



Upcoming Visitors and Topics of Study

Russia (6)
Jury Trial Management
March 8 – 12

Chile (1)
Security and
Transportation
March 22-26

Russia (5)
Arts Management
April 18 – May 2

African Regional (12)
Grassroots Democracy
April 23 – 26

Middle East Regional (8)
Arts Management
April 26 – 30

Multi Regional Project (27)
Foreign Service National
Training Class
May 4 – 7

Multi Regional Project (6)
Accountability in
Government
May 10-14

Multi Regional Project (6)
US Trade
May 28 – 31

We encourage you to view the Visitors Page of our website at www.nocdc.com. If you would like to meet with a particular visitor, please contact the office at 504 / 529-1509.

NEW ORLEANS DELEGATION ATTENDS NATIONAL MEETING

The National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. last month. The four delegates who traveled to the event to represent the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council (NOCDC) were Rosemarie Fowler, Neal Morris, Jeanne Foster, and Jena Melançon.

The U.S. Department of State sponsors the annual NCIV meeting and also

hosts a reception every year in its diplomatic reception rooms. NOCDC board member Neal Morris had the honor of meeting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alina Romanowski in the John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room, home to several 18th century antiques assembled together through the generosity of U.S. citizens, corporations, and foundations.

Other meetings at the four day event included ses-

sions on cultural diplomacy and the arts, educational outreach, youth programming, and crisis management. NOCDC member Jena Melançon also spoke on a panel addressing the best ways for councils to promote their cities through proposals prepared for decision-makers in Washington, D.C.

More photos from the convention are featured on page two.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alina Romanowski (left) meets with New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council Board Vice-President E. Neal Morris (right), at the U.S. Department of State, on February 14, 2008.

"In an era of bluster and bombs, citizen diplomacy is a builder of bridges."

– *Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright*

2008 NCIV National Convention



(Left) Rosemarie Fowler talks to Marta Etienne of the U.S. Department of State about past programs and current cultural activities available in Louisiana to International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participants.

(Below right) Jeanne Foster and Jena Melançon dedicate much of their convention time promoting the NOCDC and the professional resources available to visitors.



(Above) NOCDC board member Neal Morris and NCIV director Dr. Sherry Mueller discuss the IVLP program.



February 2008 Figures

Total Visitors – 42

Total Room Nights – 217

Countries Represented

Algeria, Angola, Australia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tanzania, Togo, United Kingdom

New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

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Tel: 504 / 529 - 1509

Mary Dennis, Director

Jeanne Foster, Program Coordinator

Rosemarie Fowler, Senior Program Officer

Jena Melançon, Program Consultant

Elissa Weingart, Program Officer

UK Visitor Examines U.S. Political Process

One of our February visitors, Samantha Watson of the United Kingdom, traveled throughout the country to learn more about elections in the U.S. While in New Orleans, Ms. Watson, a public relations officer with Operation Black Vote, met with political activist Christopher Tidmore and with civil rights activist and retired UNO history professor Dr. Raphael Cassimere, Jr. She met Mr. Felix Figueroa, president of the political action coalition Hispac, and also had lunch at Dooky Chase's where she was able to meet with Leah Chase. She also enjoyed home hospitality and a city recovery tour given by Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Bamforth.

Ms. Watson's program included a morning at Xavier University where she met with faculty and then attended a class to engage students in dialogue about the media, race, and the U.S. presidential election. What she learned while at the university is reported in her article *Voters Need More Awareness of Candidates' Policies Say US Students*, a link to which can be found on the home page of her organization's website: www.obv.org.uk

Operation Black Vote is dedicated to encouraging minorities in Britain to become more politically active. It is not affiliated with any party and is the most recognized non-governmental

organization in the UK dedicated to ensuring that minorities exercise their right to vote.

Ms. Watson's goals in coming to the U.S. included to "see a broad view of how a variety of minority communities perceive politics in America especially surrounding the U.S. Presidential race [and to learn about]...the differing perspectives on the election and the impact politics and government policies have had on various communities."

Thank you to all who participated in this project. We are sure Ms. Watson returned to the UK with a better understanding of our country and city.

"Citizenship consists in the service of the country."

— Former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

Visitor Feedback

On **Wes Gautreaux** and **Blueprint Louisiana**: "Big wins starts from small wins. The Blue Print experience of trying to make solutions out of many concerns in Louisiana is very encouraging. Identifying the problems that the organization will look into is one small win and having the legislators work with them is a victory." - Visitor from the Philippines

On a visit to the polls with **John Exnicios** and **Betsy Williams**: "The American way election is very different with mine but I can get more information those can help me to improve the election process, at least to control election for my party to pre-

vent ourselves from unfair election." - Visitor from Indonesia

On a touring New Orleans with **Wali Armstead** from FEMA: "Mr. Armstead spoke to us as a New Orleans citizen - one whose own home was devastated - and not as a FEMA spokesperson. The visitors appreciated his perspectives." - an English Language Officer accompanying a group of international visitors

On volunteering with the **St. Bernard Project** - "[I gained] the sense of fulfillment for something that I shared for other people." - Visitor from the Philippines

Please visit us at:

www.nocdc.com

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Professional Resources – Thank you to our professional resources & to their colleagues for meeting with our visitors

