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Letter from Linda

I recently had the amazing opportunity of escorting my first ACYPL delegation to South Africa. From July 18 to July 29 I embarked on an inspiring journey with 6 young political leaders from across the U.S. as well as an American Fulbright Fellow.

From Johannesburg and Pretoria to Durban to Cape Town, we met with national, provincial and municipal elected and political leaders - individuals whose commitment to South Africa's democratic transformation was inspiring to all of us. Along the way, we visited McCord Hospital, the Sinosizo Community Health Center and a KwaZulu-Natal village, witnessing the devastation that the HIV-AIDS pandemic has wrought on South Africa. We were humbled by the community leaders, doctors, nurses and child caretakers who shared with us their work in combating the virus. And we had enormous fun playing and sharing a meal with orphaned children whose smiles, hugs and hopefulness will remain with me forever. We visited museums, walked along spectacular beaches, pet a cheetah, drank wine, discussed politics and became friends.

At the end of our journey, we had not only learned a great deal about South Africa but also about each other and about ourselves.

For me, it was a vivid reminder of how fortunate I am to lead ACYPL and how very important our work is to promoting mutual understanding and global friendship. Thank you, as always, for your continued friendship and involvement.

Regards,
Linda



A banner welcoming the 2008 Brazil to the U.S. ACYPL delegation to the headquarters of Plastipak Packing Inc. in Plymouth, Michigan.

2008 Gala



2008 Congressional Honors Gala honorees **Heather Smith** of Rock the Vote and Congressman **Ed Royce** (R-CA) (Federal Republic of Germany '84) enjoy their moment in the ACYPL

On June 19, ACYPL held its annual Congressional Honors Gala held in the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. The event recognized California Congressman **Ed Royce** (Federal Republic of Germany '84) for his exceptional support of ACYPL's work and for his tireless commitment to public diplomacy and global development, and was attended by numerous ACYPL alumni, corporate supporters, members of the Diplomatic Corps, officials from the US Department of State and members of Congress.

The Gala also honored **Rock the Vote** for its nearly 20 years of outstanding work in mobilizing young people to take part in the democratic process and create positive social and political changes in their lives and communities.

The evening kicked off with a cocktail reception followed by opening remarks from ACYPL Board President **Leo Jardot** (China '03) of Wyeth. ACYPL Board Chairman **Ken Cutshaw** (India '87/Australia '91) also welcomed the over 200 ACYPL friends and supporters in attendance.

Congressman Royce shared with those in attendance the important role that ACYPL played in sending him on his first-ever international trip and how that experience has influenced the important work he does as a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee. Following Congressman Royce's remarks, attendees were treated to a rousing video from Rock the Vote that described the organization's mobilizing efforts and rise to prominence and made a strong case about the need for young people to be engaged in their communities and in the political process. Following the video, Rock the Vote Executive Director **Heather Smith** accepted the Globe Award on behalf of her organization and discussed the role that both Rock the Vote and ACYPL play in educating and energizing today's young leaders.

Following the two award recipients, ACYPL alumna **Stacie Walters Fujii** (Egypt '05) spoke about her first experience with ACYPL and about the knowledge, friendships and connections that she has gained. She also expressed her excitement about leading the U.S delegation departing for Thailand the following day.

ACYPL is very grateful for the generous support of this year's Gala sponsors, including Northwest Airlines, SAP America, Dominion, Wal-Mart Stores, Wyeth, Altria Group, International Council of Shopping Centers, Toyota Motor North America, 3M, Philip Morris International, Plastipak Packaging and the Service Employees International Union. ACYPL also extends a warm thank you to the Embassy of Australia and the Anheuser-Busch Companies for providing the evening's refreshments.

A Busy Summer for ACYPL Exchanges



Members of the 2008 Vietnam to the U.S. ACYPL delegation receive a mayoral proclamation from St. Louis, Missouri Mayor **Francis Slav**.

ACYPL was honored to host its first delegation of young political and policy leaders from the Republic of Indonesia in over five years, whose visit to the United States in early June marked the renewal of ACYPL's exchanges with that country.

The Indonesian delegates began their exchange in Washington, DC where they met with 1999 ACYPL Congressional Honoree U.S. Senator **Chuck Hagel** of Nebraska, California Congressman **Jim Costa** (Federal Republic of Germany '87), Nebraska Congressman **Adrian Smith** (Tanzania '04) and senior officials from the U.S. Department of State, the major Congressional campaign committees, the International Republican Institute

and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Noted American governance scholar **Norman J. Ornstein** of the American Enterprise Institute also volunteered his time to discuss with the delegates the workings of the U.S. political system. The delegates were then hosted by State Representative **Peter L. Lewiss** (China '07) in Rhode Island, where they met with a wide range of officials, including the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the chief justice of the state supreme court and the leadership of the state legislature. They completed their exchange in Nebraska, where state host **Carlos Castillo** (Japan '05) set up meetings with a county elections commissioner and senior officials from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and the Omaha World-Herald. Also visiting the United States during the last few months were delegates from the Philippines who had an opportunity to discuss just compensation of Filipino veterans of World War II with House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman **Bob Filner** of California, as well as delegations from Australia, Brazil, South Korea and Vietnam. In addition, ACYPL sent young U.S. officials on exchanges to locations as diverse as Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Nicaragua and El Salvador, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

ACYPL sends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of its state hosts, escorts and overseas counterparts for helping to provide such a high caliber exchange experience for these young leaders!

