



Interfaces

Providing Services to International College Students & Department of State Visitors

Annual Awards Dinner



From Left : Paul Burgett; Paul Caccamise; Chris & Betty Lindley; Sylvia Kless; Doreen Smethurst; Terry May; Deborah Hughes; Philip Smethurst, and Rev. Alan Newton

The Annual Awards Dinner took place at Gatherings at Daisy Flour Mill on Sunday, April 13, where the large picture windows provided a beautiful view of Ellison Park. Awards were presented after a social hour with entertainment provided by **Al Biles** and GenJam, as well as a delicious international buffet dinner.

This year's *International Citizen Award* was bestowed upon **Dr. Paul J. Burgett**, who has traveled the world both as University of Rochester Vice President and General Secretary and as a private citizen. Dr. Burgett makes friends for the University, the city of Rochester, and the U.S. wherever he goes. He also makes international students, scholars, and faculty feel like valuable

members of the university community. For all of these accomplishments, Dr. Burgett embodies the title citizen diplomat.

After the presentation of awards, Dr. Burgett spoke about his life as a citizen diplomat. His lively, thoughtful presentation made it apparent why he was selected for the International Citizen Award. Said Dr. Burgett, "we should listen to people from other countries and not just talk to them. It's not enough to assume that once 'they' get to know us, they will like us." *continued on Page 2*

International Student Numbers Grow Nationally and Locally

Help Welcome Them as an RIC Friendship Volunteer! Your persistent, pesky placement coordinators are placing pleasant, personable and ever pretty students presently. Enough already. Student applications are coming in and this year there is a marked increase in undergraduates. They are being placed as the applications come in.

We are randomly going through the Friendship Volunteer list, and are just getting in more applications through UR and RIT orientations. We expect to place over 200 students again with your help. If you are anxious to hear from us, Hank and Sheila, please call us at 621-1054 or email at HankMcLd@aol.com. *Hank McLeod*

International Student Growth – an Opportunity for RIC

Each November, international educators eagerly await the International Institute of Education's *Open Doors* report, the definitive source of international education trends. This past year's report shows a 3.2% increase for 2006-07 – the first increase since 2002-03. While 1999-2001 enrollments grew sharply, post-9/11 enrollments dropped due to real and perceived visa difficulties, tighter student monitoring, and growing competition from other countries.

Allan E. Goodman, IIE's President and CEO, attributed the rebound to "vigorous efforts at the national, state and campus levels." He further noted that "given increased global competition ...[and] expanded *continued on Page 4*

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His talk was filled with humorous anecdotes, all tying into his theme of the importance of cross-cultural communications.

Other honorees were:

Dr. Terry May - Mildred Feinbloom Award

For many years, Terry has organized the RIC fall hike, taught line dancing, arranged the Mt. Hope Cemetery tour followed by a gracious afternoon tea and pumpkin carving in his house, and brought dozens of friends to the Wine Tasting. These are just some of the ways in which Terry has exemplified Mildred Feinbloom's commitment to and involvement in the RIC.

The Rev. Hugh and Barbara Outterson - Outstanding Volunteer Award

Since 1989, Hugh and Barbara have hosted 52 international students and have volunteered at many of our activities and events.

Sylvia Kless - Distinguished Service Award (Academe)

An RIC member since 1983, Sylvia has been in the UR ISO since 1985, where she is currently the Associate Director for Student Services. In addition to providing sage counsel to thousands of international students, scholars and visiting faculty, she has planned and coordinated dozens of programs and events, supervised and trained many new ISO staff members, and been an invaluable resource to her fellow NAFSA professionals.

Philip and Doreen Smethurst - Distinguished Volunteer Award

Philip and Doreen joined in 2003 and immediately began to host many students and provide home hospitality to innumerable international visitors. Doreen joined the RIC Board in 2006 and has created wine baskets for our Wine Tasting raffles, taken students to the Public Market, and volunteered for other events.

Christopher and Bettie Lindley - Distinguished Service Award

Chris and Bettie joined RIC two years ago and immediately got involved, becoming Friendship Volunteers and providing home hospitality to a number of International Visitors.

Paul Caccamise - Special Recognition

Paul has made significant contributions to international exchange through his leadership of Linkages of Rochester. Linkages aims to increase the understanding of the people, politics, and culture of Russia, with a focus on people-to-people relations with the citizens of Rochester's sister city, Velikiy Novgorod.

