



Sister Cities News Bulletins

San Pedro High School Students & Faculty Spend Easter Break in US



Twenty-five San Pedro High School (SPHS) students had the opportunity to travel to the US for a sports exchange with Northside High School in Pender County [NC]. The trip was filled with excitement. In addition to learning some tips to improve their skills for the next basketball and volleyball season, they traveled to Washington, DC, to take in the sights and were treated to a tour and lunch on the USS North Carolina Battleship. Consulate General, Dr. Ed Paul, arranged for the side trip to Wilmington.

The students worked hard to raise funds to cover travel expenses for the trip, holding radio-thons and raffles to reach their goal of \$10,000. SPHS Athletic Director, Paul Kelly, expressed what a great opportunity for these young athletes to experience life outside Belize, both on the court and off.



Photos courtesy of Belize Consulate General, Dr. Ed Paul

Barbados Consul General Travels to Wilmington for 10th Anniversary of Twinning

Mayor Bill Saffo extended an invitation to Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Senator Maxine McClean, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement between

Bridgetown and Wilmington. Minister McClean sent her regrets for the June invitation due to scheduling conflicts and asked Colin Mayers, the country's Consul General for 11 states in the southeast and south central US, to represent her for the ceremonies.

Mr. Mayers, based out of Miami, arrived in Wilmington on June 4 and was greeted on arrival at the airport by New Hanover Deputy County Manager, Avril Pinder, who is a native of Barbados. The first stop was City Hall for a meet and greet with mayor and council. After which the General Consul was presented with a plaque recognizing the 10th anniversary of the relationship between the two cities during the Council meeting.



The following morning, Kim Hufham, CEO of the Tourism Authority, met with Mayers over breakfast at the Hilton. Tourism is a significant part of the economies in both places and an area for potential cooperation and as well as sharing best practices.



From the Hilton Mayers went on to the University of North Carolina – Wilmington (UNCW) where he was joined by several academics from Barbados who are now living and working in the Carolinas. Dr. Denise Di Puccio, head of international programs for UNCW, led the delegation on a tour which included the Cameron School of Business and the Computer Sciences building, as well as the Watson School of

Education, where several international programs reside. Following the tour, there was a luncheon and opportunities to network. That evening, Dr. Denis Carter, retired UNCW faculty member, hosted a dinner meeting with Mayers to discuss a highly successful youth entrepreneurship program run out of the Cameron School of Business, which may be of interest to Barbados in preparing its youth for a changing economy. Dinner was at a restaurant on the inter-coastal waterway as the sun was setting, providing another view of what Wilmington has to offer its residents and guests.

Thursday morning was an early start, City Clerk, Penny Sidbury Spicer picked up the delegation for a trip to Gregory School of Science and Mathematics to meet with principal, Krista Holland. Primary and secondary school exchanges have been an area of focus for Sister Cities for several years now to address globalization. After touring the magnet school downtown, Dean Patrick Hogan, Autumn McGimsey, Chair of the International Committee, and Dean Heath took over the tour and provided an overview of the Health Sciences and Marine Sciences programs at Cape Fear Community College (CFCC). Mayers was impressed with the state of the art facilities at CFCC and had the opportunity to go aboard the Cape Hatteras, which the school purchased from Duke University for its marine sciences program in 2013.



The downtown tour concluded with a lunch in the recently completed Union Station before heading out to the north campus to visit the programs offered there. Mayers, a former commercial pilot with Carib West Airlines, was transported to ILM Airport for a meeting with airport director, Jon Rosborough. One topic of discussion was the possibility of a seasonal charter flight to Barbados from Wilmington. American Airlines being the dominant carrier to the island recently dropped its direct flights from NY to Barbados, but it is rumored that the direct flights will resume down the road. With so much information to absorb and not much time to check messages or catch 40 winks, the day concluded with a celebratory dinner at a restaurant on the riverfront. The dinner

was attended by Mayor Saffo, Council members Laura Padgett, Earl Sheridan, Kevin O'Grady, and Charlie Rivenbark; as well as community leaders and members of both the Sister Cities Commission and Association.

