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
- Mwai Kibaki, Kenya
- Felipe Calderon, Mexico
- Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea
- Frederik de Klerk, South Africa
- Oscar Arias, Costa Rica

Mayor of Atlanta Kasim Reed and Deputy Chief Operating Officer Luz Borrero with a delegation of Pakistani government officials.

### 2010 international visitor programs

In our fiscal year 2010, GCIV welcomed 362 overseas visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program and various fee-for-service programs. These visitors came to Georgia on 70 different programs, ranging from individuals to groups of 20 or more. Participants represented 96 different countries.

The delegations hosted by GCIV were quite a varied group, including public health officials, lawyers, judges, civil servants, NGO representatives, religious leaders, business executives, educators, journalists, elected officials, community activists, musicians, librarians, entrepreneurs and financial experts. In addition to coordinating programs for the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), 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 the Academy for Educational Development, Library of Congress, Meridian International Center, Phelps Stokes, USAID and World Learning.

### FY 2010 IVLP Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>quarter</th>
<th># of programs</th>
<th># of visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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### FY 2010 FFS Totals

<table>
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<th># of programs</th>
<th># of visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>totals</td>
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<td>36</td>
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</table>
GCIV welcomed delegations from 96 countries to the state of Georgia in fiscal year 2010. Here are the countries represented and the number of visitors per country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>Belarus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Eritrea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Kosovo</td>
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<td>Kuwait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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<td>Laos</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Togo</td>
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<td>West Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Today I Met . . . is a unique educational initiative connecting global professionals to students in Georgia’s public and private schools. GCIV staff and educators work together to ensure a two-way learning process during these carefully designed school visits. International visitors make presentations about their countries and areas of expertise and in turn students share their unique perspectives with visitors and convey what life looks like from an American student’s point of view. Today I Met . . . is a mutually beneficial collaboration serving to enrich various aspects of schools’ social studies curricula as well as international visitors’ understanding of life in the U.S.

Schools that participated in the 2010 program include Atlanta International School, International Community School and elementary, middle and high schools in DeKalb County Schools and Atlanta Public Schools. These schools hosted 33 visitors from 16 different countries including Bangladesh, Belarus, France, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Paraguay and Tajikistan.
complete list of delegations

October 28-31 - Saudi Arabia
Seven Educators
Focus: Religious and Public Education

November 5-10 - Multi-Regional
Eight Law Enforcement and Government Representatives
Focus: International Crime

November 11-17 - Kazakhstan
Three Civil Society Leaders
Focus: Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness

November 14-21 - Ukraine
Five Judges
Focus: Rule of Law

November 19-24 - Syria
Nine Government Planners
Focus: Urban Planning

November 22-28 - Brazil
Three Public Health Officials
Focus: Public Health

December 1-5 - Multi-Regional
Seventeen Public Health Officials
Focus: HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention

December 3-6 - Uzbekistan
Five Government Officials
Focus: Forensic Laboratories

December 8-12 - Uzbekistan
Four Civil Society Leaders
Focus: Women as NGO Leaders

December 13-16 - Algeria
Five Government Officials
Focus: Technological Innovation

January 17-21 - Mongolia
One Social Worker
Focus: Adoption

January 24-27 - Latvia
Five Law Enforcement and Civil Society Representatives
Focus: Human Trafficking

January 27-30 - France
One Government Official
Focus: Biotechnology, Public Health and the Environment

January 27-31 - India
Two Government Officials
Focus: Environmental Protection

February 2-6 - Pakistan
Five Government Officials
Focus: State and Local Government

February 9-12 - Georgia
Five Government Officials
Focus: Municipal Elections

February 9-13 - Near East Asia and North Africa
Eight Government and NGO Representatives
Focus: Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness

