



# Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Volume 17, Issue 2

May-August 2013

## “Renewing Relationships in Pskov” Dr. Cynda Johnson, VTCSOM

A few months ago the opportunity presented itself to accompany two of my staff to Kazan, Russia. I was proud of the invitation they had received to continue their work in the 199-year-old (the second oldest in Russia) medical school in that city. Ten years earlier, Dr. Heidi Lane— then at East Carolina University and now director of our “standardized patient program”—had led the development of the first such program in Russia.

Standardized patient programs are important for any physician who may wish to practice in the United States. As part of the medical licensing exam, the standardized patient exam requires candidates to demonstrate communication and clinical skills at a series of stations. Heidi, along with the assistant director of our standardized patient program, Dr. Beth Ipock, have made a number of visits to train the faculty at Kazan in this program. They were being invited back to do further training and testing and to participate in a national conference. As dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, I was invited as well.

So what does that have to do with Pskov, a Sister City of Roanoke? In considering the invitation as a corporate board member of Roanoke Valley Sister Cities and with a family membership covering all seven sister cities, it was easy to decide: I should incorporate Pskov into travel plans with my husband, Dr. Bruce Johnson—not an easy feat, travel-wise. Previously it “took a village,” but in this current environment to accomplish anything worthwhile, it takes at least two nations?

After I studied the Roanoke -Pskov relationship in the RVSC archives, Dr. Hugh Wells became my first contact. As a neonatologist, he had visited Pskov on a couple of occasions, becoming great friends with Dr. Sergey Belyavskiy, also a neonatologist. Sergey reciprocated with a visit to Roanoke. On the very first visit, other RVSC members accompanied Hugh; they were able to transport *with them* a large number of valuable (est. \$200 K) donated supplies to Pskov. Sergey credits Hugh and Carilion Clinic for laying the groundwork to upgrade the highest-level neonatal intensive care unit in the city— the “Pskov Perinatal Center” in which Sergey took the lead. For our travel arrangements this spring, Sergey was able and ready to help us, gratefully, from the minute Hugh made the email introduction between us.

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We also had wonderful assistance from Professor Sasha Saari, co-chair of the Roanoke-Pskov Sister Cities Committee and clearly the most connected person in Roanoke with the Pskov Oblast as well. She referred us to Gordon Stearns, whose travel agency specializes in travel to Russia and made the official introduction to the mayor's office, via Tatiana Rumyantseva, head of the international department. Just watching Tatiana in action made it clear why that office works so well and how Pskov, with a population of 200,000+, can manage memoranda of understanding with 18 international cities, including 15 officially designated their sister cities. In order to prepare for the trip, Sasha also made sure that we had access to the detailed history of the relationship between the two cities. Mayor Roanoke David Bowers also made an introduction on our behalf sending lovely mementoes of the City of Roanoke along for our presentation to senior leaders in Pskov.

Also working on the ground were Dr. Charles Downs, President of the Roanoke Valley Sister Cities corporate board; Jack Tompkins, Executive Director of the Corporate Board; and my Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant, James Keith and Terri Hergrueter, respectively.

The trip came together: we left for Pskov on May 8 via Chicago and Dusseldorf, Germany. There seem to be fewer hassles than usual. It was a relief to see our hosts' driver waiting when we arrived in St. Petersburg on the afternoon of May 9. It was nearly a four-hour drive from Polkovo Airport to Pskov. For those familiar with World War II, the date is celebrated as "Victory Day," the biggest holiday of the year in Russia.

Many people who met with us and escorted us around over the next several days speaks volumes, as it basically meant they gave generously of their private and family time. As it was dinnertime when we arrived at the lovely Old Estate Hotel (*which is actually new*), we walked to the promenade along the Pskov Kremlin. (*A kremlin is a citadel within a Russian town.*) There we found a lively outdoor bar-restaurant full of young people, with a delicious menu (*with the advantage of English translation*) and the perfect vantage for people watching. (*I've decided that Pskov is the latest in haute couture. Super-high heels and nylons are definitely the look.*) The weather was terrific, with daily threats of rain never panning out, so this became our go-to-eat establishment for all three evenings in Pskov. *Note: the beer wasn't bad either.*

The holiday celebration continued on Friday so the mayor's office was officially closed, even so the office had an unusual on-going complement of guests: "a presidential delegation" (president of what, we asked; answer—Russia!); a 20-person male choir and guests from Norrtälje, Sweden (*north of Stockholm on the coast, and also a sister city of Pskov*).... and us. Tatiana,



Cynda and Tatiana Rumyantseva in front of Mayor's office, Pskov

our hostess for the morning, showed us around the nicely appointed building, while relaying the history of Pskov, followed by stories about their several various sister cities. She commented that since the break up of the Soviet Union several cities in the Baltics became ‘ Pskovites’ in a sister city. Visas are easy to obtain, only 500 kilometers away.



