



Interfaces

Providing Services to International College Students & Department of State Visitors

53rd Annual Awards Dinner



Rochester International Council Award recipients **Audra Dion, Lisa Larson Read, Kimberlie Barrett, Molly Jolliff, Susan Walsh** for Monroe County, **Josephine M. Perini,** and **Dr. Michael Keefer** (standing); **Joan Rosenthal** and **Terry Mathews-DeSant** (seated).

The 53rd RIC Annual Awards Dinner was held at Gatherings at Daisy Flower Mill on Sunday, May 2. The social hour, dinner and presentation were enjoyed by over a hundred RIC members and friends, including many who came to honor **Terry Mathews-DeSant**, recipient of the International Citizen of the Year Award. The music of **Al Biles** and **GenJam** added to the festivities during the social hour. Following the delicious international buffet, the following awards were presented:

Michael C. Keefer, M.D., Outstanding Service to the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program: As Principal Investigator of the HIV Vaccine Trials Unit at the University of Rochester Medical Center, he has met with numerous IVLP groups since 2005 to discuss HIV vaccine research globally, and the role of the HIV testing clinic at the University of Rochester.

Monroe County, Outstanding Service to the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program: More than fifteen departments have met with IVLP participants in a variety of programs, including Monroe County Hospital, Board of Elections, and Department of Planning and Development. Topics included State and Local Government, Election Monitoring, and Trafficking in Persons. Susan Walsh, Director of Monroe County’s Office of Management and Budget, represented the County Executive in accepting this award.

Kim Barrett, Special Recognition: Kim was recognized for her work as Board Treasurer, on the member forums last summer, on the “Experience Asia” concert committee, and in contributing to RIC the valuable local and international business acumen she has developed as the founder of Magellan, Inc. Kim also generously supported and helped to obtain additional financial support for the fall concert, and has underwritten support for RIC’s website.

Kathleen Powers, Distinguished Volunteer: Although Kathleen could not attend the dinner, she was recognized for her work as Board Secretary, as chair of the Winter Cabin Party, as chair of the Nominating

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WELCOME PICNIC
SEPTEMBER 12
3:00-7:00
GREECE CANAL PARK

Have you completed either the online or hard copy RIC **Membership Survey?** We need your feedback!

We also need to know if and how you want to be listed in our new **Member Directory**. You must tell us if you do not want to be listed, either via the Survey or by notifying the office directly.



Dear Members and Friends,

It is my honor to accept the position of President of the Board of Directors of the Rochester International Council. I would like to thank all of you who supported me with your words of encouragement. The Executive Committee has already met to review the bylaws and organizational structure.

As you may know, the Rochester International Friendship Council was incorporated in July 1957 with the purpose of establishing "ties of friendship, goodwill and understanding between residents of Monroe County, NY and visitors and students coming from abroad." Over the years, the major focus was to provide host families for international students at the universities. In December 2002, an amendment was passed to remove "Friendship" from the name.

I have been reflecting on the people who had the foresight to start an organization 53 years ago to welcome people from diverse cultures to this area. Today we continue to provide host families for the students, along with making available numerous activities for them. In addition, we have the International Insights programs and various activities for the International Women's Group.

I was asked to join the Board in 2002, which is when I learned about the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program. IVLP was very appealing to me since I have always been a firm believer in Citizen Diplomacy – one handshake at a time – as the way to develop cultural understanding and eventually world peace. Over the years I have arranged first-rate, quality programs for hundreds of visitors from dozens of countries.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have opened your homes for home hospitality for dinner with the visitors, which they rate very highly. I greatly appreciate our drivers, many of whom respond at the last minute to drive visitors to cultural activities and shopping in the evening and/or on weekends. Since the number of projects we host has increased immensely over the years, I am always looking for volunteers. Please email me at JMBlackbird2000@yahoo.com or call 288-5607 if you would like to join our extraordinary team of volunteers.

Since one of my goals has been to activate the membership and recruit new members, I spearheaded three very exciting forums last summer that many of you attended or provided input on when I called you on the phone. The information from these dialogues was analyzed, resulting in a plan for a new course of action. A new initiative that has already been implemented is improving communication between students and their host families.

