



Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Volume 21, Issue 1 | January - May 2018

Like us on Facebook! 

Transatlantic twinning reaches a happy milestone

By Ann Hackworth
Roanoke-St-Lô board member
avhack@aol.com

This spring, Roanoke's youngest Sister City relationship marked its 20th anniversary. To celebrate, we welcomed to the Star City a delegation of nine Normans under the leadership of longtime Saint-Lô 44 President Jeanine Vérove (on her eighth visit here!) and the new mayor of St-Lô, the engaging François Brière.

As always, our visitors, who ranged in age from 17 to 70something, were hosted by our members and friends. Host families on both sides of the Atlantic are a cornerstone of the 20-year relationship between our two cities and the foundation of dozens of lasting friendships.

Our friends arrived in Roanoke from Washington, D.C., via Amtrak, late on May 3. The next day, Friday, the group and many of their hosts toured the Taubman Museum of Art in downtown Roanoke. Works of particular interest included "Reclamation! Pan-African Works from

the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection," "Farther," by New York-based sculptor Paul Villinski, "Earthly Delights: Judith Leiber Handbags 'Gardens & Flowers'" as well as works in the permanent collection. Professor Jean Fallon from Hollins University provided the French translation. Mayor Brière arrived that evening.

On Saturday, the Normans and some of their hosts took a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway to the lodge at the Peaks of Otter. Fortunately, they somehow missed the spring rains that day and enjoyed lunch. Some of them even took a brisk hike up to Sharp Top or visited the D-Day Memorial.

The Normans' schedule was light on Sunday, allowing time for them to spend with their hosts. And frankly, we knew we'd be keeping them busy on Monday, May 7. On that morning, Jeanine and some of us Roanokers met with Jeff Shawver, chief of physical plants for Roanoke City Public Schools. Jeff

had agreed to supervise the summer internship of Thomas Morice, a student at the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Rennes, who grew up in St-Lô. Because Thomas's school requires

(Continued on Page 2)



Roanoke City Councilman (and RVSCI Vice President) Bill Bestpitch (left) shakes hands with François Brière, mayor of Saint-Lô, Normandy, France, at the plaque that commemorates the Sister Cities sculptures at Century Park Plaza in downtown Roanoke. Bill and his wife, Sheri, hosted Mayor Brière during his delegation's visit here in May.



On Monday, May 7, Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea and Roanoke City Council presented 8 citizens and the mayor of Saint-Lô, Normandy, France, with certificates declaring them honorary citizens of Roanoke. Saint-Lô Mayor François Brière (to the right of Mayor Lea) also received the key to the city of Roanoke.

In this Issue:

Roanoke-St-Lô	Page 1
President's report	Page 3
Olympic feats	Page 5
Young Artists Showcase awards	Page 6
International medical rotation report	Page 7
Roanoke-Opole	Page 8
Roanoke-Lijiang	Page 9
Roanoke-Florianópolis	Page 10
Roanoke-Wonju	Page 11
Roanoke-Kisumu	Page 12
Roanoke-Pskov report	Page 13
Photos from RVSCI's annual dinner meeting	Page 14
Colette Fu exhibit at the Taubman	Page 15

Roanoke-St-Lô

(Continued From Page 1)



Our Norman visitors and some of their hosts enjoyed lunch and the views at the lodge at the Peaks of Otter.

requires him to report directly to a certified engineer, Jeff had to make some quick adjustments. He phoned Roanoke City Engineer Luke Pugh, who agreed on the spot to supervise Thomas during his internship here, June 18-July 13. (Thank you to the family of Doug and Frances Grider of Roanoke County for agreeing to house Thomas during his internship.)

On Monday afternoon, we and our French friends were welcomed at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine by founding dean and RVSCI board member Dr. Cynda Johnson. Cynda explained that in the 10 years the school has been in existence it's had an unmistakable impact on the Roanoke Valley. She also described the public-private partnership between the research university and health care institution and how doctors are educated through inquiry, research and discovery. Following Cynda's remarks, a member of the school's outreach team led the group on a brief tour.

Afterward, the Roanoke hosts ferried the Normans back downtown to the Municipal Building, where City Council was in session. At the close of city business, Mayor Sherman Lea and the members of City Council presented the Normans and Mayor Brière with certificates declaring them honorary citizens of Roanoke. In addition, Mayor Brière was awarded the key to the city of Roanoke.

Later that evening, Mayor Lea served as emcee at our anniversary dinner at the Shenandoah Club. We were treated to a bilingual concert by soprano Marianne Sandborg and piano accompanist Anna

de Groot-Preston. We heard remarks as well from Councilman and RVSCI Vice President Bill Bestpitch and Mayor Brière. RVSCI President Mary Jo Fassié called on her years as chair of the Roanoke-St-Lô committee to reflect on the roots of our relationship in the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944, and she thanked Chuck Neighbor and the late Bob Slaughter, two of the Roanoke-area veterans who founded this group. In the 20 years since our official "twinning," Mary Jo said, our proudest achievement has been our intern exchanges. We have welcomed dozens of French college students to Roanoke and sent both students and adults to St-Lô; these interns have worked and studied in the arts, journalism, marketing, IT, food science, public relations and now medicine. We are so pleased with our connections to the Taubman Museum of Art and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Jeanine Vérove also reflected on Bob Slaughter's legacy, and she reminded the Americans in the audience that D-Day is never forgotten in Normandy. Finally, former Roanoke mayor David Bowers, who presided at our official twinning in 1998, shared his thoughts on the importance of international friendships and ties and wished us well in the next 20 years and beyond.

