



COLUMBIA COUNCIL  
FOR INTERNATIONALS

CCFI

Newsletter

Fall 2014

## International Students' Reception with USC President Pastides

Thursday, November 6, 2014  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Join USC President Harris Pastides & First Lady Patricia-Moore Pastides  
as they honor international students & scholars.

Location: The President's House, USC Horseshoe/Sumter Street  
Rain Location: Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center Multipurpose Gym  
For additional information, call 803-777-6568



Dr. Alexandre Rowe, CCFI Member Robin Dean & Dr. Jim Murphy

CCFI Members' Event Features SC Governor's Award for the Humanities Recipient, Dr. Alexandra Rowe

Columbia Council for Internationals kicked off its October membership drive with a meet and greet honoring Dr. Alexandra Rowe, a 2014 recipient of the South Carolina Governor's Award for the Humanities. Dr. Rowe has been the Director of the English Program for Internationals (EPI) at the University of South Carolina since 1989. As a teacher and administrator, Dr. Rowe has been devoted to helping international students master the English language skills needed to be successful in American universities, successful teachers of English in countries on all continents, and productive citizens of the world in all walks of life. Over 12,000 students have gone through her core program.

The EPI program and CCFI have a long-standing relationship, as many of the international students whom CCFI assists are at the University to study in the program. CCFI is also fortunate to have EPI represented on our Board of Directors by Julia Furillo.

CCFI President, Misti Crawford, commented, "This was a great evening, honoring Dr. Rowe, who has given so much to the International Community. CCFI wants to continue to strengthen our relationships with international programs like EPI while providing more opportunities for our members to engage with the international community."

The event, hosted at Arabesque restaurant on Devine Street in Columbia on October 6, was attended by around thirty CCFI members, community members, and students. And while it wasn't on the agenda, many attendees were having such a good time that the group had an informal CCFI dinner!

Be on the lookout for more CCFI gatherings in the future!



Allan Coles & John Crane, CCFI



Kathy Bledsoe, EPI



CCFI Annual Welcome Dinner

An evening filled with gleaming smiles, old friends catching up, and new friends being made—CCFI celebrated another amazing welcome dinner! Just under 300 international visitors and guests joined the annual commemoration. On August 14, 2014, students from all over the world convened for an evening of Southern hospitality CCFI style!

As students came in waves to the USC Russell House ballroom, they were warmly greeted by CCFI volunteers Linda and Bob Roemer, Joan Young, Roland Griffin, John Crane, former CCFI president Leigh Ann Spell, and a plethora of friendly faces. Some students anxiously awaited the start of classes, while others were psyched about working with their colleagues once more. A few individuals returning to Columbia looked forward to hanging out at their local haunts with long-time friends. Yawei, from China, was looking forward to the “temperature turning down”! But Mirinal, from South India, “loved” the Columbian heat.

Matsepo, from Lesotho, reunited with her friends from Senegal and Ghana, as they welcomed Lucy, from Kenya, to the USC campus. Wende’





Ferguson, director of Multicultural Affairs and Community Resources at Columbia College, heard such great things about the fellowship at this dinner, that she couldn't wait to bring students who recently flew in from Germany. Within minutes, those women—Vera, Laura, and Amanda—immediately connected and arranged get-togethers with their new acquaintances.



Several CCFI and ISS (International Student Services) volunteers came to usher the students into the new year. Arthuree Ricks, former CCFI board member for 10 years, comes every year to welcome new students to South Carolina. "It helps them feel more comfortable," she said. Likewise, ISS Director Jodi Pritt expressed her enjoyment about working with the international students on a daily basis. Her work with students reminds her, "how major world issues affect your daily job." Serving students from various countries reminds us of the importance of family, friends, culture, and learning about what's important.



Robin Dean, Marion Crane, Carol Gelhaus, and many others arranged a wonderful spread of Southern flavors. Of the many homemade dishes brought by CCFI volunteers and members, none were left by the end of the evening. Fried chicken, from Publix, as well as mac-n-cheese, green beans, and rice, from Little Pigs Barbecue, filled many plates. Jim Byrum did an excellent job serving the "sides" and urging the students to try some of his wife's watermelon salad. Hannah Spell and David Dellangelo topped off drinks at the beverage table.

Linda Roemer spoke Spanish with the Spanish speaking students and invited a Dutch student for dinner. She promised to make him "roast beef and red cabbage." Having lived in the Netherlands and having hosted an exchange student from Germany, Linda shared with a girl from Belgium how she would go to Antwerpen to purchase American food products. "We had great time," Linda said.

