

International Center of Worcester



NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2008



Happy Holidays and New Year's Greetings from the International Center of Worcester!

It's been a busy year for us with a steady flow of programs from April through October. We owe special thanks to all the families who provided homestays for many of the international visitor groups we have hosted during that time. As you know, our largest and longest programs require that we keep the visitors in private homes for the duration of their US visit. Thank you, homestay hosts!!

We also want to thank the many other people who have volunteered this year including

- the members of the ICW Board of Directors,
- ICW staff and all those who help us in the office,
- those who help organize our pot luck dinners and social occasions,
- everyone who drives or helps in other ways with all the logistics when our international visitors are in town.

The International Center of Worcester wishes you all happiness during this holiday season, and best wishes for the coming New Year.

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner Sunday, December 7th, 2008 3:00-6:00 pm

at the home of Professor Helen Papiro in Holden Center, in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Program at the College of the Holy Cross.

Foreign Language Assistants are international graduate students from

France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Russia, South Korea and Malaysia who are visiting Worcester for a year to help teach Holy Cross's foreign language courses.

This is a great time for you to eat, socialize, practice your language skills, and expand ICW's presence in the Worcester community.

Please contact ICW for details at 508-793-7626 or icw@clarku.edu.



An ICW Intern's Reflections,

By Leah Coleman

In May of this year, I began my internship at the International Center of Worcester. Initially, I became interested in the organization because, as an undergraduate International Relations Major at Clark, I believe that the mission of Citizen Diplomacy is extremely important to the future of the U.S. in terms of global politics and also because of the impact it can make on our local community. I have always been interested in non-profits and in working to make a difference one person at a time. I also spent the spring semester of my junior year abroad working to organize a European Commission funded best-practice seminar on legislation in relation to HIV/AIDS. Meeting people from as far away as Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan peaked my interest in global diplomacy, and it seemed ICW was a great place to continue working for global change.

In the ICW office my tasks have been extremely varied; sometimes I make copies, and other times I escort heads of important commissions from exotic locales around Worcester. I have also worked on planning programs, copy-editing newsletters, and have even started writing a grant for a fundraising event to take place in 2009. However, by far, the most rewarding part of working at the International Center has been seeing the interaction between our visitors and their homestay hosts. The excitement and gratitude of our delegation from Azerbaijan on their first night in the U.S. was palpable, and made me a true believer in the work that we engage in at ICW. An event planner from birth, I have also greatly enjoyed participating in our membership events and meeting the dedicated people who make up this great organization.

As I move on from the International Center, I do hope to continue to work for non-profit organizations as well as to devote my time to enhancing international understanding and cooperation. From my internship, I will take away a

new set of skills, a greater appreciation for the work of community-based organizations, and some priceless memories. I thank all of you for welcoming me into your organization, and I wish ICW the best of luck in all its ventures in the future!

Member Events:

ICW Reception at DZian Gallery, October 5th, 2008

The ICW Social Committee organized a Fall Membership wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at the DZian Gallery, located in the historic Water Street district of Worcester. Judge Philippe Coirre, an International Visitor (see story below) from Paris, France, shared his insights and experiences in the Counter-Terrorism Section of the French judicial system. The DZian Gallery displays works by over 50 local and international artists and designers. As always, ICW likes to welcome new members and to rekindle contacts among our existing members.

Wine Tasting at KJ Baaron's, October 20th, 2008



Members enjoy the festivities at the ICW Business Partners Wine Tasting



The ICW Board hosted a wine-tasting event to say “thank you” to the businesses and organizations that have supported ICW business programs in recent years. KJBarron’s, supplied a sampling of fine wines and ICW members brought appetizers. Dr. Stefan Winkler, Consul and Chief Science Officer at the British Consulate in Boston, spoke about the British Consulate’s activities promoting business relations with the U.S. He discussed the future of U.S.–British/European business relations in the current economic crisis and shared his experiences in the British Foreign Service hosting trade missions and dignitaries from the U.K to the United States. He spoke of the importance of person-to-person diplomacy as a means for businesses to better understand the cultural issues they face in the global market-place.

International Visitors

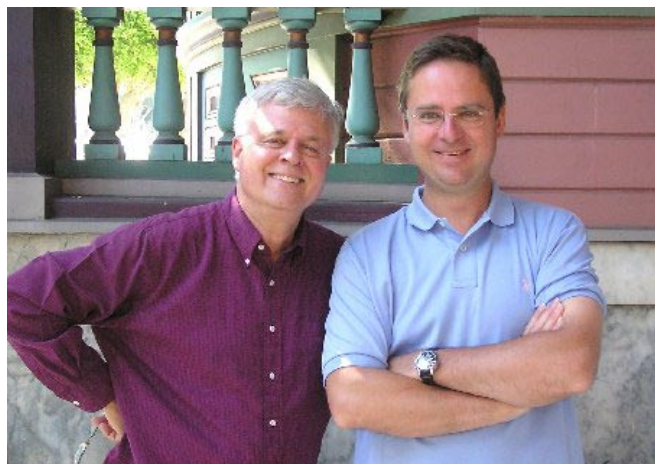
Economic Development: Slovenia, November 6, 2008

ICW hosted Martina Lodrant, the current Third Secretary of the United Nations Permanent Mission in Slovenia. The objective of her program in Worcester was to gain insight into economic and community development. She spent the day at the International Development and Social Change Department at Clark University, met with several professors, and attended a class on the United Nations and International Politics. Her visit was sponsored by the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program through the Meridian International Center in Washington, DC.

