

May 2008, Volume 2, Issue 2

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## GRAND BOULEVARD OF THE AMERICAS

Theresa Osredker

It's official! Kansas City is home to a permanent flag display representing the Pan American countries of the western hemisphere. The ribbon-cutting took place Monday, April 14th on a beautiful afternoon at the Barnes Plaza just outside the Sprint Arena doors.

Susan Hiland, co-anchor of Fox 4 news, emceed the event before almost 200 guests and citizens. Mayor Mark Funkhouser gave the official welcome and proclamation. Our own James Malouff acknowledged the many people and organizations it took to bring this concept to the city.

Consuls general, honorary consuls and other officials were in attendance from countries including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, Guatemala, Spain, and Ecuador. Judges representing eleven Latin American countries, and the Latin American foreign officers from Ft. Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College (CGSC) were among the guests.

The keynote address was given by the Honorable Boris Svetorgorsky-Marino, president of the Iberoamerican Consular Association and Consul General of Uruguay. His remarks were notable for the emphasis on the relationship between Latin American countries and Kansas City, specifically. He sees Kansas City as a possible global center for trade within Pan American countries. With the United States as the 5th largest Hispanic speaking country in the world, our city is situated to benefit from the \$17 trillion combined economy of North and South America.



Ten International and eight U.S. students from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS participated in the Pan American Day Initiative activities in Kansas City on April 14, 2008 (including the dedication of the Grand Avenue of the Americas).

He commented on the culture of friendliness and willingness to work with individual and organizations he and others have seen in Kansas City. His desire is to go beyond trade, to propose new sister cities, cultural exchange and tourism. A bilingual teacher exchange is planned.

The possibility for a western hemisphere trade summit exists as well. In that regard, meetings were scheduled between business leaders and the Latin American attendees the following day to discuss the purchase of goods and services.

# GIMMEE SHELTER!

Help a refugee family this month  
Theresa Osredker

During the month of May, GKCPTP is teaming with Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) to collect household goods, food and clothing to assist in a family's relocation to Kansas City. A Burmese family of 8 will be the recipient of our assistance!

You can take furniture, clothes, cookware, dishes and food to the JVS located at 1608 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64108. Due to room sizes, king size beds are not accepted as donations. If you are in doubt on any item, visit the JVS website ([www.jvskc.org](http://www.jvskc.org)) or call Dennis. Cash is also accepted to purchase necessary items. They accept donations during normal office hours. Call Dennis at (816) 471-2808 ext. 1151, to verify hours for the day you'd like to bring donations. Additionally, they will pick up items you are not able to bring. With the price of gas and in consideration of their time, we ask that you make any trips to your home worthwhile. Call Dennis to arrange a pick-up. Please identify donations as GKCPTP/Burmese family, and they will be held specifically for our adopted family.

The Burmese family will be arriving by month-end. There are eight family members, including daughters who are 13, 9, and 7; sons who are 11, 4, and 2. They will be living near 6th & Benton Blvd, in the old northeast part of Kansas City. During the last week in May, we will have access to the apartment to move in furniture, decorate, stock their pantry, etc.

We are seeking volunteer leaders from our membership for each of these categories:

- **Decoration:** Member(s) who are talented in this area, and can put the JVS donations to good use to make the apartment cheerful and inviting.

- **Pantry:** Member(s) who would use the JVS supplies to ensure that the apartment has adequate food for this family.
- **Children:** Member(s) who have a special interest in making sure that some toys, books, and things of interest to children are supplied to welcome this family.

Volunteering for these positions entails spending a little time at the 6th & Benton Blvd location during the last week in May, and coordinating with GKCPTP members and JVS staff to ensure there's adequate supply of all supplies/furniture/clothing. Contact Theresa Osredker at [theresa\\_66209@yahoo.com](mailto:theresa_66209@yahoo.com) or (913) 897-6163, if you are willing to accept a leadership role in this initiative.

Minimally, this is an excellent and worthwhile way to spring clean your house. We hope that all members will participate; our goal is 100%! Since we have the month to gather goods, it is adequate time to work around our busy work and travel schedules. We hope that members who are able will consider assisting as a volunteer leader. This is our signature philanthropic event for the year.

Don't forget to have your church/synagogue group, family and friends donate as well! For more information, visit the website at [www.jvskc.org](http://www.jvskc.org).

