



Charlotte's Global Initiative

Notes from the Charlotte International Cabinet

VOLUME III, ISSUE 1

SPECIAL EDITION

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New Beginnings, New Diggs

Alexis Gordon

The new year is bringing a multitude of challenges to the newly Formed Charlotte International Cabinet and other organizations throughout the global community. The shaky economy has more than just businesses feeling unsteady at the moment, but the CIC is dedicated to becoming a stable resource for those in our community to come to.

This first edition Charlotte's Global Initiative, produced by the CIC, includes stories from our first quarter as an officially recognized

organization alongside top stories from the Mayor's International Cabinet's Fall newsletter and the latest updates from Charlotte

community and come to us for more news in the future.

For year's the MIC and CSC shared an office suite on the second floor of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center (CMGC). When we merged we got a new office on the first floor of the CMGC.

Our new diggs are just to the right when you walk into the main entrance facing South Davidson Street. We'd love to have you drop by our new office

The Office is open Monday through Friday, nine to five and our mailing address will remain the same.



The CIC gets settled into our new location

Sister Cities Website. We hope you take the time to catch-up on the many changes in Charlotte's ever growing international

No Time for Turf

Christina Frye and Kenneth Zoeller

On February 19th, 2009, the International Organizations Meeting was held at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. The overarching theme of the meeting was a call for Charlotte's international organizations to work together

to reach common goals. The five topics for the meeting were transportation, immigration, economy, public safety, and communications. Attendees divided themselves into groups to discuss the aforementioned topics.

Another theme to emerge from the meeting is the need to increase the visibility of

Charlotte's international community during citywide events. Events such as the re-launched First Night Charlotte and the Thanksgiving Day Parade present a wonderful opportunity to highlight Charlotte's cultural diversity.

As part of CIC's outreach efforts to the international

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The Making of a Merger

Alexis Gordon

Charlotte has a new player ready to help the city win in its expanding role as an international city.

As the face of Charlotte changes so does the organizations representing our city's diverse population. This fall, Charlotte's City Council voted to merge Charlotte Sister Cities (CSC) and the Mayor's International Cabinet (MIC). This merger created the Charlotte International Cabinet (CIC).

The CIC's mission is to promote Charlotte as an international city and to serve as a resource to foster international relationships. By combining the resources of the MIC and CSC, the Charlotte

International Cabinet can more effectively provide for the growing

energy to the economic development process.



CSC & MIC board members discuss plans for the new organization.

The exchange programs established by CSC joined with the business relationships shaped by the MIC can bring new opportunities for investment. The CIC will accentuate Charlotte's business, cultural, and educational exchanges.

The CIC also helps the international community by providing a forum where they can communicate easily with elected and civic officials.

The new organization will help City leaders too. Using the combined resources of the former organiza-

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Poland Trip

Alina Z. MacNichol

Charlotte International Cabinet Executive Director Alina MacNichol traveled to the Czech Republic and Poland in early March with a delegation that in-



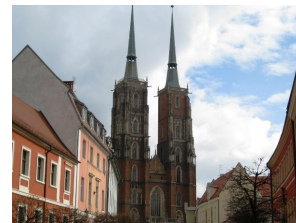
cluded the Queens University Chamber Singers. The trip focused on our Polish sister city, Wrocław. Charlotte and Wrocław have been partnered since 1993. Councilwoman Nancy Carter represented the City of Charlotte. She and Mrs. Mac-

Nichol met with Wrocław city officials and representatives of the business and university communities to discuss future exchanges

and programming with Wrocław.

The Queens Chamber Singers, under the direction of their conductor, Ginger Wyrick, performed once in Prague, at the St. Kliment Church in the old town square, and four times in Wrocław. Their concerts brought praises and expressions of gratitude from all who heard them. Executive Director MacNichol says "During

their concert in Prague, they brought great joy to the audience with their performance of a very traditional Czech folk song - it was a beautiful gesture of friendship to include that song in their repertoire. The entire group were citizen diplomats who represented Charlotte very well. I am very proud of them and feel privileged to have been able to show them



off to our Eastern European friends!"

