

# Charlotte's Global Initiative

Notes from the Charlotte International Cabinet

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## Apprenticeship Program in North Carolina

**Hallie Eban and Alexis Gordon**

Is Charlotte and the rest of North Carolina taking full advantage of a world wide standard in workforce development? For decades European companies have offered a wide array of apprenticeship programs aimed at training future employees. Many people are aware of internship opportunities, but apprenticeships often include more specialized training, come with a paycheck, and often include a better, well paying job in the future.

Several Charlotte area foreign-owned firms offer apprenticeships, but North Carolina is one of the few states that does not provide incentives for companies to offer apprenticeships. Just over the

boarder South Carolina's Department of Labor offers tax breaks as an incentive to conduct apprenticeship programs.

This kind of academic and on the job training program can strengthen the job market. Yet, even with out incentives, We do have a few apprentice programs in Charlotte. Apprenticeship 2000 is one example. In 1995, Daetwyler and Blum, European firms and Past MICA winners,



*Is North Carolina missing out on job training opportunities?*

worked in partnership to develop the Apprenticeship 2000 program. It is sponsored totally by businesses. High School seniors that enter Apprenticeship 2000 end up with a four year AAS degree from a Journeyman's

certified program. They also receive a job offer if they successful complete the 8,000 hour apprenticeship.

This is a program that is supported by both North Carolina

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## In Memoriam: Susan Burgess

Susan Burgess, Mayor Pro-Tem of Charlotte and a great friend of the Cabinet, passed away in June 2010. Susan was an outstanding citizen of Charlotte and one of the most faithful supporters of international programs. She traveled with us many times on exchanges to partnered cities. Susan is survived by her husband, Patrick, four children and her grandchildren.



*Above: Susan in Krefeld, during a tour of the city.*



*Left: Susan and her husband Pat in Keukenhof Flower Gardens just outside Amsterdam, on the way to a visit with our German sister city, Krefeld.*



*Above: Susan at the ceremony celebrating Charlotte's intent to sign Hadera, Israel as our newest sister city.*

## Mexico's President on Immigration

**Fiorella Pena**

The President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, visited the U.S. on May 20th to discuss new immigration regulations that are affecting some cities in the U.S with President Obama.

During the discussion, Calderon addressed the importance of an immigration reform. Obama agreed that U.S. immigration policy does need reform and that he is making it a priority to work with Congress on this concern. However, many Americans feel like they are left neglected as they see that little has been done to address this matter.

President Calderon expressed

his opinion on the newest law that Arizona passed this summer, which became effective on July 29.



President Obama, President Calderon and the first ladies Courtesy of BBC

This law requires everyone in the state of Arizona to carry their

identification with them at all times. Additionally, officers also have the right to pull someone over to be questioned if there is a reasonable doubt about their residency.

Currently, North Carolina has played a neutral role in immigration and holds no extraneous policies. Charlotte however, abides by Section 287 (g). This allows federal officials to become Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) certified. These certified 287 (g) officials are given authority to deal with immigration violators whom might be a threat to national security.

Charlotte has been named one of the top cities for jobs by Forbes Magazine!

## Indonesia Consul General Visits

**Fiorella Pena**

The Consul General of Indonesia in New York, Trie Edi Mulyani, made her second visit to Charlotte in mid May.

Mulyani is the first female Consul General of Indonesia and has worked with the President of Indonesian America Association of the Carolinas, Dr. J. Andy Soesilo. Mulyani's work at the Consulate is important for the Carolinas and the United States. As a liaison between Indonesia and the US, she has encouraged trade, tourism, investments and more importantly social and cultural exchanges between the United States and her home country. Mulyani also serves as a resource for economic development, helping to bring

Indonesian firms to the US. As of 2009, there is only one Indonesian firm with offices in Charlotte.

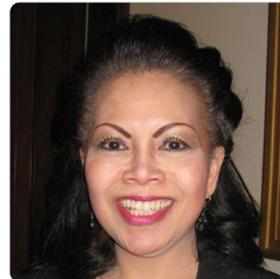
Mulyani specifies that Indonesia is a Less Developed Country (LDC) and the economic impact of the global financial crisis has been harsh. This May, Indonesia's market fell 4%, the lowest since February of this year. Despite the significant drop, the Asian market is moving higher.

The Consul stated that she wants to help improve Indonesian investment in the US and to

continue to promote bilateral trade between Indonesia and the United States. The United States is the second largest exporter in Indonesia for rubber, apparel, and electric machinery.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Mulyani had a luncheon with Mayor Anthony Foxx and important leaders from the Asian community. At the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Festival Mulyani was recognized and given an award for her service to the community.

Also, during her visit the Mayor's Office was given two oil paintings featuring Indonesian Dancers. You can find these paintings at the Charlotte International Cabinet office.