*Bruce, Cynda and Mayor Tsetserskiy*

While drinking tea and chatting, we were joined by Mayor Tsetserskiy. The presidential delegation had encouraged him to meet with us, saying , “America is very far away and if the Americans have come to Pskov, you must go and greet them.”



*...with Roanoke Star*

Mayor Tsetserskiy is young, friendly and enthusiastic. While with us, he gave us his undivided attention, despite interruptions. He told us about the state of the city and oblast (*county*) and that his two most important priorities were clean drinking water (*it is so bad that they have told the residents not to drink it*) and improving roads. The central government has also given some support to address these issues. The mayor then invited us to his office for a gift exchange and pictures.

At that point, the Swedish delegation had just arrived, and we were invited to join them. After their orientation to the city by the vice mayor, we were treated to a song by their choir. We had a friendly interchange. When they learned that my husband is of Swedish descent with relatives still living in their homeland, they invited us to go out to lunch with them. As the Russians will tell you, they like their meat, but I must say the fish and seafood of all varieties—which we sampled throughout our trip—were delicious too.



*Cynda, Neonatologist Yuri Grom and Sergey Belyavskiy, Pskov Perinatal Center*

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The final day and a half in Pskov Oblast was spent with Sergey Belyavskiy. Friday afternoon we visited the women's and children's hospital, and saw the NICU described earlier. Regardless of your medical background, you will understand that it is an excellent facility when I tell you that two of the newborns being treated there were born weighing less than a pound and a half!



*Sergey Kolesnikov and  
Sergey Belyavskiy*

Next we went to the oncology hospital. They do very fine work there, but it is housed at three disparate buildings, one an old church. An old hospital in another location is being renovated to house all of oncology in an up-to-date facility, scheduled for completion in a year.



*Pskov Regional Oncology Hospital*

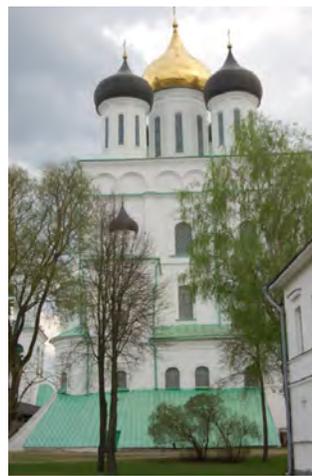
Directly after that, we were transported to the "old town," where a number of merchant houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> century had been converted into beautiful craft shops and restaurants. Sergey's son Vasiliy, age 11, joined us for the next day and a half. His dad says he has a gift for languages. We agree. He is a delightful young man who has decided he wants to visit Roanoke and "eat pizza." We hope he does. Sergey himself was an amazing translator during our various tours, having a real sense of colloquial English.



*Vasiliy, son of Sergey Belyavskiy*



*Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, Pskov Kremlin*



We capped off our day with a visit to the Pskov Kremlin.

On Saturday, the four of us took off early and headed west, stopping first

at a “castle” in Izborsk. It was built much on the order of the Pskov Kremlin, with fortress walls, guard towers surrounding what previously was a market, living quarters and one or more churches. This area was quite rural, and it was satisfying to see all of the renovation, here and in many other locations, supported by strong government funding. The local guide was justly proud of their historic sites. After a visit to Sloversky Springs—of which there are loosely 12, for the 12 apostles— we went to a village family restaurant housed in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century wooden house.



