

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham



“God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called!”

NEXT IVC MEETING
THURSDAY,
May 6, 2004

11:30 – 1:00

International House
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 27 & Blackwelder
297-8973

Update on Afghanistan

Our special speaker will be Mr. Tim Schroeder who has just returned from Afghanistan where he spent time in Kabul to assess the training needs of their Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

With Afghanistan so much in the news Tim will discuss his time in Kabul from a teaching standpoint as well as from his personal point of view.

Tim Schroeder has been an Air Traffic Controller with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for over 19 years. The last 6 years he has been an instructor at the FAA Academy teaching various segments of the Air Traffic Control Course.

For the last 2 and one-half years he has been a part of the International Training Division (ITD) as their Air Traffic Program Manager. As an ITD Program Manager he has delivered presentations on Quality Assurance to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) audiences in Lima, Peru and Bogotá, Colombia. And he has also traveled extensively throughout Africa, conducting training needs assessments for various Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA's).

Tim designed, developed and delivered 2 different management training courses in conjunction with the FAA's Management Center in Palm Coast Florida specifically for international participants. He has been to Tel Aviv, Israel where he delivered a seminar on the advanced communication, navigation and surveillance systems being deployed worldwide. Tim is scheduled to leave again on May 7 for Tanzania to teach the advanced communication, navigation and surveillance systems as well as the Quality Assurance Courses to their CAA.

World Neighbors 2004

Events

September 9 – October 15

World Neighbors' *Work of Women International Photography Exhibition*

Kemp Center for the Arts

Wichita Falls, Tex.

Featuring 45 photographs of women working to improve their lives in parts of the world where World Neighbors works. info@wn.org.

Noted Agriculturist and Author Joins World Neighbors

Roland Bunch, a noted international agriculturalist and best-selling author, has rejoined the staff of World Neighbors. In his new role, Bunch will have responsibility for coordinating programs related to sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Haiti Update

Throughout the current political crisis in Haiti, World Neighbors' staff based in the United States continues regular and direct contact with World Neighbors Haiti. Steve Brescia, World Neighbors' regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, said, "We are monitoring the situation and waiting until it is safe to resume normal activities. The situation is still very fluid and unstable."

State Department visitors

OKC is expecting the following groups of visitors during May and June.

Korea – May 9 – 12

Ms. Eun-Young Jung, Assistant Deputy Director, Health Insurance Benefits Division, Ministry of Health and Welfare.

China – May 12 – 15

Mr. Wu Dong, Deputy Director, Office of the Secretariat, Press Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bosnia – May 30 – June 2

Rule of Law project for Bosnia. This group of 6 visitors include a prosecutor, several Department chiefs from the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Director of Police, an attorney and an engineer for Cryptology Protection.

African Regional Project – June 17 – 22

This is a group of 10 from several African countries. Their program is focused on Small business and Entrepreneurship.

**Multi-Regional – Anti-terrorism group
June 28 – July 1.**

A large group of 18 participants.

Sister Cities Forum to Be Held in Chile

The sister city partnership of Miami-Dade County and Iquique, Chile are sponsoring the Sixth Sister Cities Hemispheric Forum in Iquique June 1 - 5, 2004. This forum promotes the role of local government in international relations. The topics of this year's conference are economic and social development, tourism, environmental protection, development of local infrastructure, and free trade agreements.

The first Forum was hosted by the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA in July, 1995. The focus of the Forum was the role of municipalities in the Free Trade Treaty signed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in South America (MERCOSUR).

Sister Cities International President Glenn Gray will speak at the forum. Dick Rush, President of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce will also be a speaker. For more information about the conference, click here or send an email to sextoforo@iqqimi.cl.

Russian Connections

Ruth Green continues to make new and interesting connections with and for Russians in OKC and Americans in Russia.

A few days during April included hosting a Russian Television cameraman who was doing a story on the Russian Ballet on Ice and the Murrah Building bombing. They were here to interview Lucy Shropshire about her book on Russian/American marriage problems. They have already received orders for 375,000 and it is not even printed in Russia yet. (It does have the skyline of Oklahoma City on the cover - interesting!)

A local woman and her mother (who is an instructor in an art school in Russia) is working on an exhibit of high school prize winning art from Christian Heritage Academy for exhibition in two places in Moscow.

She is also arranging for 4 art schools in Russia to send varied media art display material for Rose State College. Rose State will host a reception with Russian food and Russian musicians in September. Duane Collins reported that he had met with the Minister of Cultural Affairs in Russia and that she had requested we develop an arts exchange!

On March 6 the Russian women of Oklahoma City celebrated a "Women's Day" celebration. Ruth reports working with several of these women on various problems -- personal, financial and immigration difficulties. She has encouraged one of the women to develop an ethnic Russian-speaking organization.

Several local businessmen are pursuing the development of a new international student organization to

place students in homes/schools here and to encourage sending Oklahoma students abroad (\$3,000 tuition, room and board in Moscow or they can teach English and job skills in orphanages to earn part.

For your Arts Calendar

Dance Around the World -- Dates May 03, 2004 - May 14, 2004 – Sponsors: Oklahoma Arts Council Arts Education Programs Students will learn different steps and cultural traditions to music around the world.

Location 3416 N.W. 17th 405-943-5623

Edmond

The Edmond Historical Society will be hosting the Watercolor Oklahoma XVIII traveling exhibit at the Edmond Historical Society Museum, May 1-26, 2004. –

A Gift Of Music

Performances/Exhibitions The Oklahoma Master Chorale and First Christian Church presents the Concert Under The Dome performance of choral and orchestral music on May 14, 2004 at 7:30 PM at First Christian Church, 3700 North Walker, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Master Chorale will be accompanied by 58 musicians from the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra and vocal soloists from the Chorale and the University of Oklahoma.. Contact Nettie Williams, phone 525-6551 or 329-3664 for more information.

The People Speak" Forums

The People Speak: America Debates Its Role in the World is currently organizing its 2004 program, which will take place in September. The People Speak, a program the United Nations Foundation and fourteen other organizations launched in October of 2003 hopes to recruit participants - high schools, colleges, and civic and business groups - to organize forums throughout the United States around one or more of the following topics: peace, security, and human rights; energy choices and environmental challenges; and prosperity in a global economy. Last year The People Speak helped to organize 2,200 forums in all 50 states! Ambassadors, public officials, journalists, and professors served as panelist speakers offering their professional opinions, and organized debates encouraging citizens to express their beliefs.

Grants will be available to organizations that would like to host events. Depending on the size of the event, The People Speak can offer up to \$500. They will be ready to field applications in the summer, once they have sent out The People Speak workbooks with information on the three issues up for discussion and