



Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal

Vladimir
Canterbury

Communicator

Fall 2017

Newsletter Editor Margaret Ann Hayden@ilstu.edu

Presidents Letter by Elaine Cousins

Dear VCSCA Friends,

As I finish my term as President of the Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal, I am thankful for the many wonderful opportunities and memories that being a part of our association has given me. I am thankful for the new friends — both here and abroad — that I've made. I am thankful for the opportunity to travel to Vladimir and Canterbury not as a tourist but as only a visitor among friends can. Most of all I am thankful for all of you for your support to the VCSCA through the years.

I have no doubt that you also have your share of opportunities and memories as a result of your association with the VCSCA. Just as I will continue to stay involved I hope you will too. We have many exciting projects planned for this year including support of our university exchanges, our high-school exchange program, our fall forum in honor of William White, and a possible joint trip to Vladimir next summer with Canterbury sister city members.

After a hiatus of a few years, we are once again hosting a high-school exchange student from Vladimir. Olga Zhrebkina is attending Normal Community High School and living with the King-Nobles family in Normal.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on November 16 at IWU, State Farm Hall, Rm 202.



Vladimir High School Exchange Student **Education Committee Co-chairs:** Carol Kerestes and Desiree Quizon-Colquitt

The VCSCA warmly welcomes Olya Zhrebkina to Bloomington-Normal. Olya is a senior attending Normal Community High School where she is active in cross country and the Peace and Justice club.

We are grateful to Kent and Kathy King-Nobles for opening their home and hearts to Olya. Their daughter Emily is a sophomore at NCHS. So far, Olya has traveled to Southern Illinois to view the eclipse in August and she has traveled to Minnesota to visit one of her host brothers. Olya will be a speaker at our Annual Meeting, so please attend and meet her and the King-Nobles family.



Picnic Photos
September 10, 2017
Welcome to our Exchange Student



University Exchanges

**Illinois State University to
Vladimir State University – May 2017**
submitted by Karen Dennis

**Asia Quizon-
Colquitt,
Kathy & Emily
King-Nobles**



Five students and Dr. Karen Dennis from the School of Kinesiology and Recreation, along with two faculty from ISU's Department of Agriculture – Dr. Rob Rhykerd and Dr. Iuliia Protopop, and two faculty – Dr. Tara Kaczorowski and Allison Kroesch - and seven students from the Department of Special Education, traveled to Russia in May for a seventeen day short-term study abroad experience. The group flew into St. Petersburg and spent a weekend exploring the sites of this former Russian capital city including St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Hermitage (which was the former Winter Palace), an excursion to Pushkin (just south of St. Petersburg) to see Catherine's Palace (the Summer Palace), and another excursion to Peterhof Palace, located on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland. A 12-hour overnight train ride from St. Petersburg to Vladimir was an exciting experience in itself.

Upon arriving in Vladimir, the group was met by their hosts from Vladimir State University's Institute of Physical Culture and Sports. While at Vladimir State University, the three groups each met with students and faculty from their respective departments.

For students in KNR, the next ten days were spent visiting classes, laboratories, sports facilities, hospitals, clinics, and schools, in addition to touring training facilities (Greco-Roman wrestling, gymnastics, ice skating, and soccer) and meeting many Olympic competitors and coaches that train in these facilities. The group received special individualized Masterclass training in kickboxing and pole exercise as well. They also participated in the "Last Bell" ceremony, which is similar to our commencement ceremony.

The agriculture faculty spent the next ten days with their colleagues from the College of Ecology, Biology and Chemistry. Regardless of differences in the length of the growing season, soil types and climate conditions between the two regions, researchers at both institutions face similar challenges (such as nutrient management and soil



**Karen Dennis,
Elaine Cousins,
& Desiree
Quizon-Colquitt**

**Jana Edge &
Ann White**



Elaine Cousins & Olya Zhrebkina

quality). While in Vladimir, the group was able to visit the National research institute of peat and organic fertilizer, Vladimir agricultural research station and Water treatment lab. The trip presented the opportunity to identify the first joint research project. Dr. Protopop along with Dr. Dave Kopsell and one undergraduate student at ISU will partner with their colleagues from Vladimir State to conduct a comparative analysis of berries that can be cultivated in the Vladimir region and in Illinois. Dr. Protopop and her colleagues are very grateful for the opportunity to explore the potential collaboration with Vladimir State in agriculture and look forward to future developments.