*Aerial view of Pskovo-Pechersky Monastery, Pechory*

Completing our visit, we drove to Pskovo-Pechersky Monastery, just kilometers from Estonia. In part the location explains why Pechersky is the only monastery in Russia that never had a period of closure. In fact, it was annexed by Estonia in 1920 for 24 years, during which time all others were forced to close. It is spectacularly beautiful and with recent restorations, brightly colored. Its centuries-old bells ring crisply. The origin of the monastery dates as far back

as the 15<sup>th</sup> century established with the discovery of a series of caves backing up into the mountain. This is a major religious site for the Russian Orthodox community. We were able to visit only because Sergey had sent a letter of request well in advance. The visit was granted for a specified time and we had a private tour, led by a monk belonging to the conclave.



*Sloversky Springs, Izborsk*

Enjoying this visit and other events, I will close by saying that it is wonderful to be a part of our sister city community in Roanoke. Bruce and I have now visited two of our sister cities and received guests from several. We have created our medical school to be a vibrant part of the community. In the near future, students from our charter class will have the opportunity to select from several international locations, including some in our sister cities, for an elective clinical experience. I encourage you all to be a part of Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, hosting or being hosted as ‘overseas’ guests. Without question, people-to-people experiences build bonds that last.

Cynda & Bruce Johnson

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**“Activités sur Tous les Fronts”**

by Mary Jo Fassié, Chair

As we celebrate 15 years as a Sister City with Saint-Lô, France, our organization is proud of being active in several different areas. Saint-Lô/Roanoke continues to plan for a variety of activities on several fronts. Here is a recap of those events and what is scheduled to come:

**Le Front Urbain:** Students from William Fleming and Salem High Schools donned berets and marched in the Local Colors parade with their teachers.

**Le Front Médical:** During the second week in July, Pauline Lenesley, a midwife from St-Lô, spent the week visiting Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital and shadowing medical professionals as part of our medical exchange agreement with St-Lô. She was hosted by the Harshfields and the Grundlehners, who helped to make this short visit a great success!

**Le Front Honoraire:**

- The Légion d’Honneur was awarded to one of our beloved D-Day vets, Chuck Neighbor, at Bernard Marie’s annual D-Day dinner.
- In early July, I was invited to speak at an international conference for women educators in DC. I presented a talk and power point on the benefits and opportunities provided by Sister Cities International for teachers and students. Saint-Lô and Roanoke Valley Sister Cities were featured in the presentation.
- At our annual Bastille Day Piquenique, Roanoke City Councilman Bill Bestpitch presented a proclamation to Chuck Neighbor, on behalf of the mayor, declaring that July 14, 2013, would be known as Chuck Neighbor Day in the city in appreciation for Chuck’s wartime service and support of the D-Day Memorial and our own sister city committee.

**Le Front d’Echanges:**

- In April, we had a visit from 12 adults led by Jeanine Vérove.
- In October a student/teacher group from Saint-Lô is scheduled to visit Roanoke. Plans are now being made by Cammie Williams and Siobhan Scro to house the students and their teachers. As in previous years, the group from St-Lô will attend school and visit important sites in the area.
- During the summer of 2014, we hope to send a delegation of students and adults from the Roanoke Valley to Saint-Lô. This trip will be led by board member, Siobhan Scro, a teacher at Salem High School. Anyone interested in being a part of this delegation, please contact us.



*Wm. Fleming students line up for the Local Colors parade.*

a choir group trip for the summer of 2014. We are excited about this endeavor and know that the people of Saint-Lô will open up their homes and hearts to this talented vocal group.

**MJF**

**Le Front Culturel:**

- In April, Saint-Lô artist, Cornelia Marin stayed for two weeks to create "L'Evolution de la Femme" at Wilson Hughes Gallery. This visit was made possible by a Mini-Arts and Cultural Plan Implementation Grant from the city of Roanoke and the Foundation for Roanoke Valley.

- Saint-Lô member, Tim Henshaw, has begun to organize

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*Midwife, Pauline Lenesley, & husband*

## “Our Kisumu Sister City Partnership is Re-activated!”

Bill Modica, Chair

After 6 months on inactive status, on June 20<sup>th</sup> the committee was revitalized pro tempore when Bill Modica, a former Local Colors Board member, stepped forward and offered to head up the program. After considerable discussion on August 28<sup>th</sup>, the committee was officially reactivated by RVSC Board unanimous vote.