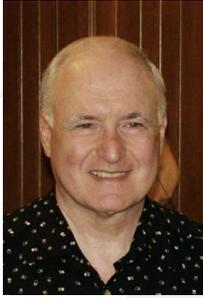
*Please Participate!*

## CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Program
14 May 2008	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Eisenhower Auditorium	Know your World: Cameroon
17 May 2008	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Downtown KC Library, Room 310	GKCPTP Board Retreat
30 May 2008	7:00 p.m.	Eisenhower Auditorium	Sponsor Recognition
03 June 2008	6:30 p.m.	To be determined	Sponsor Orientation
12 June 2008	10:00 a.m.	Eisenhower Auditorium	Badge Ceremony
13 June 2008	9:00 a.m.	Parade Field	Graduation
18 June 2008	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Eisenhower Auditorium	Know your World: Croatia
18-20 June	-	-	Arrivals of next officer class
8-9 July 2008	Evenings	Fort Leavenworth	Ice Breakers

Contact Newsletter GKCPTP

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



I have several items to address in this edition: new board members, old challenges and new opportunities.

## New Board Members

We had our annual meeting March 30 at the downtown Kansas City library. This is a great venue we have used in the past and will again when possible. A new slate of officers was approved for 2008/2009. Joining the board are Chi H. Yi, Roxanne Westfall and Gabrielle Reilly. Candice McField moves to V.P. Programs, where with the able assistance of Theresa Osredker, she will develop programs for the year.

We are all looking forward to working with our new members who bring a variety of skills and interests to our chapter. Ofee Acosta and Julie Goodhart left the board as their terms expired March 31. Thanks to Ofee and Julie for their substantial contributions to the chapter. Also special thanks to Paulette Markel who chaired the nominating committee and to Linda Jacobs who helped Paulette put together the slate of board members and officers. We are planning a retreat in May for the board and officers to review our strategic plan and determine priorities for the upcoming year. I will report on these activities in future editions of the *Contact*.

## Student Loan and Scholarship Program

In the previous *Contact*, I reported the GKCPTP board voted to suspend the issuance of scholarships and loans to students applying for People to People International (PTPI) travel programs (administered by Ambassador Travel). This decision was due to board concerns about the marketing practices of Ambassador Travel. The board felt that the letters sent to students did not accurately reflect how selections for the travel programs were made. I met with Mary Eisenhower of PTPI, who cooperated with me in satisfying the concerns of GKCPTP. The letters sent by Ambassador Travel have been changed. The board reviewed the new letters and voted to reinstate the travel scholarship and loan program. We are now in a position to offer this benefit to students while protecting the interests of our chapter.

## International Military Sponsorship

Several developments in the International Military Student (IMS) Sponsorship Program warrant mention.

## Large IMS Class

*First*, the number of slots for IMS at the Command and General Staff College has increased. We will have over 120 International Students in the combined January and June classes. This puts a burden on us to find qualified sponsors. Our chapter membership has increased thanks to your efforts as members and Pat Burnett's efforts as V.P. Membership. However, we are still short of sponsors and we need to recruit qualified sponsors immediately so we can continue to support this key program. We have discussed in the past the concept of "Recruit One." If each of us recruits one new member, the chapter will remain vital and effective in all areas. Many of you have recruited more than one new member, thanks!

## Sponsor Evaluations

*Second*, sponsor evaluations are of particular concern. Each IMS is asked to evaluate his/her sponsors. Ratings range from excellent to poor. GKCPTP placed last in the sponsor evaluations, consistently behind the Leavenworth and military sponsors. The last GKCPTP sponsor survey ratings (for the January class sponsors) were: 17 sponsors rated Excellent; 17 Good; 3 as fair; and 4 poor. At the time of the survey (reported to us early in March), three of our sponsors had not contacted their officers at all, while others had met them once. Many of you fall into the *excellent* and *good* categories. Thank you for all your efforts to support the students and the needs of the Army. The students will carry positive images of you back to their nations. However, students who have no or little contact with their Kansas City sponsors can only have negative impressions of our chapter, which also affects their overall impression of the United States

## Sponsor Guidelines

*Third*, the general guidelines on sponsorship are for sponsors to have contact with their student officer at least once a month. Some contact opportunities merely require the sponsor to RSVP and attend. The Army schedules events throughout the year (Ice Breaker, Food Fair, Holiday Dance) as does our chapter (picnic with Leavenworth sponsor group). Contacts can be as simple as a phone call to the officer, checking in to see how things are going and if the officer needs or wants any support. Including the officer in family events, like a backyard cookout is always appreciated. Changes in circumstances can

## GKCPTP SPEAKERS BUREAU

Nelson Markel

Several months ago your board of directors believed that our chapter could do a better job of communicating who we are and what we do to the greater Kansas City community, and began a process to develop a speakers bureau. Getting



4 our message out gives us greater recognition and enhances our ability to recruit new members. The Speaker's Bureau committee was formed and a PowerPoint presentation was developed that could be personalized to suit whomever was making the presentation. It was designed to be delivered to various associations such as the Rotary, Lions, Elks, and Kiwanis clubs.