Because this visit was such a success, we would like to say *merci* to the city of Roanoke, particularly Roanoke City Council, the office of Mayor Lea and the City Clerk's office for their financial and organizational support. We are also grateful to the staff of the Shenandoah

Club. Thanks as well to the staff of the Taubman Museum of Art, Katrina King and Executive Director Cindy Petersen. We also thank the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, its founding dean, Cynda Johnson, and its Community Outreach department.

Special thanks as well to our host families: Shelia Balderson; Bill and Sheri Bestpitch; Mary, Bonnie and Daniel Culkin; Claudia and George De Franko; Pierre and Mary Jo Fassié; Tim and Sherrie Henshaw; Regina and Larry Rackow (assisted by Yvonne Gravely); Vivian Sanchez-Jones and Thomas Jones; and Peggy and Hugh Wells.

Going forward, the Roanoke-St-Lô committee and membership have much to be proud of. Virginia Western student Paige Garner (an alumna of a group visit to Normandy in 2017) is now interning at the Institut St-Lô. We look forward to Thomas Morice's month-long internship here in Roanoke. We will happily welcome back artist Cornelia Marin in August. And of course, we are making plans for our group visit to Normandy in late June 2019 to continue our 20th anniversary fête.

We extend our gratitude to former chair Cammie Williams for her devotion and hard work with Roanoke-St-Lô since its establishment. The executive committee is currently without a chair, but we are ever active. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please contact me or anyone else on our board.

In the meantime, we hope to see lots of you at our annual Bastille Day potluck picnic, July 15, 5 p.m., at Longwood Park.



Soprano Marianne Sandborg and pianist Anna de Groot-Preston perform at our anniversary dinner at the Shenandoah Club.

President's Report

We are forging Sister City connections here and abroad



By Mary Jo Fassie
President, RVSCI
mjfassie@gmail.com

In our effort to foster and encourage mutual understanding, friendship and peace, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities began 2018 by reaching out to the Roanoke Valley by sponsoring a variety of activities and exchanges.

In January, we connected with Roanoke College and held free Korean lessons that lasted until May. It turned out to be a very successful class offered two days a week. This may have been a first for the Roanoke Valley!

In February, we participated in the Lunar New Year celebration at the Taubman Museum of Art. The Lijiang committee, led by Rebecca Chang, set up a calligraphy station and offered to write names and messages in Chinese. Wonju chairman Brian Counihan and Bill Saari traveled to Radford University to greet and eat lunch with nursing students from Wonju. In addition, the Wonju committee organized a luncheon for the four medical students from Wonju who were doing a medical rotation at the Virginia



At Radford University, Brian Counihan and Bill Saari met with nursing students from Wonju.

Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

In March, the Roanoke Valley Sister Cities Young Artists and Photographers Showcase helped us to connect with high school art and photography teachers and students in the Roanoke Valley. The deadline was March 30. More than 20 pieces were entered. RVSCI was also represented at the Roanoke College Internship Fair gathering names for potential interns for next years.

April proved to be full of activities as

we began with the polka party at the Taubman Museum. The music, courtesy of The Chardon Polka Band from Ohio, was lively and varied from polka to rock 'n' roll to waltzes. The event was well attended, and the dance floor was always full! The Opole committee, headed by Dr. Kris Slowikowski, organized this event and also sold delicious hot pretzels. There was also plenty of soft drinks, beer and wine with the Taubman's catering service. On April 13, we had the opening exhibit at the Liminal Art Gallery at 11 S. Jefferson in downtown Roanoke. Thanks to Brian Counihan and Community High School for offering this space. On April 24, we gathered at VTCSOM for the presentations by the medical students who went to Poland (Worclaw), France (St-Lô) and South Korea (Wonju) as well as Peru. Their experiences will have an impact on them professionally and personally as they connected with our Sister Cities and the medical staff at each institution. At this event, RVSCI honored Dr. Cynda Johnson, founding dean of the medical school, with a plaque featuring all the countries where the VTCSOM offers rotations to its student. Cynda will retire in December, but we are pleased and grateful that she plans to continue as a member of our RVSCI board.

(Continued on Page 4)



In February, several RVSCI board members shared lunch with four medical students from Wonju. The physicians-in-training were doing their rotations at VTCSOM.

(Continued From Page 3)



At Local Colors 2018, Mary Jo met a former student, Natesha Ross, who works with the after school program at Woodrow Wilson. The two discussed a possible pen pal program among students in Roanoke and in our Sister Cities abroad.

May did not give us time to rest as we received a delegation from St-Lô, France, organized by Jeanine Vérove to celebrate the 20 years of twinning with our two cities. St-Lô's new mayor, François Brière, represented his city and was hosted by Bill and Sheri Bestpitch who introduced our beautiful valley to him. Mayor Sherman Lea honored Maire Brière with the key to the city of Roanoke, and each visitor received an honorary certificate of citizenship. The St-Lô committee housed all the visitors, organized a tour of the Taubman in French, a luncheon

at the Peaks of Otter. Finally, the city of Roanoke and RVSCI honored our visitors with a dinner at the Shenandoah Club. A trip is being organized for the last week of June 2019 for a continuation of the celebration of our twinning with St-Lô. Anyone interested should contact www.roanokevalleysistercities@gmail.com or 540-798-3788 or a member of the St-Lô committee.