During their time in Wrocław, the group participated in many

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New Federal Court Open

Alexis Gordon & Clare Pickett

A project very near and dear to many people involved in the Mayor's International Cabinet's Immigration Study has come fruition.

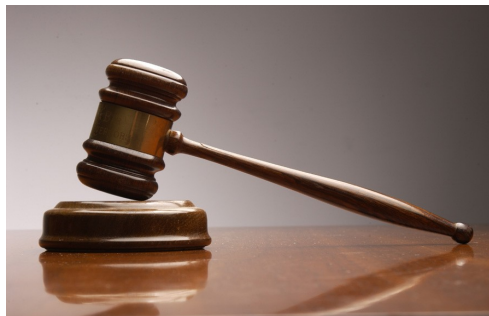
The Charlotte Immigration Court Opened on November 4, 2008.

The study done by the MIC (now part of the CIC) was chaired by Alan Gordon and the findings were shared with the office of Rep. Sue Myrick among other important leaders locally, statewide, and nationally. At the conclusion of the study, many project participants urged for more action to address local immigration issues.

The Court will house the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). EOIR is an agency within the Department of Justice.

Under authority commissioned by the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and rule on immigration cases according to United States immigration laws.

EOIR's immigration judges conduct court proceedings in



immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals—who are charged by the Department of Homeland Security with violating immigration law—should be deported

from the United States or should be granted relief from deportation and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges.

EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer rules on immigration-related employment cases.

Immigration is a crucial issue in today's world, and its impact on the City of Charlotte needs to be addressed. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it hears and should effectively deal with immigration issues.

The new court will be located at 5701 Executive Center Drive Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28212. The offices there will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (704) 817-6140.

Spring Time in Paris

Laure Jamain

Charlotteans can now enjoy the "City of Lights" without the hassle of having a connecting flight!

Since April, US Airways has offered a nonstop daily flight from Charlotte to Paris, France. The flight departs from Charlotte Douglas' international at 4:30 in the afternoon. After an eight hour flight across the Atlantic passengers arrive at Charles De Gaulle Airport. The Boeing 767 assigned to this route can seat 200 passengers.

This isn't a brand new flight for the Queen City. Eight years ago US Airways ran a similar flight but dropped it after September 11th.

US Airways Chairman and CEO Doug Parker said, "We are thrilled to announce that Charlotte will once again have a third trans-Atlantic option on US Airways."

Parker said that the decision to bring the flight back to Charlotte is the result of having a strong partnership with Charlotte Mayor Patrick McCrory and Charlotte Director of Aviation Jerry Orr.

The Airline also flies to London Gatwick and Frankfurt

International Airport. This newly added flight allows North Carolinians easier access to Paris, and offers French tourists more opportunities to experience the Carolinas.



For a wonderful winter destination be on the lookout for an upcoming route to Rio. US airways applied to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the route when the Brazilian city decided to allow more flights to their airport.

For more information log on to www.usairways.com.

Charlotte Gains a Sister City

Cabinet Spot Light: Dr. Nini

Jieun Choe

Dr. Nini Bautista has been serving on the executive board member of the CIC (MIC) since 2005. She received both a Bachelor's and Master's of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Philippines. She also earned an MBA from Harvard University and a Ph. D in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Madrid.



After leaving her job as an Area Officer for International Technical Assistance and Nuclear Safeguards Inspector at the UN International Atomic Energy Agency Based in Vienna, Austria, she and her husband relocated here. In Charlotte she has taken various leadership positions in community volunteer organization and non-profits. Dr. Nini said "From my parents, who were paragons of selfless giving and dedicated community volunteerism, I have learn early that a life in the service of others enrich and ennoble life greatly."

She served as a president of the Filipino American Community of the Carolinas (FACC), a chair of the Women Intercultural Exchange (WIE), a chair of the Popular Taste of the world. Now, she is the chairperson of the Board of the Asian Chamber and the Leader Team of Community Building Initiative (CBI) and an advisory council of the UNCC College of Liberal Arts & Science as well as a CIC executive board member. "I absolutely believe in the work of the CIC and wholeheartedly support and help in its goals & mission for the international community, in every way I can." said Dr. Nini.