Many of you requested more activities to connect members. The first Members & Friends Picnic, held August 15, drew over 60 people and provided a great chance for members to match names with faces, learn more about what they can do in RIC, and introduce new and prospective members to RIC. More member events will follow, based on feedback from our Membership Survey, and we are also using that survey to collect information for an online members-only directory. Please complete the Survey if you have not done so already. Four new Vice Presidents have been elected. Now we are looking for coordinators for various student and member events. Please let us know if you wish to volunteer.

Many people are planning events to make RIC a vibrant organization. I look forward to seeing you all at the Student Welcome Picnic on Sunday, September 12. Come and meet new Board members, other RIC members, and our international students.

Sincerely,

Josephine M. Perini
President, RIC Board of Directors

2010–11 Board of Directors

RIC held its Annual Meeting at the RIC Board meeting on May 10. The proposed slate for the 2010-11 board was approved, and includes a full roster of Vice-Presidents. This will help the Board function more effectively, and we appreciate everyone who is stepping into these new roles.

Josephine M. Perini (President)
Jessica Clawson (VP, Development)
Clemencia Delosrios Batman (VP, International Visitors)
Audra Dion (VP, Programming)
Sonja Phongsavanh (VP, Administration)
Ellen Zuroski (Secretary)
Joshua Barrett (Treasurer)
Brenda Campbell
Mary DeLaney Hale

Lilli Holdgaard Jensen
Edwin Nguti
Lisa Larson Read
Anita Rohr
Amy Roll
Harriette Royer
Tanya Schueler-Choukairi
Doreen Smethurst

We thank outgoing Board President **Jeffrey Cox**, and our departing board members **Kimberlie Barrett**, **Molly Jolliff**, **Kathy Powers**, and **Beverly Zajkowski**, for all of their work, time, and energy.

Members & Friends Picnic

RIC held its first "Members & Friends Picnic" August 15, which despite heavy morning rain drew about 60 long-time, new, and prospective members to Mendon Ponds Park. As the weather cleared, members enjoyed getting to know each other, while sampling the abundant potluck offerings. The Membership Committee developed this event so members could put faces to names and just have time to socialize. Picnic co-chairs **Jim Genthner** and **Lisa Larson Read** introduced coordinators representing each aspect of RIC, letting people know how they can get involved. **Clemencia Delosrios Batman** and **Cookie Campbell** also helped plan the Picnic. Thank you to everyone who helped and brought food! More Member events will be planned this year, in response to the Membership Survey results.

- **Lisa Larson Read**

"Awards" Continued from Page 1

Committee that was responsible for submitting a strong slate of RIC board members, and as a volunteer driver for the International Visitors Leadership Program.

Lisa Larson Read, Distinguished Volunteer: Lisa received the award for her efforts in expanding the *Interfaces* newsletter, chairing the membership committee, serving on the "Experience Asia" concert committee, and as one of the driving forces behind new efforts to better understand member needs.

Audra Dion, Outstanding Volunteer for Leadership: Audra was recognized for her exceptional time and effort in providing significant leadership for RIC. She took a leadership role this past year in developing and implementing the innovative online "Rochester International Connections Meetup Group" outreach program. Since early 2009, it has attracted new individuals to traditional RIC programs, as well as stand-alone events like a Mix & Mingle at Tapas Bar & Lounge, Saturday Night Sushi, Dinner & Belly Dancing at King David's, and Ologunde Brazilian Folklore Dance Ensemble.

Molly Jolliff, Outstanding Volunteer for Leadership: In addition to her work on several wine tastings and countless student programs, Molly initiated several new fundraising ideas, including an international cookbook to go on sale later this year. This fall saw the culmination of an idea she championed and led to great success. Molly brought together a strong concert committee to showcase a diverse group of talented artists from area colleges and the community. The "Experience Asia" concert helped to raise RIC's profile, spotlight some outstanding talent, and provide a genuine cultural experience.

