



Interfaces

Providing Services to International College Students & Department of State Visitors

Annual Awards Dinner/Meeting

On Sunday, May 22, RIC's Annual Awards Dinner and Meeting will be held at the RIT Inn & Conference Center at 5257 West Henrietta Road, just past the Thruway entrance, previously known as the Marriott Thruway Hotel.

In addition to presenting awards honoring members for their service to RIC, we will present an award to the **Rochester Business Alliance** for its contribution to the International Visitor Leadership Program and the RIC International Citizen Award to **Lois Giess**, President of the Rochester City Council. Please plan on coming to express our appreciation for the support we have received in our mission to promote international understanding and cultural exchange.

The only business of the annual meeting will be the election of the board and officers and will not interfere with



the festive nature of the event. We expect a flurry of last-minute raffle sales, and friendly competitive bidding on the silent auction. Many items, services, and yummy food offerings prepared by our very gifted members will be auctioned.

Weather permitting we will hold our social hour on the pool patio of the Inn, so we can savor the outdoors that day, in between checking back at the silent auction tables to see if anyone has outbid us on our favorite items.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Service With A Smile & Goods With Gusto

Once again, member services will be part of the auction at the Annual Awards Dinner on May 22. The bidding on these personal items can get intense! Please start thinking about your contribution to the RIC annual service auction. An ideal contribution is something from one of your hobbies. Perhaps you love to bake, but are on a low-carb diet. Or love to garden, but are now in an apartment. And if you are love making pottery, what can you do with all those vases and pitchers? A contribution of professional services is also a great contribution. Perhaps a one hour tax consultation or closet reorganization. Of course, if you are in the process of downsizing your home, we would be delighted to have some of those treasures that can't make the move.

Should you need some ideas to get you started thinking about what you can contribute, these are some of the member contributions in the past two years:

Delicious Baked Goods
Hand-crocheted Baby Blankets
Hand-knit Scarves
A Folk-dance Workshop
Hand-painted Birdhouses
Collectible Dolls
Photo Notecards
Peruvian Rugs
Artwork

Other organizations have had the following offerings in their auctions:

Planting a Perennial Garden
Indian Dinner for Eight at your House
A Sail on my Boat
Chili & Fixings for a Super Bowl Party
A Basket of International Foods
A Loaf of Home-baked Bread Once a Month

Professional consulting
One spring raking
Pet-sitting (your house or mine)
Knitting lessons
Gourmet Dinner for Eight at My House
A Weekend at Vacation Home

The donation form is included in this edition of Interfaces. Our goal, of course, is to raise money, so, please be creative!



Snow's gone! Spring's here (I think.) It's time for budgets, board elections, banquets and graduations. The year just flew by. There were many great activities where we had the chance once again to meet students and professionals from around the world.

We now have an opportunity to meet each other. For the past several years I have met many members who came to the Award dinner who were just a name or a voice on the phone. It was a privilege for me to meet them and commend them personally for their

service to RIC. It is also a privilege to serve on the board for all these members who give of their resources whether it is of their time, talent or treasure for RIC, the students and the professional visitors.

If you have not been to the Awards Dinner yet, I recommend that you attend. You will meet your leadership team, dine (great food) with friendly members and visitors, bid on some fabulous items and share in the joy of some people being recognized for their service. It is a time well spent.

Also just around the corner is the expectation of the new student applications coming in. Please consider what you are going to do for these students in the coming year. They are

not as needy as they were in the past. They are fairly well set up because of Internet communication. What they want is an American friend who can share in cross-cultural activities. Sharing holidays are activities that are always popular. A birthday party for a student is new and different for some of them. It is just a fun time.

Activities are being planned for the coming year. I am looking forward to having many new volunteers step up to help plan, facilitate and enjoy them. Please don't be shy. Call the office and ask to help. I am sure there is plenty to do and we would welcome you to the team.

Hank McLeod

International Insights: Negotiating Diverse Cultures in the Business World



A very successful program in our International Insights series was held on March 19. Over 80 people were in attendance for a discussion on "Negotiating Diverse Cultures in the Business World." A panel of local experts who conduct business with international companies, and international students with business majors, shared their perspectives and experiences about recognizing and negotiating cultural differences. The panel included **Erin Cole**, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce; **Fashun Ku**, Commissioner of Economic Development for the City of Rochester; **Kapil Lakhani**, MBA student from India at the College of Business of RIT; **Mario Luna**, MBA student from Mexico at the Simon Graduate School of Business; **Hayford Mensahs**, MBA student from Ghana at the College of Business of RIT; **Peggy Tirrell**, Associate Director of Graduate Business Programs at the College of Business at RIT; and **Sudhir Voleti**, PhD student in Marketing from India at the Simon Graduate School of Business.