Thus far, presentations have been made to the Legends at Village West, Shawnee and Parkville Rotary Clubs. The responses have been very positive.

A more recent presentation was developed for a group of high school students and their parents on the benefits of getting involved in international affairs and acting as student ambassadors. That presentation is scheduled for April 27th at Liberty High School.

Please contact me if you know of an organization that needs a speaker. My contact information is:

Work: 816-245-6916

Cell: 816-590-4433

Home: 913-766-3543

Email: nrmarkel@bucon.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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always be accommodated. If the sponsor's situation changes due to family issues, illness or for other reasons, a substitute sponsor can be found. Sponsors who cannot fulfill their roles should contact Gwenn Puetz, me or any member of the board, and we will see that a change in sponsors is made.

My goal is to move us up from third place. Those of you who are veteran sponsors can provide assistance to new sponsors to get them off to a good start. All sponsors are encouraged to attend the regular sponsor orientations held by the International Military Student Division (see calendar, p. 2). There have been changes in the program in recent years, so even veteran sponsors will learn something by attending.

I look forward to reporting future sponsor survey results to you and to celebrating our progress as sponsors with you. I look forward to working with our very talented board and membership during the next year. Thank you for your confidence and support.

Larry Dolci

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT APRIL 2008

Pat Burnett, Membership

The Speaker's Bureau event at the Parkville Rotary and the Plaza Library presentation by BG O'Neill have proven successful in terms of recruiting new members. Please share any opportunities for future presentations with our board.

Membership brochures are available to all members for recruiting purposes. Please let me know if you need either hard copy or electronic form.

New directories were distributed at the annual meeting. A special thanks to Gary Lofstrom and Sharon Valasek for their assistance in producing the directory. The remaining directories will be mailed.

We are still collecting past due memberships—every little bit helps! Remember that you are required to be a member in good standing to sponsor an officer. Please mail your dues to:

GKCPTP, P.O. Box 22365

Kansas City, MO 64113

# WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Burnett

Three new board members were added this year. Please take a moment to welcome these talented and enthusiastic members.

## Chi H. Yi

*Chi H. Yi* came to the United States as a child and has spent much of his life in the Kansas City area. He currently is a financial advisor at Smith Barney, along with his wife Fabiola. Chi received an MBA from the University of San Francisco. In addition to his varied career in economics, he also has a military background. These attributes should serve our board very well.

## Roxanne Westfall

*Roxanne Westfall* is involved in a variety of nonprofit charitable and professional organizations. In addition, she has a successful career in media/professional insurance. She has a BA in Speech Communications from Ohio State University. Roxanne is currently

Vice President of Underwriting, specializing in intellectual property rights for broadcaster, publishers, film and program producers and software developers. Please welcome Roxanne along with her husband, J.D.

## Gabrielle Reilly

*Gabrielle Reilly* is enthusiastic about bringing understanding between cultures. She has traveled extensively throughout 30 different countries. As a political commentator, she is dedicated to helping dispel common misconceptions regarding America. Additionally, she had a successful modeling career in Australia.

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## 2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Larry Dolci	913-648-0845	dolci@everestkc.net
1st Vice President	Pat Burnett	816-746-9698	dburnett5@kc.rr.com
2nd Vice President	Candice McField	913-271-4474	cmcfield@yahoo.com
Secretary	Nila Cleaves	816-942-1820	naninila@att.net
Treasurer	Gary Lofstrom	816-942-8887	gary@lofstromandcompany.com
Director 2009	Bev Londerholm	913-897-3596	blonderholm@sbcglobal.net
Director 2009	Terry Smitka	816-480-4227	tsmitka@rwbaird.com
Director 2009	Tom Waggoner	913-631-1223	jkid96@msn.com
Director 2010	Alan Felton	913-268-8281	afelton@feltonmedical.com
Director 2010	Nelson Markel	913-766-3543	nrmarkel@bucon.com
Director 2010	Theresa Osredker	913-897-6163	Theresa_66209@yahoo.com
Director 2011	Gabrielle Reilly	913-268-8090	gabrielle2003@everestkc.net
Director 2011	Roxanne Westfall	913-638-7849	Roxanne.Westfall@mediaprof.com
Director 2011	Chi H. Yi	816-932-7887	chihunyi@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Sharon Valasek	816-942-2794	svalasek@kc.rr.com

