

THE CITIZEN DIPLOMAT

Summer 2018

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WHAT'S NEW AT CIVIC?

So far this year we have hosted 103 visitors from 38 different countries! Turn the page to read about upcoming events and other CIVIC news, such as the arrival of the Mandela Washington Fellows, new CIVIC interns, a CIVIC member profile, and more!



We have hosted over 100 visitors from the following countries between January and June:

Albania, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Ukraine, Armenia, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Laos, Nicaragua, Russia, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Argentina, Bolivia, Kuwait, Tanzania, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Honduras, South Sudan, China, Philippines, Kyrgyz Republic, Brazil, Kenya, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe

Thank you to the CIVIC Volunteers who helped with these programs:

Alan Bergeron, Alan Utria, Alex Barner, Amanda Potterfield, Amy Chastain, Ann Christenson, Bev Weismann, Bob Kirby, Catharine Cashner, Christy Weitz, Mick Weitz, Concepcion Piragine, Connie Butterfield, Dean Lovetinsky, Don Kirchner, Doug Hansel, Doug Weismann, Elena Osinskaya, Erin Kuester, Evalee Mickey, Gayle Bray, Harry Olmstead, Jackie Otting, Jane McMullen, Jayne Finch, Jeanne Cadoret, Jeanne Stoakes, Jen Blair, John Christenson, John Menninger, Joni Jones, Joseph Dobrian, Josh Meggitt, Alisa Meggitt, Ken Atkinson, Ken Royar, Lawrence McNaul, Leo Lim, Lilian Winters, Liz Bergeron, Marianne Weiss, Martha Kirby, Mohamad Hallak, Newman Abuissa, Nick Johnson, Pamela Marston, Peg Bouska, Ramon Lim, Ron McMullen, Rongchun Zhu, Shannon McNaul, Steve Merkel-Hess, Sujit Singh Suzanne Kirchner, Thomas Panther, Victor Marz, Victoria Lim, Wally Plahutnik, Willis Harte, Zinnia Lim, and the CIVIC Staff

Visit Profile:

NGO Management & Engaging Civil Society February 18th - 22nd

In February, nine NGO leaders from the Middle East and North Africa visited eastern Iowa to examine innovative management strategies for NGOs, non-profits, and advocacy organizations in the U.S. Their meetings in Iowa included:

- The Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center (INRC)
- The Iowa Policy Project (seen below)
- The Iowa Women's Foundation
- The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- University of Iowa Center for Human Rights
- Panel Discussion with Johnson County League of Women Voters; WRACtivists; 100 Grannies for a Livable Future
- Johnson County 4-H
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
- I-Renew



"This is my first visit to the United States. What I knew is totally different from what I saw. The US is a multi-ethnic community where everybody has the chance to enjoy a quality of life...This is a free country in words and deeds for all walks of life, faith, creed, and color. Thank you for this opportunity." - Haroun Lucman Jr, Philippines

Member Profile:



Amy Chastain

Amy Chastain, an English as a Second Language Programs faculty member at the University of Iowa, and her husband, Mohamad Hallak, a chef, have relocated to Iowa from Abu Dhabi, UAE. Amy has also lived and taught in France and China, which she considers her second home. In addition to English language courses, she serves as a Program Supervisor and enjoys working with graduate teaching assistants in Linguistics. Ms. Chastain has also been appointed to the UI Charter Council on Diversity (2017-2020) and serves as a founding board member of the Dragonfly Foundation for Research and Development. In CIVIC, Amy feels like she has found her niche in Iowa City and is currently serving as Membership Chair.

Why did you join CIVIC?

I stumbled upon CIVIC when planning for a three-week intensive course for visiting Japanese students from the University of Yamanashi. In an old calendar from a previous year's visit, I saw an activity with the acronym 'CIVIC' next to it and asked if I should plan something similar. When it was explained to me that that was some other organization that hosted the event, my curiosity was piqued. Well, as soon as I read the website, I immediately emailed the organization and after a prompt, detailed response from Jo, I knew I must be involved!

What do you enjoy about engaging with CIVIC?

It makes me feel more connected with the global community that I had to give up to a certain extent to move back 'home' to the US. It makes me feel more like myself!

What visit has been your favorite and why?

To date, definitely the Chinese delegation as my husband and I hosted them for dinner and sharing a meal and talking with them made me feel at home, reminiscent of my time living in China.

Big Events:

CELEBRATION OF CITIZEN DIPLOMACY DINNER

April 18th, 2018

On April 18th, CIVIC and community members gathered at the hotelVetro to celebrate citizen diplomacy. Guests were served a three-course meal, CIVIC interns sold raffle tickets for various prizes such as free rooms at area hotels and a voucher to the Cedar Rapids Airport, and three local resources were presented with CIVIC's annual Citizen Diplomat Awards. To close out the evening, our keynote speaker, Dr. Simon Estes, gave a heartfelt speech on compassion and tolerance, including personal anecdotes from his childhood and world travels.