The Rev. Alan G. Newton - Outstanding Service to the International Visitor Leadership Program

Rev. Newton, of The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester and the Interfaith Forum, arranged for several IVLP groups to meet with members of both groups, and hosted meetings at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Susan B. Anthony House - Outstanding Service to the International Visitor Leadership Program

The Susan B. Anthony House has welcomed at least 14 IVLP groups, with both the standard tour and presentation as well as in-depth discussions of the history of the U.S. women's rights movement, and the significance of nearby Seneca Falls.

Many thanks to **Josephine M. Perini** for planning the dinner arrangements, and to the Awards Committee **Mary Ann (Cookie) Campbell** (Chair), **Brian Fleming**, and **Hank McLeod**.

Judy Weinstein

Jean Sikora was recently singled out for praise in the Indonesian interpreters' report (filed by the State Department following an IVLP visit) from "NGOs Serving Women and Children":

"Thank you for a nice dinner and thoughtful discussion about human rights, women's issues, and election in the US. It was very meaningful for IVs to help them to understand different views from different people."

Thank you, Jean, and all the other RIC members who provide home hospitality to international visitors. This is a critical element in helping counter the misconceptions many internationals have about America before visiting.

October 23: Rochester Summit on Citizen Diplomacy



On October 23, 2008, the Rochester Summit on Citizen Diplomacy will be held at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. The theme is "Global Competence in the 21st Century." Major speakers will be **Dick Martin**, author of *Rebuilding Brand America* and **Bruce Graham**, Director of Communications, Office of the CTO of Eastman Kodak Company. All RIC members are invited. The concurrent sessions will be:

- "Understanding Culture in International Businesses" (**Robert Carroll**, President of the International Division of Pictometry International Corporation)
- "Immigration – The Belief in a US Meritocracy" (RIC honorary board member **Margaret A. Catillaz**, Esq., of Harter Secrest & Emery)
- "Hiring International Students/Cross Cultural Communications Strategies" (RIC President and Director of RIT International Student Services **Jeff Cox**)
- "Competitive Practices for Globally Mobile Employees" (**Kristin M. Sampson** of the Providium Human Resource Group)
- "Citizen Diplomacy: A Rochester Perspective" (**Lee Johnson** of ISCOR, **Richard Sarkis** of UNAR, and RIC Executive Director **Judy Weinstein**)

We look forward to the participation of many RIC members, as attendees and volunteers. You will be receiving your invitation shortly. The registration deadline is October 15. For more information, please go to www.rochestercitizendiplomacy.org or contact Josephine M. Perini at 288-5607 or jmblackbird2000@yahoo.com.
- **Josephine M. Perini**

Upcoming Events

Public Market Tour – Saturday, September 20, 2008

Friday – September 26, 2008 – Square Dance at the Barn at Liberty Hill – 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Thursday – October 23, 2008 – Rochester Summit on Citizen Diplomacy - RIT Inn & Conference Center

Thursday – November 27, 2008 – Thanksgiving Dinner

Join RIC on our website, www.rifc.org, or by mailing this form:

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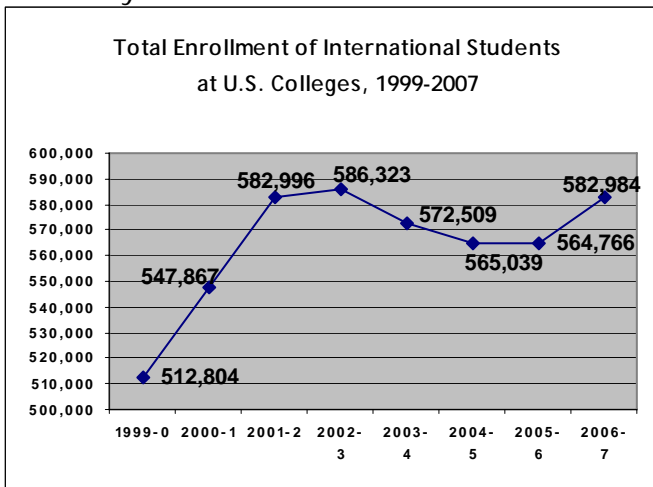
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Rochester, NY 14627



International Student Growth - continued from Page 1

[home country] higher education options...America needs to continue its proactive steps to ensure that our academic doors remain wide open, and that students around the world understand that they will be warmly welcomed."

