

SCIS Young Professionals

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The Southern Center for International Studies
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Giving Thanks

As 2005 draws to a close, we look forward to the second half of the program year



by Mike Lenhart
Vice Chairperson

The holiday season always gives me a great moment to stop, take a pause and be more appreciative of my surroundings. Although 2005 is almost over, this December brings our program year to just about the midway point; so there's no better time than now to bring your attention to the many great things the YPs have accomplished so far this year.

Social Committee: If you've been under a rock this year, you've missed some great social events organized by Becky Kloss and Wayne Barnett at venues such as Loca Luna, Park Tavern, Shout and Fuego. Great job, Social Committee!

Marketing Committee: One word: *newsletter*. Awesome, awesome, awesome! Super job, Lynn Wong, Lyndsey Erwin and Manda Hunt.

Membership Committee: I've spent the least amount of time with the membership committee this year, but it continues,

without any guidance, to promote the positive message of joining the YPs. Chris Yueh and Frances Fondren are always behind the scenes making everyone look good.

Programs Committee: I've heard some of the best comments ever about this year's programs. From selecting topics to coordinating the events to execution, David Wright and Beth Koelling are putting the "pro" in professionals for our group!

Dine & Discover/International Film Night: Thanks to the very positive response to these two events, we are going to consider increasing their frequency in the second half of our program year. Thank you, Gregg Ernst and Maja Husar.

General Meetings: Did you hear? There were 31 people at the October General Meeting! Nancy Reed and I are still pinching ourselves. And we're attracting attendees from a range of countries, including Iceland, Ethiopia and Austria.

Volunteers and Community Outreach: More than anything else, I'm pleased

with the continued volunteerism I see every month. If you've raised your hand to help clean up after one of our events, poured drinks as a bartender, signed up to be an event leader, organized a non-SCIS sponsored opportunity or just showed up because you read about the YPs on the Internet...thanks! There are far too many of you to recognize in this category, but you've made everything run much smoother than ever!

I'd also like to give my personal thanks to Ryan Thornton, Curt Coulombe and Nancy Gastell, our past YP chairpersons, who continue to contribute in many ways to ensure the YP organization's success. And last but certainly not least, to the SCIS staff — especially Nancy Reed and Tamuna Liliashvilli — thank you for your help.

On behalf of the YP Chairman, Lee Weber, and me, our sincere thanks for helping keep the all-volunteer YP organization running on all cylinders. Let's continue to have a great time in 2006!



"Rockin' reception preceded fascinating presentation on Buenos Aires"

by Heather Harris
YP Member

As I pulled into the parking lot for October's Argentina briefing, I sensed immediately that this evening was going to stand out as one to remember. Not only was the parking lot filled, as people streamed through the Southern Center's doors, but the pre-program reception also was in full swing! Argentinean tango music filled the center's reception hall, the spicy smell of empanadas permeated the air, and (of course!) wine glasses were raised by all.

Even this pre-program excitement did not prepare me for the wonderfully dynamic and captivating speakers we were about to meet. Who better to teach us about Argentina than natives from Buenos Aires?

Paula Holfeld, chair of the

Argentina-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, gave an informative presentation that included slides about the country's geography, culture and government. Currently, Paula is the Atlanta representative for the Argentine law firm, Allende & Brea, and a member of the International Council of GlobalEXECWomen. Through humor and anecdotes, Paula brought authenticity to her presentation as she recounted her memories of Buenos Aires.

Following Paula's informative presentation, Claudia Goffan took the floor. Friend and event leader, Chris Lazar, introduced Claudia, an expert in Latino marketing and President and Founder of the Argentinean Club of

Atlanta. Claudia immediately captivated the audience with her humor and presence. Taking the audience members on a visual and musical tour of the country, Claudia told the story of Argentina's history, government, culture and geographic regions using breathtaking photos.

Following the presentations, the audience engaged in a question-and-answer session with the two speakers, and some audience members continued their discussions during the post-presentation reception.

Paula and Claudia led the audience on an unforgettable journey through the culturally rich and geographically diverse country of Argentina, through the eyes of native Argentineans. The Southern Center would like to thank both of our speakers for giving such fascinating accounts of their country.



Pictured (L to R): Beth Koelling, Chris Lazar, Claudia Goffan, Mike Lenhart, and Paula Holfeld



Brazil Briefing Sets New Attendance Record!

by Beth Koelling
Programs Committee Co-chairperson

Thanks to everyone who came out for November's briefing on Brazil. We had a record turnout, with more than 100 attendees! Before the briefing, guests enjoyed several typical Brazilian foods, including pao de queijo and guarana, which were catered by Minas Emporium. Roberto Goncalves performed Brazilian jazz, which added to the event's atmosphere.

As the briefing commenced, our two speakers gave us an overview of the many fascinating aspects of Brazil. Lucia Jennings of The Coca-Cola Company, and Founder and President of the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce, spoke about Brazilian culture and its diverse history. She concluded with an overview of the tourism within Brazil, as well as the latest news in Brazilian politics.

