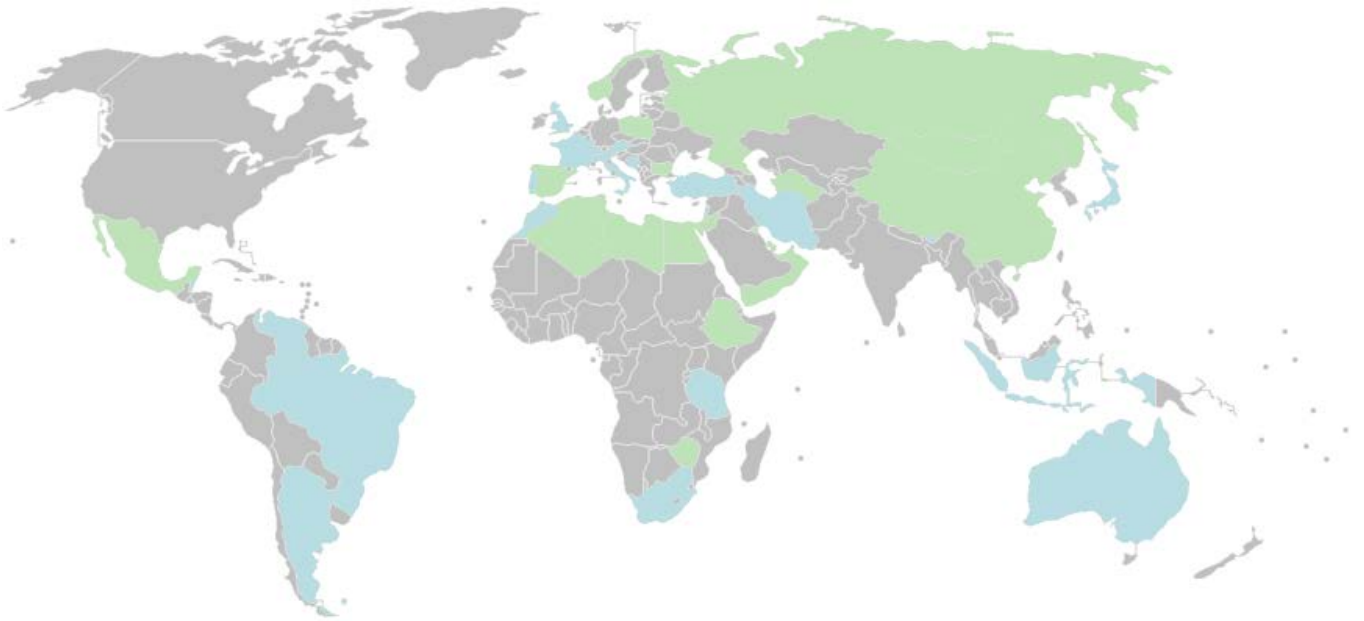




# CIVIC

Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

## Newsletter August 2013





# CIVIC

## Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

# Amazing Alumni

Each year, alumni of U.S. State Department exchange programs (IVLP) receive prestigious honors and attain positions of prominence all around the world. In recognition of these accomplishments, the list below highlights some of the top alumni achievers of 2012. Eight alumni became heads of state:

- President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina (IVLP 1991)
- President of Finland Sauli Niinistö (IVLP 1992)
- President of Germany Joachim Gauck (IVLP 1993)
- Prime Minister of Jamaica Portia Simpson-Miller (IVLP 1981)
- President of Malawi Joyce Banda (IVLP 1989)
- President of Moldova Nicolae Timofti (IVLP 2005)
- Prime Minister of Slovakia Robert Fico (IVLP 2002)
- President of Slovenia Borut Pahor (IVLP 1991)

In addition to these eight heads of state, more than 100 alumni assumed offices in cabinets or senior government positions worldwide. More than 20 alumni received honors including:

- Chinese International Writing Program Alumnus Mo Yan who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature
- Tajikistan Sports United Alumna Mavzuna Chorieva who received a bronze medal at London 2012 Olympic Games
- United Kingdom Fulbright Alumnus John B. Gurdon who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Congratulations to these alumni on their outstanding achievements. For more information on other IVLP alumni, please go to: <https://alumni.state.gov/highlight/prominent-exchange-alumni-2012>