Preliminary national and local numbers indicate further growth. Record numbers of new international students expected to enroll during 2008-09, according to **Deidre Serrano**, an RIC Board member and RIT International Student Advisor, who coordinates RIT international orientation.



The Role of RIC Friendship Volunteers

Growing local enrollments challenge RIC to carry out Goodman's charge to help international students "understand that they will be warmly welcomed" in the U.S. and in Rochester. RIC's Friendship Volunteers impact not only the students they directly befriend, but also their family and friends, who may experience the U.S. only through that student's eyes.

Local Growth

Following this report, a **Democrat & Chronicle** article noted the importance of international students to Rochester campuses; both UR and RIT have well over 1,000 internationals. "It's hard to overstate the significance of the diversity they add. I think we have almost 80 countries represented," said **Cary Jensen**, UR director of university international relations." Some colleges in the SUNY system have created dual-degree programs, targeting specific countries.

Anyone who wants to "warmly welcome" these students can be a Friendship Volunteer – family, single, couple. Commitments depend on you and your student's availability, interests, and needs. Activities can include those in your home, but also meeting students for a movie, going shopping, or having coffee – as well as simply being available for questions, or attending RIC events together. See "What to do with a Friendship Student" for many suggestions from **Stefanie Pratt**. Many Friendship Volunteers benefit as much or more than their students, and many become lasting friends.

What to do with a Friendship Student

- Go on a hike – take advantage of one of the many parks and trails nearby.
- If that's too ambitious, take a walk. Perhaps one day in the city and another time in one of the villages or a rural community.
- Go see a movie.
- Have a movie and snack night at home.
- Take students to sports events, including college sports.
- Invite them over to watch your favorite TV show.
- Festivals, festivals, festivals!
- Ask your students to cook for you.
- Meet your students after work for coffee, dinner, shopping, or to hear live music.

In short – almost anything you do can be a great way to connect with international students!

Stefanie Pratt and others

Please send your own suggestions to jw@rifc.org so that they can be shared with other RIC members.

Being a Friendship Volunteer

If you are already a Friendship Volunteer, ask your friends to join you when you are spending time with your students. Encourage friends interested in membership to check the website (www.rifc.org) or call Judy Weinstein (585/275-8779) with questions about RIC. If you are a member and do not currently host, you can get in touch with Placement Coordinator Hank McLeod for details. If you have hosted just one student, consider taking on others, as it often enhances the experience for everyone.

Last year, after placing 208 students with 82 hosts, we still had 22 interested students without hosts, and many students were not assigned hosts until late in the academic year. We want to satisfy every student who requests a host this year (see page 1 for Hank's contact information). Please consider what you can do to help RIC "warmly welcome" international students to the U.S. and to Rochester, and thank you to every current and past Friendship Volunteer for your time and generosity.

- Lisa Larson Read

International Insights at the Movies: The Band's Visit

Each year, the RIC holds an annual screening of an international film at the **Little Theatre**, followed by a discussion of the film in the café. This year, 43 members and friends saw the "The Band's Visit (Bizur Ha-Tizmoret)." It tells the story of an Egyptian police band, stranded and lost in a small Israeli town on the way to play at the opening of an Arab arts center. Their cultural and personal interactions with the locals who put them up for the night prompted an interesting audience discussion. While "The Band's Visit" won awards at film festivals around the world, it was disqualified for the Oscar Best Foreign Language Film category because more than half of the dialogue was in English. The RIC group enjoyed discussing this and other comparisons between the American and foreign film industries. RIC once again thanks the **Little Theatre** for allowing us this special yearly opportunity.



Include RIC in your Bequest

Many people who need to preserve their assets during their lifetime find it easy to support the organizations and causes they care about by making a bequest in their wills.

After planning for the financial security of your family and loved ones, we hope that you will consider making a bequest to Rochester International Council, Inc.

- Bequests may take several forms. You may leave RIC a specific amount of cash, securities or other property by designating a dollar amount, a particular asset, or a fixed percentage of your estate or a trust established in your will.
- Sample language for a general bequest can be "I give (dollar amount/asset/percentage of the estate/residue/remainder of my estate) to Rochester International Council, Inc. for its general purposes."
- We recommend that you discuss your plans to make a bequest or planned gift with a competent financial advisor, tax-attorney or legal counsel of your choice.

