



Global Employment Connections

Inside this issue:

Lima Dance Studio	1
Call for Proposals	2
Trailing Spouse Website	2
Pink Ink Cards	3
Embassy Village Website	3
Partnership with Manpower	5
Going Global	6
VGIF Call for Volunteers	6

"Your Link to Global Workplace Information"

Follow Your Passion to Find a Job You'll Love

Welcome to Global Employment Connections, the newsletter with a practical focus on job-hunting in the global workplace.

Exciting things have been happening at the Family Liaison Office in Washington. In August 2006, Caitlin Heavey joined the FLO staff as the new GEI/SNAP Program Assistant. Caitlin has a background in social work, and has brought her passion for helping others to the GEI/SNAP program.

In October 2006, Aida Sacks came on board as the new Global Employment Initiative/Strategic Networking Assistance Program Coordinator. Aida is the spouse of a Foreign Service Officer, as well as a former Local Employment Advisor and a former CLO. Upon beginning her career as GEI/SNAP Coordinator, Aida brought with her a bevy of new ideas. Aida's vision is to enhance GEI/SNAP's relationships with multinational corporations and NGOs so that family mem-

bers have ample contacts to develop mobile careers. Aida also wants to increase communication between GEI/SNAP and CLOs at non-SNAP posts, so that family members around the world will have better access to employment resources that are focused on the local economy.

Aida and Caitlin's passion for helping family members led them to their current occupations. We encourage our readers to do the same—follow your passion to find a job you'll love. This edition of the GEC is all about family members who were motivated by their own passion to create job and volunteer opportunities for themselves and others. We hope that this edition's stories will inspire you to follow your own passion and imagination in order to find, or even create, opportunities for yourself. As always, we wish you the best of luck in your job search. Please email us at FLOAskEmployment@state.gov with your questions, concerns, and employment success stories. Happy reading!

Lima Spouse Opens Dance Studio for Girls



Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP), a University of Kansas-affiliated nonprofit organization, celebrated the opening of the first dance studio dedicated to students with "different abilities." The studio is the initiative of Irina Wunder (pictured at left, with one of her students), a member of the United States Embassy community who has been volunteering at CASP since her arrival in Lima, Peru in 2005.

program for CASP's students in December 2005 to engage young girls in ballet classes that offer them positive mentors, and instill them with a sense of confidence, achievement and social acceptance. The funding for the dance studio was generously provided by J. Kirby Simon FS Trust, a US non-profit organization, established in the memory of a Foreign Service Officer who perished while serving overseas. Counterpart International, a US non-governmental or-

(Dance, continued on page 4)

Ms. Wunder began a free dance



J. Kirby Simon FS Trust Call for Proposals

J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust

AN INVITATION TO PROPOSE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

BY THE J. KIRBY SIMON FOREIGN SERVICE TRUST IN 2007

The J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust is a charitable fund established in the memory of J. Kirby Simon, a Foreign Service Officer who died in 1995 while serving in Taiwan. The Trust is committed to expanding the opportunities for professional fulfillment and community service of active Foreign Service Officers and Specialists and their family members.

The principal activity of the Trust is to support projects that are initiated and carried out, on an entirely unofficial, voluntary basis, by Foreign Service personnel or members of their families, wherever they are located.

The Trust will also consider projects of the same nature proposed by other U.S. Government employees or members of their families, regardless of nationality, who are located at American diplomatic posts abroad.

In 2006 the Trust made its tenth round of grant awards, 40 in all, ranging from \$600 to \$4,500, for a total of \$87,287. The grants defray a wide range of project expenses, including books, food, medicines, furniture, computers, wheelchairs, kitchen and medical equipment, excursion costs and instructional costs. The Trust now invites the submission of proposals for support in 2007. It is anticipated that most of the new grants will fall within the same funding range as the 2006 awards, and that projects assisted by the Trust will reflect a variety of interests and approaches.

Grants provided by the Trust can be used to support several categories of project expense. However, certain restrictions apply:

- (a) Funds from the Trust cannot be used to pay salaries or other compensation to U.S. Government employees or their family members.
- (b) The Trust does not support projects that have reasonable prospects of obtaining full funding from other sources.
- (c) The Trust will provide support for a project operated by a charitable or educational organization only where the individual applicant(s) plan an active part in initiating and carrying out the project, apart from fundraising.

