

Charlotte's Global Initiative

Notes from the Charlotte International Cabinet

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2ND QUARTER

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Mayor's International Community Awards

Alexis Gordon

Even though the economy is slow, companies are still giving back to the community. This year, the Charlotte International Cabinet wanted to make sure that those who are working to improve our community received a proper thanks at this year's Mayor's International Community Awards.

This year around 450 people gathered at the Westin Hotel to

celebrate the community service of 7 nominee foreign owned firms

and two individuals.

This year's winner in the small company category (0 – 50 local employees) is Lufthansa. Tzu Chi Charlotte, affiliated with the Tzu Chi Foundation of Taiwan, was also recognized as a finalist in the small company category.

RBC Bank was the winner in the medium company category (51 – 200 local employees). Bovis Lend Lease, a project management and construction company, and Grant Thornton LLP ,



Awards for Ravi Patel, Ki-Hyun Chun, Lufthansa, RBC Bank, and AbitibiBowater await presentation.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director:

Alina Z. MacNichol - Executive Director

The Cabinet is very fortunate to have had a talented and committed group of members serving on our Executive Board through the recent merger process. They have each spent many extra hours helping to define the vision and structure of the CIC and supporting our staff. I would like to sincerely thank Terri DeBoo and Alan Gordon, outgoing co-Chairs of our Executive Board, for their outstanding service to CIC and to the City.

Please see page 3 for an article introducing the new Chair and Vice Chair for the coming fiscal year – Dr. Maha Gingrich and Cecy Ramirez!

Charlotte 3rd in Growth

Neil Quinn

Due partly to its thriving community of international immigrants, the Charlotte metropolitan area has become the third fastest-growing in the nation, according to a report published in the April issue of *Forbes* magazine. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Charlotte's metro population grew by 3.4% between 2007 and 2008 and, by the end of 2008, had reached 1.7 million, making Charlotte the eighteenth-largest city in the country.

All the factors that make Charlotte so attractive to newcomers - a low cost of living, favorable climate, and thriving business community - have prompted a dramatic upsurge in



international immigration to the region. Since 2000, Charlotte's immigrant population has

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Habitat for Humanity's Surprise Summer Visitors

Hillary Moore

Charlotte's Habitat for Humanity received an exciting surprise this summer when four French students landed in the Queen City to work for the organization. The students had contacted Executive Director Bert Green a month before their arrival about volunteering for the summer, but he wasn't able to arrange housing and thought the trip was off.

When Green found the students living in a hotel uptown, he

immediately worked to find a temporary host family. He contacted Millie Cox, Honorary Consul of France, to spread the word around Charlotte's French community that the students were in town.

After placing the French students in a short-term host home, Green found housing for them in an apartment close to the Habitat offices. He also set up phone and computer access for the students to stay connected.

An American who recently returned from studying in France volunteered to meet the students and show them around Charlotte. They have also been invited to take part in the French American

Chamber of Commerce's Bastille Day celebration in July.

The students found out about Charlotte's Habitat for Humanity program on the internet. The Habitat ReStore project, with locations at Wilkinson Boulevard and Wendover Road, sells donated items to provide funding for building homes in Charlotte.

The students plan on spending a few days in the mountains and have planned a trip to Charleston as well. They will be volunteering at Habitat for 10 weeks, visiting building sites and working at Habitat ReStore. Their visit serves as a reminder for Habitat of the importance of giving a helping hand—even if it means reaching across an ocean.

Swinging South in Time for the Holiday Season

Hillary Moore

US Airways announced on May 26th that it will begin daily nonstop flights to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. If the flight is approved by the Brazilian government, passengers will depart from Charlotte-Douglas in December 2009.

The Charlotte-to-Rio flight will be US Airway's first flight to South America and the fourth daily international flight from Charlotte. This is the second international flight US Airways has added this year, including service to Charles De Galle Airport in Paris, which began in May. The airline already has daily flights to London Gatwick and Frankfurt.

"Brazil is an attractive market for US Airways and fits well into our commitment to expand our international service," Doug Parker, US Airways' chairman and chief executive, said in a statement.

The flight will start in Philadelphia and pick up passengers in Charlotte. It will fly overnight and the plane will spend the day in Rio de Janeiro before departing for Charlotte in the evening.



Drinking for Clean Water

Samantha Edwards

Imagine tasting a great glass of Merlot while participating in the building of a much needed well in India. The idea seems far-fetched.

