

GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

CONNECTING GEORGIANS TO THE WORLD SINCE 1962

about the georgia council for international visitors

GCIV promotes international understanding through citizen diplomacy. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to "Connecting Georgians to the World" since 1962. GCIV works with the U.S. Department of State to develop a broad spectrum of professional and cultural exchange programs for emerging global leaders. Our non-partisan citizen diplomacy programs provide Georgians with unique opportunities to share best practices, insights, and friendship with distinguished visitors to the United States.

GCIV administers the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the state of Georgia. Launched in 1940, the IVLP seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully-designed professional visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank the IVLP as most effective in a long list of public diplomacy tools at their disposal. GCIV is one of ninety community-based organizations around the country that implement this impressive program on behalf of the U.S. government. In 2001 our national network was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to foster international understanding.



Since the program's inception, over 250 participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program have gone on to serve as heads of government and chiefs of state, including:

Hamid Karzai, *Afghanistan*

Gordon Brown, *United Kingdom*

Anwar Sadat, *Egypt*

Nicolas Sarkozy, *France*

Mikheil Saakashvili, *Georgia*

Indira Gandhi, *India*

Adnan Badran, *Jordan*

Mwaia Kibaki, *Kenya*

Felipe Calderon, *Mexico*

Kim Dae-Jung, *South Korea*

Frederik de Klerk, *South Africa*

Oscar Arias, *Costa Rica*

2008 international visitor programs

In our fiscal year 2008, GCIV welcomed 444 overseas visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program and various fee-for-service programs. These visitors came to Georgia on 89 different programs, ranging from individuals to groups of twenty or more. Participants represented 103 different countries.

The delegations hosted by GCIV were quite a varied group, including public health officials, lawyers, civil servants, NGO representatives, religious leaders, business owners, educators, journalists, elected officials, community activists, entrepreneurs, and financial experts.

In addition to coordinating programs for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, GCIV has attracted a wide variety of fee-for-service (FFS) programs. While very similar in substance to the IVLP, these programs are funded separately. In the past year, GCIV has completed programs for Meridian International Center, the Academy for Educational Development, the Braves Garçons d'Afrique, and the CNN International Journalism Fellowship Program.

FY 2008 IVLP Totals

quarter	# of programs	# of visitors
1	17	98
2	18	94
3	23	104
4	24	88
totals	82	384

FY 2008 FFS Totals

quarter	# of programs	# of visitors
1	1	13
2	2	18
3	0	0
4	4	29
totals	7	60

gciv international exchange participants

GCIV welcomed delegations from 103 countries to the state of Georgia in our fiscal year 2008. Here are the countries represented and the number of visitors from each country.

Afghanistan	1	Haiti	1	Pakistan	10
Algeria	6	Hong Kong	2	Panama	5
Argentina	3	Hungary	4	Philippines	1
Armenia	12	India	18	Poland	11
Australia	3	Indonesia	5	Portugal	2
Azerbaijan	7	Iran	20	Qatar	1
Bangladesh	9	Iraq	13	Romania	1
Belgium	1	Israel	2	Russia	27
Benin	6	Italy	3	Saudi Arabia	10
Botswana	1	Jamaica	1	Senegal	2
Brazil	15	Japan	4	Serbia	5
Bulgaria	2	Jordan	1	Slovakia	1
Burkina Faso	1	Kazakhstan	8	Slovenia	2
Cambodia	1	Kenya	3	Solomon Islands	1
Cameroon	1	Korea	1	South Africa	10
Canada	9	Kuwait	2	Sri Lanka	2
Chad	1	Lebanon	2	Sudan	1
China	7	Lesotho	1	Sweden	2
Congo	1	Libya	1	Tajikistan	1
Costa Rica	1	Madagascar	1	Taiwan	4
Cote d'Ivoire	3	Malawi	1	Thailand	3
Croatia	1	Malaysia	1	The Vatican	1
Czech Republic	7	Mali	2	Togo	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	2	Mauritania	1	Tunisia	1
Egypt	4	Mexico	1	Turkey	4
Estonia	1	Moldova	5	United Arab Emirates	1
Ethiopia	1	Montenegro	2	Uganda	10
Finland	1	Morocco	6	United Kingdom	5
France	6	Mozambique	2	Uzbekistan	17
Gaza	1	Nepal	3	Venezuela	1
Georgia	15	Netherlands	1	West Bank	9
Ghana	1	New Zealand	2	Yemen	2
Greece	1	Niger	3	Zambia	1
Guatemala	8	Nigeria	20		
Guinea	2	Oman	4		

delegation spotlight

In 2008 GCIV coordinated a professional exchange program for David Kitzinger, managing director of the John von Neumann Digital Library in Budapest, Hungary. Kitzinger is formerly with the Hungarian Ministry of Informatics and Communications and a widely acknowledged communications expert. The purpose of his visit to the U.S., through the International Visitor Leadership Program, was to learn more about efforts to digitalize U.S. libraries, digital preservation of culture and arts, and intellectual property rights protection.