2018 Award Recipients

Business/Industry:

Abbe Hills Farm

Non-Profit/Government Organization:

Iowa City Police Department

Individual:

Dr. David Ryfe

Emcee:

Charity Nebbe

Keynote Address:

Dr. Simon Estes



Mandela Washington Fellowship 2018



2017 Mandela Washington Fellows

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, begun in 2014, is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. In 2018, the Fellowship is providing 700 outstanding young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa with the opportunity to hone their skills at a U.S. college or university with support for professional development after they return home. The Fellows, who are between the ages of 25 and 35, have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and

positive impact in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries.

For the third year in a row, the University of Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) and CIVIC are co-hosting 25 Mandela Washington Fellows for six weeks in June and July! This year we are hosting young entrepreneurs, 12 women and 13 men, from 20 different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. To learn more about this year's Fellows, visit <https://www.iowajpec.org/yaliatuowa>.

Keep an eye out for the invitation to the Graduation Dinner on July 26th!

Anatomy of a CIVIC Visit

Part I: The Background

Ever wonder how International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participants come to be in eastern Iowa? What goes into planning and executing IV programs? How has it changed over the years? The next four issues of the CIVIC newsletter will explain the process from start to finish!

The IVLP program is administered by the State Department's Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau. The ECA works to improve relations with other nations, in part, through international exchange programs. The IVLP is the State Department's premier short-term exchange program. Policy-planners identify regions and professional projects that promise to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas - projects that will benefit international participants as well as their American counterparts.

IVLP administrators then send a call out to U.S. Embassies and consulates abroad requesting that they nominate local participants who are current or emerging leaders for each designated project.

In the next issue, learn about CIVIC's connections to Global Ties US and how we identify potential visits.

"100% positive. Iowa City is a model city for the USA as a city that respects human rights of migrants and refugees." - Luis Alonso Serrano, Costa Rica



Chinese Food Safety Delegation touring the UI Center for Biocatalysts and Bioprocessing

Meet Our New Interns!



TY LASSEN PROGRAMMING INTERN

Senior, Political Science and Music

Ty Lassen is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Iowa. He is from Sioux Center, Iowa, and he is studying political science and music. In his free time, Ty enjoys being outside, playing and writing music, and eating large quantities of food. Ty plans to attend law school as he has aspirations of becoming an immigration lawyer in the future.



CHANNON GREER PROGRAMMING INTERN

Senior, Political Science, International Development

Channon Greer is a fourth year undergraduate at the University of Iowa. He is from North Liberty, Iowa, and is studying political science and international development. Channon likes the outdoors, people, traveling, and new experiences. After graduation he plans to join the Peace Corps in Tanzania working on sustainable agricultural practices.



SHAOXUAN LI MEMBERSHIP INTERN

Senior, Health and Human Physiology and Event Planning

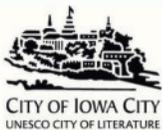
Shaoxuan Li is a fourth year undergraduate at the University of Iowa studying health and human physiology, and event planning. She is from Baotou, China, and came to the U.S. when she was 15. She enjoys reading, tennis, traveling, and making new friends. She hopes to have an international career after graduation.

CIVIC Endowment Fund

Matching endowment gift – your CIVIC gift can have twice the impact

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous CIVIC donor, gifts to the CIVIC Endowment Fund will be matched up to \$1,000 total. CIVIC's Endowment Fund was created in 2016, during our 30th anniversary year, to set aside funds to sustain the organization in an uncertain future. Donating to the Endowment Fund is a statement of belief in the long-term benefits of citizen diplomacy. The Community Foundation of Johnson County houses the Endowment Fund, and donations may be eligible for the Endow Iowa State Tax Credit.

OUR PROUD PARTNERS



Get Social with CIVIC!

This past fall, CIVIC introduced new, casual opportunities to meet with our international delegations. Rather than a full meet-and-greet meal, these events allow you to stop by as you are able, with no obligation to cook! Events will be announced to members via email as they are planned. Please join us for coffee, lunch, or a beverage:

Sip & Socialize – join the delegation for a beverage at a local restaurant or bar

Coffee & Conversation - get to know the delegates over a cup of coffee or a pastry at a local coffee shop

Dine & Discover - meet delegates for lunch or dinner at a local eatery

"My experience in Iowa City was fantastic! Your biggest treasure is your people. I was amazed at how polite and friendly people were to us. Thank you!"
- Joilse Scalassara, Brazil