RVSCI's effort to reach out to the Roanoke Valley continued this month at Local Colors on May 19 with two booths (St-Lô & RVSCI) and the participation of the Florianópolis-Roanoke committee in the Parade of Nations. New members were signed up and contact information was exchanged. While we were at Local Colors, Dr. Nathaniel Bishop, president of Jefferson College of Health Sciences, and his wife, Sylvia, along with two nursing students from Jefferson College were in St-Lô, France, touring the hospital and making connections with the medical community and St-Lô residents. Jefferson College has an active nursing exchange program with our sister city of St-Lô.

As we concluded May, RVSCI held its annual dinner at Roanoke College on the 31st. Our guest speaker was Cindy

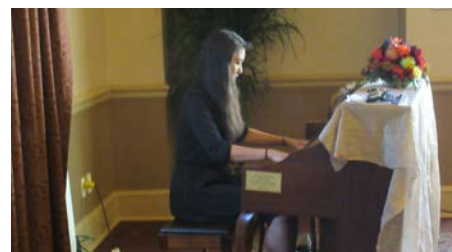
Petersen, executive director of the Taubman Museum of Art, who stressed how the Taubman is connecting with the Roanoke Valley and RVSCI as we collaborate on several projects. Those attending were wowed by the beautiful piano performance of Joanne Wang, a rising senior at Hidden Valley High School. Joanne played the Sonata no. 2 in F sharp minor, Opus number 2, by Johannes Brahms, which she presented at Carnegie Hall last fall. Claudia Morgan, a student at North Cross High School and first-place winner of the RVSCI Young Artist Showcase, attended the dinner with her parents and art teacher Amy Jackson and was presented a check for \$200.

Please join us this summer, on June 27 at the Williamson Road Library at 6 p.m. for a talk by Joseph Okeyo and Barb Adams from the Support Aid Ministry of Kisumu, and on July 15 for the annual Bastille Day potluck pique-nique at 5 p.m. at Longwood Park, Shelter No. 4.

Join or renew your membership online www.rvsci.us or at P.O. Box 136, Roanoke, VA 24002 and help support Roanoke Valley Sister Cities as we continue to make connections in the Roanoke Valley and abroad in our seven sister cities.



Left: In May, Dr. Nathaniel Bishop (fourth from right), president of Jefferson College of Health Sciences, and his wife, Sylvia (left), along with two nursing students from Jefferson College were in St-Lô, France, touring the Centre Hospitalier Mémorial France États-Unis. This photograph appeared with a story about the visit in Ouest France, the regional daily newspaper. **Top Right:** In April, RVSCI honored Dr. Cynda Johnson (center), founding dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, with a plaque featuring all the countries where the school offers rotations to its students. Cynda, pictured here with Mary Jo Fassie and Dr. David Trinkle, Associate Dean for Community and Culture, will retire in December. **Bottom Left:** Hidden Valley High School student Joanne Wang performed a dazzling Brahms sonata at RVSCI's annual dinner on May 31 at Roanoke College.



Olympic feats

Sister City contacts made family visit to Olympics possible

By Dr. Cynda Johnson
RVSCI board member
cajohnson1@carilionclinic.org

It took way more than a village to plan and execute our trip last February to the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. I am sure this was not an event that was meant to be carried out from abroad with four adults and a toddler without a tour agency or other serious connections. Thanks to our Sister City and Yonsei Medical School friends in Wonju, we had the latter.

When my daughter-in-law Sarah Olia accompanied me on our last Sister City exchange to Wonju 2 ½ years ago, Dr. Young-Hee Lee, CEO of Severance Hospital and the main contact for our Yonsei Medical School and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine student exchange, met our delegation for a late dinner upon our arrival. Why? Because he had to fly to the U.S. on the following morning for an Olympic Planning Committee meeting. Yes, indeed. It turns out Dr. Lee had been named as the lead physician for the host country of South Korea. Sarah and I looked at each other



Andrew and Sarah at the Gangneung Ice Arena.

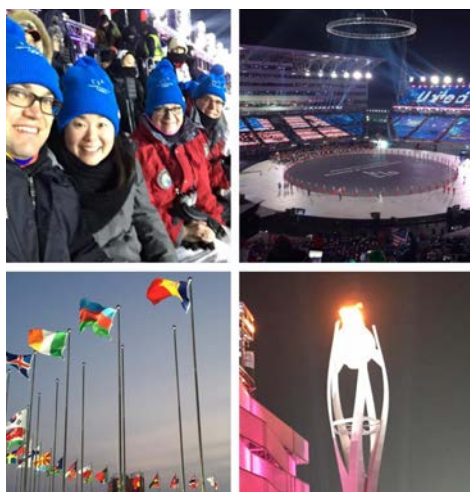
and decided on the spot that we'd be going to the 2018 Winter Olympics. Little did we know, we'd be dealing with trains, hotels and Olympic venues not yet built and baby Conrad not yet born.

Sarah herself was born in Korea. She and our son Andrew taught English for a year in 2004 in Suwon, south of Seoul; both had accompanied Bruce and me on our first Sister City trip to Wonju in 2009, when we signed a memorandum of understanding with Yonsei Medical School, launching the first international elective student rotation for VTCSOM.

