

# Charlotte's Global Initiative

Notes from the Charlotte International Cabinet

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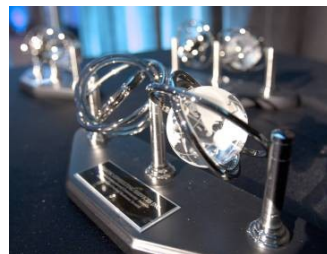
## The Mayor's International Community Awards

### Samantha Jo Edwards

Charlotte International Cabinet has announced nominees for the 2010 Mayor's International Community Awards (MICA).

The annual MICA event recognizes the many contributions of the international community in the Charlotte-region, including the corporate philanthropy of three foreign-owned firms and contributions of two individual awardees.

International firms are categorized into three areas:



large, medium and small. In the large category nominees are AREVA, IKEA and Midrex. In the medium category is Turbomeca, Max Daetwyler and Balfour Beatty. In the small category we have Shred-it, Langford de Kock, and Schindler Elevator.

The individuals being honored for their work are Dr. Yele Aluko, Mid Carolina Cardiology, with the Richard Vinroot International Achievement Award and Gobind "Garry" Bhojwani, Binaco Group, with the Patrick L. McCrory Entrepreneur Award.

The awards take place on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the Westin Charlotte beginning at noon.

CIC Chair, Dr. Maha Gingrich described the business' role in making Charlotte an international city, "The presence of 850 foreign owned firms in the Charlotte

region helps define Global Charlotte. MICA gives an opportunity to recognize and



honor the firms that infuse excitement, economic development and civic engagement in our community. MICA also takes pride in recognizing two extraordinary individuals who are contributing to the continued success of Charlotte region."

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## U.S. 2010 Census: There is Still Time!

### Michelle T. McNulty & Samantha J. Edwards

Its not too late to be counted! Even though the deadline for sending in your Census form came and passed on April 1st, you can still take part in the national count that gives way to federal benefits for education, roads, healthcare and many other important areas.

If you did not mail in your questionnaire, a census taker should be calling or stopping by your residence. If you are not home, the census taker will leave a notice that will allow you to set up an appointment.

The United States Census, gives a "snap shot" of America in a quick ten questions. The US census counts every resident, citizen and

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## From the Desk of the Executive Director:

### Basketball and Business in Limoges

#### Alina Z. MacNichol

*The purpose of the trip was to accompany a group of youth basketball players invited to the ASPTT Limoges Tournoi International Cadets-Cadettes. Two teams (a boys team and a girls team), chaperones and coaches*

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## Census Cont.

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### NORTH CAROLINA

non-citizen of the US every 10 years. This tedious process of counting each resident is required by the US Constitution.

The raw information collected is confidential and will not be shared with anyone else, not even another branch of government. All census bureau

employees take an oath of non-disclosure and are sworn for the life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

The U.S. Census will dictate how more than \$400 billion in

federal funds will be spent. Our community's hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, public works projects, and emergency services will reap the benefits with our participation. The data collected by the census will also determine the number of seats our state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Remember we can't move forward until everyone is counted!

For more information visit [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov)

"The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct."

-- Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States

## ¡Fiesta Futbol!

### Courtney Williams

Making one's way toward Bank of America Stadium for the Mexico v. Iceland World Cup exhibition felt more like a Mexican fiesta than a soccer game.

More than 65,000 fans gathered in Uptown to enjoy traditional Mexican cooking, loading up on new team apparel from the street vendors, and taking turns slathering their faces with green, white, and red paint. In an endless sea of green jerseys, barely a handful of Iceland fans could be found.

Inside the stadium, the din of screaming fans and souvenir horns almost drowned the official announcer. The rowdy crowd anxiously watched as these two very diverse teams from opposite ends of the globe

battled for ninety minutes of endless futbol action.



Although both teams seemed mildly sloppy and disorganized during the first half, a noticeable increase in the players' energy and the interruption by an unwelcome visitor on the pitch provided optimum entertainment for the remainder of the game.

As the teams warmed up for the start of the second half, an overly-enthusiastic fan lit a flare

on the sidelines and ran onto the field donning a Mexican flag cape before being quickly tackled by a security guard, arrested, and escorted him out of the stadium.

Though not without valiant effort, the match unfortunately ended with neither team scoring. The post-game commotion, however, still felt like a Mexican victory. Fans continued blowing their noisemakers as they filed down the ramps to leave, and a makeshift band led an impromptu parade through the street and back to the parking lot.