Overall, it was a night filled with laughter and warm appreciation. CCFI looks forward to serving international students in the greater Columbia area and getting more people involved in the dynamism of cultural exchange.



## Prodigious Start for Friday Lunches

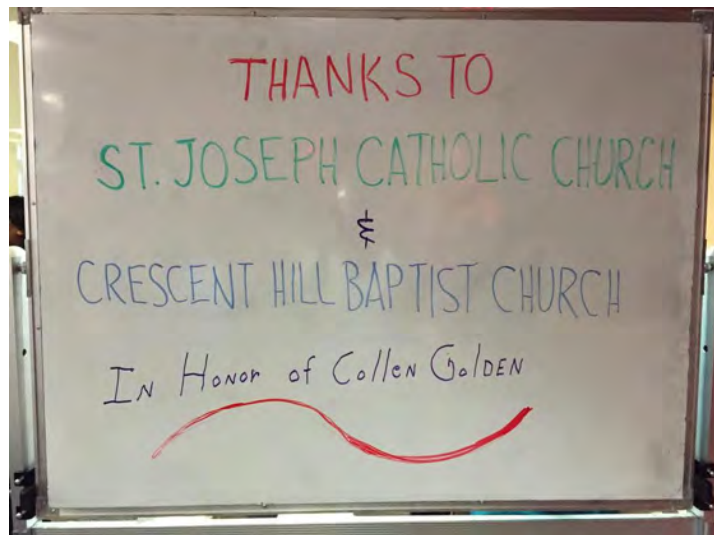
CCFI's weekly international lunches got off to a stellar launch with an amazingly committed team of volunteers. Over 188 students attended the first lunch of the semester—a CCFI record, in fact. "I just got home from the lunch and wanted to send a 'Thank You and Congratulations Shout Out' to Robin Dean, Marion and John Crane, and Joan Young, Linda and Bob Roemer (and the intrepid Billie!), Gladys Coles, Piedad Sanyer, Tyler Macchio, and interns Morgan Anderson and Whitney Pierson for a great first lunch of Fall 2014!" said Misti Crawford, CCFI president.

On October 3, the young women of Sigma Alpha Omega Christian Sorority sponsored the lunch. Bringing pizza, vegetables, fruit, cookies and their wonderful participation and service to Maxcy, they made the day a huge success. Students were overjoyed. CCFI volunteer Robin Dean reported, "We served 141 student guests and had a great time with everyone there!"

Robin and her team offer a sincere thanks to Emily Seeger, Events Chairperson, and the 16 college women who showed up with enthusiasm and pizzazz to make the October 3rd lunch a real knockout! "They came early and stayed until the clean-up was complete. We got to see what a great group of young Americans can do to make Friday lunch a fun-filled event," Robin shared.

Robin Dean, Marion Crane, and Joan Young, CCFI's devoted lunch team, would also like to express their gratitude to John Crane, Judy and Charley Beazley, Carol Gelhaus, and Elizabeth Kelbaugh for their assistance, as well as the Maxcy Dorm staff.

Everyone comes together for the Friday lunches, and the students really appreciate the kindness. If you're interested in serving with the lunch team or volunteering even just for one Friday, please contact Marion. Happy Fridays are rooted in multiple guises of celebration. You won't regret it!



St. Joseph's Catholic Church & Crescent Hill Baptiste Churches Sponsors of September 27th Lunch



Sigma Alpha Omega Sponsors of October 3rd Lunch



PCIV Open World Program  
June 6-14, 2014



Dimitry, Igor, Marina, Helena & Zhargal at EdVenture

Visiting Columbia through the Open World Leadership Program, hosted by PCIV (Palmetto Council for International Volunteers), five Russian delegates engaged in a series of professional exchanges to learn about American youth programs.

Various directors of youth programs, such as EdVenture, Richland County Library, Riverbanks Zoo, the YMCA and others, invited the Russian visitors to experience some of Columbia's initiatives. In turn, those directors were able to learn about Russia's innovations for young people.

The visitors were Yelena Anatolyevna Nikitina, Facilitator; Marina Sergeyevna Kuryatnikova, Deputy Director City Youth Development; Zhargal Bairovich Tsybenov, Department of Education, Science and Youth Development; Dmitriy Mikhaylovich Nekrasov, Educator, Youth Projects and Programs; and Igor Anatolyevich Ilyk, CEO, Yugalift, LLC Development of Youth Issues Policies.