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Josephine M. Perini, Outstanding Volunteer for Service: Josephine was recognized for ongoing commitment to RIC through exceptional service, leading board initiatives such as last summer's member forums; as chair of two Rochester Summits on Citizen Diplomacy steering committees; and notably as Vice President of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Through this Department of State program, Josephine has welcomed hundred of international visitors to Rochester, who consistently write on their Rochester evaluations how pleased they are with the warm reception and efficient use of their time. Josephine has been involved with every detail of every visit, which results in genuine exchanges of ideas and best practices. The Rochester IVLP program, and all of the volunteers that Josephine organizes to keep it strong, is crucial to the success of RIC.

The final two awards were each very moving to the audience. The **President's Recognition Award** honored the memory of **Marvin Rosenthal**, who passed away in March. Marv and his wife Joan, recipients of RIC's May Crowley Award in 1977 and dedicated members throughout the years, touched many lives deeply. The tribute to Marv in the last issue of *Interfaces* highlighted his many contributions to RIC and the community. Two of Marvin's grandchildren and one of his daughters attended the dinner as **Joan**, Marvin's beloved wife of 48 years, accepted the award.



Joan Rosenthal and family, who accepted the Presidential Recognition Award for the late **Marvin Rosenthal**

Finally, **Terry Mathews-DeSant** was presented with the **International Citizen of the Year Award**, for a community member who has performed a distinguished service by significantly contributing to the community in the field of international understanding. These criteria certainly fit Terry's service as President of the Rennes (France)-Rochester Sister Cities committee for more than twenty years. She contributed to the success of the Sister Cities relationship since its 1958 founding. As a long-time Rush-Henrietta teacher, Terry personally helped establish and maintain exchange programs between schools in Rennes and Rochester, including seven ongoing high school and five collegiate exchanges. These have enabled as many as two hundred students to visit Rochester in a given year.



Terry Mathews-DeSant, International Citizen of the Year and long-time President of the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities committee

Terry's vision and leadership resulted in inspirational and historic cultural exchanges, including the participation of seven Rochesterians in an international wheelchair basketball tournament in Rennes for paraplegic athletes. Another highlight was the production of a series of interviews with veterans entitled "The War That Had To Be Fought: Rochester WWII Vets Remember," presented to Rennes in 2004 in recognition of the 60th anniversary of its liberation.

Terry spoke to the crowd about how she was raised to appreciate a life of diversity, "the best gift a child could receive," and how she was inspired by her aunt to be a language teacher. She thanked her husband and family for taking care of things on the home front so that she could travel with her exchange programs, and related how the Rennes-Rochester program began through a French student she met while working at the UR language lab in 1957. Her many other stories of a life devoted to the very definition of Citizen Diplomacy inspired many in the room.

Thank you to **Josephine M. Perini**, who as always did a great job pulling this event together, along with Awards Committee members and presenters **Jeff Cox** and **Bernie O'Connor**, Dinner Committee member **Ellen Zuroski**, and volunteers **Doreen Smethurst** and **Mary DeLaney Hale**.

- **Judy Weinstein & Lisa Larson Read**

12th Annual Wine Tasting



Irene White and **Language Intelligence** colleagues enjoying the Wine Tasting.



RIC Board Members **Jessica Clawson**, **Edwin Nguti**, **Lisa Larson Read**, and **Molly Jolliff**

The 12th Annual Wine Tasting, chaired by **Doreen Smethurst** along with co-chair **Edwin Nguti**, was held once again at the elegant **Strathallan Hotel**, and attended by almost a hundred members, friends and supporters. The evening's highlight was a most interesting talk on how to sniff, swirl and taste, by local sommelier **Holly Howell**, whose column appears every other Tuesday in the *Democrat and Chronicle*, and who had just that day launched her new business "Un-Corked."

Everyone was in a festive mood as we tried a wonderful variety of wines, generously donated for the third consecutive year by **Empire Merchants North**. The Strathallan outdid itself with a varied and unusual selection of cheeses, fruits and crackers, and **Al Biles** and **GenJam** contributed his usual musical ambiance to the delight of all.

Century Liquor donated several fine wines which were offered as a silent auction, and the winners got some very good wines without breaking the bank. This added to the event, and we plan to do it again next year. As has become a tradition, gift baskets assembled by **Doreen Smethurst** were raffled off, and two lucky winners went home smiling at their good fortune.

