



NEW ORLEANS

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

Volume I, Issue I

THE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS IS NOW THE NEW ORLEANS CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL (NOCDC)

Upcoming Events

Feb 10 – Bake Sale & Information Table. Muslim Students' Association. UNO Library Breezeway 8 am – 4 pm.

Feb 27 – Symposium. Communication and Development between the USA and the Muslim World. Payson Center for International Development, Tulane University. Free. www.paysonislam.com

Through Feb 28 – Exhibition. "History of the Brave Czech Nation," a presentation illustrated colorfully and humorously on 230-foot long, 7-foot high panels. UNO Library. [Http://inst.uno.edu](http://inst.uno.edu)

Mar 9 – Seminar. Loyola Austrian Economics Seminar. For information contact Walter Block at 864-7934.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT FOR US TEACHERS

If you or someone you know is a secondary school teacher of a social science or of English as a Foreign Language, the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) and the US Department of State have an excellent opportunity for participation in a bilateral professional exchange program which includes travel to Eurasia for 10 days to visit classrooms, participation in discussions on best teaching practices, and visiting cultural sites.

IREX is a nonprofit organization which was established in 1968 by leading universities in the US with the goal of encouraging cultural exchange between American universities and those in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The organization has since grown to in-

clude western Europe and Eurasian professional and cultural exchanges as well as traditional school exchanges. Recently, IREX and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State announced this competition for U.S. secondary school teachers under the auspices of the Eurasia/South Asia Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) of the US Department of State.

Applicants must be able to travel April 5 – 18, 2008, in order to participate in a two-week professional exchange program in either Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine. Applicants must also be US citizens, have five

years or more of classroom experience in social studies, history, civics, or English as a Foreign Language, and be a middle school or high school teacher.

The program is fully-funded and includes visa support, round-trip domestic airfare, lodging, and meals to attend the TEA U.S. Conference, round-trip airfare from the United States to the assigned country in Eurasia or South Asia, emergency medical evacuation plan, recommended vaccinations, lodging, and a daily stipend in the host country. The deadline for all applications is **April 2, 2007**. Applications and further information can be found on the web:

www.irex.org/programs/tea

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS - WE NEED YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Four years ago we asked our membership for photographs and scrapbook memorabilia. The response was outstanding and led to the compilation of two substantial memory books for our organization. Now, once again, we are asking for your help. We are looking for digital pho-

tographs that we can use on our new website, in our revised brochure, and for this newsletter. These shots can be of international visitors as well as of membership events. Please email Mary Dennis if you have something to share: office@nocdc.com.

While you are online, please visit our new website at www.nocdc.com.

“Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.” – Woodrow Wilson

“The most interesting thing...was how a small number of librarians managed to rehabilitate this large library...completely ruined by wind, water, and mold.... I wonder if the Iraqi librarians could do the same and not let the civil war affect them. “ - Iraqi IVLP participant after meeting with Linda Hill of the N.O. Public Library

Visitor Spotlight

In January, Mr. He Yubang, Deputy Director of the Qinghai Lake Nature Reserve of the Peoples Republic of China, traveled to Louisiana as part of his wetlands management project sponsored by the US Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). He was accompanied by interpreter Mary Nimtz. Their two days included a full day in Lafayette where they met with officials at the US Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center. Meetings covered wetland functions, ecological balance, and



(l-r) He Yubang, Mary Nimtz, and Shelley Stiaes at Bayou Sauvage

restoration/management techniques as well as avian ecology and avian influenza. Mr. He was also able to learn more about the use of radar to understand migratory birds. The day ended with a trip to Lake Martin with Kacy Kobrin of the Nature Conservancy.

To discuss special local projects used for protecting wetlands habitats, Mr. He next met with biologist

Chuck Villarrubia to learn about fresh water diversion and wildlife enhancement at the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project. Shelly Stiaes at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge rounded out the program with a discussion on park operations and eco-tourism.

