

Charlotte's Global Initiative

Notes from the Charlotte International Cabinet

VOLUME II, ISSUE III

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2010

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Nobel Prize for Literature Goes to Arequipa-born Writer

Aisling Jerome

Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa won the 2010 Nobel Prize for literature "for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt, and defeat," the Swiss Academy announced. Vargas Llosa is the first South American to win the literature prize since 1982, when it was won by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

"Writing has been such a fantastic pleasure for me all

my life, that I cannot believe that I am honored and recom-



Mario Vargas Llosa (picture from wordpress.com)

pensed for something that has been a recompense in itself," said Vargas Llosa in an interview with the Nobel Prize website. As a winner of the

Nobel Prize, Vargas Llosa will receive 10 million krona, or \$1.5 million USD.

Vargas Llosa, 74, was born in Charlotte's first sister city, Arequipa, Peru. His prolific writing career, spanning more than 30 works, has produced such novels as *La ciudad y los perros* (1963; *The Time of the Hero*, 1966), *Conversación en la catedral* (1969; *Conversation in the Cathedral*, 1975) and *La casa verde* (1965; *The Green House*, 1968). Many of his

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IE&SBO Meeting

Alexis Gordon

A diverse group of small business owners and entrepreneurs filled the second floor meeting room at the Government Center to find out where to turn for a helping hand in getting started in Charlotte.

The Charlotte International Cabinet hosted the first International Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners (IE&SBO) meeting in partnership with Charlotte's Department of Economic Development and in cooperation with the Charlotte Chamber.

The meeting aimed to offer Charlotte's international entrepreneurs and small business owners a chance to learn

about opportunities and resources available to them—such as access to capital, special programs, benefits of registering with the City, and membership benefits.

The meeting also included workshops covering advice often sought from the Cabinet and a panel called, "Business Building through Community." This year three workshops were given: Dale Gillmore of Boatsman Gillmore, lead one on accounting basics; Julio Colmenares, CGR Creative, lead a marketing and branding workshop; and Alan Gordon, Alan Gordon Immigration and Naturalization lead an immigration workshop.

In a survey given at the meeting, foreign born attendees are 50% less likely to get help from Chambers or the City Economic Development than native born attendees before this meeting and only



Alan Gordon lead an IE&SBO workshop at the meeting

one foreign born attendee worked with City Economic Development in the past.

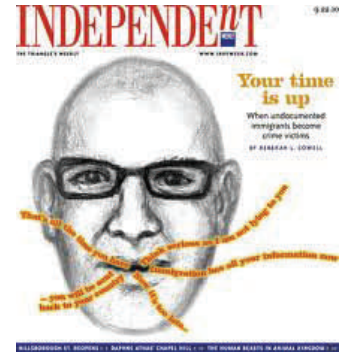
The CIC plans on making this an annual meeting. The next one is planned for late September of 2011.

Former Durham Immigration Employee Sentenced for Blackmail

Aisling Jerome

Bedri Kulla, a former employee of the US Citizen and Immigration Services (CIE), will be serving a year in prison followed by a year on probation after pleading guilty to threatening an illegal immigrant with deportation if she did not engage in a sexual relationship with him. His victim is 24-year old Xiomara Blanco, an illegal immigrant

from El Salvador who came to the US in 2005 to earn money to send back to her family. The two first met on a Spanish social networking site and agreed to meet in person. At this meeting, Kulla claimed that he was



a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent and demanded a relationship. When Blanco refused and ignored emails and texts from Kulla, he showed up at her work with a bouquet of flowers in one hand and a 2005 deportation order in the other. The 2005 order was from when her visitation expired; however, she received an Order of

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Intensifying Diplomacy in Sudan

Hallie Eban

After years of cultural and ethnical toil, Sudan has moved towards the creation of two separate States. The Obama Administration has plead for this referendum in Sudan. Such civil unrests in Darfur can only hope for this sort of solution. The United Nations' Security Council issued the adoption of Security Council resolution 1769 which allowed for the creation of African Union/ United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID).



However, death tolls have reached beyond 300,000 since 2003, most of which were caused by diseases. In September, the Obama Administration worked out peaceful strategies with political leaders in Sudan. Obama stated that he wants to make sure this separation intensifies diplomacy. Secretary Clinton is also involved in the referendum preparation. She specifically wants to place focus on the immediate effort to bring humanitarian relief to Darfur. Vice President Biden worked to bring attention and understanding to the

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Charlotte Setting an Example through Smarter Energy Consumption

Jamil Khan

On September 23, former President Clinton and Charlotte Mayor, Anthony Foxx, announced the "Envision: Charlotte" plan at the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York. The plan is to implement "smart grid" technology in the Uptown area of Charlotte, within the boundaries of I-277. With buildings permission, this cutting edge electrical grid technology will enable consumers and their electric utility company to receive accurate, real-time data and information regard-

ing the energy being used and how it can be reduced to cut cost. The entire project cost is estimated to be \$5.3 million and will be implemented with no cost to the buildings and their occupants participating since the funding has been pledged by Duke Energy and Cisco Systems, which split the cost 80 and 20 percent respectively.

Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Duke Energy and the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County were the first few organizations to sign on to the plan. The

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Alina Ziaja MacNichol

Charlotte has recently an influx of new foreign-owned firms and expansions of foreign-owned firms that are already here. Our region boasts the largest concentration of foreign-owned firms in the Carolinas thanks to a very attractive business climate and our excellent international airport. The Charlotte international business community and the firms they represent are a vital part of our economy. Charlotte Chamber, City Economic Development and Char-

lotte Regional Partnership staff not only promote the region to international companies, they also attend foreign trade shows and meet one-on-one with executives from all over the world. The CIC acts as a resource for economic developers and incoming foreign firms and connects newcomers to the network of international organizations in our region, as well as the North Carolina Consular Corps and our local and state elected officials. Our



International Business Initiative is working to strengthen the resources currently available through the CIC by developing a welcome packet for foreign-owned firms. The CIC hosts international groups that are visiting Charlotte to meet with city officials, enjoy our hospitality and see attractions like the new Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

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International Investment Growing in the Greater Charlotte Area

Jamil Khan

There are signs of recovery in the local job market, particularly with international investment beginning to grow once again in our region. SAERTEX,

a German manufacturing firm, has announced plans to expand their Mecklenburg County plant located in Huntersville. The company produces composite materials used by manufacturers in the wind energy, auto,

aerospace and ship building industries. SAERTEX is based out of Saerback, Germany, approximately 100 miles north-east of Krefeld, Charlotte's sister city. The expansion project is expected to create more than 170 new jobs over the

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UK Upping Development in Carolinas

Abby Hancock

According to the Charlotte Business Journal, the United Kingdom has its eye on the Carolinas. U.K. Trade & Investment (UKTI), the nation's

premiere economic-development agency, is similar to the U.S. Commercial Service and has added a new position that focuses on local business-development opportunities in the Carolinas. Jessica Roch was named the new Vice Consul-Inward Investment Office for the Carolinas and is based out of the

British Embassy in Washington D.C. UKTI aims to promote business performance and foreign direct investment in the U.K. and for British firms abroad, particularly for innovative and R&D focused businesses. Denise Harris, the UKTI director for the Southeast region has said that although the agency already has a focus in the Carolinas, the organization realized they were

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A breathtaking view of the London skyline

Wells Fargo Global Banking Unit Comes To Charlotte

Abby Hancock

In July 2010 Wells Fargo & Co. announced the expansion of its worldwide banking capabilities with the establishment of global banking offices in Charlotte as well as four other East Coast cities. The East Coast operations will be part of the Global Banking division based out of San Francisco. They will aim to support the financial needs of U.S. companies doing business internationally and also work with foreign-



based companies operating in the U.S.

The Global Banking division is led by Sanjiv Sanghvi, a 21-year veteran of the firm. Sanghvi emphasized that through the expanded global network gained through the Wachovia merger and the HSBC Trade Bank, Wells Fargo will be able to better distribute their broad set of international services to suit

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Export Achievement Award for Local Small Business

Abby Hancock

At recent Charlotte City Council meeting Mayor Foxx recognized a for winning an export award. Mayor Foxx congratulated Prodigy Diabetes Care, LLC and noted the importance of the contributions of the small business community in Charlotte. Foxx also said he hoped that it would help others understand the availability of opportunities for growth in international markets.

Prodigy Diabetes Care, LLC was named the Charlotte region's fastest growing private company in 2009 according to the Charlotte Business Journal. The accolades continued into 2010, Prodigy was awarded the Export Achievement Award by the U.S. Department of Commerce and Deputy Commerce Secretary Ro Khanna.

Prodigy has achieved 16 and 22 percent increases in their exports over the past two years, and is a successful example of the ExportTech program and Gold Key Service provided by the U.S. Commercial Service to strategically target foreign countries and pre-qualified buyers. The Export Achievement Award is significant as it has only been awarded 15 times in North Carolina.

According to the Mayor, export activity may be one of the best ways to help our local small businesses grow. Prodigy has stated that it is committed to furthering growth and expanding in the Charlotte area, with the expectation of adding 300-400 new jobs over the next three to five years.



Products made by Prodigy Diabetes Care, LLC

UK Upping Development in Carolinas

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perhaps 'not doing it sufficient justice.' The recent attention on the region is due to the common strong bases in research, development and science present in both the U.K. and the Carolinas. UKTI aims to help British companies do business in the U.S. and vice versa, which will be mainly executed through company visits and seminars and programs designed to share expert knowledge.

The hope in the Charlotte region is that an increased UKTI presence will help bring increased capital and

job opportunities to the region by increasing the odds that a foreign company will choose Charlotte for its U.S. offices. The Charlotte Regional Partnership also works to help companies identify international opportunities which could help them expand their sales and gain market share abroad.

Harris adds that UKTI can help serve as a springboard to European markets and that companies feel they add a 'real value in their business journey.'