Students and faculty from the College of Education spent the next five days visiting local kindergarten (early childhood), elementary, and middle level classrooms. Many of these classrooms included students with special needs (e.g. autism, hearing impairments). Additionally, the pre-service teachers learned about the history of the educational system in Russia and had the opportunity to discuss similarities and differences between Russian and American special education policies during a round table panel.

They had great opportunities for cultural immersion as the groups visited several historical sites, many that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Vladimir State University hosts welcomed the groups most warmly and provided a rich and broad range of cultural experiences, including excursions to nearby villages and towns in the “Golden Ring” of Russia, tours of cathedrals and museums, and probably most memorable, having dinner in a family home! The participants all enjoyed the wonderful Russian cuisine, including freshly harvested vegetables from the families’ dachas. They were also able to meet with the Vladimir Sister Cities Board and learn about the history of our Vladimir-Canterbury Sister Cities Association.

Following the wonderful experience in Vladimir, the groups traveled to Moscow for two and a half days before flying home. They were able to walk on Red Square, visit Lenin’s Tomb, and just walk the city of Moscow! They had incredible learning and sharing of knowledge and experiences, and are looking forward to their next exchange.



**Catherine’s Palace
Our entire group COE, AG, & KNR**



Vladimir Sister Cities Association

**Vladimir State University to
Illinois State University
Student/Faculty Exchange - April 2017
Submitted by Karen Dennis**

The School of Kinesiology and Recreation at Illinois State University welcomed their third group of visitors from Vladimir State University's Institute of Physical Culture and Sports in April 2017 for a short - term student/faculty study abroad program.

Vladimir State University, named after Alexander and Nikolay Stoletovs, is comprised of 12 Institutes or Colleges. The Institute of Physical Culture and Sports is very similar to the School of Kinesiology and Recreation with majors that include exercise physiology, physical education, recreation management, and therapeutic recreation.

Illinois State University welcomed six guests. These guests included Alexander Vlasov, Head of the Department of Theory and the Methodology of Physical Education and Sports, Giulnara Evseeva, Associate Professor of the Department of Physical Education and Sports, Nadir Magomedov, Professor of the Department of Physical Education and Sports, Aleksandr Isaev, Student of the Institute of Physical Education and Sports, Svetlana Galitskaia, Head of the English Department, and Olga Komyagina, Associate Professor of the English Department.

While here they visited classes in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation, shared current trends and practices in our professions, and visited local facilities where our students complete internships and work following graduation. Cultural excursions were provided for the group, including a visit to Springfield, Chicago, and the Sister Cities Photo Exhibition.

The Illinois State University Department of Kinesiology and Recreation is most grateful for the incredible support from the Vladimir Canterbury Sister Cities Association, as well as for our amazing host families. Host families included Desiree and Andre Quizon-Colquitt, Karen and Dan Fleming, Joan and Floyd Vititoe, and Nancy and Dave Thomas. Without the generosity of our host families, these exchanges would not be possible. The guests were so fortunate to have such wonderful families who open up their hearts and homes to them.

**Mennonite College of Nursing, Transcultural
Nursing Student Exchange
Submitted by Melissa Moody**

Each year in May the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) sends a group of six nursing students with one of MCN's long standing faculty, David Jansen, to visit Vladimir Medical College (VMC). This year's students were Erica Renzi, Adrienne Sulit, Patricia Buno, Sarah Wortman, Anna Kastelic and Samantha Solis.

The group spends two full weeks tending to a very busy schedule of activities during their stay and is introduced to the culture of healthcare in Vladimir and the surrounding region. The students visit a variety of hospital settings, a very impressive blood transfusion center, Sheredar - a rehabilitation facility for ill children, a children's nursing home, a nursing home for military veterans, just to name a few of the sites visited. Students are able to sit in a classroom with other nursing students to take in faculty lectures.

