



NEW ORLEANS CONTINUES SUCCESS WITH IVLP PROGRAM

THE COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
OF GREATER NEW
ORLEANS

IS NOW

**THE NEW ORLEANS
CITIZEN DIPLOMACY
COUNCIL (NOCDC)**

Upcoming Visitors and Topics of Study

Multi-Regional Group
(20); Urban
Environmental Issues
Oct 10 - 14

Azerbaijan (6);
Diversity through Mu-
sic
Oct 16 - 21

South American
Regional Group (16);
Education &
Community
Development
Oct 31 - Nov 6

Canada (2); Economic
Development
Nov 3 - Nov 7

Multi-Regional Group
(25); Grassroots
Democracy
Nov 14 - Nov 20

Asian Regional Group;
Community
Approaches to Social
Issues (TBD)

Prior to the post-Katrina reopening of our office, one of the concerns we had was whether our counterparts in Washington, D.C., might not have the same level of confidence in our programming abilities for the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Would we be inundated with disaster recovery and emergency preparedness requests but rejected for mainstream topics like journalism and civics education? Would the Department of State agree to send foreign VIPs to us? Would locals even have time to meet with visitors?

While we do get a fair share of programming inquiries



(above) IVLP participants *Mr. Azat Bilishov, Mr. Rovshen Hydyrov, Mr. Muhametgeldi Yusupov, and Mr. Vepa Karriyev* recently met with *Mr. Darryl Malek-Wiley* of the Sierra Club (center, wearing gift of traditional Turkmen hat) to discuss urban environmental issues. The day before, the delegates worked to restore a home in St. Bernard Parish.

directly stemming from the events of 2005, our initial worries that the IVLP would languish proved to be unfounded. National- and local-level colleagues continue to be supportive as do our members. Happily, delegations interested in a wide

range of topics arrive weekly. We believe that our programming is even better than before as in essence the city is now a current events case study for visitors interested in the American way. Much to our surprise, many of these delegates, the very VIPs we thought we might lose, come to New Orleans, roll up their sleeves, and work to help restore the city.

A Sample of Post-Katrina Programming Topics

Youth Leadership	American Libraries	Food Safety
Music Education	Religious Diversity	Radio Broadcasting
Women as Leaders	American Values	Literature

**Thank You to Our
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**Redmellon
Southern Food Museum**

**ARE YOU A
MEMBER OF
THE NOCDC?**

If not, please join us. Membership levels and benefits are explained at: www.nocdc.com.

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

- Marcel Proust

Learning Opportunities Available

Do you know students who would like to meet our visitors? Foreign language, civics, geography, and history

classes can all benefit from interaction with IVLP delegates to help expand their students’ horizons.

Several area schools consistently benefit from this DOS program. If you would like yours to as well, please email us for details.



Newman students learn more about South America by holding a conversation in Spanish with delegates.

Welcome New Citizen Diplomats

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Maria Harris who is joining our staff as a part-time intern. Maria is originally from Houston, Texas, and is a senior at Tulane University, majoring in political science.

We are also pleased to announce that Elissa Weingart, our first post-Katrina intern,

graduated from Tulane in May and started working part-time in the NOCDC office in August.

Last week, Elissa and Maria each undeniably earned the title of Citizen Diplomat as they held active roles in an IVLP Program. The two met with an 18-member group from South America whose theme was *Civic Participation & Grassroots Democracy*. Elissa and Maria discussed student involvement in the community and how area

universities support that work.

The meeting exposed the IVLP participants to the enthusiasm of current and former university students while covering the nuts-and-bolts of activism. Their role in the program helped to round-out the delegates’ New Orleans agenda and infused the office with the kind of excitement that only hands-on experiences can bring.

September 2007 Figures

Total Visitors – 72

Total Room Nights – 301

Countries Represented

Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kosovo, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela

New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

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Mary Dennis, Director

Jeanne Foster, Program Coordinator

Jena Melançon, Newsletter

Professional Resources – Thank you to the professional resources and to their colleagues who took time out of their busy schedules to met with our visitors

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights – **Natalie Walker, Monique Harden**

Agenda for Children – **Olayeela Daste**

Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce – **David Wood**

Beacon of Hope – **Liz Widener**

Belle Reve – **Vicki Weeks**

Blueprint Louisiana – **Wes Gautreaux**

Café Reconcile – **Earl McNair**

Community Coffee – **Carl Leonard, Allison Gouaux**

Girl Scouts of Southeast Louisiana – **Robin Guillmette**

Global Green – **Elizabeth Galante, John Moore**

Greater New Orleans Clean Cities Coalition – **Vicki Cappel**

Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation – **Billy Ferante, Catherine Flowers**

Green Project- **Angie Cavanaugh Green**

International Office of Louisiana State Department of Economic Development – **Larry Collins**

Isidore Newman School – **Dr. Lena Lucietto, Stephanie Davis**

Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters – **Dennis DiMarco**

John Exnicios, Attorney

Junior League of New Orleans – **Mag Bickford**

Katrina Corps – **Ray Thomas**

Louisiana State Board of Ethics – **Michael Dupree**

Louisiana State Department of Agriculture – **Randy Rogers**

Louisiana State University – **Ernest Gorourard, Bob Keaton, and Drs. William Richardson, Paul Coreil, David Boethel, David Morrison, Gail Cramer, Roger Hinson, Kurt Guidry, James Boudreaux, Richard Vlosky, Joseph Chang, Michael Dunn, and Paul Humes**

Loyola University – **Larry Lorenz, Robert Thomas**

Metropolitan Crime Commission – **Anthony Radosti**

New Orleans City Council – **Jill Hickson, Jason Abate**

New Orleans Kids Camera Project – **Joanna Rosenthal**

New Orleans Legal Assistance – **Bernadette D’Souza**

New Orleans Press Club – **Catherine Koppel**

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, Inc. – **Ron Usner**

Office of Special Counsel – **Steve Scheckman**

Preservation Resource Center – **Camille Lopez**

Port of South Louisiana – **Henry Sullivan, Joel Chaisson**

Ronald Vandenweghe, Attorney and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Louisiana and Arkansas

Sierra Club – **Darryl Malek-Wiley**

Southern Food and Beverage Museum – **Elizabeth Williams**

St. Bernard Project – **Andrea Bean, Janie Strachan, John Strachan, Zack Rosenberg, Liz McCartney**

Unified Non-Profits – **Susan Wayman, Alfredo Navarez, Lucas Diaz, Miriam Crespo, Janet Tybias, Justine Diamond, Barbara Fleisher, Shercole King, Diane Amos, Kyshe Brown Robinson, Say Mason, K.C. Coffey, Diana Madrigal, Elizabeth Williams, Ilana Scherl, Marie O’Neal, Amy Wilson, Amy Enchelmeyer, Darlene A. Kattan, Hiroko Kusuda, Sean Vissar, Michael Wackenreuter**

US District Attorney – **Jim Letten**

US Federal District Court – **Chief Judge Helen Berrigan**

University of New Orleans – **Dr. Raphael Cassimere Jr., Elizabeth Blankenship**

Women of the Storm – **Rebecca Currence, Madeline Doucet West**

WDSU – **Lu Adams, Gayle Zollere**

WWL TV – **Lourdes Keiffer, Dominick Massa, Mike Schaefer**

WYES TV – **Errol Laborde, Randall Feldman**

Young Leadership Council – **Amy Boyle**

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

The faculty of the Louisiana State University AgCenter invited a Governor from Indonesia to the Faculty Club at LSU for lunch.

John and **Susan Exnicios** home stayed an Open World Group from Azerbaijan.