



Back To School



2016 Global Education Conference

A free week-long online event bringing together educators and innovators from around the globe will be held Sunday, Nov. 13 through Wednesday,

Nov. 16, 2016 (Nov. 17th in some time zones).

The entire virtual conference will be held online using the Blackboard Collaborate platform. The Global Education Conference is a collaborative, inclusive, world-wide community initiative involving students, educators, and organizations at all levels. It is designed to significantly increase opportunities for building education-related connections around the globe while supporting cultural awareness and recognition of diversity.

The conference seeks to present ideas, examples, and projects related to connecting educators and classrooms with a strong emphasis on promoting global awareness, fostering global competency, and inspiring action towards solving real-world problems. Through this event, attendees will challenge themselves and others to become more active citizens of the world. Participants are encouraged to learn, question, create, and engage in meaningful, authentic opportunities within a global context.

The call for proposals for the 2016 conference will open **August 1, 2016**. Presenters can submit proposals for general sessions focused on four possible tracks: Teachers, Students, Curriculum, and Leadership. Proposals should focus on ideas, projects, and initiatives that promote global understanding and collaboration. The final deadline for submissions is **November 1, 2016**, and presenters will be notified of acceptance on a rolling basis starting immediately.

To submit a proposal or to register go to –
www.globaleducationconference.com

Will Languages Disappear?



According to UNESCO and other reliable sources, if nothing is done half of the world's languages will disappear by the end of this century. Looking at just the United States, there were 280 languages spoken in the 17th century; now there are 115. The movement of people over time and urbanization has resulted in people speaking the dominant language in their adopted community in order to advance socially and economically. What is being done to prevent languages from becoming extinct in this century and encouraging bilingualism?

The University of Edinburgh has a relatively new program connecting Mandarin speakers with first grade classrooms as part of Scotland's 1-2 Language Learning project. An earlier study (2012) concluded that the younger children are exposed to a second language the more receptive they are to bi-lingual learning. The program utilizes international students from the university working in primary schools that opt to participate in the program. The pilot was launched in the 2015 fall term. The first language they are exposed to is Mandarin since 5-year-olds would not see the language as being too challenging and they are still in the birth to age four accelerated mode of learning. A second foreign language will be introduced to the same students when they reach 5th grade.

The university students feel good about the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom. One of the early project

volunteers said, "It is hard to come to a new country and being in the classroom teaching my language and culture makes me feel I have something valuable to offer."

This initiative is part of the Scotland China Education Network in partnership with Bilingualism Matters. Bilingualism Matters is a research program housed at the University of Edinburgh that studies bilingualism and language learning. Some recent research has centered not only on the benefits of language learning for child development but the slowing of cognitive aging. Findings from Bilingualism Matters research served as the impetus for the government's commitment to launching the 1-2 Language Learning program in the public school system. To learn more visit – www.bilingualism-matters.ppls.ed.ac.uk.

Inspire Children to Tackle Real World Issues

Design Squad Global Clubs connect 10- to 13-year-olds in out-of-school programs around the world, allowing them to use their imaginations and analytical problem-solving skills and to discover that engineering is for everyone!

The clubs are designed to have a partner club in another country, offering Sister Cities International members an exciting new way to connect. By working alongside their partner club, children develop "global competency"—the ability to communicate and collaborate with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives.

The next sign-up date for either a 6 or 12 week program is December 15. DSG will find a partner from another country for your club. Weekly sessions of one hour are suggested and the ideal size of the group is 9-12 members. You will need reliable access to the Internet and a device for taking photos or videos. Inexpensive supplies will also be needed for the hands-on activities.

North Carolina State University and NC A&T State University College of Engineering are among the many community partners with PBS Kids in this initiative. For more information or starting a DSG Club in your school contact Saranya_Sathananthan@wgbh.org

Are you ready to inspire a future generation of engineers and creative thinkers?

Note: Sister Cities International featured the DSG Club initiative in its August newsletter

Atlas Corps English Teaching Fellowships

The Atlas Corps English Teaching Fellowship is an English teaching opportunity in Colombia for emerging professionals. They have opportunities throughout 2017 and are actively recruiting for January.

This English teaching opportunity is a collaboration between [Volunteers COLOMBIA](#), [Heart for Change](#) and [Atlas Corps](#). It is a full-time teaching opportunity where native or near-native English speakers are taught the methodology to provide bilingual education in Colombia. Benefits include a living stipend, health insurance, teacher training, ongoing professional development, the ability to gain first-hand experience in international development and engagement in the global Atlas Corps network of over 500 leaders from 76 countries!

Eligibility: Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 50, have a Bachelor's degree (or above), be native English speakers or native-like proficiency, have at least basic Spanish language skills (they encourage all levels of Spanish to apply), and have an interest in serving in an educational environment (they will provide the methodology, you provide the inspiration and energy). For more information or to apply contact: infoColumbia@atlascorps.org

San Pedro Recovers from Earl

After the fire that destroyed two city blocks in the central district the end of June, Hurricane Earl made landfall on August 3. Property damage was estimated to be in the millions but fortunately no lives were lost as a result of the storm. Reports indicate at one point there were somewhere near 400 people in the three shelters that had been set up (San Pedro High School, San Pedro RC Primary School & New Horizon 7th Day Adventist Church School).

Dale Duquett - Owner, Dock's Tiki Bar and Grill

"San Pedro is a very tourist motivated town so if we hear of beaches that aren't beautiful and dive shops that are not operating, yes I think we're going to take a pretty serious hit. Fortunately, if you want to call it that, we're in slow season right now so there's not a big influx of tourism going on right now, so that's a little bit of a blessing in the situation. But in terms of clean up, it's been truly amazing. People instantaneously came out yesterday and started cleaning up."