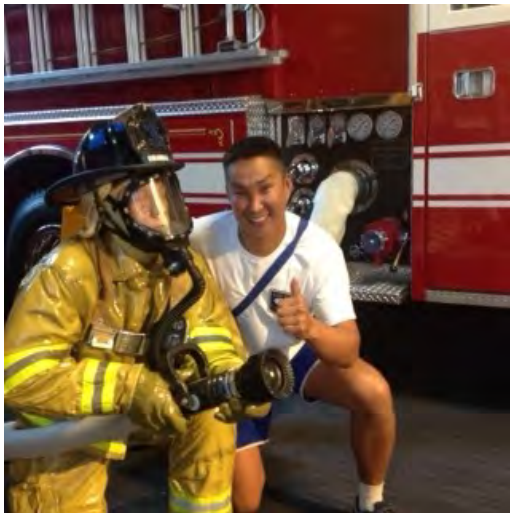
When the delegates visited D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), they were particularly impressed by the effectiveness of the training efforts. They were also surprised to learn that, at age eighteen, American youths transitioned into adulthood and were frequently no longer eligible for some youth programs. In Russia, youth programs support individuals up to age thirty.

Not only did the term "youth" invite fascinating cultural exchanges, but the Americans who hosted and sponsored the Russian visitors were able to learn about culinary nuances between the Mountains Ural area and Far East Russian areas. The students at the D.A.R.E. camp were particularly enthralled by the cultural differences and what it's like to share experiences with someone from another country.

Many of the delegates expressed the desire to share much of what they learned about community engagement with their home environments. And many hope to invite Americans to experience Russian culture. Some plan to return to the states, as well.



Marina, Igor & Zhargal with Students at EdVenture



Zhargal with Firefighter



Dimitriy Shopping



Marina, Igor, Yelena, Zhargal with EdVenture Staff



CCFI President Misti Crawford at Michael's Cafe with Russian Delegates

### CCFI Celebrates Volunteerism

In an effort to honor its volunteers, CCFI hosted a commemoration at The Crescent Olive on June 3, 2104. The turnout was excellent. The store was packed with volunteers and their guests—some to find out a little more about CCFI and some to experience delectable olive oils and vinegars from around the world.

The Crescent Olive generously sponsored the event by offering free use of the store and 15% of all of the evening's proceeds to CCFI. CCFI members shared a few words about its mission and volunteerism. Charlotte Easler, owner of The Crescent Olive, and her team talked about how to pair oils and vinegars for salads, marinades, desserts, and the like. The CCFI board members thank Charlotte and her team for their kindness and collaboration.

Of the many benefits of the evening, members were thoroughly engaged—new and old. Misti Crawford expressed, “We engaged long time members, added a new student member, have new volunteers, and have leads on new interns.” Several board members agreed. “Let’s do it again!” resonated throughout the emails following this event. Leigh Ann Spell commented, “Definitely one of our best events EVER!” Hopefully, this event will turn into an annual partnership.

Dr. Peter Granak, a nuclear scientist from Slovakia, was also present. Hosted by Gladys Coles and the PCIV team, Dr. Granak sincerely appreciated the evening. “It was an honour for me to meet you and spend time with such a great people,” he wrote as a special thanks to CCFI and The Crescent Olive. Having learned about South Carolina’s nuclear programs and having toured a bit of Charleston and Columbia, The Crescent Olive was a capital event for this PCIV visitor.

CCFI will definitely branch out with The Crescent Olive again!



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## PCIV Update from Jim Byrum, Chair

CCFI interns Morgan Anderson, Abigail Hardee, Kelly Villwock, and Whitney Pierson are continuing to work with PCIV on program planning and management for future programs. We are in the process of preparing proposals for programs in the winter and next spring.

Global Ties/US (formerly NCIV) has switched to the use of a web-based system for programming known as ORDIV. Admittedly, PCIV has been slow to “get up to speed” on this new system. Misti has been instrumental in assisting PCIV build our organization “face” in the system so that Columbia and its special resources can continue to be recognized “as open for business.”

