
International Center of Worcester



Winter
2006-7

NEWSLETTER

138 Woodland Street, Worcester, MA 01610
tel. 508-793-7626; fax: 508-793-8889
e-mail: ICW@ClarkU.edu www.IntCent.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!

After a relatively quiet summer and early fall, the office is now very busy! Our big challenge is to secure a consistent flow of granted programs to sustain our very necessary office personnel. We are encouraged that our "Fee for Service" program from Astrakhan, Russia, has generated some very promising follow up activity. Nadia, Royce, and Tom Massey from Clark made a trip there in early fall; a small academic delegation arrived here for a program in December; and they will send another larger group of faculty next spring. Also in December, a Community Connections group from the Republic of Georgia was here as well as an Open World program from Kaluga. We thank all of you who were home and/or business hosts for these visitors.

Our thanks, too, to all of you who helped us meet our **October Challenge Grant** that brought in needed funds of over \$4,000! In other good news, ICW has qualified for this year's round of Com/Con grants with very high marks, and our hope is to have a reliable series of granted programs of 2-3 per year from this source. Again, you members are the heart of the ICW, resourcing our mission of building strong ties of friendship and understanding between Worcester County and the world through your hosting and financial participation. Many thanks, also, to Royce and Nadia for their many hours of "volunteering" during the slow program months, and to the wonderful cadre of program and office volunteers headed by Anna De Mulder and Vita Aronson.

International Visitors Update

Royce Anderson and Anna De Mulder, ICW Program Officer

State University of Astrakhan meets Universities in Worcester.

ICW has developed its first major **fee for service** program. April 13-24, a delegation of 12 Academics and Department Heads, under the leadership of the Rector (President) of the State University of Astrakhan, Russia visited Worcester for a 10-day professional program. The university is located on the Volga River delta where it flows into the Caspian Sea in an area famous for its sturgeon and caviar.

The group toured Washington, New York, and Boston in addition to their week-long professional program in Worcester. They met with the Presidents and key administrators and faculty from Clark University, WPI, and Worcester State College. They also had meetings at the Massachusetts Biotechnology Park and the IT computer center at the University of Massachusetts.

This visit has led to discussions of ongoing cooperation between Astrakhan and Worcester. In September, WPI's Assistant VP for Government and Corporate Relations Linda Looft and her husband Professor Fred Looft visited Astrakhan. This trip, to negotiate future student and faculty exchanges, also included side trips to Moscow and St. Petersburg -- all organized by ICW.

In October, Royce and Nadia Anderson accompanied Dean Thomas Massey of Clark University's College of Professional and Continuing Education



to Astrakhan to explore the possibility of establishing Clark master's degree programs there. Discussions are now continuing between Clark and Astrakhan, facilitated by ICW.

Royce Anderson helped and advised the University of Astrakhan on its application to be an affiliate of Harvard University's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness to teach the course "the Microeconomics of Competitiveness" in Astrakhan. This institute is run by Prof. Michael Porter at the Harvard Business School.

In December, two Astrakhan faculty members came to the US to continue discussions with Clark University and WPI and to train at Harvard to teach the Microeconomics of Competitiveness course.

This fee for service program was entirely organized and funded through a direct agreement between the University of Astrakhan and ICW. It is a part of a strategy, approved by the ICW Board, to develop sources of programs and funding that are independent from the US government. Special thanks to Nadia Anderson who developed this program and also manages it and all follow-up visits. We hope this is the beginning of a long relationship between ICW and Astrakhan.

Healthy Lifestyle Education-Tajikistan

From April 26th to May 16th, immediately after the Astrakhan group, we hosted ten public health professionals from the central Asian republic of Tajikistan on a **Community Connections** program. The group consisted of physicians, government officials, and NGO leaders interested in health education and encouraging healthy behaviors in the population.

Their program included several seminars giving an overview of the US public health system and health promotion. They visited the Worcester Department of Public Health, the Worcester District Medical Society, Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital, UMass Memorial, and the Family Health Center.

They visited several non-profit organizations including the Red Cross, the YWCA, AIDS Project Worcester, Health Awareness Services, the Free Medical

Clinic at St Anne's Church, and the Worcester Youth Center. They spent one day in the Worcester Public Schools including meetings with their top administrators and a tour of Burncoat High School. They also met with the Health Reporter at the Telegram & Gazette.

Their cultural program included the Worcester Art Museum, a tour of Boston, Plimoth Plantation and the Mayflower Museum, the Native American Mashantucket Museum, and Old Sturbridge Village. They also enjoyed a weekend in New York City.

Many ICW members met this group on Saturday, May 13 at a potluck Dinner and Cultural Presentation at the home of ICW member James Welu. Mr. Welu was also a home host for a member of this group. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of international food and a presentation of video, national dress, music, dance, and song prepared by the visitors.