The details are long and tedious, but our friends here and abroad made it happen. Thanks to Dr. Young-Hee Lee, we secured tickets not only to the athletic events, but to the Opening Ceremony. And we saw Shaun White capture the gold in the half-pipe snowboarding event! Dr. KongHook Kim, orthopedic surgeon and long-time chair of Sister Cities Wonju, made it possible to have our home base at the BizInn in Wonju. As a connoisseur of wine and French cuisine, he treated us to Michelin-

star dining at Votre Maison in Seoul and Korean family fare in Wonju. Thinking of just about everything important to our experience, he presented us with lots of hand and foot warmers for the frigid outdoor events. The Soe family met us at the airport, gave Andrew a surprise birthday party and provided loving child care for Conrad. Dr. Kang Hyun Lee, new dean at Yonsei, and Dr. Byung-il Yeh, dean of medical education, met us for breakfast on two occasions and insisted on planning transport to Seoul to celebrate the Lunar New Year (without their intervention we would not have found available tickets).

Here at home in Roanoke, I want to thank our own Wonju Sister City Committee as well as the city of Roanoke for contributing gifts for our hosts, and Dr. Kye Kim, who got the ball rolling by formally requesting Dr. Young-Hee Lee's help in our planning. Experiencing the PyeongChang Olympics was truly amazing, but as always, it is really about the people, the real meaning of Sister Cities.



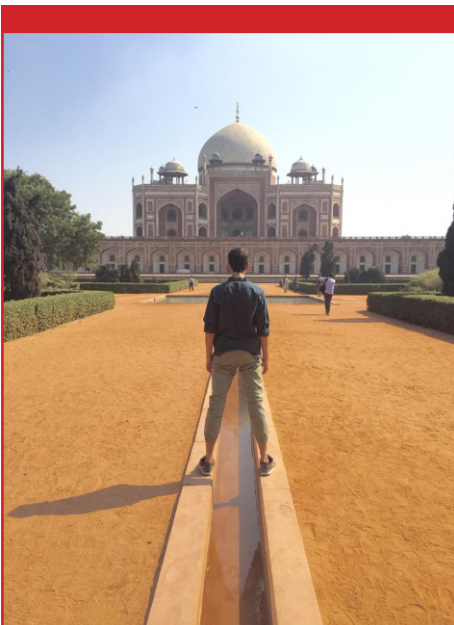
Cynda Johnson's daughter-in-law, Sarah Olia, posted these photos on Facebook. Clockwise from top left: Andrew Johnson, Sarah Olia, Cynda Johnson and Bruce Johnson trying to stay warm in the stands; the Opening Ceremonies; the Olympic flame; flags of participating nations.

Youth and the arts

RVSCI selects winners in Young Artists and Photographers Showcase



"Hello," by Claudia Morgan



"Peace Through People Will Overcome, No Matter the Diplomatic Divide," by Gaston Ocampo



"My City, My Life," by Mary Grace Baier

"The Art of Diplomacy" was the theme for the 2018 Sister Cities International Young Artists and Photographers Showcase. Roanoke Valley Sister Cities held its own competition once again this year and received more than 20 entries in the high school art competition. Deadline for the competition was March 30. High Schools in the Roanoke Valley were contacted in January, and entries came from Arnold R. Burton, Community, Hidden Valley, North Cross, Roanoke Catholic and Staunton River. Photographs from Hollins University and Roanoke College were submitted in the university category. Judges for the event were Roanoke artists and a member of the Taubman Museum staff.

The Liminal Gallery on 11 S. Jefferson Street in downtown Roanoke exhibited all pieces of art in the high school category during the last two weeks of April. A reception for all participants, where the winners were announced, was held April 13. The art pieces that placed in this category and prize money went to:

1st place: \$200 for "Hello," by **Claudia Morgan** of North Cross

2nd place (tie): \$100 for "Common Factor," by **Ava Lorens** of Hidden Valley, and "Gate" by **Ben Li** from North Cross

3rd place (tie): \$50 for "My City, My Life," by **Mary Grace Baier** from Arnold R.



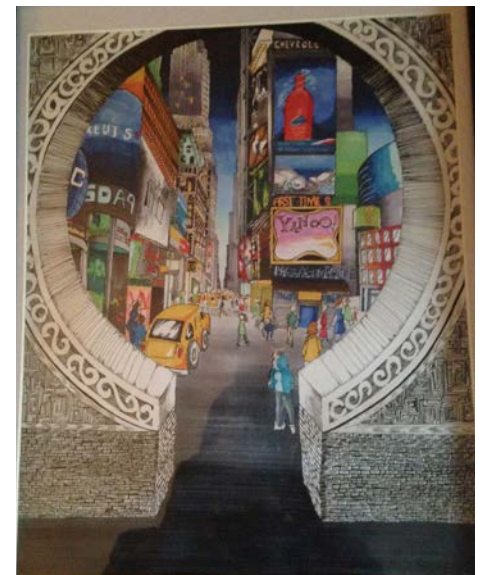
"Common Factor," by Ava Lorens

Burton, and "From the Same Strand," by **Claudia Ochoa** of Roanoke Catholic
Honorables mentions (\$25 each) went to **Seaira Siv** of Roanoke Catholic, **Joseph Kapral** of Community, **Midora Firebaugh** of North Cross, and **Daniel Cox** of Community

In the Young Photographers Showcase, first place and \$200 went to **Gaston Ocampo** of Roanoke College for his entry, "Peace Through People Will Overcome, No Matter the Diplomatic Divide," and second place and \$100 went to **Anshu Tapa** of Hollins University for her entry, "Independence Monument."

