



INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

HOUSTON

IFMAGAZINE.NET
MAY 2019

A portrait of Yolanda Oliva, a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink blazer and large hoop earrings, smiling. She is seated in front of a large American flag.

THE HONORABLE **Yolanda Oliva**

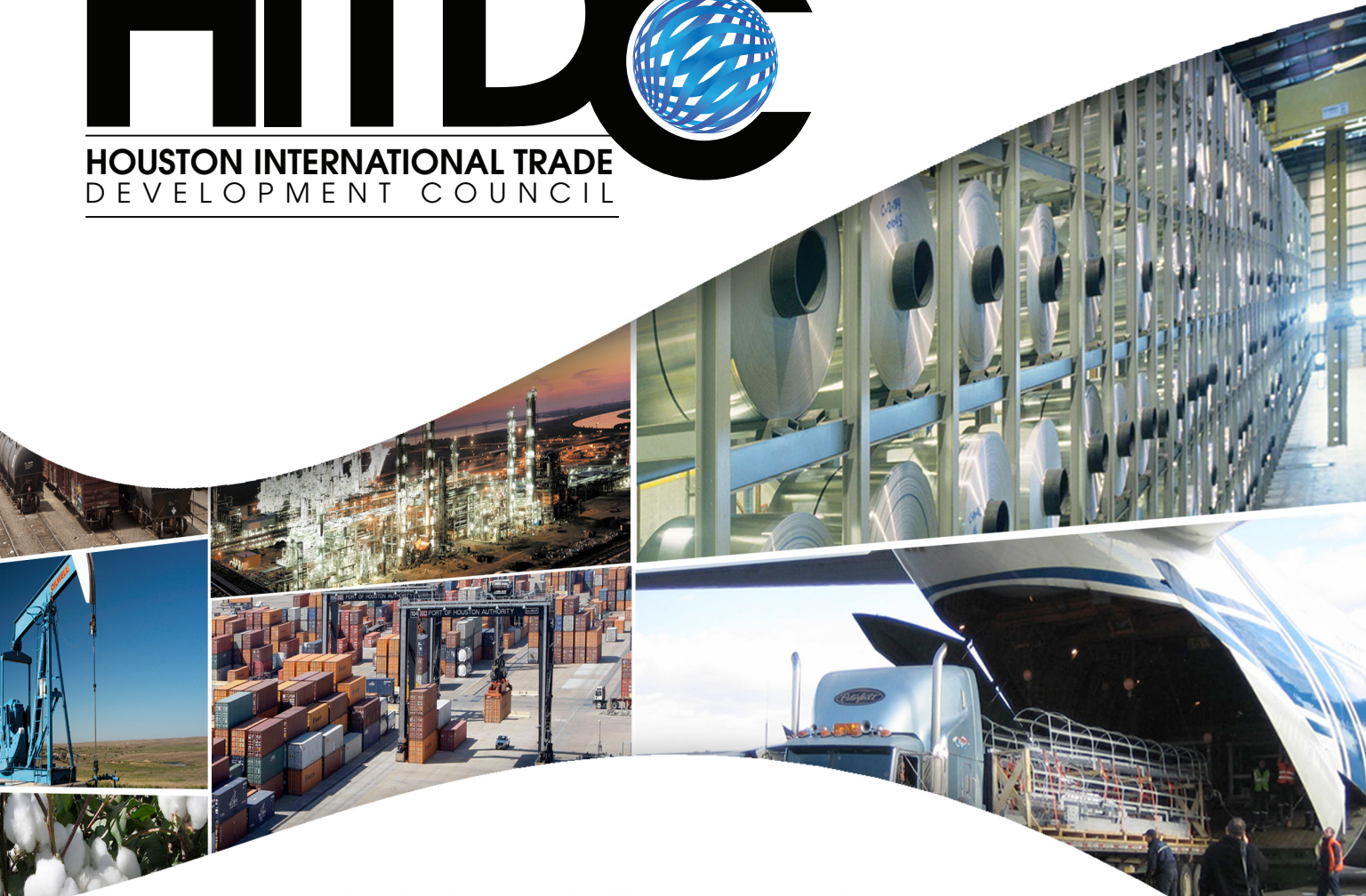
Consul General of Honduras



We Travel to Kinjiang, China! . . . Meet the 2019 Global Seven Award Recipients



**HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**



Agriculture | Energy | Logistics

Manufacturing | Transportation | Supply & Distribution

“Bringing the World Together Through Trade”

11110 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 222, Houston, TX 77072

832-448-0537 | vthompson@houstontrade.org

Houston International Trade Development Council is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization

IF INTERNATIONAL FOCUS HOUSTON



A Journey to the Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, China

By: Val Thompson





THE *Ballroom*
AT BAYOU PLACE

The Ballroom at Bayou Place is nestled in the heart of Houston's Theatre District and is the largest private venue in downtown Houston. With floor to ceiling windows and sweeping balconies, guests are treated to a striking backdrop of the skyline.



Designed with the guest experience in mind, The Ballroom is expertly equipped to host large corporate functions, dream weddings and other social events, but is equally capable of catering to the details of the most intimate gatherings.

BOOK NOW

500 Texas Avenue | Houston, TX 77002

(713) 400-1299, events@theballroomhouston.com



contents

May 2019

VOL. IV, NO. V



8 - Seen-on-the-Scene

iF April Networking Mixer

*3rd Annual Women To Watch
International Awards*

SpringWorld International Festival

16- Living

Of a Drum, a Culture Persists
Poetry by: T. Jenese Thompson

18 - Foreign Affairs

*GLOBAL GAB:
Central America Front and Center,
Ivanka in Africa*
By: Liz Schroyer USGLC
President and CEO, U.S. Global
Leadership Coalition

20 - Travel

Honduras, From Inside
By: Ana Morales

*A Journey to the Autonomous
Region of Xinjiang, China*
By: Val Thompson

28 - Food

The Unique Cuisine Of Vietnam





32 - People

*Honorable Yolanda Oliva
Consul General of Honduras
Interview by: Heidi Powell*

*Sixth Annual Global Seven Awards
2019 Recipients:
Soledad Tanner MIB
Flor Dimassi
Centrell Reed
Dr. Laura Murillo
Harry Gee Jr.
Angelica Garcia Davila
Shawntell McWilliams*

48 - Business

*MEDIA MOMENT: "Bring It On"
By: Centrell Reed*

52 - The Last Word

From the Publisher, Val Thompson



PUBLISHER & CEO
Val Thompson

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Craig L. Amos

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Heidi Powell

**DIRECTOR,
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**
Sonia Guimbellot

PHOTOGRAPHER
Vicky Pink (Cover Page)

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
*Anita Long
Sandy Bernstein*

SOCIAL DIRECTORS
*Vanessa Iturbe
Dawn Gunther
David Ng (Sugar Land)*

SOCIAL EDITOR
Annie Wang

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
/ REPORTERS**
*Ana Morales
Heidi Powell*

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
*T.Jenese Thompson
Centrell Reed*

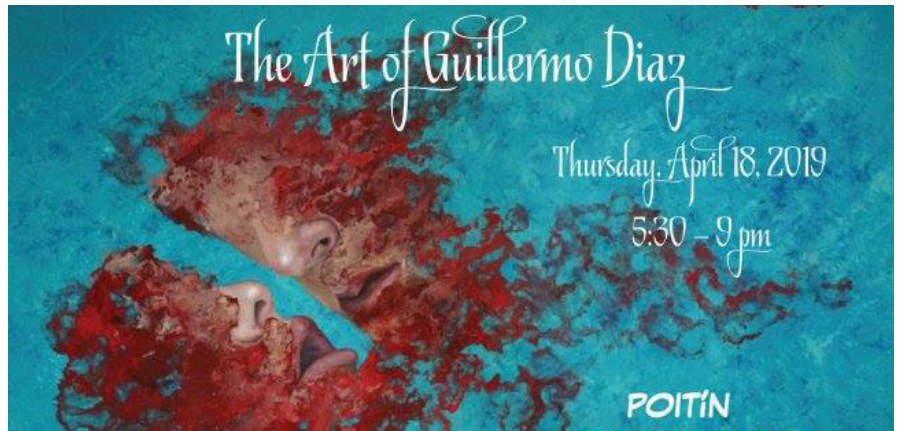
**REPORTER /
CORRESPONDENT**
*Anryaman Bhatia
Washington D.C.*

**INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT**
Ximena Murillo

*Copyright© 2019 International Focus Magazine.
All rights reserved. No part of this bookDecember
be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or
mechanical means, including information storage
and retrieval systems. iF logo is protected through
copyright registration in the United States.*

*We welcome your comments and suggestions,
please send to: info@iFMagazine.net*

seen on the scene



iF April Networking Mixer

On April 15, iF Magazine held its networking mixer at the Poitin Bar and Restaurant, rated the “Best New Bar and Restaurant” in Houston. The ambiance was perfect as everyone who attended enjoyed the snacks and sampled drinks from the bar. Business men and women, professionals, diplomats, and local government officials mingled and commented on the art shown by Guillermo Diaz, well-known artist. Guillermo has been featured in many solo shows for several years. The pieces shown at the mixer were from his series “Flowing Desires.”



