



SHARING LOUISIANA WITH THE WORLD

Upcoming Visitors and Topics of Study

- Venezuela (3)
Drugs
November 19—21
- Multi-Regional Project (21)
HIV / AIDS
November 21—25
- Italy (1)
Anti-Corruption
Nov 30—Dec 3
- Belarus (6)
Civic Participation
December 2—5

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

The last few months were particularly busy as dozens of International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) delegates came our way to study a variety of topics including cultural heritage, the environment, and civil society. During this time we also hosted participants of the University of Iowa International Writing Program (IWP) and were also able to involve a group of IVLP delegates in a local event catering to young leaders.

The IWP exposes foreign writers to American life and gives them the opportunity to work and create in an

environment with minimal distractions. The program also incorporates visits outside of Iowa. This was our second time to host a group of IWP delegates, and we were happy to welcome the program back to New Orleans and to introduce them to local writers. The five charming participants came to us from across the globe: **Laila Al-Atrash** (Jordan), **Carlos Gamarro** (Argentina), **Maya Kucherskaya** (Russia), **Lee Jang Wook** (South Korea), and **Veronica Raimo** (Italy).

In October, an IVLP group of twelve young community leaders from Central and

South America and Mexico watched the last presidential debate with a group of citizens in New Orleans. The event was organized by several local young professional organizations and gave the delegates the chance to interact with Americans and to observe the energy present among those interested in the political system.

We look forward to introducing more delegates to our state and hope that more chances for interaction with citizens present themselves in the future.

IN MEMORY OF SUE HUNTER

Sue Persons Hunter, a past president and long time volunteer of our council passed away in Selma, Alabama, this past August. She was 86 years old. A native of Hico, Texas, Mrs. Hunter began her career as an air traffic controller in San Antonio and Houston before moving to Jefferson Parish, where she was one of the founding Members of Jefferson 25, an organization aimed at encouraging women to become more involved in politics. Mrs. Hunter held various leadership positions in the Jefferson Parish and Louisiana League of Women Voters. She also served on the probation service committee of Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court and belonged to the New Orleans Area/Bayou River Area Health Systems Agency, the Louisiana and National Child Support Enforcement Associations and the Foreign Relations Association of New Orleans.

Mrs. Hunter was actively involved with our council arranging schedules and appointments for foreign visitors, including the mayor of Cape Town, South Africa, a Japanese newspaper editor and a group of African leaders. In 2005, Jefferson 25 gave her its Patty Strong Award for her work with the League of Women Voters and Jefferson 25. She was also honored by the East Jefferson General Hospital Auxiliary, the Rotary Club of Metairie and the Daughters of the American Revolution. We extend our sympathy to her family.

“The really crucial link in the international communication chain is the last three feet, which is bridged by personal contact, one person talking to another.”

— Edward R. Murrow

Visitor Feedback

In August we reported briefly on a group of five visitors from India who came to Louisiana to learn more about environmental protection. An excerpt of the feedback from one of the participants highlights the success of the national program: *As a professional working in the field of ecology and conservation of natural areas and its biodiversity and in India, the various themes covered; were all appropriate and the experience and the information that I managed to gather during the program, I believe would help support my work in India in the coming years....*

The discussions with officials compared the American scenario with the Indian way of doing things, wherein these natural areas (called protected areas in India) are conserved / protected for its fauna and flora with minimal management interventions and in many cases recreation for local people is not

allowed.

As India is also trying to explore alternative ways of conserving and protecting its rich and threatened fauna and flora and natural areas, and at the same time dealing with its population pressures and the demands for industrial developments, these meetings and discussions were quite insightful and helped us to understand how some of these initiatives work and others don't.... In fact, I was very happy that in many of the meetings with organizations we were actually interacting with some of the senior management officers and this gave these meetings more meaning. I thank the organizers for this.

The discussions and the learning from these meetings will benefit me professionally in the years to come....The IVLP has improved my knowledge of designing, and implementation of projects

along the coast like developing a long-term integrated coastal management plan. Although, before the IVLP, I was personally involved in assisting the state in this specific issue, post the trip, I now [have] access to and know of several models that have been met with [a] fair degree of success and one that can be adapted to an Indian scenario.

Membership Corner

The NOCDC is a co-sponsor or the **International Mixer** hosted by the World Trade Center. The event will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 13th** from **5:30 - 7:30 pm** at the Plimssoll Club, 30th Floor of the WTC. Registration is \$25 and there will be a cash bar.

To Register and pre-pay contact the WTC at **(504) 529-1601**. by November 11th at 10 a.m.

September & October 2008 Figures

Total Visitors – **52**

Total Room Nights – **229**

Countries Represented

Angola, Argentina, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, South Korea, Swaziland, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

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Mary Dennis, Director

Ines Sigel, Program Coordinator

Rosemarie Fowler, Senior Program Officer

Jena Melançon, Program Consultant

Rachel Schillaci, Program Officer

Professional Resources – Thank you to our professional resources & to their colleagues for meeting with our visitors in September and October of 2008.

Arts Council of New Orleans — **Karen Kern and Gene Meneray**

Ashe Cultural Arts Center — **Luther Gray**

Audubon Sugar Institute — **Dr. Donal Day**

Mayor's Office of International Relations — **Lisa Ponce de Leon, Alison Gavrell**

Mayor's Office of Recovery Management — **John McGowin, Danielle Purifoy, John Moore**

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana — **Steve Peyronnin, Natalie Snider**

Dillard University — **Mary Williams**

Faulkner House Books — **Joe DeSalvo**

Global Green — **Michael Lopez, Brigitta Bisztray**

Hogan Jazz Archives — **Dr. Bruce Raeburn**

Jason Berry — Writer and Producer

La. Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism — **Joseph Dunn, Dabne Whitmore, Gaye Hamilton**

La. Dept. of Environmental Quality — **Dr. Hall Leggett, Dr. Vladimir Appeaning, Beau Brock, Herman Robinson, Rodney Mallett, Vince Sagnibene, Peggy Hatch, Cheryl Nolan, and Paul Miller**

Louisiana State University — **Dr. Gail Cramer**

Murray Nelson — Commissioner of the State of Louisiana

New Orleans Public Library — **Greg Osborne**

SUSTA — **Jerry Hingle**

St. Bernard Project — **Emily Lancaster**

Tennessee Williams Festival — **Paul Willis**

The Presbytere — **Wayne Phillips**

Tipitina's Foundation — **Todd Sauvignier**

Tulane University — **Eugene Cizek**

University of New Orleans — **Dr. Joanna Leake, Dr. Carol Gelderman**

UNO Department of Planning and Urban Studies — **Professor Jane Brooks, Dr. Billy Fields**

UNO Library, Louisiana Collection — **Sybil Boudreaux**

UNO Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies — **Dr. Connie Atkinson, Dr. Michael Mizzel-Nelson**

USDA Southern Regional Research Center — **Dr. Cleveland, Dr. Bhatnagar, Dr. Brown, Dr. Cleveland, Dr. Cui, Dr. Condon, Dr. Eggleston, Dr. Lax, Dr. Nesbit, Dr. Rajasekaran**

Hospitality – Thank you to all who provided transportation or welcomed visitors with home hospitality and sight seeing in September and October of 2008.

Alexandra Mora and Walter Wolf hosted two visitors from Estonia and New Zealand in their home for dinner.

Anne and Neal Morris hosted two visitors from Haiti and Libya in their home for dinner.

Mary Beth Arceneaux and Ferdinand Dionne hosted a Nigerian visitor in their home for dinner.

NOCDC Board Members

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