Who needs to travel all the way to South Africa for the World Cup, when we have such an amazing fiesta de futbol in our own back yard?



## From the Desk of the Executive Director: Basketball and Business in Limoges (contd.)

*comprised the basketball delegation, which totaled 41 people. The following people were part of official visits arranged by the Mayor's Office and the International Relations Department:*

Representing the City of Charlotte: Councilwoman Nancy Carter

Representing the Charlotte International Cabinet: Alina MacNichol, Executive Director

Nick Carter (Councilwoman Carter's husband, a doctor specializing in Internal Medicine) Jerry Helms (CIC Limoges Sister Cities Committee)

Dick Keffer (Youth Basketball Team Sponsor)

Councilwoman Carter and Mrs. MacNichol participated in several economic development meetings and also visited a biomass conversion facility, which is used to heat water for the hospital complex. Councilwoman Carter took an extreme interest in this process as Charlotte is considering options for a similar facility. The two representatives also visited Limoges recycling center, which has an excellent set-up for educating youth (and adults) about recyclable materials and energy conservation. Limoges Mayor Alain Rodet hosted a dinner for the entire delegation and a luncheon in the Ester Technopole technology park. The visit to Ester was very encouraging,

as there seem to be many opportunities for interaction with university research facilities in the Charlotte area.

Two youth basketball teams, a girl's team and a boy's team,



*City Councilwoman Nancy Carter touring a Limoges, France transit facility*

represented Charlotte at the international tournament. Students had to show outstanding basketball skills on the court and be recommended by their schools based on academic performance. Combining the girls and boys, the team-wide GPA was an impressive 3.7. Students and coaches represented 12 Charlotte high schools, including Ardrey Kell HS, Olympic HS, Cannon Academy, Butler HS, Charlotte Christian School, East Mecklenburg HS, Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Independence HS, Myers Park HS, Charlotte

Catholic HS, Providence Day School, and Harding University HS.

During the formal opening of the Youth Basketball Tournament at the City Hall, Councilwoman Carter was asked to speak and did a wonderful job – in French – welcoming all of the participants. Teams from five countries played in the tournament: the US, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain and France. The students had many opportunities to interact and several of our Charlotte basketball players are still in touch with other students they met while in Limoges. The Charlotte teams both won their respective finals for a resounding victory at the tournament!

During the tournament, the entire Charlotte delegation (including the basketball players and their coaches and chaperones) were guests at the Limoges professional basketball game: Limoges CSP played Bordeaux and won. Councilwoman Carter was asked to speak at halftime, with a Deputy Mayor of Limoges, and again did a wonderful job, completely in French. Our seats were just in front of the team owner's seats. The hospitality and generosity of our hosts in Limoges made this trip especially memorable for all.

## Ghandi Park

**Kyle Coleman**

"Be the change that you want to see in the world," said Mahatma Gandhi.

Ghandi Park is a 100 foot long by 80 foot wide park like area featuring a statue of Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi. The statue portrays him with his walking stick and his glasses, posing in the classic stance of Dandi march.

This monument was dedicated on October 3, 2009 as part of the opening of the park, which is in front of the Old Mecklenburg County Courthouse at the corner of Trade and Alexander streets in Uptown Charlotte.



# Introductions

## Foreign Firms are making Charlotte their Homes

### Maryanne Dailey

Vanessa Smith

Maryanne Dailey recently became a member of Charlotte International Cabinet in January of this year. She graduated from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and Social Work and a Masters Degree in Human Development and Learning. Her passions are in protecting those who are unable to speak for themselves specifically the older adult and the Latin American communities.

Maryanne Dailey currently serves in two positions. She is the executive director with the Better Business Bureau Consumer Foundation as well as being the vice president of operations with the Better Business Bureau. In her role as the executive director, she oversees a charitable organization dedicated to preventing consumer fraud within the most vulnerable populations which have been defined as the older adult and Latin American communities. As vice-president of operations with the Better Business Bureau, Maryanne works to ensure that its mission of "ethical business practices and integrity" is upheld within the business community.

She enjoys the Greek and Polish heritages of her parents and continues to appreciate the cultures through the richness of the foods and the beauty of the Mediterranean dancing. Maryanne is also active in the community as a volunteer through the North Carolina Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force, Mecklenburg County Consumer Fraud Task Force, Latin American Chamber of Commerce, Aging Resources Network, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department-Fraud Unit, Mecklenburg County Nursing Home Advisory Committee, and Queen City Optimist Club, thus joining CIC was a natural transition.

working not at CIC, she is an avid athlete enjoying weight training, boxing, tennis, cycling, and has recently taken an interest in learning the game of golf.