Photo credit: Tres Cocos Neighborhood the Morning After - Robert Hawkins

Most of the residential damage was in the San Mateo neighborhood. Many tourists will recall the number of docks along the coastline most of which are either severely damaged or gone completely. The Consulates office in Miami immediately set up a GoFundMe page to help with immediate needs and getting people back into their homes.

SCAW organized a local appeal to assist with the fire disaster and was able to contribute \$1,000 to the San Pedro Lions Club to provide direct aid to those impacted by the earlier disaster that struck this small community.

SCI Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Sister Cities International celebrated 60 years at the Annual Meeting this July in Washington, DC.

The milestone conference included dozens of inspiring experts from the fields of diplomacy, cities, international affairs, and more. Those in attendance selected workshops on a broad range of topics including: smart and resilient cities, peace and security, tourism, cultural diplomacy, young professional engagement, city brand management, digital communications, international protocol, the economic benefits of sister cities, tax benefits of charitable donations, and grantwriting.

The importance of citizen diplomacy was reinforced by Secretary of State John Kerry at a meeting with students at Indiana University in Bloomington last

October. Some of his comments from that meeting on the topic were shared on his blog... *"Forging mutual understanding leads to building bridges between peoples. Whether through trade, art, music, food or sports, the many common interests that people share transcend boundaries and lead to lasting peace. The security of our nation depends upon what happens far beyond our shores. If we cannot maintain peace abroad, we are not assured of peace and prosperity at home."*



Photo credit: SCI Opening Ceremony 2016 Conference

International Protocol Seminar Registration Deadline Oct. 8

Sister Cities and its partners, the UNCW Office of International Programs and the Consulate General of Belize, are planning a full day program focused on the rules of international protocol between governments, institutions, as well as between companies and their representatives.

The training will be held on Thursday, October 13 from 8 AM to 4 PM in the Fisher University Union on campus. The facilitator/trainer is Lawrence Dunham, an associate with The Protocol Partners in Washington, DC. Mr. Dunham served as the US Assistant Chief of Protocol for the State Department for 16 years before joining the firm.

The training will cover everything from formal ceremonies and diplomacy to executive etiquette. Register online at www.scawilmington.org.

Peace through Music Concert 2016

We invite you to join us on October 30 at the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary in Wilmington to pay tribute to all the individual performing artists and groups, young and old, who use the power of music to lift people of

different backgrounds and beliefs above the differences that set us apart. Journalist Danny Pearl was one of those who made friends through his music everywhere he lived and worked around the world. His parents formed a foundation after his death with the goals of inspiring unity and friendship through music, countering cultural and religious intolerance, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, and cultivating responsible and balanced journalism. Sister Cities of Wilmington continues the tradition began by the Pearl family in fostering peace.

We are very fortunate to have an array of talented musicians, vocalists, mimes and dancers representing many genres come together to perform for the community. The program for this year includes: Massive Grass, Julia Walker Jewell Jazz Quartet, the Snow Gospel Choir, the Wilmington Ballet & Theater Company, B'nai Israel Kava Notes, Dr. Clark Spencer (viola), the Suzuki Talent Education of Wilmington, and Marva Robinson (soprano). The concert is free and family friendly. The doors open at 5:00 PM and the program begins promptly at 5:30. We hope to see you there!

SCAW Recognizes Fenton Maxwell

Fenton Maxwell whom you probably remember most for his charming Scottish accent has left the East coast for the West! Fenton stepped up to serve as board president for the association when Darrell Irwin left for a new opportunity in Wuhan City, China. He has done an admirable job with practically no time to scratch his head and think about what this all requires. And now we bid him adieu as he begins his next journey.

We will miss him at the Friday night Hammerheads game but they're going too, or so it has been reported. Fenton smiled easily and always brought enthusiasm to whatever new project the board was considering or actively working on.

Thank you for your contribution to Sister Cities and being a good ambassador for Wilmington. We wish you the very best in your new position and look forward to seeing you on future visits to the area.

Best wishes, George, Chad, Shanhong, Marilyn, Charles, Rachel, Harry, Tony and Kerry

At its September meeting, the SCAW board formally elected Tony Ventimiglia to assume the role of president until the next Annual Meeting in March 2017. Nominations to fill three seats are currently being solicited on the board. Please send recommendations with bios to: membership@scawilmington.org

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.

Fenton Maxwell
Marilyn Cantarella
George Schell
Todd Tremaglio

Scott Czechlewski
Chad Fan
Maria Goudiss

Upcoming Events

Oct 12 (Wed) NC Foreign Trade Promotion Council Annual Conference will offer a full day of keynote speakers, panelists and access to experts to help you make global connections. For more information and registration for this event visit www.ncftpc.com

Oct 13 (Thur) Protocol Training – Full day of training designed to help attendees with the basics of international protocol between governments, organizations and business entities. Cost for the day includes lunch and all materials \$45 SCAW or NCFTPC members/\$55 non-members. Questions – membership@scawilmington.org

Oct 19 (Wed) Dying for God? Martyrdom Across the Ages Sherman Lecture Series at UNCW Warwick Center 7:30 PM Free & Open to the public.

Oct 23 (Sun) UN Day Luncheon McNeill Hall at 1 PM For reservations contact boomershinea@gmail.com

Oct 30 (Sun) Peace through Music Concert at the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary on Fifth Ave. Doors open at 5 PM. Program 5:30-7:00 PM.

Nov 10 (Thur) Filmmaker's Luncheon Join us at Riverboat Landing as we welcome international visitors to Cucalorus over lunch and hear about their films.. Cost: \$12 Time: 11:45 to 1:00 PM. Pre-reservations required – membership@scawilmington.org