Thanks to all those who provided homestays for the group: Karen Bengoa, Ken Johnson, Nan & Wilbur Johnson, Nancy & Bob Kimball, Pat LaRochelle, Carol & Dennis Parker, Jim Welu, and Royce and Nadia Anderson. Thanks, too, to Dennis Irish and Lynda Young for their advice and help with the program. The program was organized by Nadia Anderson, Anna DeMulder, and Royce Anderson. It was funded by USAID and administered through World Learning in Washington, DC.

Town Administration, Italy

On July 3rd an educational psychologist and government consultant from **Italy** visited Worcester for a program in **Local Government**. He met with the Town Administrator of West Boylston to discuss the involvement of citizens in town management, with the Executive Director of Worcester's UniverCity Partnership to discuss the relations between education and local economic development, and with the Coordinator of Counseling, Psychology, and Community Outreach at the Worcester Public Schools to discuss at risk youth and the "Worcester Education Partnership" with Clark University.

This program was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Dept. of State, administered through Meridian International Center in



Washington, DC. The local program was organized by ICW's Program Officer Anna DeMulder

Russian Mayors

On July 27, a group of Mayors from the **Russian Far East** came to Worcester to discuss issues of **City Management**. They met with the Division of Economic Development at Worcester City Hall, with the City Treasurer, City Councilor Joffrey Smith and School Committee member Jack Foley. This program was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Dept. of State, administered through the Phelps Stokes Fund in Washington, DC. The local program was organized by ICW's Program Officer, Anna DeMulder.

Kosovo Local Government

August 2-4, ICW hosted a group of seven mayors, government officials, NGO directors, and a journalist from **Kosovo** on the theme of **Local Government**. They met with several Worcester City Councilors and with the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services of the City of Worcester. The Town Manager of Shrewsbury gave the group an extensive presentation on town management and the "Town meeting" form of government.

This program was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Dept. of State, administered through Delphi International in Washington, DC. Anna DeMulder, ICW'S Program Officer, organized the local program.

Multi-Regional

On August 9th, ICW welcomed a group of 19 government officials, educators, journalists, and NGO directors from Bahrain, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Jamaica, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe for a program on **Citizen Participation in a Democracy**. They met with the Shrewsbury Town Manager and also visited the Campaign headquarters for the Election of Worcester Mayor Timothy Murray to Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

Many ICW members met this group at an outdoor "Summer Outing" and potluck BBQ at the lakeside home of ICW members Alicja Rudnicka-MacGillivray & Peter Ferensowicz in East Douglas (see below). This program was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Dept. of State, administered through Meridian International Center in Washington, DC. The local program was organized by ICW's Program Officer Anna DeMulder.

Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development - Georgia

November 1– December 6, ICW hosted ten business people from the republic of Georgia through the **Community Connections** Program, sponsored by USAID and administered by World Learning in Washington, DC. ICW organized job-shadowing internships in area companies in diverse areas of interest: Marketing, Human Resources, Import-Export, Pharmaceutical distribution, Advertising, Credit Reporting, Banking, Commercial Property Management, Food and wine distribution, and the management of recreation centers. All visited at least two different companies to observe the "American way of doing business."

The program included educational seminars on the US Business culture and on the Legal Environment of Business. The group visited the US Export Assistance Center at the World Trade Center in Boston, the Massachusetts Export Center, the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau of Central Mass., and the Martin Luther King Business Empowerment Center. During their weekend in NY City, they had a tour of the Museum of American Finance and watched commodities trading at the NY Board of Trade.

Their cultural program included tours of Worcester, Boston, the Native American Museum in Connecticut, and New York City.

ICW members had the chance to meet this group on Sunday, December 3, at a potluck dinner where the group performed a cultural presentation of Georgian music, song, and dance.



Special thanks to those who provided homestays for these visitors: Boris and Vita Aronson, Cle and Nancy Blair, Diana and William Glimm (first-time homestay hosts), Dennis and Maureen Irish, Pat LaRoche, Carl and Judy Nielsen, Carol & Dennis Parker, Lynda Young and Bob Sorrenti, and Judy and Kent Van Hoven. Thanks to the many people who helped us find business hosts and other program contacts for this group.

Effective City Management. City of Kaluga, Russia.

December 9-17, immediately after the ComCon program, ICW hosted a group of five top city administrators from the Russian City of Kaluga through the **Open World Leadership Program** sponsored by the Library of Congress and administered by the Academy for Educational Leadership (AED) in Washington, DC. This program was designated by the Open World Leadership Center as a “Special Program,” which means that ICW, through a competitive bidding process, was invited to propose the program, develop the theme, and select candidates.