The event was one of our best ever. People lingered with their last glasses of wine, chatting, laughing and enjoying themselves until late into the evening. Thank you to our event sponsors, **Egger & Leegant**; **Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Inc.**; **Language Intelligence**,

Ltd.; and **Magellan, Inc.** A great time was had by all, and we hope to see you next year!

- **Doreen Smethurst**

Contributions

We appreciate all our member contributions and wish to gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions made above the Envoy level of support. The following contributions for 2009-10 were not previously reported:

Citizen Diplomat

Josh Barrett
Susan Hickey

Contributions for 2010-2011 received by July 14, 2010

Consul

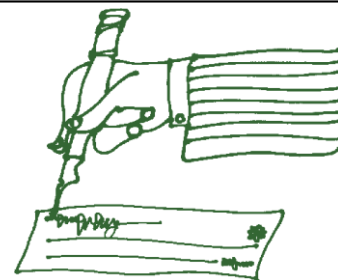
Julie Holzbach

Attaché

Mary Ann & James Campbell
Mrs. Charles Carlton
Jamie Columbus
Heidi Kozireski
Judiana Lawrence
Mr. & Mrs. John Lynd

Citizen Diplomat

Nancy Blanda
Jo Cone
Simos Economides
Jim Fleming
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fleming
Marcia Karch
Dolores Kleinberg
Deb Koen
Jo Anne Leegant



Mr. & Mrs. Hank McLeod
John & Mary Ann McCabe
Josephine M. Perini
Kathleen Powers
Ralph Raimi
Joan Rosenthal

We appreciate the contributions made to RIC by two friends of Terry Mathews-DeSant.

If you haven't already made your annual contribution, please renew your membership on our website or mail payment to the RIC office.

International Visitor Leadership Program News

We continue to host delegations from various countries, as you can see in the article that follows, with brief descriptions of their programs in Rochester. Everyone visits Niagara Falls, with many of them enjoying the Maid of the Mist. Depending on the amount of unscheduled time they have, I arrange for complimentary entrance to various museums. On behalf of the visitors, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the **Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Memorial Art Gallery, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra**. These groups also went to the Lilac and Harbor/Carousel Festivals, and enjoyed the High Falls Laser Show.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Management – India

Five participants and an English Language Officer were in Rochester May 12-15. **Deb Koen, Career Development Services**, provided a Leadership Workshop that included Skill Building for Leaders, as well as an activity dealing with Reflective Learning and Application. Resources at the **Rochester Business Alliance** included **Sandra A. Parker, Barbara Cutrona, Ellen Rosen, Christopher Wiest** and **Kevin Donahue**. **Brian Sampson** from **Unshackle New York** provided valuable information on "Economic Development and the importance of 'Strength in Numbers'."

I arranged several appointments with NGOs. **SAATHI Inc.** is an NGO that helps South Asian women facing domestic violence, emotional abuse, and similar situations. **Sashi Sharma M.D., Ravi Sharma M.D., Padmanabh Kamath M.D., and Kalpna Gupta** discussed strategies that facilitate SAATHI in achieving its goals. **Chris Hilderbrant, Mary Willoughby, and Diane Coleman** discussed the mission of the **Center for Disability Rights**, providing much new information for the visitors. **Elaine Spaul** and the staff at the **Center for Youth** spoke about the organization's structure, services for youth, and volunteer involvement.

Kit Miller, Director of **M. K. Gandhi Institute**, discussed "A Season for Nonviolence – 64 Days" and the concept of restorative justice. At another meeting, **Arun Gandhi** talked about his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi's teaching, including the concept that relationships must be built on respect, understanding, accepting and appreciating.

Community Development – Vietnam

One of the four participants who came with two interpreters on this project, from May 15 to 19, sent me this email: "There were five cities that my group visited in the U.S. Rochester is the place I liked most because of the program you prepared for us. This was very useful in increasing my working capacity and skills. The people we met were very informative and hospitable. The spirit of the volunteers and their kindness was very good too."

