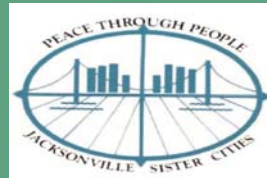




JACKSONVILLE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

“OUR WORLD” Bimonthly Update

Jan./Feb. 2009
(Vol. 3 No. 1)



www.jsca.org

Award Bestowed on PE Committee

We recently received a photograph (*right*) we wanted to share: **Tina Daniels** (*center*) accepting the “Innovation Award for Arts & Culture” presented by Sister Cities International during the organization’s annual awards program earlier this year. As you may recall, Tina accepted the award for her leadership in organizing the Nelson Mandela University Choir visit to Jacksonville in 2007. Through the planning of JSCA’s PE committee, the 40-member choir performed multiple free concerts around Jacksonville to standing-room-only crowds. Congratulations!



Nantes-JAX Student Exchanges Going Strong

Jacksonville and its sister city in Nantes (France) have been enjoying student exchanges since 2001, when UNF and SciencesCom in Nantes signed an academic exchange agreement. Since then, more than four dozen students from both institutions have participated.



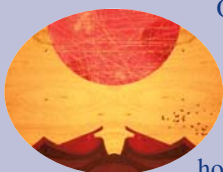
In the fall 2008 semester, six SciencesCom students (*above*) studied at UNF, including two who grew up in Nantes. The students visited Ft. Caroline National Memorial in Jacksonville, built in 1564 as the first attempt at French settlement in North America. The group then enjoyed lunch in Mayport. Dr. Tim Robinson, Director of the UNF International Center, took the SC students on the outing.

Welcome New JSCA Members

- Mr. Jesse Hingson - Mr. Jiang Li

“Return of the Sun” Party, January 24

Our Russian sister city, Murmansk, lies only 700 miles from the North Pole. They are currently experiencing “polar night” (24 hours of darkness), but when the sun once again begins to peek over the horizon in late January, they welcome it back with a party! The Murmansk Committee has been joining in this “Return of the Sun” celebration for more than 14 years with Russian food, drink and music. Save the date of Saturday, January 24 from 5 p.m. till 8 p.m. to join us. Invitations with more details will be sent in early January.



Give Fazzini Holiday Gift Baskets

For a last minute holiday gift idea, visit Fazzini Coffee & Tea at the website www.fazziniblend.com/jsca. Fazzini is JSCA’s latest corporate sponsor. Welcome!



JSCA Joins UNF’s Feast of Carols



In December, JSCA spread the good word about our organization at UNF’s 3rd annual Feast of Carols. JSCA staffed an information table at the event, which featured a terrific collection of musical

talent. Special thanks to JSCA Board member **Dr. Cara Tasher**, (UNF Chamber Singers Director).

New Friends Found at Brazil-Jax Party

JSCA joined members of the Brazil-Jacksonville Alliance of Northeast Florida in December for a joint holiday party. More than 100 people mingled amid Brazilian food and a symphony ensemble -- and took full advantage of the opportunity for members of both organizations to meet each other. JSCA plans to twin with Curitiba, Brazil in early 2009.



JSCA Helps to Salute the Troops

A big “Thank You” is extended to all JSCA members who volunteered for the “Family Art Fest & Salute to the Troops” held in November in the St. Nicholas area of Jacksonville. Thousands of area residents attended the two-day event, where JSCA members staffed ticket and vendor booths, and helped festival-goers to learn more about our organization.



Karen Cecelia and her husband show merchandise for sale at the event.