



DENVER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

As DIP celebrates our **29th year of service to the Denver community**, we look forward to sharing news about upcoming events and our current and former participants. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and invite you to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested in learning more about DIP and **our mission -- to build understanding among people and nations through professional training and cross-cultural exchange.**

MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS



Tsogt Galsan has been working at the MONGOLYN ALT (MAK) mining company in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, since 1996. Currently, he is Director of the Production and Technical Department, which is the main division for all of MAK's activities. He has a degree in Mining Technology Engineering from the Mining University of Sverdlovsk in Russia and has attended English and business management programs in New Zealand and Egypt.

Tsogt is married and has three children. He and his family enjoy traveling in the countryside, watching movies and playing snooker billiards.

After six weeks of intensive English instruction at [Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#), Tsogt's training placement will be with [Colorado Schools of Mines](#).

Heike Woerner has a degree as a youth worker and received additional training in outdoor and wilderness education. Since 2001, she has been a youth worker at the Stadtteilbauernhof (city farm) in Stuttgart, Germany. There she works with children aged 6 to 14 years who visit the farm during their leisure time to participate in activities such as gardening, cooking, attending workshops and campfires, playing games and taking care of the animals.

Heike likes traveling (especially by motorbike), hiking, skiing, rock climbing and Irish dancing. She lives in a village near Stuttgart which is surrounded by vineyards. Heike's training placement is with the [Urban Farm at Stapleton](#).



SAVE THE DATES

Welcome Picnic for three guests from Turkey and two participants from Mongolia

Sat, June 28, 4p.m.—6p.m. Observatory Park (south of Evans, west of Milwaukee)

Please bring a dish to share (serving 12), plus your own drinks, utensils, napkins, plates, and chairs or blankets for sitting.

A HOST'S PERSPECTIVE: BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR DOOR

"Clipping Goat Hooves and Driving Donkeys: German Intern at The Urban Farm" by Ellie Wroble

For all of my life, my family has hosted people from different countries through the Denver International Program (DIP). DIP brings people from foreign countries for a four-month stay in Colorado. These adult professionals are matched up in an internship with a company that is like the place where they work at home. The participants are placed with three host families, for about six weeks each. The University of Denver provides the participants a chance to audit classes and RTD provides free bus passes. DIP participants learn, grow, and most importantly, find ideas to take back home.



Heike Woerner is a 38 year-old from Stuttgart, Germany who arrived in Denver on March 8th. She is a social worker with youth and is employed at a farm called Stadtteilbauernhof in her town. She teaches gardening, does workshops and has made a pond. She has four rabbits at home that she adopted from her farm.

Heike wanted to come here because of the DIP program "and to explore new countries. This is my first time in the US and I wanted to find out more." I asked her what she will miss the most when she leaves to go back to Germany: "American pancakes." She has been able to take classes at University of Denver including, she said with a laugh, a class on Animal-Assisted Social Work.

Heike's internship is at The Urban Farm at Stapleton (TUF), a non-profit farm, teaching agriculture and environmental education to urban youth and children. TUF gives inner city kids the chance to ride horses, work with goats and sheep, and play with bunnies and chickens. "I want to do more with sheep and goats when I get back home," Heike says. "I am also looking forward to working with miniature horses." She has been working in the garden at TUF and has learned to clip hooves on the goats and drive a donkey in a cart.

Heike and other participants have plunged me into a different world. Denver International Program has given me the chance to learn about people from different countries including a graphic designer from Australia, a social worker from China, and a non-profit manager from Mexico. I have eaten foods from many cultures, learned how to make dumplings and tortillas, sang "Oh Christmas Tree" in German, and played games from Mongolia. Without DIP, I would not know as much about the world outside of our American bubble. One of my favorite sayings was from our participants from China. She would say "It's too delicious for me" if she did not like the food we had made. Our family still uses it as a nice way to say "No thank you."

Learning different things is always fun and especially if you have children, hosting is a chance to immerse them in world history right in your own house. For more information, check their website www.dipusa.org or you can call the DIP office at 303-871-4487. You can visit The Urban Farm at www.theUrbanFarm.org or 303-307-9332.

(Ellie Wroble is a 13-year old who rides horses at the Urban Farm. This narrative appeared in the May issue of the Greater Park Hill News) Photo: Heike Woerner and Licorice at The Urban Farm. Photo by Ellie Wroble.

A WORLD OF SUCCESS: IN THE WORDS OF A PAST PARTICIPANT

By Dr Preeti Mishra, DIP participant from India, fall 2005

It was a touching moment and a big relief to find my first hosts Sally and Don Swartz waiting very patiently and with open arms to welcome me at the Denver Airport. It was past midnight and a long drive to Castle Rock, but I was very overwhelmed with almost tears in my eyes when Don said "Please wait outside, I will open the Main Door so you can walk into our home from there". I walked in with my right foot first as is the Indian tradition; I believe this ritual was the basis of our strong association. I am still in touch with Sally and Don who are like second parents to me. I enjoyed our many after-dinner interactions about India and USA; the similarities and the differences. The discussions of pertinent issues broadened my horizons.

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Lorrie Tietze, my mentor, gave me a great learning experience about Entrepreneurship Development in America. Her teaching mode was very effective. She took me under her wing and left no stone unturned in my training. I was missing my kids very much, but when I interacted with her children I felt so much at home. Lorrie slipped into various roles of an Entrepreneur, a Mom, a Wife, a Daughter and a Trainer quickly and with ease.

The classes at the University of Denver were a different experience altogether. They helped me to catch up with the theoretical and applied aspects of the subject that interested me the most – Women’s Entrepreneurship.

All that I learned in Denver is being put to good use back at home, and I hope the ripple effect it is causing will go a long way in the work I am doing here in India. I am growing as a person, teacher and trainer, and the Denver International Program has been a catalyst. So, I would like to say Danke, Gracias, and Thank You to all the wonderful people for everything they have done to make my experience with DIP a beautiful one! Long Live The Denver International Program!!!



Lidwina Ebrahim is the head of the Fredo Day Care Centre in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Lidwina was a Fall 2007 DIP participant, and was placed with the Clayton Family Futures program at the [Clayton Foundation](http://www.claytonfoundation.org). She learned new techniques for caring for and nurturing children between the ages of 2 and 6 years old. She recently sent this photo of her center to DIP saying “hello”.

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Would you like to help ensure that DIP continues to thrive? Please [Click Here](#) to become a member, or visit www.dipusa.org to view volunteer, host, and mentor opportunities. We deeply appreciate the support of all of our members, and we encourage you to spread the word about the Denver International Program. **Get involved today!**