First-place winning works in both categories from RVSCI were sent to Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C., for judging on the national level.

By Mary Jo Fassié



"Gate," by Ben Li



"From the Same Strand," by Claudia Ochoa

International medical rotation

Historic ties between cities a happy discovery for students

By Dr. Courtney Knill and Dr. Katie Sourbeer
The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Class of 2018

Roanoke, USA, 1998. Running through the streets of Saint-Lô, exploring the city that was to be our home for the next month as we did an international medical school rotation, we looked up and saw the sign. The city where we'd lived the past 4 years was listed on this signpost in a small town in Normandy, France -- surreal.

We must admit, before moving to Roanoke we had never heard of the concept of Sister Cities. But after living in Saint-Lô and meeting the wonderful folks of the Sister City program and hearing of the ties between two cities so far apart in distance and culture, we have to say it's a really amazing program. Not only was it incredible to learn about the history that had forged a connection between our cities and see la Chapelle de Madeleine, a whole memorial dedicated to that relationship, but it was the Sister City people of Saint-Lô who made the experience really special for us. They showed us overwhelming hospitality, inviting us over for delicious home-cooked dinners, taking us out every weekend to various sights of Normandy, and ensuring that we had everything we needed. We can't imagine how we could have managed to make it to half the places we went without them taking the time to not only drive us, but also to act as guides and translators.

Saint-Lô will forever hold a special place in our hearts, and we hope to return one day! While we were primarily in Saint-Lô to work at the hospital, and some of the highlights of our trip included excursions around Normandy, we also truly loved the atmosphere of Saint-Lô itself. We discovered a favorite bakery (and a healthy appetite for baguettes and Nutella), enjoyed exploring the market each Saturday, and had so much fun visiting all of the little shops downtown.



"It was rainy (as was most of our time there), but that didn't dampen our excitement to check out the town."



"Saint-Lô 44 President Jeanine Vérove (right) invited us to her home many times for incredible multi-course meals of delicious homemade French cuisine."

Left: "Our weekend excursions with members of the Sister Cities included visits to all of the highlights of Normandy, including Mont Saint Michel and Arromanches (pictured above) as well as Bayeux, the D-Day beaches, and the Granville Carnival." **Right:** "Our last day in Saint-Lô was actually beautiful and sunny, so we marked the occasion with this photo from on top of the ramparts."

From dancing to diplomacy, a very busy 6 months

*By Kris Slowikowski
Roanoke-Opole chair
krisbulas@cox.net*

For those who missed the awesome Chardon Polka Band at the Taubman Museum of Art on April 6, don't worry! Due to their enormous appeal and enthusiastic foot tapping and dancing music, we plan to invite them back. Many thanks to Donna and Dave Spangler who gave a series of polka lessons, which really contributed to folks not being shy about coming onto the dance floor. In fact, folks danced for the entire three hours that the band played! Thanks to the Taubman Museum for agreeing to host us. What a very fun event.

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine students Vandana Kumar and Perisa Ruhi spent the month of February in Wroclaw, Poland, for the inaugural global medical rotation at the University Medical Hospital on Borowska Street. Despite the winter weather, the experience was rated very highly by both students as evident by their presentations to faculty and the public in April. This rotation should be very popular for future VTCSOM students. Food, travel and cultural experiences in addition to observing the differences in medical approaches were topics that

were discussed.

We are looking forward to welcoming rising sixth-year medical students from the Medical University of Wroclaw in August. Agata Krach and Ann Fulek will spend a month at Carilion Medical Center rotating in specialties of their choice.

Of interest, I was invited to a reception in Richmond, sponsored by the Greater Richmond Partnership, to welcome the Polish Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin and his delegation. The officials came in late April to discuss possible partnership opportunities in Virginia in the biotech and cybersecurity realm. It is possible that links with Virginia-based universities and research bodies may be in development. Small steps may lead to opportunities in the future.

This winter, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a resolution sponsored by Tom Freitas and Delegate Sam Rasoul that has named October 15 as General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Day. Let's celebrate this Polish-American Revolutionary War hero this year.

As of January, Virginia is lucky to have an honorary Consul of Poland, Robert Joscowiak, who is based in Gordonsville. He is charged with the duty of promoting all things Polish in Virginia. Robert will serve in his role in grand style!



The Chardon Polka Band was a hit.



In April, Polish Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin met with Kris Slowikowski in Richmond.



Dancers at the polka party on April 6 at the Taubman Museum of Art.

Roanoke-Lijiang

Sharing Chinese art, culture and food in our community

By Mei Li Foy
Roanoke-Lijiang co-chair
meili.foy@cox.net

In February, members of the Lijiang sister city committee celebrated Chinese Lunar New Year at the Taubman Museum of Art with the Roanoke community. The event showcased Chinese calligraphy demonstration -- a consistent crowd favorite -- in which participants could have their names written in Chinese. Calligraphy is a highly esteemed form of art in Chinese culture, and visitors were thrilled to be able to have a personalized piece to take home.

