

Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation

Spring 2014

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More photos of
RoboRAVE on
page 4 of newsletter.

Albuquerque Sister Cities Participates in RoboRAVE

RoboRAVE 2014 kicked off its 13th year of competition with 1500 plus students from across New Mexico and the world. With its slogan of "Today's Play, Tomorrow's Pay," RoboRAVE is growing each year, according to Director Russ Fisher-Ives. What is the secret to its success? Three goals: 1) Fun. Without it, you don't come back. 2) Learning by doing-sharing, telling, showing, helping. 3) Teamwork.

And, one just had to walk around during the event on May 3 to see that these goals work!
(continued Page 2)

On May 1, 2014 a special meet and greet social was held to honor the international students attending RoboRAVE. Foreign countries represented were China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Mexico and Spain.



Enjoying the RoboRAVE international reception are L. to R. Eva Gonzales, ASCF Chair Albuquerque, Spain; Pam Feather ASCF Co-Chair Sasebo, Japan; Carol Dawley, ASCF 2nd VP; Olga Alicia de la Torre from Guadalajara; Adriana Parra from Guadalajara; Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, ASCF Guadalajara Chair and Tara Cruz-Campa.

Guadalajara Sister Cities Chair visits Albuquerque

Adriana Parra, Guadalajara Sister Cities Chair and Olga Alicia de la Torre, a teacher from Guadalajara visited Albuquerque from April 28—May 5. Their main purpose was to participate in RoboAcademy, learning how to run robotic competitions in their hometown. While here they also toured our city, including Old Town, Indian Pueblo Culture Center and Bear Canyon Senior Center. They met with Randy Trask, Trade Manager for the City/County Trade Alliance, and Nikki Peone from the City Cultural Services Department to discuss future exchanges. They visited with the Mexican Consul to make arrangements for the Ballet Folkloric to come to Albuquerque this fall. Stay tuned!!

From L to R: Olga Alicia de la Torre, Carol Dawley, Nikki Peone, Marie Keller, Jose Luis Cruz-Campa, Richard Buckler, Adriana Parra, and Randy Trask.



From the President's Desk ...

"Mr. President," the letter began written in Spanish, "I want to thank you and the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation for your effort and dedication to the students of our high school in allowing them to participate in RoboRAVE International." I received the letter at the May 1 RoboRAVE International Student "mixer." It was signed by Albuquerque, Spain's Mayor, Angel Vadillo, who I had a chance to meet back in 2007 when he visited us here to help us celebrate our city's 300th year birthday.

Mayors, I've noticed, pay attention to activities that help their youth. For example, your Sasebo Committee (led by Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman) is once again hosting 10 Japanese students at the end of July this year. The student exchanges with Sasebo have been so successful that Sasebo Mayor Tomonaga wants them to continue indefinitely. Good job, Sasebo Committee! Helmstedt, Germany and our local committee here led by Nathan Young, have also engaged in several student exchanges, especially during the tenure of Helmstedt Mayor Eisermann. Retired from politics now, Mayor Eisermann visited Albur-

querque during our Balloon Fiesta last year, and expressed similar thanks for the past youth exchanges.

We all intrinsically know that we must help the "next generation," sometimes referred to as the Millennials, gain an international perspective based on mutual respect and understanding. But, perhaps, as you read the articles and peruse the pictures contained in this newsletter, you might agree that "Roboquerque," as Mayor Berry repeated in a letter to RoboRAVE international competitors is "where the World Comes to Play with Robots." And, in the process, sister cities connections are being made for our future! Just ask the students that came from Mexico and Spain. Looking forward to next year, already!

Russ

P.S. On a separate note, the May 22 twinning with Lusaka, Zambia is being postponed until later in the summer. Stay tuned!