Our hosts at VMC also provide the group with so many wonderful cultural excursions including many of the staples of Vladimir such as the Golden Gate, the Water Tower and the Cathedral of Assumption. The group visits the Vladimir Gymnastics School which trains many Olympic gymnasts. The students are invited to enjoy a full day of fun picnicking and spending time with current VMC students.

Graduates of VMC who have traveled to visit us at MCN take time from their busy schedules to greet our group and spend time touring them through the city. They even have a day to spend in Suzdal, Murom, and this year took the train to travel to Moscow.

Our students and faculty always have incredible stories and new knowledge to share upon their return. MCN students share their transcultural nursing experience with our nursing college through journals and speaking at large group meetings to encourage newer students to consider the opportunity in upcoming semesters.

Mennonite College of Nursing will host a group of four visitors from Vladimir Medical College October 9th through October 23rd. The group will include two VMC students, a nursing VMC faculty, and Nina Bedova, also faculty at VMC who serves as the translator and group leader. The group will visit

many different healthcare facilities in Bloomington/Normal and the surrounding region. The group will also be hosted for a day by Tom Carroll in Chicago taking in the city sites. They will be entertained with a variety of cultural excursions in the Bloomington/Normal area as well as. For the third year in a row, the group will participate in the ISU and MCN Homecoming festivities.

**Tripod of Beauty and Friendship: A Photo Exhibit
of Three Sister Cities
Submitted by Melissa Moody**

An idea which spawned from our Canterbury Sister Cities Board member, John Kemp, this past spring was for each of our cities to bring together photographs taken by various photographers in each city and assembled for an exhibit. Each city had approximately 25 photographs to display so each exhibit had approximately 75 photographs. We were fortunate to be able to exhibit at the Illinois Wesleyan Ames Library in the months of April and May. Karen Schmidt, IWU Librarian and Tod Eagleton were incredibly helpful in preparing for the exhibit. They allowed for us to host a very nice opening event using the IWU catering services where some of the participating photographers, Sister Cities Association members including Marina and Tatyana Semenova from Vladimir, and community members came to view the photographs shared by Canterbury, Vladimir and Bloomington/Normal. Thanks to John Fischer at the Normal Public Library some of the photos may now be viewed there on the first floor level hallway. We plan to create a slide show of the photographs displayed at the exhibits to share with local companies and keep the exhibit running electronically for several months to come.

William Luther White Forum Presentation

The 2nd annual **William L. White International Forum** will take place at 7:00 pm on November 6 at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 1700 N Towanda Ave, Normal, IL.

Bill was a pioneer and mentor for our Association. He led 4 trips to the Soviet Union before the Association was organized in 1986. He continuously served on our board and on numerous committees until his death in 2015.

The forum speaker this year will be Dr. Mark Soderstrom, Associate Professor and Program Chair Department of History, Aurora University, Aurora, IL. The topic of Dr. Soderstrom's talk will be: *Putin's Empire of the Past: History, Memory, and Politics in 21st-Century Russia.*

Vladimir Putin ranks among the twenty-first century's most infamous and controversial leaders. In Russia itself, however, he remains enormously popular. Why? This presentation will offer some perspective on this question, focusing on the ways in which narratives about Russian history—and about the Russian Empire in particular—have been employed to bolster the popularity of the Russian president and his policies.

Dr. Soderstrom is a historian of the Russian Empire. He completed his PhD in History at Ohio State University. At Aurora University he has published papers, written numerous book reviews, given major professional presentations, and achieved significant professional service. Dr. Soderstrom's teaching interests vary widely; he is fond of engaging students in the classroom. He has travelled widely across Russia and has studied at Moscow State University, St. Petersburg State University, Irkutsk State Linguistic University.

Please join us for an evening of intellectual stimulation, audience engagement, and light refreshments. Enter the front door at Calvary and proceed to the right to Room 111.

Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association Archives

By Ann Bastian White, VCSCA Historian

All of the Association archives are now available for research purposes at the McLean County Museum of History. These archives contain eight volumes of the collected newspaper articles, program information, photographs, and related material of our history from July 1988 through November 2013. The ninth volume is still being filled and will be sent to the museum upon its completion.