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights — Monique Harden, Nathalie Walker

AFL-CIO — Robert Hammond, Alvin Reily

Anthony Bean Community Theater — Anthony Bean

Assistant US Attorney Eastern District — Mark Miller, Mike Magnier

Blueprint Louisiana — Wesley Gautreaux

Beacon of Hope — Liz Widener

Broadmoor Improvement Association — LaToya Cantrell

Christopher Tidmore — Political Activist

Dr. Raphael Cassimere Jr. — Civil Rights Activist, History Professor

Gulf Coast Australian Trade Office — Bryan Wallace

Hispanic Apostolate Community Services — Alfredo Narvaez, Maria Bermudez, Martin Gutierrez

Hispanic Spanish Political Action Coalition — Felix Figueroa

Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters — Dennis DiMarco

John Exnicios — Attorney

John Hill — Journalist

Le Chat Noir — Barbara Motley

Louisiana Audubon Council — Dr. Barry Kohl

Louisiana Justice Institute — Tracie L. Washington

Louisiana Public Affairs Research Council — James Brandt

Louisiana Spirit — Gilda Armstrong-Butler

Louisiana State Board of Ethics — Michael Dupree

Louisiana State Police—Robert Mire

Marmillion-Gray — Rannah Gray

Mayor's Office of Homeland Security— Robert Williams

Metropolitan Crime Commission — Anthony Radosti

National Weather Service — Paul Trotter, Liz Vasser

New Orleans Crime Coalition — Gregory Rusovich

New Orleans Human Relations Commission— Larry Bagneris

New Orleans Legal Assistance — Paul Tuttle

New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau — Mary Beth Romig

New Orleans Police Department—Capt. Robert Norton

New Orleans Worker Resource Center — Tim Johnson

Providence Community Housing — Andreanecia Morris

Southeast Louisiana Red Cross — Kay Wilkins

Southern Poverty Law Center — Eden Heilman

Southern University — Rachel Emanuel, John Pierre

Sidney Arroyo — Political Activist

Stephens Law Firm—William Stephens

Tulane University — Keith Amacker, Ron Gural, Barbara Hayley, Stacy Overstreet

University of New Orleans — Dr. Robert Sims, Dr. Ed Chervenak, Charles D. Hadley

US Coast Guard—George Petras, Craig Betbeze, James Nolan, Joyce Dietrich

Xavier University — Dr. Deidre Labat, Darrin Hanson, Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore

Hospitality – Thank you to all who provided transportation or welcomed visitors with home hospitality and sight seeing.

Olivia and Stuart Bamforth hosted a visitor from the United Kingdom in their home for dinner and gave her a recovery tour of the city.

Jeannie and Dale Biggers hosted two visitors from Germany in their home for dinner.

Marietta and Richard Herr hosted two visitors from Germany in their home for dinner.

Eirleen and David Brown hosted two visitors from the Czech Republic in their home for dinner.

Elena and Eugene Countiss hosted two visitors from Africa in their home for dinner.

Fatima Sakarya hosted three visitors from Africa in her home for dinner.

Barbara and Thomas Sands hosted two visitors from Africa in their home for dinner.

Marie Francois Crouch provided transportation for a visitor from Japan.

Alexandra Mora and Walter Wolf III hosted a visitor from Australia for dinner.

Gisela H. Cosma and Jeanne and John Foster hosted a visitor from Australia for dinner.

2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Individual, Couple, and Family Levels

\$35 - 74 ATTACHÉ

\$75 - 124 COUNSELOR

\$125 - 249 MINISTER

\$250 and above AMBASSADOR

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Thank you for supporting the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

Make check payable to:

New Orleans Diplomacy Council, 1215 Prytania St., Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70130

As a 501 (c) (3) organization, donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please complete the renewal form and enclose it with your donation.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

All levels (*Attaché, Counselor, Minister & Ambassador*)

- Professional & home hosting opportunities
- Monthly email newsletter & invitation to NOCDC member events
- Hotel discounts based on availability with the *Drury Inn & Suites*, *Omni Royal Orleans*, and *Hotel Monteleone*. All reservations must be made through the NOCDC office. Hotels are subject to change.
- Discounted public events & email notification regarding other international events

COUNSELOR (*same benefits as Attaché plus:*)

- Discounted non-credit tuition for the UNO Critical Languages Program (i.e. Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese: <http://clp.uno.edu> call Mary Hicks at 504/280-6388 for more information)

MINISTER (*Same benefits as Attaché and Counselor combined, plus:*)

- NOCDC research of visitor alumni you may contact when traveling abroad

AMBASSADOR (*Same benefits as Attaché, Counselor, and Minister combined plus:*)

- Your choice of official NOCDC lapel pin or NOCDC logo shirt

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

CORPORATE SUPPORTER: \$250 - 499

- Logo on our website
- 2 individual memberships at the Minister Level

CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$500 - 999

- Logo on our website
- 4 individual memberships at the Minister Level
- Research of visitor alumni for contact when traveling abroad

AMBASSADOR CIRCLE: \$1,000 and above

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- 8 individual memberships at the Minister Level
- Research of visitor alumni for contact when traveling abroad

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List representatives to be NOCDC members below:

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