She also said "The CIC has emerged as the premiere international organization linking all sectors of the diverse community of Charlotte, offering vital information resources of government, private & public organizations, the international community, as well as that of commerce and industry. Since it exists for all of us, we need to support them, in our common endeavor to make Charlotte as a truly global, vibrant, caring city."

Leora Chai

The Charlotte International Cabinet adds an 8th sister city, expanding their international relations to the Middle East. Hadera, a city of Israel, was officially announced as a sister city of the Charlotte on October, 28, 2008 at a breakfast with Mayor Patrick McCrory. The breakfast was hosted by the Charlotte International Cabinet and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Hadera is located along the coast



Mayor McCrory Signing the Declaration

are excited about the future relationship with Hadera.

Hadera, Israel will officially become a sister city once the Mayors from both cities attend a formal signing ceremony at either of their prospective cities.

"We are very excited to be adding an eighth sister city, Hadera in Israel. We look forward to bringing the rich culture and traditions of Hadera to the entire Charlotte community," said Alina Z. MacNichol, Interim Executive Director of the Charlotte International



*The Tisha (nine) circle, and HaNasi Weitzman street
Courtesy: Rck Pelleg*

in the center region of Israel, between Haifa and Tel-Aviv (two of Israel's largest cities).

The Jewish Federation of Charlotte has previously fostered a relationship with Hadera hosting Israeli Teens and embarking on a Poland -Israel



The Head table discussing the new addition to Charlotte's Sister City Program

trip with Jewish educators. Sue Worrel, Executive Director and Sarah Kaplan, Community Relations and Israeli Affairs JFGC

Cabinet.

Nadine Gordon, an active member of the JFGC, has been named the Hadera Committee Chairperson.

For more information, please visit charlottesistercities.org. Welcome Hadera, or should we say in



IKEA Opens its Doors to CLT

Laure Jamain & Alexis Gordon

The lines are finally starting to thin, but business is still booming at Charlotte's new IKEA. The store's manager attended a recent CIC meeting to share how their first month turned out.

Their store employs 462 people all of which are needed to help out their high volume of customers. Richard Castanon, Store Manager, said that, especially on the weekend the parking lot is full with license plates from many different state. When the store first opened, a remote lot was used to alleviate the high volume of customers filling the regulate parking lot. Some folks even camped out a few days before the doors opened so they would be sure to win promotional items on opening day.

We asked if he was nervous about opening a store in a slow economy, Castanon said, "any retailer that offers low cost good quality and great design will do well".

IKEA, the Swedish world's

leading home furnishing retailer, has opened the store in Charlotte on Feb. 18. This is the first store in North Carolina and the 36th location in the United States.



IKEA store in Charlotte offer a

wide range of home furnishings at low prices in a 360,000 square foot store. The store presents nearly 10,000 designed

items, 3 model home interiors, 50 room settings, a supervised children's play area and a 400-seat restaurant..

IKEA present their stores more than 35 countries. Its catalogue is translated in 137 languages. The store is experiencing rapid growth with 25 new stores opened worldwide over the past two years.

Charlotte did not fulfill all the

necessary conditions to receive IKEA as the store that needs an area population of 2 million. Charlotte-Mecklenburg only reaches 1.6 million residents. But the according to the ZIP

codes shoppers, the Charlotteans represented more than 150,000 customers and could attract the customers of all North Carolina.

The company is leading different actions at local level and the worldwide. IKEA support several organizations, especially to preserve the environment thanks to its cooperation with WWF (World Wide Fund of Nature), to protect children rights with "Save the children" and to promote education with UNICEF.



IKEA Charlotte Grand Opening
February 18, 2009

The *Economist* Eyes Charlotte's Future

Alexis Gordon

As the world's economy remains shaky, Charlotte is getting some attention from those concerned with the banking business on the other side of the "pond."

This fall a reporter from *The Economist* attended local events to scope out

how people in town feel our local economy is doing.

The article "Watching and Waiting" in the November edition of *The Economist* describes how Charlotteans are handling the economic crisis. The journalist for the article took a look at the business climate and economy through the eyes of everyday people instead of just tallying the actions of big business in the Queen City.