The group consisted of the Deputy Mayor, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the City Council (Duma), the Deputy Head of Education, and the Deputy Head of the Finance Department. They met with top Worcester officials, including Congressman James McGovern, outgoing Worcester Mayor Murray, City Manager O’Brian and Assistant City Manager Jacobson, several City Counselors, the City Treasurer, the City Elections Commissioner, and the City Human Rights Commissioner. They also attended and were recognized at a meeting of the Worcester City Council.

They got an overview of small town management from the Shrewsbury Town Manager and visited a number of local non-profits including the League of Women Voters, the local Democratic Party, the Worcester Region Research Bureau, and the Oak Hill Community Development Corporation. The visitors requested a meeting with Professor Valerie Sperling of Clark University whom they know from her work on women’s issues and cultural issues in Russia.

The group spent a day in the Worcester Public Schools, first meeting with the Superintendent and

Deputy Superintendent of Schools along with six of the top managers of the school system. They then visited the Worcester Technical High School where they learned



City Officials from Kaluga, Russia, meet Mayor Murray and Councilor Petty

about the school’s cooperative agreements with many commercial companies. This visit sparked ideas for possible future programs with Kaluga to stimulate the involvement of commercial companies such as Dell Computer in Kaluga.

The cultural program included tours of Boston and New York City. Prior to their arrival in Worcester, they spent two days in Washington, DC organized by the Open World program. Special thanks to those who provided homestays for these visitors: Joel Blair, Nan and Will Johnson, Nancy & Bob Kimball, Ellen & Dick Varney, and Royce and Nadia Anderson. Thanks to Anna DeMulder and Nadia Anderson for their work in organizing and implementing this program.

Doctors from Iran

On December 11, ICW organized the visit of a group of 16 Iranian physicians. This was a very special program of the US Dept. of State under tight media and publicity restrictions. The group visited the Family Health Center of Worcester, the Emergency Department of UMass Medical Center, St. Vincent’s Hospital at the Worcester Medical Center, and AIDS Project Worcester. This program was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Dept. of State, administered through the Institute of International Education in Washington, DC. Special thanks to Lynda Sorrenti and Dennis Irish for helping Royce Anderson and Anna DeMulder organize this program on very short notice.



ICW received letters of commendation for this program from the U.S. Department of State and from the program agency in Washington. They both commented that the Iranian visitors especially valued the Worcester part of their program in the U.S. and the personal attention they got here. Both letters can be read on the ICW website.

October Challenge Fund Drive

An anonymous donor offered ICW \$2,000 if we could raise a matching amount from our members and friends before the end of October 2006. Regular membership donations could not be counted. Through generous donations in response to a mailing we sent out at the end of September, we were able to meet this challenge and increase our annual revenues by over \$4,000. Thank you to all those who stepped up to help us with this extra donation.

Three ICW Potluck Dinners

We had three major social events for ICW members since last spring. These events are one of the main benefits of ICW membership and are great opportunities for ICW members to interact with our international visitors.

On May 13 our ten visitors from Tajikistan organized a Cultural Presentation as part of an ICW potluck dinner at the historic home of ICW member James Welu. In addition to the usual selection of international foods brought by our members, our visitors prepared several dishes to represent the cuisine of Tajikistan. Jim Welu served his many flavors of homemade ice cream. The visitors staged a presentation that included a slide and video show of Tajikistan, a display of their national dress, music, dance, and song. As the afternoon progressed, visitors and ICW members were dancing together.

On August 19th, a large group of ICW members met at the beautiful country home of Alicja Rudnicka-MacGillivray and Peter Ferensowicz to greet 19 visitors from 19 countries (see above "Multi-regional"). The gorgeous evening was a combination of summer ambience by the lake, delicious "potluck" international food, and very interesting

sharing of informative ideas with the visitors, all of whom could speak English. It was clear that they were learning much from their program appointments and from their interaction with each other. The whole evening truly epitomized the very best of what ICW's mission hopes to accomplish. Our sincere thanks to our hosts and to all of you who made this a night to remember.



Georgian business group
singing their national anthem

On Sunday, December 3, our group of visiting business people from the Republic of Georgia was the main feature of a potluck dinner held at the Multicultural Center at Clark University. Attended by ICW members, homestay hosts, and other invited guests, the evening included a slide show and video presentation of Georgia, its culture and history. Several of the group sang traditional songs in multi-part harmony, accompanied by guitar. One of the visitors, a professional dancer, gave a sample of Georgian traditional dance in full costume. All guests enjoyed this energetic and entertaining evening, and it was an especially memorable event for our visitors from Georgia.

