



# MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Spotlight on Mikalene Guiser, Board Member by Brady Calestro

*The following is a transcript from a face-to-face interview.*

BC: What is your role with CIP? What projects have you enjoyed working on?

MG: I'm on the Board, I'm on the Executive Committee as Secretary, and I'm also a host family. I've been connected to CIP for 5 years.

BC: How did you become involved with CIP?

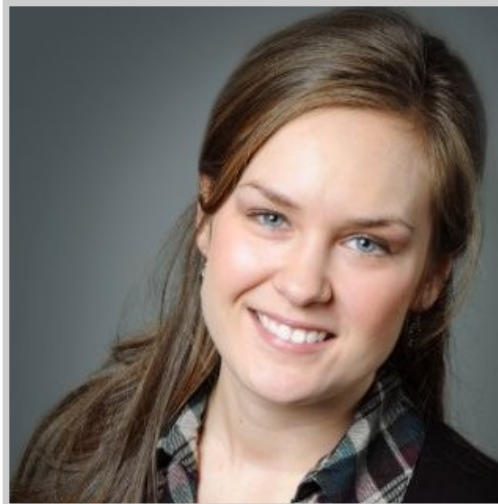
MG: As a host family. I learned about being a host family on a plane ride with someone who was a participant and had it in the back of my mind for several years and happened to reach out [to CIP] at a time that Mark was looking for host families. Within a month I was a host family, and we had a great experience. And we now host several times a year.

BC: If someone was considering becoming a host family, what would you say to them?

MG: Well, I talk about this a lot with my friends, because I have been so fulfilled in it. I think one of the biggest things is just opening your home, which is such a personal thing. Opening your home to someone who wants to learn about the American lifestyle, American culture, and I consider myself an American thru-and-thru, kind of a cookie-cutter American! So I feel like I'm a good representation of how Americans live, what Americans eat, how we are. But, in reverse, you have the same opportunity to learn the same things about whom ever you're hosting: What their culture is, what their religion is, what their politics are, what kinds of things they eat. It's a give-and-take, it's not just one-way communication. Yes, they're coming here to learn about business or their industry, as well as learn about how Americans live because a lot of times I think it's glamorized, but absolutely it's enriching for me to learn about them. Who wants to just be talked to, right? Everybody wants to have a back-and-forth dialogue.

BC: What do you think Columbus has to offer as a destination city which perhaps isn't available in a larger city?

MG: One of the main things that people I've hosted say is that Columbus people are so nice. They want to talk to you, they want to learn from you, they hear an accent and want to know where you're from. This isn't always true in larger cities.



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BC: Was there a moment when you feel like your global identity was born?

MG: It wasn't a moment, but it's been a process. And it's really been over the time that I was a host family. Learning about other cultures, not just while they're with me, but wanting to learn when I don't even have someone staying with me. Beginning to travel abroad, I went to Turkey two years ago and it was truly a life-changing experience. I've just gone to Germany last year and re-connected with a bunch of people I knew from CIP. I think global identity is so intrinsic in your person. For me, it's all about learning about *real* people. Not just people I see on the news, or stereotypes, but learning on a micro scale about people and neighborhoods and values.

I grew up in a smallish town in Pennsylvania where almost everyone was white, almost everyone was Protestant. And that's a fine thing; I'm very happy with where I grew up. When I came to Ohio State for the first time in 1999, my roommate was African-American and I starting meeting people of different backgrounds. And that was the first time I ever had a true friendship with an African-American. Not that I didn't try to before, but the opportunity was simply not available. And it was the first time that I learned about a religion that truly wasn't my own. I have found that going to a campus like Ohio State, they're such a mix of people and you realize that there's more out there than the world that you're living in. There are more people, more experiences, more religions, more people, and everyone doesn't come from the same background. I think that's where the seeds were planted, and once I got involved with CIP, I felt like I have the chance to enact some of this — to really work on building bridges and reaching out to other people that aren't anything like me and learn something from them and maybe have them learn something from me. And that's valuable.

BC: As a result of these experiences, do you have a world philosophy?

MG: I think it's shown me that people of all ilk are at the root, the same. Everybody has family challenges or accomplishments no matter where you live in the world. Everybody has socio-economic challenges or aspirations, everybody wants to do better for themselves or have their kids do better. Whether you're American, European, African — these are the same hopes and dreams that everyone has. It doesn't matter what religion or culture you belong to; I've found in a variety of people that we're all really more alike than we are different. The more you talk to people on a micro level, you just realize how much you have in common with them. And that's a beautiful thing to realize that someone is living a similar life to me, somewhere else in the world, and they're not American. It's not because I'm American that I'm the way I am; it's because I'm human.