Haiti Receives Ambulance From Charlotte-Based Group

Hallie Eban

Nearly a year after an earthquake devastated Haiti, Charlotteans continue to provide aid to the region. According to the Charlotte Observer, Haitian Heritage & Friends of Haiti, a group out of Charlotte, delivered medical supplies and an ambulance to the Justinian University Hospital in Cap-Haitien. They were able to purchase the vehicle for \$3000 at a City of Charlotte auction and a member of HHFoH, who

is also a paramedic in Fort Mill, cleaned and painted the ambulance. The medical director of Justinian Hospital,

Dr. Jean Gracia, sent a thank you note to the group that read, "My staff and the patients are very grateful and lucky to have organizations like yours thinking about their well-being when they are most vulnerable. The quality of

care has improved tremendously due to the newly received donations." HHFoH said their efforts would not be

possible without the continued support of the community and from groups such as the Myers Park United Methodist



Picture hosted on Wral.com

Church and Presbyterian Church of Charlotte.

Intensifying Diplomacy

Continued from page 2



situation for key actors in neighboring States.

It is crucial for States in the African Union to be completely aware of the situation. Special Envoy to President Obama, Scott Gration stated that consequences will be prompt if the referenda do not occur peacefully or if the situation progresses negatively. Moreover, Obama asked for cooperation from

the World Bank, IMF, European Union and other international organizations to assist in the 2011 referenda.

The United States has provided \$12 million dollars for a peaceful election in Sudan and in 2009 gave \$150 million to help in the peaceful negotiation of resources between the North and South.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

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In November we hosted a group of French youth basketball players from our sister city of Limoges who came to Charlotte to play against several area high school teams. The French youth visited the Government Center and several museums in Uptown, spent all day at a local high school and attended a

Bobcats game as well as a Panthers game. The CIC Limoges Sister Cities Committee provided a lunch for the team and their coaches and helped organize the visit. Families of local basketball and soccer players



were home hosts. Cross-cultural exchanges such as this one help to make Charlotte a global city, broadening the perspective of our citizens and strengthening our appeal as a destination for international firms and newcomers.

IBM Cloud Computing in Wroclaw

Jamil Khan

The American multinational corporation IBM announced plans in July to work with the Wroclaw University of Technology in developing a cloud computing center. This is considered to be an immense step in technological research and development for our Sister City in Poland.

Cloud computing is a capability brought on by the increasing speed and reliability of broad-



band internet. What this does is allow users to connect to a "cloud" to share software, information, and other resources over the internet and on demand, similar to how an electrical grid supplies power to users based on need.

According to IBM, "cloud computing can focus the power of thousands of computers on one problem, allow-

ing researchers to find patterns and make discoveries faster than ever and help build a smarter planet."

IBM and the university planned to begin enrolling 500 students in the program this past summer and will eventually expand to 1,500 students, with approximately 10 courses offered toward PhD and research programs.



Rare Pygmy Hippo Born in Wroclaw Zoo!

Aisling Jerome

The biggest star in the Wroclaw Zoo is also its smallest, for now. A male pygmy hippopotamus was born in the Wroclaw Zoo in August, weighing about 10 pounds at birth. Most pygmy hippos in captivity are female, so the birth of this male is good news for zoos around Europe and for the survival of pygmy hippos.

Pygmy hippos are an endangered species; there are only about 3000 left in the world. They are native to forests and swamps in western Africa, where their habitat is being destroyed by logging, poaching and land development.

The zoo held a contest to name the baby hippo, and the winning name was Euforio. The christening was celebrated with cake and coincided with World Animal Day on October 4.



(Photo from <http://www.zoo.wroclaw.pl/>)

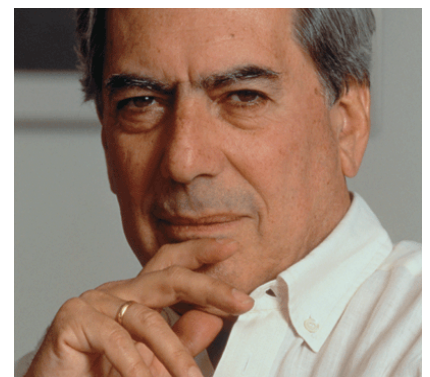
Nobel Peace Prize

Continued from cover page

works explore the relationship between politics and individuals and tend to be anti-authoritarian.

Vargas Llosa always remained heavily involved in politics; he even ran for president of Peru in 1990. "If you believe in democracy, democracy is participation, and I don't think why writers, or artists, or intellectuals should exonerate themselves of this moral obligation to participate," said Vargas Llosa of his political involvement, in an interview with the Nobel Prize website.

Vargas Llosa has drawn inspiration from the many places he has lived, and he has both Peru-



picture from wordpress.com

vian and Spanish citizenship. Throughout his life, Vargas Llosa lectured at many universities around the world, and is currently a guest lecturer at Princeton University's Program in Latin American Studies.