IF Mixers are always a great opportunity to network in a relaxed casual environment. If you would like to join our mailing list email: HeidiPP@IFMagazine.net.







IMMIGRATION THROUGH INVESTMENT

Foster LLP is a leading global immigration law firm dedicated to advising clients on how investment offers the opportunity to immigrate to the U.S. We offer consultations by appointment in Houston and Austin, Texas, Beijing and Guangzhou, China and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Visit us at fosterglobal.com/investors to learn more.

FOSTER

Fostering Global Immigration Solutions

3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 800 | Houston, TX 77046 | 877.211.7657



3rd Annual Women To Watch International Awards

By: Heidi Powell-Prera, Photographer/Journalist

On April 14, we were invited guests of the 3rd annual Women to Watch International awards program. Five outstanding women were presented with awards recognizing their unique achievements. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Mia K. Wright. Tsunami Awards went to Abby Hamden, Kay Makishi, Sonita Sidonia Lewis, and Carla Jackson.

Keynote speaker for the event was the best-selling author, international motivational speaker and renowned wellness expert who has travelled to 50 states, 51 countries and six continents helping people to become healthier, Ms. Donna Richardson Joyner.

Donna is the only council member who served under President Bush and President Obama on the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. She has been invited by President Donald Trump to serve on the President's Council Foundation Board. She was an ambassador for First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Initiative." Donna has starred in over 25 award winning videos including best-selling "Buns of Steel" which sold over 10 million copies. She starred in best-selling videos ESPN, Nike, Sweating in the Spirit, Body Gospel and her own line of videos. From "Buns of Steel" to "Tiny House on Wheels," Donna continues to be a strong leader and innovator.

Donna is a TV Contributor for CNN, MSNBC, FOX, ABC, TBN and other networks. She was the producer and host of "The Donna Richardson's Mind, Body and Spirit Show," and the "The Sweating in the Spirit Show" on the Word Network. She also was the former co-host of the ESPN Fitness Pros Show" and wellness expert for NBC "Today Show."

Entertainment was provided by Ricky Davis, "The Classic Man," and Mona Moore, gospel recording artist.

All in all, it was a lovely Sunday afternoon, and we left inspired by these outstanding ladies and Ms. Joyner. We look forward to working with Women to Watch International in the future.





VOTED THE MOST LUXURIOUS FLEET IN HOUSTON!



EXECUTIVE
CAR & LIMO

EXPERIENCE

Luxury

RESERVE YOUR RIDE TODAY! 713.818.7739

Serving: Katy, Houston and SE Texas | ExCLLimo.com



SpringWorld International Festival has delivered a high quality family event on Easter Weekend in Downtown Houston since 2003

The SpringWorld IFEST is a premiere International cultural and modern festival, known for bringing a variety of unique and emerging cultures to one place. SpringWorld IFEST is committed to maintaining the festival as non-ticketed and free to the general public. The family-oriented event is held each year in Downtown Houston with a loyal audience of over 20,000 comprised of local, national and international supporters, who return year after year.



SpringWorld IFEST promotes learning and information exchanges in support of peace, love, and friendship. The Festival is the largest and most prominent global project for promoting world geography, traditions and cultures. The globally acclaimed International Festival of Tradition and Culture is dedicated to cultivating and educating the world, creating a platform to share cultural heritage with individuals from around the world.

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee gave the crowd an inspiring speech before giving out Easter basket snacks to the children. She congratulated all the performers and participants in her speech she said: “ I represent the 18th Congressional District in the United States Congress. It is my privilege and pleasure to say that we live in the greatest country in the world. The reason why we are so great is because of people like you, the people of Houston, who come from so many different places, who reflect upon the values of this country which are Democracy, Equality, and Justice and the remembrance and acknowledgement that all of us come from great cultures and great humanity”.

SpringWorld IFEST is a division of Youth YAHOO Inc, a 501 (C) (3) organization, which uses the proceeds from the festival for year-round arts and education programs for schoolchildren in the Greater Houston area and beyond. *IF Magazine* was a proud media sponsor. Chief Photographer Heidi Powell-Prera and Sonia Guimbellot were on the scene promoting the upcoming G7 and IF.

springworldfest.com

Photography by: HeidiPowell-Prera.com





Of a Drum, a Culture

Persists

by T. Jenese Thompson

At dusk,
There's a dance
in between the Sea
and the Pacific
paying tribute to the

Laborer

The avenue opens to
a horse-head high
and hoof-ready strut

stood on the step

gazed through the rein

rocked hip, street swayed

for the sound of the Garifuna
rhythm, a feather fallen
sweeps the skin

of a drum, a culture persists
by its strength
of its dance



Dawn Gunther
*Relocation
Residential and Commercial Real Estate*

Dawn@Energy-Realty.com
713.828.4604



Central America Front and Center, Ivanka in Africa

Liz Schroyer USGLC

President and CEO, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition

Central America, Front and Center

Here's the latest: State Department officials are reviewing America's aid programs to the Northern Triangle countries in light of the president's call for a suspension of aid programs – despite growing concerns that such policies will exacerbate the violence and unrest in these countries. Read our latest Fact Sheet.

Northern Triangulation

On assistance to Central America, Secretary Pompeo's voice has been mixed – ranging from calling for conditioning to cutting off aid entirely:

Conditioning Aid: In his first interview on the topic in early April, Secretary Pompeo told

FOX: “this aid will be conditioned on the change in their behavior... to convince them that they ought to have the will, that they need to try, they need to work at it.”

Cutting Aid: Since that early interview, Pompeo has also suggested cutting off the aid entirely. When asked by CNN's Jake Tapper, Pompeo said, “we're going to stop spending hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer monies and ending up with the same result we've ended up for far too long... What we were doing simply didn't work.”

Bipartisan Pushback

Not surprisingly, there is strong bipartisan opposition to the Cen-

tral America aid cuts on Capitol Hill. Leading the effort in the House, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Ranking Member Mike McCaul (R-TX) sent a widely-reported letter to Secretary Pompeo, objecting to the president's decision to revoke U.S. assistance to the region, saying it would be “counterproductive and lead to increased migration flows.” You can read the letter here and share it on Twitter.

Plus Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) made clear his opposition to the policy at a Senate Appropriations hearing this past week: “I just want to be on record that I think the only way you're going



to solve this problem is to stay involved in the [Northern] Triangle countries, not withdraw.”

Southcom Speaks

Five former Commanders of U.S. Southern Command publicly rejected the cuts and strongly supported aid in the Northern Triangle – and their joint statement was picked up from POLITICO to the Washington Examiner to MSNBC to outlets like the military blog Task and Purpose.

Conservative Case

Writing for CNN, former Senator Rick Santorum made the conservative case for aid to Central America, arguing that “foreign assistance is critical, and it’s a bargain compared to the security costs of having failed states on our doorstep.”

Faith Focus

And from the faith community, World Vision’s Edgar Sandoval and the National Association of Evangelicals’ chief Leith Ander-

son spoke out on FOXNews.com where they wrote: “There is no question that Central American governments need to take responsibility for their own people, but U.S. foreign assistance is critical to helping these countries realize this goal.”

Insane Budget

After a two-week recess, Congress returned and began appropriations hearings to tackle the Fiscal Year 2020 bills.