Counter-terrorism: Paris, France, October 4-8, 2008

The ICW hosted Judge Philippe Coirre from France. Judge Coirre is currently the Vice President of Investigative Judges for the Paris Counter-Terrorism Section. Judge Coirre’s objectives were to study the workings of the United States Judicial System, gain insight into U.S. investigations and trials, and understand

the challenges posed by U.S. detentions and foreign intelligence investigations. These objectives were part of a broader goal to improve the ongoing relationships between the U.S. and France. Judge Coirre also spoke to ICW members at the October 5th reception at the DZian Gallery, (see story above). His visit was



French delegate Judge Coirre (right)
with his Interpreter

sponsored by the US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program through the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Civics Education: Romania, October 3, 2008

ICW hosted two teachers from Romania for a program on civics education in the U.S. They visited the American Antiquarian Society to learn about its “Teaching American History Initiative” for public school teachers, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. They also visited Wachusett Regional High School, attending an Advanced Placement US History class. They visited under the auspices of the US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program through the Phelps Stokes Fund.

United States Political System: Spain, September 24-27, 2008

Three visitors involved in the national govern-



ment of Spain visited Worcester to learn about the U.S. Political System and see local programs that work with immigrants. Their broad objectives were to gain exposure to the American politics and to see local organizations that help immigrants assimilate into US society. These visitors were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program through the Meridian International Center. Special thanks to ICW members Dennis and Maureen Irish, William O'Brian, and Helen and Michael Papio for hosting these visitors in their homes for dinner.

Government Administration: Kaluga, Russia, September 19-27, 2008

ICW hosted 5 local and regional elected officials from the city of Kaluga, Russia for a 8-day program on Accountable Governance and Economic Development. All visitors are members of the Kaluga municipal Duma (City Council) and are also local business people. This was the



Kaluga Delegate Proydin receives his certificate from Royce Anderson

third delegation ICW has hosted over the past three years as part of the Open World Leadership Program of the Library of Congress, coordinated by the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in Washington, DC. Their Worcester program included meetings with the City of Worcester's finance and elections offices, Mayor Konstantina Lukes, the Town Manager of Shrewsbury, the Small Business Development

Center at Clark University, and the Mass. Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI) in Boston. Thanks to ICW Board member Tony Olson for providing them with a seminar on the US tax and financial system. Thanks especially to Bob and Nancy Kimball, Dennis and Carol Parker, Vita and Boris Aronson and Royce and Nadia Anderson for providing homestays for these visitors.

Minister of Culture, Cameroon, September 5, 2008

The ICW hosted the Cameroonian Minister of Culture for a program entitled "Advancing Economic Development through the Arts." Her main focus was to see how the City of Worcester includes cultural development as part of its larger economic development strategy. The Minister was also interested in building alliances between Cameroonian and American artists and creating exchange programs with museums and theater groups. She met with the City of Worcester's Cultural Development Officer and Director of Economic Development. She also met with the Foothills Theatre and the Worcester County Poetry Association. She was invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Medical Doctors from Azerbaijan, August 6-27, 2008

ICW hosted a group of 10 physicians and government health officials from Azerbaijan for a 3-week program titled "Quality Improvement and Evidence-Based Medicine." Sponsored by USAID's Community Connections Program, their visit is part of a larger initiative by the Azerbaijani government to restructure their post-Soviet healthcare system. The visitors got a comprehensive overview of the US health care system and observed how medical education provides new research and methodologies to provide practicing physicians with the best information to diagnose and treat their patients. During their program the group visited UMass Medical School, the Family Health Center, Saint Vincent Hospital, Fallon Clinic, the Barre Health Center, and Cornell Hospital in New York City,



the Worcester Free Medical clinic, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, the State Medical Laboratories in Jamaica Plain, the Lehman Center for Patient



Azerbaijan Participants meeting at the Regional Family Health Center, Barre, Mass.



Azerbaijan Participants at the farewell dinner with host families and ICW staff at the Clark University Faculty Dining Hall.

Safety and Medical Error Reduction in Boston, the Massachusetts Medical Society, the New England Journal of Medicine, the City of Worcester Department of Health, the Worcester Water Treatment Plant in Holden, the Mass. College of Pharmacy, Quinsigamond Community College, Unicare Insurance Company, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Hospices Services of Western Mass., the Central

Mass. Independent Physician Association and AIDS Project Worcester. Their cultural program included tours of Boston and NY City and well as a day at the beach and visits to local museums and street performances.