The final months of 2008 will be as busy as ever for ACYPL as it welcomes to the United States young leaders from India and Pakistan (September 6-19), Egypt (October 4-17), Hungary and Jordan (October 26 - November 6), and China (December 6-19). In addition, ACYPL will send delegations to Australia (September 12-25), Japan (November 7-21), Northern Ireland (December 5-16) and China (December 6-19). Finally, ACYPL is developing a special program focusing on the November national elections and will host at least two international delegations during this period.

Click here to nominate now!

Nominate Today & Expose Other Young Leaders to the ACYPL Experience

ACYPL alumni are our best source for identifying promising, young political leaders for future ACYPL delegations. If you're a former ACYPL delegate, we encourage you to nominate up-and-coming political colleagues for one of our international exchanges so that they too will be able to share the ACYPL experience.

We are looking for diverse individuals from across the political spectrum. Nominees must be between 25 and 40 years of age at the time of travel, be directly involved in government or politics and possess the potential to assume a national leadership role in politics, policy, or government. Typical nominees include exceptional state legislators, mayors, members of city and county councils, political party and policy leaders and other political activists with an interest in gaining international experience.

For more information, or to obtain a nomination form, please [click here](#) or contact ACYPL Director of Outreach **Libby Rosenbaum** at rosenbaum@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x16.

Host Tomorrow's Global Leaders in Your Community

As a former delegate, you can also stay engaged with ACYPL by serving as a host in your city or state. Each year ACYPL welcomes over one hundred rising international political leaders to Washington, DC and to cities and states across the country and it would be impossible to do so without the outstanding efforts and support of our vast network of committed alumni.

State hosts arrange delegation meetings; secure donated or reduced rate hotel rooms and ground transportation; provide hosted meals; seek corporate and individual contributions; and join the delegation at meetings and events throughout their stay.

In return, each state host has the opportunity to strengthen his or her connection to ACYPL and to the international exchange experience, as well as establish friendships with up-and-coming global leaders and help them to better understand the U.S. political system. State hosts also get to play a major role in fostering international awareness, dialogue and mutual understanding in their communities.

If you are interested in hosting a future ACYPL delegation in your community, please contact ACYPL Director of Outreach **Libby Rosenbaum** at rosenbaum@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x16.

Alumni Happenings

Congratulations to... **Joe Dorman** (South Korea '05/El Salvador & Nicaragua '08) and **Tim Moore** (China '03) whom ACYPL nominated to participate in the New Generation Seminar, a two-week intensive educational dialogue and study tour that the East West Center has put together to help young leaders strengthen their understanding of Asia Pacific-U.S.

developments and challenges... **And best of luck to...** the following ACYPL alumni running for the U.S. Congress: **Donald Betts, Jr.** (Australia '03) in KS-4; **David Capiello** (El Salvador & Nicaragua '00) in CT-5; **Troy Carter** (Taiwan & Hong Kong '91) in LA-2; **Mike Coffman** (South

Africa '93) in CO-6; **Greg Davis** (Tanzania '04) in MS-1; **Brett Guthrie** (Brazil '99) in KY-2; **Melissa Hart** (Hungary & Bulgaria '95) in PA-4; **Michael Jackson** (Taiwan '02) in LA-6; **Lynn Jenkins** (Vietnam '01) in KS-2; **Frank Kratovil, Jr.** (Taiwan '98) in MD-1; **Jay Love** (China '07) in AL-2; **Erik Paulsen** (Philippines '01) in MN-3 and **Gary Peters** (Saudi Arabia & Jordan '95) in MI-9... **and to...** **Kate Brown** (Australia '96) in her race for Oregon Secretary of State... **Clint Zweifel** (South Korea '05) in his bid for Missouri State Treasurer... **Barry Wong** (China '02) in his bid for the Arizona Corporation Commission... **E. Jayne Mockler** (Indonesia & Philippines '95) and **Henry Perea** (Jordan & Egypt '05) in their mayoral races in Cheyenne, Wyoming and Fresno, California... Alumni seeking their first term in State Legislatures... **Tanya Cook** (Argentina & Uruguay '05) and **Eric Griego** (Romania & Hungary '05) in their state senate bids in Nebraska and New Mexico... **Brenda Council** (Thailand '94), **Tishaura O. Jones** (Israel & Palestinian Territories '05), **Bryan Pedersen** (India '05) and **Michael Sanders** (Taiwan '06) in their state house races in Nebraska, Missouri, Wyoming and Oklahoma... and **Cary Johnson** (Australia '07) who looks to join the board of commissioners in Clatsop County, Oregon.



The 2008 U.S. to South Africa delegation meets with staff members from the Modale City Council.

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more information on the Fall Insider Briefing!