However, Doc Hendley, founder of the non-profit organization Wine to Water, devised a way for patrons to enjoy a good glass of wine while helping those less fortunate.

Wine to Water is a non-profit organization built out of Hendley's talent for bartending and desire to help those in need of clean water.

Many news outlets (CNN "Hereos", Larry King Live, High Country Press) commend Hendley for his creative and hands on approach in his organization.

Wine to Water not only funds projects for wells, irrigation systems, and other water facilities, but also travels to impoverished villages and towns to construct projects.

So raise a glass of Pinot Grigio to Mr. Hendley as he speaks about the importance of



clean water in every country, at Dolce Vita on September 10th at 6:00 PM. The event will be free of charge to attend. Costs for the wine tasting have yet to be determined. When the cost is announced, it will be included in the CIC E-vent Bulletin.



Meet the CIC's New Chairman and Vice Chair

Samantha Edwards

During the June 4th board meeting for the Charlotte International Cabinet, Mayor Pat McCrory announced the new Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Cabinet with a guessing game. The Mayor stated the many accolades of the two women that would be leading the Cabinet, Dr. Maha Gingrich and Cecilia Ramirez.



Dr. Gingrich is well-known in Charlotte for not only her active role in the international community, but also for her outstanding talent in traditional Indian dance which can be seen annually in the renowned "Dances

of India" at the Central Piedmont Community College.

Dr. Gingrich is the assistant to the executive Vice President at Central Piedmont Community College.

She is a graduate of UNC Greensboro and holds five degrees (two Bachelor degrees, two Associates degrees and one Masters degree in Business Administration).

Previously a teacher for 18 years in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system, Cecilia "Cecy" Ramirez continues to be extremely proactive.

Acting as an advocate for Hispanic population she has served on many boards in the past, like the Mayor's International

Cabinet, and in the present, like the Latin American Chamber, and now, the Charlotte International Cabinet.



Her personal mission to positively influence the Hispanic community, along with the international community, came to fruition when she founded the Latin American Women's Association.

Mrs. Ramirez also brings with her over 30 years of corporate experience as CFO of NOVA Digital Services Inc., cofounded by herself and her husband, County Commissioner Danilo Ramirez.

McCrory's New Focus for CIC

Samantha Edwards

When Mayor Pat McCrory spoke during the June 6th full cabinet meeting, he left the cabinet with much to think about.

He expressed that he wanted the cabinet to focus primarily on three

"We need to seek out the international community and engage them..."

areas: jobs, transportation and crime.

His thought was that as the population of the international community expands the need for integration and education about local services (like public transportation and the police department) grows.

He requested that "[the Cabinet] seek out the international community and engage them..." by discussing their concerns and needs.

In addition to the new focus, and keeping in mind the hard economic times, the Mayor wanted the cabinet to turn their attention to international businesses in Charlotte. He continued to say that it is important to think of Charlotte-Douglas International

Airport as possible resource to attract new

jobs to the area.

McCrory suggested that attention could be given to international businesses by way of their leaders and educational trips to their firms in order to pursue better relationships and new opportunities.

Hopefully, through these measures the symbiotic relationship between the international community and the city will prosper.

Condolences to Our Sister City

Hillary Moore

Ten employees (nine salesman and one executive) of CGE D, an electrical materials distributor based in Charlotte's sister city of Limoges, and nine of their spouses were aboard Air France Flight 447, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on June 1. The trip was a reward for employees with high sales. The salesmen were allowed to take a spouse or partner on the four day trip to Rio de Janeiro, while the executive accompanied the group.

An American geologist and his wife were also lost in the crash. Michael and Anne Harris, originally from Greenville, SC, had lived in Brazil since July 2008.

French, Brazilian, and American officials are working together to determine the cause of the accident. The flight went down during a thunderstorm about 650 miles off the coast of Brazil.

The city expressed condolences to Limoges and CGE D on their loss just as Limoges did to Charlotte following the attacks of September 11, exemplifying the bond that exists between the two cities.

Local students travel to Krefeld

Nadine Ntumba

Krefeld, known as Crefeld until 1929, is a city in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Chartered in 1373, Krefeld belonged to the counts of Moers (Mors) until it passed to the house of Orange in 1600 and then to Prussia in 1702. In 1758 Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, defeated the French near Krefeld in a major battle of the Seven Years' War. The city was long known for the manufacture of silks and velvets, which was begun in the 17th and 18th centuries by Mennonite refugees. Krefeld absorbed several neighboring towns between 1901 and 1929, including Uerdingen and its harbor. Krefeld was occupied by the Allies after World War I, from 1918 to



1926, and was severely bombed in World War II.

