



Sister Cities News Bulletins

Doncaster Family Swaps Lives with Wilmington Family

SCAW was approached in March by Knickerbockerglory, a television production company based in the UK, to help them with a new project focused on twin towns. They were seeking families interested in a positive adventure with Wilmington's twin town in Doncaster, England for a week. Participating families in both cities [Wilmington and Doncaster] would gain direct contact with adults and children from another country and leave their trip with something unique to their experience – a recipe, an expression, or a different way of life - by becoming immersed in another culture.

The Wilson family from Doncaster swapped homes with a Wilmington family in May. SCAW board member, Tina Roberts, accompanied the Wilsons on a tour along the Cape Fear River after a visit with Nicole Golf's 3rd grade class at St. Mary School. The family learned all about Wilmington from its settlement to the present day and Lee Wilson shared some tidbits about British culture including the fact that they like their tea hot. Everyone got a tea bag to bring home.

According to Knickerbockerglory representatives, the Twin Towns reality show was picked up by Sky Atlantic, which is the UK home to HBO and will air in 6 episodes in late summer. A distributor for the US was not identified at the time of filming.

Doncaster Open for Business – Contributing writer Daniel Fell, Doncaster, UK

The historic market town of Doncaster is located at the centre of the United Kingdom, almost equidistant from the island's northern and southernmost tips and one hour's drive time from the west and east coasts, including two of the UK's seaports Hull and Immingham. It is Doncaster's location, amongst other characteristics, that makes

it such a prime site for businesses and inward investors; just as it was a prime location for the Roman's centuries ago. Indigenous businesses based in Doncaster can take advantage of the town's excellent connectivity to access new markets and win business whilst taking advantage of comparatively low overheads. For example, photography business BE Studios is based in Doncaster but works within the highly competitive and London centric fashion industry. Business's owners can jump on the East Coast Mainline, be in the capital within an hour and a half, and win work for globally renowned brands and companies such as Burberry and Vogue.

Indeed, it is not just other parts of the UK that can be easily reached from Doncaster. Many local firms take advantage of the town's proximity to the ports and, of course, the recently opened Doncaster Sheffield Airport to reach global markets.

The town has some excellent exporting businesses who supply all corners of the globe. The town's manufacturers have also worked on world renowned projects; for instance, manufacturers Cooper Lighting worked on the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix venue whereas Doncaster firm Palram Polycarb worked on the roof for the Athens Olympic Games stadium. However, it is not just the town's manufacturers that are succeeding overseas. Highfield.CO.UK are a food safety business that works for renowned brands such as Marks and Spencer and McDonalds and is currently working in the Middle East ahead of the 2022 Qatar World Cup to help get food safety standards up to scratch. Likewise, innovative e-learning business i-education business, a company that has won many Doncaster business awards, is having much success with its products in China.

Doncaster business people can be a frustratingly modest bunch and consequently they do not always take the opportunity to boast about their achievements. However, it should be noted that many iconic buildings feature products made in Doncaster. For example, the Old Trafford Football Stadium – home to Manchester United, features glass architecture designed and made by

Doncaster firm Northing Aluminium. The beautiful and recently restored St Pancras Railway Station – home to the Eurostar, includes distinctive products by the large Doncaster plastics manufacturer Polypipe. Finally, people might be interested to know that HiWatt guitar amplifiers – as played by The Who, Coldplay, the Killers and many others are made in Doncaster.

This success points to an emerging confidence in Doncaster. Over the last decade the town has seen a pace of transformation hardly matched anywhere else in the UK. This has included the delivery of key capital projects such as Doncaster Sheffield Airport (the UK's first new airport in 60 years), the new Frenchgate Shopping Centre, a new football stadium, an overhaul of its racecourse, and a prestigious new college building. This trend is continuing apace with more substantial projects due for completion over the next four years. These include two critical road schemes that will enhance access to the airport and Doncaster's increasingly vibrant town centre; the latter characterized by a new £300m civic and cultural quarter. Pending transformational projects also include two landmark private sector developments. The first is a 6m square foot Inland Rail Port that will create 2,000 additional jobs and cement Doncaster's reputation as a major logistics hub with national and international connectivity. This status as a logistics hub has helped Doncaster attract major players such as IKEA and Amazon to the town for their distribution services, the Inland Port will help attract yet more companies like this. The second key development is known locally as the Don Valley Power Project. This scheme will transform an old pit site and lead the way in the UK in terms of carbon capture and storage technology. Importantly these schemes will create many thousands of local jobs as well as generating local supply chain opportunities. More importantly they demonstrate why so many firms are recognizing Doncaster as a good place to do business and a good place to locate as the town continues to build on its heritage for engineering excellence and compete successfully on the world stage.