One place the magazine found people to interview was at the Beaujolais Festival hosted by Alli-

ance Française and the CIC. One person trying the different wines at the Levine Museum of the New South, wasn't there to drown any sorrows. He told the reporter that he recently moved from Chicago to Charlotte. He says things are quieter here, but he didn't have trouble finding work as a voice over artist and is happy with his move.

At a car show during the same weekend, *The Economist* found few people who were looking to buy new cars with the unstable econ-

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Gen. George W. Casey Jr. Coming to Charlotte

Samantha Jo Edwards

Come stand at attention to welcome Army Chief of Staff, General George W. Casey, Jr. Hosted by the World Affairs Council, Gen. Casey is scheduled to speak at the Westin Hotel in mid August.

General Casey became the 36th Army Chief of Staff on April, 10 2007.

General Casey has held leadership positions in every size of command and has served in Germany, Italy, South-west Asia, Egypt and the United



States.

From 2004-2007, he held the position of top U.S Commander in Iraq. His command in Iraq was focused on strengthening the Iraqi military and government systems to be self sufficient.

General Casey has also served as Assistant Division Commander

for Maneuver and Support in the 1st Armored Division in Bosnia and Germany, and commanded the 1st Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

General Casey holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from Denver University and has served as a Senior Fellow at the



Atlantic Council of the United States.

General George W. Casey Jr. is set to speak at noon on August 11, 2009 at the Westin Hotel.

If you have any questions please contact the World Affairs Council of Charlotte at their website.

www.worldaffairscharlotte.org
Pictures Credit: [Army Times](#)

Watching and Waiting

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omy.

The article went on to note that though Charlotte's economy is seemingly anchored by the Bank of America on one end of town and Wachovia on the other, the fate of the city isn't totally hinged on banking a few steps taken by city leaders in the recent past are helping the city weather the credit crunch.

The article noted how the city matured into a metropolis over the last decade or so with some "wise moves" made by city leaders. Mayor Pat McCrory told the journal that Uptown used to be dead after office hours, but is now booming with nightlife businesses and over 10,000 people living in the center of the city.



Can Charlotte Weather the Financial Crisis?

Another recent city improvement mentioned in the article is the Lynx light rail line. Such improvements continue to add to our cities appeal of easy southern living.

The journal also check in with a few of the experts to see what their take was. Harrison Campbell, a professor of economic geography at UNC-Charlotte, predicted that the city will be in for a bumpy ride in the current economy. Yet, he added that the city's "economy is more diversified than people realize, and that the new amenities will help cushion the blow, because the city has become more appealing to young professionals."



Bobcats Draw Talent from Abroad

Christina Frye and Laure Jamain

The Charlotte International Cabinet was given the opportunity to conduct an interview with three of the Charlotte Bobcat players. Boris Diaw, DeSagana Diop, and Vladimir Radmanovic were all questioned regarding their transitions to the United States from their home countries. Furthermore, we prompted dialogue on their volunteer work abroad. Each of these players shared their unique experiences, transitional difficulties, as well as their excitement to be living in Charlotte.

In 2003, Boris Diaw moved to the United States from France. He felt as if the cultural differences were significant, especially in the way of cuisine. One of his comfort foods, "magret de canard" (duck breast), is not an American



Boris Diaw

commonality. Diaw was prompted to try American foods but misses French home-cooked meals. His family is extremely important to him, and they come visit him as often as possible.

Diaw created the Babac'Arts organization in Senegal. This organization uses basketball programs to encourage Senegalese youth to become interactive in sports as well as the community. Basketball camps facilitate individual and team-building skills for youth.

Vladimir Radmanovic is born in Serbia. With his 6 ft 10 inch frame, he was predisposed to play to basketball. The beginning was difficult because he arrived alone and he did not speak English. But he adapted himself quickly. He keeps in touch with his relatives, who stayed in Serbia, thanks internet through emails or

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Life in Charlotte

Clare Pickett

The 5th Annual Volunteerism and Community Service Awards had an impressive turnout of over 250 business, government, and civic leaders in the Charlotte community this year.

The Carolinas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Alan Gordon Immigration Law and Steed Reprographic Services were the special sponsoring host for this event. It honored leaders from businesses, government, and ethnic communities, as well as individuals that contributed to the community.