Hallie Eban

As a developing metropolitan city, it is essential that cultural diversity as well as diversity in the local economy is in hand. Charlotte meets and embraces these heterogeneous aspects by having foreign firms and investors already residing in the city. Charlotte also moves to invite more foreign businesses as it does indeed cater to international standards.

A manufacturing firm, Teupen Maschinenbau of Germany has chosen Charlotte as their second home for their business. According to the Charlotte Observer, Teupen Maschinenbau chose the metropolitan city because of its thriving international business culture. Aside

from the monetary benefits of Charlotte for the firm, Teupen Maschinenbau employees also prefer the city to accommodate their industrious affordable standard of living.

Teupen Maschinenbau's contribution to the city marks Charlotte's hope of appeasing foreign firms and investors to return the weak Carolinian economy to where it should stand – which of course is crucial to both parties. With Charlotte-Douglas International airport having a direct flight to Frankfurt and to 179 other international cities, Charlotte was the choice for many foreign firms like Teupen Maschinenbau.

In the

*Continued on page 6*

## Hispanic NHEO

Fiorella Pena

The National Hispanic Entrepreneurs Organization (NHEO), created over a year and a half ago by Juan Pablo Giometti from Argentina, had the idea of opening this organization while getting his MBA after learning about the large Latino population living in this country. The purpose of NHEO is to help the Latino entrepreneurs building their own businesses.

Earlier this year, NHEO announced ten ambassadors to represent the organization from around the United States. Three selected individuals are from Charlotte : David Vargas, Richard Purcell (US) and Agustin Velasquez (Ecuador), in which their role is to be a liaison between local communities and NHEO.

However, these participants will go through a ten month training on how to social network, teach the

others to run a business and make public presentations.

The idea of this organization is not only to help Latino immigrants realize business opportunities but to change the stereotype many have of Latinos in their communities.

Giometti said "Let's face it, sometimes people are prejudice against Hispanics. We want to show we can have a productive role in the community."

"The United States needs a sustainable approach to regaining economic growth," said Founder Juan Pablo Giometti. "Our plan is to build a competent, successful Hispanic entrepreneurial community and I am honored to have these outstanding individuals on board to help us achieve this goal. Our ambassadors represent the best of the best in their communities and without a doubt help foster further success for upcoming entrepreneurs."



# Transportation



## Charlotte-Douglas Ranks Top 10

### Donnie Campbell

Charlotte's Douglas International Airport was recently rated sixth in overall customer satisfaction, amongst large airports, in a recent survey performed by J.D. Power and Associates.

The airports in the survey were broken into three segments based on the amount of passengers they have a year: large, 30 million or more passengers per year, medium, 10 million to 30 million passengers per year, and small,

fewer than 10 million passengers per year.

Once the segments were made the airports were rated on a scale of one to 5 on seven factors. The factors in the survey included: overall satisfaction, accessibility, check-in, security, terminal, food and retail services, and baggage claim. Douglas International rated higher, in terms of overall satisfaction, than large airports in cities such as Atlanta, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

In the segments of overall satisfaction and security, Douglas

international received a perfect score. The J.D. Power and Associates award winner for this year, Detroit's Metropolitan Wayne County, received a perfect score in these areas, as well. Metropolitan Wayne County also received perfect scores in the terminal and baggage claim segments.

## New Charlotte-Douglas Runway

### Donnie Campbell

Federal, State, and Local officials, including Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, were on hand to celebrate as Charlotte Douglas International Airport added its first runway since 1979.

Construction began approximately three years ago in March 2007, and now

runway 18R/36L became fully operational on February 12, 2010. This runway is the fourth parallel runway at the airport, and it will be used primarily for arrivals. This was a sorely needed expansion, as Douglas International receives 600 flights daily.

Airlines will save an estimated \$65 million annually, due to reduced delay and rescheduling costs. The cost of

construction of the runway was \$325 million dollars.

The majority of this cost was funded by the FAA, who donated \$124 million. The remaining costs were financed through grants and airport construction bonds.

## Fly Away to Rome and Mexico

### Samantha J. Edwards

Book your flight and get ready for an international summer vacation without a lay over!

US Airways will begin direct flights to four new international destinations

out of Charlotte Douglas International Airport this summer.

Announced this past March, future travel plans to cool Ottawa,

Nova Scotia, will begin a June 1 via US Airways Express partner, Air Wisconsin. Los Cabos and Puerto

their Mexican destination.

