

NEWSLETTER ... January 2004

# Oklahoma City

# International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham



NEXT IVC MEETING  
THURSDAY, January 8  
11:30 – 1:00  
at the Mike Monroney  
Aeronautical Center –  
and the FAA  
6500 S. MacArthur Blvd.  
405-954-9305

Hope you'll join us for the  
1<sup>st</sup> IVC meeting of 2004.

Melissa Graffigna, Sonny Lee Fanning, Bill Traylor, and Lindy Ritz are pleased to host you at the Aeronautical Center and to personally thank each and every one for your support of international visitors during the past year. Plan to meet at the gate by 11:15.

If you are interested in a tour of the center, please call Melissa in advance – 954-9305.

**Our thanks to David Cid, President of Salus International who was the speaker at the December IVC meeting.**

His topic -- "Are We Winning the War on Terrorism?" – was most interesting. His company, Salus, provides counter terrorism planning and training for private businesses. Prior to joining Salus, David served as a Terrorism and Counter-intelligence specialist for the FBI.

**Did you know?**

141,060 Oklahomans speak Spanish or Spanish Creole. Between 1990 and 2000, the Hispanic or Latino origin population in Oklahoma more than doubled from 86,160 to 179,304.

*World Neighbors*

Ron Burkard, World Neighbors' E.D. will retire March 31, 2004. Ron has been at World Neighbors for 7 years and in international program work for 40 years.

*Thoughts for the New Year*

The Art of Taking Time to Live...

To get the most out of life, we must take time to live as well as to make a living. We must practice the art of filling our moments with enriching experiences that will give new meaning and depth to our lives.

We should take time for good books; time to absorb the thoughts of poets and philosophers, seers and prophets. Time for friendships; time for talks by the fire and walks beneath the stars.

Time for travel; time for pilgrimage and festival, for shrine and exhibit, for rockbound coast and desert, mountain and plain. Time for nature; time for flower gardens, trees, birds and sunsets.

Time to love and be loved, for love is the greatest thing in the world.

Time for people; time for the interplay of personalities and the interchange of ideas. Time for solitude; time to be quiet and alone and to look within.

Time to give of ourselves, our talents, abilities, devotions, convictions, that we may contribute too the onward march of man.

--copied

**This is an opportunity...can you help?**

In mid-January (20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>), the IVC will host a multi-regional project titled: *Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection*. A very important part of the visit will be an evening in an American Home.

**(The State Department has made a special request for home hospitality.)** The visitors are Mr. Vincente Patricio Ossa Busta from Chile; Mr. Herrie Hamedu from Ethiopia; Dr. Aisha Usman Mahmood from Nigeria; Dr. Salim Hamood Al Rawahy from Oman; Ms. Christina Adriana Armeanu from Romania; and Ms. Sandra Vucinic from Montenegro-Serbia.

All work in sustainable development jobs in their countries. **Please call Kay Bickham 341-3169** if you would like to host one or more of the visitors for dinner.

**This and that for your calendar...**

*Scandinavian Club of Oklahoma* – meets 2nd Thursday of the month at HomeTown Buffet, 3900 N.W. 63<sup>rd</sup> St. Dinner – 5:45, program at 7:00.

*Oklahoma Friends of the Ukraine*

-- contact George Makohin at 858-7220

*OCU Film Institute* – free on Sunday afternoons

**1/18/2004, Lacombe Lucien, Louis Malle, France(1974), 135**

One of Malle's most powerful, personal, and profound works --Jewish children under the Nazi occupation and those who hid or denounced them. This masterpiece is one of the first French films to address the always-thorny issue of French collaboration with the Nazis. Without ever mentioning the subject of guilt and innocence, Lacombe Lucien, in its calm, leisurely, dispassionate way, addresses it on a deeper level.

**2/1/2004, The Cyclist, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Iran(1989), 74** From Iran comes another film by the director of Kandahar, shown last year to one of the largest crowds in the history of this film institute. The Cyclist falls into the tradition of, *They Shoot Horses Don't They?* Makhmalbaf shows the plight of Afghan refugees in Nassim, the cyclist who must perform the marathon of circling a vacant lot continuously on his bicycle for seven days and nights to pay for his seriously ill wife's medical expenses. Prophetically depicting the plight of Afghans fleeing the Soviet invasion and the US backed Taliban government, Makhmalbaf creates a magnificent symbol for existence that would have been most viewing even before September 11th.

