



Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal

Vladimir
Canterbury

Communicator

Spring 2019



President's Message by Dave Thomas

Strap on your seatbelts! We've got a fast-paced and exciting spring in the works.

April 1 - 8 - 30th Anniversary Celebration Week – To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the final documents establishing the tri-city Sister City relationship between Canterbury-Vladimir-Bloomington/Normal, we have invited representatives from Canterbury and Vladimir to join us and our local founders for a week-long celebration of friendship. As of today, we are expecting three visitors from Canterbury and two from Vladimir. More specific information can be found below in the section on 30th Anniversary Celebration Week, so please check it out and attend as many events as you can.

April 3 – 30th Anniversary Celebration Event
The highlight of the 30th Anniversary Week will be our Fundraising Event to be held at nightshop in Bloomington starting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 3rd. The event (you should have received additional information about the event, if not, contact me, dqthoma@ilstu.edu, or go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/385976818890501/>) includes a meal of choice, music from a jazz trio, and recognition of our founders. See green flyer later in the newsletter on this event. **This is our most important fundraiser of the year, so we hope you can attend, bring friends, and show your support!**

Newsletter Editor Margaret Ann Hayden
mhayden@ilstu.edu

April 6 - 11 – Rector Visit. Anzor Saralidze, Rector (President) of Vladimir State University will be visiting Bloomington-Normal. See information later in the newsletter on this event. He is here to strengthen the university exchanges that have been so successful lately. Since 2013, over 60 university students have travelled with the support of the VCSCA from Bloomington-Normal to Vladimir!

April 26 – May 4th Open World Exchange – We will be hosting five delegates, a facilitator, and an interpreter as part of an Open World Exchange focused on “Best Practices in Education”. Preliminary plans are being made (see information later in the newsletter on this event), so we hope you will become involved in their visit. If you are interested in hosting a delegate, please contact me.

August – We will be hosting a high-school exchange student for the next academic year. The student, selected by our Vladimir colleagues, is very excited about coming to study here. If you ever want to host a high school exchange student, please contact me.

30th Anniversary Celebration Week

April 1 through April 8 will be a very special time in Bloomington-Normal as we celebrate our Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association's 30th Anniversary. We will be hosting five guests from Vladimir and Canterbury who are here for the celebration and we will be showing them the sights of central Illinois and celebrating together with a variety of activities and events. Celebration week activities are being coordinated by Elaine Cousins and members are invited to contact Elaine if they are interested in more

information or wish to join the group at any of the activities. Elaine can be reached at elainec@umich.edu. Or by phone at 662-7017.

On Tuesday, April 2 our visitors, host families, and board members will have a pot-luck breakfast at Margaret Ann Hayden's home before setting out for a tour of Bloomington-Normal and a stop at the McLean County Museum of History to view the collection of notebooks that our historian, Ann White, has put together chronicling our 30 year history.

Wednesday, April 3 is Springfield day. We'll be driving to Springfield to look at the Lincoln sites including his home, the Lincoln museum, and the Old State Capitol. Time permitting, we'll visit Lincoln's law office and Lincoln's tomb. In the evening, everyone is invited to a celebration dinner fund-raiser at nightshop on Main Street in Bloomington. Seating is limited to only 100 guests, so watch for your invitation and get your RSVP in early. The evening will include dinner, a jazz band, time to socialize, introductions of our sister city guests from Vladimir and Canterbury, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$50.00 and proceeds will support our exchange programs.

On Thursday, April 4 we will stay in Bloomington to take an Epiphany Farm tour and visit our Sister City Memorial and Sister City Garden. Our VCSCA founders will get together in the morning to share memories. From 4:00-6:00 pm we will have a very special panel and discussion session with the founders (including Volodya Musatov from Vladimir and Rodney Wood from Canterbury). While enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks, we'll learn first-hand about the origins of our 3-way sister city relationship and share memories and stories with one another. We hope many of you will come out to welcome our guests, honor our founders, and enjoy the fellowship of sister city members. Watch for an email with more details including location.

Friday, April 5 takes us to Peoria where we will tour the Caterpillar Museum and time permitting also the Riverfront Museum (formerly the Lakeview Museum.) We will return to Bloomington in time for dinner and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra (ISO) concert that our guests will attend. Tickets for the ISO concert are available at the BCPA box office. The concert will feature music by Mozart, Bruckner, and the world premiere of music by an Illinois composer, Carl Schimmel.

On Saturday, April 6 it's off to Chicago for our guests and sister city tour guides where we will visit Willis Tower, take a scenic boat ride, and visit the Art Institute or shop along Michigan Avenue.

On Sunday, April 7, our Canterbury guests have expressed an interest in going to church services in the morning. Later in the day, we will have a planning session to discuss future activities and challenges for the future as well as share strategies for increasing membership. The day will conclude with a Farewell Dinner at the Bloomington Country Club. Details of the final dinner will be sent to all VCSCA members via email and we hope many of you will attend.

On Monday, April 8, the group will depart for O'Hare airport and depending upon flight times, we hope to squeeze in a trip to the Funk Prairie Home museum at Funks Grove.