Starting on May 13, travel to Rome, Italy is scheduled for non-stop service.

These four flights join Paris, France and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to a roster of destinations flying from Charlotte

Douglas International Airport that have been added over the past 18 months.



Vallarta, Mexico are set to begin flights early in June on the first and fifth of the month. Each flight will be able to carry 124 passengers to

## Making Charlotte Home

*Continued from page 1*

Charlotte Observer, Kenny McDonald of the Charlotte Regional Partnership (CRP), stated, "We're trying to be very aggressive about it." Mr. McDonald and the CRP are working to expose the city's attributes and to promote Charlotte as an international city that gratifies foreign investor's platforms.

Securing Charlotte in its place as an all-encompassing city, the Charlotte Chamber made recent report that the city accommodates 850 foreign firms in the metropolitan area, and employs more than 50,000 workers. The city is placed third highest in the nation for the past decade for hosting in-migration human capital. Moreover, being

the home of many Fortune 500 companies, including Bank of America, Duke Energy, and 326 other companies listed in the magazine, Charlotte certainly does entertain international businesses as a profitable city.

Foreign firms account for 8 percent of employment in Mecklenburg County. Two Swedish companies will be joining Teupen in their move to Charlotte - Electrolux and Husqvarna - bringing in 860 jobs into the region.

The Charlotte business community welcomes foreign business. Justin Hunt, VP of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce stated in the Charlotte Observer that having foreign firms move to Charlotte will increase job

employment opportunities which Charlotte, as metropolitan city desperately needs. He also stated, "...they also help us by bringing new ideas and new influences."

## An International Appalachian State University

### Hallie Eban

Appalachian State University (ASU) has been working hard to form a partnership with institutions in Brazil since June of 2008, and has finally achieved that connection.

Greeted by Ceará state congressman Francisco Caminha, ASU students as well as students of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCCTI) made a visit to the coastal city of Fortaleza. There both parties expressed their interest in creating an institutional partnership between Ceará's University of the Parliament and universities in the States. Although desire was stated, the June 2008 meeting did not make a formal establishment of agreement.

In March of 2009, Professor

Jerry Fox and Blowing Rock social entrepreneur, Steve West led ASU's Social Entrepreneurship students visit to the city of Ceará to study the standard of living in Ceará, and what improvements can be made to enhance the city. Congressman Caminha along with his delegation made a visit in July of 2009 for ASU's workshop on comparative public administration also conveyed his interest.

There, the delegation once again expressed an interest in developing a relationship with ASU which would allow legislators and public servants of Brazil to come to North Carolina to study best practices in U.S. public administration.

Caminha proposed that this would be a certification program and would offer ASU the same in Brazil. This past summer, Dr. Jeff Ramsdell, the director of ASU's

Energy Center received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study methane recovery from landfills in northeastern Brazil.

Since October 2009, ASU has made several visits to Brazil and this past March, 30 ASU students headed to Manaus and Fortaleza for an international seminar course.



*Dr. Randy Edwards, Dean of Appalachian's Walker College of Business and Ceará state congressman Francisco Caminha*



## Internet Human Rights

**Donnie Campbell**

A recent study by the BBC has found that 79 percent of adults, around the world, view internet access as a fundamental human right. In countries such as South Korea and Turkey, over 90 percent of people felt this way. Over three fourths of people in Japan, Mexico, and Russia went as far as saying they could not cope without internet access. As the recent protests of the disputed Iranian presidential election results demonstrated, many people view the internet as an avenue to express free speech.

Many people are aware of

the fact that businesses operate in a digital based economy, and access to the internet is the key to finding opportunities in this environment. For example, many major corporations in the United States accept employment applications via the internet exclusively.

The internet is a source of knowledge and a network that connects people from various cultures. Leaders in the U.S. and the international community are taking action to expand internet access to more citizens. The United Kingdom has initiated a plan to provide broadband internet access to all of its residents by the year

2012. The U.S. is working toward a goal of providing broadband internet access, through a network of fiber optic cables, to 90 percent of residents by the year 2020. The U.S. government has also lowered barriers on technology exports to Cuba, Sudan, and Iran as part of an effort to offer the people of these countries access to western ideals through the internet.

## North Carolina Officials Visit to Brazil

**Vanessa Smith**

A visit by local and state representatives from North Carolina to Brazil in March was designed to reenergize the region and build stronger ties with South America's biggest nation.

The trip had two main goals, Barry Matherly explained to the Lincoln Times. To establish relationships with companies that are considering coming to the United State and to form bonds with locals, whom can educate Brazilian companies about the benefits of working in North Carolina.