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTION: BELIZE

Gene Jacobs

"I tried to tell them," said Brigadier General Lloyd Gillett, Commander, Belize Defense Force, until he retired April 2, the same day he arrived at KCI for his April 3 induction into the International Hall the Fame. "When I was here as a major attending CGSC, I told them they should just go ahead and induct me into the Hall of Fame then. It would have saved the time and expense of this trip."

Such geniality was typical of Gillett when he was a student at Ft. Leavenworth in the class of 1996 and still is apparent in the twinkling of his eye when he engages in conversation.

9 Once his retirement from the Belize Defense Force became official, he officially assumed the mantle of his new job, Chief Executive Officer to the Belize Minister of National Security. In actuality, he had departed his military office and taken on his new responsibilities a month earlier.

Of the more than 7,000 international students who have attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Gillett joined Austria's Lt. General Günter Höfler and Guyana's Brigadier General Edward Collins as only the 224th, 225th and 226th inductees into the hallowed hall.

Gillett was accompanied during his visit by Maria Zabaneh, his companion to whom he regularly refers as his best friend. Also on hand to witness her famous relative's newest accolade was Sandra Gillett, his sister who teaches high school in Los Angeles.

While Lloyd and Maria enjoyed VIP quarters at Fort Leavenworth, Sandra stayed with Jake and Linda Jacobs, his



From left: Sandra Gillett, Jake Jacobs, Linda Jacobs, Lloyd Gillett, Maria Zabaneh, Debbie Pfaff, Brad Pfaff and Francis Thomas.

GKCPTP sponsors in 1995-96, at their home in Parkville. It was there that many old and new friends gathered the evening of the induction to celebrate. On hand were Charlie and Debbie Gregor, Gillett's Leavenworth sponsors; Major Francis Thomas, current CGSC student from Belize, and Brad and Nina Pfaff, GKCPTP sponsors for Thomas. Other chapter members on hand were Sharon Valasek and Gary Lofstrom, Dak and Pat Burnett, Dyrk and Kris Dugan and Ofee Acosta.

Jake and Linda's son Brett also was on hand. He hadn't seen Gillett since the latter's student days at the Fort. "It's been a long time," said Brett. "Yeah. Don't you still owe me \$20?" asked the newest member of the International Hall of Fame with a wink.

## SALUTING JIM MALOUFF

Theresa Osredker

Congratulations and appreciation are due James Malouff for his vision and dedication in creating the Grand Boulevard of the Americas. He is the first to acknowledge the many people and organizations which helped bring it about. It is no surprise, though, that the Kansas City Economic Development Corporation has selected Jim to receive its James C. Denny Spirit Award for 2008. This award is given to an individual who has furthered economic development and led the charge to create a better Kansas City.

Grand Boulevard of the Americas represents not only a cultural awareness and exchange, but an opportunity for Kansas City to become the premier financial and trade center of this hemisphere.

Thank you, Jim!



Jim Malouff addresses the crowd at the dedication of the Grand Boulevard of the Americas.

Contact Newsletter GKCPTP

# HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM NEPAL!

Pat Burnett

A wonderful cultural program on the Kingdom of Nepal was presented at Park University on Fri., April 11th. The calendar year of Nepal begins in mid-April and guests were treated to a New Year's celebration of traditional Nepalese food, storytelling, music and dance.



The program was sponsored by the Office of International Education and Study Abroad, Office of International Student Services, People to People International and Park University Graphic Design Department.

Members of the local Nepalese community also participated.

The cultural program began with a spiritual Veda chant (Hindu scripture) and the Lighting of Panus. This Hindu tradition of lighting the Panus (lamp) is integral to Hindu worship. Since light dispels darkness, it is believed that lighting the lamp illuminates the worshippers' minds by replacing ignorance with knowledge.

The National Anthem of Nepal was followed by a slideshow of the majestic scenery of Nepal, including the Himalayas.