Dalai Lama Visits Wroclaw

Hallie Eben

With an audience of 6,000, the Dalai Lama praised our sister city Wroclaw, Poland for 30 years of Solidarity. The Dalai Lama was presented with a white flag with a red Solidarity logo from the Wroclaw Mayor, Rafal Dutkiewicz. This was part of the Dalai Lama's tour of Europe. He previously visited Hungary and Germany. In 1989, Poland became the first country to escape Moscow communism by Solidarity negotiations.



The Dalai Lama spoke of the importance of freedom in our lives, especially in our leaders. He states, "It is human nature that from childhood we want freedom. God creates all human being with the

same nature, so the desire for freedom." He goes on to say that this human desire cannot be suppressed.

His last visit to Poland was in 2003 when he urged Poland to support Tibetan independence and protest against Chinese authorities. For pro-independence agenda, the Dalai Lama has been forced into exile for 51 years. He asks for cultural freedom for Tibet. However, many modern thinkers argue that the political theoretic ideology of the Dalai Lama deters the occupied territory of modernity.



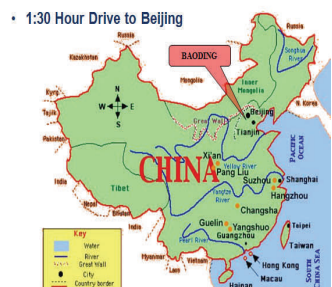
These pictures as well as news about the Dalai Lama can be found at www.dalailama.com

Editorial: Baoding in the Carbon Balance

Candace Alexander

Baoding has been a bit of a contradiction. While it is working towards being a low-carbon city, Baoding is simultaneously encouraging the production and selling of gas-guzzling SUVs, manufactured by locally-owned Great Wall Motor. In an effort to boost sales, Great Wall Motors is offering generous sub-

sidies to taxi drivers in the city. Their goal is to replace all the cities' taxis with Great Wall Sedans.



These Sedans use considerably more gas

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Five-star Hotels Boost Peru's Tourism

Abby Hancock

Peru's tourism sector continues to grow, especially with recent investments of over \$800 million to bring more high-class hotels to the country. According to the Financial Times the number of high-end hotels has doubled in the past nine years with most of the investment centered around Lima, Cusco and the southern cities of Ica and Arequipa. Catherine Lannerseros, a spokeswoman for the Orient Express

Locals and tourists enjoying a beautiful day in Peru.



Peru stated that there is a growing interest in the Amazon and in Arequipa even among

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Charlotte-based Firm to build Power Plants in Turkey

Abby Hancock

Charlotte-based energy firm Cogentrix successfully closed financing for its hydroelectric projects in Turkey over the summer. The \$80 million loan from Yapi Kredi Bankasi, A.S. was used to complete the construction of Yavuz and Midilli, which are two run-of-river hydroelectric projects expected to generate 23.4 and 33.4 megawatts respectively.

On June 24, 2010 the first of three units was placed into service at the Yavuz station and less than a month later was granted full permission for commercial operation by the Turkish government. The Yavuz station is located on the Yesilirmak River in the province of Amasya which is in the Black Sea region in the northern part of the coun-



try. Cogentrix, founded in 1983, is owned by Goldman Sachs and boasts more than 300 megawatts of renewable energy in advanced development stages.

Thomas Bonner, the president of Cogentrix, has said they are committed to focusing on clean, renewable energy generation in both the U.S. and other select markets such as Turkey.



US-Airways adds new Direct Flights
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Former Durham Employee

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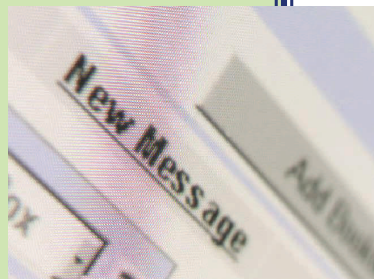
Supervision in 2008 because of health issues that allowed her to stay.

Over the next few months, Kulla continued to send her texts and emails that threatened the ICE would come to Blanco's work if she did not contact Kulla.

"Bedri threatened me because he thought I would be too scared to stand up to him. But I was not. I hope my story inspires other people who have had to deal with people like Bedri to find friends and allies to help them seek justice," said Blanco. She found allies in the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ). She identified Kulla in a lineup and he was then arrested.

Kulla was given the maximum penalty of one year in prison for civil-rights violation with blackmail as an aggravating factor. Blanca is currently awaiting approval for a U visa that is available to crime victims and will allow her to stay in the US for four years.

"This case shows that just because a person doesn't have the right papers, it doesn't mean she doesn't have rights," said SCSJ Staff Attorney Marty Rosenbluth.



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customers' domestic and international financial needs.

As of August 2010 the Charlotte Global Banking office had already brought on 15 bankers, led by Tom Quigley, a former Wachovia and First Union executive. Quigley says that the office will combine Wachovia's strategy of serving foreign-based customers with the Wells focus on U.S. customers with global banking needs, making the office a 'one-stop shop.'

