

Lexington Sister Cities

January 2016

UPDATE

Kay Sargent
Executive Director

Sarah Martin
Assistant Director

Commission Members

Bill DiOrio, *chair*

Bill Farmer

Lori Houlihan

Angela Evans

Susan Carvalho

Polly Marquette

Mary Quinn Ramer

Jim Amato
Emeritus

Inside this issue:

2015 Student Exchanges 1

Young Artist Contest 2

Student Video Conferences 2

UK/Caen Scholarship 2

Deauville TA 2

Equine Internship 2

4th Annual Golf Scramble 3

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day 3

Tourism trip to 3

Calvados Internship 3

Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting 3

2016 Calendar of Events 4

Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange

Fourteen students from Lexington visited Deauville, France in June for the Lexington – Deauville High School Student Exchange Program. The students stayed with host families for three weeks. Fourteen French students returned to Lexington in July to stay with host families for a three week period. Participating in the exchange from Lexington were: Nina Ryan from Lexington Catholic; Collier King from Bryan Station; Sara Talwalkar and Katherine Rintamaa from Dunbar; Rachel Sames from George Rogers Clark; Quinn Andrews and Sabrina Lozada from Henry Clay; Peter Briggs from Trinity Christian Academy; Abby Wrightson, Ashton Brown, Grayson Ward, Josh Dhir and Sarah Bowen from Lafayette; and Elise Partain from Bates Creek. The Lexington Students enjoyed seeing many sights in France, including a trip to the American Cemetery in Normandy, Mont St. Michel, and a visit to Paris. In Lexington, students visited Memorial Coliseum and Rupp Arena, met Mayor Jim Gray, participated in many activities as a group as well as with their host families, and toured the Lexington and Bluegrass Region. The program is designed to provide students an opportunity to live in France to improve their French speaking skills while experiencing the culture, as well as provide the opportunity for French students to come to Lexington.



Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange



Students were able to meet American Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin O'Malley, during their trip to County Kildare.

Ten students from Lexington visited County Kildare in July for a ten day stay. Students participating in the exchange were: Strohmman Breeding, Drew Reynolds, Erin Schickel, Garrett Amato, and Lily Iler from Lexington Catholic; Calbi Brewer and Karina Pezzi from Sayre, Avery Gray and Marissa Jones from Henry Clay; and Evan Bunch from Lafayette. Sarah Martin, Assistant Director of the Lexington Sister Cities Program, accompanied the students to County Kildare. During their stay in Ireland, students were able to visit Dublin, tour and visit the University of Maynooth, see many Irish castles, attend a rugby game, and participate in other activities. They were also able to experience every day Irish culture and life. Ten students from County Kildare, as well as Kildare Twinning Committee secretary Marjorie Moore, returned to Lexington to stay with host families. While in Lexington, some of the activities included visiting the Kentucky Horse Park, WKYT TV Station, Memorial Coliseum and Rupp Arena, and meeting Lexington Mayor Jim Gray.

Lexington-Shinhdaka Student Exchange

In March, nine students and three chaperones from Shinhdaka visited Lexington on a five day stay. The group toured the Kentucky Horse Park, McConnell Springs, the State Capitol, the Lexington Library, Fire Department, and Memorial Coliseum and met Lexington Mayor Jim Gray. Additionally, the students and chaperones toured the Locust Trace AgriScience School in Lexington to continue discussions about an exchange program with students from the Agriculture School in Shinhdaka. In June, nine students from Lexington visited Shinhdaka, located on the island of Hokkaido in Japan. Participating students included: Jack May from Henry Clay; Stephanie Ramsey from Sayre; Gavin Lemond, Lauren Burgess and Maggie Thomas from Lafayette; Karishma Srinivasan from Bryan Station; Olivia Klee from Winburn Middle School; and Griffin Gensheimer and Amanda Harris from Bates Creek. Crystal Dean, a math teacher at Locust Trace AgriScience School, accompanied the students on their trip. The group stayed with host families and visited a horse farm, the Shizunai Agricultural High School, the Ainu Museum, and many other sites around Shinhdaka.



