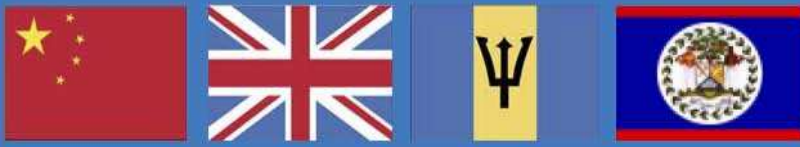


Sister Cities Association of

Wilmington

Providing Community Involvement in the City of Wilmington's Sister City Relationships



Vol. 8 No. 1

PO BOX 1865, WILMINGTON, NC 28402

www.scawilmington.org

April 2013

Charles Houston Goudiss, III (March 16, 1946 – March 21, 2013)

With fond memories of Charles, a valued and dedicated volunteer, Sister Cities' fellow board members extend their condolences to Maria and all the Goudiss family. Charles was born in New York City and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. His diverse interests took him to Sierra Leone as a Peace Corps volunteer, working in the publishing, mortgage and home improvement industries, to designing and building an award winning passive solar house in Ulster County, NY before moving to Wilmington ready for the next adventure. Volunteerism was part of Charles' life wherever he lived and we all benefited from his willingness to do the least glamorous work that is often not visible but necessary to operating a strong non-profit organization. Among his many loves were his family, body surfing, reading and the Grateful Dead.

In honor of Charles' memory and contributions to our community, please consider contributing to the Peace Corps Sierra Leone Volunteer Fund at <http://rev.ms/charlesgoudiss>.



Sister Cities News Bulletins

PRC Elects New President



Photo: Global Times

During the 12th National People's Congress in Beijing Xi Jinping, head of the Communist Party, was elected as China's new president. At a news conference held at the close of the sessions, Xi Jinping spoke about a "great renaissance of

the Chinese nation" and to deliver a more equitable society and a more effective, less corrupt government. Concerning relations with the US it was reported he said... "common interests far outweigh our differences."

Last November when he became Chief of the Communist Party in his speeches he focused on the need to address economic development and social inequality. President Xi comes with considerable experience and is the son of one of the first generation of leaders in the Communist Party. As a young man he chose to leave Beijing and assume a county level position in Hebei both to learn to and better understand life in rural China. By most standards he has lived a rather humble life

and his quiet leadership earned him considerable respect. It is expected that his economic development strategies will be designed to achieve the balanced approach he spoke about in his inaugural speeches and include small to medium cities as well as rural villages.

Elections Held in Barbados

General elections are held on a five-year cycle in Barbados and the incumbent Democratic Labor Party (DLP) retained its majority – 16 of 30 seats in the February 21 election. There are 30 constituencies represented in the Parliament and Wilmington's sister city, Bridgetown is one of the constituencies due to its size and as well as being the capital of this island nation. The opposition party (BLP) candidate, Jeffrey Bostic, defeated the incumbent representing Bridgetown in the recent elections. Bostic served 25 years in the Barbados Defense Force where he advanced to Lieutenant Colonel. He is a graduate of the University of West Indies – Cave Hill, and father of five.



Following the election Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, head of the DLP, said, "We are not governing in easy circumstances. We had to

govern in the context of the worst crisis the world had seen in over 100 years.” Like most administrations challenges remain as the global economic recovery continues at a slow pace keeping demand for goods and services relatively modest.

Time for that Holiday in England?

Colin Jaynes DIPA(Doncaster) If ever there was a good time to get the diary out and think about that trip to the UK which has always been in the back of your mind, this is the year! The British autumn can be beautiful too, you know, and there’s all that history; it’s such a small place compared to the US – you can see such a lot in a fortnight or so. So - timing? The important period to aim for is the third week in September – that’s when we’re planning to run this year’s Sister City Symposium. Three and a bit days of interesting stuff as the centrepiece of visiting what has been described as the best island in the world for a holiday! Come early and stay on a while, and you could have the most memorable couple of weeks of your life! It’s not as if you’d be among strangers – the town of Doncaster (famously known as a friendly place) has special warm feelings for people from Wilmington NC and is looking forward to welcoming some of you there on 16 September 2013.