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## The Columbus International 5K

The 4th Annual Columbus International 5K took place April 25th and was another huge success for to supporting the worldwide elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus while celebrating the international community in Columbus! Thanks to all those who participated and see you next year!



CIP's Executive Director,  
Mark Poepelman and Karina  
Nova of 10 TV



Columbus International 5K race participants



# COMINGS & GOINGS

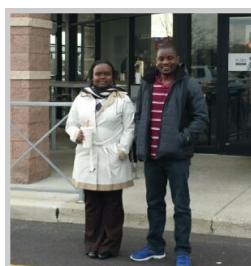


Above is KENNY WAFULA with Kathy Moser (CIP's Director of Business Operations). Kenny will be returning home to Kenya after his work at West Central High School. He was one of our favorite International Professionals in Residence, and will be greatly missed!

...and as Kenny leaves, ESTHER KAMORE, a fellow Kenyan, has arrived. Here is Esther (right) in front of Ohio Stadium learning about Buckeye Nation! Welcome Esther!



Here's a shot of Esther and Kenny in front of Kenny's favorite restaurant in Worthington, Piada Italian Street Food!



## CIP'S NEW GLOBAL PARTNER

Meet our latest Global Partner, PEIZHENG LI (right), who will be working with Jay Hu of Joss Data in Dublin for the next 18 months. Joss Data is a fast growing IT technology consultancy, founded in 2006 by IT industry veterans ([www.jossdata.com](http://www.jossdata.com)). Here's the gang in front of CIP headquarters.



From Left to Right: Nan Wilson (CIP Intern), Peizheng Li (Global Partner), Phil Beltz (CIP Board President), and Jay Hu (Joss Data).



## GOOD LUCK, HALEY!

A valuable member to CIP's team, HALEY DeLEON, left earlier this month. She is pictured here on the right with another IPR, Frances Khamayo. Haley was instrumental in coordinating several projects, especially those involving Social Work, for over a year. We wish her the best as she pursues her career in Social Work, and with her next stop in Brazil!



HENRY MADUKA, a CIP International Professional in Residence from Nigeria. He has been working at Phillip's Pharmacy. Some of you may recognize Henry from the notorious snowball video back in February (see below). Along with most of us, Henry is glad the snow is behind us. At least for now!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uLHlgm3HGQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uLHlgm3HGQ)

## Upcoming Events

### MAY 12TH: THE BIG GIVE

**Time** May 12, 10:00 AM to May 13, 10:00 AM  
**Location** Online

Maximize your contribution to CIP through the Columbus Foundation's "Big Give"! When you give during this 24-hour period, the Columbus Foundation will amplify your donation to CIP based on the total amount received during the rally. During these hours, you can click on the link below to give. If you'd prefer not to give electronically, you can send us a check at Columbus International Program, 57 Jefferson Ave # 3,

Columbus, OH 43215. Just make sure we receive it by May 12th. Your contribution helps CIP bring the world to Columbus, and Columbus to the world. Show your spirit!

[http://tcfapp.org/Show/Columbus\\_Area\\_International\\_Program\\_for\\_Youth\\_Leaders\\_Social\\_Workers](http://tcfapp.org/Show/Columbus_Area_International_Program_for_Youth_Leaders_Social_Workers)



MAY 2015						
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### MAY 19TH: SHENZEN SOCIAL WORK FAREWELL DINNER DELEGATION

**Time** 6:30 PM  
**Location** Sunflower Restaurant  
 Sawmill Center, 7370 Sawmill Rd  
 Columbus, OH 43235

This marks the second year of the Shenzhen Social Work training program. This evening the delegation will share their experiences of observing various organizations around Central Ohio. The event is open to the public. Please call the CIP office for more information at (614) 221-0034.

### REMINDER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Please consider assisting with our medical equipment sharing program. CIP Board Member, Bahram Hashemi, is committed to providing small, life-changing medical items to third world charities, clinics, and orphanages. These items will fit easily into a small compartment in your suitcase.

If you will be traveling internationally and can help, please contact Bahram by email at [Bahram43215@gmail.com](mailto:Bahram43215@gmail.com) or by phone at (614) 906-4016.

**2015 Corporate Sponsorship and Memberships are still available and are always welcome. Go to [www.cipcolumbus.org/join-us.html](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/join-us.html) to obtain your membership today! Your partnership is valuable to our organization's survival and continued success.**