With encouragement of RVSC Board members, Bill set about contacting former leaders both in Roanoke and in Kenya. Motions were approved to send some of the existing funds to complete current commitments to groups in Kisumu that need our support. This included: “Kisumu Hospice,” “The Green Life Widows and Orphans Fund,” “Agape Girls Home,” and Dr. Ruby Sokwala’s “Medical Assistance Fund.” Dr. and Mrs. Roth enthusiastically endorsed the new leadership and donated some personal funds for future projects. Other donations are welcome to build up the committee’s fund balance this year and early 2014.



The new leadership team includes Bill Modica, Chairman. Bill is a Realtor with ‘Progress-Rush Co.’ and a recognized environmental spokesperson. He is on executive committees of “Earth Day Roanoke,” “The Fall Waterways Clean-up Committee,” “Sierra Club’s Roanoke,” and VWCC’s “Natural Science Center Advisory Board.” His



contact : \* < modicabill2@aol.com >; Tel. # 540-387-2782. Bill, who lives in Salem, often travels outside the USA and has been to East Africa several times, but not yet to Kenya.

Patricia Kelly, Vice-Chair, is Professor Emerita at VT’s “Center for Development in International Education.” Patricia is experienced in Malawi and Zambia and in many other countries. She works in Blacksburg, but lives now in Roanoke. *Committee directors:* Jebet Dolly Kibogy, a court translator from Kenya. She lives in Roanoke with her one-year son, Ian; Marcia Richardson of Roanoke, travels frequently to Kenya; Althea Polk of Roanoke, a former director; Dr. Sasha Saari, also the Chair of Pskov Committee lives in Glade Hill, Va; and Dr. Cynda Johnson, founding Dean, President of Va.Tech Carilion School of Medicine, also administrator with Carilion Clinic. Currently, the reconstituted Kisumu committee roster: 20.

We will continue to work closely with the Kisumu-Roanoke Sister City in Kenya headed by Chairman Robert Gonzi and with Dr. Ruby Sokwala, a dynamic professional, expert on HIV Rx. A new partner is Dr. Makori Ochwangi Moronge, Professor at the University of Nairobi. He is from Kisumu region and has many family members living there.

Our Kisumu Committee has continuing strong support from Roanoke Mayor David Bowers and Roanoke City Council Woman Anita Price; and also from Dr. Roth, a co-founder of RVSC and by Dr. Marylen Harmon and Dr. Diane D’Orazio, former Kisumu co-chairpersons.

We want to revive and welcome *former* Kisumu members to re-join and help energize new contacts and programs. No question, past programs and services were outstanding. We honor them, and will build on and expand their foundation. Please contact \*Bill Modica. Tell him your interest(s). *Remember to up-date your dues for ’13 – ’14.*

Bill

**In Memoriam**



**Lucy Harmon, 99, of Salem, while holding her daughter’s hand, was lifted by the angels to her heavenly home on Monday, May 6, 2013. She was born on January 26, 1914, to the late Lennie Hunter Martin and James R. Martin Sr. in Pulaski. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 52 years, Chauncey D. Harmon Sr., her nine siblings, and a large loving family. Her dedicated loving daughter and caregiver Dr. Marylen E. Harmon of Roanoke and her son, Chauncey D. Harmon Jr., both feel the great loss for all.**

**She had a remarkable education and extraordinary career in education including: While attending Tuskegee Institute, she was taught by Dr. George Washington Carver; she received a B.S. degree in elementary education from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia; a M.A. degree in curriculum/ teaching from Columbia University in NYC.**

**Lucy taught at Blacksburg Elementary in Blacksburg, and Calfee Training School in Pulaski. She and her husband worked at Wytheville Training School and Scott Memorial High School as teacher and principal, respectively; Reading Coordinator, Academy Street School and G.W. Carver Elementary until her retirement in 1980.**

**Her community contributions are extensive: First Baptist Church of Salem; First Baptist Church of Pulaski; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; The Links, Inc.; Spectrum; Roanoke Coffee Club; Roanoke Retired Teachers; Mary White Buford Women’s Club; Pulaski Courthouse Committee; Carver Reunion Association; Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, SLC; NAACP; and the Salem Museum.**

[Excerpts from Roanoke Times, May 12, 2013]

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**Lucy is well known to and knew a lot about Roanoke Valley Sister Cities. She and Marylen have an est. 90% attendance record at Roanoke/Kisumu Sister City meetings and programs. While her sight was failing, her ears were always alert! Her gentle kindly person will be remembered for years by our membership. She was very proud of Marylen for her enduring love for Kisumu and contacts there ---virtually from day-one in 1976!**

**Marylen’s companions in leadership Greta Evans (Deceased-2004) and Dr. Diane D’Orazio also respected and loved Lucy very much. Diane wrote for all members:**

*“She was an inspiration to all who crossed her path and she left the world a much better place.”*

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“Opole’s Festivals of Music” Dr. Kris Slowikowski

Our Roanoke Opole Sister City partnership has thrived on music student exchanges.  
The partner? The Frederick Chopin National School of Music.

