Georgia Council for International Visitors

GCIV builds relationships between the people of our state and leaders around the world. Our vision is that every Georgia citizen has the opportunity to be more globally engaged. 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 the most effective program in a long list of public diplomacy tools at their disposal. GCIV is one of 90 community-based organizations around the country that implement this impressive program on behalf of the U.S. government. In 2001 the national network, National Council for International Visitors (NCIV), was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to foster international understanding.

**IVLP Alumni**

Since the program’s inception, more than 330 participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program have gone on to serve as heads of government and chiefs of state, including:

- **Oscar Arias**  
  Costa Rica
- **Adnan Badran**  
  Jordan
- **Gordon Brown**  
  United Kingdom
- **Felipe Calderon**  
  Mexico
- **Kim Dae-Jung**  
  South Korea
- **Frederik de Klerk**  
  South Africa
- **Indira Gandhi**  
  India
- **Hamid Karzai**  
  Afghanistan
- **Mwaia Kibaki**  
  Kenya
- **Felipe Nyusi**  
  Mozambique
- **Anwar Sadat**  
  Egypt
- **Nicolas Sarkozy**  
  France
2015 International Visitor Programs

In fiscal year 2015, GCIV welcomed 478 overseas visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program and various fee-for-service programs. These visitors came to Georgia on 54 different programs, ranging from individuals to groups of 25 or more. Participants represented 113 different countries.

The delegations hosted by GCIV were quite a varied group, including public health officials, lawyers, judges, civil servants, NGO and arts representatives, business executives, educators, journalists, elected officials, community activists, environmental advocates, musicians, entrepreneurs, students, engineers, archaeologists and curators. 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 completed programs for Cultural Vistas, FHI360, the Graduate School, Institute of International Education, Meridian International Center, Mississippi Consortium for International Development, and World Learning.

### FY 2015 IVLP Totals

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<th>Quarter</th>
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<th>Visitors</th>
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### FY 2015 FFS Totals

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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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</table>
International Visitors by World Region

- Africa: 97
- East Asia and Pacific: 40
- Europe: 108
- Near East: 53
- South and Central Asia: 87
- Western Hemisphere: 92

IVLP Delegations by Professional Focus

- Public health
- Legal / justice system
- Human and civil rights
- Governance / civil society / women as leaders
- Economic / sustainable development
- Journalism / media
- Education

Total Visitors: 295
Total Delegations: 50
Country Representation

GCIV welcomed *478 international visitors from 113 countries* to the state of Georgia in fiscal year 2015.

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<th>Country</th>
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Complete List of Delegations

October 29 – November 2
Croatia
*Trafficking in Persons*

November 19 – 22
Hungary
*Health Migration*

November 22 – 26
International Visitors
*HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention*

November 25 – 29
Indonesia
*Advancing Civil Engagement*

November 25 – December 2
Kazakhstan
*Integrated Planning Development*

December 2 – 6
Pakistan
*Women in Agriculture*

December 17 – 20
Venezuela
*Administration of Justice and Rule of Law*

January 22 – 28
Montenegro
*Rule of Law and Combating International Crime*

January 27 – 31
France
*Risk and Crisis Management*

February 15 – 18
France
*Diverse Community*

February 17 – 21
Egypt
*International Property Rights*

February 21 – 25
International Visitors
*Global Health*

February 25 – 28
Kosovo
*Integrating Minority Communities and Refugees*

GCIV partnered with the Institute of International Education (IIE) for the fourth consecutive year to coordinate the dinner home hospitality evening approximately 140 Fulbrighters that were participating in an enrichment seminar in Atlanta. These guests were from 67 different countries. They were hosted by 35 GCIV volunteers.
Established in 2007, the annual Secretary of State’s International Women of Courage Award honors women around the globe who have exemplified exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for human rights, women’s equality, and social progress, often at great personal risk. This is the only Department of State award that pays tribute to emerging women leaders worldwide. Ms. Marie Claire Techola was one of the recipients of this award for 2015.