We welcome your participation at any of these events and especially need drivers for the airport, Chicago, and Springfield trips.

Introducing Our Visitors from Vladimir and Canterbury

Joining us to celebrate our 30th Anniversary are five visitors from Vladimir and Canterbury. Our Canterbury visitors are Rodney Wood, his wife Denny, and Linda Quinn. From Vladimir we are expecting Vladimir Musatov and Marina Semenova. We look forward to welcoming our international guests – some of whom are visiting the USA for the first time -- and making them feel at home in Bloomington-Normal.

Linda Quinn became involved with the Canterbury Three Cities Association (3CA) about six years ago. She wrote us that her initial interest was the link with Russia because she had begun to study Russian. She soon came to appreciate the unusual three-way link as she learned more about Bloomington-Normal. Linda is the editor of the 3CA newsletter. She has travelled to Russia several times including on the Trans-Siberian rail link from Moscow to Vladivostok. Other interests of Linda's are her family, tending her garden, yoga, sewing, quilting, and attending weekly Russian classes in London.

Rodney Wood is a founding member of the Canterbury Three Cities Association and was present at the inaugural meeting called by Reverend Malcolm Hill back in 1985. Rodney's late wife, Margaret and he were

on the first visit of the Association to Vladimir in 1988 and hosted two Russian priests in 1989. In 1990 they returned for the celebration of the millennium of the baptising of the Vladimir and Suzdal Regions, which was according to Rodney “a splendid Orthodox occasion.”

Denny Wood joined the Three Cities Association in 2008 when she and Rodney were married. She is a flautist and retired music therapist. This is Rodney’s and Denny’s first visit to the United States and they are looking forward to being with us in “Bloomington -Normal and meeting their American friends.”

Vladimir (Volodya) Musatov is one of the initiators of the three-way sister city relationship between Vladimir, Canterbury, and Bloomington-Normal dating back to 1980 when he was the deputy city manager of Vladimir. Without his vision, our unique 3-way relationship might never have come about. Since 2009 Volodya, as he is called by his friends, has been the co-chairman of the Sister City Association in Vladimir. He is the leading expert of the Federal Treasury Department for the Vladimir region. Volodya has two daughters and three grand-daughters and is visiting Bloomington-Normal for the first time.

Marina Semenova has been involved in people’s diplomacy since 1986. As a leader of the Vladimir School #23 friendship club she has hosted numerous exchange delegations from Canterbury, UK and Bloomington-Normal, IL. She also facilitated high school student pen-pal activities, conducted lessons on Russian culture, and organized tours of Vladimir and Suzdal for the school visitors. In 1997 she became an active member of the Educational Committee of the Vladimir-Canterbury – Bloomington/Normal Association where she participated in the exchange student selection process and supervised many students’ joint projects. We in Bloomington-Normal have gotten to know a number of Marina’s students during their high-school exchange year in Bloomington-Normal. Since 2019 Marina has been engaged in the activities of the VCSCA Committee on Culture and has been working on a museum specialists’ exchange project. As a museum educator and researcher Marina participated in the “Lincoln Speaks” summer seminar in Springfield last year. Marina truly believes in the importance of people-to-people contacts and is happy to spend the VCSCA 30th Anniversary celebration week with Bloomington-Normal and Canterbury friends.

High School Exchange

The VCSCA will be hosting a Russian high school exchange student for the 2019-2020 school year. A student has already been chosen by our Vladimir Sister City. She is very excited about the prospect of spending a year in Bloomington/Normal. We are currently looking for a host family for this student. This is a very important part of the American experience for the student as well as such a great learning experience for the host family. A local coordinator helps facilitate the visit both for the family and the student. If you are interested in hosting a student or know someone who might be interested, please contact Carol Kerestes, cdkeres@ilstu.edu, or Desiree Quizon-Colquitt, dquizoncolquitt@gmail.com.

Illinois Wesleyan University & Vladimir State University

In March, students in Illinois Wesleyan University's N460 Community Health class were humbled and honored to have Dr. Grigory Volchenkov present on tuberculosis (TB), via Skype, during an epidemiology module. He shared the progress made in TB management in Vladimir under his leadership, explaining the techniques that have drastically reduced cases of TB. He also shared his international work consulting for CDC and WHO and discussed drug-resistant TB. This presentation was a direct result of the work of the VCSCA medical exchange program. Course instructor, Dr. Amy Funk, toured the Dispensary and met Dr. Volchenkov during a 2018 Medical Exchange. It is very satisfying to see how the spread of knowledge grows through these international partnerships. Students not only gained valuable knowledge on TB, but also gained an understanding of global health partnerships.