\*All photos property of owners



Dominican Republican President Danilo Medina



German President Joachim Gauck



Chinese Author Mo Yan

## Upcoming CIVIC Visits

August 14-17: **Axel Gylden** - Foreign Policy and Defense

September 2-5: **South Africa** - Intersection Between Government and Press

September 12-16: **Belize** - University Exchanges and International Programs

September 14-18: **Japan** - Foreign Affairs and Defense in Asia

September 21-25: **Multi-country** - Agriculture and Food Safety

September 22-25: **Linda Bilaidi, France** - Business and Economic Development

CIVIC always needs volunteers for our visits. If you're interested in driving, feeding, hosting, or just meeting our guests, get in touch with us! Citizens are the most important part of citizen diplomacy.

See the following pages for volunteer opportunities!

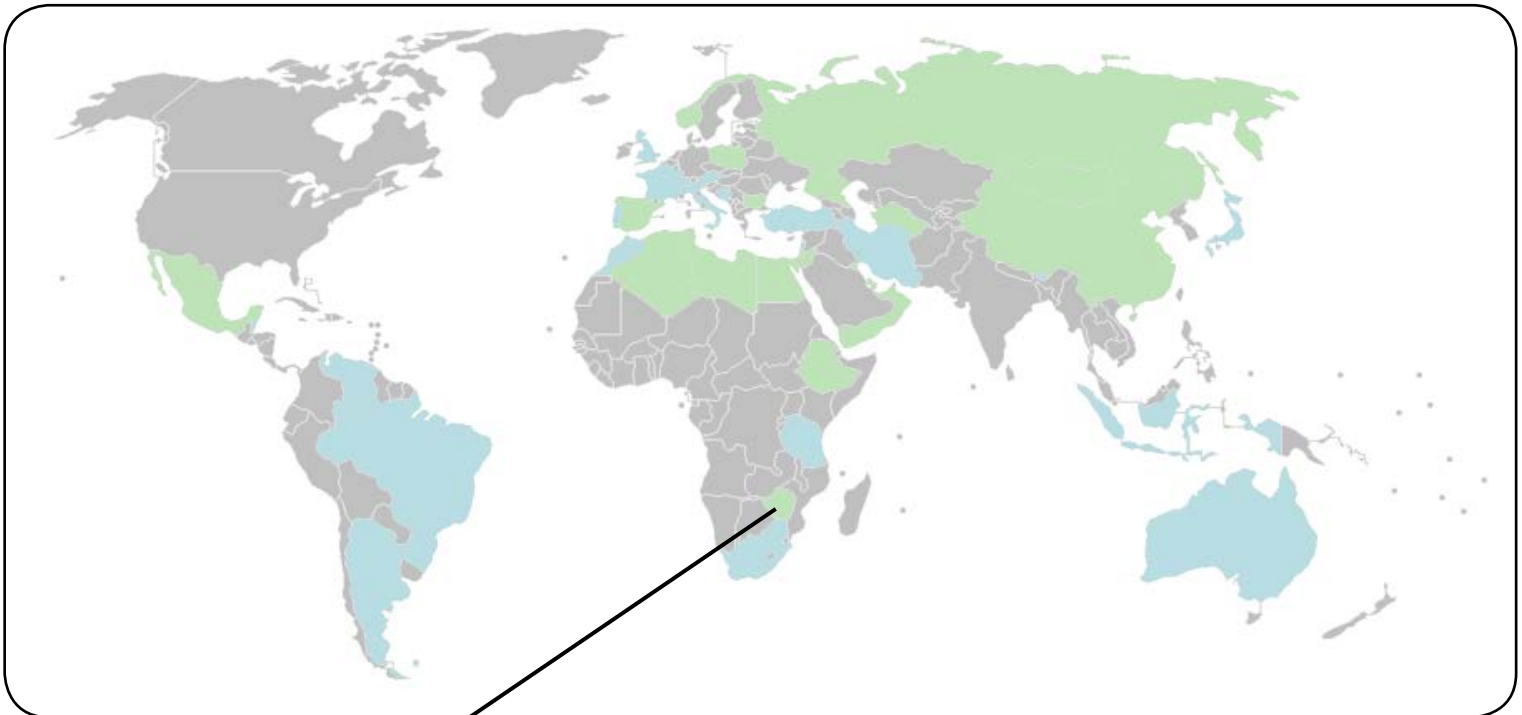
CIVIC (319)-335-0351  
1120 UCC civic@uiowa.edu



