

NEWSLETTER ... 2007

# Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham  
Website: [www.ivcokc.org](http://www.ivcokc.org)



*“I have learned silence from the talkative; tolerance from the intolerant; and kindness from the unkind”.*

■ Kahlil Gibran

*“You should never miss an opportunity to make others happy –even if you have to leave them alone to do it.”*

## NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, March 1, 2007

11:00 – 12:30

Ann Lacy Bldg.

Oklahoma City University  
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder  
2501 N. Blackwelder

297-8973 or 341-3169  
for information

## The snows of Winter

We were so sorry to have to cancel the IVC meeting in February. Our scheduled speaker, Dennis Dunham, will be rescheduled for later this Spring.

## March meeting -- Welcome to Julie Sinclair

Julie Sinclair is Director of International Enrollment and Student Services at Oklahoma City University. The International Enrollment and Student Services Office (IESS) at OCU oversees recruiting, admissions, enrollment, immigration advising, and orientation services for almost 600 international students from 50 countries. Julie has been with OCU over 10 years.

Julie became interested in international education after spending her junior year of college in Germany. That was followed by a year teaching English in northeast China. Julie has a master's d

degree in Public Administration/ International Management from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

This year Julie is serving as Past Chair of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Region III. This covers Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. NAFSA is an organization of over 10,000 international education professional in the U.S. and abroad.

The 2007 NCIV National Meeting was held February 14 – 17 in Washington, DC.

### ***Theme: International Understanding Through Citizen Diplomacy***

Attending from OKC – IVC were Tweet Coleman, Kay Bickham, Deanna Bradley, and Ray Doonkeen.

Keynote speakers included Alina L. Romanowski, Dep. Asst. Sec. Of the Office of Professional and Cultural Exchanges with the U. S. Dept. of State and Dina Habib Powell, Asst. Sec. for the Bureau.

## Friendship Force Oklahoma

will host 21 Ambassadors from the Belo Horizonte, Brazil club in June. The Exchange will arrive on May 31 and depart June 6. Some of the activities planned for our Brazilian friends are a day at Red Earth, a tour of Ft. Sill and surrounding area and a farewell party at Ft. Reno with a steak dinner cooked over an open fire by the wonderful Chuck Wagon cooks of El Reno. If you would like to host one or two of our Ambassadors, please contact Joyce Rulon, Exchange Director, [joyspath@cox.net](mailto:joyspath@cox.net)

## OKC hosts two International Visitor Leadership Programs during February

Mr. Inaki Jauregui with the Department of the Environment in Catalonia, Spain. This program focused on renewable energy. Although, OKC ranks very low among other cities in the U.S., Mr. Jauregui was interested in the efforts that are being made. Contributing to the low score is the bare existence of public transportation.

### **State and Local Government Initiatives for Small Business Development**

was the focus of the February 18 – 21 program. OKC hosted 7 visitors (including 2 Mayors) from 7 countries. They were very appreciative of the welcoming reception which they received in OKC. Thanks to Martin Bionics, Greg Main at i2E, and Vicki Deering at the Department of Commerce for their participation in this program.

***During 2006, OKC hosted 27 IV Leadership Programs with 93 participants***

## Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International/Oklahoma City is partnering with the ELS Language Center at Oklahoma City University to offer a Summer Visit and Cultural Exchange. Sister Cities of Oklahoma City is inviting English teachers from each Sister City to apply for this exchange.

*The Invite reads....*

*Oklahoma City is in the heartland of America. A visit to Oklahoma will provide you with the opportunity of a lifetime as you discover the hospitality and warmth of the people of Oklahoma and experience our Native American and Western culture through museums, festivals, shopping and more. You will also experience our love of food and sports!*

June 30 – July 28, 2007

Includes housing, meals, transportation, English classes and activities and Friendship with an American Family

During their time in Oklahoma City, Sister Cities will provide them with free accommodations by placement with an American family. You will enjoy your own private bedroom and eat two meals a day with the family and enjoy learning English and culture during your stay with the family.

Chosen participants will join Sister City members on many cultural and educational outings during their stay. Transportation will be provided as well as housing. Participants will study at the ELS Language Center during their time in Oklahoma giving them an opportunity to improve their English! Participants are responsible for their airfare to and from Oklahoma and health insurance during their stay here. Participants will also need to procure a tourist visa for this cultural exchange. For more information, please see your Sister City organization to fill out an application today.

You will take four weeks of classes – 30 hours per week – at the ELS Language Center on the campus of Oklahoma City University. You will be tested and placed in one of our twelve levels and you will study from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. For more information, please see [www.els.edu/oklahoma](http://www.els.edu/oklahoma)

## Coming soon

***April 5 --- IVC meeting will be held at World Neighbors.***

4127 N.W. 122 Street

Melanie Macdonald, president and CEO for World Neighbors will give a short welcome and will show a short video about World Neighbors and their programs around the world. Invite your friends to attend. This is a wonderful program that more Oklahomans should know about.

***Saturday March 3***

Turkish Bazaar – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tea/Baklava – All invited

4212 Brookfield Drive – Norman

Phone: 405.366.1424

Great Kilims, Pillowcover Tapestry, Bags/totes, Afghan Jewellery, Hip Belts and Silk Scarves.