Senator Graham once again rejected the Administration’s effort to cut 24% of America’s civilian footprint around the world – calling it “insane” and “shortsighted.”

Senate Foreign Service Caucus Co-Chair, Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) called the administration’s proposal “totally inadequate to support important U.S. foreign policy goals.”

Meanwhile, more movement expected in the House this week.

Ivanka In Africa

Ivanka Trump just returned from a ground-breaking trip to Africa, focusing on the administration’s Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (WGDP) initiative to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025. “Despite the incredible difficulties they face,” she writes in a piece for CNN, “women in Africa are already transcending poverty, creating jobs, and pioneering a brighter future.

Read her full write-up on CNN.com: “Empowered women pave the way to economic progress.”

Yemen Crisis

As the White House and Congress continue to debate the role of the U.S. military in the war in Yemen, the UN just released a new report citing that – if the war continues through the end of 2019 – the death toll will rise to 233,000, including civilian deaths from lack of food and health services. Right now, one child dies every 11 minutes and 54 seconds.

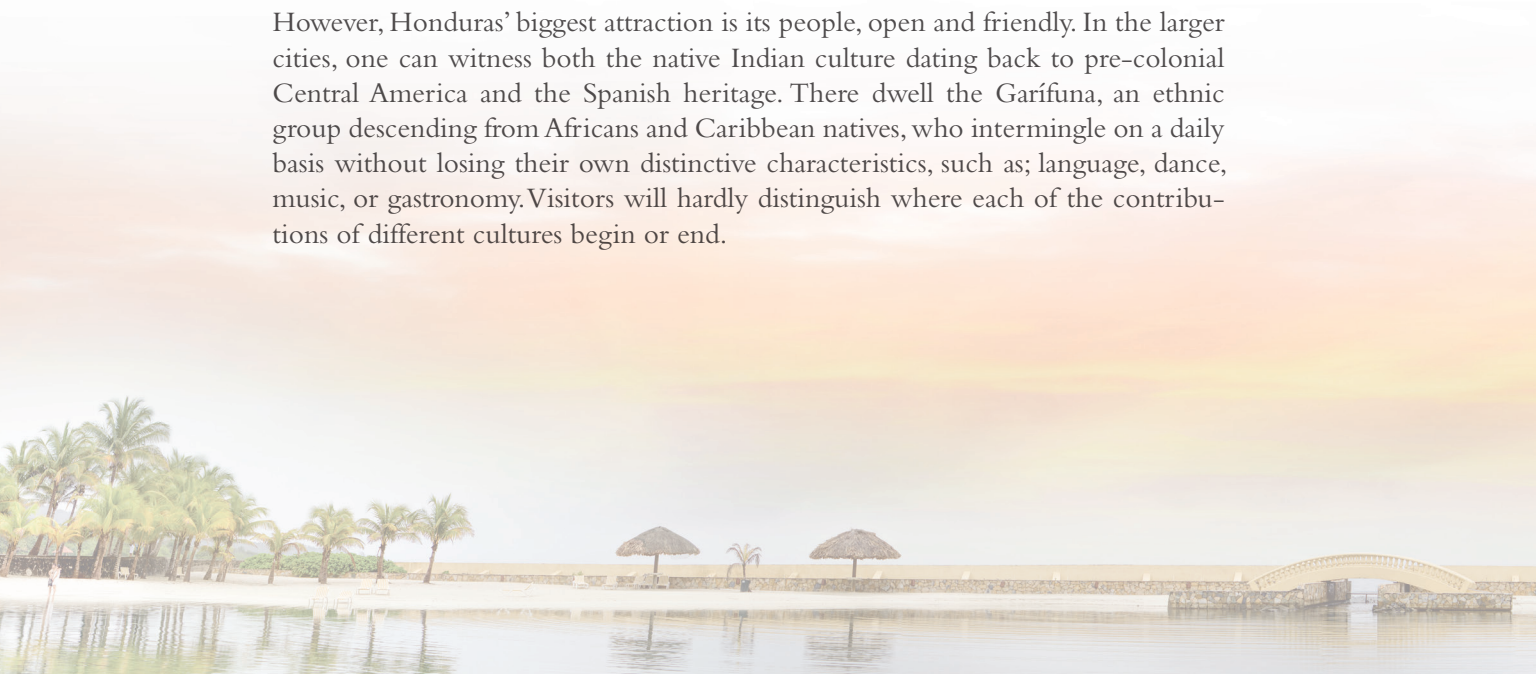
~ continued on page 52

HONDURAS

from inside

Deep in the heart of the American continent lies one of the most diverse countries in the region, Honduras. It is a land of diversity and wonders. With over 9 million people and 112,492 square kilometers of land, just over a thousand more than Virginia, this nation is bathed by both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The north coast, watered by the warm Caribbean Sea, attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, whether to dive in the third largest reef in the world or enjoy the vast dunes of white sand at the Bay Islands.

However, Honduras' biggest attraction is its people, open and friendly. In the larger cities, one can witness both the native Indian culture dating back to pre-colonial Central America and the Spanish heritage. There dwell the Garífuna, an ethnic group descending from Africans and Caribbean natives, who intermingle on a daily basis without losing their own distinctive characteristics, such as; language, dance, music, or gastronomy. Visitors will hardly distinguish where each of the contributions of different cultures begin or end.



On the same day, you can explore mountain trails, appreciate native birds, and visit waterfalls all at the source of the same river; then travel inland to traverse the Mayan route, where thousands of years of history await you at the impressive Ruinas de Copan . Copán, located in the western region of the country, features elevated mountains and extensive valleys full of relics. This area is studied by scientists from all over the world. One can still find here descendants, proud native heirs of the great Copan emperors.

If you go further, you will discover the Lenca Route, full of exotic colours and flavors. Along the Lenca route residents will receive you in the spirit of their tradition. You will be amazed by their traditional art forms. The colorful fabrics are guaranteed to attract the attention of anyone who stops by the local markets. These patterns have inspired local designers for decades. Visitors can also stop to enjoy the natural spa by the River Grande Meiocote .

Near the country's center, there are several national parks with abundance of biodiversity. But it also houses the last tribes of Tolupan, indigenous people who dwell in the mountains and preserve their original language, Tol . They are farmers, lovers of the environment, who retain their ancestral way of life.

In the eastern region, live the Misquitos, keepers of La Mosquitia, the most diverse and naturally rich area of the country. There you will find the Río Plátano Biosphere, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco, due to the importance of its biodiversity. And for lovers of the unknown, the mythical Ciudad Blanca, which is still being discovered meter by meter by anthropologists and scientists from around the world.

All this splendor is mixed with the culture of the big cities to make this country a special one. In San Pedro Sula you find the largest bilingual population in Central America. In recent years it has become the capital of the “call center” because of the ca-

capacity of young people to carry out this type of work. The main religion is Catholic, but in each neighborhood there are one or two Evangelical Christian churches, also professed Adventists, Lutherans, Mormons and Jews. Among the foreign communities, there are Chinese, Colombians, Germans, Italians, Argentines, Spaniards and many more, who coexist and enrich with their customs and accents every day.

This kaleidoscope of culture is being encouraged in recent years by Marca País, an international marketing program sponsored by the Government of Honduras, whose primary goal is to promote the Honduran experience: its people who are its national pride, its entrepreneurs and artists who turn their own experiences into art and culture, and its natural beauty which distinguishes it among all nations.

By **Ana Morales**

(Vice consul of Honduras in Houston. Journalist, Master's degree in Online Communications)



FINE DINING

CORPORATE CULTURE TRAINING

CAREER

CUSTOMS

DO YOU

BOW, KISS, OR SHAKE HANDS?

GREETINGS

SOCIAL STANDARDS

POLITE GESTURES

YOUTH MANNERS

International Protocol & Business Etiquette

Our Services:

- Social Etiquette
- Corporate Etiquette
- Teen/Youth Etiquette



2990 Richmond Ave.
Suite 430
Houston, TX 77098
832.398.4306

protocolsi.com



Protocol
SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

A JOURNEY TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF **XINJIANG**, CHINA

Written by **Val Thompson**

Founder & Publisher, International Focus Magazine - Houston

My journey to Xinjiang, China began with an invitation from the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, it wouldn't be my first visit to China. I'll need to take you to 2001, when my eldest son, a graduate of the University of Houston, applied for an English teaching job in the PRC. He had an earlier experience in China as an exchange student and literally fell in love with the PRC and its culture. Also, I must admit, growing up in the western world, I had an uncomfortable trepidation about my son traveling to an unknown far eastern region of the world. Unfortunately, at the time, I had only traveled out of the US to our neighboring country Mexico. As any concerned parent, I decided to visit the PRC in 2002. I needed to understand where this love my eldest had for the PRC was coming from. It only took a couple of days for me to understand his feeling of affection for the People's Republic of China.



