

## “Changing the World, One Volley at a Time” Letter from the Director



For many years, sport as a form of educational exchange has been a popular platform for nations and people to engage with one another outside of a political environment. On September 30, 2011, the Institute of International Education will present the 10th Annual Diplomats Ball with a sports diplomacy theme. The evening will be a global celebration of the 40th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy. The Chinese Ambassador and other Chinese and American dignitaries, diplomats and sports celebrities are expected to be on hand. Doug Jackson, President of Project C.U.R.E., is co-chair of the event along with Frieda Sanidas Leason (former Honorary Consul of France) and Denver attorney Lucky Vidmar (Honorary Consul of Slovenia). In keeping with the sports theme, University of Denver's Magness Arena is our venue.

One of the great aspects of sports diplomacy is how it engages people. Ordinary people, not just diplomats. To involve lots of Coloradans in this event, we are planning for several weeks of community events focused on the engaging sport of table tennis. Health clubs, universities, schools, office buildings, public buildings and public parks will become sites for sponsored Ping Pong Diplomacy Anniversary Tournaments. We also plan

to raise funds for the Colorado-China Study Abroad Scholarship through texted donations resulting from this public visibility. The public positioning of the tables will provide a marketable opportunity for corporate sponsors as well; their names and logos can be displayed on the tables, which will be donated to YMCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs when the event is over.

Celebrating Ping Pong Diplomacy is our way of saying, international education and diplomacy are everyone's business. The National Council for International Visitors likes to say that its members “change the world, one handshake at a time.” This year, let's celebrate a simple sport that changed the world, “one volley at a time.”

To find out how you can get involved, please call the office and ask for me, or visit our website: [www.diplomatsball.org](http://www.diplomatsball.org). There will be plenty to do over the summer.

**Karen de Bartolomé**  
Executive Director  
Rocky Mountain Region

## International Visitors Meet Denver Mile High Youth Corps



The International Visitor Leadership Program offers the chance for the local community to engage with visitors from around the world. Through Home Hospitality and Professional Appointments, international visitors get to experience life in Denver in both the public and professional spheres. The Professional Appointments are a great way for the visitors and the companies that host them to learn from each other. One Denver organization that was especially intrigued by a recent group of international visitors was the Mile High Youth Corps. In February of this year, they hosted a group of professionals from South Africa who were interested in youth empowerment and leadership. The staff at MHYC noted the experience was not only educational for the visitors, but also for their team.

“We were fortunate enough to meet four individuals from South Africa who are focused on developing youth in their country. As part of the International Visitor Leadership Program, these individuals sat down at our headquarters office and listened in about how we implement change here in our Denver Community and how this work has impacted the lives of our corpsmembers. The challenges faced by South African youth are staggering. 51% of youth are unemployed and, of that, 36% are unemployable, having no training or skills to acquire work. In addition, one in four youth in South Africa have been infected with HIV/AIDS. Despite these obstacles, Mr. Malusi Mazibuko, Ms. Annette Steyn, Ms. Mosidi Charmaine Thokoane and Mr. Brian Zondo have made it their mission to improve the lives of the youth in their country.

Along with other corpsmembers, I got the chance to talk to them about how we've learned leadership skills here at MHYC, how we feel we are positively impacting our community and about how we plan to continue this work in the future. What a great opportunity!” - **Annie Matouka**, MHYC Alumni/Mentor

“We really enjoyed the visit. We did exchange emails afterwards to offer our appreciation and with encouragement to stay in touch.” - **Kelly Causey**, MHYC Executive Director



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Denver World Affairs Council

## DENVER WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DWAC is a community service of the Rocky Mountain Center of the Institute of International Education. It is targeted to a general audience of citizens and professionals in the Denver area who have an interest in global affairs. As part of its mission, every year DWAC hosts approximately 20 noted experts to address an important aspect of international politics, economics or strategic affairs. The Denver World Affairs Council is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2011; as a tribute to this anniversary, our lecture series for the summer and fall will have a theme of "Looking Backwards/Looking Forwards".

**Tuesday, June 28th**  
**Jennifer Heath – Land of the Unconquerable: The Hidden Strengths of Afghan Women**

This talk reaches beyond sensational headlines to offer a three-dimensional portrait of Afghan women. Based on her co-edited volume (with Ashraf Zahedi), *Land of the Unconquerable: The Lives of Contemporary Afghan Women*, Jennifer Heath will examine the realities of life for women in both urban and rural settings, and address topics such as food security, war, livelihood, health, marriage, education, politics, community development and more. Eschewing stereotypes about the burqa, Heath will focus instead on Afghan women's empowerment and agency and on their struggles for peace and justice in the face of a brutal ongoing war.  
5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, July 19th**  
**Christopher Boucek – Security Challenges in Yemen**

Join us for a fascinating talk with Christopher Boucek from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Boucek is a Middle East Program specialist where he focuses on security challenges in the Arabian Peninsula. He will tell us about the current security issues in Yemen and what the U.S. should expect for the future.  
5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, August 9th**  
**John Cassara – Terrorist Financing**

As a former CIA agent, John Cassara will give us the insider's view on terrorist financing and money laundering in the Middle East. Cassara's 26 year career with the federal government gives him the expertise to keep us informed about the role money laundering plays in the war on terror.  
Time - TBD

*For more information or to register for an event, please visit <http://www.rockymountainiie.org> or call 303.837.0788 x 10*