



Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

"Some people are going to like me
and some people aren't, so I might
as well be me. Then, at least, I will
know that the people who like me,
like me."

--Hugh Prather

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, September 6, 2007

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

Call 341-3169
for information

September 6 IVC Meeting *Special feature:*

Hall Duncan will share his activities of the past three months.

Hall is a retired journalism professor from the University of Central Oklahoma and has traveled world-wide on various projects. In October, he will be presenting a "A Half Century of Cartooning and Illustrating Around the WorldThe Fun.....the Tragic and the In-Between! "

at the Edmond Senior Center. He believes that humor is a great healer and transfers to all languages and cultures. In recent years, he has been pro-active in children's issues and has written books for children which have been translated to several languages.

Kyle Dillingham performs for IVC in August

For those of you who missed the August IVC meeting, you missed a real treat!!! Not only did we hear wonderful violin/fiddle music, Kyle also shared with us his story about his entry into international entertaining.

35,000 World Neighbors Participants Severely Affected by South Asia Floods

Homes and lives have been devastated in World Neighbors programs in Bihar, India. With more than 35,000 people having lost their homes or been displaced and four participants dead, World Neighbors is engaging in immediate short term relief efforts.

A message from Gopal Nakarmi, Program Coordinator for South Asia:

"It does not rain but it pours" holds true particularly for the poor marginalized people of our program areas. Mahotari district is one of our program areas in Nepal where the recent flood caused a lot of devastations (both life and property) because of incessant rain that lasted for 20 days (July 13 to August 1, 2007). A 70 years old local resident said that he had never seen such a flood during his life time.

To help, contact World Neighbors: www.wn.org

News from the OU Institute for US-China Issues at the University of Oklahoma

www.ou.edu/uschina

In October 2007 OU will host 15 mid-career diplomats from the US State Department and the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the inaugural US-China Diplomatic Dialogue. Following the successful example of the Sino-American Security Dialogue, USCDD seeks to create an informal atmosphere in which participants frankly exchange views about bilateral relations.

One of the most challenging aspects of US-China relations today is how to handle crisis situations, such as the 1999 Belgrade bombing and the 2001 Hainan Island incidents. Will we be prepared to manage similar crises in the future? USCDD fosters the development of personal relationships between mid-career American and Chinese diplomats today that can reap potential rewards five, 10 years from now when they are in more senior positions managing future bilateral crises. Norman Public Schools has hired a full-time Chinese language teacher to begin in the Fall of 2007.

Tuesday, September 4

**OKLAHOMA MUSICIAN HOLDS CD RELEASE PARTY
TO BENEFIT AFRICAN ORPHANS**

7:00pm at Kamp's
1210 N.W. 25th in Oklahoma City

For reservations call: 405-524-2251

As Oklahoma's international fiddling ambassador and member of the successful band Horseshoe Road, Kyle Dillingham is a busy person. However, in between gigs, the well-rounded musician has embraced a new cause: orphans in Togo, Africa. On TUESDAY, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m., Dillingham will blend his love for music with this philanthropic passion as he holds a release party for his new solo CD, "Behind Closed Eyes" at Kamp's. Admission to the show is \$5.00 per person and proceeds will go to Edmond-based 4-Him Ministries for the purpose of supporting an orphanage in Togo. The orphanage currently houses 77 children, many of whom have lost parents to disease.

"These children are an inspiration to me," Kyle said, "They have faced incredible tragedies throughout their young lives, but are still able to achieve such wonderful things. I will never forget their courage and strength."

The event will feature songs from "Behind Closed Eyes," which is a wide-ranging collection of original songs composed and recorded over the last two years. Two of the album's songs, "Ubon Eyes" and "Train to Kuba," were created during Dillingham's recent Centennial International Tour with Horseshoe Road to Thailand and Japan. 50% of the evening's CD sales will also go to the orphanage.

A well-known fiddle player and violinist, Dillingham made his stage debut at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville at 17 years of age. He has appeared on national television in China, and frequently performs with musicians in Chicago, New York City and Las Vegas. Dillingham was a featured performer in 2005's Memorial Thank You concert at the Ford Center in downtown Oklahoma City, taking the stage with such performers as Vince Gill, Jimmy Webb, Toby Keith, and Joe Diffie. A graduate of Oklahoma City University, he is frequently referred to as Oklahoma's Ambassador.

Dillingham's desire to help the youth of Togo stems from a 2003 trip to the African nation of Ghana, accompanied by University of Central Oklahoma's Dennis Dunham. While in Africa, the two visited an orphanage in Togo at the request of Steve Hollingsworth, Pastor of 4-Him Ministries of Edmond, Oklahoma.

The children, Dillingham explained, had been in prayer all night for food and did not seem surprised when Dillingham and Dunham brought in bags of chicken and rice. "It showed incredible faith," Dillingham said, "they actually acknowledged that we were the lucky ones--we would be blessed because we had given them food."

An additional project, available at Kyle's CD release party, will also benefit the small orphanage: a CD duet with Dillingham and Dunham, the Director of the University of Central Oklahoma's International Student Services and Centre for Global Competency: entitled "The Lion's Waltz." This 40s style CD features Dunham on clarinet and Dillingham on vocals as well as everything else. Half of the album's proceeds will go toward support of the orphanage. Soon after meeting Dillingham, Dunham became inspired to pursue his life-long desire to be a jazz

clarinetist. "He called it his midlife crisis hobby," Dillingham said.

The third fundraiser, a concert from an original Dillingham composition entitled, "The Broken Violin," is planned for spring 2008.

For more information about "Behind Closed Eyes," and the Sept. 4 concert, please contact 405-808-8804 or log on to www.kyle-web.com.

State Department visitor -- August 26 - 31

Ms. Maria Donoso de Vasquez, Vice Director of the National Association for the Conservation of Nature in Panama spent 3 days in OKC in August. Her program centered around State and Local Government and Native American issues. She was able to visit with the Lt. Governor and with Ms. Cindy Rosenthal, Mayor of Norman as well as spend time with Jerry Bread in the Native American Studies Program at OU. Environmental issues were addressed by Jane Sutter at ACOG, Judy Duncan at DEQ, Tim Tomlinson with the City of OKC, and Secretary of the Environment Miles Tolbert. And thank you to Tweet Coleman for helping make her feel welcome. The message was that she absolutely loved OKC and the people of Oklahoma.

Other Events you might enjoy

August 31 – September 3, 2007 -- Arts Festival Oklahoma offers a diverse collection of pottery, sculpture, paintings, photography, glasswork, jewelry, woodwork, and handmade items.

Sponsored by: South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma City Community College, Women of the South, and Central Art Association

Oklahoma State Fair September 13 – 23.

Capitol Hill Main Street is looking for volunteers to work this year's **Fiestas de Las Americas**. Friday, September 28-- September 29. Contact Miriam at 664-3304 for more information.

October 3 – Hall Duncan will present a "Lifetime of Art in Cartoons" at the Edmond Senior Center. His show will be on display for 2 weeks.

October 13 – Global Oklahoma at Rose State College

October 12-14 – WorldFest sponsored by World Neighbors.

October 14 – OKC Centennial Parade

Passport UCO will focus on Central America this year with events planned throughout the Fall semester. These will include movies, dance performances, a Pre-Columbian artifacts display and group discussions.

**Lois Crooks wants you to know about a restaurant
with very good Russian food.
Galina's Goodies 720-2971
6444 NW Expwy 430-B -- Oklahoma City**