Recently three students from CPCC, Josh, June and Kristin, visited Krefeld, along with Düsseldorf, Germany, as a part of study-abroad program. This study-abroad opportunity was the first time CPCC has sent students to Charlotte's sister city of Krefeld. The students left the Queen City on May 29 and returned on June 26. Two of the students kept blogs about their adventures in Krefeld and Düsseldorf.



The students first landed in Munich where they were greeted by their host families from Krefeld. Each student had their own host family. From Munich, their host families drove them to Krefeld. One of the students, Josh wrote in his blog upon his arrival that "the

country is very beautiful and the weather is perfect, it was as if the city was waiting for us. It is only day 1 and it already feels like a second home for me." He also noticed quickly a few differences between Germany and America. For instance, there is no speed limit on the interstate, the elevators have 0 & -1 instead of B for basement and G for ground and most waiters and taxi cab drivers do not like to be tipped. Also, most television



stations did not have commercials.

In Krefeld, they met the mayor of Lester (a city in England and a sister city of Krefeld) and the mayor of Krefeld at a festival. The Mayor of Krefeld remarked to Josh that he was disappointed that Mayor Pat McCrory was leaving office. At the festival, the students visited a castle and saw

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Possible Basketball Tournament

Nadine Ntumba

Through sports, people of all nationalities share a sense of unity. There is no language or cultural barrier in sports. For example, the sport of soccer is played in most countries around the



world. Also, many international students attend colleges and universities all over the country on sport scholarships.

The city of Charlotte already has an annual tournament with its sister city Limoges, France, the Julian Brown Memorial Cup which is hosted during the spring season. The

Julian Brown Memorial Cup is a soccer tournament in which hundreds of team from all over the world participate. Now, plans are brewing for a similar basketball tournament. Although, the plans are in the beginning stages, the city of Charlotte looks forward to having more foreign students visiting its beautiful home.



Tiananmen Reflection

Hillary Moore

June 3-4 marked the 20 year anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests in Beijing. For a group of Charlotte residents in 1989, Beijing was the easiest route to Charlotte's sister city of Baoding, China. A delegation including then-City-Council member Richard Vinroot was visiting Tiananmen Square the night that the violence erupted.



The group of forty Charlotteans was visiting Baoding, located 90 miles south of Beijing, with planned visits to Beijing. The group arrived in Beijing just hours before the protests began and

many mingled with students in Tiananmen Square. They returned to their hotel, and the protests became violent two hours later.

After touring Baoding in the days following the protests, the group attempted to return to Beijing. Chinese guards refused them entry, but the group was able to come in by train the next day. U.S. Embassy officials escorted the delegation to the airport.

Thirty members of the group had planned a longer stay in China, but returned a week early at the urging of government officials and family members.

Charlotte's Polish sister city,

Wroclaw, built a memorial in honor of the students who died at Tiananmen Square. Originally constructed by students in the days following the protests, it depicts a fallen bicycle next to tank tracks, symbolizing the clash students against government machinery.

Tiananmen memorial in Wroclaw

An Extravagance of Interns

As the school year ends, CIC receives a group of young, bright, energetic interns for the summer.

Nadine Ntumba is a rising senior at Belmont Abbey College, majoring in Political Science with a minor in International Studies. She is the captain of the Abbey's Women's Cross Country team and serves as an ambassador for the school. After graduation, she plans on going to law school somewhere in the northeast or in the Carolinas. She is originally from the Dem. Rep. of Congo, Africa.

Matthias Schlack is an international intern from our sister city, Krefeld, Germany, who recently graduated after 13 years of high school. He is taking a gap year before college to improve his English and to gain international experience. He also hopes to volunteer in Latin America before returning to Europe to study International Relations in the Netherlands.

Samantha Jo Edwards is a graduating senior from the University of North Carolina at

Charlotte with concentrations in psychology and public relations. Originally from the suburbs of Washington D.C., she has lived in Charlotte for 15 years and has had the luxury of watching Charlotte flourish into an international city. Experiencing the benefits of an diverse context, she hopes to keep working with the international community.

Kenneth Zoeller graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2005 with a double major in International Studies and Political Science. He worked in Washington, DC for three years and recently returned from Nicaragua, where he was a volunteer. He will begin his masters degree in International Relations at Johns Hopkins in the fall.