Folklore is an integral part of Nepalese society. Students told the story of Kumari. Kumari is a living "goddess" in Nepal; this "Kumari" term means a virgin goddess. Nepali worshippers revere many gods, goddesses, deities, and incarnations through statues, sculptures, and other symbols at temples and many other places. Kumari is chosen among contestants from a caste of the Shakya. This contestant is a young girl four or five years old, chosen through a selection process and ritual. Once selected, she is enthroned and is worshipped by Nepalis every morning.

It was said that nearly every day in Nepal there is some type of festival with dancing and storytelling. With over 103 ethnicities and 90 spoken languages, there is always something to celebrate. Members of the Nepalese community performed the Lahkey Dance and Bhaloni Aayo, a group dance that is typical at these festivals.

The many different regions of Nepal were highlighted in the fashion show of colorful costumes. The evening ended with a special performance celebrating the Nepali New Year through dance—performed by students and faculty of Park University.

## NEPAL FAST FACTS:

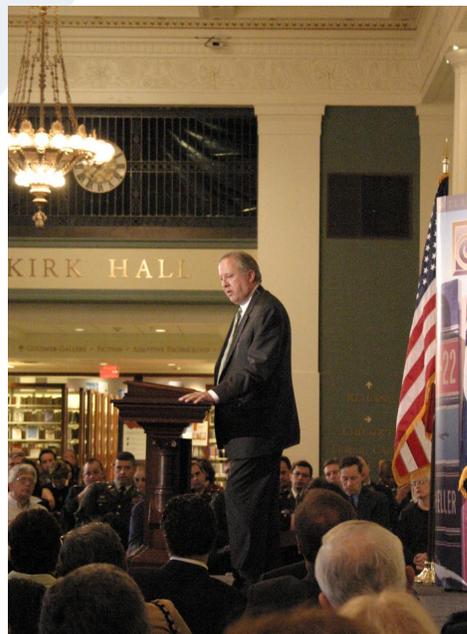
- Capital:** Katmandu
- Population:** 23,200,000 (2001) census
- Currency:** Nepalese Rupee
- National Flower:** Spectacular Rhododendron "gras"

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<u>New member(s)</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>
Richard and Kimma Boyles	Glenn Brown/Gwenn Puetz
Rich and Jo Randolph	Retired military
Taylor McMaster	Speakers Bureau, Parkville Rotary
Chi Yi	Paulette Markel
Jeff and Mary Jane Muchow	BG O'Neill program at library
John and Debbie Starr	Jim Fain referral

Thomas A. Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, discussed current and upcoming U.S. foreign policy opportunities and challenges in the Americas on Monday on April 14 at the Kansas City, MO Central Library. His talk was in conjunction with the formal dedication of the Grand Boulevard of the Americas.

*Photo courtesy Elise Del Vecchio, the Kansas City Public Library.*



# SPONSOR ASSIGNMENTS Sharon Valasek

The next class of International Military Students (IMS) is the largest since the program changed to a two classes/year rotation. This class, 09-1 (graduating June 2009, arriving June 2008) is expected to bring 72 IMS to Ft. Leavenworth for the "CGSC experience." Sponsor opportunities are plentiful!

To achieve the maximum benefit from this program, I encourage you to sponsor a different country each time (two consecutive times to sponsor the same country is the maximum allowed). Additionally, please consider choosing from different continents when making country preference selections. Chatting with sponsors over the years, I've found those who request a country they've never been assigned previously are often the ones that find the program most rewarding and enriching.

Please make it a priority to reply quickly when you receive a request for information. Thank you for your commitment and energy to sponsoring!

Gwenn Puetz, IMS Coordinator, Larry Dolci and I are working to complete sponsor assignments. The following activities are under way:

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<b>GKCPTP Member/Sponsor Category</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
New members, therefore have not sponsored previously.	Requests have been emailed to complete the sponsor preference sponsor information forms.
Renewing members who have sponsored previously (not recently).	Requests have been emailed to complete the sponsor preference sponsor information forms.
Members who've sponsored recently and haven't previously completed electronic versions of the sponsor forms.	Requests have been emailed to complete the sponsor preference sponsor information forms.
Members who have sponsored recently and have electronically completed the sponsor forms.	Look for an email to validate your previously provided information. Submit updates to the two forms (i.e., personal information and country preferences).

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
Permit No. 1406

Greater Kansas City Chapter  
of People to People  
P.O. Box 22365  
Kansas City, MO 64113