Thomas O'Connor and **Karen Gafney** talked about the history of the **Al Sigi Community of Agencies**, and the great collaboration among the various agencies. **Catherine Mazzotta** spoke about the mission of **Alternatives for Battered Women** and sources of funding. **Mary Lou McCloud** and **Carrie Michel-Wynne**, from the **YWCA**, talked about strategies used to assist women find affordable housing, and techniques to help them cope with the stresses of life.

At the **March of Dimes**, the visitors were very interested to learn how volunteers are recruited, trained and maintained. They also learned about advocacy work and fundraising activities. A meeting with **Elaine Spaul** and **Donna Pritchard** at the **Center for Youth** resulted in a dynamic dialogue. To the question, "What have you learned that surprises you?" responses included: "how friendly the Americans are," "how independent a person can be – we make group decisions," "the individual contributions," and "the spirit of volunteerism."

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At the **Susan B. Anthony House**, they learned about Ms. Anthony's role in the women's rights movement and her many other activities. They also toured the house. **Laura Sadowski** talked about the history of the **Strong National Museum of Play**, pointing out that "play is important to learning and education...play provides a window to American culture." The group enjoyed touring the museum and visiting the Butterfly Garden. When they heard the closing time announcement, they said they wished they could stay longer.

Arts and Culture – Indonesia

Noted Indonesian musician **Agustinus Dwiharso** and his interpreter were in Rochester May 20-23. They were both overwhelmed by the quality of the appointments they attended. "Agus," known throughout Indonesia for his work with young people and "Music in the Park" in Jakarta, wrote on his evaluation "Rochester is the best. I'll miss Rochester. Dream come true."

At **Hochstein School of Music & Dance**, he met with **Peggy Quackenbush** and **Nancy Strelau** to discuss the programs at Hochstein. He also met with **Wade Richards**, music therapist. Nancy invited him to visit her at **Nazareth College** the next day to see the facilities, and learn about the curriculum and certification for music educators. They were wearing the T-shirts from each others' organizations, exchanged the day before. So special.

Saul Maneiro gave an overview of the **Community Foundation** and talked about how funds are allocated. **Donna Brink Fox** and other staff members from the **Eastman School of Music** shared a lot of information which included admissions, curriculum, certification for Music Education, the Eastman Community School, and the Eastman Gamelan Program.

Agus enjoyed his visits to **Sullivan Violins** and **Paul Strelau's Student String Shop** in Fairport, where he learned about and saw string instruments being made. He also enjoyed **Bernunzio Uptown Music**, where he played a variety of instruments. One of many highlights was having a meeting with **Wilfredo DeGlans**, Associate Concertmaster of the **Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra** (RPO) and then attending an RPO performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

Another highlight occurred at the **School of the Arts**. He met with **Alan Tirre**, Assistant Principal for Arts Instruction, and **John Gabriele**, Music Department Chair. John was showing Agus the new technology which included a computer hooked up to a piano. As the piano was played, the score appeared on the computer. At that point, Agus explained that the day before, he was told of the death of Gesang, a renowned Indonesian singer-songwriter. He shared that he could not get a famous composition of Gesang's, *Bengawan Solo (Solo River)*, out of his head. After he said he did not have a copy of the score, he was invited to play it on the piano. We watched as the score appeared on the screen. After listening to the story and hearing the beautiful song, Alan suggested that perhaps the orchestra could learn it and perform it in the fall. A magical moment.

-**Josephine M. Perini**

In Appreciation of IVLP Volunteers

I receive many emails and phone calls from volunteers telling me how much they enjoyed being with the International Visitors who come to Rochester for a professional and cultural program. The drivers for the three programs described in this issue of *Interfaces* include **Cookie Campbell, Elisa Cockburn, Clemencia Delosrios-Batman, Bernie O'Connor, Pat Pogue, Kathy Powers, Susan Rice, Amy Roll, and Jean Sikora**. **Alice** and **David Meyer** also hosted noted Indonesian musician **Agus Dwiharso** and his interpreter at their Open House. Agus entertained over 30 people playing the student-made violin which he had brought with him from Indonesia.

If you would like to be part of the IVLP, as a host for dinner, as a driver or by joining them for lunch, please contact me at 288-5607, JBlackbird2000@yahoo.com.