Illinois State and Vladimir State Exchanges Rector Saralidze Visit

We are most excited to welcome to the campus of Illinois State University Rector Anzor Saralidze and his wife, Oxana. Dr. Saralidze is the Rector (President) of Vladimir State University. He will be visiting us from April 6-11. While here, he will meet with President Larry Dietz, in addition to the university vice-presidents, the Office of International Studies, the Graduate School, and several department chairs. Excursions are planned for Dr. and Mrs. Saralidze to visit the McLean County History Museum, Springfield, University Galleries in Normal,

as well as watching the Gamma Phi Circus practice and observing the ISU Football Spring Practice. Rector Saralidze and President Dietz both signed the initial Memorandum of Understanding between our two universities in 2014, opening the way for our study abroad exchanges.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation Study Abroad Visit to Vladimir

Five students and Professor Karen Dennis from the School of Kinesiology and Recreation at Illinois State University are excited to travel to Vladimir, Russia as part of a short-term student/faculty study abroad program with the Institute of Physical Culture and Sports at Vladimir State University. The group plans to leave on May 9 and fly to St. Petersburg where they will enjoy the sights there, including Catherine's Palace, the Hermitage, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and Peterhof Palace. They will take an overnight train from St. Petersburg to Vladimir where they will spend the next ten days visiting classes at the university, hospitals, clinics, and facilities where students of the Institute of Physical Culture and Sport work and complete internships. They plan to complete their Russia Study Abroad experience by spending a couple of days in Moscow and then return home on May 25.

Open World Exchange

We are hosting a delegation of young professionals from Vladimir as part of the Open World program sponsored by the US Congress. The delegates for this exchange will be five faculty leaders from Vladimir State University (VSU) and Vladimir Medical College of Nursing.

The delegation will also include an Open World Facilitator and a translator. The focus of this year's exchange is Best Practices in Education. Our goal is to develop educational discourse and learn of each country's best practices. Outcomes will include strengthening the ties between universities from both locations and fostering continued academic exchanges. The guests will be in Bloomington-Normal from April 26 – May 4.

Excerpt from “Oakland Elementary celebrates diversity at Multicultural Fair,” *The Pantagraph*. March 1, 2019. Kelsey Watznauer.

BLOOMINGTON — Oakland Elementary School students used "passports" Thursday [February 28] to travel from the gym to the library and cafeteria and visit different countries and regions represented at the school's 11th Multicultural Fair.

India, Mexico, Russia, Ireland, China, Ethiopia, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Iran were represented as a reflection of the most diverse school in Bloomington District 87 and the fourth most diverse school in the state, Principal David LaFrance said.

In total, 27 languages are spoken by Oakland families, and about 20 percent of the students speak a second language, including those who just moved to the United States or those who were born here but their parents' first language is not English.

"We started it many years ago when we wanted a way for our students to kind of showcase and celebrate their diversity and their uniqueness," said Molly Uhren, an English language learner (ELL) teacher at Oakland.

VCSCA board members Bob Kerestes and Hannah Johnson engaged participants with various activities that explored Russian language and culture. Almost 300 people attended the event.



Sister City Celebration of 30 years at nightshop



**Wednesday, April 3
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

at Nightshop in Downtown Bloomington

**Tickets
\$50
/person**

The Vladimir-Canterbury Sister City Association is celebrating its 30th anniversary! Join us for an evening of food, music, and conversation as we toast the past and future 30 years. Honored guests will include founders from Vladimir, Russia; Canterbury, England; and Bloomington-Normal who were instrumental in fostering this unique tri-city sisterhood. Enjoy tastes inspired by the flavors and traditions of our international partners, and live jazz provided by Glenn Wilson (Jazz Director at Illinois Wesleyan University) and Friends. Cocktail attire required.

Purchase tickets at <https://bit.ly/2NYeleM>

The proceeds from this event will help fund the VCSCA's ongoing annual exchanges and cultural programs

Mennonite College of Nursing

is excited to have a group of students traveling to Vladimir in May 2019. Sadly we did not have enough student interest to travel in 2018 so we are very happy to be sending a group this year! We have five students who will be traveling and accompanied by one faculty. Our group will arrive in Vladimir on May 15th and will be greeted by our faithful translator, Nina Bedova. The group will be in the Vladimir region for two weeks having a variety of educational and cultural experiences that they will come back and share with fellow students in the College of Nursing. Travelers include: Erin Cushing, Lindsey Flood, Kari Lalumandier, Madelyn Sidman, Danielle Trotter and faculty member, Lynn Kennell.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Is Your Membership Up to Date? If you have not sent in your 2019 membership, please use the form below.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

— CHAUCER LEVEL / STUDENT	\$15- 39
— TOLSTOY LEVEL / FRIEND	\$40 - 99
— SHAKESPEARE LEVEL / PATRON	\$100 - 199
— CHEKOV LEVEL / BENEFACTOR	\$200 - 499
— BOLSHOI LEVEL / CORPORATE	\$500 - 999
— GOLDEN RING / LIFE MEMBER	\$1000

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Return completed form with check payable to:

Vladimir/Canterbury Association
P. O. Box 6048
Bloomington, IL 61702

A graphic with a decorative background featuring a map of the world and various icons. It contains the following text:

VCSCA has a new website!
Stay in the know at:
www.vcsistercitybn.org

and follow us on Facebook at:
 **@vcsistercitybn**