Friday morning was the last tour on the itinerary for the anniversary visit. John Hayes, director of the Wilmington based Foreign Trade Promotion Council and SCC board member, Marilyn Cantarella, accompanied Mayers to the Port facilities where he was greeted by new CEO, Paul Cozza. The tour covered all facets of the operating port and future plans to build cold storage facilities on site, which is a public-private initiative.

The week's activities went beyond Colin's expectations, and on leaving he said, "There is a lot of information to pass on to Minister Mc Clean when she returns from Paraguay. I do see opportunities for future cooperation and collaboration in the relationship between Wilmington and Bridgetown."

On the lighter side, SCAW board member, Fenton Maxwell, was able to secure an autographed pendant with the new Hammerhead logo for Colin to bring home as a remembrance of his visit. Colin is a serious soccer fan and was disappointed that he had to return to Miami missing the Hammerhead's Friday night home game. In honor of our visitor and the World Cup tournament taking place through July 13, we included this photo of Wilmington's home team for you, Colin!



Dandong, Gliwice and Wilmington Secondary School Students Meet Up over Geometry

This spring, math teacher David Kesler of Laney High School in Wilmington partnered with other teachers in sister cities to give his students the opportunity to interact with others in classrooms across the globe. Mrs. Saibei Li of Dandong, China, and Mrs. Aleksandra Szczepanik of Gliwice, Poland, joined Mr. Kesler in the creation of an online collaborative environment. Using the online resource Edmodo, a social media outlet designed specifically for educators and their classes, students

communicated with one another and posted photos to introduce each other to their home towns.

Overcoming the language barrier using the free translation resource offered by Google, students used these photographs to initiate conversations, and it did not take long for them to warm up to each other. Mathematics does not lend itself easily to global learning opportunities, but through their Edmodo group, these students in Wilmington, Gliwice, and Dandong engaged in mathematical discourse. Students were excited and even surprised to discover that others across the world were learning the same mathematical principals, reinforcing their universal nature.

The intention of the online classroom was to build a collaborative lesson in which students use the photographs of local buildings and structures to determine their surface area and volume. Unfortunately, due to conflicting schedules and the late starting date, the U.S. school year ended before the conclusion of the project. Moving forward, Mr. Kesler is grateful for the partnership he has developed with his colleagues in Poland and China and looks forward to future collaborative efforts with their students.





Photos (top to bottom) Gliwice (Poland), Wilmington (US), Dandong (China)

Commission Updates

Autumn Mc Gimsey, political science instructor and chair of the international committee at CFCC, was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Carol Cullum's retirement from the college. Autumn assisted with the recent visit of the Barbados Consul General.

The Commission will be working with the association in developing a plan for a sister cities garden to present to the City for inclusion in the overall design for the parcel of land purchased on the north end of the river front for green space.

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.

Darrell Irwin	Fenton Maxwell
Marilyn Cantarella	Kim Hufham
Maria Goudiss	Krista Holland
Penny Sidbury-Spicer	Autumn Mc Gimsey
Patrick Hogan	Dean Heath
CFCC	UNCW

Denise Di Puccio	John G. Hayes
Max Allen	Jenni Harris
Laura Blair	Paul Cozza
Tom Guthrie	Avril Pinder
Keith Parker	Joe Dunton
Mayor Saffo	Wilmington City Council
Sterling Cheatham	Tracy Corle
Mark Ward	Denis Carter
Jon Rosborough	

Upcoming Events

AUG 25 – SCAW Dinner Program will start in the Downtown Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM where we will learn about China's recent urbanization plan. Dr. Chen, UNCW History Professor and expert in the PRC's rural economy will be our guest speaker. Dinner and discussion will follow at Elijah's Restaurant on the riverfront.

SEPT 2 – *UNCW International Student Reception* will be held from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM at City Hall downtown. This is a "members only" event - Be sure to stop by to welcome our international visitors along with our elected officials while enjoying light refreshments and interesting conversation.

OCT 19 – *Peace through Music Concert*
Location: St. Mary Church, Fifth Ave. Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed for event management - upcoming student reception and concert among other association activities. If you can help, contact marilyn@scawilmington.org. There are also two board vacancies that need to be filled. Anyone interested and has prior board experience, send an email to: membership@scawilmington.org