Mr. Kitzinger met with representatives of Clayton State University, the Georgia Archives, Georgia Tech Research Corporation, Emory University Library, the Emory University Office of Technology Transfer, and Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll. He also had the opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and attend an Atlanta Thrashers hockey game.

At Clayton State, Mr. Kitzinger met with IT and university library staff. "These kinds of international information exchanges, and the long-term professional contacts that accompany, contribute invaluable to the university's efforts to assure globalized faculty development and cutting

edge educational opportunities for Clayton State students," commented John Parkerson, director of the Office of International Programs. "We can expect Clayton State University to partner with Hungarian universities for faculty, student and research exchanges in the very near future," he said. GCIV was privileged to coordinate this exchange, and looks forward to seeing the results of this dialogue soon.



hosting

In 2008 over 400 professional resources and 60 community hosts served as citizen diplomats on behalf of the Georgia Council for International Visitors. The professional meetings resulted in the sharing of best practices between emerging leaders from around the world and their counterparts in the state of Georgia. This valuable experience often leads to collaboration with colleagues abroad. Home hospitality gives international exchange participants the opportunity to share a meal in an American home, meet everyday citizens, and learn about the culture of the United States. Time and time again, international delegates rate dinner hospitality as the experience that most clearly showed them the true America.

All GCIV professional and dinner hosts are volunteers. We cannot list all 400 professional resources, but would like to thank them and the many members who hosted one or more international visitors by sharing a meal and opening their homes in 2008:

Joe Beasley	Nina & Giorgio Medici
Ted Britton	Andy Hellman & Lisa Miller
Lorraine Canetti	Bill & Mary Moon
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Joel Kollin	Anna Watkins
Bethany & Ron Lane	Tobin & Mary Watt
Robert & Pam Lattimore	Steve & Sara Yurman



international women associates

The International Women Associates (IWA) meets in members' homes for friendship and cultural enrichment. Formed in 1978, IWA brings together women from all countries to build friendships and help international newcomers become oriented to life in Atlanta through a network of support and activities. The 2007-08 series was once again

a success, featuring programs on the realities of human trafficking, the coverage of world news, the role of women in "Top Secret Ultra" during World War II, and more. Over 100 members and guests participated in IWA programs this year.

2008 nciv southern regional meeting

GCIV showcased Georgia's rich resources as host of the National Council for International Visitors' 2008 Southern Regional Meeting August 6-8. The meeting served as a professional development and networking opportunity for the national network responsible for implementing the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Participants included representatives from fellow CIVs in the southern

region and around the country, Washington, D.C. Program Agencies, and U.S. Department of State, as well as GCIV's local citizen diplomats. Highlights included an opening reception at the beautiful Carter Center, plenary addresses from Assistant Secretary of State Goli Ameri and Ambassador Andrew Young, an evening of southern hospitality in the homes of GCIV hosts, and highly informative training sessions.

community programs

global lunch forums

GCIV further connects our delegations to the community through Global Lunch Forums. Our members and the community at large are invited to a brown bag lunch and briefing from an international delegation in town. This is a unique opportunity to meet leaders in a variety of fields from all over the world for dialogue.

The international guests share their work with local citizens, and then an engaging discussion begins. The conversation ranges from the visitors' profession, homeland, and experiences, to relating common issues in the United States and abroad.

envoy

Young professionals in metro Atlanta have the opportunity to network with each other and emerging leaders from all over the world through Envoy. GCIV coordinates monthly events to engage young members and give visiting international delegations the opportunity to socialize with Georgia's next generation of leaders. In 2008 Envoy members

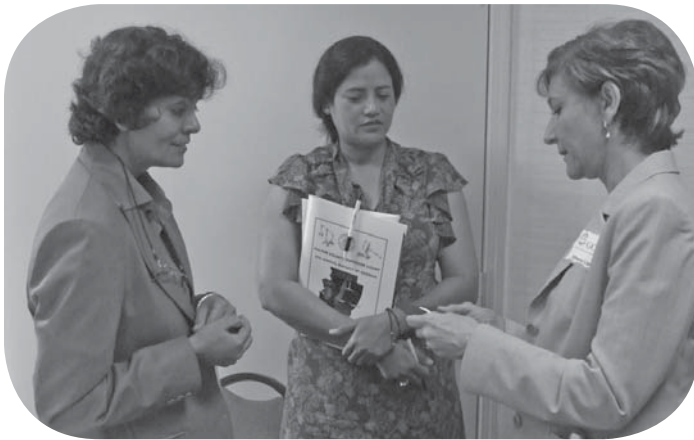
great decisions

GCIV serves as the state coordinator for the Foreign Policy Association's (FPA) Great Decisions Program. In this role we organize discussion groups and lecture series that give participants the opportunity to expand their understanding of world affairs. Topics change annually, and are based on the FPA's non-partisan briefing book. Over 700

