



## Sister Cities News

### Wilmington and San Pedro Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wilmington Councilwoman Margaret Haynes and Sister City Commission Chair Marilyn Cantarella received a warm reception during their visit to San Pedro to commemorate the two cities 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A business meeting was held on arrival day [May 10] with Mayor Guererro and San Pedro Council Members so the rest of the time could be more social. There was a good exchange of the history of the relationship and how much San Pedro has changed over the past decade. The University of North Carolina in Wilmington continues to have a strong partnership with the Belize education system and education majors come to the island every spring to complete their field assignment while soaking up some of the local culture.

The Mayor hosted a formal dinner at Ramon's Village, a popular island resort, on Wednesday evening to celebrate the friendship between the two cities. Council members and their spouses attended as well as several senior staff. Each city exchanged a plaque and certificate that honored the history of the partnership while toasting the future deepening of the relationships between people, institutions and governments. Earlier in the day Councilwoman Haynes and Ms. Cantarella met with board members of the San Pedro Lions Club to discuss ways in which they could work together. The Lions Club has a distinct mission but also serves many other needs in the community. The Lions Club served as the vehicle to distribute aid to residents and businesses impacted by the fire last summer to which the Wilmington community contributed money. There



restore what was lost in the disaster.

was an opportunity during the visit to go to the neighborhood impacted to see the progress being made to

Other stops included a visit to Isla Bonita Primary School, San Pedro High School and the new soccer field (photo see previous column). Not far from the athletic stadium is the municipal garage where Orlando Flores was busy at work. Flores had come to Wilmington nine years ago to learn how to operate and maintain the street sweeper donated to San Pedro town by Wilmington. Wilmington delegates were invited to the



local Rotary lunch and delivered a presentation on the history of the two cities linkages. The newly formed Rotary would be celebrating its first anniversary later in the month. (left to right: Mayor Danny, Marilyn Cantarella, Councillor Ancona, & Orlando Flores)

The last day was an extraordinary experience as the delegation accompanied by Councillor Gonzalez and township administrator, Patricia Tillett, toured the Maya Site National Park. Jan Brown, community leader and founding member of the non-profit organization, was on hand to deliver presentation on the pieces that have been uncovered dating back 200 AD. Afterwards, a walking tour of the mounds provided an in-depth look into Mayan life. The footbridge used to access the site over the mangroves marshland was constructed by Scott Simmons' team. Dr.



Above: Jan Brown sharing the story of the Mayan Trading Post on the tip of Ambergris Caye

Simmons teaches archeology at UNCW and continues to offer field assignments in Belize for those interested in Maya history. The project is still in its infancy and more recently focused on raising the funds needed to construct a visitor/education center at the site. Anyone interested in learning how they can help with this effort, contact Jan directly - [janbrownbz@hotmail.com](mailto:janbrownbz@hotmail.com).

The day ended at the Annual Teachers and Nurses Banquet held at the San Pedro High School (SPHS). Councillor Severo Guerrero, Jr. served as master of ceremonies. There was food, games, prizes and, of course, dancing. Live music was provided by San Pedro's Rampe Raja Band of which Councillor Gonzalez was the lead vocalist. Mayor Guerrero, an alumnus of SPHS, praised the services provided by teachers and medical professionals to the residents of San Pedro. Emil Vasquez, Principal SPHS, closed the program and recognized with obvious pride, one of his teachers, Paul Kelly, who had recently been honored by the Ministry of Education as "teacher of the year."

word from Dandong was.... " Harry was very 'smart' and taught us some American expressions that are not part of the standard curriculum."



## Wilmington Student Visits Dandong



Left to right: Li Ting, Xing Chunlong, Harry Shaheen, Chen Deyuan

Harry Shaheen contacted Sister Cities in early spring about his summer plans in China. A central purpose of the trip was to teach English in Baotou (Inner Mongolia) but there would be several weeks in advance of his teaching commitment to travel through parts of the country starting in Beijing. Shaheen thought a stop in Dandong might be interesting since we were sister cities and it would provide an opportunity for a people to people exchange.

Shaheen is currently a student at Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington and certified in Mandarin through the Confucius Institute. He volunteered his time in Baotou at a school that offered extracurricular classes for students preparing to study in the US.