## Complete List of Delegations

**February 25 – 28**  
Africa  
*Civic Engagement*  

**February 25 – March 3**  
Egypt  
*Defending Women’s Rights*  

**March 5 – 11**  
Africa  
*Women as Political Leaders*  

**March 7 – 11**  
Senegal  
*Medical Health Practice*  

**March 16 – 21**  
South and Central Asia  
*Women as Political Leaders*  

**March 20 – 25**  
India  
*Gender Based Violence*  

**March 22 – 26**  
China  
*Public Health*  

**March 25 – 28**  
Argentina  
*Administration of Justice and Combating Organized Crime*  

**March 29 – April 2**  
International Visitors  
*International Trade*  

**April 1 – 4**  
Ukraine  
*Counterterrorism*  

**April 4 – 8**  
Russia  
*Sports and Health*  

**April 8 – 14**  
France  
*Labor Relations*  

**April 21 – 25**  
Europe  
*Data Protection and Privacy*
Complete List of Delegations

April 28 – May 2
Poland
*Promoting Human and Civil Rights of Minority Groups*

May 6 – 8
Zambia
*Broadcast Journalism*

May 6 – 9
Indonesia
*Human Rights*

May 12 – 16
International Visitors
*Health and Nutrition*

May 20 – 23
Kuwait
*Health Challenges*

May 20 – 23
Brazil
*Building Effective Government*

May 24 – 30
Senegal
*Trafficking in Persons*

May 26 – 30
South Africa
*Labor Relations*

June 3 – 6
Haiti
*Journalism in a Democratic Society*

June 5 – 6
Afghanistan
*Higher Education*

June 9 – 13
Mozambique
*U.S. Justice System*

The Global Ties U.S. Meet America Project was open to applicants who were international university students who were seeking an alternative semester experience. Visitors included 22 students from the University of Guadalajara.
Complete List of Delegations

June 11 – 16
Western Hemisphere
*Combating International and Domestic Human Trafficking*

June 13 – 17
Poland
*Sports and Health*

June 16 – 19
Georgia
*Urban Sustainability and Environmental Advocacy*

June 17 – 20
International Visitors
*Preventing and Responding to Bias Motivated Violence*

July 19 – 22
India
*Gender Based Violence*

July 28 – August 1
Africa
*Broadcast Journalism*

August 5 – 9
Egypt
*Role of Media*

August 8 – 12
Kenya
*University Incubators*

August 19 – 22
Azerbaijan
*Veterinary Systems*

September 2 – 6
Qatar
*Strengthening Civil Society*

September 16 – 22
Africa
*Emergency Management*

September 24 – 28
International Visitors
*Water Management*

GCIV hosted the first annual Bowling League of Nations tournament on September 12 at Midtown Bowl. Countries battled against one another in this friendly tournament and featured awards for Top Scoring Team, Best Team Style, and Best Individual Score!
International Consular Ball Highlights

The 34th Annual International Consular Ball was held on Saturday, March 28 at the Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta. The event, which honors the Georgia Consular Corps, provided an Enchanting Evening of Tropical Rhapsody, including fine dining, dancing, entertainment, and networking on a global scale. Preceding the Ball last Wednesday eve, a beautiful VIP Reception was graciously hosted by Governor and Mrs. Deal at the Governor’s Mansion. Special thanks to our Ball Chair, Mrs. Alrene Barr, and to Honorary Chairs, Mayor Kasim Reed & Mrs. Sarah Reed, Ambassador Andrew Young & Mrs. Carolyn Young, and Mr. Craig & Mrs. Nancy Lesser, for creating an exceptional venue and an extraordinary program. And thanks to our fantastic and generous supporters, and our wonderful Silent Auction Committee, chaired by Ms. Alicia McCart, our silent auction raised over $20,000 for GCIV’s programs in the upcoming year.
# International Consular Ball Sponsors

## Chief of Mission
($10,000)

- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- The Coca-Cola Company

## Consul General
($7,500)

- Delta Air Lines

## Attaché
($5,000)

- Deloitte
- Georgia Power
- Invesco
- Kuck Immigration Partners
- Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Regency Suites Hotel
- Seyfarth Shaw
- Siemens Industry Inc.

## Envoy
($2,500)

- Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Habif, Arogeti & Wynne
- J.P. Morgan Chase
- Metro Atlanta Chamber
- The Pendleton Group
- UBS
- VMP Nutrition
Global Lunch Forums

GCIV organizes open-to-the-public lunch meetings with leaders in a variety of fields from all over the world. Here everyone has a chance to share opinions about local and international issues. Participants hear first-hand accounts of current events abroad from distinguished guests and have the chance to engage in discussion. 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 several Global Lunch Forums for nearly 150 participants in fiscal year 2015. The themes and participants showcased a variety of professional backgrounds in a global context. Topics included Culture in Uzbekistan, Human Rights in Indonesia, International Labor Relations in France, Ebola awareness with the International Woman of Courage, and Gender Based Violence in India.
Great Decisions

GCIV serves as the state coordinator for the Great Decisions Program. In this role we organize discussion groups and a complementary lecture series that gives participants the opportunity to expand their understanding of world affairs. Topics change annually, and are based on the Foreign Policy Association’s non-partisan briefing book. Over 300 people participated in the GCIV Foreign Policy Lecture Series. In addition, there were approximately 20 discussion groups across the state. These community groups met in metro Atlanta, Decatur, Dunwoody, Kennesaw, Marietta, McDonough and Roswell as well as in Athens, Big Canoe, Carrollton, Columbus and Demorest.