February 14-17 - Russia
Five Labor Leaders
Focus: Labor Rights Protection

February 24-27 - Indonesia
Five Journalists
Focus: Investigative Journalism

March 2-5 - Belarus
Three Public Health Officials
Focus: Global Health

March 3-7 - Belgium
One NGO Representative
Focus: Interfaith and Minority Issues

March 6-10 - South Africa
Five Television Executives
Focus: TV Management

March 7-10 - Japan
One Journalist
Focus: Immigration

March 17-21 - Indonesia
One Journalist
Focus: TV Management

March 18-24 - Indonesia
Two Veterinarians
Focus: Human and Animal Diseases

March 20-24 - France
One Hip Hop Musician
Focus: Music and Social Commentary

March 23-27 - Central/Western Africa
Eighteen Judges and Lawyers
Focus: Administration of Justice

March 30 - April 3 - Morocco
One Musician
Focus: Hip Hop as Social Change

April 4-8 - Iraq
Five Teachers and Professors
Focus: English as a Second Language

April 7-10 - Brazil
Three Judges and Lawyers
Focus: Child Abduction

April 8-13 - Central Asia
Five Public Health Officials
Focus: Food Safety

April 17-22 - The Netherlands
One NGO Representative
Focus: NGO Management Strategies
complete list of delegations

April 18-22 - Morocco
Four Social Activists
Focus: Violence Against Women

April 21-25 - Hong Kong and Paraguay
Two Youth Organizers
Focus: Volunteerism

April 28 - May 4 - Multi-Regional
Three Judges
Focus: U.S. Judicial System

April 29 - May 4 - Romania
One Public Health Official
Focus: Disaster Management

May 9-12 - Australia
One Union Representative
Focus: U.S. Labor Unions

May 16-19 - Brazil
Six Government and Business Leaders
Focus: Racial and Ethnic Discrimination

May 19-22 - Brazil
Ten Youth Activists
Focus: Racial Equality

May 19-22 - Pakistan
Six Public Health Officials
Focus: Food Safety

May 21-29 - Russia
Five Business Leaders and Social Activists
Focus: Accountable Governance

May 26-29 - Denmark and The Netherlands
One Nurse and One Public Policy Officer
Focus: Public Health Issues

June 9-12 - Germany
Ten Government Officials
Focus: Clean Technology and Environmental Impact

June 22-25 Belarus
One Medical Chair
Focus: Global Health

June 27-30 - Poland
One Deputy Director
Focus: Transportation

July 1-6 - Multi-Regional
Five Librarians and Policy Makers
Focus: American Libraries

July 8-10 - Italy
One United Nations Representative
Focus: Humanitarian Assistance

July 10-14 - Poland
One Social Activist
Focus: Humanitarian Issues

July 20-25 - Iraq
Ten Journalists and Editors
Focus: Media

July 21-24 - Caribbean
Four Bank Representatives
Focus: Financial Systems

July 22-27 - Multi-Regional Africa
Twenty Journalists
Focus: Broadcast Journalism

August 4-25 - Kazakhstan
Ten Doctors, Nurses, Government Officials and NGO Representatives
Focus: Management/Social Support of TB

August 8-11 - Kazakhstan
Four Finance Officials
Focus: Money Laundering

August 14-19 - Southeast Asia
Eight Public Health Officials
Focus: Respiratory Diseases

August 21-25 - Japan
One Human Rights Institute Researcher
Focus: Human Trafficking

August 27 - September 1 - Multi-Regional
Nineteen Delegates
Focus: Sustainable Development

August 29 - September 1 - United Kingdom
One Arts Center Associate Director
Focus: Art and Community Engagement

September 1-4 - Mexico
Five Librarians
Focus: U.S. Libraries

September 1-4 - Dominican Republic and Haiti
Eight University Representatives
Focus: Higher Education

September 8-10 - Italy
One United Nations Officer
Focus: Urban Development

September 11-14 - Syria
Ten University, Ministry of Education and United Nations High Commission for Refugees Officials
Focus: Higher Education

September 15-20 - The Netherlands
One Ministry of Finance Trader
Focus: Economic Development

September 19-23 - Georgia
Six Medical Directors and Doctors
Focus: Health Practices

September 22-25 - United Kingdom
One Law Enforcement Officer
Focus: Counter-Terrorism