Other stored materials include Association publications, grant information, annual reports, medical partnership documents, student exchanges, minutes and treasurer reports, and assorted books and audio-visual materials. Hands-on access is available for use only at the Museum library.

Access to the full archive listing is available at the Museum's web site. Thanks to Bill Kemp, MCMH Librarian, for compiling these instructions.

1. Go to www.mchistory.org
2. Go to the menu bar (the gray bar) and hover over "Research"
3. From "Research" scroll down and click on "Finding Aids"
4. From "Finding Aids" scroll down and click on either "Organizations" or "A-Z"
5. From either "Organizations" or "A-Z," scroll down to Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Committee Collection
6. Click on the Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Committee Collection, and you will be prompted to either open or save an Adobe Acrobat file containing the finding aid.

See link below to the "A-Z" listing of Museum finding aids.

<http://mchistory.org/research/resources/findingaids/all/>

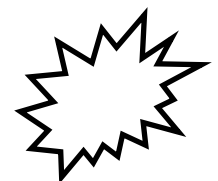


Lunch and Learn: The Proven Value of International People-to-People Programs presented by the VCSCA Sister Cities Association

Thursday Nov 9th 12:10 pm 2017

The value of International people-to-people programs will be the topic of discussion presented by Elaine Cousins, Karen Dennis and Desiree Quizon-Colquitt of the Vladimir, Russia/Canterbury, England Sister Cities Association

Learn about the unique history of our 3-city sister city partnership with Vladimir, Russia and Canterbury, England and how it is bringing people-to-people diplomacy to our area with medical, high school, university, and young professional exchanges. Images of contemporary Canterbury and Vladimir will also introduce these two historic cities to lunch and learn participants.



Sister City Annual Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Time: 7-9 pm

Place: Illinois Wesleyan University, State Farm Hall, Room 202

Guest Speaker: Olya Zhrebkina, Vladimir High School Exchange Student

Cookies and punch will be served.

**Note from an exchange delegate to Illinois
State University Kinesiology and Recreation
from Vladimir State University**

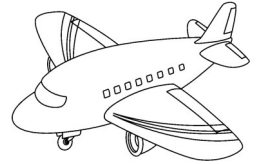
By Giulnara Evseeva, Associate Professor of the
Department of Physical Education and Sports at
Vladimir State University

Now about me meeting my aunt.

In 2015 my phone rang and I heard, "Gyulya, is that you?" "Yes, who am I talking to?" I responded. The answer followed, "This is your aunt, Galya Polonskaya. I live in Chicago. Calling to see how grandma Tamilla is doing?" Galya is my grandmother's niece.

We exchanged phone numbers and e-mails. For a whole year I did hear from her, she obviously got my contacts wrong. Once I found out that some faculty and students are flying to ISU, which is close to Chicago, I instantly realized that this was exactly for me. I needed to go. Thanks to this program I met my aunt. Now I know that I have relatives on another continent who love and welcome me. Thank you so very much to your program. I was able to meet my relatives and now I am hoping that the rest of my family would be able to meet them too.

Sister City Trip to Russia



The Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association in conjunction with our Sister City organization in Canterbury, England is planning a joint trip to Russia to be hosted by our sister city organization in Vladimir. The trip will visit St. Petersburg and Moscow in addition to our Sister City of Vladimir and other historic Golden Ring cities.

Our guide for the trip will be Vladimir Musatov, one of the founders of our special 3-way sister city partnership. The group will travel by train from St. Petersburg to Vladimir and Moscow with a possible stop over in Helsinki, Finland. The trip will take place in late August for approximately 10-14 days. If you are interested in learning more about the trip, please contact Elaine Cousins at elainec@umich.edu.

**Nominations Committee Report
to be voted on at the November board
meeting/then at the November annual meeting**

Margaret Ann Hayden, chair

Returning board members - three year term 2017
- 2020

Judie Bey
Melissa Moody
Bob Kerestes

New board members – three year term 2017 -
2020

Iullia ProtopopTetteh
Tara Kaczorowski,

Officers

President - Dave Thomas
Vice President - Desiree Quizon-Colquitt
Secretary - Carol Kerestes
Treasurer- Karen Fleming

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Is Your Membership Up to Date? If you have not sent in your 2018 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