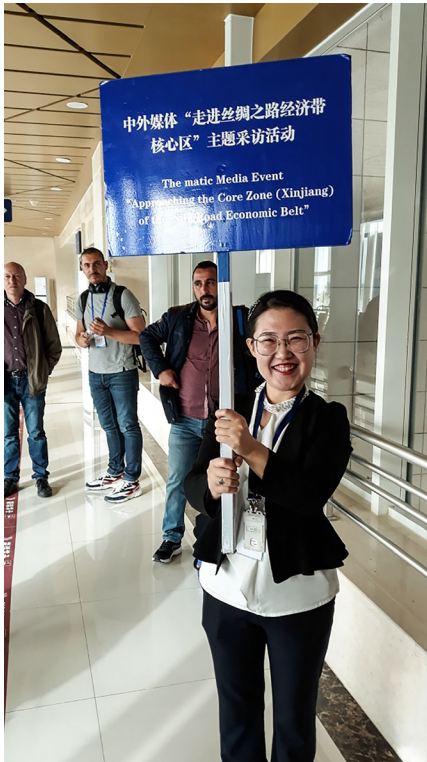


midway of that time, I started hearing and reading of a very ambitious project named the “Belt and Road Initiative”, a rebirth of the ancient Silk Road. I found that very interesting because of the implications, not only commercially for the PRC. But to be successful, it would need a collaborative effort bringing many nations together to agree and sign off on such an ambitious undertaking; and that really peaked my interest. Bringing people together toward a common interest can be extremely powerful.

The Xinjiang province is considered the Core Zone of the “Silk Road Economic Belt”, which is the primary reason for me to accept the invitation to visit as the publisher/reporter of *International Focus Magazine-Houston*. Also invited were journalists and reporters from around the globe! This group of very talented journalists were some of the best I’ve encountered representing Afghanistan,

I found the people of the PRC to be friendly, open and receptive, which can be the indicators of a mature society. After a couple of weeks into my visit, I was pleased with his deci-

sion and became interested as well in what the PRC had to offer. I continued to visit annually and watched the amazing growth of China over the next seventeen years. Somewhere



Egypt, Belgium, Bangladesh, Belarus, Jordan, Japan, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, India, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russia, UAE, USA, Switzerland, and a Geneva Delegation. Also, joining us were 15 staff members of the Information Office of the State Council of the PRC. The State Council certainly made a global effort inviting some of the world's regional news reporters to its Silk and Road Economic Belt Media event.

Xinjiang Autonomous region is located in the northwestern part of the PRC with more than 1.66 million sq. kilometers. It is the largest provincial level administrative area in China. It borders eight countries: Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Many ethnic nationalities from the Xinjiang region, originally from some of the nations mentioned, have influenced Xinjiang province culturally and religiously. They've worked the lands together for Centuries and



created a dynamic civilization. The region has been an area where various ethnic nationalities and religious beliefs co-exist with Uyghur being the dominant ethnic group inhabiting the region. However, there are others as the Han, Kazakh, Mongolian, Hui, Kirgiz, Manchu, Xibe, Tajik, Daur, Uzbek, Tatar and Russians. Many ethnic groups from the larger Eurasia area religions and beliefs are protected including Islam, Hindu, Buddhist and others. As Chinese citizens, belief in religion and or no belief in religion are both protected by law in the region by the PRC's policy of freedom of religious belief.

For thousands of years Xinjiang has been the bridge to link the transport of the Eurasia continent. This region was the connecting point for exchanges of goods and ideas of the ancient East and West civilizations. An ancient corridor know as the "Silk Road", our first stop, was in the capitol city of Xinjiang, Urumqi, China. The group and I visited Xinjiang Islamic Institute where students of the faith were being taught the message of the Quran that Islam is a peaceful

belief. We also visited several theaters as well as the Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar. Urumqi has science and technology companies and an Intelligent Machinery Industrial Park. Forty miles west of Urumqi you will find the city of Changji. There I found the Agriculture Museum very interesting with plants and special techniques for growth on exhibit.

The Exhibition of Major Terrorist Attacks and Violent Crimes in Xinjiang was my next visit. The exhibit was eye-opening, I had no idea the PRC was dealing with extremist activity. It was very difficult to visit. The exhibit showed weapons used by religious extremists and terrorist attacks of violent crimes. One exhibit was shown the length to which extremists would go in bomb-making and deadly attacks on innocent civilians in the name of religion. There were photos and videos captured from terrorists of beheading and brutal acts of violence. These acts of violence were committed by twisted extremists in the name of the world's most peaceful beliefs.



community. They were well fed, and they had good sleeping conditions. They were allowed to practice their peaceful religious beliefs. I interviewed several of them; they seemed very happy; and they were treated well by their supervisors. For those who want to believe these young people may have been coerced, I say you can't fake happiness; and happiness is exactly what I saw. The highlight of the visit for me was eating lunch with them! Next there was a visit to the Mosque in the village seven and families at Wukusal town.

The visit to the Ancient City of Kashgar with its ceremony, clay pottery, musical instruments and remodeled town was a stop I believe we all enjoyed. After that there was a stop at the Etgal Mosque and then on to Kashgar Comprehensive Free Trade Zone. The Kashgar night market was fascinating and very tasty with many local food vendors! Later that day, we made a visit to Wuqia county Kizilsu Kirghiz Autonomous Prefecture, Tongxin Camel Breeding Cooperative and a Camel Hump Fine Hair Co.

We visited the Xinjiang Medical University Changji Branch where many Eastern preventative health practices were performed. The next day there was a flight to Korla, Kashgar- Kizilsu Kizilsu Autonomous Prefecture. The visit to Bayingol Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture Museum, the Korla Economic Zone and Markcor Chemical Industrial Park was very interesting and included a visit to Yanqi County and Cultural Center, Cultural Troupe. We also learned about the situation of Hua'er Arts and Culture.

A visit to Kashgar Vocation Skills Educational and Training Center, which I found well organized with young people, was mostly of the UYGHUR ethnicity. The young people, men and women, were, or could be, victims of extremist teaching, now were learning a vocational skill and being taught a better way of life. I'm certain these young people can one day become positive contributors to their

The Hejing County Village Kindergarten visit was quite fun! The young children of the village, ages six to seven years, were actively as happy to see us as we were to see them. It was a memorable encounter!

The PRC's Initiative for poverty alleviation project seemed to be very effective for the Ulangazar Village and the Bahrenhar Morden town in Hejing county.



We visited another education training center in Atushi. And as before, the people at the training center were learning skills that could offer them a better life out of the poverty of their community.

During each day of the visit in the region, we were provided with great food and fabulous entertainment! This is one experience I hope to revisit someday to see what I believe will be a safe and prosperous region with bustling activity and fantastic opportunities for the people of the “Belt and Road Initiative”.

The visit to the Xinjiang Autonomous region of China concluded with an impressive show of goodwill to our group and to the citizens of the People’s Republic of China.





The Unique Cuisine of Vietnam



Heaven of rustic dishes

Since a long time ago, “pho, bun cha, banh mi, nem...” has become the distinctive Vietnamese dishes associated with the Vietnamese culture as well as “ao dai” or conical hat. These dishes have been featured in culinary magazines, praised by the world’s top chefs, appeared on the menu of the most high-end restaurants and also showed up in the best food in the world rankings of reputable media sites such as CNN, Business Insider, The Huffington Post ...

Perhaps, when asking a foreigner of his favorite Vietnamese food, the answer will most often be “Pho”. Because this popular street food with a bowl of delicious soup, the mesmerizing flavor of the broth, sweetness from the bone and soft

taste of the rice noodles will make you fall in love with the dish from the very first taste.