Commonwealth Secretary Visits Belize

(Source: San Pedro Daily) - Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma made a three day stop in Belize to learn about the challenges facing the country and its current priorities. During his departure speech on May 18, Mr. Sharma spoke about the value of partnerships at both the local and international level. He highlighted the need for both

women and youth, a prime resource for many small countries, to be included in these partnerships.

Secretary Sharma pointed out the vulnerabilities of small developing countries like Belize because of limited domestic markets, over reliance on a single sector, high levels of indebtedness and the threat of natural disasters which can upset years of progress with a single event. He stressed the need for these countries to build their resilience and for that local and international partnerships must be a vital component.

“The Commonwealth has an enviable record of working shoulder to shoulder with our Caribbean members to provide specialist skills where they are needed, in helping to develop policies to tackle new challenges, providing forums where Commonwealth countries can network, and in learning from each other and advocating on behalf of developing countries on the international stage,” the Secretary-General said.

Dandong Delegation Arrives in Wilmington May 7

SCAW board member Ming Xu along with Joseph Hou welcomed the Vice Mayor of Dandong People's government, Nin Xiangdong, on arrival at Wilmington International Airport (ILM). The delegation also included: Song Yuejing, Deputy Secretary General, Gu Guilin, Director Dandong Rural Economy Committee, Yang Lin, Director Dandong Animal Health Inspection Bureau, and Chen Deyuan, Translator Dandong Office of Foreign Affairs. The Wilmington Association of Chinese Americans (WCACA) arranged for the delegation to have a traditional but light Chinese supper at Szechuan 132 to relax before commencing official business the next morning. Bob Williams, President of Coastal Instruments Dandong Ltd. and James Kaufman, who hosted Dandong citizens in his home during a visit in the 1980s shortly after the twinning agreement, joined SCWA board president Marilyn Cantarella along with Steve Liu and Qi Ao for the welcome dinner.

The next morning the delegation toured CFCC campus on Blue Clay Road and learned about the various programs and unique role that community colleges serve in preparing individuals to participate in the local workforce. Dr. Eric Mc Keithan discussed the possibility of the college working collaboratively with Dandong's technical college in the future with members of the delegation. Mr. Chen shared information on cross training

programs they have with their sister city in Japan in the area of public safety such as fire and police.



Delegation Visits CFCC North Campus

From the campus the group went on to the NC Ports for a tour and presentation on the facilities by Glenn Carlson, Chief Commercial Officer.



Dandong delegation arrives at the Wilmington Port

Following the visit to the port the delegation arrived for a special lunch with Mayor Bill Saffo and County Commissioner Rick Catlin. When asked what special challenges the city was facing, Vice Mayor Nin said, “growing the economy, jobs and quality of life.” Despite the distance and other differences clearly there were points of commonality. Everyone reflected and celebrated the long standing Wilmington-Dandong relationship over a classic southern lunch on Wilmington’s Riverfront. As the visit concluded Mayor Saffo and Vice Mayor Nin spoke about the way forward and a desire to develop strong community links and explore commercial opportunities while maintaining the long standing political friendship.



Wilmington Mayor Saffo shakes hands with Dandong Vice Mayor Nin

Ambassador Palmer Supports the Formation of an AmCham Chapter in Barbados

The announcement of plans to create a chapter of the American Chamber in Barbados has received support from US Ambassador Palmer and the local business community.