The awards' recipients included important members of our international community: Sue Gorman, a member of the Charlotte International Cabinet's board, Dan Ramirez, former county commissioner & husband of Cecy Ramirez, another member of our board, and Mohammad Jenatian, president of the Greater Charlotte Hospitality and Tourism Alliance.

The Ambassadorship Award this year went to Klaus Becker, the President of the NC German American Chamber of Commerce. Each year this award is given to one who has served at least 10 years in "promoting their own nation of origin as well as promoting and serving multiple cultures through which cultural, racial, community education, and harmony".

Merger cont.

"Rapid" Merger Talks

Leora Chai and Alexis Gordon

The merger process is often bumpy for many organizations and companies. For Charlotte Sister Cities and the Mayor's International Cabinet the biggest challenges were met head-on outside of the board room.

The two boards met for a half day retreat to hash out what programs, events, and principles they wished to bring from the old organizations into the new one. The group met at the U.S. National Whitewater Park, one of the world's largest artificial white water centers, just a short drive from Uptown.



Astrid leading the boards in discussion
Courtesy: Leora Chai

Staff and board members were led in comparing their "corporate cultures" by Astrid Chirinos of Diverso Global Strategies and a former chariwomen for the MIC.

Dennis Marstall, Mayor's office, spoke about how the city took a positive view of the merger and synergy being created between the two organizations.

The board members got to know each other better through a series of teambuilding exercises which emphasized everyone's ties to the international community. Participants also brainstormed about mission statements, goals and plans for the soon to be created Charlotte International Cabinet.



Board members fighting rapids
Courtesy: Leora Chai

After the formal meeting the group was offered a chance to stay and take on some wilder challenges on the rapids. After a quick safety briefing the brave board members boasted who would be able to take on the Class II-IV rapids without ending up in the water.

In the end there was a lot of boasting and big talk, a few people who fell out of their rafts, and everyone was soaked to the bone.

tions the CIC can give leaders advice on how to raising international awareness in schools; share information on the international business climate; and aid them in following the major international political issues of the day.

The new organization office will be located at the 1st floor in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center.

The CIC will pull from the volunteer base for community support and continue to support many of the programs and events started by the MIC and CSC. Our Sister Cities will continue to flourish and grow in the new organization and the Mayor's International Community Awards will remain a highlight of the international calendar.

One new endeavor is a project called Global Charlotte. This program will enhance the new efforts of cooperation between other international groups in Charlotte including WACC and International House.

The Mayor's International Cabinet was begun by Mayor Vinroot and a group of 30+ citizens, Honorary Consuls, and representatives of Charlotte Sister Cities, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the International House and the North Carolina World Trade Association-Charlotte.

Though the Charlotte Sister Cities Committee was formed in 1978, the CSC has a history that stretches back to establishment of Arequipa, Perú, as Charlotte's first

promote health and education through the sport.



Board members found many ways the merger strengthens relationships and programs built by the MIC and CSC.

Bobcats cont.

Skype. He also created his own charity: the Vladi Radmanovic Children's foundation which helps orphans in Serbia with the creation of greenhouses and laundry mats.

DeSagana Diop (pronounced Sagana Jop) went to High School in the United States in 1999, he was just 17 years old. Every summer, he goes back to Senegal like a hero. He speaks three languages: English, French and Wolof (a language from Senegal). He participated to the NBA's "Basketball Without Borders" program which brings basketball players in Africa, in order to discuss about recent issues and to



Vladimir Radmanovic



Weekend World Travelers

Jieun Choe

Students at Harrisburg Elementary School lined up for unofficial passport photos as they prepared for a trip around the world with out leaving the school yard.

The CIC took part in introducing international nations to students at the school's International Day. CIC staff (Alina Z. MacNichol & Alexis Gordon) and spring interns (Christina Frye, Jieun Choe & Clare Pickett) represented France, the Netherlands, Poland, and South Korea with each nation's cultural materials and information.

The events had over 35 nations with 40 different booths and 120 participants including seven Charlotte sister cities, the UNC Charlotte international

students' organizations, cultural groups in Charlotte region and 20 Harrisburg Elementary multicultural families.