27th Annual Young Artist Competition



In February, Lexington Sister Cities participated in the 27th year of the Sister Cities International Young Artist Competition. A reception, sponsored by Central Bank, was held to announce the winners for first, second, third place and honorable mention; along with the winning art teacher, Jason Sturgill, of Lafayette. This year's contest included 45 entries from 6 schools. Quin Yessin from Lafayette was awarded first place for his piece based on the theme "Connecting Communities through Peace and Prosperity". Quinn Maynard from Lafayette was awarded second place; Samantha Skinner from Bryan Station received third place; and Kara Bethel from Lafayette received honorable mention. The first place winner received \$250, second place received \$150; third place was awarded \$100; and honorable mentioned received \$50. All entries to the contest were displayed from February 6th-27th at the Central Bank Gallery. Quin Yessin's artwork was entered into the Sister Cities International Competition. His artwork was displayed at the 2015 international conference in Minneapolis, MN. The International competition was open to high school students in all US Sister Cities and their Sister City affiliates throughout the world.

Deauville-Scapa Student Video Conference

In March, two 5th grade classes from SCAPA in Lexington and two 4th and 5th grade classes from Ecole Fracasse in Deauville were able to interact through a video conference to learn more about daily activities and hobbies of an American and French student. Mr. Lindsey and Ms. Klein's classes were led by Lexington French teacher Bonnie Bachmeyer, and the Deauville class was led by English teacher Ivan Rouault. The students prepared introductions, asked questions about their likes, interests and hobbies in Deauville and Lexington, and sang songs together. This year, students also participated in "challenges" given out by each class. Lexington students were challenged to learn the French alphabet and make a living French flag. French students were challenged to learn facts about the Bluegrass Region, and the name of a Derby winner and the year the horse won.

Cassidy-County Kildare Student Video Conference



In December, a second grade class from Cassidy Elementary in Lexington and a second year class at Holy Child School in Naas, County Kildare, Ireland, participated in a Skype Exchange. Ms. Meneghetti's class in Lexington and Ms. Lacey's class in County Kildare were able to share their

studies on different holidays and how they are celebrated. Students were also able to ask questions about holiday traditions and customs in Lexington and in County Kildare.

University of Kentucky/University of Caen Scholarship Exchange

Wesley Hammond, from the University of Kentucky, received the fall 2015 scholarship to the University of Caen. Wesley is from Mt. Sterling, KY and is a Theatre major with a minor in French.

Lauren Bix, a sophomore at the University of Kentucky, received the spring 2016 scholarship to the University of Caen. Lauren is from Lexington, KY and participated in the Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange Program while in high school. She is a French major with a German minor.

This scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students who have taken at least three years of college-level French.

Deauville Teaching Assistantship

Rachael Walters from Western Kentucky University and Michelle Fulton from the University of Kentucky were awarded the 2015-2016 teaching assistantship positions in Deauville. Michelle was a vocal performance major and French minor as an undergrad, and a French major as a graduate student. Michelle is from Louisville, KY. Rachael was a French and Spanish major with an education minor from Western Kentucky University.

Follow our TA's on their blog at deauvilleta.blogspot.com

University of Kentucky – Maynooth University Equine Student Summer Internship

During the summer, Lexington Sister Cities hosted an equine student from Maynooth University in County Kildare to participate in the first Equine Student Summer Internship Program. Nanina di Brita, a first year equine student from Maynooth University, worked at Jonabell Farm in Lexington for three months during the summer. During her internship, Nanina was also able to tour and visit sites in the Lexington and Bluegrass regions.



3rd Annual Sister Cities Golf Scramble

On June 1st, Lexington Sister Cities held the 3rd Annual Sister Cities Golf Scramble at Connemara Golf Course. The event was a great success in its third year despite the unseasonably cold weather and rain. Sponsors included: WKYT, Comfort & Process Solutions, Central Bank, Kentucky Utilities, Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, Helen & Frank Hamilton, Stratos Wealth Partners, Southeast Mailing and Printing, Hilton Lexington/Downtown, Trek Advancement, and Kyna Koch. Sixteen teams participated in the event. Kentucky Utilities claimed the 1st place prize of an overnight stay and round of golf at French Lick Resort. Stratos Wealth Partners came in 2nd and won a night in the Kentucky Utilities box at a Lexington Legends game. Team Kyna Koch claimed their 3rd place prize of a round of golf each at Connemara Golf Course.

The 4th Annual Sister Cities Golf Scramble will be held June 6th at Connemara Golf Course.



Delegation of 33 Visits Newmarket and The Netherlands in September

A 33-member delegation from Lexington traveled to England and the Netherlands in September to visit Lexington's Sister City Newmarket, England. During the visit to England, the group visited London and Brighton. While in Newmarket, delegates were able to visit and tour the Jockey Club, the British Racing School, Tattersalls, and Dalham Stud of Darley Farms.