Let me rehearse for you the details. Our Symposium starts on 16 September with an evening reception at our historic Mansion House – built in the 1740’s; it took a while to get it finished – there was a bit of a fright with Bonnie Prince Charlie marching south from Scotland, and they had to break off the work to go and deal with him! It’s not everybody who gets the chance to swan around a building like that, looking at the Adam fireplaces, the Chippendale furniture, the Peace Window, the glorious décor and all those fantastic portraits; but as a delegate to the Symposium you’ll get to see it all.

The next morning (17 September), after a Full English breakfast at your hotel, you can wander along to the town’s newest civic building, CAST, the new performance venue which is opening this year and you will be among the first to see its stunning interior. Part of the Civic & Cultural Quarter which is nearing completion, CAST stands in a field of fountains in Sir Nigel Gresley Square next to the equally new Civic Offices; incidentally, Gresley is the designer of the world’s fastest steam engine (still) which was built in Doncaster. The day’s

content is a series of plenary sessions with top-drawer speakers.

Rob Wilmot is the man who founded Freeserve and then came back to “put something back in” to his home town as, first, Chairman of 3D, a company set up at arm’s length from the Council and charged with driving the town’s economic regeneration; then he was asked to take the chair of Doncaster’s College Board; now he’s on the Board of the nation’s Government Procurement Service, but still a major figure in Doncaster life. Nigel Brewster is Vice Chairman of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (of which Doncaster is an important part) and a former President of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise; he is also the President of the Joint Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce and as such sits at the very centre of commercial & industrial affairs in our sub-region.

Doncaster is lucky to have among its three Members of Parliament, two who are members of the Shadow Cabinet, the official opposition to the Government. Ed Miliband is the Labour Party’s Leader and therefore The Leader of Her Majesty’s Opposition (the Brits are great at titles, aren’t they!). And here’s another one; Rosie Winterton is the Member for central Doncaster and she’s the Opposition Chief Whip – sets the brain racing doesn’t it! One or the other of those is hoped to be the third of our speakers, and able to give both a local and a national perspective to international relationships between towns.

The second full day of the symposium (Wednesday 18 September) is a day of workshops. We have extended invites to the four civic administrations with which we are twinned (Dandong, Gliwice, Herten and Wilmington) for their representatives to join in a debate which will highlight the differing ways in which they have tackled the economic regeneration of their towns and especially the input which innovation has made to that work. In the other stream of workshops delegates will be looking at education in an increasingly international world; speakers are invited from each of our sister cities to make their inputs on this theme and we hope that the exchange of ideas and practices will feed into the expansion of contacts among our schools. The workshops will be held at The Hub, the gleaming town centre headquarters of Doncaster’s College; and later that evening the Symposium dinner will be held there too, served by the College School of Catering, a top training establishment for British chefs and catering staff of the future.

The final day is for visiting schools and industry to taste the educational and industrial environment of Doncaster, and put flesh on the matters discussed throughout the Symposium. So an exciting few days, but how to sign up? During April we will be launching the website which will give all the details of the Symposium and will allow you to book online your attendance at the whole event (or even parts of it if all is more than you can take!). So watch this space – I will be sending all the necessary info (what's on, how to get here, where to stay etc.) through the Sister City Association pretty soon! But mark off the space in your diary – 16 through 20 September – and start exploring how much extra time around then you might give to exploring the greatest small island in the world! So see you there? Looking forward to saying hello to you!

Queen Elizabeth II Signs 2013 Commonwealth Charter

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II recovering from a brief illness was unable to participate in the inter-faith service at Westminster Abbey



on March 11. The Guardian reported that she did briefly attend the evening ceremonies where she signed the 2013 Commonwealth Charter praising the shared values of “peace, democracy, development, justice and human rights.” This marked a historical occasion since it is the first charter where the heads of all 54 governments have agreed to a set of core values that will serve to both guide and inspire future initiatives.

The annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations is held the second Monday with the exception of the Bahamas and Belize which celebrate the occasion in May. In our sister city, **San Pedro**, it will be celebrated on May 27 in 2013, a day in which banks, schools and public offices will be closed. Prior to 1958 it was known as Empire Day, a holiday which began in 1898 in Ontario [Canada] and was inspired by the sovereign's birthday. It was not officially recognized in the United Kingdom until 1904 at which time it extended throughout the countries of the Commonwealth. Each year has a theme and in 2013 it is “Opportunity through Enterprise,” which is defined as seeking enterprise solutions to global challenges.