- **Josephine M. Perini**



***Non-Governmental Organization
(NGO) Management – India***

International Visitors from India with **Josephine M. Perini** and **Deb Koen** of **Career Development Services** (top); - **Chris Hilderbrant**, **Mary Willoughby**, and **Diane Coleman** of the **Center for Disability Rights** (center); and at the **M.K. Gandhi Center** (bottom)



Community Development – Vietnam

International Visitors from Vietnam at the Lilac Festival with **Nicholas Batman**, **Thomas Cockburn**, and **Elisa Cockburn** (top) and with **Josephine M. Perini**, **Pat Pogue**, and **Cookie Campbell** at the Strong National Museum of Play (bottom)



Arts and Culture - Indonesia

Agustinus Dwihalso, noted musician from Indonesia, with **Nancy Strelau** of Nazareth College (top); **Josephine M. Perini** and **Wilfredo DeGlans**, Associate Concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (center); and **John Gabriele** of the School of the Arts (bottom)

Advocacy for the International Visitor Leadership Program

You may have wondered how the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is funded. RIC receives a grant from the National Council for International Visitors based upon the number of IVLP participants that we have, which must be used in support of the IVLP. The U.S. Department of State funds the NCIV grants, sets the grant levels, and approves the grants.

The funds for the grants for RIC, other Councils for International Visitors (CIVs) and National Programming Agencies (NPAs), and funding for the Office of International Visitors are all part of the Department of State budget, which is approved by Congress and currently stands at \$16 billion. Within that, the budget for Educational and Cultural Exchanges, of which the IVLP is just one of several programs, is \$635 million.

NCIV makes great efforts to get increased funding for the IVLP, so that the number of IVLP participants can return to its high point of 5,000 visitors in a year. NCIV and member CIVs have multiple advocacy approaches to gain Congressional support. Each year CIV representatives visit local Congressional offices to discuss the IVLP and its value to the community and the country. At the annual NCIV Meeting in Washington's Breakfast on the Hill, members of Congress and staff members are invited to attend to learn about the IVLP, as several members of Congress speak about its importance. After the Breakfast, CIV members fan out across the Hill to meet with other aides, to update them about the IVLP and ask for support. At appropriate times in the budget process, we contact both the local and Washington offices of our Senators and Representatives to ask for their support.

This summer, NCIV is preparing for its 50th Anniversary Gala in February, and is gathering support for both House and Senate resolutions commemorating the anniversary and designating February 11, 2011 as "Citizen Diplomacy Day." As a member of NCIV's Advocacy Committee, I was particularly happy that all three of our current Representatives and one of our Senators have signed on to the resolutions. I expect that the other Senator will sign on as well.

We also send copies of *Interfaces* to both the local and Washington offices of our Representatives and Senators, so the staff is aware of all that we do, both with the IVLP and with international students. If you are interested in joining me when I call upon your Representative to discuss the IVLP, please let me know. Having a volunteer along who lives in the district adds strength to the message.

- **Judy Weinstein**

In the fall of 1982, I arrived here as an eighteen-year-old student from India, eight thousand miles away. America was in rough shape. That December, unemployment hit 10.8 percent, higher than at any point since World War II. Interest rates hovered around 15 percent. Vietnam, Watergate, the energy crisis, and the Iranian hostage crisis had all battered American confidence...

Yet, America was a strikingly open and expansive country...Everywhere I went, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. It was a feeling I had never had before, a country wide open to the world, to the future, and to anyone who loved it. To a young visitor, it seemed to offer unlimited generosity and promise.

For America to thrive in this new and challenging era, for it to succeed amid the rise of the rest [the growth of countries such as China, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey, Kenya, and South Africa], it need fulfill only one test. It should be a place that is inviting and exciting to the young student who enters the country today as it was for this awkward eighteen-year-old a generation ago.

From ***The Post-American World*** by Fareed Zakaria, editor of ***Newsweek***, Washington Post columnist, weekly host for CNN, and a New York Times bestselling author.

International Student Events

This spring, our traditional Line Dance and Chili Supper was led by **Terry May**, and **Edwin Nguti** managed the food. Terry also accompanied the students to the Maple Sugar Tour and Pancake Brunch at the Cumming Nature Center. **Jessica Clawson** took a busload of students to Corning to the Rockwell Museum of Western History and the Corning Museum of Glass. We are thankful to those who coordinated these activities, and asked two of the students who participated to share their experiences!