RobRAVE (cont. from page 1)

This year Albuquerque, Spain sent 8 students and 2 teachers for the first time. As reported in the Winter 2014 newsletter, Inquiry Facilitators, the 501 c-3 parent that produces RoboRAVE, went onsite in Spain in November last year to train and demonstrate the "FUN" of robotics. Inquiry Facilitators and ASCF teamed-up to help 8 students come who otherwise couldn't have participated.

According to one of the teachers, Pedro Piquero, these students, with only a few months of exposure to robotic concepts, are now becoming fanatics. He noted that on May 3, they even stayed up to 3 AM on the eve of the competition here in New Mexico, in order to fine-tune their designs and programs. He predicts that their fascination will translate into further technology interests. Even Mayor Vadillo (of Albuquerque, Spain) has expressed his thanks (see President's Desk on this page).

Other sister cities represented at either RoboRAVE or the 1st year RoboAcademy teacher training were Chihuahua and Guadalajara, Mexico. ASCF is looking to increase its sister cities involvement even more for next year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Now is the time for most ASCF members to renew their membership. Please look at your address label to verify when your membership is due.

You can renew by mail, using the membership form on the back of this newsletter. You can renew online by visiting ASCF website which is WWW.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org You can renew in person at the annual ASCF meeting.

Please consider renewing—we love having you as a member!

Below: Hey I know you! Father and son (RoboRAVE Director Russ Fisher-Ives and son Dillon) take time for photo op during RoboRAVE '14. Dillon is a new member of ASCF and plans to be part of the Albuquerque, Spain committee, where RoboRAVE training took place onsite last November, resulting in 2 student teams coming here.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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May 24: Farewell potluck dinner for Turkmen Open World group. 6-8 PM. Come meet our 4 delegates. Hostess: Mellie Myer, 7808 Don Gaspar Dr. NE. RSVP to her at 821-8774.

June 8: ASCF annual meeting featuring our Chinese sister cities—Buffet King—5410 Academy Rd. NE—\$9 members and \$15 non-members—12:30—3 PM.

July 27-Aug. 3: Expected visit to Albuquerque by Sasebo, Japan students. Host families needed. Contact Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman for more info at 235-0596.

July 31-Aug. 2: Sister Cities International Annual Conference—San Jose, California.

Aug. 8—18: ASCF member trip to Helmstedt, Germany. If interested, contact Nathan Young at 977-6033.

October 9-22 - ASCF trip to China—If interested, contact David Hsi at 345-3866. (More information on page 5).

Note: The Sister City twinning between Lusaka, Zambia and Albuquerque is being re-scheduled. Stay tuned!

Albuquerque Student to Visit Sasebo, Japan

Anthony Jackson, a student at Albuquerque Math and Science High School will go to Sasebo, Japan for 6 weeks this coming summer. He has studied Japanese and plans on increasing his knowledge of that language as well as absorbing the Japanese culture. The photo is of Anthony and Kazumi Kawakubo-Todman, Sasebo Chair, at the RoboRAVE international reception.



ASCF Proposed Slate of 2014-2015 Officers (June 8 election)

President—Richard Buckler

1st Vice President—Oguljan Young Secretary—Mary Hope Buckler

2nd Vice President—Carol Dawley Treasurer—Carl Londene

3rd Vice President—Dave Bagley

Nominations accepted from the floor at annual meeting, June 8.

Mayor's Appointee to ASCF Board—Randy Trask—Manager of Albuquerque-Bernalillo Trade Alliance and Encuentro president.

RoboRAVE Photos



One of several groups from Juarez, Mexico, in the State of Chihuahua.



