A Note from the President

It gives me great pleasure to present the Millennium Edition of the International Visitors Center of Jackson quarterly newsletter. IVCJ hosts hundreds of international visitors (IVs) in the great state of Mississippi. Our programs have been highlighted by the state department newsletter and post updates. We are in the top three of over one hundred such Centers around the nation. The benefits to our citizens and the international visitors is everlasting. Former and future IVs rise to positions of great influence in their countries. And the efforts of our community resources have made it possible for Mississippi to be on the frontlines of diplomacy with tomorrow's leaders.

In order to fulfill the program objectives of our visitors, IVCJ sends visitors across the state, including the cities of Oxford, Tupelo, Greenville, Starkville, Yazoo City, Meridian and Natchez. In this way, we serve the entire state of Mississippi.

Ally Mack, President
International Festival 2000

The International Visitors Center of Jackson and the Office of International Programs will sponsor the Ninth Annual International Festival on April 10-14, 2000 at Jackson State University. The purpose of the festival is to highlight the variety of cultures present at the university and give children and adults in Jackson the opportunity to travel the world, if only for one day.

The campus of Jackson State University will be a virtual global village. Events will include:
- an international festival with music, food, exhibits representing the seven continents and a children’s village;
- a symposium focusing on current global issues; and
- a scholarship banquet which provides funds for international student scholarships and study abroad opportunities for American students.

Students from over 200 schools within the Jackson Public School District and surrounding school districts will attend the festival. A crowd of approximately 300 people will be present at the scholarship banquet to hear expressions from the Honorable Calvin Humphrey, Deputy Secretary for International Affairs, US Department of Energy, former Counsel for the Select Committee for Intelligence for the US House of Representatives, Washington, DC. A trip for two to Nassau Bahamas will also be raffled off at the scholarship banquet.

For more information, please contact Florence Sinclair Walker at 601/973-3792 or sinclwlk@aol.com and Shirley Harrison at 601/968-2043 or sharivcj@aol.com.

“Membership Has Its Privileges”

Our membership drive is underway and we want you! As we move into the new millennium, IVCJ is working to increase the impact of international exchanges and opportunities for our friends and supporters. That is why we are offering you the opportunity to become an IVCJ Diplomat!

As a Diplomat, you will have priority status for meeting prestigious international visitors and hosting them in your home. You will also receive updates of visitors' arrivals and program interests. Also as a member, you will receive:

- IVCJ quarterly newsletters,
- an IVCJ portfolio,
- invitations to special events and activities,
- an IVCJ t-shirt,
- ticket discounts for functions,
- access to resource library and NCIV network affiliates.

We invite you to take this special opportunity to join our circle of forward-looking friends across the state. Your tax-deductible membership fee will be an investment in the internationalization of Mississippi.

Please call our office for more information about membership fees and other details at 601/968-2043.

NAME & ADDRESS:
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): ____________________________

TELEPHONE: (h) ____________________ (w) ____________

ANNUAL DUES:
☐ Student $10
☐ Individual $25
☐ Family $40
☐ Organization:
  Bronze Level $100
  Silver Level $250
  Gold Level $500
  Platinum Level $1000

☐ I would not like to become a member at this time, but enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of $________________.

Please send this form along with your check to:
IVCJ, PO Box 17103, Jackson, MS 39217
January 27-February 1
Angola

February 13-16
6 participants representing: France, Ireland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

February 16-19
Indonesia

February 23-26
16 participants representing: Rwanda, Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

February 27-March 1
8 participants representing Belgium, Belize, Liberia, Panama, Macedonia, Taiwan and the United Kingdom

February 27-March 1
Russia

February 27-March 1
Vietnam

March 8-12
China

March 11-15
Morocco

March 11-15
5 participants representing: Bulgaria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Zambia, South Africa,

March 12-15
China

March 12-15
Netherlands, Poland, France, Czech Republic Denmark, Hungary

March 22-26
Kenya

March 29 - April 1
10 participants representing: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal
Need a worthy way to spend your free time?!

We are seeking volunteers to assist with our programs. You can volunteer in one of the following areas. Call us today at 968-2043!

Program Assistant
• Work with the program officer to complete international visitors’ itineraries.
• Duties to include: making appointment calls to local resources, typing itineraries and other correspondences, and sending faxes and other correspondences to local resources.