(Trust, Continued on page 4)

Employment and Business Website for Trailing Spouses

The GEC recently spoke with Jeff Porter, the creator of the website www.TrailingSpouse.NET. Jeff relocated to Prague with his FS wife, Lori, in January, 2007. Jeff talked to the GEC about the process of creating the website, as well as his reasons for doing so.

Jeff created the Trailing Spouse Network website about a year ago with the goal of improving the communication between Foreign Service spouses on the subject of employment and business matters. He introduced his idea to the Family Liaison Office; they loved it and encouraged him to continue with his creation.

After Jeff and his wife were assigned to Prague, he made contact with Didem Lenz, Prague's former Local Employment Advisor (LEA). Unfortunately, SNAP Prague ended

in the fall of 2006. But Didem was dedicated to her mission and continued to provide SNAP services to local family members including Jeff.

Didem also conducted the E-entrepreneur training course to groups of family members in Prague while she was the LEA. As a result she established and maintains a small network of Family Members who now meet on a regular basis to discuss business and employment matters. Jeff joined the group at their most recent meeting and presented his ideas for improving networking between Foreign Service spouses.

“Despite all of the great FLO programs, there is still a

(Website, continued on page 7)



Spouses Work Together to Build Greeting Card Business

Pink Ink was founded by two spouses of US embassy employees who, like other spouses before them, had a bit of an identity crisis when moving to a new post in Caracas, Venezuela. Sarah Howes and Ji Shin both had meaningful careers before,



and weren't sure what they could do in Caracas.

Shin has a degree in architecture, and is a talented and adaptable artist who was frustrated with picking up and then having to leave projects once another move was required of her family. She draws, paints, sculpts and uses other art mediums, and was looking for a meaningful way to apply her art. Howes graduated with a BA in International Management, and even though she didn't have her new lifestyle in mind when she chose that degree, she hoped it would make her marketable. She received a local job

offer as a Brand Manager for a multinational company, but was concerned that once her family left Caracas, she would be on Interview Row all over again, searching for something new.

Howes and Shin attended an e-entrepreneur course together that the embassy provided. That course gave them a chance to think about their options and learn about what was available to them. After realizing they may make a nice partnership because of their diverse skills, they decided to create greeting cards for their local community, as cards were

(Cards, continued on page 5)

IT Spouse Launches Embassy Village and Remote Envoy

When Aimee Wade began her overseas life with her FS husband, she felt like her career came to a standstill. She had valuable experience in the IT field, but she still found that jobs were very hard to come by. Aimee admits that she even had trouble finding a job when her family relocated to Denver, Colorado. She finally came to the realization that the job market would be difficult for her no matter where she traveled.

So she decided to create something of her own.

Aimee's self-starting efforts were twofold. First, she created EmbassyVillage.com and launched it in May 2006. Aimee describes Embassy Village as an extension of the services that FLO provides. The website is Aimee's altruistic effort to provide an online resource for Foreign Service families. Embassy Village offers services such as a classified ads section, a discussion board, an employment section, shopping links to APO and FPO-friendly retailers, an international news section, and links for children and teenagers. In the future, Aimee would also like to offer "e-learning" resources and virtual workshops to family members through the Embassy Village website.

After Aimee completed the ground work for Embassy Village, she began her next project: creating her own online business, RemoteEnvoy.com. Remote Envoy offers virtual staffing and international business services to U.S. companies. Aimee launched the Remote Envoy website in January 2007, and she is currently recruiting overseas employees.

Aimee says that she would love to have family members post advertisements and discussion board messages on Embassy Village. So far, she says that the greatest barrier to Embassy Village's success is the lack of visitor participation. She knows people are visiting, but she encourages visitors to *interact* with the site by entering information such as classified advertisements and discussion board topics. She also invites family members to send sugges-

(Village, continued on page 5)



(Dance, continued from page 1)

ganization, provided additional funding.

Ms. Wunder arrived in Lima in July 2005 with no knowledge of Spanish or much of an idea of Peru's land or culture. However, she brought with her an insatiable interest in people, especially vulnerable children, and her lifelong passion in ballet and dance. She knew from her many years of dance that this creative art form could be just the way to reach those physically, mentally and emotionally challenged in truly meaningful and lasting ways.

After learning about CASP and its dedication to children with "different abilities", Irina proposed a free dance program if CASP would provide the space. An agreement was reached and the result has been a success; the program's weekly classes are regularly attended by young girls, aged 8-13, and their parents. The dance studio, complete with brand new floors, mirrors and ballet bars, will help students to learn more effectively and have a more enjoyable experience.