PCIV will host a CSIS-sponsored visitor, Mr. Laurent Sierro, a Swiss journalist, in Columbia from November 9 to November 12. We are currently designing a program for Laurent that focuses on Dan Cook and his staff at The Free Times, Dr. Charles Bierbauer and others at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at USC, and John Monk at The State newspaper. Laurent may also speak to the Monday Luncheon Group and a class in the Geography Department at USC. Besides touring the USC campus, he will visit several museums in the city. We will seek CCFI hosts to invite him for dinner one night and possibly drinks in the Five Points area another evening. In addition, if requested, we will design a tour of Charleston for him.

In conjunction with the Raleigh-based CIV, a number of proposals have been submitted for Open World programs that would begin in the spring of 2015.

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## CCFI President’s Message

We are a month into fall and the Columbia Council for Internationals’ calendar is in full swing! The fall welcome dinner for International Students continues to grow and set the tone for our Friday@Maxcy Lunch Program, with attendance records being set for both! I’ve had an opportunity to spend several Fridays at the Maxcy International House during the lunches – to watch relationships being built and strengthen as the semester moves along has been a pleasure.

Another service that I’ve experienced firsthand this year is the arrival service. Seeing the relief in a student’s face when there is someone at the airport to pick them up – it’s priceless! And it’s the start of many lasting friendships, as can be attested to by any of our CCFI Volunteer Drivers.

Our Palmetto Council for International Visitors (PCIV) program is in the midst of lining up our visitors for 2015. We are working on proposals for those visits now. One of our goals for 2015 is provide more opportunities for CCFI members to meet the international visitors that PCIV works with. We actually started that this year when Dr. Peter Granak, a nuclear energy scientist, came to Columbia from the Slovak Republic to learn about South Carolina’s nuclear energy programs. CCFI hosted a member event at The Crescent Olive, and our members and guests had an opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Granak. And we just hosted a “meet and greet” with USC’s Dr. Alexandra Rowe, recipient of a 2014 South Carolina Governor’s Award for the Humanities. We will have more of those types of events, including one in November for a visiting Swiss journalist.



Michaela Schenkelberg & CCFI President Misti Crawford at the Welcome Dinner

Over the summer, we worked with the University of South Carolina to establish a formalized intern program. Working with the International Studies School, we welcomed four interns for the fall semester and have established a process for going forward with the intern program. The interns are helping us with Friday lunches, writing proposals, and communications.

As you know, all of the work that CCFI does is done on a volunteer basis – and we are always looking for volunteers! If you’re looking for volunteer opportunities, we’d love to have you on one of our committees. October is membership renewal time – and we encourage you to renew your membership and let others know about the work that CCFI does.

In closing, I’d like to thank the CCFI Board of Directors for the work that they do, as well as my predecessor, Ms. Leigh Ann Spell. They are invaluable resources who are committed to the practice of Citizen Diplomacy.

Thank you for your continued support of CCFI.

Misti Crawford

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## CCFI Board Officers

President: *Misti Crawford*  
Past President: *Leigh Ann Spell*  
President Elect: *Misti Crawford*  
Treasurer: *Piedad Sanyer*  
Recording Secretary: *Carol Gelhaus*  
Corresponding Secretary: *Gladys Coles*

## At-Large Board Members

USC International Student Services: *Tyler Macchio*  
USC Moore School of Business: *Angel Earle*  
Columbia College: *Wende' Ferguson*  
Interns: *Morgan Anderson, Abigail Hardee, Whitney Pierson, and Kelly Villwock*

## Board Committee Leaders

Arrival Hospitality: *Carol Sunderman and Nancy Whiteside*  
EPI: *Julia Ferillo*  
International Student Luncheon/Hospitality: *Marion Crane, Robin Dean, and Joan Young*  
Membership: *Leigh Ann Spell*  
Communications/Public Relations: *Calley Hornbuckle*  
PCIV: *Jim Byrum and Julia Ferillo*  
Ways and Means: *Open*

A special thanks to our hosts and sponsors for CCFI's summer/fall meetings and events:

- *Harold H. Adams with Custom Assurance Placements, LTD.*
- *The Crescent Olive*
- *USC Russell House*



## Member Commitment

October is members' month. Currently at 72 members, CCFI hopes to increase membership to 100 by our 50th anniversary in 2015.

If you haven't already renewed your membership or if you know someone who would like to become a member, please visit our [Membership](#) page.

CCFI hosts many programs throughout the year to aid international students and foreign nationals visiting the United States.

Please visit the website for details of those programs: <http://columbiacfi.org/programs.html>

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