



Sister Cities News

Dandong-Wilmington Celebrate 30 Years

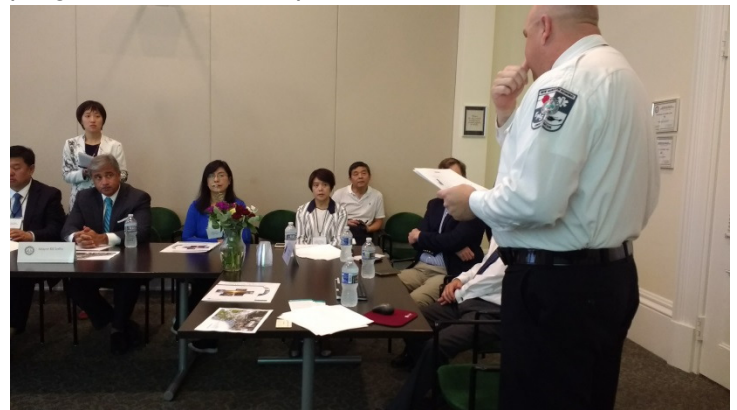


Pictured left to right: Paul Lawler, Kevin O'Grady, Margaret Haynes, Bill Saffo, Sun Zhihao, Yin Gang, Du Hui, Yang Lijie & Li Ting

Last month Dandong's mayor, Mr. Sun Zhihao, accompanied by Mrs. Du Hui (Director of Foreign Affairs) and Mr. Yin Gang (Secretary of the Economic Commerce Bureau of Dandong) arrived in Wilmington to recognize the 30th anniversary of the twinning of the two cities. Traveling with the delegation was Mrs. Yang Lijie, the Secretary of the Party Committee of Yuanbao District, and Ms. Li Ting, the official interpreter.

The delegation was greeted at Wilmington International Airport by Sister City Commission (SCC) Interim Chair Marilyn Cantarella, along with Mr. Thomas Massey (CFCC representative on the SCC), and Chad Fan (SCAW board member). The group first traveled to City Hall for a formal presentation by the Wilmington Mayor and Council members - Margaret Haynes, Paul Lawler and Kevin O'Grady. The program included a short video on Dandong and a presentation by Timothy Corbett of New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Dandong officials expressed an interest in learning

about how Wilmington addresses the needs of an aging population and health care. Mr. Corbett presented information on a relatively new community paramedical program that aims to provide an integrated mobile care system. The program visits people with chronic conditions in the community to prevent re-hospitalizations and trips to the emergency room. The delegation asked how it was funded and learned that after a private grant from the Duke Foundation, the state of North Carolina has funded the program since its inception in 2015.



Following the presentations, the delegation received a tour of City Hall, including Council Chambers, the Main Stage of Thalian Hall and the Mayor's office. The City presented Mr. Sun Zhihao with a framed certificate commemorating the anniversary of the partnership before going to lunch at the Pilot House.

Over lunch there was a lively dialogue about everything from concerns about the current situation in North Korea which is part of Dandong's economic zone to gender roles. Following lunch a water tour was arranged and Chuck Schoninger (USA InvestCo CEO) accompanied the delegation from the dock at Wilmington Water Tours to the new marina on the north end to talk about the EB5 Visa program and Chinese investments in Wilmington's real estate development. From the marina the delegation was brought to ILM for a flight to Washington, DC.

Land, People, Culture Transformed

Pictured left to right: Chad Fan, Dr. Haley, Margaret Haynes & Peggy Rosoff



Pictured left to right: Sun Zhihao, Li Ting, Yang Lijie & Yin Gang

San Pedro Receives Medical Donation from Wilmington Physician

Cities like San Pedro are often in need of medical supplies that are essential to maintaining a system of care in non-urban communities. Following a trip to San Pedro earlier this year, Mayor Pro Tem, Margaret Haynes, mentioned the need to a local physician who was retiring from his practice. The physician immediately offered to donate supplies to San Pedro's PolyClinic II to provide much needed items for just the cost of shipping.



Communications between contacts on the island, Dr. Ed Paul, General Consulate in Wilmington, and the local Lions Club began very shortly after learning about the offer of a donation. After working through the logistics for shipment, the supplies were shipped to Belize with an anticipated October delivery date in San Pedro. The donor wished to remain anonymous but the aid provided is but one example of how sister city relationships benefit communities.

Dr. John Haley provided an in-depth historical overview of the arrival of English planters and their slaves from Barbados to the Cape Fear as far back as the 1690s to interested community members. The setting was Captain Springer's river boat, in the midst of an active hurricane season no less. The boat was having technical problems preventing it from cruising past Eagles Island. Despite being dry docked, the group had plenty to absorb from Dr. Haley's narration about the region and its cultural roots as the sun set on the Cape Fear River.