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

"I am a student of RIT. I attended the Corning trip, the Line Dance, and the Maple Sugar trip. I thought all were awesome. I am really thankful to RIC for arranging these events for us. It's a great opportunity for international students to visit places, learn, enjoy and interact with fellow students. Appreciate all your efforts. Waiting eagerly for next year's events."

Shweta Shidhore, RIT (Graduate student in Graphic Design)

"I attended the Corning trip this year. It was overall a pleasant experience. I am from China, and it was very exciting for me to get to know more about American history. Corning is a perfect place nearby to attain this purpose. It is a quiet, antique little town with lots of culture and the shadow of history. Earlier this year, I went to a museum in Austin, Texas, and last fall I visited several well-known museums in Philadelphia. When I combined what I have seen around this country, this is really breathtaking to think of a unique combination of this 200+ year old country's development and the preservation of a much longer yet much unexplored Indian culture. For a day trip, this is really a good deal for international students. I would tell my friends who haven't been there to go with RIC next year!"

Michael Tang, U of R (Graduate student in the Simon School of Business)

Friendship Family Profile



Brian and Peggy Fleming, at right, with their Friendship Students

Over the 40 years that we have hosted students from other countries while they were at the U of R or RIT, we have been usually matched with them through the RIC volunteer in charge of Friendship Host families. But in the past few years, we have also met them in other venues. As we talked with our Rwandan student, who we met at the RIC Square Dance, we found out he wanted a host family. Our Chinese student was at Strong Hospital in the waiting room with us. He also requested a host family.

Last week Salman, a student from Indonesia, asked us to be his host family. He had heard that RIC was hosting an Indonesian International Visitor Leadership Program, and wanted to help make their stay welcome. Josephine Perini invited him to join the group, and my husband and I drove them to three museums and enjoyed lunch with them. Salman helpfully answered their questions about life in Rochester. We are delighted to add him to the students we already host, and expect to invite him and the others to dinner and occasional events.

- **Peggy Fleming**

It's that time again! Colleges are cleaning residence hall rooms, professors are completing their fall syllabi, students are getting ready to hit the books...and, **Hank and Sheila McLeod** are calling RIC members so that we can make sure all interested international students have Friendship Hosts!

Friendship Hosts get together with their students whenever they can fit meetings into their busy schedules and act as a resource for any questions they may have. Please call Hank or Sheila at 621-1054 or send them them an email at hankmcl@yaho.com if you are ready for more students. If you are new to RIC, feel free to call Sheila, Hank or Judy at the RIC office to find out more!

International Insights: *Crossing Borders* Film Screening & Panel



The RIC International Insights Committee, with support and assistance from a variety of RIT groups, coordinated a screening and panel discussion of *Crossing Borders* on April 22. Produced and directed by Arnd Wachter of Morocco Exchange, Inc., this noted intercultural studies film documents the week-long experience of 4 American and 4 Moroccan university students – previously unknown to each other – who together visit Tangier, Rabat, Casablanca and Chefchaouen.

Crossing Borders panelists **Tanya Schueler-Choukairi, Mara Ahmed, Dr. Martha Morgan, Dr. Edward Kannyo, Dr. Conerly Casey** consider a question from the audience

The film captures the reactions and observations of the students to their surroundings, to each other's cultures,

and to each other as individuals. Both the Moroccans and the Americans are enlightened, and later a bit sad to return whence they came – realizing that this adventure has provided new windows on a world screened off to them by prejudice and fear as well as distance.

The film and panel discussion attracted an audience of over a hundred students, faculty, staff, RIC members, and members of the Rochester community. **Beverly Zajkowski** and **Mary DeLaney Hale** coordinated lovely refreshments for those who wished to continue their discussion following the panel presentation. **Judy Weinstein** coordinated the sign-in table and an exhibit of RIC information.

