

# The Citizen Diplomat

SPRING 2019



1120 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
civic@uiowa.edu  
319.335.0351  
<http://iowacivic.org>

@CIVIowaCity

facebook.com/CIVIowaCity

## Visit Profile

### Brazilian ESL Teaching & Innovation Jan, 24 - Feb. 1

In January, 20 Brazilian educators visited eastern Iowa to learn best practices for implementing new strategies in teaching English as a second language. Some of their meetings in Iowa included:

- Office of International Students and Scholars Orientation
- Panel Discussion with ESL program coordinators and educators
- Local primary and secondary school observation
- NewBoCo & Iowa Big
- Language Media Center
- UI College of Education Teaching and Learning faculty panel discussion

## WHAT'S NEW AT CIVIC?

So far this year we have hosted 58 visitors from 18 countries! Turn the page to read about upcoming events and other CIVIC news, such as the National Meeting, our Annual Membership meeting, CIVIC member profiles, and more!



**We hosted visitors from Uzbekistan, Brazil, and the Kyrgyz Republic between December and March.**

**Thank you to the CIVIC volunteers who helped with these programs:** Conception Piragine, Suijit Singh, Elena Osinskaya, Ty Lassen, Catharine Cashner, Ken Royar, Madison Rush, Jennifer Miller, Amy Chastain, Christy Weitz, Doug Hansel, Steve Merkel-Hess, Mary Sauer, Willis Harte, Newman Abuissa, Mazahir Salih, Mick Weitz, Josh Meggitt, Mohamad Hallak, Jane McMullen, Jeanne Stoakes, Dan Gall, Emma Cole, Liz Bergeron, Alan Bergeron, Jane Murphy, and the CIVIC staff.



“ This experience was essential to reassure my choices, restore my energies and restart stronger. I bring back from this trip a mind full of ideas and a heart full of people. ”

- Leticia Accioly Gavazzoni, Brazil

# Member Profile



## Ken & Gayle Royar

### Why did you join CIVIC?

We became involved with CIVIC because it was one way that in extending the hand of welcome and friendship to those who came as visitors we were creating a better vision of what is possible when people from different cultures and countries come to share with one another. It is something we can do that definitely makes a difference in shaping world understanding.

### What do you enjoy about engaging with CIVIC?

The thing we enjoy most about CIVIC is expanding not only our understanding of others but at the same time allowing this to happen with our guests. It is a win-win situation for all involved. When this happens the world suddenly becomes smaller and we realize we are all part of the human family.

### What visit has been your favorite and why?

It's hard to identify our most favorite visit because all of them have been great. But if we had to choose any of the many, it would be those who when they returned home responded by email or phone and said, "Our visit with you and other members of CIVIC has made a difference in our understanding and feelings for each other. Thank you for being good hosts."

# Big Event

## Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner

February 25, 2019

On February 25th, CIVIC staff and members gathered at the Coralville Public Library to celebrate another year of building global ties locally. Some highlights: We officially elected new board members: Liz Bergeron, Mazahir Saleh, and Emma Cole; recognized our volunteer-member award recipients; celebrated Ken Royar's retirement; heard updates from our committee chairs; ate some great international cuisine; and listened to Bob Wolff's keynote address, "For the Love of Bees."

## Award Recipients

 **Save the Day Award**  
Barb Stein and Joni Jones

 **Hit the Ground Running Award**  
Pam Terrill

 **Above and Beyond Award**  
Jane McMullen

 **Pineapple Award**  
Don and Suzanne Kirchner

 **Flight Tracker**  
Leo and Zinnia Lim

 **Lifetime Member Inductees**  
Dave, Denise, and Mike Tiffany



# 2019 Global Ties U.S. National Meeting



Liz Bergeron, Erin Schnell, Jennifer Blair, Mark Schoen

In the basement of the Chinese Embassy, I couldn't help pinching myself as I reveled in what was happening around me. Americans, 18 young emerging leaders, and a slew of Chinese diplomats were jovially eating roast duck and braised short rib as they learned about each other not as citizens of a country but as people. If there was one theme to attending the National Meeting, it was learning. The emerging leaders program was specifically tailored to developing me and my peers into international relations professionals.

We were trained by Hillary Clinton's debate coach on how to pitch the IVLP, shown the array of careers in the Foreign Service, and acted as co-table hosts for a lunch with ambassadors. Among the many firsts, it was my first time advocating on Capitol Hill. The experience was especially shocking when I realized our country is run on staffers who are in their 20's.

In combination with learning, a majority of my time was spent networking with national agency and Department of State program officers. Building deeper connections will continue to help CIVIC in gaining programs having established that trust that can only be achieved in a person to person encounter.