Opole is known in Poland as the “Capital of Song.” It’s famous for a multitude of music festivals. The following is a selection of some of the most popular events:

- The “National Festival of Polish Song” in Opole is one of two most important music festivals in Poland. It occurs as an annual event during the month of June. Polish radio and TV host celebration of the years’ best song writers and performers – similar to our Grammy awards. Over the past 50 years awards have been given annually for the best new artist, new song, best song writer/composer, music video and best album. All music genres are represented - from traditional rock to music videos and hip hop. The festival takes place in an amphitheater right in the center of town, built over the remains of an ancient Slavic settlement.
- “The International Percussion Festival” or Drum-fest dates back to the 1980’s, when Wojciech Lasek, Artistic Director of the festival and the Principal of the National Music School in Opole organized the 1st Drum Music Days in Opole. At first, the festival was open only to percussion students from regional music schools. By the third year, it had become an international event. During the festival one can attend concerts, as well as instrumental workshops/clinics and contests for young drummers. This festival has expanded to Katowice, Wroclaw and other important culture centers in Poland. The variety of music played during the festival includes classical, rock, jazz, blues, pop and metal music. Headed by invited musicians, Workshops/ Clinics allow students and music lovers to participate on an individual level. Thanks to these guest artists, the festival unites not only people from all over the Poland, but also from abroad. This years’ festival begins in September and runs through November. See [drumfest.pl](http://drumfest.pl) for more information.
- “The XI Opole Gospel Festival” takes place November 16-17, 2013. This is a unique festival in Opole which showcases the “Opole Gospel Choir” and gospel music. This year’s workshops will take place under the direction of Peter Francis, respected British vocalist and director of the “Jaber Family Gospel Choir.” The “Opole Gospel Choir” can be viewed on ‘you tube’ and will thoroughly entertain the audience.

*As we all know, Roanokers love all sorts of festivals!  
Be aware, Opole can say that it’s ‘the capital of song and music festivals.’*

Kris

## “FLORIANÓPOLIS - Pen Pal Program” Dr. Norma Jean Peters

The Florianópolis Committee is sponsoring an exciting new Pen Pal program by pairing a middle school class in Brazil with one in Roanoke County. A class of eighth graders at ESCOLA MUNICIPAL GOVERNADOR PEDRO IVO CAMPOS - JOINVILLE – SC in the State of Santa Catarina will be making contact with a class of eighth graders in Roanoke County. The objective is to give Brazilian and American students special language and cultural experiences throughout the school year. Joslaine Austin, past chair of the Florianopolis committee, is a friend of the teacher Ms. Patrícia Momm dos Santos who will be involved in the program. Joslaine and Joe LeGault, Coordinator of English and ESL for Roanoke County Schools, are coordinating this project.

The kickoff activity for the Pen Pal program will be a Skype session where teachers and students will have the opportunity to meet and greet each other and decide future activities. We are hopeful that this program will foster friendship and understanding among our young people. In addition some of the activities could help our students to meet SOL objectives. We are hopeful that this program will expand to other classes.



### Love's Little Nest

Through the years our committee has financially supported special projects at Love's Little Nest, an orphanage in Florianópolis. Several of our members have visited the orphanage and the needs there continue to be great. Recently we asked Marilla Deisenroth, a member of our committee, to contact the director and obtain a list of special projects that we could consider funding.

We are fortunate to have Mike and Marilla Deisenroth as members of our committee. They live in Florianopolis part of each year and in Blacksburg the rest of the year. Marilla is Brazilian and has been helpful in making contacts for the committee. NJP

“Greetings from Our Lijiang Committee”

Rebecca Chang, Chair.

