



Sister Cities of Wilmington, NC is proud to announce our 2012 World Music Days Event—www.danielpearlmusicdays.org



PEACE THROUGH MUSIC CONCERT

Join us for an eclectic evening of music, word, dance and song!

Sunday, October 21, 2012

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church

Ann St. & Fifth Ave. Wilmington, NC

Time: 5:30 PM (doors open at 5:00)

Featuring – New Beginning Dance in Motion, Suzuki Talent Education, Pedro Esparza, Wilmington Symphony Youth Orchestra, Girls' Choir of Wilmington, B'Nai Israel Kavanotes, Carolina Vocal Arts Ensemble & GLOW Hand Mime Ministry

Sister Cities News Bulletins

Belizeans Celebrate Independence Day – September 21

On behalf of the Sister Cities Association Board of Directors and the Sister City Commission we would like to wish all Belizeans and especially San Pedranos a future where everyone benefits from the rewards that a safe stable democracy provides for all its citizens.

Marilyn Cantarella, Board President

Making the World Smaller – Interview with Dandong native Cindy Zi Li



Wilmington Mayor Saffo & Dandong native Cindy Zi Li

How did you arrive at the decision to choose business as your major at the University of Washington? I have been getting a lot of exposure to business world under the influence of my parents. I am very passionate about the language and the world of business. University of Washington has one of the best business schools in the nation. The school offered me freshman direct admission (means the admission to business

school without submitting application) plus a fair amount of scholarship, so I jumped on the opportunity.

We talked about future plans and you indicated your desire to live and work in the US after graduation. Given recent reforms in China's economic structure is there a particular reason you feel there are more or better opportunities for you in America? I prefer to work in the US after graduation for the following two reasons – higher wages and I have already begun to build networks in professional field in the US rather than in China.

Telecommuting has been rising in the US and much of Europe over the last few decades. In recent years China has experimented with some Western business practices and employees in certain instances have been able to work remotely from home or another location where they don't interface directly with a supervisor. Do you see a potential for this to grow in China given the cultural implications? Yes definitely.

Having spent two months in Southeast North Carolina for your internship how would you describe what you have learned about Southern culture and how it differs from Dandong and the Pacific Northwest where you call home these days. From what I have observed here in Burgaw, people are very friendly and laid back. While in Seattle life is a lot more stressed and faster paced. Culture in Dandong is entirely different than US culture. Dandong has a population of over 2 million, although is considered to be a very small city in China. Relatively speaking, Dandong has more skyscrapers than L.A or Portland or most big cities in the Pacific Northwest.

The Western diet is considerably different from China. Do you have a favorite American food? Steak.

What do you like to do in your free time? If you were still in Dandong, would you be doing the same things outside of school/work? Shopping, hanging out with friends, driving. I wouldn't drive in Dandong. There's basically no traffic rules or stop signs in Dandong. Driving in Dandong is like risking my life. However, if you can manage driving in Dandong, you can manage driving in any other country in the world.

What cities/countries would you most like to travel to in the future for work or pleasure?

I would like to stay in Seattle or go to NYC or San Francisco or Hong Kong for work. Stay busy and stay competitive. I would love to travel to Europe for pleasure.

Editor's note -Cindy spent the summer interning in Burgaw NC at Coastal Instruments. The company with locations across the US and in Dandong resulted in a work/study opportunity for Ms. Li. She is presently a second year student at the University of Washington [Seattle] majoring in business and was interviewed for this article on Aug. 25 in Wilmington.

International partnerships – the future?

Contributing writer- Mike Gallafent, Doncaster, UK

Since my schooldays I have been an advocate of international partnerships and exchanges. My interest in the German language and culture stemmed from my experience of exchanging letters and visits with German partners whilst at secondary school. I had also very much enjoyed a rugby exchange with a partner school in Wales. For this reason when I became a teacher of French and German I tried to ensure that as many pupils as possible had the opportunity to speak with a Foreign Language Assistant on a regular basis and I also set up exchange links with schools in France and Germany. My school [Don Valley Academy] was one of only very few of the 17 secondary schools in Doncaster that was able to offer exchange visits of this nature. Although the programme with the German school ran successfully for more than 20 years, from 2001 it became unsustainable as a consequence of a fall in pupil numbers and new legislation regarding risk assessments with the increased threat of litigation, even for minor incidents. Some schools and other organisations such as the Doncaster Youth Jazz Association do still continue to run successful exchanges with schools or organisations in other countries but this has now become quite rare.