- *CIVIC Programming Coordinator, Mark Schoen*

## National Meeting Reflections

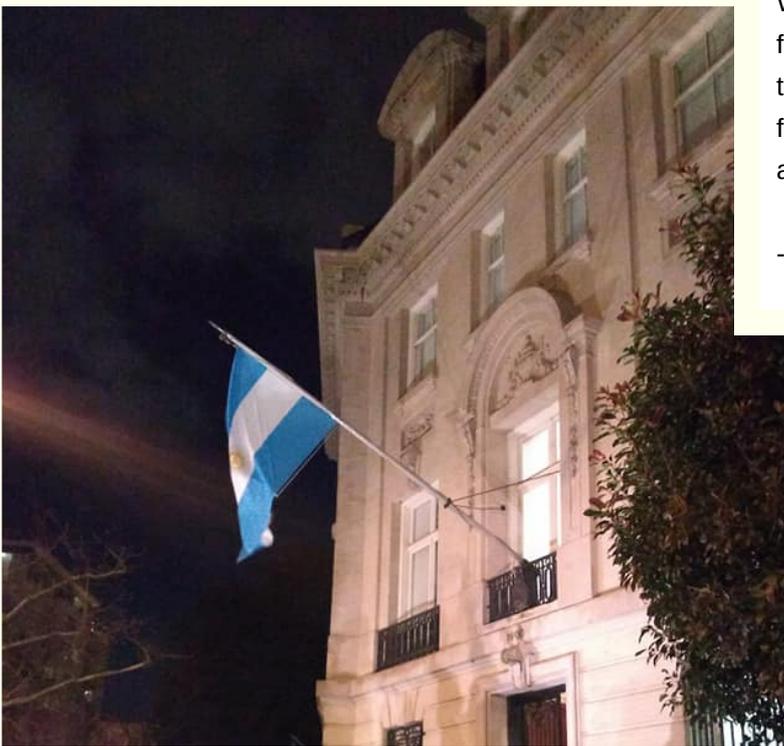
As a CIVIC Board Member, I appreciated the opportunity to get an insider's view of the processes and meet the people behind the programs that bring international visitors to the U.S. Before arriving in eastern Iowa, our visitors have worked with multiple offices and dozens of people, and it was inspiring to appreciate how everyone along the way shares the same belief in the power of people-to-people exchanges.

Two opportunities that stood out as particularly meaningful were our visits to the Congressional offices of Rep. Dave Loebsack and Rep. Abby Finkenauer and a reception for conference attendees hosted at the Argentinian embassy.

We hear a great deal of negative and divisive news from Washington these days, but what I witnessed at the National Conference was a unifying spirit of friendship across the globe. I came back energized and so proud to be part of CIVIC!

- *CIVIC Communications Chair, Jennifer Blair*

**"The Exchange Effect: Growing Impact at Home and Abroad" was the theme of the 2019 Global Ties U.S. National Meeting. The event took place January 23-26 in Washington, DC. Attendees participated in the multi-day event by exploring the effects of exchange programs on both international exchange participants and organizations like CIVIC who host them during their visit to the United States.**



Argentinian Embassy in Washington D.C.

# Upcoming Programs



## U.S. Food Policy

May 13 - 31

Participants for this project are from Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. During their stay they will examine policies and programs related to agricultural trade, explore how food commodities are regulated and marketed, and analyze the political, social, environmental, and economic forces that influence U.S. trade.



## Haiti: Combating Trafficking

May 15 - 19

This program focuses on combating human trafficking in Haiti. In Iowa City, participants will learn the role of law enforcement agencies and the prosecution of human traffickers, legal services provided to victims of human trafficking, efforts to raise awareness through the media, and faith-based intervention strategies.



## Mandela Washington Fellowship

June 19 - July 27

We will welcome 20 young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa. CIVIC will host a welcome reception for them on June 24th, coordinate community service activities, take them to experience a Kernal game, visit Kalona, IA., and explore the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Library and Museum. Stay tuned for volunteer activities!

## CIVIC Endowment Fund

**Matching endowment gift- your CIVIC gift can have twice the impact**

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous CIVIC donor, **gifts to the CIVIC Endowment fund will be matched up to \$1,000 total.** CIVIC's Endowment Fund was created in 2016, during our 30th anniversary year, to set aside funds to sustain the organization in an uncertain future. Donating to the Endowment Fund is a statement of belief in the long-term benefits of citizen diplomacy. The Community Foundation of Johnson County houses the Endowment Fund, and donations may be eligible for the Endow Iowa State Tax Credit.

## OUR PROUD PARTNERS



## Get Social with CIVIC

CIVIC is now hosting casual opportunities to meet with our international delegations. Rather than a full meet-and-greet meal, these events allow you to stop by as you are able, with no obligation to cook! Events are announced to members via email as they are planned. Please join us for one of these opportunities:



**Sip & Socialize** - join the delegation for a beverage at a local restaurant or bar



**Coffee & Conversation** - get to know the delegates over a cup of coffee or a pastry at a local coffee shop



**Dine & Discover** - meet delegates for lunch or dinner at a local eatery

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