You can also suggest that your family request that contributions be made to Rochester International Council in your memory. RIC will send an acknowledgment to the donor and to your family.

Rochester International Council is a 501(c) (3) organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service. Consult with your tax professional as to the deductibility of your contribution.

Broadcast Journalist IV Program

A dynamic group of TV Broadcast Journalist International Visitors visited Rochester from July 21-27, accompanied by three English Language Officers (ELOs). Their goal was to review the history, structure and practice of television in the US. Twenty-one countries were represented: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, India, Libya, Malaysia, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Macedonia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

The participants visited WROC TV-8, WHEC TV-10, WHAM TV-13, R News and WXXI. Their professional appointments included staff discussions on newsroom management, investigative journalism, TV production, marketing, ratings, and the impact of technology. They also attended editorial meetings, viewed live news broadcasts and the taping of "Second Opinion" at WXXI, and toured the studios. In addition, last-minute appointments requested by the participants included a Saturday meeting with members of the Rochester Faith



From Left: Interpreter, Doreen Smethurst, 3 IVLP participants and Jean Sikora

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Community for Obama, and participating in a press conference with Representative **Louise Slaughter** and Mayor **Robert Duffy** on Monday at Marketview Heights.



Senator Louis Slaughter and Mayor Robert Duffy with International Visitors

Cultural experiences included a two-hour city tour conducted by **Patti Donoghue** (provided compliments of **Visit Rochester**), a trip to Niagara Falls, a concert at Kilbourn Hall with jazz guitarist **Gene Bertoncini**, a tour of George Eastman House, a visit to the Strong National Museum of Play, and the High Falls Laser Show and Fireworks. And, of course, shopping.

Many RIC members assisted with driving throughout the week and helped make "A Gathering of Notable People" (a picnic at Ellison Park) on July 28 very successful. These included: **Cookie and Jamie Campbell, Jane Cole, Mary Cole, Brian and Peggy Fleming, Jim and Sue Genthner, Jean and**

Fred Ingalls, Dolores Kleinberg, Judy and Keith Kroon, Dia and Chris Lawrence, Sheila and Hank McLeod, Bernie and Linda O'Connor, Pat Pogue, Kathy and Dick Powers, Jean Sikora, Doreen Smethurst, Judy and Art Weinstein, and Bev Zajkowski.

Participants were vocal in praising the program and the RIC coordination. **Arjun Bahadar Kumal** of Nepal, representing the participants, delivered an eloquent message at the picnic which included, "I would like to thank **Josephine [M. Perini]** who has been at the center of everything we have done here, and to thank you all for...show[ing] hospitality we never imagined we would get in America." **Connie Vasquez**, a State Department ELO, said of Josephine, "The hospitality was superb and you especially made an invaluable contribution." Even after returning home, another participant, from Bhutan, emailed back, "I just wanted to thank you for the initiative and the warm hospitality that you and...your community extended to us...you really spoiled us...I will always cherish my stay at Rochester...thanks to you and...the volunteers who were very kind and patient with us."

A special THANK YOU to each of you who helped to make this another wonderful experience for participants in the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. If you are not currently meeting with IVLP participants, but would like to have the opportunity to host these fascinating people in your home for dinner or take them to visit museums or go shopping, please contact me at 288-5607 or jmblackbird2000@yahoo.com.
- Josephine M. Perini

IV Participant Remarks



Ariun Bahadar Kumal

Arjun Bahadar Kumal, a Broadcast Journalism IVLP Participant from Nepal, gave these farewell remarks:

"Folks of Rochester, cultural ambassadors from the State Department and

life. Forgive me, fellow aliens, for talking about myself only – I am just trying to adopt some American values!

Individualistic to the point of selfishness, being a melting pot to the point of having no identity, racist to the core and jingoistic to being the bully of the world! That was the America I had in my mind until I landed at Detroit International Airport.

But that all changed in less than a fortnight!...You are individualistic yet caring, in a melting pot yet distinctly American, inclusive to the point that you may soon have an African-American president, and powerful to the benefit of all.

