

NEWSLETTER ...April 2010

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



"The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." Albert Einstein

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, April 1, 2010

11:00 – 12:30

Meinder's School of Business—Room 107
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder
CALL 341-3169 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Focus on Ireland

A bit late for "Saint Patrick's Day", but let's give a special welcome to our April presenter -- Brian Maughan. He will have a power point presentation on Ireland.

Oklahoma County Commissioner Brian Maughan began his four-year term Jan. 2, 2009. As Commissioner for District 2, Maughan oversees over 177 square miles of roads and bridges, which includes the cities of Bethany, Choctaw, Del City, Harrah, Midwest City, and Oklahoma City.

In 2003, Maughan co-founded and now serves as President of Marketing Dimensions, a consulting and marketing firm for both businesses and campaigns.

Maughan is President for the South Oklahoma City Rotary Club and currently is President of the U.S. Grant High School Alumni Association. He previously served on the board for the South Oklahoma City Chamber and was appointed by Governor Frank Keating to the Oklahoma Developmental Disability Council. Maughan also is involved in the Wheelchair Foundation, working with his rotary club to raise funds for the organization.

Maughan is a 1995 graduate of U.S. Grant High School. He also attended Oklahoma City Community College, obtaining degrees in Journalism Broadcasting and Public Relations. In 2007, Maughan was inducted into the Oklahoma City Community College Hall of Fame for his distinguished service to the community.

Thank you's to Nathan Hart

for the very interesting presentation at the March IVC meeting on the new American Indian Cultural Center & Museum (AICCM). Nathan is Cheyenne and a member of the Cheyenne/ Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and is the director of Community Affairs for the Center. The center is planned to be "*a place where people come together to learn of each others ways.*" Visitors will hear first-hand accounts from 39 different American Indian Tribal Nations and be immersed in cultural celebrations, contemporary events and activities both inside the Cultural Center and across the 300-acre park.

According to Hart, this will not be a celebration of separate tribes, but rather a celebration of the commonalities of all the tribes. For more information and to watch the progress of the development, see the website www.aiccm.org

Looking forward to May

Our speaker will be Orhan Kucukosman, CEO of SKY Foundation and executive director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue, a non-profit organization. He voluntarily organizes various activities bringing prominent people from different social, economical, political, cultural, and faith backgrounds to cultivate dialog among the community.

For your Calendar

French Animation Showcase at the OKC MOA

Copresented by L'Alliance Française d'Oklahoma

Thursday, March 25, 7:30pm Azur & Asmar

In French and Arabic with English subtitles. Director:

Michel Ocelot 2006 France/Belgium/Spain/Italy 99min.

Watch for other French films during the festival.

Oklahoma City University presents: Distinguished Speakers Series – free to the public

- April 7-- 8:00 p.m. Pulitzer Prize Winner, Poet Natasha Trethewey. "Good-bye is the waving map of your palm, is a stone on my tongue."
- April 14 – 7:30 p.m. Ishmael Beah. Born in Sierra Leone in 1980, he has enlarged the world's understanding the devastating violence that can alter a child's experience of life. In his memoir, "A Long Way Gone", he tells of surviving a civil war and regaining his humanity.

Documentary Film Series: Regaining Civility

Sundays at 2:00 in the Kerr McGee Auditorium in Meinders School of business. Also free to the public.

- March 28 – Jim Brown's *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*
- April 11 – Kim Longinotto's *Sisters in Law: Cameroon*
- April 25 – Ellen Kuras' *The Betrayal*

4th Annual Choctaw Land Run

Bike Ride-- Saturday, April 24th

Looking for volunteers and/or riders

Sponsored by the Choctaw Parks Foundation our fourth year to hold the event and last year we had nearly 100 riders of all ages. The eastern OK county roads are not only less traveled but provide beautiful scenery along the various routes, ranging from 10 – 50 miles. More information can be found at www.choctawfestival.org or call Kay Rennell, 769-7876

Keynote Speech at the recent NCIV meeting in D.C.

A New Architecture of Cooperation: Dr. Anne-Marie Slaughter Asserts That NCIV Network is "On the Frontlines" of 21st Century Citizen Diplomacy

We have known for fifty years that the work we do as citizen diplomats makes a real difference in our world. On occasion, we have had to be steadfast in our beliefs when others were less convinced that citizen diplomacy has a role in promoting peace among nations. Recently, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Ph.D., Director of Policy Planning for the U.S. Department of State, confirmed her belief in the tremendous value of this work.

Dr. Slaughter is a product of citizen diplomacy and international exchanges: her father was a Rotary Scholar in Brussels, where he met her mother, an AFS alumna from Belgium who spent a year in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She invoked that personal connection as she spoke fervently about the crucial role that citizen diplomats play in the Obama Administration's view of international relations in the 21st Century.

Dr. Slaughter detailed the various topics addressed by books on her bedside table, underscoring the myriad challenges confronting the United States and its foreign policy practitioners—among others, incorporating rising powers into a new world order, addressing new threats from non-state actors, and responding to natural disasters such as earthquakes and pandemics. She emphasized that each of these issue areas has reverberations

that cross national borders to touch nation-states and individuals around the world.

In partnership with the NCIV network, the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program has addressed each of these topics in recent years. The fact that we are developing programs on conflict resolution, inclusion, water and food safety, public health, and climate change demonstrates our recognition that the U.S. cannot solve these problems alone; the mechanisms of the past no longer reflect the complex interconnections of the challenges we all face. In response, the Secretary of State is actively seeking to create global cooperation, consensus, and action, as we build what Dr. Slaughter referred to as "the architecture of cooperation of the 21st century, [which] has to go well beyond government—it has to reach out to all citizens."

Dr. Slaughter noted that if we are to engage other nations effectively, we cannot ignore the challenges they face within and across their borders; diplomacy and development must go hand in hand. To counteract threats such as terrorism, we must work to resolve connected issues related to poverty, educational access, sanitation, and individual security. Governments can work with governments to address these challenges from the top-down, but we must also work with key individuals in other countries to resolve problems from the bottom-up. The IVLP, as it strengthens networks with emerging leaders throughout the world, is an integral part of that process.

Dr. Slaughter added that the privilege of sovereignty includes the responsibility to be proactive in addressing domestic and international issues. Since taking office, President Obama has repeatedly underscored the need for all nations and individuals to step up to meet these challenges. As partners with the U.S. Department of State in implementing the IVLP, the NCIV network works hard to do its part to nurture grassroots efforts—in America and abroad—to meet local, national, and international challenges.

Finally, and most importantly to the work we do, Dr. Slaughter wholeheartedly recognized that people-to-people exchanges are critical components in this new architecture—that it is indeed our right, as well as our responsibility, to be part of this process. Through our work as citizen diplomats and NCIV network members, we are—as Dr. Slaughter said—"precisely on the frontlines" of our nation's 21st-century foreign policy. ***We have been on those frontlines for 50 years, and we will continue to be as long as there is the need to shape foreign relations "one handshake at a time."***