2015 Foreign Policy Lecture Series

January 15
India Changes Course
Dr. Salli Vargis, Professor History, Honors Program Coordinator, Georgia Perimeter College

January 22
U.S. Policy Toward Africa
Dr. Benn Bongang, Professor and Department Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Affairs, Savannah State College

January 29
Privacy in the Digital Age
Dr. Seymour Goodman, Professor of International Affairs and Computing, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology

February 5
Russia and the Near Abroad
Dr. Thomas Rotnem, Professor of Political Science and Department Chair, Southern Polytechnic State University

February 9
Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
Ms. Maja Hasic, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Director, Tapestry, Inc.

February 12
Syria’s Refugee Crisis
Mr. David Gazashvili, Senior Manager Logistics and Operations Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance, CARE

February 19
Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
Ms. Maja Hasic, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Director, Tapestry, Inc.

February 26
Brazil’s Metamorphosis
Dr. Kirk Bowman, Professor of International Affairs, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology

March 5
Sectarianism in the Middle East
Ms. Houda Abadi, Associate Director (MENA), Conflict Resolution Program, The Carter Center
Hosting

GCIV offers the chance to meet emerging world leaders on both a personal and professional level. Home hospitality allows visitors to teach hosts about their home countries, have a meal in an American home, and participate in lively after-dinner discussions. Professional meetings provide a setting for an exchange of ideas and sharing of best practices between leaders from around the world and their counterparts in Georgia. These encounters often lead to lasting friendships and professional collaborations with colleagues abroad.

All GCIV professional resources and dinner hosts are volunteers. While we are not able to list all 500 professional resources, we would like to thank them all for their time and hospitality. Thanks also to the many GCIV members who hosted one or more international visitors by sharing a meal and opening their homes in FY 2015:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Jim and Carol Dew</th>
<th>Glenn and Jackie Morgan</th>
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<td>Dan and DJ Clancy</td>
<td>Lattimore</td>
<td>Fred and Mary Scheer</td>
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<td>Katherine Clay</td>
<td>Georgia Loftis</td>
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<td>Sussi Craig</td>
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Patrick and Caroline Solomon
David Sommer and Shizue Yamazui
Jody Stephenson and Katy Barksdale
Shell Stuart
Pinar Taskiran
Bruce and Sharon Taylor
Abigail Thomas
Kathy Thomas
Jerry Warren
George and Judy Weider
Sylvia Wilson
Steve and Sara Yurman
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 every 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 fiscal year 2014, GCIV organized numerous IDEs involving over 150 guests. International restaurants included Mezcalito's, Der Biergarten, Bhojanic, No Mas! Cantina, Panahar, and Top Spice.
International Women Associates

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. 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.

The 2014-2015 series was once again a success, featuring educational and cultural programs on Women in Islam; Adventures in Cuba by Shell Stuart; History of Macau and its Transition from the 16th to the 21st Century; History of Flamenco; and Art, Music, and Culture of Japan. Over 100 members and guests participated in IWA programs this year.
Today I Met...

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; in turn, students share their unique perspectives with our 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. Bringing the social studies curriculum to life by arranging for international leaders to visit classrooms is vital, but the innovation of this unique program lies in the multiplier effect. Interactive learning continues well beyond the classroom when Today I Met... becomes the opening line students use to initiate conversations with friends, parents, siblings, and other relatives and teachers. All schools (public, private, and charter) across the metropolitan Atlanta area are invited to host international visitors in their classrooms. Thanks to the generous support of the Kiwanis Foundation of Atlanta, Inc. and other community partners, in FY 2015 we were able to arrange seven (7) exclusive school visits that provided over 650 K-12 Georgia students the rare opportunity to meet and engage with more than 40 international leaders.

Internship Program

GCIV’s internship program enables the organization to more effectively partner with universities by offering practical experience to students. In addition to assisting with the International Visitor Leadership Program, interns have the opportunity to attend GCIV community programs to further their exposure to Atlanta’s international sector.
Global Partners and Members

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- D&A Transportation Services
- Delta Air Lines
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- Global Atlanta
- Kennesaw State University
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- National Center for Civil and Human Rights
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- Regency Suites Hotel
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- Ted & Gudrun Chapman
- Lindsay & Rosie Davidson
- Rod & Joyce Ellis
- Elizabeth Etoll
- Jeff Gram
- Mrs. Richard Hallock
- Bruce & Claudia Hamilton
- Ruth Hanners
- Stacy Howlin
- Charles & Jenni Kuck
- Barry & Tanya Morris
- Sharon Lee Mueller
- Mike Owen
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- Tycho Stahl & Yonni Kim
- Bruce & Sharon Taylor
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Tariq & Pilar Amir
Joyce Anderson
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Steven White
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Sylvia Wilson
Matt & Krystyna Wilson
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