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## 2013 Map (by visitor country)



Upcoming Visits

Completed Visits

### Zimbabwe Calling

#### Battle lines drawn ahead of Wednesday polls

July 31st, 2013

by Tichaona Sibanda, the Zimbabwean Newspaper

The stage is set for a battle as Zimbabwe gears up for Wednesday's historic elections between ZANU PF's long time ruler Robert Mugabe and his rival Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the MDC-T.

The harmonized elections will be the first to be held under the new constitutional dispensation that limits the President's time in office to two terms of five years.

On Tuesday, Mugabe told a live televised press conference that he will accept defeat and stand down if he loses the election.

'If you lose you must surrender to those who would have won. We will do so to comply with the rules. If you go into the process where there are only two outcomes, you either win or lose,' he said.

It remains to be seen if he will abide by this statement.

"I am hopeful that this election is going to change my life and those of any ordinary Zimbabwean. Our country used to be the breadbasket of Africa but this is no longer the situation. I believe we need a change of this government to pave way for a new ruler and a new generation of leadership. We need democracy in Africa and one man cannot rule for 33 years! I have strong feelings that Morgan Tsvangirai is going to win. His victory means a lot in my life."

**-Rachel Chibaya**

**IVLP visitor  
to Iowa City**





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## *Volunteer Opportunities*

CIVIC is always in need of volunteers! Check out some of the volunteer opportunities in the upcoming months.

### **August 10 , 11 AM - 4 PM**

Each year, CIVIC helps the new Foreign Language Teaching Assistants move into their new Iowa digs (we also help them move out!). This year we have rented a U-Haul and need abled-bodied folks to help us move furniture from our storage to their new places. Also a great opportunity to practice your Arabic or Korean! If you are interested in helping, please call Margee Miller at: 319-321-0475 or email her at: marguerite-miller@uiowa.edu.

### **Home Hospitality Opportunities**

CIVIC is seeking home meal-hospitality for the following groups of visitors:

- Belizean (September 15)
- Multi-country Ag (We need 3 homes for this on September 22)
- Japanese (September 16)
- Ms. Bilaidi (September 24)

If you are interested in hosting, please contact CIVIC@uiowa.edu.

Be sure to identify which group you are interested in hosting.

### **Drivers Needed**

Stay tuned for more emails for September driving opportunities. However, if you are interested in driving any of the September visits before the schedule comes out, please let us know.

### **Volunteer Training**

CIVIC will be hosting a training session for volunteers - old and new - to share what is going on, and to offer all volunteers the opportunity to experience a workshop, led by Helen Jameson of Culture Friendly Consulting, on cross cultural communications and tips for success. She will also facilitate a discussion on the differences between direct and indirect cultural communication styles. CIVIC is very excited to be able to offer this as part of a long-term partnership we have established with Culture Friendly Consulting. Following Helen's training, CIVIC will do a brief training on volunteering for CIVIC and provide you with new tools to make your volunteering experience more successful and enjoyable.

**When: August 27, 1-5 pm, Room 2780 (upstairs) University Capitol Center**

**Please RSVP to [civic@uiowa.edu](mailto:civic@uiowa.edu) or by calling 319-335-0351**

### **A Quick Message from CIVIC's Interns**

The interns here at CIVIC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who's helped out this summer; It's been a blast! We've programmed, driven, filed, queried, called, and planned. We've met people from all over the world. We've all learned a lot - about other countries, Iowa, and ourselves. It's been a rewarding experience for all of us, and we hope that your experiences with CIVIC have been equally rewarding.

