

Sister Cities News Bulletins

Doncaster Forms International Association (DIPA)

A group of citizens, which includes former Civic Mayors of Doncaster, came together to form an organization independent of the elected government to ensure that the city's international friendship links continue to flourish despite the local council's change in position to support twinning agreements. The new body is called DIPA or the Doncaster International Partnerships Association. Colin Jaynes, Executive Secretary of the DIPA board, visited Wilmington in July to open up a dialogue with Wilmington about advancing the already established relationship between our communities.

During Jaynes' brief visit, he was able to meet formally with Mayor Saffo, Mayor Pro Temp, Earl Sheridan and Sister City Commission members, including representatives from the Visitors Center & Convention Bureau, the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and the NC Ports Authority.



Pictured from far left: Stephanie Walker, Larolyn Zylicz, Stephen Meinhold, Colin Jaynes, Karen Fox, Mayor Saffo, Marilyn Cantarella and Scott Czechlewski

When Jaynes informed SCAW that he was a Rotarian, we reached out to the local Rotary Clubs to host a breakfast to discuss whether the Rotary Districts might establish informal links between the cities. Don Adkins, Lieutenant Governor for District 7730, organized an

impromptu meeting with the leadership of six clubs at Jester's Java on Castle St.



Colin Jaynes and District 7730 Presidents at Jester's Cafe

Jaynes shared his report to DIPA upon his return indicating that the City of Wilmington remains an international friend of Doncaster. As for next steps, DIPA will work with SCAW on expanding the school partnerships for the upcoming academic year. Some of which may be three-way partnerships with Poland, France and China.

Dandong Families Evacuated

According to a BBC news report on August 21, 50,000 residents of the Dandong metropolitan area were evacuated as the banks of the Yalu River flooded. The floods caused a dyke to burst and the main railway line out of the city to be cut off. Early reports indicated two hundred houses were destroyed and three people were missing. The Chinese armed forces were assisting with rescue efforts. At the August 23 Sister City Commission meeting, it was suggested that the Mayor's office send a communication expressing our concern over the welfare of Dandong's citizens.

UNCW Student Film Selected for the Belize International Film Festival

Fourteen students from UNCW Watson School of Education spent six weeks in San Pedro on a field assignment this spring. A SCAW education grant and

donated supplies enabled the students to apply their teaching skills with the added benefit of materials to enhance the curriculum.

Photo below reprinted from the San Pedro Daily: UNCW San Pedro Program Coordinator, Dennis Kubasko, presents check to school officials on behalf of SCAW.



One of the requirements of the assignment is to take on a community service project. UNCW students - Anna Smith, Natalie Kilby, and Jeanne

Hennessy - worked on producing a documentary short on the story of a musically gifted student at San Pedro High School (SPHS), Derrick Banos. SPHS was one of the sites where teacher candidates were assigned. The film attempts to capture the emerging personality and talents of this young man. It includes the people who have been influential in his life as he refines his musical gift and goes on to capture this community's quest to send him to a prestigious summer camp in the US where they hope, he will be discovered. The film was selected for inclusion in the Belize International Film Festival scheduled for late July. The Wilmington premier of "Derrick Banos: Belizean Talent Knocking on Opportunity's Door" originally scheduled for September 27 has been postponed. Check for updates on the SCAW International Film program on our web site.

Bridgetown Constituency Council Formed

The Bridgetown Constituency Council was formed this spring and Msgr. Vincent Blackett of St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church was selected as chairman. Blackett was named Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, which is the first time this honor was bestowed on a Barbadian priest. The Council will provide the conduit for cultural and educational exchanges between Wilmington and Bridgetown. Constituency Councils were established and defined by the central government in Barbados – "A Constituency Council is a legally established body of local representatives, who have been appointed and given authority to voice the concerns of the residents of the Constituency; to maintain links with the Central Government and other agencies; and to effectively and efficiently manage resources for the development of the given constituency." For news and events sponsored by the Constituency Councils you can go to the following web site: www.empoweringcommunities.com.bb.

Commission Updates

The Sister City Commission elected Dr. Stephen Meinhold as chair at its June meeting. Meinhold is Associate Dean of Research at UNCW and teaches Public Administration courses in the graduate school.

The Quaim'makam Mahood Khalaf Al Bomahdi of Samarra, Iraq, made a second visit to Wilmington on August 5. The respective City Councils may consider a formal twinning down the road.



Young people who want to write about the importance of peace to the individual as well as the world are invited to enter the "Harmony for Humanities Literary Contest," a writing competition that was announced in conjunction with the celebration of the United Nations International Youth Day on August 12. The contest is open to high school students and college students in New Hanover County and Wilmington's sister cities around the globe. Students are asked to pen essays, personal narratives, or poems on the topic of peace in order to "envision a more peaceful future that includes respect and quality for all." The deadline for the contest is Friday, October 8 at 5 PM. Winners will be recognized at the Daniel Pearl World Music Days concert that will be held on October 24. Full details are available on the web site – www.scawilmington.org.

Upcoming Events

OCT 24 – *Harmony for Humanity* concert will be held at St. Mary Church. S. Fifth Ave. & Ann St. from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM. Free.

NOV 16 – *Lunch with No Boundaries International Artists* will be held on Bald Head Island at noon. Meet at the Bald Head Island Ferry in Southport at 10:30 am. Cost: \$25.00 per person for non-members and \$22.50 for members. For information on how to make a reservation and purchase tickets visit our web site.

NOV 18 – *2nd Annual Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration and Fundraiser*. Location: Community Arts Center, S. 2nd & Orange St. Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$25.00

NOV 20 – *No Boundaries International Artist Reception & Show* will be held at Acme Art Studios, 711 N. Fifth Ave. from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Free.