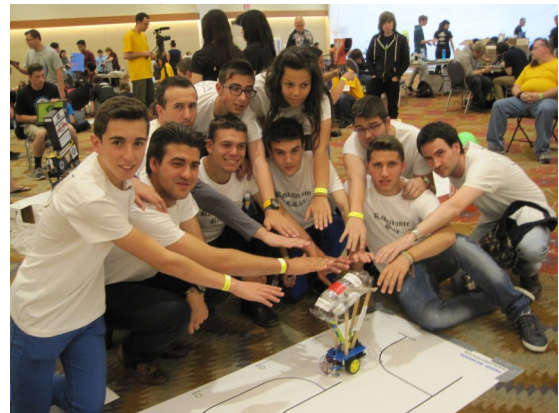
The fun of RoboRAVE is not just the competition but meeting new friends and interacting with friends from previous competitions. It was great connecting again with this group from Juarez, Mexico.



Chinese students and friends—There were 30 participants from Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China.



ASCF volunteers at RoboRAVE included Gina Solis, Tatiana Solis, Dave Bagley, and Pam Feather. Gina (pictured above) with ASCF member Patrick Mapalo.



Above: RoboRAVE participants from Albuquerque, Spain. In no particular order—Teachers: Victor Alvarado Orellana and Pedro Piquero. Students: Ana Belén Rubiales González; Francisco Rivero Fenoll; Miguel Ángel Cantero Morales; Abelardo Rollano; Francisco Vivas Rolán; Juan Francisco Baldominos Cobeñas; José Ángel Mayo Figueroa; and Víctor Ambrojo Pérez.

Left: “Two groups of Spanish Explorers meet” the day after RoboRAVE—Chair Eva Gonzales & former Chair Ramon Gonzales took the students around town, including this stop at the Albuquerque Museum.



ASCF Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 8, 2014 — Buffet King — 5410 Academy Rd. NE .

Check-in at side-room to the right beginning at 12:30 PM. Food service starts at 12:45 PM.

PAY AT THE DOOR—CASH or CHECK Cost is \$9 for ASCF members and \$15 for non-members, and includes buffet, and a soft-drink or tea. (NOTE: if someone purchases a membership that day, they will pay member price). To help the restaurant with room setup, PLEASE email Dave Bagley at dave3114@gmail.com to make reservations.

Event will also feature:

***Door-prizes.

***Entertainment provided by ASCF Chinese sister cities, as well as other highlights, including updates on trip to China in October. (More information below).

***Election of ASCF officers (list of current nominations on page 3).

ASCF Member Trip to China October 9-22, 2014 - 11 Days/10 Nights

Some of the Itinerary Highlights:

Shanghai: Welcome dinner, city tour, Yu Garden and Old Town Bazaar

Lanzhou: City tour & Sister City program arranged by Lanzhou City government

Dunhuang: Crescent Lake, camel ride and Mogao Grottos

Xian: Terra Cotta Warriors, Museum Quarter and Ancient City Wall

High speed train ride from Xian to Beijing

Beijing: The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and Beijing duck Farewell dinner

Expected Cost depends on how many sign-up by June 9:

Example: If 15 sign-up then cost is expected to be around \$3588 based on sharing twin room. \$519 more if single. Cost includes airfare round-trip from Albuquerque. **\$500 deposit due by June 9. Balance due by August 9.** Price includes many meals and scheduled tourist site entrance fees. Travel-Medical Insurance/Visa expense not included. Proof of International Medical Insurance required for all ASCF trips.


(ASCF reserves right to modify/cancel trip if not enough signup).

For more information: David Hsi at 345-3866 or davidnkathyhsi@aol.com

ALBUQUERQUE SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION

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Inside this issue: ASCF Sister Cities participate in RoboRAVE and Info on Annual Meeting

PO Box 26533 Albuquerque, NM 87125-6533 www.Albuquerque-Sister-Cities.org		 THE ALBUQUERQUE sister cities FOUNDATION, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult - Single/Family	\$20/\$30	<u>Membership Application</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 or older) – Single/Family	\$10/\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-20)	\$7.50	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (21-35)	\$20	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (15 or fewer employees)	\$100	City, State, Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Business (more than 15 employees)	\$300	Email _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal non-profit organization	N/C	Phone _____

Website: WWW.ALBUQUERQUE-SISTER-CITIES.ORG