

NEWSLETTER ... 2008

# Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

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



*Undertake something that is difficult; it will do you good. Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.*

## NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY May 1, 2008

11:00 – 12:30  
Ann Lacy Bldg.  
Oklahoma City University  
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder  
2501 N. Blackwelder

Call 341-3169  
For information

## Focus on Africa

M. LARRY EDWARDS, Chairman, Æon Group, President & CEO, Global Fusion Foundation of Oklahoma will be the speaker at the May IVC meeting.

### **Topic: Africa: The Final Frontier**

His subject will be his work in Africa. Today the Æon Group's Micropower Corporation focuses on bringing electrification using Æon technology to Africa and other parts of the world that have never had access to electric power. Æon Laboratories, Inc., and Gateway Oklahoma Trading Corporation develop and distribute chemicals and other products and equipment that address global housing, water, and environmental needs.

## Thank you to Quin Tran

*And thanks to Ron Paddack for arranging such interesting programs for us.*

At the April IVC meeting, Quin shared her life as a refugee girl from Vietnam. At age 4, she moved with her family to Guam and then to Arkansas and soon to her new home in Oklahoma. Quin's family was one of the 1,000 families that Charles Watts sponsored from Vietnam in the 1980s and 90s. A graduate of UCO in Broadcasting, she has worked for several area radio and TV stations and is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Mass Communications Department at UCO.

Hope some of you have seen Quin's latest endeavor – "The People's Business" at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday on OETA.

## FAA hosts students from 17 countries

FAA International is especially busy this month with students from Korea, Mongolia, Japan, India, Canada, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Jamaica, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Turkey, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa and Afghanistan.

Our hats are off to Lois Crooks who contacts each of these visitors to welcome them to OKC. In addition, she connects each one with an Oklahoma friendship family who is their local contact while they are in Oklahoma City.

Lois is always on the lookout for local families who would be able to serve as

Friendship families. Call her if you can help -721-3345.

## Afghanistan students

14 students from Afghanistan arrived this month to begin a 6 month program at Metro-tech in partnership with the FAA.

## Friendship Force news

Thirteen ambassadors from Mt. Gambier, Australia, will arrive at Will Rogers Airport from Omaha, Nebraska on May 18 and remain for a week. All FFO members are invited to attend ALL activities with the Ambassadors--it is a wonderful way to learn more about our organization. If you would like to attend the welcome and farewell events, please call (405) 373-2096 to make sure you are included. We are planning a fun-filled time for all. The next outbound trip is to

*HAY RIVER, CANADA--SEPTEMBER 2--13, 2008*

## State Department Visitors

### *Multi-regional project on Public Safety.*

Visitors from China, Hungary, Pakistan, Panama, and Venezuela enjoy Oklahoma hospitality in April for a program on *public safety and preparing for potential pandemic disease*.

They visited the Chickasaw Indian Hospital in Ada, a health class at Northeast High School, and the State Health Department. At Northeast, they were hosted by former Senator Angela Monson and taken to an off-site clinic. At the Health Department, they were hosted by Laurence Burnsed, the director of the Communicable Disease Division.

In addition Amy Yousey and friends shared their home for home hospitality and they were able to tour the Memorial Museum, the OKC Arts Festival, and the State Capitol

building (thanks to their driver June Horvorka).

And thanks to Sandra Vallejo for assisting with programming.

## May Visitors:

### PROMOTING RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL REFORM

#### A REGIONAL Project for North Africa And the Near East.

Goals of the project are to familiarize participants with the principles of judicial independence and to underscore the judiciary's role in preserving and strengthening democratic concepts such as government accountability and individual rights.

There are seven participants from *Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen*. *Appointments are being requested with the D.A.'s office, attorneys, judges, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.*

## For your calendar....

*May 4 -- 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*Cinco de Mayo celebration at N.W. 10 and North Penn. (In the old AMC building)*

*Asian Festival - May 10 at the Oklahoma History Center 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

Entertainment and food from nine participating Asian countries - exhibits will be both inside and outside the building. Be sure and see the Chinese in Oklahoma exhibit at the History Center.

*RED EARTH FESTIVAL -- JUNE 6-8*

*July 26 - 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

*Hispanic Chamber Expo. At the Cox Center*

*August 6-8 -- 2008 NCIV Southern Regional Meeting IN Atlanta, GA*

Hosted by the Georgia Council for International Visitors. These regional meetings are

planned so that more people can learn about the NCIV network and the work that we do. If interested, check out information on the NCIV.org website or call Kay Bickham 341-3169.