Exchanges involving schools and other organisations within Europe can be conducted with little need for outside funding (although a limited number of grants are available for specific types of projects). Similar intercontinental ventures are also possible, although transport is more expensive. All board and accommodation is provided on a reciprocal basis and, however short the duration of the visits, they are generally much more beneficial and rewarding than organised tours. They do, of course, depend very much on the dedication and commitment of the organisers over a long period of time and also require the wholehearted support of the head teacher and other members of staff.

With modern technological capabilities, which now exist within most schools there is the opportunity to conduct a virtual exchange, through e-twinning arrangements, with regular contact with partner schools using skype or equivalent. The success of this is evident in the splendid links which Shaw Wood and Edlington Victoria Primary schools in Doncaster have with schools in Wilmington. However this could never replace the experience of being totally immersed for a period of weeks in the everyday family life and culture of a different country.

Unfortunately I see little prospect in the immediate future of a general improvement to the current situation, until those with the authority to do so provide educational establishments with more freedom and encouragement to offer opportunities to form links or partnerships. It used to be a fairly common occurrence for teachers to exchange home and employment with foreign colleagues for a period of weeks, months or even a year and I have known of various instances in the past where head teachers or other members of a leadership team have been released to exchange with a counterpart from a school in another country, which could spread to whole school involvement, perhaps incorporating music, sports or drama groups. At present, however, I am afraid that priorities in this country are too restricted to the requirement of specific formal academic outcomes for this to happen. With the position of English as a world language, for those who speak it as a mother tongue foreign languages are not considered to be an integral part of the school curriculum. Within Europe there is also much resentment and rivalry between different nations, often encouraged by the media, arising from international sporting competitions and the demands of membership of the European Union.

For international partnerships to grow and flourish there needs to be greater positive communication between people of different nations, encouraged by politicians and publicised through the media. The partnership needs to be managed by a dedicated team, under the leadership of at least one influential and respected individual. The existence of DIPA and other similar associations, such as SCAW, is only a start in the process, but it is a significant step forwards.

Editors Note: The writer taught at Don Valley Academy in Doncaster where he headed the Modern Foreign Language Department. In his retirement Mr. Gallafent remains active in the education arena as a school governor with a specialized school for children with mild learning disabilities.

SCAW Seeks Board Nominees SCAW is just beginning the nominations process for 2013. There are three board positions to fill. The board meets four times a year plus the Annual Meeting in March. Anyone interested in serving or may want to recommend a friend or colleague but needs further information, please contact the SCAW president, Marilyn Cantarella - marilyn@scawilmington.org

Commission Updates The Commission has been working on a reorganizational plan that will achieve better integration between the Commission and the Association in developing sister city programs and to make the most efficient use of limited resources.

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.

Dr. Pete Schuhmann	Dr. Elizabeth Hines
Downtown Rotary	Rick Lawson
Jack Manoch	William Fuller Jr.
William Fuller Sr.	Eric Wade
Randy Shackelford	Ashley Pate
Slice of Life Pizza	Elijah's Restaurant
Melanie Tremaglio	Ann Erb

Upcoming Events

Oct 21 – *Peace through Music Concert*

Location: St. Mary Church, Fifth Ave. Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Nov 8 – SCAW will host a luncheon at Riverboat Landing for the international filmmakers following the Cucalorus Global Perspectives program from 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Cost: SCAW members \$10 non-members \$12 (cash or check). Reservations required no later than 11/7 by phone 343-5226 or membership@scawilmington.org. The International Film Festival runs from November 8-11. More details about festival activities and the schedule can be found at: www.cucalorus.org

Nov 11 – *Dinner and a Movie* Join SCAW for a screening at Thalian Hall and dinner afterwards at the trendy new Rx Restaurant. Tickets are \$35.00 for SCAW members & \$37.50 non-members.

*Wilmington & New Hanover County Officially
Welcome UNCW International Students*