Those who went on the trip were Lincoln Economic Development Association Executive Director Barry Matherly; Charlotte Regional Partnership President and Chief Executive Officer Ronnie Bryant; N.C. Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco; N.C. Department of Commerce International Trade Director Jean Davis; Sabo Executive Vice President Panico Peres; Cabarrus County Economic Development Vice President Ryan McDaniel; and N.C. Department of Commerce Existing Industry Specialist Uconda Dunn.

"Brazil is considered one of the four BRIC nations, made up of Brazil, Russia, India and China," Matherly described. "They are the fastest growing economies in the world and Brazil is the only one on the Western Hemisphere." Due to last year's addition of a

direct flight to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil out of Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Brazil's presence in United States has increased.

A flight to Sao Paulo, the largest city in Brazil, will be added at the airport in the future, Matherly said. The fact that everyday there is a flight back and forth between Brazil and Charlotte makes businesses easier in his opinion.

When Matherly contacted Bryant, of Charlotte Regional Partnership, to see whether there was an interest in forming a business development trip to Brazil, the response was positive. And the group began their six months long trip plan.

The business development trip would allow the group to meet with Brazilian companies and officials as well as Alessandro Teixeira, economic developer for Brazil, to find out whether they are interested in opening facilities in North Carolina.

"This trip will form the foundation for many future Brazilian development missions," Matherly said to the Lincoln Times. For him Charlotte is not the only region to have interest in this connection, other places have too. "The purpose is to get more people aware of the country and aware of what is going on and the potential for business development," Matherly said.

### MICA Cont. *Continued from page 1*

The Mayor's International Community Awards were established 13 years ago by Former Mayor Patrick L. McCrory, as a way to encourage local foreign-owned firms to adopt corporate philanthropy as a business practice, something not as common with corporations located outside the United States. The MICA awards are coordinated by the Charlotte International Cabinet in cooperation with the Mayor's office.



More information can be obtained by contacting the Charlotte International Cabinet at [cic@ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:cic@ci.charlotte.nc.us) or 704-336-2174.

## Charlotte Reaches Out to Help Haiti

**Kyle Coleman**

Charlotteans are doing their part to help out in the Haiti relief effort. Aid coming from the area is in the form of everything from concerts to buses filled with food.

Dr. Will Conner, who flew back to Haiti for his second time since the earthquake, took along with him 12 other doctors, physician assistants, and EMTs. He was flown down in a plane provided by NASCAR owner Rick Hendrick, who also provided a second plane and his aviation crew to help fly the doctors and their supplies down to Haiti, as well as bring orphans back.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Hendrick's aviation crew

brought back 26

orphans, all of whom were adopted by Americans.

In addition to these doctors, Lumiere Medical Ministries, based in Gastonia, has also sent a team of doctors and nurses to help with the treatment of patients.

Charlotte students are also helping with the relief effort. Brandon Santiago, a 16-year-old Charlotte Country Day junior, organized a way to send bottled water to Haiti. He asked for donations of bottled water during a student assembly, and soon over 200 cases of water were collected. Santiago's mother, Gwendolyn Dodson, helped find a way to get the water down to Haiti by contacting Helping Hands of Carolina, a charity based in Rock Hill.

Another group of students, first graders from University Meadows Elementary, are designing and making quilts to send to the children of Haiti. The students also sent a letter with each of the quilts saying, "...we

wanted to help bring comfort to children like us. Every time you wrap yourself in the quilt know that it was made with love by children who care."

One church, South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church in Ballantyne, is sending an entire bus to Haiti. Some of the church members have been working a mission north of Port Au Prince for years, so they have a personal connection to the devastation in Haiti. The church members are filling up an entire school bus with everything from food to clothing. The church received so many donations for the first bus that they plan to buy a second bus to fill to send down to Haiti.

Other Charlotte-based help for Haiti has included a Youth Benefit Concert in Spirit Square, the donation of an ambulance to a local Haiti hospital, and a 53-foot trailer provided by a Cornelius businessman to be filled with supplies to be sent to Haiti.

### Wroclaw Philharmonic Concert Benefit Haiti

**Kyle Coleman**

The Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra organized a benefit concert on January 22 to benefit the recent earthquake-stricken country of Haiti.

The Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra, which has been around since the end of the Second World War, is planning on giving all the money taken from ticket sales to help the relief effort in Haiti.