AmChams are voluntary associations of American companies and individuals doing business in a particular country or region as well as firms and individuals of that country who operate in the US. The Association of American Chambers representing Latin America (AACCLA) presently includes most of South and Central America, along with Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean Basin. The overall objective is to promote trade and investment between the US and the countries of a particular region.

The announcement of the formation of a new chapter was made by international business and law specialist Dustin D.P. Delany at a reception in Bridgetown in June. “The combined countries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative are the 14th largest trading partner of the US,” said Delany. The establishment of an Eastern Caribbean chapter represents a genuine partnership and the promise of economic potential and development. The expected launch date is set for this fall.

Commission News

SCC Chair, Steve Meinhold, announced his resignation from the Wilmington Sister City Commission in June. His letter of resignation expressed how much he enjoyed working with his fellow commissioners over the past 2 years and his gratitude for the extraordinary effort required to plan and host the first ever Sister City Symposium. Everyone on the Commission thanked him for his leadership and dedication to Wilmington’s Sister City activities.

There are several vacancies on the Commission. Anyone interested should contact Penny Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk, to obtain an application or download one from the City web site. The Commission meets the fourth Monday of every month at 4:00 in City Hall.

SAVE THE DATE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2012
Peace through Music Concert
St. Mary Roman Catholic Church
Doors open at 5:00 PM
Program 5:00 – 7:00 PM

WSJ List for Best in Volunteer Travel 2012

Last December the World Street Journal published an article on volunteer tourism with the catchy title – “Saving the World - One Vacation at a Time.” Volunteer tourism has been around since the 1960s and continues to grow with increased demand for global education in addition to an aging population. Many of you may recall the Elderhostel program now known as the Road Scholar originally designed for retirees interested in lifelong learning and educational travel on a budget. However, it is not just for retirees these days as newer programs have evolved to cater to mixed aged groups and even families.

One of the top picks in the WSJ list was Global Volunteers (www.globalvolunteers.org) which has one of the largest lists of countries including the US to join a service program for one to three weeks. It has been around since 1984 with a vision to wage peace and promote social justice using community development partnerships to carry out people to people initiatives. The program focus is on meeting essential needs for at-risk children and one of the features that make it unique is that you can fundraise to cover your costs right from the organization’s website. If you don’t raise all of some of the program costs, which run from \$995 to \$2695 depending on country and length of stay the program cost is a tax deductible expense. If you go as a family or recruit other volunteers you are eligible for various discounts.

Another organization is GoAhead Tours whose mission is to promote global education through cultural exchanges, learning languages and educational travel. Some are specific to a region such as the Pacific Institute and others to a cause

such as Habitat for Humanity. Do some advance research to investigate different options that will best suit your interests to explore a different culture or geography, as well as fit your budget and time requirement.

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.

Joseph Hou	Ming Xu
Dr. Eric Mc Keithan	Carol Cullum
CFCC	NC Ports Authority
Glenn Carlson	Shannon Moody
Coastal Instruments	Mike Bryand
Dr. Eva Mehl	Tina Roberts
St. Mary 3 rd Graders	Nicole Golf
Sandy O’Leary	Dick Airey
Shanhong Luo	

Upcoming Events

Aug 27 – *Jacobean Mansions Mystery Tour Dinner Program* Location: New Hanover County Library (Main Branch) 6:00 PM. Join us for a visual tour of Barbados and interesting tips from UWI Cavehill research fellow Dr. Peter Schuhmann. Dinner following the lecture will be at Riverboat Landing. Check web calendar for details.

Sept 4 – *UNCW International Student Reception* will be held from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM at City Hall downtown. This is a “members only” event - Be sure to stop by to welcome our international visitors along with our elected officials while enjoying light refreshments and interesting conversation.

Oct 21 – *Peace through Music Concert* Location: St. Mary Church, Fifth Ave. Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Nov 8 – SCAW will host a luncheon for the international filmmakers following the Cucalorus Global Perspectives program (location TBD). This is a “members only” event. Check web calendar for details. The International Film Festival runs from November 8-11. More details about festival activities and the schedule can be found at: www.cucalorus.org