All of our interns from the summer will be staying for the fall semester. It's going to be a very busy semester here at CIVIC, so we hope you will join us in welcoming many more visitors from around the world!

Keelie, Brandon, Christian, Liz, and Dan



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## A CIVIC Update

Thanks to a grant provided by NCIV, Executive Director Robyn Braverman and Board Member Martha Greer attended Network D.C., a program sponsored by NCIV that brings local organizations such as CIVIC to Washington D.C. to meet with representatives of the US Department of State, the affiliated programming agencies, and representatives from other local organizations. In meetings over a three-day period in early July, Martha and Robyn presented a resource presentation highlighting five key areas in which eastern Iowa is uniquely positioned to provide international visitors a quality experience: Education; Health Care; Agriculture; Arts, Culture and the Humanities; and Government. Learning more about the priorities of both the programming agencies and the US Department of State was invaluable to CIVIC, and judging by the number of visits scheduled immediately following the trip, the trip was a great success for CIVIC.

"Travel is rich with learning opportunities, and the ultimate souvenir is a broader perspective."

-Rick Steves

For those of us lucky enough to have engaged with our visitors in the last year, I think we can all agree that we have provided them with the ultimate souvenir: a broader perspective of the United States and more importantly, a clear idea of the heartland and of our great state of Iowa. Thanks to all of you, our visitors from across the globe have driven in ambulances, met congressional staff, learned about biofuels, eaten at NewBo Market, met with Rotarians, traveled to Muscatine to meet with the Stanley Foundation (and experienced a tornado) and that's not all. They sat in classrooms where young adults with physical and mental challenges asked them questions about their countries and their lives. They walked through cornfields and touched soybeans. They became a Virtual Soldier. Whether from Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Mexico, or Spain, they all left with new friendships, and new appreciation for eastern Iowa. All of them said at one point or another they would like to come back. Some are actively looking into graduate studies at the University of Iowa.

On behalf of CIVIC, I want to thank you for being part of their collective "souvenir", of extending your homes, cars, and wisdom to help make their visits so spectacular.

This year, we have set new goals for our organization. We want to reach more visitors, learn about more countries, and share more of eastern Iowa with the world. In order to do this, we are embarking on a robust fundraising drive and membership campaign, and we hope to bring our brand of citizen diplomacy to more parts of eastern Iowa. We hope you become a part of our visitors' ultimate souvenir!

Robyn Braverman  
Executive Director  
CIVIC



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# A Message from Patrick Bourgeacq, CIVIC President

Dear CIVIC Members,

We have been very busy since our last newsletter, having received distinguished visitors from Mongolia, Algeria, Turkmenistan, Zimbabwe, and a multi-country visit which included representatives from Yemen, Qatar, Palestine, Tunisia, Algeria, and Jordan!

One additional visit we had that I'd like to highlight briefly for you was a multi-country group of highly distinguished government officials who came to learn about US Foreign Policy. During that visit, CIVIC volunteers were able to meet and engage with (1) a Foreign and Security Affairs Adviser to the President of Spain, (2) the Head of the Strategic Policies, Analysis, and Prognosis Unit in the office of the President of Bulgaria, (3) the Deputy Director of the Americas Department in Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (4) the Assistant to the Under-Secretary of High School Education in Mexico, (5) a rising young female Political Officer of the African Union Commission; and (6) a Senior China Reporter for the South China Morning Post. As you can imagine, this was a very exciting visit for us, and every single one of the delegates was very happy to chat with CIVIC members and volunteers on a personal level. One of the things we promised you this year was more opportunities to dialogue with future leaders of the world, and I think we're off to a great start.

If you were unable to meet with this or any of the other delegations that visited us, rest assured that there are more opportunities right around the corner to get involved. I hope you will take advantage!

Sincerely,

Patrick Bourgeacq  
President of the Board  
CIVIC

**Support CIVIC!**  
Become a member today!

**New Member Information**

**Membership**

**Donations**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Student - \$10

Sustaining Member - \$50-199

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Individual - \$35

Patron - \$200-499

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Household - \$55

Diplomat - \$500+