



JACKSONVILLE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

“OUR WORLD” Bimonthly Update

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www.jsca.org

First Global Trade Expo Draws 150

More than 150 people attended JSCA's inaugural "Global Trade and Commerce Expo" held May 8 at the Haskell Building in downtown Jacksonville. The event was designed to encourage local businesses to leverage the organization's overseas relationships to conduct business in



Shung Kim (left), JSCA Masan Committee Chair, visits with attendees at the Masan booth during the Expo.

Jacksonville's sister cities: **Bahia Blanca, Argentina; Nantes, France; Masan, South Korea; Yingkou, China; Port Elizabeth, South Africa; and Murmansk, Russia.**

The event is part of an effort by Sister Cities to add "International Economic Development" as an important third leg to its work, complementing the cultural and educational programs which also are important parts of the JSCA mission. JSCA is looking to open doors to conduct business internationally by working with the group's established connections made from cultural and educational exchanges.

Welcome to "Our World"

Welcome to the first issue of "Our World," a publication from the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association (JSCA). Every two months, we'll publish news and notes of interest to JSCA members and non-members alike. If you would like to submit an item for a future edition, please e-mail **Robert Peek** at robert.peek@jaxport.com, or call (904) 357-3047.

JSCA Installs New Officers for 2007


JSCA's Board of Directors unanimously approved a new slate of Board officers for fiscal year 2007, with **Herrald Jonkers** (right) voted incoming President.



Robert Van Winkel will serve as Executive Vice President; **Jennifer Sarich** will serve as Secretary and **Steve Manis** will be Treasurer.

Additionally, **Michael Nelson** will be JSCA's new Trade & Commerce Director. Jonkers noted that this position will be particularly busy this year, as JSCA increases its work to facilitate international business between Jacksonville-area companies and our six sister cities.

JSCA Offers First Trade Mission: Buenos Aires/Bahia Blanca in July

 Reflecting its new emphasis on international business development, JSCA is coordinating its first Trade Mission for local businesses, a trip to Buenos Aires/Bahia Blanca, Argentina from **July 1 through July 10**. JSCA has collaborated with the local office of the U.S. Commercial Service -- a federal trade promotion agency -- to offer the mission for local companies. The goal is to help Jacksonville-area companies make business contacts necessary to conduct trade of products and/or services with potential partners in Sister Cities worldwide. The July mission is the first in what will be a series of trade missions to Jacksonville's sister cities.

On July 5th, the business delegation will participate in ceremonies with Bahia Blanca Mayor Cristián Breitenstein to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the twinning relationship between our two cities. The Jacksonville delegation will present 40 wheelchairs to needy citizens of Bahia Blanca. Mayor Breitenstein is expected to visit Jacksonville in early September for reciprocal ceremonies of the 40th anniversary. For further details on the trade mission, contact **Herrald Jonkers** at (904) 537-9347.

Nelson Mandela Choir Visits Jacksonville

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Choir visited Jacksonville from June 7 through June 14. The group performed seven concerts, all free and open to the public. The choir is South Africa's first multi-cultural university choir, with 40 members.



The Mayor of Port Elizabeth, **Nondumiso Maphazi**, visited Jacksonville and attended several of the performances. Mayor Maphazi's election in March 2006 distinguishes her as the first female mayor of PE. She joined the choir on stage several times to join in the singing. Her meetings in Jacksonville focused on issues such as technology, health and municipal governance.

Bringing the Choir to Jacksonville was coordinated by the JSCA PE Committee and included sponsorships from BlueCross BlueShield of Florida; FCCJ; UNF; Bethel Baptist Church and St. Johns Episcopal Cathedral. A special "Thank You" to all sponsors -- and a big "THANKS" to **Tina Daniels** for her hard work and dedication to make this event happen.

For comments or questions about "Our World," please contact Robert Peek at (904) 357-3047 or e-mail robert.peek@jaxport.com.

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