“Bun cha” – another familiar dish to the people of Ha Noi is also considered as one of the best street foods in the world. The recipe is not too complicated, but how to marinate the pieces of pork and how to grill them properly is not that easy. When a customer orders the dish, the hot pieces of pork will be quickly dropped into a bowl of sweet and sour dipping sauce. Customers will feel each ingredients blending and affecting all the senses. In addition to the dipping sauce, most of the remaining ingredients such as vermicelli, raw vegetables ... are served fresh.

It is a big mistake not to enjoy “banh mi” when travelling to Vietnam. The “Banh mi” is differ-



ent in each region, but whether in Ha Noi, Da Nang or Ho Chi Minh City, “banh mi” with dozens of different types of stuffings, from meat, pate to vegetables, salad, sauce, ... will satisfy the toughest customers. Especially, the price of this dish is quite cheap, only 15,000 VND (around 7 cent) on average will make you full.

So, where is the attractiveness of Vietnamese cuisine coming from?

Originated from thousands of years of rice-growing agriculture, Vietnamese food is made mainly from rice, vegetables, fruits and retains its natural flavors. When processing food, Vietnamese often combines a lot of spices so the dishes are very rich. Particularly, each dish will have its own dipping sauces so the flavor

will become more distinctive. Some spices used in Vietnamese cuisine are also remedies that have a therapeutic effect.

Please come to Vietnam to enjoy the unique culinary flavors!

Source

Consulate of Vietnam in Houston
 5251 Westheimer Rd
 Suite 1100
 Houston, TX 77056
 Tel: 713-850-1233
 Fax: 713-871-0312
vietnamconsulateinhouston.org



Miss Vietnam 2017 H'Hen present her country's culture in the national costume: banh mi - a popular Vietnamese baguette sandwich at the Miss Universe 2018 in Thailand.

1802 SUNSET

HOUSTON, TX 77005

Luxury Living at its finest



\$3,975,000

Located less than 0.4 miles from prestigious Rice University and approx. 1 mile from the world renown Texas Medical Center, this exquisite Custom Smart home is a heartbeat away from the Museum District and Houston's largest Recreational Park and Zoo. Impeccable 6 bedroom, 7 full/2 half bath home in Southhampton with a Grand entrance that invites you into this impressive, thoughtfully designed home featuring travertine stone, wood flooring, dark wood accents, beamed and coffered ceilings and elevator system. Spacious Gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances and water filtration system. Extra kitchen has separate exhaust system. State of the art home operated by 2 wall installed touch screens controlling all lights and surround sound. Taking Mancave to the next level, 3rd floor is a suite with its own bedroom, walk-in closet, full bath and living room with a bar and fridge.



Danny Nguyen, CCIM - Broker M - 713. 478.2972, O - 713.270.5400, dannynguyen@dncommercial.net
9999 Bellaire Blvd. Ste 909, Houston, TX 77036 www.DNCommercial.net



The information contained herein while based upon data supplied by sources deemed reliable, is subject to errors and omissions and is not, in any way, warranted by Danny Nguyen Commercial, or by any agent, independent associate, or employee of Danny Nguyen Commercial. This information is subject to change without notice.





FINANCIAL TERM

“wekeza”



TRANSLATION

invest

Invest in Africa without Leaving Texas.

Commonwealth International Series Trust: Africa Fund (CAFRX)

Striving to deliver distinct and unique investment opportunities, Commonwealth Funds offers a variety of account options to help you **bring it home**.

Account Types

- Business Entity
- Children’s & Education
- Joint
- Personal
- Retirement
- Trust & Estate

Get Started Today.

Learn more about our funds and our investment philosophy.

888.345.1898 | commonwealthfunds.com



FCA Corp, a Houston-based company, is the advisor to Commonwealth Funds.

You should consider the Fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus that contains this and other information about the Fund, call 888.345.1898 or visit our website at commonwealthfunds.com. please read the prospectus carefully before investing. The Commonwealth Funds are distributed by Unified Financial Services, LLC.



Honorable Yolanda Oliva Consul General of Honduras



Interview by: **Heidi Powell**

Heidi PP: *We are guests of the Consulate General of Honduras in Houston, Texas. The lovely and gracious Hon. Yolanda Oliva is our interviewee. First tell us about yourself and walk us through your background.*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: My name is Yolanda Oliva, I am the Consul General of Honduras in Houston, Texas. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. I was born and raised in Choloteuca, the fourth largest city in Honduras. I am married and a mother of two beautiful children, ages eight and twelve. I was appointed to the position of Consul General in February 2014.

Heidi PP: *What does the Consul of Honduras do in Houston? What parts of the United States are covered by your Houston Office?*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: The Consulate General of Honduras in Houston is the representative of the Government of President Juan Orlando Hernández. We work based on the projects and guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Honduras in Washington DC. Our main focus is the service to the Honduran community in Houston, Texas and its surrounding areas, although we also serve all our citizens who seek us from other regions or states.

Heidi PP: *Tell us about the Consulate General of Honduras and some of the services you provide.*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: The Consulate General has its offices at 3731 Briarpark, suite 155, Houston, Texas, 77042. Our business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., from Monday to Friday. We attend requests for passports, consular identifications, and legal services for our Honduran citizens. We have professional and efficient staff members that attend with kindness all of our citizens' necessities. We also offer advice and protection services to citizens with special needs such as citizens facing death of a family member and which require support to repatriate their remains. We ensure that our Honduran citizens' rights are respected.



Heidi PP: *What are some past, present and future goals for the Honduran relationship with the U.S.?*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: Our relationship with the United States has been and remains on very good terms, with great cooperation and mutual respect. We hope in the future to continue strengthening the collaboration ties that have been established so far. The community in Houston is very open and multicultural, and its authorities have become great allies in our efforts to support the Hondurans who live in the area.

Heidi PP: *Tell us about your perspective on ways that the United States-Honduras cooperation may be furthered.*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: The bilateral support has become very close throughout the years, and we hope it remains that way in different areas, such as; security, education, prevention and the strengthening of institutions.

Heidi PP: *What are some of the big picture issues facing Honduras today?*

Hon. Ms. Oliva: There is no doubt that the biggest issue Honduras is facing right now is immigration. It's a very complex matter, and our nations are working on a solution for the long term. The economy, the health, and education are the most important areas when setting goals.

Heidi PP: *How is the Honduran business community uniquely positioning itself to help Americans who are interested in doing business in Honduras?*

