



JACKSONVILLE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

“OUR WORLD” Bimonthly Update

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www.jzca.org

JSCA Board Welcomes New Members

JSCA’s Board of Directors recently welcomed five new members, including **Francis Boyer, Joanne Cramer Davis, Natalie Halpern, Luther Quarles** and **Gary Sass**. All have excellent backgrounds and will add great value to the organization.

Also, Francis Boyer and Joanne Cramer Davis have been named co-chairs of the Nantes Committee, and Natalie Halpern is now the JSCA Membership Director. There is still one Board vacancy, which will be assigned to the chair of our newest Sister City: Curitiba, Brazil.



Curitiba Twinning Set for April 3

On April 3, the mayor of Curitiba, Brazil will visit Jacksonville for a signing ceremony to formally “twin” with Jacksonville, making Curitiba



Jacksonville’s seventh Sister City. The event begins at 8:00 a.m at the Hyatt in downtown Jacksonville. For more information or to register to attend, call (904) 357-3059 or visit www.braziljacksonville.com.

Calendar of Events

JSCA Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2009; City Hall

Curitiba Twinning Ceremony

Friday, April 3; Hyatt Jacksonville

Welcome New JSCA Members

- Debra Williams
- Martha Davis
- William Smith
- Louis Myers

Murmansk Celebrates “Return of the Sun”



Our Russian sister city, Murmansk, lies only 700 miles from the North Pole.

They experience “polar night” (24 hours of darkness) during the winter, 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 held its “Return of the Sun” celebration again this year -- as they have for more than 14 years -- with Russian food, drink and music. Welcome back, Sun.

Masan Students Visit Jacksonville

Jacksonville has enjoyed a twinning relationship with Masan, Korea for 26 years. Every year in January they send middle school students to Jacksonville. This year, they sent nine students and two chaperones.



Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton welcomes the visitors.

In a brief ceremony at City Hall, Mayor Peyton welcomed the group to our city, and Councilmember Stephen Joost hosted them for lunch at Firehouse Subs. During their week-and-a-half stay, they met with School Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and spent time at Trinity Christian Academy and Stanton High School. Additional student exchanges are now being planned to bring additional students of all ages from Masan to Jacksonville.

China Consul Visits Jacksonville

Chinese Consul General Qiao Hong (*right*) from Houston (TX) visited Jacksonville on February 9-10,

along with Consul Kaimin Chu and Consul Guangda Chen. The delegation met with the local Jacksonville Chinese Association, which hosted a traditional Lantern Festival. Attending a dinner celebration with the delegation at



Bamboo Creek were Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton and various city officials. Special thanks to Holland & Knight for hosting a breakfast for the Consul General. The visit helps to establish a relationship between Jacksonville and these important visitors.

Bahia Blanca Students Visit JAX

Alejandrina Sanchez, an English teacher from Bahia Blanca, recently chaperoned an exchange of 10 students who attended Mandarin High School. A second group of 10 students, chaperoned by Mariana Gil, came in late January for three weeks and attended Fletcher High School. Thanks to the Bahia Blanca committee for its assistance with this effort!