Office Assistant
• Provide general office assistance including: answering telephones; copying; faxing; picking up mail from campus offices; filing; updating database; assisting with special projects, such as mailouts and the International Festival.

Home Host
• Provide an evening of hospitality for international visitors.
• Provide overnight accommodations for international visitors.

Local Guide
• Accompany international visitors to professional appointments and/or cultural activities.
• Drive/accompany international visitors in personal vehicle to professional appointments and/or cultural activities.
**Washington Conference**

The two staff members of the International Visitors Center of Jackson attended the NCIV Conference held in Washington, DC on February 26 - March 1, 2000. The conference theme was “Citizen Diplomacy: Advancing Foreign Relations.” IVCJ staff members attended various sessions which fueled stimulating discussions about support from political entities, foundations and civic organizations; increased diversity in programming; and methods of volunteer recruitment and retention. Conference-goers also visited Capitol Hill to promote the International Visitors Program among congressional representatives.

**New Staff**

The International Visitors Center of Jackson welcomes back one of its first staff members. Ms. Shirley Harrison, who was employed with IVCJ when it was a provisional member of NCIV, has returned as Executive Director. During her absence, Ms. Harrison was employed with Capital Center, Inc., as Marketing Manager and the Metropolitan Crime Commission as Director of Development.

Also joining the IVCJ staff is Ms. Temple Baker. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi at Oxford, with a bachelors and masters degree in Spanish. Ms. Baker, a native of Jackson and joins IVCJ after leaving Cataphot Inc., as Customer Accounts Manager.

**A Special Thank You**

The International Visitors Center of Jackson and Mississippi Consortium for International Development celebrated its Fifth Annual Community Partners Reception.

The Annual Community Partners Reception is our way of saying “thank you” to community members who make the programming that IVCJ provides for its international visitors so successful.

Joining us as we celebrated the diversity and goodwill of our capital city, our state and the world was Dr. Khulekani Sitone, Correctional Services Commissioner for South Africa.

Community volunteers, including business contacts, home hosts and other community leaders, receive special commendation with a surprise gift, great food and musical entertainment throughout the evening.

This event was co-sponsored by the University Club, Deposit Guaranty Plaza.

**Thanks A Bunch**

- Senator Hillman Frazier
- Lt. Governor Amy Tuck
- Reverend James Funchess
- Mayor Isla Tullos
- Mr. Robert Bell
- Mr. Henry Cody
- Dr. Roy DeBerry
- Mr. Don Magee
- Ms. Pamela Confer
- Dr. Gwen Prater
- Mr. Matt Freeman
- Mr. Marvin Jones
- Ms. Liz Hudson
- Ms. Nan Thompson
- Mr. Jesse Brown
- Dr. Tommye Henderson
- Mr. Robert Langford
- Mr. Williams Lipscomb
- Ms. Suzanne Sharp
- Dr. Louis Jones
- Mr. Ben Blakewood
- Ms. Heidi Herbert
- Mr. Larry Christian
- Mayor Paul Artman
- Mrs. Lillian Taylor
- Mr. Willie Free
- Mr. Rick Evans
- Mr. and Mrs. Robroy Fisher
- Mayor Unita Blackwell
- Mr. Bennie Byrd
- Ms. Cassandra Braband
- Dr. Joe Haynes
- Mrs. Sara Williams
- Ms. Barbara Hunter-Cox
- Ms. April McKinley
- Mr. Robert Langford
- Ms. Marguerite Wall
- Mayor Robert Walker
- Reverend Ed King
- Ms. Jackie Slater
- The Honorable Eric Clark
- Dr. Xiaobin Yang
- Ms. Cynthia Shearer
- Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson
- Deputy Chief Sharon Kyles
- Mr. Robert Gooden
- Ms. Ann LuGuan
- Ms. Gail Pittman
- Ms. Susan Greer
- Dr. Aaron Shirley
- Mr. Charles Blount
- Dr. Gloria Eldridge
- Judge Fred Banks
- Mr. Mike Cassell
- Mayor Harvey Johnson
- Mr. Ed Cole
- Mr. Mark Henry
- Mr. Jay Moon

“Global Connections” is a quarterly newsletter published by the International Visitors Center of Jackson. For more
information about our programs, contact:

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**Shirley Harrison,** Executive Director  
**Temple Baker,** Program Officer

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