## Excelling Globally



# From the Desk of the Executive Director

### Alina Ziaja MacNichol

The David Townsend Volunteer of the Year award was begun in 2000 to honor Charlotte Sister Cities member David Townsend. For more than eight years David had volunteered countless hours in the office of Charlotte Sister Cities, always available and willing to assist in a myriad of activities. In his honor a perpetual award was created to recognize outstanding volunteer support associated with international programming. The award was last given out in 2004. To honor this tradition, this year the CIC is re-instituting the Townsend Award.

This year's recipient of the Townsend Award for Outstanding CIC Volunteer is Jerry Helms, organizer of the 2010 CIC Youth Basketball exchange with our sister city of Limoges, France. Jerry is a former Chairman of the Board of Charlotte Sister Cities and has been a long time member

of the Limoges Sister City Committee. He and his wife, Sue, have been enthusiastic supporters of the sister cities concept in Charlotte and they are both outstanding citizen diplomats. Jerry has not only contributed his time and energy, but also significant financial resources to the many international programs he has been involved in through the years. He and his wife have also hosted countless visitors and have shared their love of our area as they traveled to nearly every part of the world.



During his time as the Board Chair of Charlotte Sister Cities, from 1998 to 1999, Jerry traveled to all seven of the sister cities that Charlotte was partnered with at that time. He

speaks passionately about responsible citizenship and global understanding. The Youth Basketball Exchange is the most recent example of Jerry's commitment to creating opportunities for youth and adult cultural exchange through our CIC programs.

Students on this exchange did more than just play basketball – the program included cultural activities, outings to see historical attractions and many opportunities to interact with other youth from all over the world.

Jerry chose a group of coaches from several of the outstanding youth basketball programs in Charlotte to help him organize two teams, a boys

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Diverse Firms in Charlotte

### Jamil Khan

The global diversity of the growing number of foreign firms opening shop in Charlotte is helping the city grow a more diversified "portfolio" during slow economic times.

Recently, Todd Wallack of the Boston Globe, pointed out similarities between Boston's economic downturn of the 1980's and Charlotte's recent economic woes. After the Cold War ended Boston's heavy economic reliance on the technology sector began to fade, and there was a much needed shift towards diversification.

With the recent downturn of the national economy, Charlotte's

financial sector has certainly been affected. The growing apprehension of further job loss sparked our own push towards diversifying the industries within our local economy.

Charlotte has successfully been able to attract new industries to the region and many of these are being brought in from abroad.

Most recently the city enticed the distinguished Swedish and German companies, Electrolux and Siemens respectively, to move in to the Charlotte region.

## Apprenticeship

*Continued from page 1*

public schools and the community, but the State given no incentives for companies to have this type of program.

Daetwyler and Blum believe that providing this kind of program not only benefits their company in workforce development, but is also beneficial to the students in the program. North Carolina's high school dropout rate is higher than South Carolina's and many critics point to the lack of North Carolina's alternative to traditional College Prep studies as the problem.

The apprenticeship program includes training and a paycheck while the student is getting a college degree. The degree is paid for by the company and employment is guaranteed upon graduation. Students can be trained in multiple fields and can get jobs as machinists, welding fabricators, electricians, technicians and more.

## Another World Record Set by a Sister City

### Hallie Eban

Last year it was Krefeld, Germany with the world's largest postcard and now Hadera Israel is breaking records.

This Spring world's largest reverse osmosis desalination plant was unveiled.

The project to get the plant on-line began in 2007 as a collaboration between H2ID, an Israeli firm, IDE Technologies Ltd, a co-American owned water technology company, and Shikun & Binui.

The reverse osmosis desalination plant was estimated to provide 100 million cubic meters (26, 417 US gallons) of desalination water annually. Today it provides 127 million cubic meters (33,550 gallons) annually as well as 20 percent annually for household consumption. The

construction of the plant cost \$100 million dollars. This was not of much of a concern to Israel's Ministry of Infrastructure as almost all costs



were funded by foreign firms. European banks gave the project \$425 million.

According to Mekorot, the national water company of Israel, it cost about \$500 million to connect the plant to the country's present water system.

Hadera is waiting for two more desalination plants to be built in the next few years which would provide an additional 750 million cubic meters (198,129 gallons) yearly.

Although Saudi Arabia hosts the largest desalination plant, the reverse osmosis desalination plant in Hadera requires less energy to produce the amount of water it provides, making the plant environmentally friendly. This green development is not new to Israel. The country recycles 70% of its sewage and waste water, more than any other country in the world.

The new plant adds to Hadera's importance in bringing resources to Israel. The electric plant located there provides 60% of Israel's Energy.

## Spotlight: Isis Hanna

### Aisling Jerome

Isis Hanna has been a member of the Charlotte International Cabinet for three years but she still feels honored to be a member of the cabinet. She was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt but finds learning about the Charlotte international community to be a priceless and invaluable opportunity. Ms. Hanna earned her BA in Foreign Languages from Ain Shams University in Cairo and is currently pursuing a MA in Intercultural Relations at the University of the Pacific Intercultural Communication Institute.