September 22-25 - Iraq
Five University Deans
Focus: Women’s Universities

September 30 - October 6 - Multi-Regional
Seven Judges
Focus: Judicial Systems

October 2-6 - Yemen
Three NGO Directors, One Professor and One Editor
Focus: NGO Management

October 3-6 - Syria
Ten Urban and Regional Planners
Focus: Urban Planning

October 5-10 - Nigeria
Ten Delegates
Focus: Religious Freedom and Interfaith Dialogue
In April 2010, GCIV hosted Fatma Kaya, a diversity consultant and founder of her own NGO from the Netherlands, who was participating in the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. During her visit, Kaya studied NGO management practices, including how to promote diversity, build leadership and grow businesses. She also examined the policies for the career advancement of female employees, programs aimed at empowering youth, laws that protect against discrimination in the workplace and fundraising best practices.

While in Atlanta, Kaya met with representatives from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, former Secretary of State Karen Handel’s office, Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Azizah Magazine, Georgia Center for Nonprofits and Agnes Scott College’s Center for Women’s Global Leadership. She spent a day in Columbus, meeting with mayoral candidate Teresa Tomlinson and NeighborWorks’ CEO Cathy Williams, as well as GCIV volunteer Mrs. Richard Hallock. In addition, Kaya enjoyed touring the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and experiencing home hospitality with GCIV volunteer hosts Dana Greene and Richard Roesel.

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

— Edward R. Murrow

In March 2010, GCIV arranged a professional visit for five E-TV executives from South Africa who were participants in the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. E-TV is South Africa’s only independent, free-to-air television station whose income is solely based on advertising revenue. E-TV’s 24-hour news service is the first independent Pan-African channel broadcasting from South Africa into the continent on satellite TV. During the delegation’s visit, the participants sought to gain a thorough understanding of a variety of broadcast and revenue generation models in the U.S. television industry.

While in Atlanta, the South African delegation met with representatives from Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Fitzgerald+CO, CBS Radio, People TV and CNN International. The group also toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and networked with GCIV members at a members only reception hosted by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the South African-American Chamber of Commerce.

Five executives from South Africa’s E-TV outside of The CNN Center global headquarters.
community connections

In August 2010, GCIV hosted a Community Connections delegation of 10 from Kazakhstan. The delegation of doctors, nurses, government representatives, NGO leaders and prison system officials spent three weeks in Georgia studying successful U.S. models for management and social support for Tuberculosis patients. TB is an acute problem in Kazakhstan’s penitentiary system and the treatment follow-up of released prisoners poses challenges to TB control. The eastern province, where the delegates work, has one of the highest Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB rates in the country.

While in Atlanta, the group met with representatives from the American Lung Association, Grady Infectious Disease Clinic, Mercy Mobile Healthcare, Piedmont Hospital, RESULTS, Georgia Department of Human Services, Department of Community Health, Emory Vaccine Center and School of Medicine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Metro State Prison, Georgia Department of Corrections, Morehouse School of Medicine, United States Penitentiary, Dekalb County Board of Health, Atlanta Union Mission, Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness and Project Open Hand.

The delegates were home-hosted by the following GCIV volunteers for the duration of their visit: Ted and Gudrun Chapman, David and Beverly Clyde, Elsa Duel, Carol Emmons, Jenni Heerink, Ron and Bethany Lane, Margaret Pamper, Vicki Van Der Hoek and Steve and Sara Yurman. They also enjoyed a weekend trip to Savannah and cultural visits to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, CNN Studios, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Georgia Aquarium, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Stone Mountain Park.

The Community Connections Program, managed by the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by World Learning, is designed to promote public diplomacy through the exchange of cultural ideas and values among participants, U.S. families and local community host organizations. The program seeks to establish and strengthen links between U.S. communities and communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

open world

Five Russian leaders participating in an Open World program visited Georgia in May 2010 to examine accountable governance. Open World enables emerging Eurasian political and civic leaders to work with their U.S. counterparts and experience American-style democracy at the local level.

