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, GICIV 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 GICIV 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, GICIV 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, GICIV has completed programs for Meridian International Center, the Academy for Educational Development, the Braves Garçons d’Afrique, and the CNN International Journalism Fellowship Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2008 IVLP Totals</th>
<th>FY 2008 FFS Totals</th>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>totals</td>
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</table>
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.

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<th>Country</th>
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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 invaluably 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             |
| Lorraine Carribean         | Elizabeth & Jim Munson       |
| Herschelle Challenor       | David & Mila Nunan           |
| David & Beverly Clyde      | Didi O’Connor                |
| Charlotte & Bob Czekala    | Marcia Partin                |
| Lindsay & Rosie Davidson   | Mark & Sue Partridge         |
| Toni Daya-Luetgers         | Margaret Pumper              |
| Diane Erdeljac             | Edward & Hallie Queen        |
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| Rene Eser & Eric Nankervis | & Ranjani Balasubramaniam   |
| Laura Gilmore              | Sandra Robertson             |
| Ray Glier & Jessie Bond    | Fred & Gerry Scheer          |
| Dana Greene                | Irene Steffas                |
| Garry & Paulina Guan       | Timothy & Ellen Stowell      |
| Ricardo & Beatriz Golden-Hayes | Shell Stuart           |
| Sue & Jim Heerin           | Steve & Andrea Thomas        |
| Jenni Heerink              | Vicki Van Der Hoek           |
| Louise Kan                 | & Allen Freedman             |
| 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.
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.

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.

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 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.

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 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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Coles College of Business,
Kennesaw State University
Mike Dangerfield
Jim & Carol Dew
Charles & Chris Evans
Mrs. Richard Hallock
Jim & Sue Heerin
Russell & Anna Malayer
Jim & Elizabeth Munson
Scott & Laurie Nichols

Citizen Diplomat
($50+)
Douglas Allen
Kay Alvelda
Pilar Amir
Christine Armour
Marika Barbalho

Chargé d’Affaires
(500+)
David Kenney
Marianne McConnel
Shell Stuart

Consul
($250+)
Jacobus & Megan Boers
Harold E. Davidson
Lindsay & Rosie Davidson
Garry & Paulina Guan
Ashley Mastin
In memory of Roy McGuinness
Robin Spratlin
Aaron Warnke
Robert White

Attaché
($100+)
Hans & Ada Almering
Randy Avon
Phil Bolton
Colin Brady
Maria Cabrera-McDonald
Gudrun Chapman
David & Beverly Clyde
Sussi Craig
James Edward Dean
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John Gornall, Jr.
Anne Hansen
Jenni Heerin
Eleanor Hooks
Jack & Heather Ingold
Robert & Pam Lattimore
Faye McKay-Clegg
Sarah Montgomery
Sharon Lee Mueller
William L. Moon
In memory of Burke Nicholson
John Parkerson
Ted Revlock
& Ranjani Balasubramaniam
Lucie Rivera-O’Ferrall
Richard Roessel & Dana Greene
Gail Sermersheim
John Saunders
Mark Towery
Jim Vaseff

Ann Beeson
Christi Behrend
Michael Blake
Elaine Bowman
Charles Brown
Christine Burry
Ana Calderon
Judith Cantwell
Jill Carlson-Miyatake
Jeanne Castell-Kozik
Silvana Cavellier
Joan Penrose Cioffi
Patricia Clay
Lyn Coltman
Mary Comstock
Bruce Cotterman
Themis Poulos Cramer
Susan Dalton
Betty Davis
Andrea Denny
Seilavong Doeung
Elsa Duel
Suzanne Dunn
Silvana Eakin
Stevie Edwards
Anne Egros
Gabriele Elkins
Henry Elonge
Elizabeth Ethol
Frank Falceatta
Orysis Fisher
Rosalie Fitzpatrick
Grace Fleming
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Chris Franz
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Jenny Hewett
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Ullrich & Julia Kaeumerer
Barry & Judi Kane
Eleanor Kimbrough
Thomas Kirk
Joel Kollin
Bobbie Kraus
Nolly Ladha
Loreal Legate
Eric Lucas
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Patricia Walsh
Lesley Ward
Jean Ward
Cathleen Wheatley
Robert Wildau
Miller Williams
Sonja Williams
Krystyna Wilson
Hazel James Wood
Durshil Zoberi

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Emily Bushey
Lorraine Debele Canetti
Toni Daya-Luetgers
Amy Edwards
Kimberly Ferlauto
Sybil Hudson Wermert
Brian Gowdy
Ashik Jahan
Barbara Marnock
Charles McBride
Daniel Meyers
James Pearson
Saralyn Perry
Zeb Simpson
Claire Willis
“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
GCIV 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 GCIV’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 GCIV hosts.

GCIV 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.

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