In **Barbados**, the Royal Commonwealth Society chairperson, Sandra Seale, spoke at the festivities held at the British High Commissioner's home in honor of the occasion on March 11. The following is an excerpt from her speech as it appeared in [The Barbados Advocate]... “The theme is of course on point, as one would expect, for in the turbulent economic climate being faced here in Barbados, indeed across the globe, it behooves each one of use to share our experiences – good and bad – with young people in order to guide them in the right direction, to mentor those persons who seek our help and to instill a sense of the infinite possibilities that can arise as a result of ‘Opportunity through Enterprise.’”

Seale announced that Barbados would be observing the celebration for 2013 at their Annual Multi-Faith Observance Service planned for Sunday March 17th which would be at the St. Michael's Cathedral. Also announced was another program, Commonwealth Conversations, following the same theme as Commonwealth Day; the latter event was organized by the British High Commission in conjunction with the University of the West Indies (U.W.I.), Cave Hill Campus and would be held at the University on March 26th.

This year the Royal Commonwealth Society has partnered with the Cambridge University Press in holding its annual literary competition for young authors as part of the celebration. The contest is open to students who reside in one of the 54 Commonwealth nations and has two age categories – juniors (under 14 years of age) and seniors (14-18 years of age). The closing date for submissions is May 1, 2013 and prizes will be awarded in both age categories, which include resources for your school, a trip to London, publication of your submission. Entries are accepted in the following forms: poem, letter, article, essay, short play. The maximum number of words for juniors is 750 and 1500 for seniors. The application can be obtained on the official website for the **Royal Commonwealth Society** – www.ecrcs.org.

In Other News

Local Resident Teaches English in Eastern Europe

My Box of Chocolates by Caline Hou

Forrest Gump's mother said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." This is not the motto that characterized the first twenty-one years of my life. I'm the girl with the color-coded agenda and a plan for everything. From the moment I accepted an offer to come to Poland, I was terrified. It would be the first time I embarked on an adventure with no agenda, no plan, and little knowledge of what to expect. All I knew when I hopped on the plane was that I would be teaching English. Looking back on my past several months in Poland, I realize that Mrs. Gump was right. I truly do not know the play by play of what life has in store for me, but it is those unexpected, unplanned moments that have taught me my most valuable life lessons.

The first lesson I've learned about diving into the unexpected is that everything will work itself out in the end. With a bit of luck, and the kindness of strangers, even the most difficult situations resolve themselves. The most daunting part of my trip to Poland was getting from the airport in Warsaw to my temporary hometown of Toruń. Armed with a how-to guide from my Polish friends, I didn't think that it would be too difficult to find my way from the airport to the train station and, finally, to Toruń. I quickly discovered that the task would be more difficult than anticipated. For starters, my how-to guide gave me the name of the bus stops in English whereas the stops on the bus were written in Polish. It was like trying to decipher hieroglyphics. Luckily, the person next to me on the bus helped me find my way to the train station. After making it onto the train, I thought the rest of my trip would be smooth sailing. Unfortunately, soon after I got on the train, I realized that there was nothing on the train indicating which stops were next. I panicked. As luck would have it, I was sitting next to a group of kind women who were able to help me even though they didn't speak English. They looked at my train ticket, figured out which stop was mine, and pointed at the door when we got to Toruń. Without the generous help of the man on the bus and the women on the train, I'm not sure if I would have reached my destination but, thankfully, I ended up where I needed to be.

The second lesson I've learned from my sparsely planned trip is that unexpected situations can lead to the best souvenir – unforgettable friendships. I could never have imagined that being in Poland would have given me the opportunity to become friends with not only Polish citizens but interns from the Philippines, Russia, Brazil, and many other countries. My first several weeks here, I fell into a

routine of teaching during the weekdays and going to dinner with my Polish friends on the weekends. During my fifth week here, a connection I had made through a friend approached me with an emergency. She was in charge of a project where interns shared their culture with students in high schools and elementary schools in the area. Unfortunately, one of her interns had to leave the project and she was in need of someone to fill the empty spot immediately. Even though I was not sure what the project required of me, I agreed to fill the empty position. It was through this spur-of-the-moment decision to join this project that I was able to spend the next three weeks with interns from all over the world and meet Polish families from the community. Even though this project is now over and the interns are back in their home countries, we remain close friends, bonded from our too-short experience.