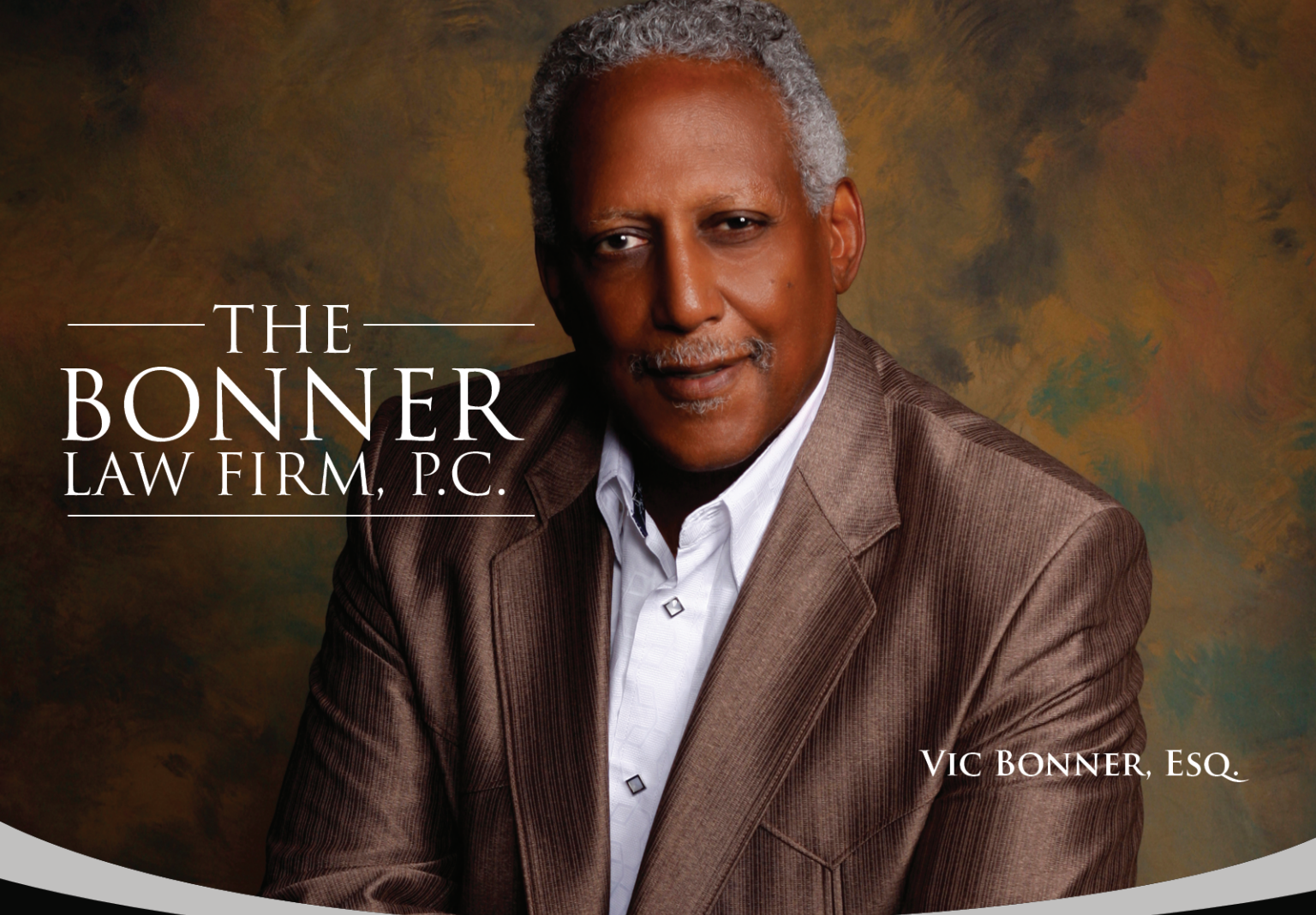
Hon. Ms. Oliva: The Government of President Juan Orlando Hernández is working hard encouraging foreign investment. They have developed initiatives to improve and attract investment in Honduras. I would like to mention the success



that tourism is having in the country. We are working hard on infrastructure and showcasing the natural beauties of Honduras. We have one of the most important and third largest coral reef in the world located in the Bay Islands. We have incredibly beautiful beaches and forests. We have the remarkable Copán Ruins and innumerable sites that impress tourists when they visit them. Our country is rich in culture and incredible gastronomy.

Heidi PP: *Thank you. It has been a pleasure. I look forward to visiting your country in the near future.*

For questions or more information about travel in Honduras or trade with Honduras go to: consuladohondurashouston@gmail.com.

A professional portrait of Vic Bonner, Esq., an older man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a brown suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is a textured, mottled brown and gold.

— THE —
BONNER
LAW FIRM, P.C.

VIC BONNER, ESQ.

CROSS BORDER TRANSACTIONS

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

PERSONAL INJURY

LUXURY REAL ESTATE BROKER
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

VIC BONNER JR., LICENSED CUSTOMS BROKER©
DUTY DRAWBACK CONSULTANT

832 433 6565

4820 OLD SPANISH TRAIL
HOUSTON, TX 77021

ATTYVICBONNER@YAHOO.COM



Variety adds **STRENGTH** to our business

At H-E-B, we value our partnerships with women and minority suppliers. Through their contributions, we better understand the needs of our customers and add to the growth of our company and the communities we serve.



SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

For more information on becoming a supplier with H-E-B, visit
www.heb.com



2019 Recipients

G7 Award Recipients



Soledad Tanner was a rising star with Danzas and DHL Global Forwarding, beginning as a Controller Houston and SouthWest USA. The company valued her strength as an efficient leader, in conjunction with her excellent people skills and promoted her Controller of Industrial Projects and later Controller of Sales; both positions put her in leadership across the entire USA.

The constant in her career path has been creating meaningful analysis, while remaining approachable, which suited her in the role of Director Controller of Human Resources for all the Americas. That position showcased Tanner as a bilingual, multicultural business strategist. She later served as Global Director of Strategy, Performance, and Metrics for HR Global and put her enthusiasm and velocity for change into action by spearheading DHL's Global HR strategy. Soledad

OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT

Soledad Tanner MIB
Founder & CEO
Soledad Tanner
Consulting, LLC

Flor Dimassi is CEO of GlobalSpeak Translations. Her experience is as an international language leader with an extensive background in communications, conference presentations and interpretation team collaboration. GlobalSpeak's client base spans various market industries, including but not limited to Energy, Legal, Conferences, Market Research and Community Outreach. As a self-made entrepreneur, Ms. Dimassi launched her first venture in 1992 as one of original founders of the Dimassi Mediterranean Restaurants. Ms. Dimassi is originally from Torreon Mexico and fluent in Spanish, French and English. She is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas with a degree in International studies and completed studies in French literature at L'Alliance Francaise in Paris, France.

Under Flor's leadership, GlobalSpeak has become deeply engrained in Mexico's historic energy reform initiatives and is an expert on the challenges that US companies face while doing business in Mexico. In addition to her global business ventures, specifically in the developing opportunities related to the energy sector, she believes that giving back to the community is essential for any citizen, and has dedicated as much time as possible to partnering with projects and organizations that give back to the city she loves so well. It is for this reason that she is committed to supporting the community needs for LifeGift and the Boy Scouts of America, as both an advocate and spokesperson. Ms. Dimassi is also an advisory board member for the Center for International Studies at the University of St. Thomas.



EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SERVICE

Flor Dimassi
CEO

GlobalSpeak Translations



INTERNATIONAL RISING STAR

Centrell Reed
Founder & CEO
CReed Global Media

Centrell Reed is our 6th Annual Global Awards Honoree for “International Rising Star”

Holding a Bachelors of Science in Management/ Finance, an MBA, and a Project Management professional certification, Centrell has nearly 20 years of progressive success in management roles across various industries. These leadership experiences have prepared Centrell to pursue her passions in service of her greatest endeavor yet: building her own businesses.

In addition to her professional experience, Centrell has had a personal interest in real estate since childhood, when she can remember watching model homes being built in her neighborhood. She was fascinated by the building process in its entirety, from the foundation, to the framing, through staging and furnishing. For Centrell, it was amazing to witness the progress as an empty plot of land was turned into something as beautiful as a house, where she and her friends would play until it was sold.

These experiences as a child led Centrell to start CReed Global Development Group, LLC. CReed Global is a real estate development and acquisition company established to provide quality real estate developments through acquisition, expansion, diversity, and growth. Centrell’s company focuses on fostering relationships with a commitment to excellence in building economically strong communities.

For Centrell, it is no secret that we grow every day. She believes that as individuals, we should always strive to build upon yesterday’s lessons to achieve the goals ahead of us. Rather than waiting for the perfect circumstances, Centrell has always believed in making it happen - doing the hard work starting from the ground up, and building a better you in the process!

Dr. Laura Murillo was named President and CEO of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2007. With the support of the Chamber Board and Staff she has set unprecedented records, including becoming the largest Hispanic Chamber in the country. Two years after taking the helm, the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce won the National and Regional Hispanic Chamber of the Year Award from U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Marketer of the Year by the American Marketing Association.

She also serves as the Founding President & CEO of the Chamber's Foundation, Founding Executive Producer/Host for the Chamber's Radio and Television Programs on CBS KHOU and Univision. She is also a Telemundo Political Commentator.

She served as an Executive at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. She holds a B.A., a Master's Degree, and a Doctorate from the University of Houston, where she served as an Executive. The University of Houston bestowed its highest honor, the President's Medallion, to the Chamber and Dr. Murillo.



GLOBAL IMPACT

Dr. Laura Murillo
President & CEO
Houston Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce



OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT

Harry Gee Jr.
President
Sister Cities of Houston

Harry Gee Jr. an Immigration Attorney and the President of Sister Cities of Houston 2019 Global Seven (G7) Awards “Outstanding Non Profit” Honoree

With formal sister cities relationships with: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Baku, Azerbaijan; Basrah, Iraq; Chiba, Japan; Grampian Region, Scotland; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Huelva, Spain; Istanbul, Turkey; Karachi, Pakistan; Leipzig, Germany; Luanda, Angola; Nice, France; Perth, Australia; Shenzhen, China; Stavanger, Norway; Taipei, Taiwan; Tampico, Mexico; Tyumen, Russia

Sister Cities International’s 2019 Annual Conference Host City. Sister Cities International is excited to announce that their 63rd annual conference will be held in beautiful Houston, Texas.