The tickets cost around 10 Euros a piece. Oliwia Grela from the Wroclaw Philharmonic, who helped organize the event, said that 100 percent of the money from the sale of CDs and other merchandise at the concert is going to the relief effort.

## Russia Aids Haitian Students

**Kyle Coleman**

While meeting with students from Chuvashia State University in Russia on January 26<sup>th</sup>, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced that all Haitian students currently in Russia will receive funding for their tuition fees, using money from the federal budget. Putin was quoted as saying that "We have decided that all those who are studying on a paid basis will study at the expense of the Russian federal budget." According to Putin's sources, there are currently 75 Haitian students attending Russian universities, some of which already receive free tuition.

RUDN, the People's Friendship University of Russia in Moscow, reported that some of their Haitian

students were receiving money from their parents for tuition fees, but could not contact them after the earthquake. Out of the 51 Haitian students at RUDN, at least three have lost their parents in the earthquake.

There are Haitian students currently enrolled in the universities of Voronezh, Rostov-on-Don, Ryazan, Moscow, Cheboksary, and Novosibirsk.

According to Haiti's government, the death toll from the devastating January 12<sup>th</sup> earthquake is around 230,000.





## Icelandic Safe Haven

**Dinna Louissaint**

Icelandic Modern Media Initiative (IMMI) is currently seeking to transform and strengthen freedom of expression around the world. The movement also seeks to offer stronger protection for sources and whistleblowers, an initiative that presents a great challenge for the legal environment there as it will need to carefully define goals, explore making changes to current policies and practices, and add new laws in order to make Iceland the leading authority on freedom of expression.

Careful consideration will need to be given to laws that govern other countries as part of the process as well. In addition to advocating freedom of expression, information, and protection for sources and whistleblowers, this will position Iceland as the perfect

*"...the idea was to "try and reform Iceland's media law to be a very attractive jurisdiction for investigative journalists"*

*-Julian Assange,  
Wikileaks Editor*

locale for Internet-based international media and publishers to register their services, start-

ups, data centers and human rights organizations.

Interestingly, the new proposal has been positively received by the different parties that will possibly be affected: media, industry, and civil societies.

Iceland lost its place as first in the world of freedom of expressions in 2009, a title it held until 2007, and has been working hard at reclaiming.

## Polish Immigrants in the United Kingdom: Leaving or Staying?

**Tyler Finnie**

When Poland joined the European Union in 2004, it's estimated that between 700,000-1 million Polish immigrants moved to the United Kingdom (UK) since then. Now there is debate to whether these Polish immigrants are staying in the UK or returning to their homeland.

Many Polish immigrants hoped to find better opportunities with higher pay than what they were getting in Poland. But in 2008, when the effects of the slumping global economy started being felt in the UK, it is believed that Polish immigrants began to shift their attention back to Poland.

Over the last six years, the British pound has weakened against the Polish zloty, which many believe gives the Polish Immigrants little reason to stay. Poland's economy is also faring better than the UK's due to their falling unemployment rate and relatively young mortgage market.

Jarek Djano, a polish immigrant, looked back six years to when he first arrived in England from the small village

of Zamrow. "Each pound I sent back home could buy three or four loaves of bread. Now it can buy only one."

But many of these Polish expatriates have also felt the effects of being away from their families, which to some, is more of a reason to go home.

40 year old Polish Immigrant, Mirek Szubzda, who returned to Poland, told *The Times*, "I love London's buildings and pubs

and I found most people were polite but I am with my family. Money cannot buy you everything."

Contrary to the idea that many of the Polish immigrants are leaving the UK, many believe that there is no reliable information to prove the idea and believe that the issue is being blown out of proportion, due to the fact that East Europeans only make up 10% of the UK's population.

Krystyna Iglicka, an expert on Polish Immigration, claims that there is no evidence that large numbers of immigrants are returning. "We do not see them here," she said of the reported returned immigrants. According to Iglicka, only 22,000 returned in 2008, which is minimal compared to the estimated 1 million who still live in the UK.

In hindsight, others see that there is a circular movement of Polish immigrants. For the ones who leave there are always more to come in and take their place.





# Celebrate Culture

## Peruvian Government Ends Transportation Strike

**Kyle Coleman**

The National Council for Overland Transportation (CNTT), which was on strike for three days, announced that they had struck a deal with the Peruvian government.

The strike lasted from January 19<sup>th</sup> to January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The strike began as a result of increased fuel prices, and in turn CNTT demanded a hundred percent reduction in the diesel tax.

The CNTT accepted a deal of a 30 percent reduction in the diesel tax, after negotiations with the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Enrique Cornejo, and with Peru's Cabinet Chief, Javier Velásquez.