Paarth Mehta is a rising junior focusing on political science and economics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He believes the combination of his studies now and later will serve as a resource for him to pursue a career in political and economic consulting.

New Music Director hails from UK

Hillary Moore

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra will welcome a new director from across the pond in September 2010. After a two year search, the orchestra announced its new hire in May.

Gloucestershire, UK native Christopher Warren-Green will take the helm as Music Director for the Charlotte Symphony next fall. Warren-Green has been the



Music Director of the London Chamber Orchestra since 1988. He has also served as the Principal Conductor of the Camerata Resident Orchestra of the Megaron Athens, as the Chief Conductor of the Nordic Chamber Orchestra, and was Chief Conductor of the Joenkoeping Sinfonietta.

Warren-Green conducted the symphony in January. He will return next February to conduct the upcoming Classics series, which he will continue to lead after becoming Music Director.

The new Music Director has conducted many international symphonies, leading concerts on four continents. Warren-Green replaces Christof Perick, another international director of the symphony.



AbitibiBowater Takes the Trophy

Hillary Moore

AbitibiBowater was this year's winner of the Large Company category at MICA. The Montreal-based company produces a variety of wood and paper products, such as newsprint, commercial printing papers, and market pulp.

AbitibiBowater was recognized for its attention to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Giving back to the community is important to the Catawba Operations branch. One of AbitibiBowater's community service efforts is education. They support scientific and technological education in the

community through scholarships and donations. AbitibiBowater has contributed more than \$2.2 million in the past ten years to philanthropy.

AbitibiBowater also supports a unique environmental project by donating nesting boxes for the state's Eastern Bluebird population. More than 7,000 boxes have been distributed since the project was started, helping the local bluebird population grow at a rate of 4% a year.

The company encourages workers to donate more than just money. Employees are active in the community and participate in many organizations, including Relay for Life, the Arts Council,

the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other groups.

Barry Baker accepted the award on behalf of AbitibiBowater. Baker works in Human Resources for the company and is an enthusiastic supporter of AbitibiBowater's community service.

MICA cont'd

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which provides audit, tax and advisory services were recognized as finalists in the medium company category.

AbitibiBowater won in the large company category (210+ local employees). The other finalist in this category was KPMG LLP, an audit, tax, and advisory firm.

In addition to the three Company Awards, two individual awards were presented. Dr. Ki-Hyun Chun received the Richard Vinroot International Achievement Award and the recipient of the newly-named Patrick McCrory International Entrepreneur Award was presented to Ravi Patel.

Throughout this issue of *Charlotte's Global Initiative* you will find articles on each winning individual and company.

The Mayor's International

Community Awards were established 11 years ago as a way to encourage local foreign-owned firms to adopt corporate philanthropy as a business practice, something not as common with corporations located outside the United States. The MICA Awards are hosted by the Office of the Mayor and the Charlotte International Cabinet (CIC). The CIC was created through the merger of the Mayor's International Cabinet and Charlotte Sister Cities.

Goodrich and US Airways were the Presenting Sponsors for the 12th annual Awards and more than 30 other corporations and cultural organizations also supported the event.

A Growing City

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increased by 63.6%; today, almost 10% of Charlotte's residents are foreign-born, leading *Forbes* to declare Charlotte one of America's "New Immigration Capitals" in late 2008.

Hispanics have formed the largest part of this growth; 56% of the city's international population originated in Latin America. However, contribution from other parts of the world remain significant. Charlotte is home to more than 750 foreign-owned companies based in 46 countries and boasts ten honorary consuls representing nations around the world. It is, in large part, a strong international community that will keep Charlotte a dynamic, fast-growing city for years to come.



International Achiever

Hillary Moore

This year's recipient of the Richard Vinroot International Achievement Award was Dr. Ki-Hyun Chun. Dr. Chun, who was born in Korea, is a well known leader in Charlotte's Asian community.

Dr. Chun's family in Korea had a large library and he was required to read every day. As a child, Dr. Chun would be punished if he didn't finish reading and report to his father. Dr. Chun's love of books began to grow when he moved to the United States.

In the 1970s Dr. Chun and his wife, Sunny, moved to North Carolina where he attended Lenior-Rhyne University. He is a licensed CPA and began practicing accounting in 1975,

In 1977, Dr. Chun established the Korean Presbyterian Church, the first Asian church in Charlotte. The church houses the Asian Culture Center.