In 2009, Angelica officially opened AIM Global Logistics. It was a new approach to the transportation industry that allowed her to offer her customer base a turn-key logistics solution that can handle all modes of freight transportation as a certified minority and women-owned business. She has made both organization and excellent customer service her main focus while growing the business. Throughout the years, the AIM Global Logistics team has collaborated the transportation of many successful oil-field projects. Whether it needs to be shipped over land, sea, or air, AIM Global Logistics, is a one stop shop to all transportation needs.

OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Angelica Garcia Davila
President
AIM Global Logistics



OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE

Shawntell McWilliams
CEO
SM Global Consulting

Shawntell works enthusiastically in the support of various causes and has chaired numerous events for laudable non-profit organizations. Staying true to her life's purpose, she chaired the Sisters Network, Inc. Pink Angel luncheon twice, to assist in raising funds for breast cancer survivors. Shawntell's passion for education and children has transpired into her chairing events to raise funds for scholarships and other educational programs. She chaired the Greater Houston Women Chamber of Commerce STEAM Luncheon and Style Show, The Links Tea and Fashion Show, and The Childcare Council of Greater Houston Inc. luncheon, National Kidney Foundation Luncheon, to name a few.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas; a Master of Science degree in Human Services Administration: Concentration in Fund Development and Grant Writing from Louisiana State University; and a Post Master's degree as an Education Specialist in Education Leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Spending years as an educator, Shawntell believes all students should have the opportunity to attend College regardless of their socioeconomic background. Her awareness and belief in social skills led Shawntell to attend The Protocol School of Washington and received a certification in Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol. Since obtaining the certification, she has made it one of her goals to provide etiquette knowledge to students and professionals.



“
CREATIVITY
..... **IS**
INTELLIGENCE
HAVING FUN
”

ALBERT EINSTEIN



CBA | **MEDIA**
GROUP

A FULL-SERVICE GRAPHIC DESIGN FIRM

WWW.CBAMEDIAGROUP.COM

832 883 1675

Clamos@CBAMediagroup.com



For advertisers, only **one** magazine makes sense when it comes to reaching the affluent international community in Houston with a single ad buy.

iF Magazine's concept is unique and amazing.

With Forbes ranking Houston as the most diverse city in America, Houston is certainly the new mecca for attracting, engaging, and building international business relationships. Add that we have 93 foreign consulates with a presence in the city, and the more than 190 foreign languages spoken here, iF Magazine is the only one targeting this diverse, upscale group.

Each cover features a different Consul General of their respective country.

www.iFMagazine.net

Mary's Sweets

GOURMET COFFEE

...from seed to cup.

Mary's Sweets Gourmet Coffee is different because we buy only select High Grade Arabica Coffee Beans direct from growers, ensuring quality and flavor. It is roasted to perfection.

"You'll love our exceptional coffee roasts and rich aromas."

-Mary Lilly
Founder, Mary's Sweets



Watch for our daily podcast "Pairings 365" for fun tips on food pairings and other coffee related ideas coming soon!

ORDER ONLINE

www.marys-sweets.net

Direct Shipping Available • Major Credit Cards Accepted

Mary's Sweets supports Reading Literacy programs worldwide.

#fromseedtocup | #pinkandgreencoffee



Bring
It On

S

So this happened ... The Houston Entertainment Industry Task Force (HEITF), not the final name, launched its first meeting of many out of CReed Global Media Studios.

This is Epic! Why you may ask? Because it has been a long overdue coming together of those who are ready to see more in the entertainment industry where Houston is concerned. Attempting this alone is much too much for one person and has already taken many years without rendering the results hopefuls want to see. How to truly make this happen has always been the puzzle in a city like Houston so vast in size, with now over 2 million people not including surrounding areas, and known for other once thriving industries like oil and gas. Success in this expansion requires a new approach; collaboration.

For many of you who know my story, there was a pivotal moment in my life when I wrote in my journal back in 2000 that I would own an entertainment company; and now I do! I spoke it and I wrote it down to make it plain. Little did I know that my media and entertainment company would be a catalyst to birth a

task force leading the expansion of an industry poised to provide jobs, create a vibrant industry, and generate billions of revenue dollars in the Houston and Texas economy while touching the world over with its creative content and diverse content creators. Can speaking and pursuing a vision bring about all of this? Well Yes it can so bring it on!

I'm reminded of a late night show interview I saw with now 37 year old Dwyane Wade, husband to Gabrielle Union, discussing what happens now that he is retiring from basketball as one of the greatest players to play the game. In the interview, the host holds up a newspaper clipping of then 17 year old Wade quoting him saying (I'm paraphrasing) that he would be one of the greatest NBA players of all time and celebrate his life with his wife and kids. Dwyane then responds in the interview (Paraphrasing again) "You have to speak it". I would love to say that speaking it is all that it takes. We all know better. Dwyane put his time, sweat, tears, effort, and more into being one of the best. He sacrificed family moments and made difficult decisions to be great at what he had chosen in life and to do things no one else had ever done.

Life and anything worth doing requires your beliefs and actions to back up what you say. Once you speak it, you must reinforce your words with dedication, persistence, consistency, and everything else you have to move it forward. That is what we are doing with the Houston Entertainment Industry Task Force. Bringing together all the elements, experience, expertise, effort and more that exist in each HEITF member in one place where we combine to make a greater and stronger collaboration! While it's still new, I and several others have so many BIG ideas, hopes, and plans to execute. We won't let the cat out of the bag in this article. You must attend one of the monthly meetings to get those details. Just know, anyone who joins this task force must be ready to be a force! We are speaking what we want to see occur and we are making it happen!

Houston Can YOU Hear Me?

Are you contemplating leaving Houston, the 4th largest city in the U.S. to go create a thriving career in the entertainment industry somewhere else? Maybe you have already been working on long distance projects to keep your skills sharp and the credits building. Now the future of entertainment in Houston may allow you to do what you love in the place you love to be. We've heard the stories and shed tears for those we know going abroad for more opportunities. Houston has and continues to have some coming through; yet the key here is more is desired! Many television and film projects have already filmed here like Billion Dollar Buyer, Armageddon, Boyhood, Apollo 13, Pearl Harbor, and Transformers: Dark of the Moon. These are just a few of the mentionable works that Houston has claimed for on location shooting. There are many more and yours could be next.

I was recently advised that I am being honored with the International Rising Star award by the Houston International Trade Development Council's (HITDC) Annual G7 Awards held at Ballroom on the Bayou on May 24th, 2019. The International Rising Star award is given to a Houston-based Enterprise that provides a service which enables global organizations to thrive in business. The business of CReed Global Media is visibility in media and entertainment on a global scale. I am truly honored to receive this recognition and to share it with all who have a part in what we do locally and worldwide.

At CReed Global Media we have an international focus. We want to capture the voice, views and visions of film, television, and music creatives of all kinds by connecting your media brand through videography, studio rental, and distribution. Houston is home to one of the most diverse populations in any U.S. city. Talent surrounds us on screen and on stage. We owe it to ourselves to elaborate on our already existing platforms and reinforce it with more incentives and easier ways to make productions happen. Our local artists and creators deserve the recognition and have so much to offer. Can you envision productions of all kinds created right here in Houston? I can! So bring it on!



Houston Are You with Me?

It takes much more than just being able to envision a thriving Houston entertainment industry. We have to work at it, build it, and grow it. One of the most amazing things about the HEITF launch is the talent and notables that have come together to move the needle. This is everyone from long standing non-profits like SWAMP to Houston First, the City of Houston's Mayors office, the Houston Film Commission, accomplished Directors, writers, producers, actors, individuals in the music industry and more. So Houston is about to get something special!

I often wonder how I made it here. I couldn't have picked the twists and turns my life has taken. I definitely could have chosen a different path. This path chose me. Door after door is opening to emphasize "YES, go in this direction". I'm excited to see what lies ahead and yet there is some trepidation. Not knowing what's next will give anyone pause. The key is not to let that stop you from moving forward in pursuit of what is for you.