Ms. Hanna is currently the Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Charlotte Area Health Education Center. She works to coordinate varied learning opportunities for physicians and helped to establish the Cultural & Language Diversity Education Department with the Charlotte Area Health Education Center at Carolinas HealthCare System. Ms. Hanna was recently named one of the Charlotte Business Journal's Diversity Catalysts.

Ms. Hanna considers herself to be bi-cultural, both Egyptian and American. She celebrates this heritage by embracing other cultures and nationalities and understanding and appreciating everyone despite where they are from.

Some of her passions include assisting new immigrants and newcomers to the US in getting adjusted to American culture, especially teenagers. She also enjoys reading the Bible and playing ping-pong and soccer.





# Baoding: The Future of China's Clean Energy

## Tucker Mills

Charlotte's Chinese Sister City is leading the pack in China's Green Revolution. Although Baoding, located in the industrial Hebei province, seems to be struggling with pollution just as much as the rest of developing China, the city's new green initiatives have created around twenty-thousand jobs from renewable energy industries.

Deemed a "Power Valley," Baoding is attempting to become China's first low carbon city by building a foundation for an industrial base in the invention, development, and production of clean technology and energy. Like other Chinese cities, however, Baoding still relies heavily on coal for supporting the energy needs of its population.

Akin to the smaller green initiative of solar powered parking meters in Charlotte, the Baoding government has installed solar panels on a large number of street lamps. Ma Xuelu, Chief Strategy Officer for Yingli Solar, noted that energy resources do not transform overnight. Yingli Solar, one of the leading producers of solar technology in China, is based in Baoding, and in recent years has increased its workforce from thirty to over seven-thousand.

China's demand for wind turbines has also now surpassed that of the United States. Following this development, the State owned company Tianwei Wind Power joined Yingli Solar in setting Baoding as their base of operations. China's rapid use of natural resources has come under intense scrutiny from the international

community, noting that the world simply cannot support such a high level of consumption. Baoding, however, seems willing to embrace the future and utilize new clean energy technologies to reduce its and China's global footprint, ushering in lasting environmental and economic benefits.

The International Air Transport Association awarded Charlotte Douglas International Airport the Eagle Award for Best Airport in the World!

# Tailor Made Organisms

## Kyle Coleman

US scientists have "built" a new organism. Science magazine reports that the research team successfully created the whole DNA code of a common bacterium out of blocks of genetic material.

This is a significant achievement in their ultimate goal of using engineered genomes to create organisms that can take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and produce clean fuels.

In response to those who are critical of the risk of creating "artificial life" in a test tube, Dr. Hamilton Smith stated that it was more of a step toward synthetic,



rather than artificial life. He told BBC News that "We like to distinguish synthetic life from artificial life. With synthetic life, we're re-designing the cell chromosomes; we're not creating a whole new artificial life system."

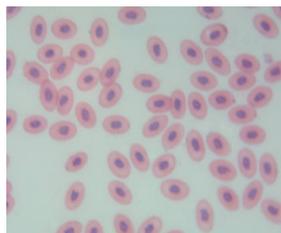
These knitted together pieces, called "cassettes" of genes, were grown in a bacterium. The

scientists named it *Mycoplasma JCVI-1.0*, after the J Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, MD where they performed their research.

"We're simply re-

writing the operating software for cells- we're not designing a genome from the bottom up- you can't drop a genome into a test tube and expect it to come to life" said Dr. Smith, a 1978 Nobel Prize winner for knowledge on how to cut segments of DNA.

"Understanding how you construct organisms artificially is an important first step. But scientists still need to understand what effect altering the DNA sequence of an organism - such as bacteria - will have upon their behavior" said Dr. Jason Chin, an advisor on synthetic biology.



European Exposure

**Bank of America Sells Stake in Brazilian Bank**

**Stephen Plasyck**

Bank of America recently announced that it plans to sell all of its holdings in the Brazilian bank Itau Unibanco. Jerry Dubrowski, a spokesman for the Charlotte-based bank, stated that the decision was made after it was determined that Itau Unibanco represented a "noncore asset."

In a telephone interview with Bloomberg Businessweek he went on to state, "With the acquisition of Merrill Lynch we have a significant presence in Latin America and Brazil and this doesn't change that."

Itau Unibanco is the largest bank in the Southern Hemisphere and the tenth largest in the world, with total assets exceeding \$350 billion.

It was formed after the merger of two Brazilian banks, Banco Itau and Unibanco, in November 2008.

Bank of America, the largest financial-holding company in the US, acquired a 7.4% holding of Itau Banco after agreeing to sell most of its South American units to the Sao Paulo-based company.