In 1998, Dr. Chun opened Charlotte's Asian Library with a goal of collecting 70,000 books. The library's collection continues to grow and now holds more than 130,000 books in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, and English. The library's members can check books out free of charge.

The same year, Dr. Chun was one of the founding members of the Carolinas Asian-American

Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's goal is to unite the 13 Asian ethnic groups while helping them keep their heritage and culture. They host the Asian Festival in Charlotte every year.

Dr. Chun also publishes two newspapers in Charlotte, the Asian Herald and the Korean Herald.

The Asian Herald is published in several different languages, making news accessible to a wide range of people.

Dr. Chun is the President and CEO of Chun Group, Inc. He and Sunny continue to live and work in Charlotte. They have two daugh-



Dr. Chun accepts his award.

The Diversity of Southern Hospitality

Hillary Moore

The 2009 International Entrepreneur Award was presented to Ravi Patel, the president and CEO of SREE Hotels. Mr. Patel has built a successful career in the hospitality industry since he came to the United States from India in 1966.

Mr. Patel arrived in America with a degree in Chemistry. He earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Auburn University in Alabama.

After working with National Tire Company Mr. Patel decided to join the hotel business in 1980, opening his first hotel in Florence,

South Carolina. He bought the half-finished hotel and did many of the renovations himself. Mr. Patel soon moved to Charlotte and expanded his business.

SREE Hotels currently operates 27 hotels, mostly in the Charlotte area. The company has opened new hotels at the pace of nearly

one a year since the early 1980s. Mr. Patel works with companies ranging from Marriott to Hilton, and partners manage hotels as far away as California. SREE employs over 500 people and has annual revenues of almost \$50 million.

Mr. Patel helped found the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, which serves as an informational and political resource for hotel owners. Mr. Patel created the association because he experienced discrimination trying to get loans and contracts early in his career.

After the MICA, SREE Hotels and Mr. Pate were named one of Marriott's top honors. The company was honored for excellence in hospitality and outstanding customer service.

Mr. Patel credits his wife's support for his success, and his legacy is being carried on by other family members. His daughter and nephew both work for SREE Hotels, but Mr. Patel warns that he's not leaving the business any time soon!



Mr. Patel thanked his family at MICA.

Banking on a Better Future

Hillary Moore

Canadian-based RBC Bank won the 2009 Medium Company Award at MICA. A subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada, RBC offers personal and commercial banking, wealth management, insurance, and many other financial services.

One of RBC's main areas of philanthropy is multiple sclerosis research. Locally, RBC supports community service and philanthropy on a corporate and individual level by sponsoring and

volunteering with regional organizations.

RBC's community service is a combination of employee volunteerism and corporate donations, called "One Commitment: Many Communities". RBC provides Employee Volunteer Grants to organizations where employees log at least 40 hours of service a year. The company makes a \$500 donation to the organization in the employee's name. Additionally, RBC will match a half of its employees' donations up to \$2,000 a year. Employees are recognized yearly for their contributions to the community.

In Charlotte, RBC supports local organizations like Communities in Schools, the

YMCA, Presbyterian Hemby Children's Hospital, and Historic Rosedale plantation. RBC has organized community walks with the YMCA for breast cancer awareness and has board members at several organizations in the community. They also sponsor many philanthropy events in Charlotte.

This year, RBC donated \$100,000 through DonorsChoose.org to McClintock Elementary School. The money will fund a watershed project at the school and teach students the importance of the environment.

The Medium Company Award was accepted by Bobby Chesney and Melissa Estes of RBC.

Award Renamed for Mayor McCrory

Hillary Moore

The International Entrepreneur Award will have a new name at MICA next year – the Patrick McCrory International Entrepreneur Award. The award's new name was announced

at this year's MICA ceremony.

Mayor McCrory created the award

in 1997 to honor foreign-born entrepreneurs who have built successful lives and careers in Charlotte. The mayor himself has recently become an entrepreneur, a job he will take up full time when his seventh term as mayor expires. After a long career with Duke Energy, Mayor McCrory is joining his brother as a consultant.

Mayor McCrory was presented with a globe during the ceremony to thank him for his service to the international community.



Lufthansa flies away with the Small Company Award

Hillary Moore

German-based airline Lufthansa won Small Company Award at MICA this year. Lufthansa has been a long time supporter of Charlotte's German community in addition to many other organizations.