There were a lot of emotions leading up to our first HEITF meeting, specifically mine were all over the place. What goals will we set, who will join the effort, what do we know, how will we address what we learn along the way, will we work collaboratively, effectively, efficiently, and

trustingly and who will lead from the front? All I know is that whatever it takes, we are ready, willing, and able to build it so bring it on.

I'm reminded to be grateful for the start of something new and what it takes to put ideas into play. The thought of the support we have already rallied makes me hopeful for whomever else will join this fast moving train. We know we want Houston to join other cities in Texas as a destination for film making and a vibrant entertainment industry viewed with respect by its peers like New York, California, Canada, and Georgia to name a few. There also exists the opportunity for collaboration to make this great industry even greater. The icing on the cake is to see more projects coming to Hous-

ton, using talented and trained local crew and actors to staff the productions. We are open to it, ready for it, and welcome building an expansive alliance in film, music and TV. The more the merrier right? In the words of Nipsey Hussle, may he rest in peace, "I'm the type that's gon' go get it"! So yes, bring it on!



This has been a Media Moment written by: Centrell Reed, Founder and Co-CEO of CReed Global Media & Production. Get in touch with Centrell at info@creedglobalmedia.com.

Best-Grades.com
Tutoring
The tutoring company that gets you the best grade!

1-844-GradeUp
(1-844-472-3387)



Entrepreneur

Cuba 2017

Limited Edition Fine Art Photography by Heidi Powell-Prera

WWW.HEIDIPOWELL-PRERA.COM



Shea

Writing & Training Solutions
Technology Into Words

Creating clarity out of chaos, one sentence at a time . . .

How would you like to have the documentation and training you need to grow your business and make it safer? We can help! We have 20+ years' experience helping companies produce quality documentation and training services that can support your mission to ensure a competent, capable, and informed workforce.

Shea provides expertise in the following areas:

Writing

- Manuals
- Procedures
- Proposals
- Technical Reports
- Scribing

Training

- Custom-designed
- Learner-owned
- Blended Learning
- Web-based
- Performance Improvement

Contact us to get more information about our free document assessment at Evalyn.Shea@sheaws.com.

11602 Burdine St • Houston, TX • 77035
713-723-9142 • www.sheaws.com

EBOLA IN CONGO

Devastating news continues to emanate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the number who have died from the Ebola outbreak hits 1,000. With response efforts hindered by ongoing conflict in the region and attacks on medical workers, the pandemic is now the second largest Ebola outbreak in history. The World Health Organization has called for more help to close a \$54 million gap in funding to help contain the deadly disease's spread.

Usglc Across America

Over the congressional recess, the USGLC hosted events across the country with policymakers and community leaders, talking about how leading globally matters locally.

Kalamazoo. The USGLC kicked off its newly-formed Michigan Advisory Committee – co-chaired by former Senator Carl Levin, former Governor Rick

Snyder, and business leader and philanthropist Hank Meijer – before a full house at Western Michigan University, featuring Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI).

The 14-term congressman told the crowd: “When the world is safe and prosperous, the United States is safe and prosperous, so I’m committed to fighting for robust funding for our nation’s diplomacy and development programs.”

Scranton. Living up to its reputation, the energy at the Electric City forum featuring Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) was certainly lively. The congressman seized on the linkages between global and local economies: “Investments in our civilian programs overseas are critical to securing our economic future here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Denver. In the Mile High City, Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) was exceptional – tackling the Indo-Pacific region and other

hotspots with unmatched expertise, telling our coalition’s leadership: “Our nation’s diplomacy and development efforts in the Indo-Pacific region are key to strengthening our regional alliances and building new relationships to counter any threat.”

Coming Attractions. Over the month of May, the USGLC will be hosting back-to-back local events with Senators Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) with business, community, and NGO leaders in their home states.

The Moment of Lift

First-time author Melinda Gates’ new book, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*, is already a New York Times bestseller as she tells the world: “If you want to lift up humanity, empower women. It is the most comprehensive, pervasive, high-leverage investment you can make in human beings.”



THERE'S SPACE

FOR YOU TO ADVERTISE WITH US

PRINT • WEBSITE

iF INTERNATIONAL FOCUS MAGAZINE

MOST POWERFUL SPIRITUALIST & INDIAN PSYCHIC MASTER: PAWAN SWAMIJI

Over 25 Years Experience

ALL RELIGIONS WELCOME!

GET SOLUTIONS & SUGGESTIONS FOR:

Depression • Family Problems • Jealous People
 Enemies • Marital Problems • Work-Related Issues
 Business • Family • Health • Court Cases • Sexual
 Stress • Bad Luck • Generational Curses • & Many More!



SPECIALIZING IN BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK!

Don't Always Be Part of the Problem, Be Part of the Solution! Special Prayers for Every Full Moon & Dark Moon

Performs Very Powerful and Poojas to Shake Away Darkness and to Remove Black Magic, Kala Jadoo, Voodoo, Witchcraft, Obeyah, Evil Spirits & GIVES LIFELONG PROTECTION

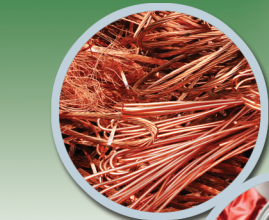
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | 100% GUARANTEED RESULTS | PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Call or WhatsApp for Appointment: 1+346-256-0758

Texas, USA

JD METALS

Scrap Metal Recycling Services - Houston



- Aluminum
- Brass
- Bronze
- Copper Wire
- Copper Pipe
- Wire Aluminum
- Lead Acid Batteries
- Nickel Alloy
- Iron
- Aluminum Cans
- Custom Pick-Up
- ... & MORE!

JD Metals is a preferred scrap metal dealer serving the Houston area since 1994.

A top-notch customer service, an extensive experience in metals recycling, and top prices have made JD Metals your scrap metal dealer of choice for over 26 years. Come see us at our Recycling Center or call to discuss how we can together keep Houston green! JDMetals.com

11502 TANNER RD. | HOUSTON, TX 77041

Contact: Elizabeth Burnham, Senior Buyer | elizabeth@jdmetals.com | 832.467.3199

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The travel season is quickly approaching, and as many of you know, I have had a passion for international business travel. One of the great characteristics of business travel is that we can always add a touristic component to it; at least I do, especially when organizing trips for business people. I love every minute of planning and working with a team of like-minded professional travelers who know how the game works!

You can probably imagine how exciting it can be to propose a trade mission to any of the 93 Consul Generals posted in Houston, who are more than happy to assist. After all, their mission is to represent their home or appointed country,

and there is no better way than to assist a delegation in visiting the country they represent. Believe me, the optimal way to understand the political and social realities and business environment of a country is to visit it. I have advised many of my clients and friends who are thinking of going global to not get caught up in mere email exchanges. We must visit to understand the fascinating people who ultimately drive our decisions in business endeavors.

Which brings to mind our May cover page with T. H. Yolanda Oliva. We are certainly looking forward to visiting the Republic of Honduras!

And as always, thank you for your readership!

Val Thompson

Publisher & CEO

Val@ifMagazine.net

Val



REASONS

to Consider iF Magazine Advertising

- 1) An ad in iF Magazine gives you both a print and a digital ad with a local and global distribution
- 2) Print magazines inspire readers to take action
- 3) Print is best at increasing brand awareness
- 4) Magazines show the highest returns on your advertising budget
- 5) With print media you are able to direct your ads to a highly targeted audience
- 6) Most adults would rather read a magazine in hard copy than online
- 7) Digital ads come and go: printed ads have staying power

iF you want your ad to reach all of Houston's international and mainstream communities, then you want to advertise your business in the International Focus (iF) Magazine!

Contact:

**Val Thompson at val@iFmagazine.net
or 832-448-0537**

**Heidi Powell-Prera at heidipp@iFmagazine.net
or 713-456-9513**



Arts. Tourism.
Conventions. Hospitality.
Entertainment.

WE BRING GREAT THINGS TO HOUSTON!

INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH US?

713.853.8215

HOUSTONFIRST.COM/DO-BUSINESS

Houstonfirst.

VISIT **HOUSTON**