After announcing he was lifting the strike, the president of the transportation union, Alfonso Rivas, was reported as saying "We understand that our fellow residents are suffering and that through tourists who visit our country we are presenting a bad

image abroad. All of this influenced our decision to lift the strike."

The strike caused about 120,000 cargo trucks and 4,200 buses to be removed from the highways of Peru, stranding tourists and causing the government to declare a state of emergency. It was reported that around 1,500 tourists were stranded in Peru's second largest city, Arequipa, as a result of the reduced transportation.

## One Symbol Many Meanings

**Michelle T. McNulty**

If you were one of the 106.5 million viewers watching the Super Bowl in Miami this past January you may have noticed a small yet powerful symbol throughout the arena. The Fleur de lis (pronounced "fluhr duh LEES") was showcased among players and fans alike.

When the New Orleans Saints came out the triumphant team in the end you couldn't help but admire what the symbol meant and how it is the logo for the XLIV Super Bowl Champs.

The fleur de lis is not just a logo for an NFL team and the Saints are not the first to call on the "fleur power" either. It has represented things like royalty and religion in certain cultures and the symbol can also be found on ancient Greek and Roman coins. Some may also think of it as the most aggressive flower or even the tip of a spear. Whatever, the meaning, it is a symbol that makes many swell up with pride.

## International Organization Meeting in Review

**Samantha J. Edwards & Alexis Gordon**

On April 12, 2010, Program Director, Alexis Gordon; Executive Director, Alina Ziaja MacNiochol; and Chair, Dr. Maha Gingrich spoke at the City Council meeting and gave the Council Members an update on the results of the International Organizations meeting. The International Organization Meeting, which brings together people from all over the international community, took place on February 17, 2010.

Ms. Gordon shared with the City Council the results of the survey from the International Organizations meeting, highlighting the importance of transportation in the international community.

The results of the survey showcased the many comments and concerns of the international community. Along with transportation, the results discussed visibility of the international community. One suggestion backed by a majority of attendees was to create an international center that would

increase cooperation between organizations while making them more visible to the public.

Another idea resulting from the International Organizations meeting was the concept of an international task force formed from Cabinet members who sought to find solutions like transportation and increased awareness.

City Councilwoman, Nancy Carter expressed "...the importance to participate in this [international community]." She also spoke of her recent trip to Limoges, France where she met with local leaders in business, education and politics.

In her talks with these officials, she explained that she came back with three or four good ideas from the officials on ways to expand business between the Sister Cities, Charlotte and Liomges.

One of the ideas came from a porcelain manufacturer and distributor, who manufacturers porcelain prosthesis that could be used in hospitals in Charlotte.

# Peru Census

Fiorella Pena

Many countries take a census of their population to help with planning and distributing funds, services and representation through the land. Yet, not every country takes these records in the same way.

Take Peru for example, where information is collected on the make-up of the population as a whole and data on individual households. Household data was only collected in the last five censuses. Also Peru's last census, in 2007, paid more attention to collecting more specific data on indigenous populations. Several Non-Governmental Organizations helped reach those in the Amazon

region.

The purpose of the Peruvian census is to discover what the needs the country needs met. According to the 2007 results provided by the INEI (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics), who is in charge of tracking the population in Peru, recorded that 27,412,157 inhabitants participated in the census, of those 49.7 percent are males and 50.3 percent are females and 75.9 percent of the population live in urban areas.

Based on these records in the area of healthcare, the number of individuals with health insurance rose to 42.3 percent of the population. The birth rate in Peru fell by 1.3 percent from the

previous census. In education, the rate of illiteracy has fell to 5.8 percent and 31.1 percent of young people 15 yrs. and up went to universities or technological colleges. Based on the INEC website, Junín is identified as one of the regions with a higher rate of migration and 8 percent of families have at least one member living abroad. Lima is not only the capital, it is the biggest city in Peru.

The Peruvian Census allows the government access to basic information to characterize the economic structure in the future planning and formulation of policies and national economic development.

## Our Interns

Kyle is a Charlotte, North Carolina native who is currently attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is currently a senior who is entering his final semester in the fall. Kyle is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science, which he anticipates to receive in December 2010. Because he was born and raised in Charlotte, Kyle is very interested in the development and expansion of Charlotte in both local and international ways. Kyle enjoys golf, mountain biking, basketball, and generally any outdoor activity.

