tremont Center in Upper Arlington. She will still be involved with CIP as a consultant, helping out as needed. We caught up with her before she left to ask her a few questions about her time with our organization. If you would like to read this interview, [click here!](#)

We are so thankful to Kathy for her dedicated service over the last four years, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

*Kathy is pictured in the center with Malik Moore (to her right) and Mark Poeppelman (to her left).*



## Show Your Support for the Vulnerable

Malik Moore, Executive Director of Social Responsibility with the YMCA of Central Ohio (pictured above), shared a new concept with us last week: wearing safety pins on your clothing as a show of support for vulnerable groups across America.

In response to growing fears among many different communities across the United States, in light of the recent political climate, that they may be targeted by different segments of the American public, people across America are attaching safety pins to their clothing, as a way of showing they will protect and support these groups. This new fashion statement is not a protest against President Trump, but rather a pro-kindness movement, designed to let groups who feel targeted and unsafe know that they have allies who are here for them. This trend is a resistance to hate and negativity. Those wearing safety pins hope to provide a sense of safety to those in fear, and use them as a reminder to themselves to stand up and defend anyone they see being victimized.

## Welcome to Joe Peng

Dinghua (Joe) Peng is an international student from China, studying International Relations, with a minor in entrepreneurship. Joe has been in Columbus for four years, stating he was attracted to the area due to its diversity and tolerance. Joe pursued an internship with CIP because he wanted to make a positive impact on Columbus, which he now considers to be his home. So far, Joe has been working with Jiyu Jia on Chinese exchange programs, as well as working on grants writing with his fellow interns. He is enjoying his internship at CIP!





## Events and Announcements

### Discover Mongolia—Next Week!

*With Nancy Buyantur*

We are excited to announce an upcoming country presentation that will be given by one of our current IPRs, Nancy Buyantur. Nancy is the first IPR that CIP has hosted from Mongolia and we are very excited to learn more about her beautiful country. Her presentation will take place on **Thursday, March 9th, at 6:00 pm** at BD's Mongolian Grill at 6242 Sawmill Road, Dublin OH, 43017. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets online or pay at the door.

Please RSVP at [eleni@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:eleni@cipcolumbus.org)

### International Women's Day Celebration

*With The Center for Somali Women's Advancement*

Join friend of CIP Khadra Mohamed and her organization, The Center for Somali Women's Advancement, next Monday, March 6th, for an event celebrating International Women's Day. The event will be held from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Plan on arriving early, as parking can be a challenge. There will be a lunch, cultural performances from every continent, featured speakers, networking and more!

For more information, contact

[eleni@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:eleni@cipcolumbus.org)

### Phase III of the U.S.—Russian Peer-to-Peer Program

On March 18th, a group of students and educators from the Wellington School accompanied by CIP Executive Director Mark Poeppelman, Mike Fulwider, Vice President of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, and CIP Board of Trustees Member, Yana Belan will be off to Russia to begin the third leg of their International Business Innovation Collaborative. Keep an eye out for updates and photos soon!

### International Taste of Columbus Update

We are so grateful to all the people over the last forty plus years that have volunteered their services; provided donations, and attended our signature fundraising event. As an update, we have decided to postpone this year's fall event and considering hosting in the Spring of 2018. The CIP Board of Trustees are currently evaluating our programming and events. Stay tuned and we will be back in touch with information on upcoming opportunities.