Dr. Nathan Forrester (Georgia Pacific and Chairman of the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce) then took the stage to discuss the intricacies of doing business in Brazil.

After the formal portion of the briefing, we were entertained by a capoeira performance from ABBA Capoeira. Contra Mestre Robson De Jesus led the performance, which is a great mixture of martial arts, acrobatics, game-like sparring and self-improvement. Watching the performers in this show was a great finale to our quick tour of the dynamic country of Brazil!



Rennie Sloan

Member Spotlight: Rennie Sloan

Rennie Sloan, who describes her nationality and ethnic background as "Southern," has been a YP member since 2003. By day, she applies her professional background in journalism and global public health to international communications at the American Cancer Society; by night, she pursues her interest in other countries, people and cultures by attending YP events at the Southern Center.

Q&A with Rennie

Q: What languages do you speak?

A: Some German, and a few lines of Italian-language-class dialogue that I spew forth inappropriately in answer to any Italian question.

Q: What countries have you lived or worked in for more than a year?

A: Deutschland

Q: Why Atlanta?

A: Family, weather, friendliness and, after a 12-year absence, pleasantly discovering there are many interesting people here in groups like the Southern Center, Italian club, etc.

Q: What is your favorite YP memory?

A: Dancing at SP's James Bond birthday bash, movie night in the Highlands, some water volleyball mishaps, plotting out the future of an International Atlanta at PDK meetings, Thanksgiving at Curt's. And bringing in newcomers who immediately form friendships and come back.

by Becky Kloss
Social Committee Co-chair



Pictured above: Wayne Barnett and Becki Kloss, YP Social Co-Chairpersons

Next in the Professional Development Series

In January, Dominique Lemoine of commercial law firm Sokolow, Carreras, & Associates will be talking to us about the very recent riots in Paris, the subcultures involved and the social fabric of France and its immigrants. Lemoine has over 20 years living in the states, and is a practicing attorney in both Georgia and Paris. He will be feilding French cultural questions in addition to legal questions.

It's no secret that YPs love to socialize. When we do get together, though, there's always an international flare, whether we're trading travel tales or recommending restaurants.

Loca Luna in Midtown, the scene of November's well-

attended social, was a perfect location to complement this quarter's Latin American focus. It also served as a bridge between October's dynamic Argentina briefing and November's informative Brazil briefing.

For all who attended the social, we had a great time in an intimate setting, which was perfect for young professionals to meet, greet, socialize and savor Latin food and drink. We look forward to seeing you at our next social!

Dine & Discover at Tierra – Flavor of the Americas

by Chad Boles

YP Member

Frequent and Voracious
Diner

On October 19, many of us visited Tierra (www.tierrarestaurant.com), located on Piedmont Avenue between Caribou Coffee and the Botanical Gardens. The location is perfect for dinner after a day in Midtown or just for a change of pace. Tierra offers a variety of seafood, beef, veal and chicken prepared in Caribbean sauces, ranging from Latin

to Jamaican. My personal favorite was the *pionono*, a plantain filled with beef picadillos, followed by grilled salmon with black beans. Finishing with one of the desserts is essential for the full Tierra experience. Inside the restaurant, surrounded by subdued yellows, reds and browns, you feel as if you're in a cozy side-street café filled with "Latin local" artwork. Contemporary lighting from above is the only indication that you're actually in Midtown. If weather permits, try dining on the

enclosed back patio where wooden floors, unfinished walls and wrought iron provides a little more space for a large party. Otherwise, sit tight inside with your favorite dinner companion.

Professional Development Series

by Curt Coulombe
YP Member and Past
Chairperson

In November, we were fortunate enough to have Josette R. Gauthier, president and CEO of Azion, speak to us. The company she founded, Azio, is one that specializes in helping executives and multinationals understand the cultural ramifications of acquisitions, expansion and integration. Gauthier is

originally from Canada, is based here in Atlanta and is considered to be an expert in her field on both sides of the Atlantic. Additionally, she spent many years with one of the largest international banks in Canada. Gauthier delivered an eloquent and powerful message about educating yourself for an international career to nearly 20 attendees.

by Susan Bernstein
YP Community Outreach
Committee



For most of us, the holiday season is a joyous but hectic time. We juggle work parties, shopping for gifts, planning for travel and wrapping up year-end projects and budgets.

For some of our neighbors in Atlanta, however, the holidays are not a time of warm memories, but a chilly reminder that times are very tough. Some Atlanta families have nothing left over after paying for rent and food, so their children cannot experience the joy of new toys and books for the holidays. Luckily, the Empty Stocking Fund of Atlanta coordinates corporate and private donations of new toys, books and socks for children in the Atlanta area. Families are able to apply for participation in the ESF's holiday program and can come each December to

the ESF Santa Village center at City Hall East to shop for gifts free of charge.