When I go home I will carry the impressions that "you" speak of "I," but you act "we", you work for

fellow participants:

I am grateful for the honor you have given me to speak about the impressions I have about America, after just 10 days here. An alien from Nepal, the country of Mt. Everest and the birthplace of Lord Buddha – I have been provided with the warm hospitality that I will remember for the rest of my

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IV Participant Remarks – continued from Page 6

yourself but ultimately it's for the country and the community, you say "who cares" giving the other the equal rights to say the same. This is the America I have understood.

Wherever we the 22 of us...went, we received such attention and care...You have opened the treasure trove of your civility, fertility of your mind and advancement in technology...to us, and at the same time shown the humility to learn from our experiences back home. While we tap your advancement and systems, you tap our ingenuity of getting around problems...

I am thankful to your State Department for bringing us here under the International Visitors Leadership Program... Fellow participants to the program will agree with me that you, Rochester folks, have made our trip here more than wonderful. We feel completely at home – we feel no more aliens here...

I hail you all for busting the myths the media and your leaders have created...you shall be in our memory for kindness and hospitality – who knows, it may be the last time we may set foot here.

Thank you again!"

In the News

City Newspaper featured RIC Honorary Board member **Margaret Catillaz** in the article "Immigration: White collars, green cards" on July 30. Margaret discussed her concerns that U.S. immigration policies make it difficult for international students to remain in the U.S. after graduation. She will be speaking about "Immigration – the Belief in a US Meritocracy" at the Rochester Summit on Citizen Diplomacy on October 23 (see article on page 3 for details and registration information).

The Networking column in the August 10 **Democrat & Chronicle** focused on EPIC Advisors Inc., founded by RIC treasurer, **Jim Genthner**.

Shahin Monshipour was the subject of an article in the **Democrat & Chronicle** on August 12. Shahin discussed the plight of the Bakhtiari nomads of Iran.

The August 16 issue of the **Democrat & Chronicle** had a feature story on the community vegetable garden in Whipple Park, University of Rochester graduate housing. It highlighted Chinese students and their visiting parents who grow traditional Chinese vegetables in the garden.

Maple Sugar Tour

On April 5, **Terry May** and **Joel Smith** accompanied a busload of students on the annual Maple Sugar Tour and Pancake Breakfast at Cumming Nature Center, where they were joined by other RIC members and students.

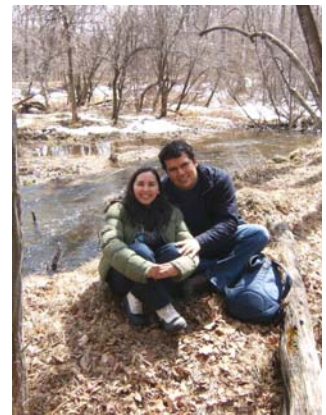
Katherine Elizabeth Campaña Gandara, the wife of an international student, and her husband, **Nelson Venegas**, wrote this article to encourage future students to participate in similar events. The accompanying photograph is of Katherine and Nelson.

"Here are some pictures for me to remember and for others to introduce them to the Maple Sugar Forest. This forest is almost 2 hours south of the city of Rochester, in South Bristol between Canandaigua Lake and Honeoye Lake. It's a long trip, but it is worth it. When you arrive, the pure air

fills your lungs, and you start feeling more relaxed than ever.

Start the journey with a great breakfast - beverages and some delicious waffles with real maple syrup. After that, prepare yourself for walking three different trails. Each one has different landscapes, and all of them are beautiful in different ways.

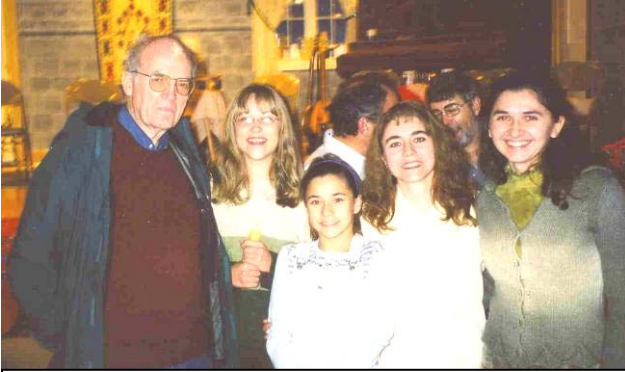
I hope everyone has the opportunity to visit, and make their own impressions of the Maple Sugar Forest."