Many of us were surprised to learn that the U.S. Department of Commerce has someone based in Rochester to assist local companies of all sizes in participating in

international trade. One of the points made by the panel was that in the U.S., participants in a business deal get to the point immediately; whereas in many other countries, such as Ghana, Mexico, and Russia, it is necessary to develop a personal relationship before serious business negotiations can begin. However, Mr. Luna said that the pace is quickening in Mexico. Ms. Cole said that the phrase "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" no longer applies to business. Bribery is against U.S. laws, even in foreign countries. It was pointed out that in China there is a great difference between interacting with private business and government owned business.

The question and answer period came to an end while there still questions waiting to be answered. The speakers discussed the issues informally during the delicious buffet of Indian food catered by India House.

Jim Genthner and Ila Parasnis did a wonderful job on their second International Insights program. They were assisted by Nancy Brown, Sue



Genthner, and Yolanda Wade who managed the buffet and a crew of international students who set up and straightened up the room. Thanks to the workers and the panelists who were all responsible for the success of this event!

Judy Weinstein

Man On Board



When knitting was the project for the *Wives Group*, we not only "employed" **Myrna Cherney** and her talent but **Warren Goldmann** too! Don't know if Warren knits [lots of men do] but for us he shuttled yarn and needles for the wives to use. Myrna, on the other hand, instructed and guided the women as they learned a new craft. It is encouraging for us as leaders to have other members of RIC volunteer their talents and interesting for wives to meet more Americans.

Do you have a talent you'd be willing to share with our wives? We are always open to suggestions and know there are plenty of talented men and women in our organization. Don't keep your light under a bushel! Give the office a call and volunteer.
Nancy Brown intlspook@juno.com

RIC Member Hosts Eastman School of Music Applicant

From February 14-16, I hosted a young woman from the Netherlands, Danielle Buizier. A cellist, Danielle was in Rochester to audition for a graduate program at the Eastman School of Music. The RIC office was initially contacted by Professor Steven Doane, and Jane Cole called to ask if I would be interested in hosting Danielle. Having grown up in what my brother and I jokingly refer to as "the home for vagrant wanderers", it was only natural that I said "yes" to a request for short-term housing.



Danielle arrived Monday evening, and we were immediately taken by her grace and charm. The next couple of Danielle's days were filled with visits and rehearsals at ESM, sitting in on lessons, and getting to know some ESM students and faculty. She was impressed by all. At home, my husband and I were treated to a delightful young woman's company, as well as some gorgeous cello music, although Danielle insisted it was just practice. She comes from a musical family: two brothers are professional musicians, and one of them has played for the renowned Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Although we had hoped to go to Niagara Falls on the weekend, our schedules were incompatible, so I promised such a trip if Danielle continues her studies in Rochester in the fall.

Should you have the opportunity to host an international student in your home for a few days, or even for a meal, I urge you to take advantage. As members of RIC, we support international students and the aims and benefits of international education. As individuals, our contacts with students enable them to become aware of their preconceived notions of the United States and discover for themselves what it's really like, at least here in Rochester.
Heidi Kozireski

Wine Tasting



RIC's 7th annual Wine Tasting was held at the Strathallan on April 8, 2005. Each year this event seems to get better. We had about 80 people in attendance, including both non-members who had attended previous wine tastings and new faces.

Jonathan Ferrante of the Strathallan, gave a presentation before the event on the demystifying of wine tasting. He was also on hand to answer questions. **Audra Dion** did a great job on the PR for the event getting our name in various publications and arranging for a drawing of a pair of tickets on WXXI. Thanks for the great job. The WXXI winners, as well as some of the nonmembers who came as a result of the publicity, were interested in RIC and took membership applications.

The event had an international flair beyond the international wines. **Mamiko Kitaura**, a graduate of the Eastman School for Music, played jazz

on her keyboard throughout the evening. Mamiko attended some of our events while attending Eastman. Through a generous gift by one of our members, we were able to invite three students and their wives to the wine tasting. It was a special occasion for them and provided an opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue.

Thanks to Executive Director **Judy Weinstein** who greeted the guests and manned the door.