The Lijiang committee also sponsored a Chinese Lunar New Year event with a group of Virginia Tech students led by Lijiang committee co-chair Rebecca Chang. Students brought dishes for a potluck, and Rebecca contributed a wide range of traditional Chinese foods. The main course of the feast was homemade dumplings that the committee members and students worked side-by-side to make. The Virginia Tech students also received a calligraphy demonstration and were given the opportunity to try their hand at the art form themselves.

The Lijiang committee is planning to participate in the International Bake Sale at Olde Salem Days in September. The committee will get together to bake traditional pastries for the sale, and all are invited to join.



Mei Li Foy (standing, left) and Rebecca Chang (right) teach the art of dumpling making to Virginia Tech students.



Virginia Tech students try their hand at making dumplings.

Roanoke-Florianópolis

Long-term friendship springs from visit with missionaries

By Linda Harrison
Roanoke-Florianópolis co-chair
lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

Laura and Bob Norfleet of Roanoke are long-time friends of Dick and Edith Schisler, who were missionaries in Brazil and received support from Greene Memorial and South Roanoke United Methodist churches. In 1987, a team of eight teenagers and eight adults from the two churches made arrangements to visit the Schislars in Brazil. The Norfleets were blessed to have the opportunity to join that team. During that two-week trip the team had the opportunity to visit several cities and churches where the Schislars had served. Dick Schisler graciously led the team on our travels. The second week was spent in Florianópolis, where the Schislars were serving at that time.

Several years later, with encouragement and support from the



This photo is from the 1987 trip to Florianópolis. From left: Bob Norfleet, Ann Seddon, Laura Norfleet, Tom Seddon and Larry Lance.



At Local Colors 2018, Roanoke-Florianópolis was represented in the parade of nations by, among others, member Joslaine Austin (center), Erica Lima Robeiro and her husband, Erionaldo Ribeiro.

Schislars, arrangements were made to join Florianópolis and Roanoke as sister cities. This especially delighted Edith Schisler as she always considered Roanoke to be her hometown, went to Jefferson High School and attended Greene Memorial during her teen years.

The Norfleets joined the Florianópolis committee when it was formed and have been members since that time. Many new friendships have been made while participating in meetings and other club activities. Bob has served on the board of directors for several years. Through the years Laura and Bob have welcomed several members of Florianópolis delegations into their home. This has included overnight guests as well as hosting dinners for the entire committee.

Summer shout-outs!

By Brian Counihan
Roanoke Wonju Committee Chair
brian@communityhigh.net

Summer is here! It is time for cookouts and getting together with friends. It is also a good time to give a shout-out to those who helped us make this a special year for our Wonju committee.

A big shout-out to Sam Lev at LEAP (Local Environmental Agriculture Project) Kitchen for letting us stage a cooking session in May at his West Side community kitchen for the Korean language students. We had a great time and lots of leftovers. A shout-out too, to Patrick and Jessica Ohpark who run Hanu Truck and are delivering delicious Korean food throughout our area. We are planning to have them at one of our events next year. Their truck is based near Star Hill Pilot Brewery near the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, and I can attest that Korean food is terrific with fresh beer!

For the avid Koreaphile who wants a greater selection of authentic Korean

foods I highly recommend a trip to Centreville in Northern Virginia. I spent a couple of days up there during spring break and was amazed by the dozens of Korean restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores. Please contact me if you want some tips as I am working on a visitors' guide this summer, a fun project for anyone wanting to put in some volunteer hours, and I could use the help!

A very special thank you to Dr. Charlene Kalinoski, chair of Roanoke College's Foreign Language department, who so generously provided a classroom on campus for our Korean language classes this spring. And of course a huge thank you to Woori Kwon, our fabulous Korean teacher. We had an overwhelming response from students interested in learning Korean. It was a pleasure to be around very clever people who worked at a very advanced rate. But many of us could not keep up the pace so in the fall we would like to offer Korean classes again at two different levels and intensities: a second level advanced pace and a beginner's, slower-

paced class. Dr. Kalinoski has very kindly offered the classroom space to us again in the fall, so please contact me with your interest level, and days and times that work best for you.

It is our goal to continue to offer the Korean language class free again next year. To help pay for it we are planning a Korean Alphabet Day as a fundraiser. A national holiday in Korea, Hangul day celebrates the beauty of the Korean alphabet and language. We hope to have food, T-shirts, K-Pop videos and dancing, books, drinks and games for all the family at an event on Oct. 13. The location and further details will be posted on the RVSCI website in September. I hope you can put this on your calendars and come out to have some fun!



Bill Saari and Korean language students participate in cooking lessons at LEAP's West Side Community kitchen in May.



More than 20 folks came out to learn how to make some yummy Korean food.



Left: Be on the lookout for Hanu Truck, serving delicious Korean food in Roanoke. Right: Beef Little Gimbab: cheap and delicious!

Support Aid Ministry team to address our membership meeting

By Bill Modica
Roanoke-Kisumu chair
Modicabill2@aol.com

The Roanoke-Kisumu Sister City Committee is happy to announce that our next meeting will be held on June 27 at 6 p.m. in the community room at the Williamson Road Library, 3837 Williamson Road, in Roanoke.

Our speakers will be Barb Adams and Joseph Akeyo from Support Aid Ministry, USA, in Henrico. They have been working in the Kisumu area for a number of years in support of the GLAC

Community School for orphaned and vulnerable children. They provide meals and supplies and help with the salaries of the teachers. The school is a private venture.