Jieun Writing student's names in Korean

Each both provided national information via their own traditional cloths, aircrafts, instruments, books and computer slides.

Over half of the booths

offered free authentic food and beverages. Also 10 countries including Thailand and Peru performed the traditional dances and music on the center stage. The event provided passports for the children and they encouraged visiting as many countries as they could for having each nation's stamps and asking questions about the nations.

This 2nd year event had 10 more participant nations with lager spaces and longer time than last year. Iris Friend, co-chair of the International Day said, "We all loved CIC's booths... [and] ... being able to bring so many different cultures together under one roof, learning new things and celebrates our differences was that will hopefully impact our children and ourselves."

Meet Our Interns

Christina Frye

Over the merger period the CIC hosted a large class of interns. From the Summer through the Spring many interns work past their semester requirements to help make sure the merger ran smoothly.

Spring Intern Christina Frye is an intern at the CIC from January. She studied at the Appalachian State Politics. She was in a soccer team in Boone and she loves basketball.

Winter Intern Clare Pickett graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2007 with a major in International Studies and minors in Art History and French. She has spent two and a half years living in Paris, France where she has studied and worked. She plans on pursuing a Masters program in International Affairs in France starting in the fall of 2009. She loves modern and contemporary art, travel, film, and foreign language.

Spring Intern Jieun Choe arrived in the United States eight

years ago with her husband from Korea. She will be graduated in May from UNC Charlotte with a



Christina taking notes at a Cabinet Meeting

major in International Public Relations. After, she hopes to have a position in Public Relations. When Jieun is not working or studying, she loves taking care of her two children.

Laure Jamain is an

international Spring intern from France. She studies in Limoges, a Charlotte Sisters City where she is pursuing an equivalent to a 5-year degree in Applied Languages and Business Studies. She speaks French, Spanish and English. In the fall of 2009, she plans to pursue her training in the events management.

Over the Fall Leora Chai and Natalia Kassahn (UNCC) helped us out with amny tasks. Both young ladies majored in international public relations and plan to work in the public relations field. Leora and Natalia graduated in December of 2008.

Fall intern Sung Ju Bang is majoring in software and information systems.

Fall intern Youssef Boutaleb (UNCC) is majoring in international business.

Summer and Fall intern Chanyang Andrew Rho (UNCC) is majoring in international business and will be attending graduate school in Texas.

CMS Out Performs

Christina Frye

A report released this fall shows that students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system outperformed students from most other nations in mathematics. This is great news for a large American school district, as educators across the country work to ensure our students are globally competitive. It is also incredible news for local businesses, who are working to bring technology-based companies to North Carolina and the U.S. The students in the Charlotte area need to maximize their potential in order to compete in an uber-competitive world that is continuing to globalize.

This analysis was done by the American Institute for Research, and it shows that "only five of the twenty-four comparison countries did better than CMS students in fourth grade and only nine of the forty-three comparison countries did better in eighth grade." This shows that CMS reaching scholastic goals successfully.

Peter C. Gorman, Superintendent at CMS says, "we set the bar high for our students and it shows. We believe academic rigor combined with a diverse environment

offers our students the best training ground possible for leadership global workplace and society."

Gorman also goes on to emphasize the need to stay on top. "Our kids have every opportunity available to them." Equipped with the resources that it takes to excel scholastically and an ambition to match, CMS students can achieve their goals. The future of Charlotte may very well be



in the hands of CMS graduates one day.

Iraqi Student Leadership Program

Hillary Moore

Charlotte residents can contact International House about hosting an Iraqi student for two weeks in July. For a second summer, International House is welcoming Iraqi students for a program that

teaches civic participation, appreciation of diversity, and leadership. Nine Iraqi students and two adults will visit Charlotte for the American-Iraqi Youth Camp. The students will start the trip in Istanbul, Turkey before beginning the U.S. part of the pro-

gram in Vermont. While in Charlotte, participants will meet local government leaders and learn about living in a multi-ethnic society. Anyone interested in hosting a student should contact Program Director Lara Printz at 704-333-8099.