RIC is very grateful to all those who contributed to the dynamic program. **Jeff Cox**, RIT Director of International Student Services, provided opening remarks, and **Ellen Zuroski**, of the UR Simon School, facilitated the engaging discussion. Contributing their insights to the panel were **Mara Ahmed**, producer of the documentary film "Muslims I Know;" **Dr. Edward Kannyo**, RIT Dept. of Political Science; **Dr. Conerly Casey** and **Dr. Martha Morgan**, both RIT Department of Sociology and Anthropology; and **Tanya Schueler-Choukairi**, Instructor at RIT's English Language Center, who previously lived in Morocco for many years.

The event would not have been possible without the financial and technical support of these RIT organizations: **Global Union**, the major RIT international student group; **International Student Services**; **Study Abroad**; the Department of **Political Science**; the **English Language Center**; and **Educational Technology Services at RIT's Wallace Memorial Library**, who contributed the closed-captioned version of the film. The screening of *Crossing Borders* may be repeated in the future, as RIT has been offered a free screening from Morocco Exchange, Inc. – a not-for-profit educational exchange organization based in Spain, with an advisory board from numerous U.S. and foreign institutions.

The screening in April demonstrates that when communities come together to engage in such Citizen Diplomacy activities, the results are more than expected. Borders other than national and religious are crossed, and friendships and support groups develop. RIC International Insights is planning additional screenings of films documenting issues of religion, values, customs, and culture in the United States and around the world. We hope you will let us know what you would like to see, and what you think of the events which take place.

- **Tanya Schueler-Choukairi**

RIC Sponsor Profile: Egger & Leegant

*On an occasional basis, we will be profiling RIC's corporate sponsors. Our first is of **Egger and Leegant**, a law partnership between **Jo Anne Leegant**, a new RIC member, and her husband **Jan Egger**. We always welcome new sponsors, and are grateful to the additional activities their support facilitates.*



Jan Egger and Jo Anne Leegant

Imagine living and working with your spouse. Jo Anne Leegant and Jan Egger have been married for over 33 years, and have practiced law together for more than 21 years.

Though they both worked for Erie County, just one floor apart in the same building, they didn't meet until Jan spiked a volleyball directly at Jo Anne during a picnic in Buffalo. At the time, Jan was a new lawyer in the Erie County Attorney's office, and Jo Anne was a probation officer. After she was promoted to a supervisory position, she was bored, burned out and looking for a career change, and followed Jan's advice to apply to law school at SUNY Buffalo. He never expected her to give up her secure civil service job, but when she was accepted just before the semester began, she decided it was time to go back to school – the same advice she had often given her probation clients.

The next three years were challenging, and just as Jo Anne was about to graduate, they learned Jan had been laid off. After sending resumes all over the country, Jan found a job at a small Rochester law firm, where Jo Anne too was employed after

passing the bar. After several months commuting from Buffalo, they were finally settled here, along with all four cats and two dogs.

Jo Anne opened her own office in 1985, where Jan joined her in 1990 to form Egger and Leegant. It has always been a general practice firm: personal injury cases, criminal work, real estate, wills and estate work, consumer issues, small claims cases, collections and family law. However, particularly since more clients are finding Egger and Leegant via the internet, the work has shifted from primarily trial work to a more varied mix including real estate, criminal and traffic work.

Jan and Jo Anne have always enjoyed traveling and meeting people from different countries and cultures. They have visited Italy, Spain, Greece, France, and most recently China. Their friends and clients come from many different countries and ethnic backgrounds as well. Jo Anne and Jan were proud to sponsor last year's Rochester International Council wine tasting, enjoying the food, wine, and the opportunity to speak with the other guests.

No matter where we were born or what ethnic background we come from, all of our cultures and traditions have developed and evolved over the years in order to assist and guide people through the events of life and even death.

By getting to know people from different cultures in their personal and professional lives, Jo Anne Leegant and Jan Egger have learned to listen to others, to understand their values and traditions, and to appreciate how much all people have in common, no matter how different their cultures may seem. You are invited to visit their website at eggerandleegant.com.

Welcome New Members!

Gin and Steve Busack
Susan Hickey
Jeff Jozefski
Jo Anne Leegant





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SAVE THE DATES

Welcome Picnic – Greece Canal Park – September 12, 2010
Square Dance at the Barn – October 1, 2010

Interfaces

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