The announcement triggered a 5.1% drop in Itau Unibanco's stock to 33.20 reais, the largest tumble in seven months. The company's stock was already down 14% this year on concerns over the European debt crisis and the implications it could hold for worldwide financial markets. The sale is estimated to generate roughly \$4.5 billion for Bank of America. Investimentos Itau SA, the Brazilian bank's holding company, will reacquire the shares. Bank of America is expected to use the funds to expand its overseas operations and repay loans to the U.S. Treasury it acquired under the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

**Fiorella Pena**

April unemployment rates in Europe dropped at the fastest rate in four years. Recently however, the unemployment rate rose unexpectedly indicating that the labor market may still need a long period to heal.

Economists were looking at an 180,000 increase payrolls and a 9.7% jobless rate. In addition to this issue, European banks are facing a multitude of problems, including the impact on non-sovereign debt.

The cumulative debt of the five countries under financial stress known as PIIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain) is equal to \$3.1 billion of government debt, with an equal amount of credit default protection to back them up.

The debt of the PIIGS breaks down as follows:

- Italy: \$2.3 billion in sovereign debt and \$7.3 billion in commercial debt.
- Spain: \$122 million in sovereign debt and \$5.6 billion in commercial debt.
- Ireland: \$401 million in sovereign debt and \$4.8 billion in commercial debt.
- Portugal: \$33 million in sovereign debt and \$698 million in commercial debt.

**Duke Energy Looks to China to Forge Trading**

**Stephen Plasyck**

Top-level executives from Duke Energy Corporation went to China with a US trade mission to discuss greater economic cooperation. The visit represents the Obama Administration's first Cabinet-level trade mission. Jim Rogers (Duke Energy CEO) and David Mohler (Chief Technology Officer) joined U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and 44 other business executives during this trip in May. The mission focused on increased proliferation of clean energy technologies, boosting US exports and supporting US jobs.

The mission came as one of the first concrete steps in President Obama's broader National Export Initiative (NEI). The NEI is headed by top administration officials and works with private sector leaders along with foreign counterparts to foster international economic ties.

While the political relationship between the US and China was

tested this year by disagreements over Iran and North Korea, the economic relationship is showing no significant signs of strain.

Duke Energy is an energy company headquartered in Charlotte that provides power to North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. With assets in Canada and Latin America, the company wishes to extend its international in scope through ties in Asia. In March, the company signed its third major trade deal with a Chinese company.

Duke Energy has already signed deals with China Huaneng Group and ENN Group. The recent agreement includes the development of efficient smart grid technologies. It is speculated that more deals with Chinese companies are in the works and will be announced before the close of 2010.





## Obama Seeks Funding for Israeli Military

**Victoria White**

The Obama Administration announced that the U.S. will be funding Israel's "Iron Dome" Rocket System. The rocket system is a multi-layer missile defense system that has the ability to effectively protect against short-range missiles. According to the Reuters, Iron Dome's development was spurred by the 2006 conflict in Lebanon with Hezbollah and the Gaza Strip war against Hamas. In both cases, Israeli towns within reach of short-range rockets were in some respects defenseless. Though there have been many disagreements against funding of Israeli rocket systems, the president sees the importance in the U.S.'s commitment to ensure our most important ally in the region has tools to defend itself. Furthermore, the administration recog-

nizes the threat missiles and rockets fired by Hamas and Hezbollah pose to Israeli National Security. Because of this the decision was made to seek funding from Congress to support the production of Iron Dome. White House spokesman Tommy Vietor explained the administration's rationale, saying, "The [Iron Dome] system will expand what the [Israelis] can produce and deploy, and how quickly they're able to do it." The President and Vietor both agree that "our commitment to Israel's security is unshakable, and our defense relationship is stronger than ever." The U.S. and Israel share many of the same security challenges, from combating terrorism to confronting the threat posed by Iran's nuclear-weapons program. Since the implementation of the project, a U.S. team has went to Israel last fall to check on the progress of Iron Dome, the team comes

away with the assessment that it is "a system that makes sense." The funding is an ongoing partnership between the U.S. and Israel to promote steps toward

## The Dark Side of China's Economic Boom

**Tucker Mills**

There has been recent spikes in the number of suicides at Foxconn Technology Group's, two Chinese factories, Foxconn and numerous other multi-national corporations. have promised wage increases of up to 35% for factory workers. For the end-user, this will most likely result in higher prices for T-shirts, shoes, computer hardware and smartphones. While China's evolution into a country for cheap labor in the past two decades has flooded the developed world with inexpensive goods, the humanitarian cost has been completely overlooked.

Aside from poor work conditions, the factories themselves

often have a massive environmental impact on the surrounding areas. In addition to disrupting or destroying local ecology all together, studies show a direct link to the creation of an estimated 100 to 400 Chinese "Cancer Villages." According to a study by the World Bank, Chinese farmers are four times as likely to die from liver cancer and twice as likely to die from stomach cancer than the global average.