China I-Sights

Leora Chai

This Spring, The Light Factory -Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film will be hosting a Youth Exchange program called "I -Sights" that will promote mutual understanding between China and the United States through the medium of photography and video. It will help cultivate a discussion between teens from the respective countries, connecting two cultures and breaking-down the typical stereotypes associated with the cultures.

High school students from the

Charlotte - Mecklenburg Schools system will learn about the history and cultures of China. The students will create postcards with photographic images representing issues in their life and in their country.

The postcards will be mailed to students in China, and these students will interpret the cards and send back written responses to the American students.

Later, China will repeat the process of creating their own postcards and mail them to the United States for the Charlotte students to gain response.

In addition, each student in both countries will design art

pieces depicting a stereotype associated with the other's culture.

In the fall, students from Charlotte had the opportunity to travel to China and met their peers, seeing the country while learning first hand about the Chinese students' lives and culture.

The I-Sights exhibition is presented in conjunction with the In-Sights exhibition which includes work from professional photographers from mainland China.



French Jazz Exchange

Leora Chai and Jieun Choe

Bonjour Charlotte! The Pat Giraud Jazz Band from Limoges, France, one of Charlotte's Sister Cities, visited this fall.

The band visited Providence High School, South Charlotte Middle School, and Queens University. They performed several jazz sets and answered questions from the students. Several interpreters accompanied the band to help bridge the language gap between the band and students.

"I can't begin to tell you how much that benefitted my jazz class and the middle school students as well," said Doug Henry, Providence Day School Music Department. "Pat and his group were very pleasant and professional in their approach."

The band consisting of Pat

Giraud, renowned jazz pianist; Anne Ratsimba, vocalist; Vincent Mondy, saxophone & clarinet; and Bertrand Renaudin, drums, performed at various places around the Charlotte area also.

The main event for the band was performing at the Charlotte Sister Cities Jazz Exchange luncheon sponsored by Goodrich Corporation.

The event opened with invocation by County Commissioner, Jennifer Roberts and introductions by the Charlotte Sister Cities Executive Director, Alina Z. MacNichol and the Co-Chair of the Charlotte International Cabinet, Terri DeBoo. A major high note of the day was guest speaker Alan Yamamoto, Resident Conductor of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, who shared his experiences on how culture and

music mix. He also stressed the importance of music being a universal language and bringing people together.

The musicians got to stay with several home hosts in Charlotte and had chance to see the city. "The musicians were so talented, also appreciative and fun to get to know," said Donna Apgar, a home host for the

Poland cont.

activities and the Queens students were hosted by a Polish choir throughout the week, beginning with a dinner reception and a walking tour of Wroclaw sites by night. The Queens choir shared in

a joint concert at the IX Lo Secondary School performing to a full house and also shared in a joint concert



appearance at the Retro Tram sponsored by Polska Television. Members of the Polish host choir participated in the group sightseeing around Wroclaw and often rejoined the Chamber Singers at the end of the school day for an evening on the town. Queens students also met with students at

the Lower Silesia University on Friday, March 13 to learn about their summer international program.

On the last day of the trip US Consul General Anne Hall hosted

a reception for our delegation at the American Corner in the Dolnoslaska Regional Library which was attended by Wroclaw city officials and the Governor of the

Lower Silesia region. 2009 marks the 90th anniversary of Polish-American diplomatic relations, and as Consul General Hall noted in her remarks, sister city relationships like the Charlotte-Wroclaw partnership are just one of the many links between the U.S. and Poland.

First Night

First Night Charlotte 2009 was huge success with close to 25,000 attendees. It proved itself to be a safe, affordable, and entertaining option for New Year's Eve. Begun in Boston in 1976, First Night is an alcohol-free community celebration of



the New Year that is now celebrated in over 200 cities internationally. A program of Charlotte Center City Partners and presented by WBTV and the Arts & Science Council, First Night was held in the heart of Center City.

Ginger Wyrick summarizes, "This experience has changed our lives, made our world a little smaller, drawn us closer to hope and perhaps peace. We treasure the friendships that we have made in our sister city as well as the friendships among our classmates."

Beaujolais Festival

Leora Chai and Jieun Choe

Charlotte Sister Cities and Alliances Français hosted the 15th Annual Beaujolais Wine Tasting Festival at the Levine Museum of the New South on Thursday November 20, 2008.