Hallie Eban is born in South Vietnam and was raised in Matthews. She is a student of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte majoring in Political Science. After traveling through South America as a volunteer teacher, she has made her primary goal to devote her life to international humanitarian work for not only the developing world, but also the developed world. Hallie

enjoys reading Joel Stein articles, backpacking and playing tennis.

Terence E. Arrington Jr. is 27 years old and originally from Manhattan, NY. He graduated from Strayer University with a Bachelor's of Science in International Business. He is also presently attending Walden University to obtain his Master of Science degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Local Government Management. He is also a City of Charlotte employee and has worked with the City for little over a year now in the Equipment Management Division. In his spare time he enjoys reading, playing keyboard and doing research for writing grants.

Fiorella Pena is 23 years old and originally from Lima, Peru, and came to the United States when she was 16 years old. Starting her college career at Central Piedmont Community College in the ESL program, she later decided to move to Oklahoma to be closer to family. She continued at Oklahoma

University in International Studies because she enjoyed meeting people from around the world and learning about different cultures, language. Since that time until her senior year she has been involved in the Student Government of at her university as President of the Peruvian Student Association and in the near future she's planning on studying diplomacy and international relations to be an Ambassador of Peru.

Donnie is currently pursuing a MBA in international business at Winthrop University. Donnie is interested in learning more about international trade issues and plans to work as a trade specialist either in the public or private sector upon graduation. Before entering graduate school, he studied economics at the University of South Carolina, and worked as a commercial lender.





## World Affairs Council Hosts Indian Ambassador

### Hallie Eban

The World Affairs Council of Charlotte hosted Meera Shankar, the Indian Ambassador to the United States. Shankar spoke of President Obama's first head of state meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and of India's global initiatives.

The president and Prime Minister found middle ground in their January meeting, with Prime Minister Singh stating, "India and the U.S. are separated by distance but bound by common national values of democracy, pluralism, rule of law and respect for fundamental human freedoms"

India is putting forth considerable attention on the economy, the stability of India's surrounding nation states, and their part in international cooperation.

Such as the attempt to revitalize our nation's economy by the stimulus package, India made the same approach and its economy is slowly making progress. India is however, going through a large public debt deficient that is mostly owed to its own people and to its own corporations due to the communal structure of India's government.

Despite these drawbacks, India has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy in world technology, and

the rapid emergence of its middle class have both played a strong role in increasing the country's economic current stand.

Ambassador Shankar reestablished the country's insured support for a stable democratic government for its neighbors, Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as concern over the level of impact of broad sanctions of developing nation states such as those.

Shankar also expressed India's joint effort in the international cooperation against global terrorism, international trade and global warming – all concerns of India, the United States, and other nation states.

## Norwegian Ambassador

### Hallie Eban

Along with Chair Woman Jennifer Roberts of Mecklenburg County Commissioners and Mayor Anthony Foxx, Ambassador Strommen was greeted by Charlotte's own Clean Air Carolina. In partnership with advocacy group Air-Cool Planet, Norwegian Ambassador Strommen made a visit to Charlotte to promote awareness of global climate change.

It is not surprising that Strommen has a strong view of global climate change. Consequently, Norway is one of the Arctic nations that have been harshly affected by continuing increase in global temperature. As the Arctic sea ice declines 11 percent per decade, the Norwegian Sea level affected by melting glaciers is rising and forcing local inhabitants to adapt. One of the inhabitants that will be affected is Ambassador Strommen himself.

While displaying a photo of his home on the Norwegian coast, Strommen stated that if sea levels

continues to rise at its current rapid speed, "I can jump out of my kitchen window into the ocean." University of Colorado's Walt Meir accompanied Strommen, reporting data that the volume and depth of Arctic sea ice are thinning at acceleration atypical to its scientific expectations thus causing current drifts to maneuver in uninvited directions and with it warming temperatures.

How does this affect Charlotte? In recent years, temperatures in the Southeast have risen to new highs and our expanse has gotten drier. It is also reported that sea levels will rise 2.6 feet to 6.4 feet by 2100 – a warning to the North Carolina coast.

Lastly, the ambassador Strommen strongly urged not just North Carolina but our nation to place its foot on global climate change. He states that, "the essential factor is U.S. leadership. The rest of the world simply won't do this if we don't."

## Meeting Dates

The next full board will be taking place on **June 3, 2010.**

More information can be obtained by contacting the Charlotte International Cabinet at [cic@ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:cic@ci.charlotte.nc.us) or 704-336-2174.





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You can also find our sponsorship packet online at [www.charlotteinternational.org](http://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.

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

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