"The program does not seek to teach academic classical ballet technique," says Wunder. "The students are taught fundamental basics of ballet and dance according to their abilities. We want the students and parents participating in the program to shift their focus from dealing with disabilities to appreciating "dance-abilities."

The dance studio for children with special needs in Lima, Peru is dedicated to J. Kirby Simon. ◆



(Trust, Continued from page 2)

(d) The Trust will support only projects in which each applicant's role is clearly separate from the applicant's official responsibilities.

A proposal should include a description of the project, what it is intended to achieve, and the role to be played by the applicant(s); a preliminary plan for disseminating the results of the project; a budget; other available funding, if any; and a brief biography of the applicant(s). Proposals should be no longer than five double-spaced pages (exclusive of budget and biographical material). Please follow the application format available at www.kirbysimontrust.org/format_for_proposals.html or by communicating with the Trust (see below).

Proposals for projects to be funded during calendar year 2007 must be received by the Trust no later than March 1, 2007. Proposals can be submitted by mail, by fax or (preferably) by e-mail to:

J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust
93 Edgehill Road
New Haven, CT 06511
FAX: 203-432-0063
info@kirbysimontrust.org

Further information about the Trust can be found on the Web at www.KirbySimonTrust.org. ◆



(Village, continued from page 3)

tions for future improvements of the site. Meanwhile, Aimee encourages family members to visit the Remote Envoy website if they are interested in pursuing overseas employment.

If you are interested in visiting the Embassy Village and Remote Envoy websites, you can access them at the following addresses: www.EmbassyVillage.com and www.RemoteEnvoy.com. If you have questions or comments for Aimee, please email them to FLOAskEmployment@state.gov, and we will forward your messages to Aimee.

Are you running a home-based business? Would you like to share information about your business with GEC readers? Send your information to FLOAskEmployment@state.gov, and we'll include it in the next edition of Global Employment Connections. ◆



Department of State's Partnership with Manpower

The Department of State and Manpower Inc., a worldwide human resources recruitment and placement agency, has entered into a global partnership aimed at providing on-the-ground support, job placement services and access to thousands of online training courses to Foreign Service family members around the world. The Family Liaison Office coordinates this exciting program through our Strategic Networking Assistance Program/Global Employment Initiative (SNAP/GEI).

To take advantage of this career-enhancing opportunity at no cost, Foreign Service family members may contact Manpower directly at GES@na.manpower.com. Please copy FLO on your e-mail at FLOaskemployment@state.gov so we can track who is participating in the program. ◆

(Cards, continued from page 3)

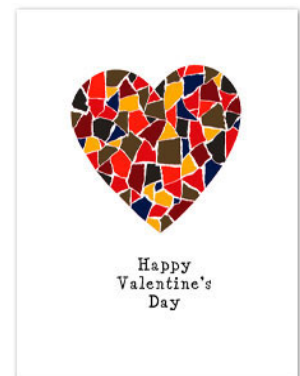
nearly impossible to find in English and the local designs often were not desirable. The community responded warmly, so they decided to go for it and created Pink Ink Cards.

"Starting a business in a foreign country is, well, foreign," Howes explained. "Local businesses have a different expectation for customer service, and Ji and I are always learning about what to expect and how to ask for what we had in mind."

Both ladies work from a home office and do their best to balance family and Pink Ink. As Shin described, "One of the more prominent obstacles we have is balancing our work schedule with our family and social events. Although this is a common problem for most people, because we work in our homes, people forget we're working because we're not going to a normal office to work. They think we have a lot more free time than we do."

They have launched a website to serve other embassy communities with products that are sometimes difficult to find outside of the US, such as greeting cards, baby announcements, personal business cards and thank you cards. They know that greeting cards play a role in staying connected to family and friends, which is imperative for those living abroad. For more information about Pink Ink Cards and to purchase their products, please visit their website at www.PinkInkCards.com.

Are you running a home-based business? Would you like to share information about your business with GEC readers? Send your information to FLOAskEmployment@state.gov, and we'll include it in the next edition of Global Employment Connections. ◆





Going Global Country Career Guides and Key Employer Directory

Going Global is the leading provider of country specific career and employment information. The Family Liaison Office is pleased to offer you, the Foreign Service spouse, free access to Going Global's Country Career Guides and the Global Key Employer Directory. These valuable resources will assist you with your international job search.

The Going Global Country Career Guides contain more than 10,000 resources for finding employment at home and abroad. Each of the 23 countries featured contains insider tips and professional advice on such topics as employment trends, salary ranges, job search sources, networking groups, resume/CV writing guidelines and work permit/visa regulations.