It was great to see so many of our members there. Hope to see you all next year!

Linda Downes

From the Executive Director



I have had the pleasure of representing Rochester International Council on several recent occasions. I attended the National Council of International Visitors annual meeting in Washington, D.C. with **Josephine M. Perini**. (see the article on page 5) Immediately after returning from Washington, I had the privilege of speaking at a Breakfast at Liberty Hill hosted by **President Albert J. Simone** of Rochester Institute of Technology and **Mrs. Simone**. My presentation about RIC was followed by a lively discussion of the value of studying foreign languages and experiencing other cultures. That same week, I met with **David C. Hunke**, publisher of the Democrat and Chronicle, to familiarize him with our organization. He was

impressed with the scope of our efforts and particularly taken with members including international students at their Thanksgiving tables. A Connect the World Festival took place on a recent wet and windy Saturday at Nazareth College. I joined **Cheryl Gavenda** and **Harriette Royer** in staffing an RIC table at the event. Our new RIC display with photos of activities (prepared by **Jane Cole** and **Molly Morrison**) attracted people to our table. We distributed membership material and information about the International Visitor Leadership Program.

It is easy to speak enthusiastically about Rochester International Council. While our organization has grown and changed somewhat through the years, we are still fulfilling the mission laid out by our founders in our Certificate of Incorporation in 1957:

“To provide and establish ties of friendship, good will and understanding between residents of Monroe County, New York, and visitors and students coming from abroad for temporary residence here by furnishing general information about Rochester and Monroe County, New York, relative to inhabitants, places of historic and social interest and events; by advising and helping in planning the foreign visitor’s stay in this area; by establishing programs to fit individual needs and interests to include sightseeing, observation of the workings of government, industry, commerce, the arts, sciences, professions and community life; by assisting in locating places of residence during their stay in this area; by providing home hospitality through introductions to Monroe County families who share the student’s interests; by establishing and providing facilities for meetings and lodging for visitors and students from abroad who will reside in this county on a temporary basis.”

Rochester International Council is a strong organization 56 years after the start of the International Student Committee and 48 years after its incorporation thanks to the vision of **May Crowley** and the other founders. **Please help us to continue by recruiting new members and participating in our activities.**

Judy Weinstein

International Visitor Leadership Program

We hosted many groups through the International Visitor Leadership Program. Indeed, in Fiscal Year 2004, we hosted **170 visitors in 28 programs**. **Josephine M. Perini**, our International Visitor Programmer, does most of the work in creating dynamic programs for these visitors. Recent visitors who were not already reported in *Interfaces* include:

- 11 Russians for Promoting Services to Foreign Students at Universities
- 6 Bulgarians for Arts Management
- 6 visitors from Afganistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for Civic Education and Religious Schools
- 14 student leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka for Student Leaders and Civic Responsibility
- Ms. Iliana Traversa From Italy For Federalism
- 3 visitors from Turkmenistan for an Introduction to the American Education System
- 5 visitors from Armenia for Food and Beverage: Wholesale and Distribution
- 8 visitors from Russia for HIV AIDS Prevention
- 6 visitors from Saudi Arabia for Student Counseling and Guidance



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Home hospitality was provided to these visitors by **Jay and Jen Perena**(two groups), **Linda Downes and Marshall Mutnick** (two groups), **Judy and Wil Hunter**, **Judy and Keith Kroon**, **Deb Koen and Bob Beckwith**, **Mike and Myrna Cherney**, **Linda and Bernard O'Connor**, **Dolores Kleinberg**, **Peggy and Brian Fleming**, and **Denise Paley and Rob Leavens**. Thank you, and our other home hospitality hosts for providing this vital component of the IVLP!

The Value of Citizen Diplomacy



In response to my e-mail regarding Secretary of State Rice's speaking in favor of citizen diplomacy, I received several responses from RIC members.

Jean Ingalls related several anecdotes that illustrate the impact of RIC Friendship Volunteers on international students. Jean and Fred have attended many weddings of students and even of the children of former students. Their friendships have extended for three generations – they were just invited by a daughter of a former student to visit when her baby is born in Ft. Lauderdale. The Ingalls were amazed and delighted that, when celebrating their 50th

wedding anniversary, a former student Neil (who had returned to Zimbabwe) had a friend in Syracuse bring them an anniversary present, while Jerryu, now in Taiwan, arranged with one of their current Taiwanese students to present them with an anniversary cake. Coincidentally, while looking through old issues of *Interfaces*, I learned that in 1986, Fred and Jean made the wedding arrangements for a Chinese student and his wife and then brought a shoe box full of photos to Shanghai to show to the groom's mother.