No question, it has been a *busy* time since June 20<sup>th</sup> when I became the new chair of our Lijiang Committee with Pearl Fu rising to “Chair Emeritus.” At the end of July, with Mayor Bowers Office and Dr. Roth’s combined assistance, our committee sent an invitation to the Mayor of Lijiang encouraging him to arrange a Lijiang delegation to visit Roanoke in early fall 2013.

At first it seemed very likely a delegation visit would happen. But three weeks later, we found out that due to “international travel” budget cuts, a Lijiang delegation would not be able to come *this* year. Naturally, we were disappointed. Definitely, there was mutual chagrin. Nonetheless, subsequent communications with Lijiang, made us feel a renewed sense of commitment between us.

*Just* recently, we heard that the Lijiang delegation is again planning to visit us *next* year. Yes, good news! The news makes it hard not to evoke high excitement; it must be tempered by the status of China’s economy in 2014. *On our side*, we are considering a Roanoke delegation to visit Lijiang in the near future! I will post some photos from my last visit to Lijiang, a nature-rich beautiful part of southern China.

In the mean time, with Pearl’s help, the Committee is starting a ‘Chinese Language and Culture Program’ to teach Chinese children who were adopted by American families still residing in Roanoke Valley. Pearl has been in regular touch with these families for many years. She has a magic (“PC”) wand to find people; she also knows how to get them involved. The idea of a Lijiang Chinese language and culture program has been on a back burner for sometime. It one of several projects waiting to come to life. Currently we are looking for a meeting place which not only provides a classroom but also a Central Valley location convenient to most families. We plan to teach Chinese through songs, riddles, dance, and other activities. I have been teaching Chinese and culture at Roanoke College for three years, so I feel confident to keep students motivated and enjoying the study.

As the new chair, I am humbled by the wonderful work that all sister city committees are doing. I am grateful for any & all guidance and support. Last, but not the least, I extend a warm welcome to new members. Together, we can do wondrous things! R.C.



*“Red lanterns, canals and greenery abound”*



*Lijiang's countryside "Valley, mountains and horses"*



*Getting ready for a ride around Lijiang  
"Local color in Lijiang with a tourist getting ready to ride!"*

“News: Good, Good, Sad” Sandy Lyle, Chair. & Dr. Roth

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*Good news:* With the first fourth-year class graduation approaching in 2014 at VaTech-Carilion School of Medicine [VTCSOM], the formal relationship with the Yonsei-Wonju Medical School in Wonju is also approaching consummation. The visit of Drs. Bruce & Cynda Johnson together with Dr. David Trinkle and Dr. Kye Y. Kim in October 2009 [AOW Vol. 13, issue 4] became the *first page* of a document acceding to exchanges of professional staff personnel and med. students as well as shared opportunities in medical research.

This August, the *second page* of the document was composed when four physicians arrived from Wonju. Dr. Kye Y. Kim, Professor & Director of Academic Affairs at VTCSOM, provided, when needed, bilingual assistance and was their guide throughout the tight three day visit, August 19-21<sup>st</sup>. The distinguished guests were:

- Yeo-Seung Yoon, M.D., Ph.D., President & CEO, Yonsei-Wonju Health System (Orthopedic Surgery)
- Young-Hee Lee, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President, Wonju Severance Christian Hospital (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine)
- In-Deok Kong, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of Academic Affairs (Physiology)
- Byung-Ho Cha, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of Student Affairs (Pediatrics)

Their tours/discussions included: VTCSOM, the VTC Research Institute, Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and renewal of the “MOU,” [Memoranda of Understanding] confirming exchange programs. More reports will follow ahead.

[Personal note: the guests insisted on a visit with Dr. Young U. Kim in Roanoke and Dr. Robert F. Roth at his SML home. Dr. Kim and Dr. Roth were proud, impressed, appreciative of the sincere filial duty expressed toward two WUCH old-timers, whose services covered the years 1959- 1972.]

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*Good news:* Well known to us in Roanoke, Ms. Eunsuk Jeong was International Relations manager in Wonju Mayor Weon’s Office. Earlier this year, “Eunsuk Jeong” changed her first name to “Jiwoo Jeong.” By e-mail (8-7-13) she wrote to Sandy Lyle that, to use her language skills, she has been advanced to the “Economy and Culture Bureau of Wonju City.” The *good news:* she seems very happy at this new staff grade and is learning new responsibilities/challenges. Despite working under a heavy schedule, e.g. official Wonju city trips to Canada, China, Mongolia and to the USA in May [AOW Vol.17,1] she has been studying for an advanced academic degree in “Government Management & Economy.” This is an internship --- learning on the job!