Wells Fargo Global Banking comes to Charlotte



The Charlotte-based team will focus on middle-market companies with global operations; over

500 such companies have a presence in the Charlotte area.

The Wells Fargo Global Banking unit will however, not add more bankers until

the economy shows more healthy signs and the demand for global banking increases.



LEDA familiarization tour of Brazil in March 2011

Aisling Jerome

How familiar are you with Brazil? Can you maybe name two cities, or are you a well-traveled expert? The Lincoln Economic Development Association (LEDA) is hoping to become an expert on Brazil by taking an eight day familiarization tour in March 2011, visiting Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo

Brazil is quickly becoming a focal point for the world. It will host the World Cup in 2014 and the Summer Olympic Games in 2016. US Airways has recently added direct flights from Charlotte to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, opening up the country to the Charlotte region. The Brazilian



Gorgeous Rio de Janeiro

Chamber of Commerce added a Charlotte-based North Carolina chapter to its operations in the Southeast. According to the World Bank, Brazil has the world's 8th largest economy by GDP, making it a good place for investments and trades.

LEDA will tour the highlights of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo to get a better understanding of these cities and of Brazil. In Rio de Janeiro, the tour will visit Christ the Redeemer statue, Sugarloaf, the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana, Corcovado, Tijuca National Park and Petropolis.

São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil and South America, and the tour includes the Centro, the oldest part of the city; the Cathedral de Sé; the Banespa Tower, offering views of the entire city from the 35th floor observation deck; and the Jardins Neighborhood. Participants will also experience the food and culture of Brazil. The tour is from March 20-27, 2011.

Spotlight: Mystica Nelmes

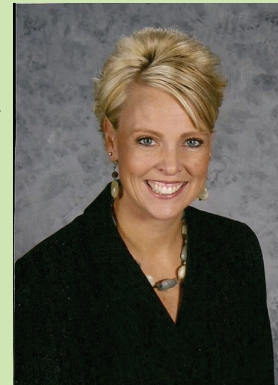
Aisling Jerome

The Charlotte International School (CIS) has a new principal, Mystica Nelmes. She has more than 16 years of experience in education as a teacher, administrator and consultant.

"I am proud to join the leadership team of such a unique and exciting educational concept --CIS offers environmental and global studies that inspire students to think outside the norm of a traditional public school education," said Nelmes.

Nelmes has vast experience as an educator. She has worked in several school districts in the region, including Charlotte Mecklenburg and Cabarrus County, and has taught every grade level from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. She has also been an independent education consultant, working with charter and public schools to provide professional development services.

Nelmes moved to Charlotte from northern Virginia in 1995. She received her Master's Degree in School Administration from UNC Charlotte in the Principal Fellows Program. She currently serves on the board for Who's Who Among America's Middle School and High School Students and has received the Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Who's Who Among America's Students



Mystica Nelmes

in American Universities & Colleges Award. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and North Carolina Association of Principals and Assistant Principals.

International Investment

Continued from page 3

next three years, which significantly adds to their current 126 local employees. The expansion is qualifying for town, county, and state grants based on the increased employment being brought into the region. These initiatives helped encourage the company to reverse their initial plans for shutting down the plant in Huntersville and expanding in Colorado and decide against initial plans to shut down the plant. Substantial credit goes to the Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corp., which

helped facilitate negotiations between SAERTEX and government officials. In addition, the Huntersville development corp. has recently helped bring in the Swiss company ABB, which announced plans to build a \$90 million manufacturing plant in Huntersville's Commerce Station business park. The plant will create approximately 100 jobs over the next two years. The Swiss company manufactures high voltage electric cables and other power and automation technologies. Recently they have been awarded an order contract for electrical systems needed for



the construction of a water pumping plant in Kuwait. The construction of this plant will help Kuwait nearly double the output of its water desalination plant, significantly increasing the country's drinking water supply. North Carolina is rapidly becoming a national hub for Green energy and technology development, with the greater Charlotte region taking its place at the forefront.



"Smart" Grids

Continued from page 3

monitoring devices used to send and receive data will be Cisco products, and the company hopes that other cities across the country will follow Charlotte's example and use their technology to implement "smarter" electric grids in urban commercial centers. UNC Charlotte's College of Computing and Informatics will be assisting the utility company in analyzing the data being received.

Spotlight: Millie Cox

Alina Ziaja MacNichol

One of the most recognized figures in the Charlotte international community is the Honorary Consul of France in North Carolina, Mildred Dalton Cox, "Millie." Millie has announced that she will step down as Honorary Consul at the end of 2010, and we will miss her tremendously. Millie has served as Honorary Consul since 1991, the year before Charlotte and Limoges, France became sister cities and she was part of the task force that chose Limoges as our sister city. She has been an outstanding supporter of that relationship and of all CIC programs.

As Honorary Consul, Millie assists French citizens living in North Carolina and assists the French government when officials visit our state. She is also a tireless promoter of educational and cultural exchanges between France and the state of North Carolina and most particularly those that highlight Charlotte and Limoges. She attends major events in the French community, including our own Beaujolais Festival, and she has hosted countless visitors from France and has traveled with them to show off other parts of

the state.