I imagine many of you have similar heartwarming stories about your relationships with your international students. I would appreciate hearing them and would like to have a written account for our records.

Judy Weinstein

Report from NCIV Annual Meeting

I had the pleasure of attending the National Council of International Visitors annual meeting in Washington, D.C., with **Josephine M. Perini**, our International Visitor Programmer. It was an intensive four days. Meetings began before 8:30 am and events were scheduled each evening. In addition to plenary sessions, we could choose from over thirty meetings and workshops. Some workshops were designed to help us create better programs for international visitors, such as "Civics Education" and "Print and Broadcast Media." Others were designed to help us improve our local organization: "Financial Management" and "Fundraising." Still others increased our knowledge of world affairs: "Regional Briefing: Europe and Eurasia" and "U.S. Trade in the Global Economy." RIC member **Sara Cegalski** was a presenter for two sessions of the workshop "Leadership Styles: Appreciating Differences."



Again this year, we attended a "Breakfast on the Hill" in the Dirksen Senate Building. **Senator Russ Feingold** of Wisconsin, the main speaker, mentioned legislation that he has introduced providing for more international ties and the untapped potential of early retirees. After breakfast, we visited the offices of Senator Hillary Clinton and Representative Louise Slaughter to discuss the role of RIC, NCIV, and the International Visitor Leadership Program. As it turned out, both Senator Clinton's and Rep. Slaughter's aides were new to the job and had never been to Rochester, so we also talked with them about Rochester and offered to provide home hospitality when they visit our community.

The Plenary speakers were all inspiring. **Ambassador Barbara Masekela** from South Africa talked very movingly about the future of Africa. She predicted that this will be "Africa's Century." Her view of the value of citizen diplomats was clear from her comment "In order to have a better world for our children and grandchildren, it cannot be left to the professional diplomats and politicians." She also said the role of grassroots citizens in the United States was critical to the global movement that brought freedom to South Africa. **Senator Richard G. Lugar** of Indiana was the speaker at the Luncheon with Ambassadors. I had the honor of hosting **Andreas Krüger**, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Federal

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Republic of Germany at the luncheon. Senator Luger spoke highly of citizen diplomacy. He referred to the visa restrictions as a “body blow” to foreign students. **Dov Keren-Ya’ar** of Israel and **Michio Hayashi** of Japan spoke at the International Visitor Leadership Program Alumni luncheon. Through their humorous presentations they described the greater understanding of the United States and the career boost that they each received as a result of participation in the IVLP. I had the pleasure of having extended conversations with both Mr. Keren-Ya’ar and his wife during the four days.



In appreciation for the home hospitality that members of the NCIV provide to international visitors throughout the year, embassies in Washington provided home hospitality to NCIV members. I was invited to the embassy of Bulgaria and Josephine was invited to the embassy of Slovenia. We were graciously entertained and learned about our host countries.

As in the past, an important component of the meeting was networking – meeting the programmers from the national program agencies (NPAs) in Washington who decide which cities will be included in a visit, our colleagues from the other Councils of International Visitors (CIVs), and programmers from the Department of State who have the ultimate responsibility for the programs. All in all, it was a tiring but very productive four days.

Judy Weinstein

Thank you



Many of our members provide home hospitality to International Visitors. Recently, Dolores Kleinberg provided dinner to three Russians who were part of an HIV Prevention Strategies program. She received the following email from one of her guests. When alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program speak at the annual NCIV meeting, it is apparent that the memories of home hospitality stay with them long after they forget the information from professional meetings.

Dear Dolores!

Thank you so much for a warm welcome in your hospitable house and for a pleasant meeting with your friends. This meeting helped us all to understand America and Americans better. I sincere gratitude you for your kind attitude and a patience in overcoming language barrier.

I told very much already about our meeting to my friends and colleagues, showed them a shots from it, and I am sending one to you. This is one of the most warm and exciting remembrance. Also I want to emphasize your outstanding art of cookery.



Best wishes, Ilia Steinberg

Tsunami Relief

RIC contributed \$552 for Tsunami Relief to **Save the Children**. The Board voted to contribute \$300 of RIC funds towards the relief effort for this extraordinary disaster. This was supplemented by contributions made by members and international students at our Winter Cabin party. The board selected Save the Children as the conduit for our contribution because it has a good reputation, low overhead, and a long-term recovery plan.