While in Dandong he spoke with the representatives of its foreign affairs department about how to expand cooperation between our two cities in various fields. The Department of Foreign Affairs hosted a reception for Shaheen, and took him on a tour of the Hushan Great Wall as well as a cruise on the Yalu River. The

## Doncaster Council Proposes £15m Library Project

Below: computer generated image of proposed new library upon completion



Doncaster hopes to construct a 49,000 sq. ft. facility at the Chequer Road location of the former Girls' High School. The project will pay homage to the history of the school, circa 1910, which later merged with Doncaster Boys Grammar School. While some may wonder why build libraries in the digital age, the project is consistent with Doncaster's vision for creating a city that is attractive for people to live, work, invest in, and visit.

Once completed, the building will include a museum and art gallery, a central library and space for archives. Currently these cultural, learning and research functions are spread out over multiple locations. Exhibits showcasing Doncaster railways, horseracing, mining and Roman history that are the cornerstone of the city can be on display at the new center and attract visitors as well as inspiring ideas.

The Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the project and has suggested the City consult with business leaders about what the building should deliver to support the needs of the private sector and local economy.

The project once approved is expected to begin the middle of next year and be operational early 2020.

## And the Winner is Vladimar Krietskikh

2017 Finn World Masters hosted by the Barbados Yacht Club was a big hit according to participants from around the world. Commenting on the glorious and sometimes challenging conditions, “big winds, big waves and big wind shifts,” participants said they will be back. The second place



winner was Laurent Hay from France. Next year the location will be Nautica El Balis in Barcelona, Spain. (photo credit: Finn World Masters)



## Citizen to 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.

Charles Blanton  
Marilyn Cantarella  
Shanhong Luo  
Tracy Corle  
UNCW OIP  
Juliana Tremaglio  
Patricia Tillett  
Gary Grief  
Ruben Gonzalez  
Gabriel Nunez  
Melanie Paz  
Xing Chunlong  
Li Ting  
Elijah's

Scott Czechlewski  
Chad Fan  
Maria Goudiss  
Margaret Haynes  
Michael Wilhelm  
Melanie Tremaglio  
Mayor Guerrero  
Hector Alamilla  
Severo Guerrero  
Jan Brown  
Baldemar Granziel  
Chen Deyuan  
Slice of Life Pizza

## Other News

### Sister City Commission

Derrick Miller, associate professor of German at UNCW was recently appointed to the commission. He previously taught at Grinnell College and Duke University. Dr. Miller leads the intensive summer German language course in Bremen [Germany] and offers advanced courses in German Fairy Tales. He is interested in strengthening ties between Wilmington and Bremen (Bremen is twinned with 9 cities, none of which are in the US).

### City Bids Farewell to Outgoing Class of International Students



Mayor Saffo and City Council mingled with the international students as they wrapped up their time in Wilmington at the university. The Mayor granted an 'Honorary Citizen' status to the outgoing class of International students on April 18.

Shanhong Luo organized the event with support from the Sister Cities Association, Elijah's Restaurant and

Slice of Life Pizza. After socializing and having a bite to eat, students either attended the City Council meeting or participated in a walking tour of the historic district led by Dan Camacho. Dan and retired librarian, Beverly Tetterton, created an app you can download on your phone to do a self-guided walking tour. (photo credits: UNCW-OIP)

### Upcoming Events

**Aug 3** (Thurs) **Israeli Scouts Perform in Wilmington** beginning at 7:30 PM at the Hannah Block USO Building on Second St. Free and open to the public. You won't want to miss meeting these ten talented teenagers and their leaders traveling across North America using song, dance and stories to share friendship and love for Israel.

**Sept 18** (Mon) Join Sister Cities for a sundown river cruise around Eagle Island where the Gullah worked on an early rice plantation. The one hour trip on the Cape Fear will feature local historian John Haley as narrator. The boat departs at 7 PM and the cost is \$10. Arrive 15 minutes before departure to pay and board (Riverwalk between Orange & Ann Streets).

**Oct 22** (Sun) Screening of Bernardo Bertolucci's epic film, "**The Last Emperor of China**" beginning at 1:30 PM at the NHC Main Library. CFA student, Harry Shaheen will share some insights from his visit to Dandong this summer. The movie is a matinee and popcorn will be available. Please rsvp at membership@scawilmington.org.