On an international scale, Lufthansa operates the Help Alliance, an employee volunteer project. Employees donate time to volunteer at 15 schools, hospitals, and orphanages located in Africa, Asia, and South America. Help Alliance has also sent volunteers and support to other relief projects, such as the 2005 tsunami in Indonesia and recent earthquakes in India.

Lufthansa has sponsored the German Language and Culture Foundation, formerly known as South-End Jazz, for many years. The airline's sponsorship helps fund student and cultural exchanges between Charlotte and Germany.

Lufthansa is also an active supporter of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. Through the World Affairs Council, Lufthansa promotes business relationships between Charlotte and Germany.

Additionally, Lufthansa is a corporate sponsor for both the German School and Alemannia Society in Charlotte. They help promote and hold fundraiser events to support German language and culture in Charlotte. Lufthansa also acts as a corporate sponsor for the Yiasou Greek Festival to promote Greek language and culture.

In 2007, Lufthansa partnered with the Echo Foundation of Charlotte to send 12 students to visit Versailles, Berlin, and Auschwitz. The program, "In the Footsteps of Elie Wiesel," brought awareness to important world, historical, and social issues. Lufthansa employee Hans Diessel acted as a chaperone for the students.

Johannes Fuchs accepted the Small Company Award for Lufthansa.



CPCC Awards Debbie Antshel Memorial Scholarship

Laura Jamain and Hillary Moore

On May 19, Central Piedmont Community College paid tribute to Debbie Antshel. Debbie was a leader in Charlotte's education community. She worked with CPCC and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and served as the director of the Mayor's International Cabinet.

Debbie's main goal was to make education available for all children. She helped CPCC develop a program that encourages students to earn their GED, find employment, and

become active in the community. She also started the CAN program to increase internet access in underserved communities around Charlotte.

The Debbie Antshel Memorial CPCC scholarship honors students for their involvement in the community and encourages students to continue their work after high school. This is the second year that CPCC has awarded the scholarship.

CPCC awarded Myers Park High School senior Caroline Riddle with the 2009 Debbie Antshel Memorial Scholarship. Debbie's son and husband presented Caroline with the

scholarship.

Caroline was part of her church's Room in the Inn program, which gives food and shelter to local men and women. She has also helped rebuild churches and homes on the Gulf Coast that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. For the past six years, Caroline participated in World Visions' 30-Hour Famine, a program which brings attention to the problems of famine in Third World countries.

Caroline will attend CPCC in the fall and plans to become a youth advisor after graduation

Local Students in Krefeld

Continued from page 4

bunch of displays of silk and steel making. They watched swords, fabrics and other items from Germans history being made in front of them. After the festival, the students rode their bikes back to their host families' homes and got changed for the



barbeque. The students visited the local Catholic Church, a pub, a zoo, and an Italian restaurant and enjoyed numerous German meals, which they praised highly in their blogs. They expressed how much they enjoyed their stay in Krefeld and hoped to visit their host families again before departing back to

America. One of the students, June, wrote on her blog about leaving Krefeld and her Krefeld's host family that "I have made friends for life! I can't imagine how my experience here can be compared."

The trip to Krefeld left a great impression on the students and the city of Charlotte is greatly thankful to the citizens of Krefeld for making the students feel at home while visiting Germany.

Students Accomplish an Impossible Odyssey

Hillary Moore

A group of students from South Charlotte Middle School recently won an international Odyssey of the Mind competition in Iowa. The middle school students competed against teams from 15 countries including Cuba, Germany, Poland, and China.

Odyssey of the Mind releases five topics to students in the fall. Teams choose which problem they will solve and begin planning for competition. The purpose of the competitions is to encourage students to think critically – and

creatively. Each team has a spending limit for their project.

The South Charlotte team chose the "Lost Labor of Hercules," which was based on the myth of Hercules' 12 impossible tasks. The team's job was to dream up a 13th task that Hercules accomplished and explain why it had been lost to history.

The team wrote a skit, built a set, and made costumes to explain the missing task. Hercules had to marry a disgusting sea creature and carry her up a mountain, the group decided. The story was lost

because the Greek goddess of memory wasn't invited to the wedding ceremony and erased it from history.

The 8-minute skit was judged on teamwork and creativity. The students started working on the skit in October. The sea creature puppet, which became more complex throughout the year, won the team high marks from judges.

20 teams from the Charlotte area competed in Iowa, several others of which also placed in the competition.