Visitor Feedback

Personally, I have learned a new way of building trust with the neighborhood from Elizabeth, the administer. I'll take back her ideas and the school's ideas to our school

in Guinea. - IVLP participant Mrs. Rugiatu Neneh Koundouno in reference to meeting with Claudia Barker of NO Outreach and Charter School.

[Most memorable was] the courage of [the people] trying

to get back to their lives, with little support from government or bigger institutions. Volunteers can make a difference if properly planned or organized. - IVLP participant Ms Maxi Pia Louis after meeting with Sakura Kone of Common Ground.

Upcoming Visitors

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Turkmenistan – Civic Education | 4 |
| Serbia– Immigration | 3 |
| Multi Regional – Education | 13 |
| Italy– Economic Development | 1 |
| South America – Anti Corruption | 16 |
| Portugal– Disaster Management | 1 |
| Multi Regional – Urban Environment | 16 |
| Regional, Europe – Journalism | 18 |
| Iran – Disaster Management | 15 |

December 2006 & January 2007 Figures

Total Visitors– 27 Total Room Nights– 145

Countries Represented

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, People’s Republic of China, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank

Professional Resources – Thank you to our professional resources and their colleagues who met with our visitors

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge – **Shelley Stiaes**

Bread for the World – **Sister Jane Remson**

Broadmoor Improvement Association – **LaToya Cantrell**

Caernarvon Fresh Water Project – **Chuck Villarrubia**

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans – **Ruthie Frierson, Stephanie**

**Waguespack Haynes, Karyn Noles Bewley,
Patti Lapeyre**

Common Ground Collective – **Sakura Kone**

Eracism/ ERACE – **Bill Knecht**

FBI – **Jim Bernazzini**

Harbor Police – **Robert Hecker**

Historic New Orleans Collection– **Mary Mees, John Lawrence,
Jason Wiese**

John Exnicios, Attorney

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra – **Harriet Cortez**

Law Library of Louisiana – **Carol Billings**

Louisiana State Police – **Mickey McMorris**

Loyola University – **Mary Sweat**

Mayor's Office of Homeland Security – **Terry Ebbert**

Metropolitan Battered Women's Center – **Dale Standifer**

New Orleans Charter and Math High School – **Valerie Bodet**

New Orleans Police Department – **Gary Gremillion**

New Orleans Private Patrol– **Louis Gurvich**

New Orleans Public Library – **Linda Hill**

New Orleans Outreach – **Claudia Barker**

Normand & Williams – **Elizabeth Williams, Elizabeth Pearce**

Port of New Orleans – **Robert Hecker**

thenew995fm.com – **Christopher Tidmore**

USGS Wetlands Research Center – **Susan Hoover,**

Dr. Clint Jeske, Ron Boustany, Dr. Carroll Cordes,

Dr. Wylie Barrow, Lori Randall, Chad Case,

Dr. Steve Faulkner, Kacy Kobrin

Home Hospitality – Thank you to everyone who welcomed visitors to New Orleans with home hospitality & sight-seeing

Clint Montz drove *Mr. Tung*, a member of the Hong Kong police to professional appointments for 2 days.

Louis Gurvich also drove *Mr. Tung* to Baton Rouge to meet with State Security officials.

Gerard Rault and friends entertained *Mr. Tung* at Cannon's Restaurant.

Rosemarie Fowler and **Oscar Levy** hosted *Mr. Neto* from Mozambique and his interpreter to Celebration in the Oaks, and to a seafood dinner at Felix's afterwards.

Maria Stevenson

Maria Stevenson, a long time C.I.V. volunteer, died on January 15th. She was born in Poland but escaped to Iran with her mother. From there they traveled to Scotland and afterwards finally settled in Baton Rouge where Maria later attended Louisiana State University. She married Malcolm Stevenson, an attorney, and they moved to New Orleans. Maria was a model, a very talented artist, and an excellent cook. She was a past President and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Association of New Orleans, now known as the World Affairs Council. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family. She will be missed.

New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 203
New Orleans, LA 70130

Tel: 504 / 529 -1509

www.nocdc.com