On Tuesday, December 6, nine YPs volunteered at the village to help ESF distribute these charitable items to our neighbors in need. YP members, including Manda Hunt and Frances Fondren, worked in the center's "retail store" helping families choose their gifts, such as new skateboards, basketballs, footballs, makeup sets, books, socks, Barbies, toy cars, dolls and educational toys. After families placed their orders, YPs including David White, Susan Bernstein, Hasan Ali, Hector Rainey, Audrey Lustgarten and SP Kalita (who also snapped pictures of all of us) raced around the warehouse with Home Depot carts to compile the orders, and then handed the filled

bags to the families at the center. Seeing how thrilled the kids were to get their new toys and books was certainly fulfilling for all the YP volunteers. For more information on ESF, visit the organization's Web site (www.emptystockingfund.org).

Volunteering at the ESF center was a wonderful experience for all the volunteers, and our team effort was a great way to illustrate our commitment to community service. Watch for another fun, fulfilling community service project this spring!

Brazilian Film Night: *City of God*

by Maja Husar
International Film Coordinator

The International Film Night accompanied the rest of Latin America YP events this quarter by featuring the Brazilian film *City of God* (*Cidade de Deus* 2002, 2004 Academy Awards nominee) directed by Fernando Meirelles. John Noel, YP member, generously agreed to host the event at his house on Sunday, November 20. Nine YP members and John's dog attended the showing. After about an hour of drinks, appetizers and conversations the movie started and kept everybody very tense for almost two hours. *City of God* is a movie based on true story, is undeniably bloody and, with some very violent scenes, depicts life in the slums of Rio de Janeiro (including *Cidade de Deus*). It carries the spectator at a dizzying pace through the 20 years it covers, never giving him time to get bored. The unbelievable yet true story of Brazilian teenagers' gangs left some of us speechless for a while.

by Gregg Ernst
Dine & Discover Event
Leader

Café Lily is a neighborhood bistro offering an eclectic variety of Mediterranean cuisine. The main room in this cozy, low-lit Mediterranean bistro includes a bar to one side, a kitchen you can peek into and tables sufficiently spaced from one another to lend a sense of privacy. Flickering candlelight softens the bare floors and dropped, paneled ceiling. Service is sincere and attentive.

Café Lily creatively combines the diverse cuisine

of the Mediterranean on a menu that emphasizes rustic flavors. Rum-cured salmon served with caviar, egg, capers and crostini is an inventive starter, as is warm, chargrilled bread dipped in seasoned olive oil. Pinchitos, a Spanish-influenced dish featuring delicious lamb tenderloin spiked with jalapeno peppers and spices, is served with buttery white sweet potatoes and green beans. Also excellent is Omithenia souvlakia, a moist chicken breast marinated in wine vinegar and Greek herbs

and paired with pan-roasted potatoes. Satisfying lemon sponge custard, served warm, rounds out the meal. For you wine lovers, Café Lily was given the 2005 "Award of Excellence" for having one of the most outstanding restaurant wine list in the world.

Come join us on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m.! For more information on Café Lily, visit www.cafelily.com.

January Briefing: An Evening with Paolo

by Lynn Wong

Marketing Chairperson/Italy Briefing Event Leader

What better way to start the New Year on an energetic note, than to spend the evening with one of Atlanta's favorite Italian personalities, Paolo of Paolo's Gelato Italiano in the Highlands! For the uninitiated, Paolo Dalla Zorza has been likened to "a cross between Roberto Benigni and Marty Feldman". Come prepared to be engaged and entertained as he shares his personal and professional experiences—from navigating immigration bureaucracies to establishing successful businesses in the US.

In addition, honoring Italy's fine motoring tradition and weather permitting, we will have a selection of Italian cars on display in front of the Southern Center! Oh, and did we mention delicious sampling of Italian hor'deurves?

See you Wednesday, January 25th at 6.30pm! For more information on Paolo's Gelato Italiano, visit www.paolosgelato.com



About the Young Professionals

The Young Professionals (YPs) is a membership division of the Southern Center for International Studies (SCIS). The organization provides opportunities for young professionals to learn about international affairs, practice leadership skills, socialize and network with internationally minded peers.

We are comprised of individuals in our 20s, 30s and early 40s from diverse trades, including business, media, non-profit, education, government and law. Our members represent emerging leaders throughout metro Atlanta.

The mission of the Young Professionals program is to internationalize the thinking of young professionals,

balancing a responsibility to be an educational resource, an avenue for career development and a social outlet for globally minded young professionals.

Membership is open to interested young professionals at a cost of \$50 per year.

Upcoming Events

Social

Date: Wed. January 4, 2006

Location: Fratelli di Napoli

Time: 6:00 pm

General Meeting

Date: Wed. January 11, 2006

Location: SCIS

Time: 6:30 pm

Dine & Discover

Date: Thurs. January 19, 2006

Location: Café Lily

Time: 6:30 pm

Professional Development Workshop

Date: Sat. January 21, 2006

Location: TBA

Time: 9-11 am

Briefing: Italy

Date: Wed. Jan. 25, 2006

Location: SCIS

Time: 6:30 pm

Pictures from Recent Events:



November Social at "Loca Luna"



December Social at "Au Pied de Cochon"



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For more information or to register for an event, visit our Web site at www.southerncenter.org/yp_calendar.html