Celebrate Culture

Nadine Gordon Hadera Trip

Nadine Ntumba

Hadera is a city in the Haifa district of Israel that was founded in 1891 by Eastern European immigrants from Lithuania and Latvia on a land purchased by Yehoshua Hankin, known as the Redeemer of the Valley. Hadera was declared a city in 1952 and is now Israel's fourth largest. Furthermore, the city is set to be the site of the world's largest desalination plant.

In 2008, Hadera became one of Charlotte Sister Cities, although it has been a Sister City of the city of St. Paul, Minnesota since 1981. Recently Nadine Gordon visited the city of Hadera and was able to answer a few questions concerning her trip to us.

Charlotte's Global Initiative: What was the purpose of your trip?

Nadine Gordon: This trip to Israel was both business and pleasure. During the first four days, as one of seven members representing the Steering Committee for the Charlotte Jewish Federation's Partnership 2000 relationship with Hadera, we met with the eight members of Charlotte's Hadera Steering Committee counterparts.

In two of our sessions we discussed how to communicate across cultures; identify the benefits for an individual's and both communities' partnering; understand the geography, demographics, and main issues of both communities; and determine the partnership's expectations and challenges, and then drafted an action plan.

Our remaining three

days were spent in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, exploring the three religions which coexist there.

CGI: What programs do we have now with Hadera?

NG: Charlotte's Jewish Federation has a well-established nine-year partnership with Hadera, which has resulted thus far with annual teacher and/or student exchanges. Our Sister Cities relationship with Hadera will benefit from these ties. Hadera's Sister Cities representative, Mimi Elimelech, is looking forward to the mayors of Hadera and Charlotte signing the official agreement.

CI Sea Dragons Race to 3rd Place

Laure Jamain and Hillary Moore

The 10th Annual Charlotte Asian Festival took place at Ramsey Creek Park in May. The festival is hosted by the Carolinas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce.

The public was able to try a variety of Asian foods from vendors at the festival and watch performers showcase traditional Asian dance, acrobatics, and music. The Traditional Dragon Dance was performed by the Peaceful Dragon Academy and was followed by a Parade of Nations.

There were many exciting events during the festival, including the Miss Asian Festival pageant. The new 2009 Miss Asian Festival is Athidi Guthikonda, a



The CI Sea Dragons placed third in the races.

student at Ardrey Kell High School, who represented India. Miss Talent 2009, Pooja Kulgod was also from India and danced. Miss Friendship 2009, Kelsey Waddell, represented the Philippines.

Despite the rain, 31 teams competed in the Dragon Boat races. The race is a 2,300-year-old tradition that remembers the death of Qu Yuan, a Confucian sage. The Division A winners were Wild Dragon, followed by Organized Chaos and Sabi. The

"This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness."

-Dalai Lama

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote freedom to err. It passes my comprehension how human beings, be they ever so experienced and able, can delight in depriving other human beings of that precious right."

-Gandhi

Wachovia Wave was the fastest team in Division B, but the CI Sea Dragons (the Charlotte International Cabinet team) also did a great job, finishing third in the division.



Sweet Memories

Hillary Moore

An exhibit honoring the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift opened in June at UNC-Charlotte. The exhibit, "Friends Always", features photographs from the airlifts and artifacts from the post-World War II era. Honorary German Consul Kurt G. Waldthausen and the university worked together to bring the exhibit to Charlotte.

An opening ceremony was held on June 4th at J. Murrey Atkins Library. Andrei Cherny, author of *The Candy Bombers: the Untold Story of the Berlin Airlift and America's Finest Hour* spoke to the audience about American G.I.s who took part in the airlift. In addition to delivering necessities during one of the harshest winters on record in Berlin, many G.I.s dropped candy and gum tied to makeshift parachutes to German children.

Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, who began the movement, became known as "The Candy Bomber."

Armed Forces veterans who were part of the airlift were honored at the ceremony by the German government and received



An Allied plane throws candy to German children.

the "German Friendship Award" from Waldthausen. One veteran who worked driving supplies to the airstrip talked about the difficult conditions the airlift operated under. Despite bad weather and fog, supplies had to

be loaded into planes every three minutes. Over 2.3 million tons of food and other supplies were delivered to the two million residents of Berlin in 1948 and 1949. Allied supply lines on the ground were blocked by the USSR for 11 months and supplies could only reach West Berlin by air. British, French, and American planes landed every three minutes around the clock during the airlift, during which 31 pilots died. Russia lifted the blockade because of the success of the Berlin Airlift.