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

Remembering Charles Carlton

Charles Carlton was a long-time member of RIC and its Board of Directors. He served on the Board almost continuously from 1983 to 2003, as President from 1991-1993, and as Chair of the Board during 2002 and 2003. Charles was an active Friendship Volunteer, primarily serving students from Central and Eastern European countries, especially his beloved Romania.



Charles Carlton visiting a Romanian Church

While he was a professor in both the French and Linguistic departments at UR, from which he retired in 1999, he was also a recognized champion and scholar of Romania and Romanian studies. He became utterly fascinated with the Romanian language in 1970, while on a National Defense Foreign Language fellowship at UCLA, and practiced the language during many Romanian summers. He loved the countryside, villages, wooden churches, and museums, but especially the people and their culture.

He tracked Romania-Rochester personal connections, including many students for whom he served as a Friendship Volunteer. During his Presidential stint and a few years after, he served on the RAUN (now known as UNAR – the United Nations Association of Rochester) Board, and brought news back and forth to the two organizations, which helped both groups.

Even though Charles was deep into Romanian culture and language, he never let anyone forget he was from New England, sharing many regional stories and jokes. His love of language also showed in his fondness for puns. Some were quite good, and others abysmal, but he never could resist. Charles also loved his sweets, and when **Rainy Beckett** was RIC's Executive Director, her desktop candy jar called out to him whenever he passed. One afternoon he dropped by and asked Rainy what she was doing. She replied that she was writing a letter to a foundation for some financial support. Charles commented, "Oh, so now we're asking for help from the ladies underwear department." If you don't get the joke, you're not old enough!

Charles rather epitomized the absent-minded professor stereotype, but he was a wonderful person, always pleasant to be around, and much loved by his students. He was very fair, would listen to others' points of view, and never got angry or upset at what was being said. He passed away on March 9, 2008 and is survived by his wife, Mary Carlton; two sons; four grandchildren; and his sister. Right now, he is surely conversing in heaven with all who speak any of the Romance languages, and is probably giving lectures on etymology.

Charles, those of us who knew and worked with you at RIC, miss you very much.

*From recollections by
Jean Ingalls and Jane Cole*

Contributions in Memory of Charles Carlton



Ruth C. Bishop and family
Jane Cole
Dr. and Mrs. Clevelanafd Denton
Fred and Jean Ingalls
Barbara Bishop Salvagin
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wardlow

Contributions

We appreciate all member contributions and wish to gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions made above the Envoy level of support. The following 2008-09 contributions were received before August 1 of this year.

Jane Cole in honor of Jean and Fred Ingalls on their 80th and 83rd birthdays

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Anonymous

Summer Student Events



For the first time this year, RIC sponsored summer events for international students staying in Rochester. Both successfully filled a bus with UR and RIT students. Sunny June weather made for a great day to see the Rochester Redwings at Frontier Field, and the evening fireworks display helped make up for the loss to the Pawtucket Red Sox. **Jeff Cox, Deidre Serrano, Pat and Dave Pogue,** and guests joined 28 students for the outing.

In July, another busload of international students joined **Deidre Serrano** and **Lisa and Aaron Read** on a day trip to Canandaigua. The group rose early to begin at the Sonnenberg Gardens and Historical Mansion. Students lagged behind at each turn, eagerly taking and posing for pictures among the trails and Asian, Italian, classic English, and rock gardens. Although rain was falling when the group left for the Waterfront Arts Festival, it cleared up just in time for the students to enjoy browsing the craft and food vendors, listening to live musicians, and relaxing by the side of the lake. A tired but happy bus returned home, glad to have had the opportunity to explore outside of the city.



- Lisa Larson Read

"...these non-military efforts - these tools of persuasion and inspiration - were indispensable to the outcome of the defining ideological struggle of the 20th century. I believe that they are just as indispensable in the 21st century - and perhaps even more so."

- Secretary of Defense Robert Gates speaking at the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign's 2008 Tribute Dinner in his honor.



Rochester International Council
229 Morey Hall
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627

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Phone: (585) 275-8779 fax: (585) 756-8086

www.rifc.org jw@rifc.org

Executive Director: Judith Weinstein
Editor: Lisa Larson Read
Layout Editor: Linda O'Connor

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