More than 400 guests attended and enjoyed a variety of wines from the Beaujolais region of France and French food in the upscale atmosphere of the event.

David Olsen, classical guitarist, performed music and the Lindt Chocolatier at SouthPark provided a special chocolate tasting for everyone.

Rounding out the festival was

the ever popular raffle. The grand prize was a round-trip airfare to Paris with a custom dinner for two at a private Parisian apartment! The evening also featured a



Tasting the First Press

silent auction. All proceeds benefit programming for host organizations.

The Beaujolais Wine Tasting Festival

originated from the French tradition of celebrating the release of the year's Beaujolais Nouveau. Beaujolais Nouveau wine is a "young" wine that is ready to drink just 6-8 weeks after the harvest. This wine is released to the public on the third Thursday of November. The Beaujolais tasting is a ritual that enables wine enthusiasts a glimpse into the upcoming wine season. This tradition has spread across the world. Charlotte is one of sixteen US cities whose Beaujolais Festival is officially recognized by France.

This annual event is growing in popularity and is a great way to start off the holiday season in Charlotte. Hope to see you there this year!

Int'l Meeting cont.

Meeting Dates

On the first Thursday of every other month the Cabinet meets at 7:30 am in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, room 267. The first meeting of the year is in February.

Bi-monthly meetings are open to anyone, and the public is encouraged to attend.

community, CIC has created an

International Organizations survey that allows international community leaders to provide feedback on issues and concerns of their communities. The results of this survey are used to compile a report to Charlotte City Council about how to better serve an increasingly diverse population.



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We'd like to thank our organizational sponsors for their support. These companies and individuals enable us to bring you a wide range of programs and activities that promote Charlotte as an international city.

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Become an Individual Donor or a Corporate Sponsor

There are several opportunities for to become a sponsor of the Charlotte international Cabinet. Each level can be tailored to the interests of the Individual or Company wishing to sponsor our Organization.

Each level includes year round recognition fro your contribution. Please call the office to find out how our divers array of programs and activities can help meet your goals in the

community. Whether you wish to contribute to visiting delegations from aboard, philanthropy through the Charlotte school in sister city of Arequipa or helping spread the joy of experiencing new cultures we would love to have your support.

You can also find our sponsorship packet online at www.charlotteinternational.org. Just click on the sponsorship opportunity link.

We'd also like to thank our Cabinet Members for their tireless work and contributions.

* denotes an Executive Committee Member

Aaron Means
 Alan Gordon - Co-Chair*
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Upcoming International Events in Charlotte

Alto Al Fraude Contra Latinos!

The free conference is conducted in Spanish and is open to the public at Mountain Lake Church in Mt. Holly **June 14th, 2009**

The Magellan Society (Young Professionals): Happy Hour
6:00 p.m. at Latorre's Restaurant in the Upper Floor **June 17th, 2009**

3rd Annual Charlotte AHEC Interpreters and Translators Conference

The conference will address issues facing translators and interpreters today at Charlotte AHEC Airport Training Center **June 19th, 2009**

W.I. Charlotte Island Vibe

Sit back and relax to the Island Vibes, watch all the games on the Plasma TVs or meet friends for a drink on the patio at The Attic **June 25th, 2009**

Summer Classes at International House

International House and The Language Academy of the Carolinas are currently accepting registrations for Level 3 Spanish classes at International House **June 29 - August 17, 2009**

Bastille Day Festival

The festival includes music, entertainment, food and more for your family to enjoy at the Extravaganza Depot **July 11th, 2009**

Charlotte Caribbean Festival

Guests will enjoy various local and out of state entertainment. In addition, an array of on-site vendors will display goods and crafts and Caribbean food at Independence Park **July 25th, 2009**

The CIC produces a weekly events calendar to keep you up-to-date on the newest international activities happening around Charlotte. Please visit our website to subscribe to our E-vents Bulletin. www.CharlotteInternational.com



The mission of the Charlotte International Cabinet is to promote Charlotte as an international city and Serve as a resource to foster international relations.

Actively Promoting an International Charlotte

Charlotte International Cabinet

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