A reception following the ceremony included a German buffet and Spatenbäu beer. Visitors were able to speak with the veterans about the airlift, and some even asked for autographs.

The exhibit will be in Charlotte through the end of June. It will be on display at other locations through the country this year.

Meeting Dates

On the first Thursday of every other month the Cabinet meets at 7:30 am in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, room 267. The first meeting of the year is in February.

Bi-monthly meetings are open to anyone, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Julian Brown Memorial Cup

Nadine Ntumba

The Julian Brown Memorial Cup is an annual fundraiser sanctioned by US Club Soccer that was hosted in Charlotte, NC during the weekend of April 18-19, 2009, by the united efforts of Charlotte United FC and the Julian Brown Memorial Fund.

Julian Brown Memorial Cup was named after Julian Brown, a young man who was fatally injured on April 18, 2004, in a tour bus accident near Paris, France following his U-14 North Carolina Olympic Soccer Development.

The first tournament was held in April 2005 and became an annual event hosted every April during the week marking the anniversary of Julian Brown accident. The tournament usually has over 130 teams from all over the region and even some foreign teams participating.

In addition, due the donations and fundraising efforts from all the previous tournaments, the Julian Brown Memorial Fund was able to award several scholarships to deserving young

men and women.

The tournament included 14 Julian Brown Memorial Soccer Scholarships; 3 free week-long Julian Brown Memorial Soccer Camps for a cumulative total of close to 900 disadvantaged children; 4 Julian Brown Memorial Spirit Trophies to the teams participating in the North Carolina State Science Olympiad Tournament that demonstrated the best teamwork; 6 "Man-of-the-Match" Trophies to players who demonstrated the best skill and character in Julian Brown Memorial Service exhibition games; Julian Brown Youth Award, presented by the MetroLina Association of Black Social Workers to one high school student who demonstrates outstanding scholarship, community service and leadership; and the Julian Brown Science Award, presented by Myers Park High School to one student who demonstrates excellent performance and dedication in the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament.





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delegations from aboard, philanthropy through the Charlotte school in sister city of Arequipa, or helping spread the joy of experiencing new cultures, we would love to have your support.

You can also find our sponsorship packet online at www.charlotteinternational.org. Just click on the sponsorship opportunity link.

We'd also like to thank our Cabinet Members for their tireless work and contributions.

* denotes an Executive Committee Member

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Upcoming International Events in Charlotte

Bon Odori Festival

This is the biggest yearly Japanese festival in North Carolina! Admission is **FREE**.

Here are some of the features:

"Bon Odori" Japanese Dance Performance

Japanese Drum Performance by "Matsury-za"

"Aikido" (Japanese Martial Art) Exhibition

Japanese Tea Exhibition

Japanese Food & Crafts

Raffle Grand Prize: Airline

Ticket (purchase a raffle ticket for \$5)

Location: Wachovia Atrium and Plaza

301 S. Tryon St.

Charlotte, NC 28202

Date and Time: Saturday, August 1 @ 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Bam-Jazz Free Outdoor Concert

Bill Averbach & Bam-Jazz will be performing their New Orleans flavored brand of Jazz, Blues, Cajun, and World Beat music for the free Summer Concert Series at Fountain Plaza in Stone Crest at Piper Glen. The group features some of Charlotte's finest musicians and promises to be an entertaining and magical show.

Dates: Friday, August 7 through Saturday, August 8 @ 7pm

Admission: Free

Location: 7804 Rea Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28227

Los Suenos de Angelica (Angelica's Dreams)

Presented by The Light Factory Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film

Co-sponsored with the Latino Community Credit Union, "Los Suenos de Angelica" is the moving story of an immigrant couple from Latin America, Angelica and Roberto, caught between the choice to return to their home country or stay in the US. An unexpected event changes their lives and they are faced with the difficult realization that one of them will have to sacrifice their dream for the other. It is the turbulent, unexpectedly humorous lives of everyday people struggling to enter the mainstream of American society.

In Spanish and English.

Dates: Saturday, August 15, 2009 @ 3:00 pm

Admission: Free

Location: 345 North College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202



The mission of the Charlotte International Cabinet is to promote Charlotte as an international city and serve as a resource to foster international relations.

**Actively Promoting an International
Charlotte**

Charlotte International Cabinet

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