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*Sad News:* Every January since 2007, Jiwoo planned, arranged and guided bilateral middle school student exchanges. Her management of children and of inevitable unexpected events endeared her to all sister city volunteers with Sandy Lyle as her “Grandmother.” Jiwoo has turned over this program to Mr. D. H. Kim. She also hopes that the “Welcome Visit to Korea Program” for Korea-born children adopted by Americans ---which Jiwoo initiated --- will continue. [AOW Vol. 16, issue 3; AOW Vol. 17, 1]

Jiwoo closed her e-mail letter:

“P.S. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Roth & Dot, Jack, Kye & Moon Kim, Jean, Linda, Sue and host families of our students, also Jennifer. Also I had a special memory with Lauran (Dr. Roth’s lovely daughter) and Sarah.” (Drs. Johnson’s daughter-in-law)

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All the best, Jeong, Jiwoo

**ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES -CALENDAR - www.rvsci.us**

**September: 2013**

17<sup>th</sup> – Florianopolis Meeting Roanoke County library 7:30 p.m.

**October: 2013**

3 - 6<sup>th</sup> Ferrum College - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festival.

13-19<sup>th</sup> - St.-Lo- Visiting delegation: 32 students and 3 adults.

29<sup>th</sup> – Florianopolis - Green Memorial United Methodist Church at 7 pm

**November: 2013**

13<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - RVSC Corporate Bd. meeting - South Rke U. Methodist Church, 5:30 p.m.

**December: 2013**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Florianopolis - **Christmas Holiday Dinner meeting at Luigi's Restaurant at 6 pm.**

**Contact persons:** [www.rvsci.us] Regularly check it out ---it's beautiful.

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**Annual Membership - Roanoke Valley Sister Cities**  New  Renewal

July 2013 – June 2014

Cities:  Wonju  Kisumu  Pskov  Florianopolis  Opole  Lijiang  St. Lo

Individual:  \$15 - one city  \_\_\_ # cities x \$15 = \_\_\_ [ Example: 7 cities x \$15 = \$105 ]

Family:  \$30 – one city  \_\_\_ # cities X \$30 = \_\_\_ Total # of family members \_\_\_

DONATION: Donor  \$50 // Sponsor  \$100 // Judge  \$250 // Consul  \$500 // President  \$1000

Specify for:  RVSC Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ // &/or for:  City// Cities - per city \_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership Totals for 2013-14 (as of 8-31-13)**

City	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013/14
Wonju	82	94	72	82	85	74	65	74	62	60	98	70	43
Kisumu	52	64	83	57	65	68	51	50	46	44	50	29	19
Pskov	64	66	68	78	70	57	58	63	36	41	35	42	24
Florianópolis	44	45	46	41	46	42	32	39	38	43	54	61	20
Opole	24	16	16	28	27	30	18	22	20	30	32	41	13
Lijiang	64	68	95	44	55	42	34	43	37	36	46	17	21
St.-Lo	60	76	63	87	76	71	67	67	62	60	52	58	57
<b>totals</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>197</b>

**"Membership year" starts July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Dues pd after April 1st 2013 continue active membership to June 30, 2014.**

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.  
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P. 1 – 5 “Renewing Relationships in Pskov” – Dr. Cynda Johnson

P. 6-7 “Activitiés sur Tous Fronts” - Mary Jo Fassié

P. 8 - “Our Kisumu Partnership is Re-activated” – Bill Modica, Chair.

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P. 9 - In Memoriam - “Lucy Harmon (1914 – 2013)” Dr. Marylen Harmon

P. 10 - “Opole’s Festivals of Music” – Dr. Kris Slowikowski

P. 11- “Florianópolis -Pen Pal Program” - Dr. Norma Jean Peters

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P. 12- 13 - “Greetings from Our Lijiang Committee” Rebecca Chang, Chair.

P. 14 – “News: Good, Good, Sad” Sandy Lyle, Chair. & Dr. Roth

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P.15- “Calendar & Membership Page”

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