Cui Xiaoliang, a resident of Xinglong in the Yunnan Province, says that "Before the factories were built, there was no cancer... Now, we hear every that this person or that person has cancer... My aunt never drank alcohol or smoked. Her cancer

was completely caused by pollution." Factories, even those owned by the state, often disregard how to properly dispose of industrial waste, and pump chemical discharge directly into the water supplies of adjacent villages.

It is clear that although China is still a developing country, both the Chinese Central Government and multi-national corporations involved in China need to revise their policies on minimum salary, work conditions, and pollution. Doing so will create a more stable society and preserve the health of China's citizens and environment, and as a result foster healthier and longer lasting Chinese and global economic progress.

# Sister City Watch

## Jerry Helms

*Continued from page 3*

The players were chosen from a diverse group of public and private schools in Charlotte, based on grades and character references as well as athletic ability. Youth athletes and coaches raised all the funds for the trip themselves, with help from several individual and corporate donors.

This group of academic all-stars and their coaches had a truly international experience and were ambassadors of Charlotte and the United States wherever they went.

Jerry traveled with them to France and shared his enthusiasm for international interchange, his love of basketball and above all his pride in Charlotte. Jerry was the guiding force behind every aspect of the exchange and he was also the largest individual financial donor.

On behalf of the Charlotte International Cabinet staff and Board of Directors it is my great pleasure to honor Jerry as our Outstanding Volunteer for this

## Free Speech in Kumasi

**Jamil Khan**

Freedom of speech is being challenged in our sister city of Kumasi, Ghana. At the beginning of the summer a teacher there was reportedly arrested for expressing his opinion on the President.

Ghanaian papers reported that Emmanuel Adu Gyamfi in Kumasi, Ghana, was arrested by police for

making a derogatory public statement towards President John Mills.

On the radio program Foxx FM, Adu Gyamfi likened the President of Ghana to a chimpanzee when commenting on a particular campaign poster. Soon after making these statements,

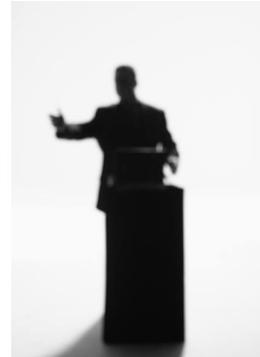
supporters of the President formed a mob outside the radio station headquarters.

Police arrived on the scene in order to disperse the outraged mob and take Mr. Gyamfi into custody for his own safety. Mr. Gyamfi was formally arrested after the regional police confirmed that he had, in fact, made the disrespectful statement toward the highest authority in the nation.

Opposition party members and those critical of the current government saw this move as a suppression of free speech.

Before they could rally up support for the release of Mr. Gyamfi, however, President John Mills ordered that all charges of "offensive conduct" be dropped.

While the President's supporters saw the move as one of compassion, the opposition cheered it as a victory for freedom of speech.



## Devastating Rain in Poland

**Hallie Eban**

In mid-May, Poland was victim to destructive rain from the south moving north that devastated homes and killed 15 people. Prime Minister Donald Tusk estimated damages to be more than \$2.5 billion.

Most of the damage occurred along the Vistula River, which empties into the Baltic Sea.

Poland's interior ministry has placed 200,000 sandbags and emergency services on the banks of the Vistula. The ministry plans to give those who have been affected by the floods \$1,812 for household for living expenses, totaling \$45.97 million.

The frantic rains caused landslides in Southern Poland, and more rain could trigger even

more landslides across the country.

A UNC-Charlotte student, Vittoria Majeika, studying at Jaiellonian University in Krakow stated, "All schools were cancelled from Tuesday afternoon till

Thursday and many people had to leave their homes in the Kazimierz, the Jewish district of the city."

Almost a decade ago, in 2001,

flooding in Wroclaw reached 22 inches and claimed 20 lives. In 1997, a flood hit Poland that led to 55 deaths and destruction of 50,000 homes.

Poland has asked the European Union for financial assistance in their state of emergency.



*Photo from The Irish Times*



## Lessons from our Sister City

### Victoria White

Charlotte City Council Member Nancy Carter visited Limoges and came back with fresh perspectives about how Charlotte can continue to foster our International relationships. Carter has always believed that sister cities are very important. She says she traveled to Limoges in April thinking that Charlotte Southern hospitality is legendary, but she was in for a surprise as she had never met more hospitable or warmer individuals than the residents of Limoges.

Limoges is a much smaller city than Charlotte, yet it has a much stronger international vibe. Carter says that we have a lot to learn

from Limoges as we try to showcase diversity in Charlotte.

During her visit to Limoges,



Carter and CIC Executive Director Alina MacNichol met with City departments and officials involved with the transit system in Limoges. Carter says that we have much to

learn from the city's efficient train system. One aspect of our city that we can improve on is our trolley system. Carter comments that she believes by "linking our Uptown and the East and West parts of Charlotte can boost economic development and will lay an improved base for race relations and interaction, especially since on the eastern end, we have ethnic restaurants all along Central Avenue."