A strong consular presence is also very beneficial to foreign investment: approximately 60 French companies have invested over \$1.57 billion and employ about

14,000 people in North Carolina. 40 of those firms operate in the Charlotte region. Several thousand French citizens live in the State.

Millie has been the Director of International Studies at Charlotte Country Day School since 1990. She has served with every major international organization in Charlotte and was part of the original Mayor's International Cabinet, established by Mayor Richard Vinroot, which was a predecessor to the CIC.

She has been honored by the French government with the Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de Mérite as well as the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques.





Beaujolais Wine Festival 2010



Green Micro-Loans help fuel local small businesses

Aisling Jerome

North Carolina entrepreneurs in green or eco-friendly businesses now have access to additional funding, thanks to the Michael Scott Mater Foundation. The foundation is now accepting applications for its Green Micro-Loans program.



These micro-loans are small loans in the amount of \$1,000 up to \$20,000 that specifically fund entrepreneurs who want to start green businesses or make their cur-

rent businesses more eco-friendly but do not qualify for traditional loans. The loans typically last anywhere from 6 to 24 months.

The Green Micro-Loans encourage small business growth in the Charlotte area by providing funding to businesses that otherwise would not be able to financially support themselves. The Foundation also provides business development training, access to a computer lab and ongoing technical assistance for the entrepreneurs who receive loans. The loans help to create jobs and more environmentally-friendly businesses.

Although the Michael Scott Mater Foundation is headquartered in Charlotte, it also works in Peru and Iraq. The micro-loans program operates in Peru, and has provided loans to numerous small businesses in one of the poorest areas of the Province of Callao.

For more information on the Michael Scott Mater Foundation or the Green Micro-Loans, please visit their website, <http://www.msmf.org/>

Baoding Balance

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Wind Turbine in Production

than most models the drivers were previously driving. At the same time, the city is making no move to replace its buses, which are so well-known for their discharges of black exhaust fumes they've been nicknamed "squids." This is puzzling when one considers the fact that the city is also pushing to be at the forefront of renewable energy innovation.

Baoding is ranked globally for exports in solar panels and wind turbines.

Some of Baoding's starting efforts were the installation of solar traffic lights and solar-powered street lamps. While a bit on the dim side, 90% of Baoding's street lamps are now solar-powered.

On a larger scale, Baoding has become China's first base for its new energy industry. Forty percent of China's wind turbine blades are manufactured here, as well as the majority of solar panels in China. Baoding's renewable energy industry zone accounts for 10% of the city's GDP and that number is expected to rise to 40% by 2050.

Wind turbines and solar panels reduce millions of tons of carbon usage during their ex-



Baoding's "Electric Valley," where all their renewable energy plants are located

pected 20-year work lives. This reduction amounts to more than the city's actual emissions. Although their pushing of less environmentally-friendly transportation is unfortunate, they are still doing less harm than good in the grand scheme of things.

China as a country is committed to reducing its energy usage by 40-50% by 2020.

Part of this is achieved through closing factories that waste power. China has already invested 5 trillion yuan (\$735.66 billion) into renewable energy



Rolling to Gold

Aisling Jerome

The USA National Women's team took home the gold medal at the 2010 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships. This is the first world championship for the USA Women, even though the team took gold at both the Athens and Beijing Paralympic Games.

Wwbc.co.uk



The championship was held in Birmingham, England in July as a lead-up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The 55-53 win over Germany was the closest game for the US, who were 7-0 in the tournament. In the semifinals, the US beat Canada, the winner of the last three world championships.

North Carolina is represented on the team by three Charlotte Rollin' Bobcats. Coach David Kiley is a Rollin' Bobcat player and junior coach and a former Paralympian. He will coach the team through the London 2012 games. On the team are players Dr. Andrea Woodson-Smith and Caitlin McDermott. Woodson-Smith is a professor at North Carolina Central University. She was the team's top rebounder in the championship game with 7 rebounds and she scored 7 points. McDermott is a senior at Ardery Kell High School and the youngest member of the US team.



Taste of Ghana

Pilar Perotti

This year, the Kumasi Committee and the United House of Prayer hosted A Taste of Ghana in Charlotte. According to the AfricanClothes22 website, the event is part of the AACC (African American Cultural Center) Family Day and brings in 800 to 1000 people from across the country to the Queen City.