Had I been asked three months ago what I anticipated to be the scariest part of my trip to Poland, I would have said the uncertainty of my plans. Now, I realize that not having a plan for every second of my life and not knowing what life has in store for me is the best part of

my trip. Although life's unexpectedness may seem daunting at times, I have come to realize that embracing the unpredictable has led me to some of the most enriching experiences of my trip. While I'm not quite ready to throw away my planner yet, I have learned that letting go of the reins of my life can lead to unexpected, wonderful opportunities that I will always cherish and think fondly of.

Photo credit: Caline Hou "Spring on Szeoka St. in Old Town Toruń, Poland"

SCAW Elects Officers and Directors at its Annual Meeting

During the SCAW Annual Meeting three new members were elected to serve on the board of directors. Qian (Chad) Fan, a native of China, is employed as an engineer with GE-Hitachi Nuclear in Wilmington. He currently serves as board president of the Wilmington Chinese American Cultural Association and is a member of the Steering Council of the GE-Hitachi Asian Pacific American Forum. Qian will fill the unexpired term



of Ming Xu who relocated to Charlotte earlier this year. Li Tan Nichols, also a native of China and currently employed at New Hanover Regional Medical Center as a hospitalist will fill the unexpired term of Tina Roberts. Dick Airey recognized Ming for his

contributions when the Dandong delegation visited Wilmington in the spring of 2012 and Tina for her work in the area of school partnerships over the last several years.

Also elected for three-year terms was Darrell Irwin, an assistant professor in Criminology and Sociology at UNCW and Dale Smith who will lead the organization as president. Other officers included: Fenton Maxwell who will serve as vice-president and corporate secretary. Charles Goudiss, director and treasurer for the past 4 years died on March 21. There was a moment of silence in honor of his memory and Dale read a posthumous award in recognition of his service to the association which was to be presented to his family at a later date. Marilyn Cantarella, outgoing president was also recognized for her leadership and dedication over many years.

Sister Cities Commission Welcomes New Members

Shannon Moody, Director of Communications at the Port in Wilmington and SCC member, took a new position in Roanoke, VA the beginning of the year. Shannon was a tremendous asset in helping plan the inaugural sister city symposium. Both the commission and association wish her well in her new endeavors. Laura Blair, Senior Director External Affairs, has been appointed to fill Shannon's vacancy as the Port's representative.

Joe Dunton was appointed by Council to fill a community seat. Joe has dual-residency in the UK and Wilmington and is known by the film industry on both continents for his expertise in the technology that is the cornerstone of filmmaking. He is a frequent guest lecturer in the film studies program at Cape Fear Community College.

Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Joseph Hou	Anthony Pagliari III
Fenton Maxwell	Dylan Lee
Scott Czechlewski	Duke Fire
Marilyn Cantarella	Dr. Ed Paul

Upcoming Events

2013 B. Frank Hall-Megivern Interfaith Conference – "Abraham: God of Peace? God of War?" Join religion and political scholars from across the United States and North Carolina **April 11-13** as they debate the various depictions of God in sacred texts from Judaism, Christianity and Islam for the first major interfaith conference organized by the University of North Carolina Wilmington in the past 30 years. The three day event will feature speakers, a local panel of faith leaders, an interfaith peace reception and an interfaith celebration and UNCW and area hosting churches and synagogues. All events are free and open to the public. The full program with times, dates, and locations can be accessed at www.uncw.edu/par.

April 13-14 – Azalea Festival Multi-Cultural Stage Enjoy international music, dance and song at Walnut & N. Front St. from 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM both days.

June 19 – Sister Cities Association regular board meeting will convene at 5:30 PM (Location TBD – check web calendar in June). Open to the public.

June 24 – Dinner and a Movie "The Braiding of America: Barbados and the Carolinas." The screening will be in the Lord Compton Room at City Hall beginning at 6:00 PM. Dr. Jo Ann Seiple, former Dean of Language and Arts at UNCW will introduce the film and lead a Q&A. Dinner afterwards will be at Circa 1922. Advance reservations required for dinner only by email – membership@scawilmington.org