Bill Modica recently attended the Roanoke Sister City Annual Dinner on May 31 at Roanoke College. We had 10 members join us and we had a great meal and wonderful music program. Keep up with our activities by watching our website or checking your email for notices. We also attended and had a display at the Local Colors Festival on May 19 at Elmwood Park. We even had a

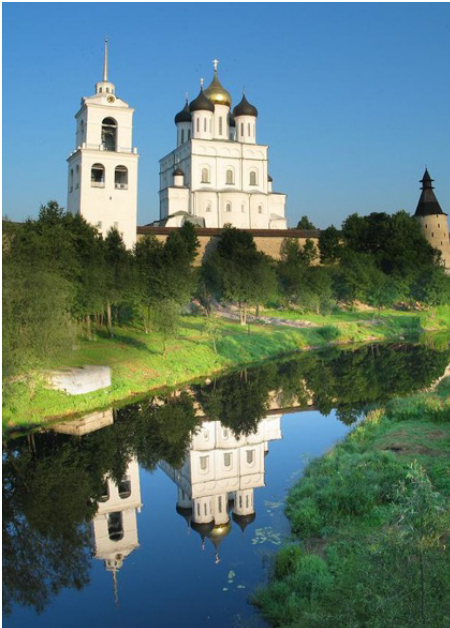
representative in the Parade of Nations.

Our group has affiliated with the City of Kisumu Urban Area Association for social studies and business support. This new project expands our current partnerships into a new area. We encourage our members and friends to show their support for these critical needs by making a donation of goods or money. Please don't forget to renew your dues for 2018-19 by sending a check to: Roanoke-Kisumu Committee, RVSCI, PO Box 136, Roanoke, VA 24002. And tell your friends about us!



Left: Ruphina Okeyo and Loretta Okeyo represented Roanoke-Kisumu in the parade of nations at Local Colors on May 19. **Right:** On June 27, our speakers will be Joseph Akeyo and Barb Adams (above) from Support Aid Ministry, USA, in Henrico. Joseph, a native of Kisumu, founded the GLAC Community School for orphaned and vulnerable children in 2006. Now with a U.S. office, the organization has grown their vision to five integrated programs: GLAC Community School; Friends Institute of Technical Education (FRITE); Upendo Medical Clinic; Swahili Maji Safi clean water project; and Modern Village Organic Farming (MOVOFA).

A brief tour of Pskov, ancient and fascinating



Trinity cathedral is located in the Pskov Krom or Kremlin on the east bank of the Velikaya (Great) River. It has, since 1589, been the mother church of the Pskov Eparchy, the province of the Orthodox Church.

The city of Pskov was founded in 903. Pskov citizens honor their traditions, and they are ready to share them with tourists and guests. The city has lots of

ancient places of interest, such as Trinity cathedral, Pskov fortress, Mirozhsky monastery, Pogankiny chambers, and a great number of ancient churches that are on the list of cultural heritage sites of the Russian Federation.

Despite its age, Pskov constantly keeps developing. The city provides conditions for cultural, social and educational development of young people, as well as a variety of leisure activities. It boasts two cinemas, a theater, libraries, sport facilities, dance studios, art and music schools, hotels, restaurants and clubs.

Pskov has an impressive number of Sister City relationships. This list includes the cities of Arles, France, for 30 years; Kuopio, Finland, 40 years; Mianyang, China and Nijmegen, The Netherlands, about 20 years; Neuss and Hera, Germany; Norrtälje, Sweden; Perth, Scotland; Roanoke, Virginia, USA; Boston, Massachusetts, USA; Valmiera, Republic of Latvia; Tartu, Republic of Estonia; Bialystok, Poland; Vitebsk, Belarus; and Chernigov, Ukraine.

Pskov is the center of science and education of the region. In 2011, Pskov State University was founded by the

merging of five leading educational institutions of the Pskov region. Pskov SU trains students in more than 200 programs in the fields of pedagogy, humanities, engineering, economics and management. Training is carried out in full-time, part-time and correspondence forms of study. The university is affiliated with institutions of higher education in more than 20 countries, including Ferrum College in Ferrum, Virginia, and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Today the University enrolls about 10,000 students; 1,300 are international students from 41 foreign countries.

As economist Lev Lyubimov once said, "A region which has a future is a region which has an airport and a university." Judging by the tendency to aim for high levels and establish new partnerships, Pskov region is bound to prosper and play a great role in the future of the country.

By Mary Jo Fassié, citing Pskov State University information



Pskov State University, with more than 10,000 students, enrolls foreign students from 41 countries.

Scenes from the RVSCI annual dinner



Approximately 60 folks attended this year's dinner.



RVSCI member flags



Left: Sherrie and Tim Henshaw, Mike and Marilia Deisenroth **Middle:** Bill Bestpitch, guest speaker Cindy Petersen and Bill Hackworth **Right:** Joslaine Austin



From left: Ruphina Okeya, Linda Harrison and Evelyn Rubongoya



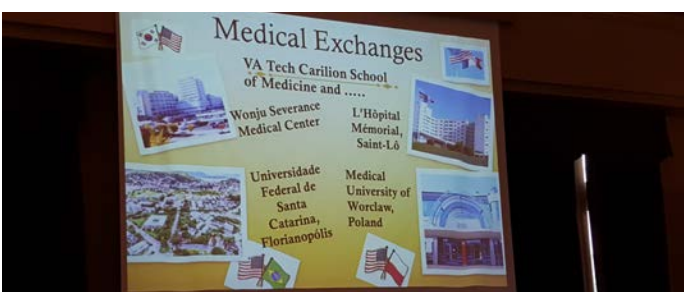
Carla and David Crouse, Bill Saari, Brian Counihan, Sikshin Caecillia Hubbard, Charlene Kalinoski and Tanya Ridpath



Todd Morgan and Dr. Nathaniel Bishop



Mary Jo Fassié and Jean Broyles



Part of Mary Jo's PowerPoint presentation



Roanoke College served up delicious fare!