The celebration showcases authentic Ghanaian cuisine, African clothing, jewelry and music. The fashion show in particular is a special part of the festival as the models are from South Af-

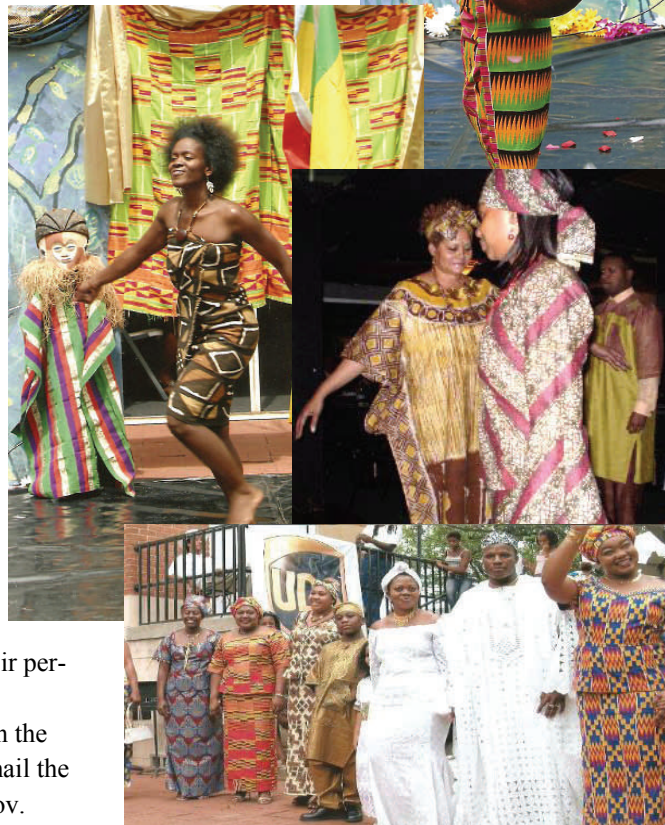
rica, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and even right here in Charlotte.

Judith Osei Tutu, Chair of the Kumasi Committee and the de-

"AKWAABA" means Welcome!"

signer and owner of African Clothing Liberty Services, believes that the fashion show helps people feel confident about themselves and will help change their perspective of others.

Want to be involved in the Kumasi Committee? Email the CIC: cic@charlottenc.gov.



US—Airways Adds Direct Flights

Candace Alexander

Charlotte-Douglas International Airport has been an invaluable asset to Charlotte becoming an international gateway for business and pleasure alike. The recent addition of two more direct international flights only furthers those efforts. The new non-stop flight destinations are Dublin, Ireland and Madrid, Spain, and are provided by US Airways Group Inc.

Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is thrilled to now have direct flights to two of its most popular travel destinations in Europe. US Airways has a



The architectural beauty of CLT can be surprising

way to also offer a direct flight to Munich. Code-share agreements such as this allow people to book flights with multiple airlines with only one transaction.

The addition of these new Dublin and Madrid direct flights is important to Charlotte because it only reinforces the city's hopes to continually grow as a resource to international business, travel and life. This is on the tail end of the recent addition of daily direct flights to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Other cities that Charlotte already has non-stop flight options to are Frankfurt, Germany; Paris, France; Rome, Italy and London in Great Britain.

code-share agreement with Star Alliance carrier Lufthansa which allows Lufthansa to serve as a carrier under US Airways' banner. This allows for US Airways

Polish Aviation



Candace Alexander

American company Hamilton Sundstrand Industrial is known for their production of navigational and steering systems which are used for aircrafts. They currently own several production plants and offices elsewhere in the world, and are aiming to make their newest addition an engineering office in Wroclaw, Poland which will create 100 new jobs.

Local Wroclaw business, PZL-Hydral, is also in the aviation business with their hydraulic elements which are sold both for military and commercial use. PZL-Hydral has fallen on hard times, and Hamilton Sundstrand has decided to invest in their business and in the process help 550 people who would have otherwise lost their livelihood.

Hamilton Sundstrand already has a production plant in Rzeszow, Poland, to the south. They are planning to expand the plant, which will increase the number of employees to 400 at that location. It appears Hamilton Sundstrand Industrial has found a way to further its interests while at the same time support local businesses and foster good will in Poland.

Five-star Hotels Boost Peru's Tourism

Continued from page 7

Latin American tourists. Many Latin Americans who used to travel to North America, especially to destinations like New York, are now staying closer to home, perhaps as a sign of the times says Lanseros. There is an increased interest in cultural tourism as well, the Colca Valley near Arequipa has seen a rise in tourism in many of its rural communities. Foreigners and Peruvians alike come to learn about local customs, to enjoy picturesque views as well as endangered and rare wildlife. Government officials are optimistic that tourism in the region will continue to expand fol-

lowing the foundation provided by investment in high-end hotels.



Historical Machu Picchu, Peru





Brazil's Education Challenges

Candace Alexander

Brazil is a country that has not traditionally made education one of its highest priorities. In recent years, there have been efforts to reverse this trend. Brazil has expressed its wishes for strong economic growth in the field of technology, but these aspirations are currently being undermined by Brazil's inability to produce enough skilled workers to propel the businesses forward. This short-coming is limiting Brazil's potential for growth – One cannot build

"Probably education is the most challenging constraint we have to growth"

- Jose Pastore, professor at the University of Sao Paulo



an economy with only those professionals that could afford a private education.