The State Department shares a few  
**INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM  
HIGHLIGHTS for DECEMBER 2003**

(More will be noted next month.)

*Former IVs are Among the Key Players of The "Velvet Revolution" in Georgia*

- Mr. Zurab Zhvania, leader of the opposition, and former Spokesman of the Parliament of Georgia, participated in FY 1993 Multi-Regional Project (MRP) on "Grass-roots Democracy."
- **Mr. Mikhail Saakashvili**, leader of the opposition, and Chair of the Tbilisi City Council, participated in the FY 1999 Single Country Project "Judicial Reform."
- **Ms. Vasil Maglaperidze**, representative of the opposition running for the parliamentary elections, and former Member of Parliament, participated in the FY 2002 project "Higher Education in the U.S."
- **Mr. Roman Gotsiridze**, representative of the opposition party and Head of the Budgetary Office of the Parliament of Georgia, participated in the FY 1998 SCP "Government Fiscal Management."
- **Mr. Kote Kemularia**, representative of the opposition running for the parliamentary elections, and former Member of Parliament and leader of the National Movement of Georgia, participated in the FY 2002 Voluntary Visitor individual project "Higher Education in the U.S."
- **Mr. Givi Targamadze**, representative of the opposition running for the parliamentary elections, and member of the Liberty Institute and the Anti-Corruption Council, participated in the FY 1999 SCP "Judicial Reform."
- **Ms. Maia Nadiradze**, rep. of the opposition running for the parliamentary elections, and former Member of Parliament, participated in the FY 2002 Voluntary Visitor individual project "Higher Education in the U.S."

- **Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli**, Chairman of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association who played an important role in observing elections and discovering frauds, participated in the FY 1998 SCP "Human Rights Protection." *Chilean Prosecutor Returns with New Tools to Fight Crime*

The Chief Prosecutor for Chile's First Region, **Raul Arancibia**, was highly enthusiastic about the outcome of his April 2003 IV program on the "U.S. Administration of Justice". He has been able to implement new ideas and new approaches to help increase the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts in Iquique, a region with a high incidence of drug trafficking and consumption. One of Mr. Arancibia's immediate goals is to promote the idea and practice of court-monitored rehabilitation programs for drug users.

*Botswanan IV Creates Meals-On-Wheels Program for HIV Positive People*

Botswana's Director of Social Services, Ms. Goitseone Nanikie Nkwe, had been thinking of creating a program to cook and deliver prepared meals to HIV positive people in Botswana ever since she visited Project Angel Food, a long-established service organization for people with AIDS in Los Angeles, as part of her 2002 IV Regional Project for Africa on "Living With HIV/AIDS." As a result of her interest, the PAS Gaborone recently hosted a digital video-conference (DVC) with Project Angel Food staff. The diverse group of participants in Gaborone included representatives of the City Council, business, government, NGOs dealing with people living with HIV/AIDS, faith-based organizations working on HIV/AIDS and home-based caregivers. This group agreed to meet again in January to develop a pilot meals-on-wheels project, which will deliver a practical service to HIV positive people as well as reduce stigma.

*Former IVs Members of New Bolivian Government*

Several of the new members of the Bolivian Government, appointed after the resignation of Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on October 17, 2003, are former IVs. They include:

- President of the Republic Carlos Mesa participated in a 1979 IV program on "U.S. Cultural Institutions" and in a 2002 Voluntary Visitor program on "U.S. Media."
- Minister of Finance Javier Cuevas participated in a 1992 IV Multi-Regional Project on "Market Oriented Economies."
- Vice Minister of Culture Marisabel Alvarez Plata participated in a 1996 IV program on "Administration and Fundraising in the Arts."
- Presidential Delegate for Counter-Corruption Lupe Cajias participated in a 1993 IV program on "Journalism."

*Former IV now Lahore Provincial Minister*

Ms. Qudsia Lodi, who participated in a 2003 IV Single Country Project on "Women in Politics," has been inducted in the Punjab Provincial Cabinet as Minister for Special Education. Ms. Lodi belongs to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-I-Azam) Group. Both as a woman parliamentarian and now as a minister, Lodi says she will utilize her experience in the U.S. to work for women's rights as well as in the field of special education -- an area that presently lacks government attention in Pakistan.