



# CIVIC

Council for International Visitors  
Iowa Cities

# THE CITIZEN DIPLOMAT

## CIVIC's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2015

### Visitor Recap:

Since the beginning of the fiscal year (Oct 2015), CIVIC has successfully hosted six programs and received 28 visitors from 22 countries and regions, including: United Kingdom, European Union, Palestinian Territories, Kosovo, Australia, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Argentina, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Finland, Iraq, Israel and Russia.

### Programs Hosted:

ASEAN Youth and Volunteerism  
Journalism Education in America  
Integrating Minority Communities  
Education in the Digital Age  
Mr. Magnus Norman, EU Policy Advisor  
Ms. Amy Homes, British Policy Advisor

### What's New at CIVIC?:

CIVIC is always looking for ways to grow our team of citizen diplomats and to find new ways to engage and connect our members with the international visitors we host.

Thank you to the following  
**CIVIC volunteers** for their help  
with these programs:

Newman Abuissa, Les Batterman,  
Peg Bouska, Jeanne Cadoret, Ann & John  
Christenson, Doug Hansel, Natalie Him-  
mel, Helen Jameson, Brandon Jennings,  
Devon Jensen, Nick Johnson, Joni Jones,  
Jenny Juehring, Martha & Bob Kirby,  
Jane & Ron McMullen, Alan Nagel, Steve  
Merkel-Hess, Kelly O'Brien, Harry  
Olmstead, Elena Osinskaya, James  
Ottavi, Hannah Philgreen, Concepcion  
Piragine, Gayle & Ken Royar, Jeanne  
Stoakes; and the CIVIC staff & interns



Ly Meng (Cambodia) enjoying her first snow experience

- CIVIC is looking for members to serve on its membership and communications committees as we prepare to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The Board has been brainstorming, planning & plotting about how to commemorate the year and to ensure that we're strong and secure for the next 30 years.
- Have you checked out the new CIVIC website, <http://iowacivic.org>? The website provides information about CIVIC's mission, upcoming programs, meetings and events; offers an introduction to the CIVIC staff & Board of Directors; and informs about ways to engage with CIVIC and connect with our visitors.
- We're smarter together. If you have ideas about programming, logistics, event planning, or anything citizen diplomacy related, we want to hear from you. Email CIVIC's Executive Director, Jo Butterfield, at [civic@uiowa.edu](mailto:civic@uiowa.edu).

### Visit Profile: ASEAN Youth & Volunteerism

- Roundtable discussion with local non-profit volunteer coordinators
- Iowa Youth Writing Project
- Meeting at the Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship
- Crisis Center volunteer experience
- Groundhog Day party at Jane & Ron McMullen's home
- Super Bowl pizza party with UI students
- Amana colonies cultural excursion



### Visitor Quote

"Wonderful place,  
wonderful people...and inspirational  
for my work in my country."

-Mimoza Gaurani  
Kosovo

Integrating Minority  
Communities and Refugees

## Member Profile: Newman Abuissa



*Newman Abuissa is an engineer with the Iowa DOT. Newman is currently the Chair of Operations and Programming Committee and previously served as Board President.*

*“CIVIC brings the world to Iowa City and the CIVIC volunteers share our best people and organizations with the future leaders of the world; we all learn as well as try to explain.”*

*-Newman Abuissa*

### Why did you join CIVIC?

“I joined CIVIC to be a part of a great team to organize and welcome leaders from around the world to Iowa City and eastern Iowa.”

### What do you enjoy about engaging with CIVIC?

“Working with local volunteers to facilitate visits and learn about local people and resources and sharing them to our visitors. The visitors always have fresh eyes to appreciate and sometimes criticize what we have.”

### What visit has been your favorite and why?

“My favorite visit was a project for the Palestinian Territories about media and transparency in America. I had the pleasure to be with a group of outstanding young leaders during what they described as the best part of their visit to the USA. I remember a federal judge in Cedar Rapids showing us the offices behind the Federal Court and explaining that he rarely takes visitors behind the court room to explain what he does.”

## Connect with CIVIC

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[www.iowacivic.org](http://www.iowacivic.org)

 [www.facebook.com/CIVIIowaCity](https://www.facebook.com/CIVIIowaCity)

 [@CIVIIowaCity](https://twitter.com/CIVIIowaCity)

## 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 inaugural issue of the new CIVIC newsletter kicks off with a multi-part series that 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 and well as their American counter-parts.

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.

The IVLP program is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. To commemorate, the ECA has produced a short video. We’ve posted it to the CIVIC website. Check it out at <http://iowacivic.org/>.

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

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