GCIV organized thirteen Global Lunch Forums for over 200 participants in our fiscal year 2008. The topics and participants showcased a variety of professional backgrounds in a global context. Some of the topics were: Combating AIDS in Argentina, Elections in South Africa, Human Rights Advocacy in Kazakhstan, Understanding Turkey's Foreign Policy, New Media in Hong Kong, Women in Pakistani Law Enforcement, and European Humanitarian Aid to Africa.

attended a taiko drum performance, Martini's & IMAX at the Fernbank Museum, the High Museum's Film Festival of India, lectures at the Carter Center, a film on Namibia's struggle for independence at the National Black Arts Festival, and more.

people participated in the GCIV Foreign Policy Lecture Series and in 25 discussion groups. These community groups met in Atlanta, Decatur, Roswell, McDonough and Dunwoody, and outside Atlanta in Athens, Big Canoe, Carrollton, Columbus, Demorest, and Macon.



“I believe that our greatest strength in dealing with the world is the openness of our society and the welcoming nature of our people. A good stay in our country is the best public diplomacy tool we have.”

—Former Secretary of State
Colin L. Powell

international consular ball

World music was the theme of the evening on Saturday, March 8, when 400 leaders from Atlanta's international, cultural, civic, and business communities arrived at the beautiful new Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center to enjoy the annual black-tie affair that GCIV proudly sponsors each spring to honor the men and women serving as consular representatives in Georgia.

Exciting live and silent auctions raised funds to support GCIV's work to promote international understanding through citizen diplomacy.

The live auction featured luxurious travel packages, including getaways to Toronto, the Greek Isles and Turkey, Germany, Mexico, Quebec, Switzerland, and at any InterContinental Hotel location in the world.

Young Audiences, Woodruff Arts Center provided the evening's surprise entertainment. World percussion ensemble Ritmo Blu's lively performance brought guests to their feet. GCIV thanks our corporate partners and patrons for their support of our citizen diplomacy work and the 27th Annual International Consular Ball.



international dining experiences

International Dining Experiences (IDEs) give members the chance to meet visiting delegations in a more informal, social environment. IDEs take place at a different ethnic restaurant on the 15th of the month. We encourage members to bring friends and neighbors as an introduction

to GCIV. Many of our hosts enjoy this opportunity to meet other members while sampling exotic cuisines. This year we organized three IDEs events, involving over 50 citizen diplomats.

internship program

GCIV's Internship Program allows us to more effectively partner with local universities by offering practical experience to students. Participants receive training in the field of international affairs and learn about issues affecting Atlanta and the world. In addition to assisting with the International Visitor Leadership Program, interns

are given the chance to attend GCIV community programs to further their exposure to Atlanta's international sector. This year GCIV trained interns from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Oglethorpe University, and Pennsylvania State University.

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“Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.”

—Senator William Fulbright



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“The really crucial link in the international communication chain is the last three feet, which is bridged by personal contact, one person talking to another.”

— Edward R. Murrow

delegation spotlight



G CIV arranged a professional program for four women from Egypt, Oman, and Yemen in May 2008. This delegation came to Atlanta to explore women's health issues through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. They had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of professional counterparts while getting to know our city and its people. This fulfilling professional and cultural exchange contributed to G CIV's goal of promoting international understanding.



While in Atlanta, the delegation met with representatives of Cool Girls, Inc., the Center for Black Women's Wellness, the Atlanta Police Department, the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness, the Georgia Division of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They discussed topics as diverse as the mental health of young girls, public health messaging for minority populations, domestic violence victim assistance, supplemental nutrition programs, and HIV/AIDS prevention for women. The delegation also had the opportunity to attend the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to benefit breast cancer research, visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, and have dinner in the homes of G CIV hosts.

G CIV was honored to have these distinguished visitors in Atlanta and meet with our many valuable professional resources. Their experiences here in Atlanta gave them a first-hand view of the diversity of the United States, and the knowledge that they shared will be invaluable for our Atlanta community.

Georgia Council for International Visitors

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