The delegation met with representatives from Wesleyan College, Mercer University, State Ethics Commission of Georgia, Georgia AFL-CIO, Common Cause Georgia, Women’s Actions for New Directions and Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP. In addition, the group met with Mayor Robert Reicher of Macon, faculty of the University of Georgia and attended a panel discussion on “Women in Leadership” at Agnes Scott College’s Center for Women’s Global Leadership. They were also accompanied for a portion of their program by Ambassador John O’Keefe, executive director of the Open World program at the Library of Congress.

Home hospitality with Atlanta GCIV volunteers and overnight homestays with Macon hosts enabled the delegates to experience American family life. They also visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, CNN Studios and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.
In 2010, over 400 professional resources and 50 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 four hundred 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 2010:

- Anna Alford
- Dorner Carmichael
- Lorraine Carribean
- Gudrun & Ted Chapman
- DJ & Dan Clancy
- Toni Daya Lutgers
- Beverly & David Clyde
- Susi Craig
- Charlotte & Bob Czekala
- Rosie & Lindsay Davidson
- Suzanne Doonan
- Alicja Drolet
- Elsa Duel
- Carol Emmons
- Steve & Scarlett Farr
- Allen Freedman
- Rusty & Dick George
- Anne & Jerry Godsey
- Laurie & Scott Nichols
- Dana Greene &
- Richard Roesel
- Carmen Gubser &
- Christoph Roithner
- Beatriz Golden-Hayes &
- Ricardo Hayes
- Sue & Jim Heerin
- Patrycja Horodyska
- Charles Hubert
- Alexia & Benedikt Ibing
- Robert &
- Vevonna Kennedy
- Joel Kollin
- Reinhold Krickl
- Bethany & Ron Lane
- Queen &
- Emmanuel Meheux
- Carol Niemi
- Lee Pasackow
- Margaret Pumper
- Gerry & Fred Scheer
- Helga Siegal
- Nettie & Don Silva
- Caroline & Frank Sizer
- Kathy Stege
- Vicki Van Der Hoek
- Steven White
- Carolyn &
- Miller Williams
- Sara & Steve Yurman
- Joan Zenteno

The International Women Associates is a group of dedicated GCIV volunteers who meet in members’ homes for friendship and cultural enrichment. Formed in 1978, IWA brings together women to build friendships and help international newcomers become oriented to life in Atlanta through a network of support and activities. Other members are North Americans who have lived abroad or have interests in international affairs. Monthly programs on cultural and educational topics enhance the personal and professional growth of the members and promote understanding of other cultures and goodwill among the IWA members.

The 2009-10 series was once again a success, featuring educational and cultural programs on Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Cyprus, Eid, Ikebana, investing, Tibetan Buddhism and more. Over 100 members and guests participated in IWA programs this year.
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.

GCIV organized 11 Global Lunch Forums for nearly 200 participants in our fiscal year 2010. The topics and participants showcased a variety of professional backgrounds in a global context. Some of the topics were: Biotechnology Development in France, Human Rights in Senegal, Interfaith and Minority Issues in Belgium, Transportation in Poland, A Japanese Perspective on Human Trafficking, Performing Arts in the United Kingdom and Refugee Policy in the European Union.

great decisions

GCIV serves as the state coordinator for the Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Program. In this role, GCIV helps coordinate 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. Nearly 300 people participated in the GCIV Foreign Policy Lecture Series and in 17 discussion groups across the state. These community groups met in Atlanta, Clayton, Decatur, Roswell, McDonough and Dunwoody, and outside metro-Atlanta in Athens, Carrollton, Columbus, Demorest and Macon.

2010 Foreign Policy Lecture Series

1/28 - Special Envoys: Dr. Marion Creekmore, Jr. Visiting Professor at Emory University, former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Deputy Afghan Coordinator.

2/04 - Kenya and R2P: Paul Zwier II, Director of Emory’s Program for International Advocacy and Dispute Resolution and law professor.

2/11 - Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution: Dr. Rashid Naim, Senior Lecturer of Political Science at Georgia State University and Member of the Muslim Speakers’ Bureau.

2/18 - U.S.-China Security Relations: Dr. Fei-Ling Wan, Professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute Of Technology.