From England, the group traveled to the Netherlands for a 4-day journey through Amsterdam, including a canal cruise, touring Volendam and Zaanse Schans, and a visit to Giethoom.



13th Annual Edward T. Houlihan Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

The 13th Annual Edward T. Houlihan Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser was held on September 30th at O'Neill's Irish Pub. Guest bartenders participated and entertainment was provided by Liam's Fancy Irish music, Bagpiper Keith Murphy, and the McTeggart Irish dancers. Guests also enjoyed lamb stew and brown bread prepared by guest chef and chairman of the County Kildare Committee Mary Parlanti. In addition to door prizes and raffle, guests were able to participate in a silent auction. Proceeds from this event went to the Sister Cities Youth Scholarship Fund.



Lexington-Calvados Internship Program

Two University students from France and four University students from Lexington participated in the 2015 Lexington – Calvados internship program. The French students and their work places were: Aureore Dary at the Multicultural Affairs Office in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government; and Pierre Jolibois at the Traffic Engineering Office in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government. Aureore previously participated in the Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange program as a high school student, as well as studying at the University of Kentucky for an entire year through the UK-University of Caen Exchange Program.

Lexington students, all from Transylvania University, conducted their internships at several different sites in the Normandy Region. Chloe Bingham worked at the Memorial de Caen; Maria Sawaya was placed at Arnaud Castle; Andrew Couburn worked at the Falaise Castle; and Amanda Wilburn held her internship at Automates Avenue.



Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting

On October 9th, Lexington hosted the 2015 Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting. Held at Bluegrass Airport, 8 cities from Kentucky were represented and shared the programs and events their organization carried out in 2015. In addition to the meeting, Kentucky Sister Cities representatives participated in the Breeder's Cup tour at Keeneland Racetrack.



Lexington Sister Cities

200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
859-258-3137—office
859-425-2053—fax
kays@lexingtonky.gov
smartin@lexingtonky.gov
www.lexingtonky.gov/sistercities
www.facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities
Instagram - @LexingtonSisterCities

Thank You to Our Ambassadors

Lexington Sister Cities would like to take the time to thank our Lifetime Ambassadors for their support, encouragement, participation and time they put into our program. Thank you to all our ambassadors – we couldn't do it without you!

Helen Hamilton
Jack Hilderbrand
Frank Thompson
Mike Seiler
Kent & Dale Barker
Charlie & Linda Gorton
Missy Scanlon
Dick & Annette Mathy
Jewel Vanderhoef
Chuck & Jan Ellinger
Mary Parlanti



2016 Calendar of Events

January	Student Exchange Acceptance Letters Sent
January 28	Deadline to submit artwork for Young Artist Competition
January 28	Commerce Lexington Annual Dinner
January 29	2015 JASK Shinnenkai
February 5	Sister Cities Art Reception – Central Bank Galleries
February 5-26	Sister Cities High School Art Exhibit – Central Bank Galleries
February TBD	Student Video Conference – Deauville / SCAPA
March 12	St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival – Downtown
March 25-30	Shinjidaka students and city officials visit Lexington
March 28-Apr 1	Fayette County Spring Break
April 8-29	Keeneland Thoroughbred Racing
April TBD	Sister Cities Commission Meeting
April 28-May 1	Rolex Three-Day Event – Kentucky Horse Park
May 7-8	Mayfest – Gratz Park
May TBD	Student Video Conference—Christ the King/County Kildare
June 6	Fourth Annual Sister Cities Golf Scramble
June-August	Sister Cities Student Exchange Programs
July 4	Fourth of July Festival – Downtown
July 14	Bastille Day
July 14-16	Sister Cities International Annual Conference – Washington, D.C.
August TBD	Picnic with the Pops
September	Applications for Exchange Programs sent to schools
September TBD	JASK Cherry Blossom Festival
October TBD	Sister Cities Tour to Japan
September TBD	“Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration” – O'Neill's Irish Pub
October TBD	Kentucky League of Cities Annual Convention
October TBD	Kentucky Sister Cities Annual Meeting
October 7-29	Keeneland Thoroughbred Racing
November	Applications due for Student Exchange Programs
November TBD	Sister Cities Commission Meeting
Nov/Dec	Interviews for Student Exchanges
Dec TBD	Student Video Conference—County Kildare / Cassidy Elementary