Save the date!

June

- **17:** St-Lô intern Thomas Morice arrives in Roanoke
- **24:** Roanoke student Paige Garner concludes summer internship in St-Lô
- **27:** Support Aid Ministry in Kisumu, 6 p.m., Williamson Road Library

July

- **14:** Thomas Morice from St-Lô concludes Roanoke internship
- **15:** Bastille Day potluck pique-nique, 5 p.m., Longwood Park, Salem

August

- **1 - 18:** St-Lô artist Cornelia Marin returns to Roanoke

September

- **4:** RVSCI Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Center in the Square
- **8:** RVSCI sells international baked goods at Olde Salem Days
- **Through December:** Korean language classes at Roanoke College

October

- **13:** Korean Alphabet Day fundraiser

November

- **20:** RVSCI Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Center in the Square



Colette Fu's photography and pop-up exhibit, "We Are Tiger Dragon People," will open at the Taubman Museum of Art in downtown Roanoke on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019. Says Fu, on her website, "With the help of a Fulbright fellowship, I began photographing for 'We are Tiger Dragon People' in 2008. 25 of the 55 minority tribes of China reside in Yunnan Province and comprise less than 8.5% of the nation's population, with the Han representing the majority. My mother [Pearl Fu of Roanoke] is a member of the black Yi tribe; her grandfather was Lung Yun, governor of Yunnan from 1927-1945 and commander-in-chief of the 1st Army Group. Learning about my Yi ancestry in my mid-twenties inspired me to begin this work and is still in progress."

RVSCI Corporate Board Members

President: Mary Jo Fassié

Vice President: Bill Bestpitch

Secretary: Jean Broyles

Treasurer: Wayne Firebaugh

Members at large:

Anne-Marie Green

Dr. Cynda Johnson

John Makay

Sister City Chairmen:

Florianópolis: Linda Harrison & Norma Jean Peters

Kisumu: Bill Modica

Lijiang: Rebecca Chang & Mei Li Foy

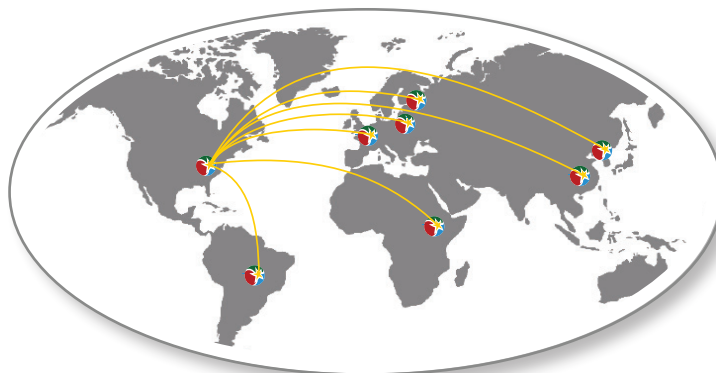
Opole: Dr. Kristina Bulas-Slowikowski

Pskov: Dr. Patricia Sagasi Suppes

St-Lô: Position to be filled

Wonju: Brian Counihan

Contact us at: roanokevalleysistercities@gmail.com



FLORIANÓPOLIS,
BRAZIL



ROANOKE,
VIRGINIA



LIJIANG,
CHINA



OPOLE,
POLAND



KISUMU,
KENYA



SAINT-LÔ,
FRANCE



PSKOV,
RUSSIA



WONJU,
SOUTH KOREA

Annual Membership - Roanoke Valley Sister Cities

New ☐

Renewal ☐

July 1, 20____ - June 30, 20____

Cities: ☐ Wonju ☐ Kisumu ☐ Pskov ☐ Florianópolis ☐ Opole ☐ Lijiang ☐ St-Lô

Student: \$10 - one city ____ # cities x \$10 = ____

Individual: \$15 - one city ____ # cities x \$15 = ____

Family: \$30 - one city ____ # cities x \$30 = ____

Example: 7 cities x \$15 = \$105

Other Levels: Patron ☐ \$50 | Benefactor ☐ \$100 | Diplomat ☐ \$250 | Consul ☐ \$500 | Ambassador ☐ \$1,000

Specify for: ☐ RVSCI Corporate \$ ____ &/or for: ☐ City or Cities checked above: \$ ____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ ____ Check # ____ Date ____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Tel (home) _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Make check payable to **Roanoke Valley Sister Cities** | Mail to **RVSCI – P.O. Box 136 – Roanoke, VA 24002**

All gifts/donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. RVSCI is a 501c3 – Fed ID #51-0246592

www.rvsci.us | Like us on Facebook!

Roanoke Valley Sister Cities
P.O. Box 136
Roanoke, VA 24002

ROANOKE VALLEY



SISTER CITIES