The lack of skilled workers in Brazil is crippling its ability to achieve greater economic success. As it is impossible to overhaul the system overnight, The Brazilian government first began

with efforts to increase attendance. With their program to aid families with monthly sums from 22-200 reais (\$15-\$116) as long as their children attend classes, they have achieved near-perfect attendance from ages 7-14.

But attendance only goes so far when the quality of the school is in question. A student in public school can have dreams of becoming an engineer or a doctor, but with only a third of the population continuing on to secondary education (as opposed to 75%-80% in richer nations), the chances of that happening are slim.

Years of Basic Schooling (on average)

Brazil	7
South Korea	11
United States	12
Some parts of Europe	13

(BBC News)



Private Schools vs Public Schools in Sao Paulo, Brazil

Youth For Understanding

Abby Hancock

Youth for Understanding is one of the oldest and largest high school exchange programs in existence today. Every year over 2,000 students come to the U.S. through YFU-USA to experience American culture and life.

With the arrival of new stu-

dents come opportunities for families in the Charlotte area to host a high school aged student (ages 15-18) for the academic year.

Students come from one of 60 countries worldwide and are hosted by families who provide a welcoming home, bed

and meals. Hosting an interna-

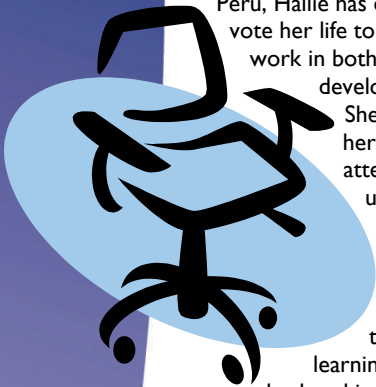


tional student is an amazing opportunity to learn about another culture while introducing a student to American culture and customs.



Our Interns

Hallie Eban was born in South Vietnam and raised in Matthews, NC. She is 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.



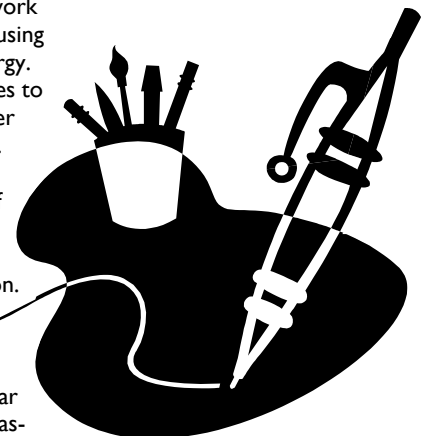
Aisling Jerome recently graduated from UNC Wilmington with a BA in Communication Studies. She has studied abroad in England and has worked as a Study Abroad Ambassador at UNCW to promote education abroad. Aisling loves to travel and wants to see as many different places as she can. In her spare time,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

Dispute Resolution from Creighton University and hopes to incorporate her recent education into a career involving human rights issues. In her free time, she loves to read, craft, and play with her dogs.

Abby Hancock is a recent graduate of Seton Hall University in New Jersey and a native of North Carolina. She graduated in May 2010 with degrees in Diplomacy and International Relations, Economics and a minor in German. She is looking to pursue a career in the fields of international business, trade or economic policy. Abby is an active member of the Alpha Sigma Tau national sorority, she loves to travel, read (especially *The Economist*) and spend time with friends.

Candace Alexander attends Clemson University in SC and will graduate this December with a BA in Language & International Trade with German as her target language. She studied abroad in Germany this past Winter Semester and has hopes of returning in the near future. Candace has also studied Chinese, both in Germany and in the states. She wishes to work with companies dedicated to using and perfecting renewable energy. In her spare time Candace likes to read, play guitar, and watch her favorite TV shows in German.

Pilar Perotti is a graduate of the University of Georgia where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. She has worked for the last three years as the Director of Marketing for an Executive Benefits firm in Charlotte. Pilar is currently finishing up her Master's Degree in Negotiation and



Meeting Dates

February 4, 2011

April 1, 2011

Charlotte Mecklenburg
Government Center
Room 267
7:30am



Merci Beaucoup!



A Very Special Thanks to Our Beaujolais Festival Sponsors

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Each level includes year round recognition fro your contribution. Please call the office to find out how our divers array of programs and activities can help meet your goals in the community. Whether you wish to contribute to visiting delegations from aboard, philanthropy through the Charlotte school in sister city of Arequipa or helping spread the joy of experiencing new cultures we would love to have your support.

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

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



Upcoming International Events in Charlotte



Invites You to Save the Date for Our

Annual International Organizations Meeting

This is an Open Forum where we invite you to share your thoughts on issues facing Charlotte's growing International Community with Mayor Anthony Foxx.

The meeting will also include a short workshop.

JOIN US!

February 22, 2011

Charlotte Mecklenburg
Government Center
Room 267



The CIC is now accepting MICA nominations!

If you would like to nominate an individual, group or company for an award, visit the CIC online at www.CharlotteInternational.org

*Save the Date!
the 2011
MICA Luncheon
is on May 16!*



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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