Special thanks to those with whom the visitors lived for 3 weeks. First time homestay hosts were Katie Bilotta, Patricia Handrahan, Dr. Timothy and Jill Hoffman, Mimi Berberian, and Troy Tyree. Veteran host families were Nan and Will Johnson, Michael and Martha Michalewich, Vita and Boris Aronson, Dr. Robert Sorrenti and Dr. Lynda Young, Royce and Nadia Anderson. Thanks also to Dr. Peter and Anne Schneider and the Sorrentis for opening their homes for social receptions for the visitors. Thanks to Lynda Young for advising us on the professional program.

Citizen Participation in Governance: China, August 6-9, 2008

ICW hosted 5 visitors from the People's Republic of China in a program on grassroots democracy, rule of law and transparency in government. They met with Mayor Konstantina Lukes, the Deputy Director of Elections, and the Director of Economic Development for the City of Worcester. They were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program through the Graduate School, USDA in Washington, DC.

Twining with Worcester, England

As reported in our last Newsletter, ICW helped revive the relationship between Worcester, MA and Worcester, U.K.

In August, Deborah Nurse, Chair of the Worcester UK Twining Committee, traveled to Worcester, U.K. with the All Saints Choir. The choir, made up of both children and adults, performed in the three ancient cathedrals of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford as part of the Three Choirs Festival. The choir children stayed at the Fownes Hotel, while the adults



lived with local homestay families.

Mayor Konstantina Lukes declared August, 2008 "Celebrate Worcester Month" in honor of the twinning of the two cities. While in the UK, the choir met with Mayor Lucy Hodgson of Worcester, U.K., and presented her with the proclamation and other gifts from Worcester, MA. The group also enjoyed cultural activities in Worcester, U.K. such as a concert, street performances, and a tour of the local dungeon. According to Deborah, the trip was a great success and the group received a warm welcome from the city of Worcester.

The Twinning Committee will continue to meet and plan future interaction between our two Worcesters.

Thank you Homestay Hosts!

As this successful year comes to a close, we are greatly looking forward to starting the next one. The one challenge that we face when planning our programs for international visitors is providing homestay visits for our guests. We have already been in the position of turning away programs that we are otherwise capable of implementing because we do not have enough families to place the visitors.

If you have been a homestay host in the past, we greatly appreciate it and hope that you will consider helping again this year. If you have not hosted before, we strongly encourage it and believe it to be an extremely rewarding experience both for the host and the visitor.

Please contact ICW and let us know if you might be able to host visitors in the upcoming year. In the next few months we plan to phone previous hosts to update our records and estimate our homestay potential. That will help us get ready for any visitor programs we are offered this year.

Changes in the ICW Office: New interns

Sharon Olander, who began with ICW in January, 2008 as a student intern, worked with us full-time all summer and is now working in the ICW office half-time. Sharon is a graduate student in Clark University's International Development Department and will graduate in May. She has been extremely helpful in the office and is now managing many aspects of our work in the ICW office.

We are sad to say that Leah Coleman, who has been volunteering at ICW since the beginning of the summer, will be leaving at the end of this semester (see her article, above). She will graduate from Clark University with a Masters degree in Public Administration. She is looking for jobs in the Boston area. Good luck for her future. We will miss her and wish her good luck in her future.

During the Fall 2008 semester, two student interns from Clark University joined the ICW office staff. Rachel Ambrose is a senior majoring in Government and International Relations, and Olivia Lotstein is a sophomore with an interest in Education and Social Change.

For the spring semester we will have a new student intern from Clark. Tara Lewis is from the Bahamas and is a sophomore with an interest in International Relations and Business.



Russian Students Arriving at Clark

The first cohort of students from Astrakhan State University (ASU) in Russia will begin studying at Clark University during the spring and summer semesters. These students are part of Clark University's branch campus at ASU and will complete their professional master degree programs at the College of Professional and Continuing Education (COPACE) as part of the contractual agreement between the two universities. Degrees they will receive include the MPA (Master of Public Administration), MSPC (Master of Science in Professional Communication), and MSIT (Master of Science in Information Technology).

ICW will organize a professional program for these Russian students while they are studying in Worcester. This program will include site visits, seminars, training activities, and practical experience in their area of professional interest. ICW was instrumental in bringing Clark together with ASU and in facilitating their agreement. The program began in Astrakhan in January 2008 with about 60 students. According to the agreement, students have the option of completing their studies in Worcester and, in some cases, to be placed in internships in the U.S. as part of their professional training. About a dozen students have chosen this option in 2009.

ICW will continue to play a role in this program by helping to facilitate the relationship between Clark and ASU. ICW is working closely with ASU to help with their communications and activities with Clark and with other schools and organizations in the U.S.

Best wishes to all of the world!



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(2009):

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

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