The Global Key Employer Directory features more than 25,000 listings of the largest companies in the world, including 5,000 U.S. listings. The Directory specifically targets companies where professional opportunities are more likely to be available. Industry sectors include consumer goods, consulting services, finance, information technology and more.

Important features of both resources include:

- More than 35,000 country-specific career and employment resources.
- Unlimited access available from any computer in the world.
- Created for international job seekers of all nationalities.
- Content can be "bookmarked" and customized with your own comments.

To begin using Going Global's Country Career Guides and Key Employer Directory, please visit FLO's intranet website at <http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/prd/hrweb/flo/employment/goingglobal.html>.



Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund Call for Volunteers

Bonnie Lincoln, a retired FSO, recently contacted the Family Liaison Office in order to inform us about a great volunteering opportunity for family members located overseas. Bonnie is a member of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, which works to improve the lives of women and children by funding projects for educational activities, leadership training, community development, and the advancement of international understanding and cooperation. VGIF maintains and promotes participation in United Nations activities and, through its official representatives, has an active voice in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, UN Department of Public Information, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Fund is named after Virginia Gildersleeve, the only female member of the US Delegation to the San Francisco Conference, which wrote the United Nations charter. Ms. Gildersleeve was also one of the founding members of the International Federation of University Women, which became the American Association of University Women.

The VGIF is recruiting Foreign Service spouses located overseas to perform on-site visits at facilities that are implementing VGIF-funded projects. The visits will be performed on an unpaid, volunteer basis in order to help the VGIF learn whether grant money is being spent as intended, whether projects are succeeding, and whether projects have the possibility to become self-sustaining.

If you are interested in volunteering as an on-site visitor for the VGIF, please contact the VGIF directly at vgif@vgif.org. In addition, if you'd like to learn more about the VGIF, please visit their website at www.TheGildersleeve.org.





(Website, continued from page 2)

lack of communication directly between spouses,” Jeff said. “The only way for us to get together is through networking. It’s not always easy for FS spouses to network face-to-face, so I wanted to create a *virtual community* for spouses to network and swap ideas in a trusted and understanding environment.”

Visitors to the website will find two areas. The main body of the site is a collection of information and articles on subjects such as Trailing Spouses, Teleworking, home-based businesses and so forth. The other area is the Networking Forum. It is here that Jeff sees the greatest potential for Family Members to provide information to assist others, and in turn receive assistance regarding employment and business matters.

The forums are still evolving, but Jeff’s overall vision is to have separate discussion groups for regional communities. “Because networking for employment at Post is a very local thing, small trusted networks need to exist at each location,” Jeff said. “In this way, people are more likely to share information within these small groups.”

So how does this network fit in with the FLO, CLO and LEA’s?

“I want to *complement* the services that the FLO, CLO’s and LEA’s provide in Washington and particularly overseas,” Jeff explained “In fact, I would encourage them to participate in the forum discussions as an integral part of the network.”

Can people not involved with the foreign-service participate in the discussion forums?

“We are very cognizant of the security issues involved in a database of the diplomatic community, so we don’t store any user information on the site other than an email address and whatever username each person chooses.” He explained. “The site has areas available to the general public as well as those who have registered to get additional information, but the FS forums are closed to the FS community and are verified to ensure that they are kept that way.”

What are the plans for the future?

Initially we would like to see a collection of small communities established just as we are doing in Prague, beyond that I have promoted the idea to businesses and network groups in the U.S. that are very interested in getting access to the diversity of skills that exist across the FS community, I’m looking forward to working with them to provide opportunities to people in our unique situation.”

GEC readers are encouraged to visit Jeff’s website at www.TrailingSpouse.NET. He is very interested to hear from family members at all Posts who maybe interested in establishing a networking presence on the site for their city. Contributions in the form of articles and press-releases are also encouraged to share information about experiences, businesses they are running or any subject that falls within the theme of the site. For questions, comments, suggestions and to make sure you are included in the appropriate Foreign Service sections of the site, please click the “Contact Us” page on the website and introduce yourself.



Global Employment Connections
“Your Link to Global Workplace Information”



Family Liaison Office
Winter 2007

Editor: Caitlin Heavey
Phone: (202) 647-1076
Fax: (202) 647-1670
Email: FLOAskEmployment@state.gov
Internet Site: www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo
Intranet site:
<http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/flo/index.html>