Carter emphasizes that the relationships between sister cities like Limoges and Charlotte are a sign of the city's commitment to enhance economic development and cultural exchanges.

## New Police Unit in Kumasi

### Kyle Coleman

Mohammed Ahmed Alhassan, the Deputy Inspector General of Police in Kumasi has appointed a new police unit called, the Police Intelligence and Professional Standard Bureau Unit (PIPS). The division was created to hear complaints about unprofessionalism and misconduct of personnel from the public. PIPS, whose mother unit is in Accra, is also designed to take complaints from fellow officers. The public used to have to travel to Accra to file complaints. The

unit also performs surprise checks on various stations and the activities of police officers.

Alhassan said that, "instead of sitting and giving directives from the top, the new administration has come to the ground to talk to police personnel in order to implement new necessary measures." He also stated that it was part of "re-engineering of the service embarked upon by the new administration to interact with police personnel and also solicit for their opinion on the way forward for the police service."

## Meeting Dates

October 7— CIC Meeting  
November 19—Beaujolais

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

# Eye on Organizations

## Hosting Exchange Students

**Jamil Khan**

Has your family considered hosting a foreign exchange student for this upcoming school year? There are several excellent opportunities in Charlotte to do so. Exchange programs help initiate the sharing of customs and cultures between host families and visitors. The Charlotte International Cabinet has effectively organized week long visits to and from many of our eight sister cities. Hosting plays a key role in making these exchanges as productive as possible, as well as help cut costs for visitors. For Charlotte families interested in hosting a high school student (aged 15-18), here are two non-profit organizations the CIC



recommends contacting:

The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) which has successfully worked with the CMS school system in orchestrating exchange student

opportunities for foreign students who wish to study in the United States. The organization's mission is, "to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world."

Youth For Understanding USA has assisted the international exchange of students in high

schools from 60 countries across the globe. The organization is, "a private, non-profit educational program dedicated to preparing young people for their responsibilities and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world."

Host families benefit tremendously from the experience by gaining some insight into another culture.

For more information about these organizations. Contact the CIC office or the organizations directly.

CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange  
Tel: +1.866.219.3734  
mweiss@ciee.org  
www.ciee.org

Youth for Understanding USA  
Telephone: 240.235.2100  
Toll Free: 1.866.493.8872

### BACC Comes to Charlotte

**Hallie Eban**

Charlotte has a new foreign chamber. Brazilian Ambassador Adalnio Senna Ganem and Atlanta's chapter of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce joined with area Brazilian firms to start a Charlotte Chapter this summer.

Lucia Jennings, President of the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce, says Charlotte was a natural expansion because of the large number of foreign firms based in our area.

Jennings said there were also other reasons for coming here, "We chose North Carolina as our first Chapter because not only did Ambassador Adalnio Senna Ganem suggest that the Chamber expand our Brazilian Consulate services to the state, but the state also has a strong international presence ... 24 of these companies selected by Forbes Magazine as the largest in the U.S. in 2009."

### Spotlight: Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency Inc.

**Aisling Jerome**

Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Inc. (CRRA) has been in operation in Charlotte since 1996 but until recently was known as HIAS, NC (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). CRRA helps to resettle refugees and asylees in Charlotte of any

nationality or religion. In fact, in the past 10 years, 42% of those resettled were from Southeast Asia and 18% were from Africa.

CRRA also provides refugees with services to help them acculturate to the Charlotte region, achieve a degree of self-sufficiency, and contribute to American society. Many of those resettled by CRRA lived in

constant fear of persecution and violence, with some even having spent time in refugee camps.

CRRA's staff contributes to the experience of the refugees. The



staff comes from all over the world, from Somalia to Vietnam to Burma. Karen Brodsky, the Community Resource Coordinator at

CRRA, described the typical experience of a refugee assisted by the organization: "Once refugees are met at the Charlotte airport, and they hear their own language and meet someone from their own country, they are thankful. CRRA's diverse staff is familiar with their experiences, having been refugees themselves."



## The CI Sea Dragons

### Tucker Mills

On Saturday, May 15, 2010, the Carolinas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the Charlotte Dragon Boat Association held the fifth annual Charlotte Dragon Boat Festival alongside the long running Asian Festival at Ramsey Creek Park in Cornelius. The Charlotte International Cabinet and friends adopted the name "CI Sea

Dragons," competing against almost forty other teams including



The CI Sea Dragons team photo

Bank of America, the Filipino American Community of

Charlotte, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Duke Energy and many more.

The CI Sea Dragons took first place in the G Division with a final time of one minute and twenty seconds, the 24th fastest time overall. Last year, the CI Sea Dragons clocked one of the fastest times of the festival at one minute and seven seconds. Though fallen from grace, the CI Sea Dragons hope to come back with a vengeance at the 2011 Charlotte Dragon Boat Festival.

