

NEWSLETTER ... 2008

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



When you are through changing,
you're through! --- Bruce Barton

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, November 6 , 2008

11:00 – 12:30

Ann Lacy Bldg.

Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder
for more information
Call 341-3169 or 341-2504

Focus on Chinese Cooking

Tiffany Schlinke MS, RD/LD, director of the dietetics internship program at the University of Central Oklahoma will do a presentation on the values of Chinese cooking at our next IVC meeting. Tiffany has held this position for over two years following a ten year career at Mercy Health Center as a clinical, outpatient and employee health dietitian. Tiffany has also worked at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Accompanying her will be a graduate school intern who is studying to be a dietitian. Tiffany can be reached at tschlinke@uco.edu.

Did you know....

Oklahomans have access to a variety of books and audiovisual materials about Chinese culture thanks to a generous donation from China.

Hu Yeshun, consul general of the People's Republic of China, and three other officials from the [Chinese Consulate in Houston, Texas](#), presented the materials to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Consul General Hu said the total number of books and materials contributed to the state library is not very large, but "books, like friends, should be few and well chosen."

"Most of these books are well-known Chinese classics or very informative materials on China," Hu said. "I hope that these books and materials will enlarge the library's knowledge about China and help the readers understand my country better."

World Neighbors

Every day, Americans use, on average, 150 gallons of water. But in the developing world, the average person uses three gallons of water a day for their cleaning, washing and drinking. Yet, a person needs four to five gallons a day to survive.

That's why World Neighbors is proud to be a partner of the **Sundance Film Festival's FLOW**, a new documentary discussing the impact of water in Asia, Africa and Latin America - regions where World Neighbors has been transforming lives for more than 57 years.

For more information about the documentary premier or about World Neighbors work around water issues, please contact Gregg Biggs at 415-648-9577 or at gbiggs@wn.org.

Did you know that...

Tuesday, October 29th is **Diwali**

✓ **Diwali** means 'row of lights' and is the Hindu New Year. In India, **Diwali** is now considered to be more of a national festival, and the aesthetic aspect of the festival is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith.

Diwali lasts 5 days:

- * Day 1 - New Year for business,
- * Day 2 - The triumph of god Vishnu over the evil demon,
- * Day 3 - Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity visits homes lit by lamps,
- * Day 4 - Bali worship day,
- * Day 5 - Devoted to brothers and sisters.

✓ Diwali is a "schedule alert" day. Observers of the occasion may ask for (or just call in sick and take...) time off from work to celebrate the occasion.

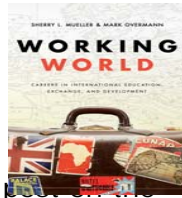
Tierra de mi Familia: Oklahoma TO OPEN NOVEMBER 21 AT OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER.

The exhibit will present the story of Latino immigration to Oklahoma from territorial times to the present day. Along with personal stories, the exhibit will present artifacts that individuals brought with them to Oklahoma.

The title of this exhibit was inspired by the title of a pen and ink piece by local artist Bernie Martinez. "Oklahoma has become the adopted land of many families, and as we grow toward our future, we can learn the fascinating stories that brought us here."

Working World Updates

Sherry Mueller, NCIV President, and Mark Overmann, former NCIV Program Associate, have recently published a book called: [Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development.](#)



This week has also seen the first *Working World Blog*. This blog is intended to be an ongoing conversation between Sherry and Mark about topics relevant to careers in international education, exchange, and development. To read the *Working World Blog*, click [here](#).

Article from the Blog...

A troubling yet still hopeful [article](#) in a recent *Washington Post* details the Peace Corps' recent evacuation of all volunteers from Bolivia. Troubling because the Peace Corps, the one engine of American government that has long been viewed as a representation of all that is best about the United States and its people, is increasingly seen as an intelligence gathering arm of the U.S. government:

"The less presence of the United States in Bolivia, the better," Juan Ramón Quintana, Bolivia's minister of the presidency, said in an interview. "We believe the security policies of the United States have damaged the constitutional rights of the students of the Peace Corps, by tasking some of them to do intelligence work."

Yet still hopeful because more than 15 of the 113 evacuated volunteers decided to return to their posts in Bolivia of their own volition to finish the work they'd started. And of those who were unable or decided not to return, it is clear that the majority of them do not agree with this worrying slide of the Peace Corps into government propaganda and intelligence gathering machine. From one of those volunteers forced to leave:

"Peace Corps, unfortunately, has become another weapon in the US diplomatic arsenal," volunteer Sarah Nourse of Mechanicsville, Md., wrote in a widely circulated e-mail. The Peace Corps withdrawal "is one more chance for the US to maintain its tough image and hit back, harder. "More than ever, Bolivia needs living examples of real Americans," Nourse went on. "They need someone to help, not for financial gains but because the task exists and because it's the right thing to do."

I think it's on all of us working in and supportive of the fields of international education, exchange, and development to ensure that the Peace Corps and all similar exchange and development programs remain the powerful forces for mutual understanding that they have always been.

For your calendar...

November 29 -- Choctaw Nation Annual Powwow

At the Choctaw Resort located at 4216 Highway 69/75 in Durant. American Indian dancers from all around the U.S. will gather for this event. Info. Call 580/931-8645

International Education Week (IEW) 2008 will take place November 17-21, 2008. IEW has a Facebook page and group this year, both of which can be accessed through the IEW website. The website is located at: <http://iew.state.gov>. ECA encourages all individuals and institutions interested in international education and exchange activities, including schools, colleges and universities, embassies, international organizations, businesses, associations, and community organizations to participate in celebrating IEW 2008.

Pambe Ghana

Providing excellent, culturally appropriate primary education for children in northern Ghana.

"In my mother tongue, *Mampruli*, **pam-be Ghana** is a statement of pride. It means 'there is a lot (abundance) in Ghana.' My interest in mother tongue education goes back to my own primary **school** experience of instruction in English, a language none of us spoke or understood. We were punished if we spoke our native language in school. School was very difficult and most of my mates dropped out. I would have dropped out too if not for my father's determination to keep me in school. Out of about 100 children with whom I started school, only three of us completed secondary school. My life path has given me opportunities to pursue my own education and careers in rural development and early childhood education. I have since completed Montessori certification in both primary and lower elementary education, and a Masters of Education in early childhood education. This reignited my passion for mother-tongue education and my dream to adapt and apply the Montessori principles in Ghana, starting with my own people."

Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels, Executive Director

Meet Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels, founder and Executive Director. Alice worked with World Neighbors in her native Ghana and moved to OKC in 2000 with her husband Peter. Read her story at www.pambeghana.org. **On Saturday, November 1**, there will be a brunch and shower honoring Pambe Ghana at the Deep fork Grill, 5418 N. Western in OKC. An update on the school in Ghana will be given. For more information contact Janie Thompson at 491-9432.