The cultivation of rice on Eagles Island was possible due to the slaves that brought that knowledge with them from Gambia to Angola. The rice crops were profitable for quite some time until the forces of nature began to diminish its viability in the Cape Fear region and other economic ventures began to dominate, particularly timber and tar which could be exported to Europe. Eventually the rice crops became more anchored in South Carolina. Many of the early settlers believed that the only honorable calling for a gentleman planter was production of a crop plant.

Other News

Sister City Commission

The Sister City Commission welcomed two new members this summer, Theresa Everett and Ingrid Corbi. Theresa moved to Wilmington from northern Virginia after retiring from a long career with the federal government and Ingrid is a life-long resident who works in real estate.

Sister Cities International Annual Meeting

The July Annual Meeting of SCI was held this year in Virginia Beach. Conference sessions included: smart and resilient cities; peace and security; tourism; cultural diplomacy; city brand management; digital communications; and international protocol.

The total number of individuals who participated in events and exchanges last year came to 1,130,000. The breakdown of areas of participation for 2016 included: 70% youth and education exchanges; 30% municipal and technical exchanges; 28% business and trade exchanges; and 25% community and humanitarian exchanges.

SCI will be offering a transatlantic cruise in April 2018 that will on the Norwegian Epic Line departing from Orlando, Florida, and traveling to Barcelona, Spain. There will be special programs on international exchanges and diplomacy during the cruise delivered by experts in this area. The deadline for reservations is coming up in December. For more information and costs, please visit www.sistercities.org

Deadlines for 2018-19 Study Abroad Opportunities for HS Students

The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) is accepting applications until November 2 for the 2018-19 academic year. The goal of this program is to foster a lifetime interest in foreign languages. These are merit based full scholarships. To apply go to: www.nsliforyouth.org.

The Yes-Abroad program targets specific countries and is also merit-based. If you are a US student between 15-17 years old and interested in spending a year abroad in one of the following countries – Bosnia, India, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Jordan, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Sengal, Thailand and Turkey. Applications are due December 5 for the next academic year. You can apply at www.yes-abroad.org.

And, lastly the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange deadline is December 11 for the next academic year. This program is specific to study in Germany and you can apply through www.usagermanyscholarship.org.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made

a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Charles Blanton	Scott Czechlewski
Marilyn Cantarella	Chad Fan
Dr. John Haley	Maria Goudiss
Tracy Corle	Thomas Massey
Bill Saffo	Margaret Haynes
Kevin O'Grady	Paul Lawler
Theresa Everett	Ingrid Corbi
Joe Dunton	George Schell
Cameron Business Sch.	CFCC
New Hanover Med Ctr.	Pilot House
Charles Shoninger	Li Ting
Wilmington Water Tours	Yin Gang
Du Hui	Sun Zhihao
Yang Lijie	

Upcoming Events

Oct 22 (Sun) Sister Cities will host a screening of the award winning film “**The Last Emperor of China**” at the **Waterline Brewing Company** on Surrey St. beginning at 1:30 PM. No reservations required and it is free. Food & craft beer will be available for purchase.

Oct 29 (Sun) The United Nations Association of Coastal Carolina will hold a “**Global Goals Local Leaders**” **Luncheon** beginning at 1:00 PM at the UNCW School of Social Work. For reservations and more information visit – www.una-coastalcarolina.org

Nov 9 (Thur) Sister Cities will host a welcome lunch at Riverboat Landing from 12-1 PM for international filmmakers in town for Cucalorus 23. This is a ‘**member only**’ event. Member cost is \$12 and preregistration is required. For more info and to reserve a place – membership@scawilmington.org

Nov 11 (Sat) Come visit the Sister Cities booth at the **UNCW International Festival from 12- 4:00 PM at the Burney Center on campus**. Enjoy professional and student performers showcasing international music and dance plus booths representing countries, regions, and local community organizations. This is a great family outing.

Nov 12 (Sun) Join Sister Cities for **Movie & a Dinner** on the last day of the Cucalorus Film Festival. The film is the comedy, “**A Bad Idea Gone Wrong**” and will be screened in the Main Stage at Thalian Hall at 4:15 PM. Dinner is immediately afterwards at the Black Sea Grill on S. Front St. Tickets are \$40 per person which include a film pass and 3-course meal. Alcohol can be purchased on a separate tab. Reservations accepted until **Nov 7th** at membership@scawilmington.org.