Among its many accomplishments in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India, Save the Children already has:

- 1 Launched cash-for-work programs that have hired tsunami survivors to help clean up schools, health clinics, mosques and other public facilities.
- 2 Launched training programs to help replace teachers and midwives killed in the tsunami.
- 3 Supported 598 women in their efforts to start small businesses with help from the Women's Chamber of Commerce.
- 4 Helped construct temporary shelters for 750 families in Pondicherry and to support the construction of a permanent child-friendly settlement for 200 families, which will serve as a model for other settlements in the region.

For more information on Save the Children, visit www.savethechildren.org

A Decade Of Friendship



Long-time members of RIC might remember two articles I wrote about our 1994-95 RIC student, Corinne Robic. Corinne did graduate work at the UR before returning to France to teach high school

English. I had written about Corinne's January 1995 winter break visit to my stepfather's (late) sister in Los Angeles and my mother and stepfather's May 1995 visit to Corinne's parents in Rennes. A few years later I wrote about our October 1998 visit to Rennes - at which time we also met Corinne's then-fiancé, Nicolas Lasbleiz. Six

years passed and we were finally reunited again in November of 2004, when Steve & I spent several days in Prague. Corinne & Nicolas are halfway through a three-year stay in Prague, where Nicolas is with the French Embassy security staff and Corinne teaches English at a local school.

It was a source of great amusement to see how Vltava, Corrine & Nicholas' rambunctious dog, was particularly fond of Steve. The photo shows Corinne & Nicolas on our last night in Prague. Corinne has promised to bring Nicolas to the U.S. in a few years and we greatly look forward to their visit!

Susan Levinson

Mexican Evening

As we were to be in California for Thanksgiving and so could not invite all our students to our home, we decided to have a Mexican evening instead. Several of our friends were invited along with eight of our regular Chinese, Taiwanese and our one Indian student.

Big plates of nachos were served and everyone sat around - usually on the floor in the family room to enjoy these with soft drinks or wine. Then the

most delicious quesadillas we have ever made were produced and quickly disappeared. Worrying that we would run out of food we quickly warmed up the taco shells, spicy fillings and everyone got up from the floor and filled their tacos and topped them off with cheese, tomatoes, lettuce and onions and salsa.

We celebrated two birthdays with wonderful ice cream and fruit pies made by one of our students and then



settled down to more interesting exchange of ideas, laughter and fun.

One thing we have noticed since last year is that our students seem to have larger appetites now than when they first came to the USA. However, they remain lean and trim regardless of how much they eat. Must be in the genes - or perhaps it is youth!!

Doreen Smethurst

In the News



Brighton Central School District News of December 2004 included an article "Educators from Jordan Visit French Road Elementary School" about a group of International Visitors. Rochester

International Council was mentioned in the article. The article mentioned a piece of serendipity - the guests experienced some home hospitality by enjoying dinner and a visit with the family of a Brighton third grader. When Joan and Marvin Rosenthal offered to provide home hospitality to this group, they had no idea that the Jordanians would be visiting their granddaughter's school. The focus of their program was technology and other education issues.

Another group of our international visitors were highlighted in "West Irondequoit Hosts World Educators",

published in the December 2004 issue of the West Irondequoit Central Schools **The Quote**. The article discussed the visit of six educators from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to Irondequoit High School as part of their program on Civic Education and Religious Schools.

RIC member **Andy Nahas** was the subject of the Connections column in the **Democrat and Chronicle** on February 19. The article was about Andy's role as a performer at hospitals and nursing homes and the joy he brings to the audiences. Congratulations, Andy!

The **Our Towns** section of the Democrat and Chronicle on March 2 had an article about RIC member **Tom Upson**. Tom participated in an International Habitat for Humanity project in Jordan, building a home for a young Islamic family.



IN MEMORIAM:

John Morton - February 6, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Irland Morton; daughter, Nancy (Charlie) Trautmann of Ithaca; sons, John I. (Lorraine), Peter (Kathleen) and Bruce (Sharyl)



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Save the Date

Tuesday, May 17

Deadline for dinner reservations

Sunday, May 22

Annual Awards Dinner with Raffle and Silent Auction

Please send in your raffle tickets and contributions to auction!

Interfaces

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