## Want to Deport Hooligans? South Africa Does It

### Kyle Coleman

This summer a lot of attention turned to South Africa as sports fans from across the globe gathered for the World Cup.

South African authorities wanted to make sure that everything ran as smoothly as possible and that included keeping an eye out for typical soccer hooliganism.

Officials got a jump on some trouble makers even before they reached the stadiums. In fact, some known troublemakers didn't even make it out of the airport.

At least ten Argentine soccer fans who the police identified as persons suspected of wanting to disrupt the matches, were deported as soon as they reached South Africa.

Hooligans are people known to participate in destructive and troubling behavior in regards to sporting events. The ten men, who were detained at



South African Fans from FIFA.com

Johannesburg Airport, are part of a group of about 80 people called "barras bravas" who are known for their organized soccer-related violence.

The police reported that this group is "known to have a history of being involved in crime antagonizing local law enforcements. Engage in acts of violence and provoke conflict with certain fans of opponent teams and other groups from Argentina."

Argentine authorities gave South Africa a list of 800 people they can identify as hooligans, hoping to stem their entry and travel to the World Cup.

Argentina isn't the only place that hooligans are hailing from. The BBC reports that around 3200 England fans had their passports held by the British Government to stop them from traveling to South Africa because they are known to have disorderly behavior in regards to soccer matches.

Richard Vinroot International Achievement Award  
Dr. Yele Aluko, MD, FACC, FSCAL

Patrick McCory International Entrepreneur Award  
Gobind "Garry" Bhojwani

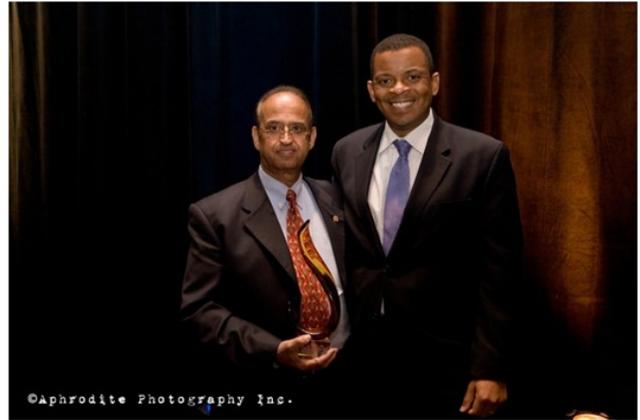
Small Company Finalists  
Langford de Kock LLP  
Schindler  
**Shred-it**

Medium Company Finalists  
**Balfour Beatty Construction**  
Daetwyler  
Turbomeca Manufacturing

Large Company Finalists  
**AREVA**  
IKEA  
Midrex



Dr. Yele Aluko and Mayor Anthony Foxx



Bhojwani of Binaco and Mayor Anthony Foxx



Shred-It and Mayor Anthony Foxx



Balfour Beatty Construction and Mayor Anthony Foxx



AREVA and Mayor Anthony Foxx

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# NRA Gets International Attention

## Tucker Mills

The National Rifle Association's recent convention in Charlotte was more than just a showcase of restored ancient rifles, developments in firearms technology, and a celebration of the Second Amendment. According to the BBC, it was a microcosm of American culture.

Whether you agree with the movement to protect the right to bear arms or not, it is hard to ignore the United States' firearms history. Firearms serve as a link to our frontier heritage,

the War of Independence, and the Civil War; all of which helped shape the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Welcoming high-profile speakers that included John Bolton, the former US ambassador to the United Nations, and Sarah Palin, former Vice-Presidential running mate of John McCain, the NRA convention attracted over seventy-

thousand visitors and more than twenty-million dollars to the Charlotte region.



Photo of Palin at NRA convention from AP

# Does Money Make Friends?

## Stephen Plasyck

A global Gallup poll has concluded that Sub-Sahara Africa is the region of the world most favorable to American leadership. Côte d'Ivoire emerged as first in the ranking, with 94% of respondents reporting a favorable view of the United States. It was followed by Kenya with 93%, Uganda with 91% and Zambia with 90%. Mali, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo all tied for fifth place with 89%. Of the top 25 countries most favorable to US leadership, only three are not found on the African continent: Kosovo (88%), Ireland (80%), and Albania (78%).

The high favorability in Africa is a direct result of America's enormous aid commitment to the region. Under President Bush, US aid to Africa nearly quadrupled from an initial 1.1 billion to 4.4 billion in 2008. The centerpiece of the expanded aid

program is the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), a five-year, \$15 billion Aids treatment and prevention program. Experts from Stanford



Photo from US Department of State

University reported that PEPFAR had reduced Aids-related deaths in the most poverty stricken regions of Africa by approximately 10.5%.

