

a note from gordon



AS THE UNITED STATES prepares for another presidential election this year, I think it's instructive to watch closely as the pursuit of freedom continues in Iraq.

Iraqis are receiving their first taste of a more open society for the first time since Saddam Hussein started his now extinguished reign of terror nearly four decades ago. While certain areas still remain treacherous, many Iraqi institutions are functioning and bringing renewed optimism to citizens. Schools are being rebuilt by the international coalition, and Iraqi educators are throwing away heavily propagandized textbooks and writing new ones. Elected neighborhood councils are giving people an introduction to democratic governing. Infrastructure such as electrical grids, water systems and oil pipelines are becoming more reliable. The money of the former regime has been replaced with a far more secure, stable currency that is already helping to stimulate the country's economy.

While the debate over the process of convening a provisional national government continues, the end result is not in question by any of the involved parties – a freely elected, democratic government. It's almost a shame that people in this country take for granted freedoms, such as the right to vote freely for the candidate of their choosing, that most Iraqis have never experienced in their lifetime. Perhaps as the process evolves in Iraq, we as a nation will gain even greater admiration for our extraordinary Constitution and its governing principles.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who made 2003 one of our agency's most successful years ever. Thanks to our loyal clients and friends from, quite literally, around the world, Gordon C. James Public Relations continues to grow. And special thanks to the executive committee members, who help provide a "big picture" perspective on our future, and our talented and committed staff, who make all of the success possible – and for me, personally gratifying.

God Bless You and God Bless America,
Gordon James

Mississippi Inauguration

IN DECEMBER, MEMBERS OF the GCJPR team headed to Jackson, Mississippi to help coordinate the Inauguration of Governor-elect Haley Reeves Barbour on Jan.13. Our team was successful in helping produce a week's worth of events. Included in our responsibilities were the management and staffing of the invitations, ticketing, will-call and credentialing operation. In the end, the events were declared a hit, entertaining more than 10,000 attendees and honoring Gov. Barbour as he began his first term.

With six days of Inaugural events, it seemed fit for Gov. Barbour to begin in Yazoo City, his hometown, with the first of five regionally located Pre-Inaugural celebrations. Monday's events included a legislator's luncheon, a reception for local elected officials and a press party cleverly titled "Haley's Comment." The day concluded with a Musical Gala held at the Mississippi Coliseum featuring the Gatlin Brothers and headliner Kenny Rogers. Culminating six days of events on Tuesday were the Swearing-In Ceremony, the Inaugural Parade and the Inaugural Ball. Attendees got the chance to kick up their heels with such acts as Percy Sledge, Brad Paisley and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

Congratulations to Lisa James

WE HERE AT GCJPR would like to recognize and congratulate Lisa James for her appointment as the Executive Director for the Bush/Cheney 2004 campaign in Arizona. Lisa was a big part of the Arizona victory in 2000 and we're sure she will be successful once again in her new role.

client corner

RESOLUTION COPPER COMPANY is deep in planning for its Feb. 28 open house in Superior, Arizona. Gordon C. James Public Relations is helping Resolution plan the event, which includes helping inform Superior residents about the company's interest in creating a new breed of mine that is more environmentally friendly and beneficial to the community, the mine of the future. We are also helping Resolution with a complete redesign of its Web site.

Resolution Copper Company is excited about the opportunity to build a long-term, active relationship with Superior and its neighboring communities. If the project moves forward, Resolution will offer high-quality jobs, support of local entrepreneurship, educational opportunities, community outreach and many other benefits.

UNESCO

GORDON C. JAMES PUBLIC RELATIONS helped the United States and the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization celebrate its renewed relationship with a showcase of American entertainment in France.

The U.S. rejoined the organization, which includes 186 member countries, after a 20-year hiatus. The GCJPR team traveled to Paris and crafted a memorable event at the Carrousel de Louvre. We selected the site and entertainment, designed the set, arranged the audio-visual equipment and handled tickets and credentials. The event featured emerging country star Miranda Lambert, The Aaron Thurston Trio jazz ensemble and opera singer Denyce Graves. Actor Rick Schroder was our master of ceremonies for the evening's festivities.

Though our team was a little rusty with it's French, we overcame the language barrier and produced a show that had the 1,100 delegates buzzing. Despite a busy work schedule, we found time to soak in the culture of the City of Lights and get our fill of freedom fries, escargot and Crème Brule.



After two weeks of planning, the GCJPR team had a chance to kick back at the UNESCO concert after party.

event calendar

February

February 28 Resolution Copper Open House, Superior, AZ

March

March 3 St. Vincent de Paul 30 Million Meals served celebration

March 24, 28 President H.W. Bush in Phx. AZ

April

April 12 White House Easter Egg Roll

April 24 Berridge Nursery Art in the Garden, Phoenix, AZ

May

May 22 2004 Wish Ball (Make-A-Wish Foundation)

Another Addition to the GCJPR Family

MICHAEL FULLERTON AND HIS WIFE Laura welcomed daughter Emma James Fullerton into their family and ours on Nov. 9 at 10:51 p.m. The beautiful bouncing baby girl weighed in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Michael informed us that Emma is looking forward to working on George P. Bush's Campaign in 2028 and is also very optimistic that the Red Sox will win a World Series in her lifetime. Congrats Michael and Laura!

GCJPR Welcomes Josh Hansen

GCJPR WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME Josh Hansen as our newest intern in the DC office. As part of our growing army of interns in the DC office, Josh will be assisting GCJPR full time. Josh is a senior at Iowa State University, where he is majoring in political science and will graduate with honors in May. He has volunteered for Iowa legislative campaigns in the past and he presently volunteers his time at the Republican Party of Iowa. Welcome to the team, Josh.