Visit to Sister City Pushkin

During their October trip to Russia, Royce and Nadia Anderson visited the City Administration of Worcester's Sister City, Pushkin. They met with the City Administration of Pushkin/Pavlovsk who reminded us that 2007 will be the 20th anniversary of this Sister City relationship. They also told us that Pushkin will be celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2010. They are already making preparations,



planning events leading up to this anniversary beginning this year and each year until 2010. They invited us to develop some programs with them beginning in 2007 and through 2010. Let us know if you have any ideas or would like to help us.

During the same trip Royce and Nadia met with the five Pushkin artists who exhibited their works in Worcester during their 2-week program in November 2004. One of these artists, Sergei Artemyev, is now painting a portrait of former Worcester Mayor John Anderson to be hung in City Hall.

Nadia Anderson organized a reception in St. Petersburg with ICW's program alumni. These included visitors from previous Community Connections and Open World programs. About 25 people, members of the Alumni Association begun with ICW's help, attended the meeting. (See photo on last page.)

Nadia also visited the City of Kaluga to meet with some of the people who would be coming to Worcester on the Open World Leadership Program Special Project in December (see above).

Worcester, England Twinning

We recently had contact from the new liaison for the Twinning Committee in Worcester, England. They are hoping to revive this dormant relationship which was officially formed in 1999 between the Mayors of the two Worcesters. They are willing to host any visitors from Worcester, MA who want to visit Worcester, UK, and would especially like someone to be their contact person here. If you would like to travel to England or be the contact person, please let the ICW office know.

New ICW Membership Manager

We are very happy that ICW member Vita Aronson is now volunteering to be our Membership Manager. She has taken over the task of keeping track of all membership payments and payments due. She will also work with us strategically to develop our membership and search for new members. Vita has been active for several years as a home host for our

international visitors.

New Office Interns

ICW has enjoyed the help of several interns this year. Shunya Kitazawa began working with us in August 2006. He graduated from Clark University in May 2006 in International Relations, and plans to enter graduate school in the fall of 2007. His family lives in Japan and he has lived in Worcester since attending Worcester Academy before entering Clark. Shunya has been a great help in the office and working with our programs.

For the 2006 fall semester, Amanda Breniser, a senior in International Relations at Clark, did an internship for credit at ICW. Mandy's focus was a research project on the Community Connections Georgia Program (see above) that included focus groups and interviews with the visitors about their perception of the program, entrepreneurship, and other issues. She was also very helpful assisting us with the logistics for the program and other office tasks.

During this spring, 2007 semester we have three new Clark interns, Duc Nguyen, Sarah Cassidy, and Abigail Linz. Duc is working with ICW Program Officer Anna DeMulder on updating the database we use to connect local resources with State Department programs. Sarah is assisting Nadia Anderson on updating the website and other office work. Abby is working with Royce on advocacy to Washington and other tasks.

Host Families

We are always looking for households who are willing to serve as host families for our international visitors. The only requirement is for the visitors to have their own bedroom and that families spend some evenings and weekends conversing and including them in their family life and activities. Homestays are usually needed from one week to five weeks.

New ICW Members

The following have recently joined ICW:



Boris & Vita Aronson of Worcester.
Amanda Breniser, Clark University student.
James Welu of Worcester

Welcome to them all.

Websites of Interest

Please explore the ICW website, www.IntCent.org. It contains information about ICW including news about recent programs and upcoming events. We try to keep it updated, and welcome any comments and suggestions from you. Thanks to ICW member Ken Johnson for volunteering as webmaster.

An interesting weblink summarizes the various empires that have occupied the Middle East over history: www.mapsofwar.com/images/EMPIRE17.swf

The general website (www.mapsofwar.com) has a lot of other interesting historical/geographic information.



Meeting of Alumni in St. Petersburg, Russia, September, 2006



If you wish to become a member of the International Center, fill in the following and send it with your check to:
The International Center of Worcester, 138 Woodland Street, Worcester, MA 01610

.....
Name.....
Corporation (if applicable).....
Street Address.....
City/State/Zip.....
Residential Phone.....
Business Phone.....
Email Address.....

Check your Category of Membership(2007):

INDIVIDUAL/REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- STUDENT/SENIOR MEMBERSHIP \$15 or more
- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$35 or more
- DUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$50 or more
- CONTRIBUTOR \$100 or more
- SPONSOR \$250 or more
- WORCESTER AMBASSADOR \$500 or more

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

- NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION \$100 or more
- FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION \$250 or more
- CORPORATE CONTRIBUTOR \$500 or more
- CORPORATE SPONSOR \$1,000 or more
- CORPORATE AMBASSADOR \$5,000 or more

*International Center of Worcester
138 Woodland Street
Worcester, MA 01610-1477*

Non-profit
organization
U.S. Postage
paid
permit no.00212
Worcester
Massachusetts