In a speech outlining his foreign policy, President Obama pledged to double total US aid to \$50 billion by 2012. He specifically mentioned this increased assistance going to support failed states and sustainable growth.

President Obama's ancestry was also a potential factor in garnering high Africa favorability.

Exactly half of the countries surveyed reported an overall favorable view of US leadership, while most Middle Eastern and Muslim countries reported overall disapproval. Pakistan emerges as the country with the least favorable rating of the United States (9%), followed by Serbia (14%), Syria (15%), Vietnam (17%), and Russia (20%). Noticeably absent from the survey was China, whose opinion of the US will certainly entail far-reaching implications in the years to come. Furthermore, as China's role on the African continent continues to increase over the coming years, it is possible that the US and China could well become locked in a battle for the hearts and minds of Africans.

# Our Interns



Kyle Coleman 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 was born in South Vietnam and raised in Matthews, NC. She is a majoring in Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. After traveling through South America as a volunteer teacher in Ecuador and Peru, Hallie has decided to devote her life to humanitarian work in both developed and developing countries. She plans to pursue her aspiration by attending law school upon graduation, as well as continuing volunteerism. Hallie actively plays tennis, enjoying learning languages and backpacking.

Jamil Khan was born in Lahore, Pakistan, where he grew up. After graduating from high school in 2005, he moved to Charlotte to attend college and be closer to family members. Jamil is completing his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, with Minors in International and Islamic Studies. Jamil has a keen interest in international law, particularly concerning human rights abuses. Jamil's hobbies include playing golf, and watching European soccer matches.

Tucker Mills was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a rising senior at the University of

North Carolina – Chapel Hill majoring in Asian Studies: Mandarin. After interning with the CIC, Tucker will be traveling to Shanghai in July to attend the Shanghai World Expo and a symposium on the future of green energy resources sponsored by Shanghai Jiaotong University, both researching and presenting on "New Energy, New City, New Life." Tucker hopes to use his Mandarin to further develop international relationships between Charlotte and communities in China. On the side, he enjoys painting, sculpture, computers, and finding new music.

Fiorella is 23 years old and originally from Lima, Peru, and came to

Prior to working with the CIC he interned with Congresswoman Sue Myrick and Senator Richard Burr. This fall Stephen will be studying abroad at University College London, where he hopes to gain insight into British politics and international relations. Stephen moved to Charlotte when he was twelve, and hopes to use his interest in international relations to increase the global prominence of The Queen City. In his spare time he enjoys running and reading.

Victoria G. White will be a junior at Wake Forest University this fall. She is a Political Science major and has devoted much of her time on different advocacy and

leadership initiatives. Upon graduation from college Victoria plans to enter law school to study international humanitarian rights. Victoria is very passionate about different cultures and has dedicated much of her time in learning about various countries. She hopes to use the knowledge that she has garnered to help foster the international relationships in Charlotte. Victoria enjoys traveling, volunteering and being in the outdoors.

Aisling Jerome recently graduated from UNC Wilmington with a BA in Communication Studies. She has studied abroad in England and has worked as a Study Abroad Ambassador at UNCW to promote education abroad. Aisling loves to travel and wants to see as many different places as she can. In her spare time, she likes to read, ride her bicycle, walk her dog and knit.



the United States when she was 16 years old. Starting her college career at Central Piedmont Community College in the ESL program, she later became homesick and decided to move to Oklahoma to be closer to family. She continued her studies at Oklahoma University in International Studies because she enjoyed meeting people from around the world and learning about different cultures, and languages. Since that time until her senior year she has been involved in the Student Government 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.

Stephen Plascyk is a rising junior studying political science at American University in Washington, DC.



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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](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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Leila Lahbabi  
Aaron Means, Jr.  
Malik K. Rahman  
Cecilia Ramirez

# Upcoming International Events in Charlotte

## **International House Benefit Gala**

The Board of Directors of International House and the 2010 Gala Committee invite you to enjoy an evening of Japanese Cuisine, Dancing, Entertainment, Live and Silent Auctions at our 22nd Annual Benefit Gala.  
**Saturday, October 16**

## **10th Annual Blast for the Past**

There'll be live music and great food, a silent auction and, of course, the residential and commercial preservation awards ceremony – recognizing the most innovative historic preservation projects in the Charlotte region.  
**Saturday, October 21**

## **Beaujolais Wine Tasting Festival**

One of just 13 cities in the country given the honor of hosting an official uncorking and celebration of the annual Beaujolais Nouveau harvest. Location to be determined.  
**November 19th**

## **Joint "WorldQuest / Academic WorldQuest 2010"**

Hosted by the Worlds Affairs Councils. The game was created by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, North Carolina and is now widely played at the adult and high school level. The game is a contest between 4-person teams of area residents. These teams can be representative of your

company, organization, school, or have no affiliation.  
**Wednesday, November 17**



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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*Executive Director*

### **Alexis Gordon**

*Program Director*