3/04 - Russia and its Neighbors: Dr. Thomas Remington, Professor of Political Science at Emory University and founding director of Emory’s program in Russian and East European Studies.

3/11 - The Persian Gulf: Dr. Michael Herb, Associate Professor of Political Science and acting Director of the Middle East Institute at Georgia State University.

3/18 - Global Crime: Dr. Justin Hastings, Assistant Professor Professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology.
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 offers special events to engage young members and give visiting international delegations the chance to socialize with Georgia’s next generation of leaders. In 2010 Envoy members interacted with delegations at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens’ Cocktails in the Garden, Central Atlanta Progress’s Downtowners, CNN Studio Tour, the Georgia Aquarium’s Friday Night Jazz, Fernbank Museum of Natural History’s Martinis & Imax, 2010 FIFA World Cup viewing parties, Films that Matter, Screen on the Green and more.

international consular ball

GCIV’s International Consular Ball continues to be Atlanta’s premier international event. Nearly 300 of Atlanta’s business and civic leaders hosted 39 members of the Consular Corps at the Atlanta History Center for the 29th annual International Consular Ball on Friday, April 30th, 2010. GCIV proudly hosts the black-tie gala each year to honor the men and women serving as consular representatives in Georgia.

Guests enjoyed museum exhibitions, an elegant dinner, exciting raffle prizes, live entertainment and dancing in the beautiful Grand Overlook Ballroom. The raffle prize donations from the Consular Corps and local businesses raised funds to support GCIV’s work to build international understanding and cooperation. GCIV extends special thanks to the corporate partners and patrons for their support of GCIV’s citizen diplomacy work and the 29th annual International Consular Ball.

international dining experiences

International Dining Experiences give members the chance to meet visiting delegations in a more informal, social environment. IDEs take place at a different ethnic restaurant around the 15th of the month. Members are encouraged 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. In 2010, GCIV organized eight IDEs events involving over 300 hundred guests. GCIV also hosted world-wide delegations of CNN Journalism Fellows at two of the IDEs. Restaurants included Malaya, Mambo’s Cuban Cafe, Desta Ethiopian Kitchen, Cafe Bombay Indian Bistro, Pho Bac, No Mas! Cantina, Nicola’s Lebanese Restaurant and Nakato Japanese Restaurant.

internship program

GCIV’s Internship Program allows us to more effectively partner with 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 two interns from the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania.
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Tracey Erwin-Cota
Allen Freedman
Louise Gobron
“I leave your city with beautiful memories in my mind, new friends and great personal and professional experiences.”

—Mr. Carlos Ojeda Castro, IVLP Participant, Mexico
Last March, GCIV hosted Moroccan musician Reda Allali. Allali is the founder of the popular fusion band Hoba Hoba Spirit. The band regularly performs at the country’s most prominent festivals because its artistry and Arabic, French and English lyrics attract a multitude of young people. Most of the band’s songs revolve around different social issues such as injustice, corruption and unemployment, yet carry an optimistic tone. Allali is also a well respected journalist with the French weekly Tel Quel. He writes a regular feature for the paper called “Zakaria Boualem,” a widely read column that addresses current events such as elections and local government issues in a satirical way. While participating in the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program, Allali met with independent American artists and journalists whom, like him, address politics, society, environment, human rights and other relevant social issues. He traveled to Atlanta to deepen his understanding of Hip Hop music in the U.S. and its adaptation as a form of artistic and socio-political expression.

While in Atlanta, Allali met with various influential figures in the Atlanta Hip Hop community including breakdance group Burn Unit, illustrator Dubelyoo, emcee Senor Kaos, urban marketer Bem and volunteers at Georgia State’s Hip Hop Congress. He toured Atlantic Records and sat in on a Stankonia recording session. He took a day trip to Athens to meet with representatives from Flagpole Magazine, band Dubconscious and Univeristy of Georgia’s WUOG 90.5FM student radio station. Allali particularly enjoyed interacting with music students at Martin Luther King, Jr. High School. He also visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, attended an NBA basketball game and had the opportunity to be a guest on Georgia Tech’s WREK 91.1FM student radio station.