

Hello Members & Friends of SACIV,

As your new 2016 Chair, I thank you for your participation and support of this organization. You engage in citizen diplomacy because you believe in good-will, communication, understanding, and mutual respect. As you read the comments of our visitors to San Antonio, our warm-heartedness and hospitality are what allows for a positive experience. The professional meetings, the home hospitality & receptions, and the cultural visits provide for memorable interactions. We are so fortunate to live in this wonderful city and be able to share all of it with our visitors. Our hope is that these exchanges are the seed for future development of relationships in many different sectors of our economy.



There is always an opportunity to engage with our visitors and we encourage your participation. Please let us know if and when you are ready to serve. We depend on you, our volunteers. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Betsy Cameron
Board Chair, SACIV

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	<i>A Message from the Chair</i>
2	<i>Announcements</i>
3	<i>2016 Programs</i>
4-5	<i>A Note from the Executive Director: Reflections on the 2016 Global Ties National Meeting</i>
6-7	<i>Visitor Quotes</i>
8-9	<i>Bangladeshi Delegation Visits San Antonio as Part of the IVLP Initiative, "Towards a More Safe & Secure World"</i>
10	<i>Thank You Corporate Members</i>
11	<i>The President's Corner: The Meaning of "I am Diplomacy"</i>
12	<i>Visitors from Armenia & South Korea Explore Methods to Combat Human Trafficking</i>
13	<i>Members' Corner: Betsy Cameron</i>
14	<i>Colombians Explore Vulnerable Populations & Victims' Assistance</i>
15	<i>Latin American Women Leaders as Agents of Social Change</i>
16-17	<i>Recognizing Women IVLP Alumni</i>
18-19	<i>Soft Power, High Impact</i>
20	<i>Board of Directors & Staff</i>



ANNOUNCEMENTS



*We aim to build
international friendships,
to facilitate the exchange of ideas,
to foster cultural understanding,
and to promote San Antonio
as an international city.*

[UPCOMING PROGRAMS]

May 25th—May 30th

***American Youth: Inspiring
Leadership and Civic Participation***

A Single Country Project for Kazakhstan

**Have you renewed your
SACIV membership?
*If not, it's not to late!***

Membership Levels

Student.....\$15

Individual.....\$30

Family.....\$50

Sustaining.....\$100

Corporate.....\$500

Send checks to:

SACIV

PO Box 6088

San Antonio, TX

78209

***Support a worth cause...
RENEW TODAY!***

↖ FIND US ONLINE ↗



Find us on:
facebook®

facebook.com/SACIVTX
#SACIVTX

***Check out our new and
improved website!***

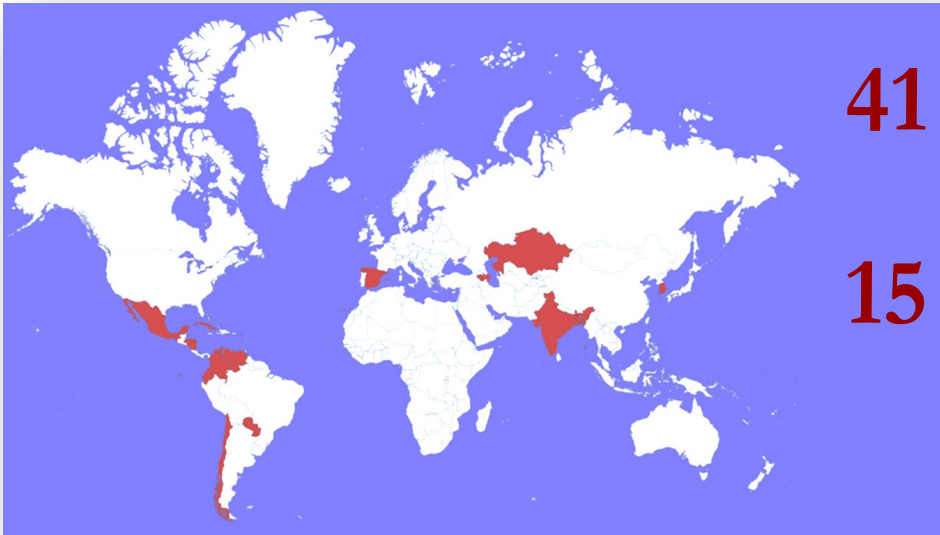


follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/SACIVTX
@SACIVTX

***Keep up to date on events
and browse our photo albums!***

This year, SACIV has welcomed...



VISITORS

from

COUNTRIES

... to San Antonio!

2016 Programs

February 6th – 11th: *Combatting Human Trafficking and Developing Major Criminal Cases*

Armenia



February 7th – 10th: *Regional Economic Connectivity: The NAFTA Experience*

India



March 7th: *American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation*

Azerbaijan



March 15th – 19th: *Vulnerable Populations and Victims' Assistance*

Colombia



March 23rd – 26th: *Women Leaders: Agents of Social Change*

Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Spain, Venezuela



April 14th – 19th: *Prosecution Matters in Combatting Trafficking in Persons*

South Korea



April 17th – May 3rd: *Towards a More Safe and Secure World: Combatting International Crime*

Bangladesh





A Note from the Executive Director

Reflections on the 2016 Global Ties National Meeting

This past January, despite the torrential snow that hit the Northeast this winter, I had the pleasure of attending the Global Ties National Meeting along with SACIV Board Chair Betsy Cameron. The conference, held in Washington, DC each year, is the premier gathering of organizations, agencies, and leaders in the international exchange field, bringing together nearly 1,000 participants over four dynamic days to gain high-level insights on trends affecting our field, engage in in-depth professional development opportunities, and build networks to strengthen international exchange.

Attending the conference for a second time, I was able to maximize the benefits of the sessions and plenary events offered at this annual gathering. Through these opportunities, I deepened my understanding of the role we all play as citizen diplomats carrying out US foreign policy through public diplomacy. They also created a space for me to develop closer relationships with current and future partners within the national network. And finally, they strengthened my skills to maximize the impact of international exchange programs and most importantly, allowed me to build new skills need to further develop SACIV's capacity for increased global and local impact.

Through the many sessions, I was able to grow professionally. I sharpened my leadership and programing skills, as well as shared best practices and latest trends in the field. Throughout the National Meeting, I expanded our network. I met new partners, connected with current colleagues, and represented San Antonio for positive exposure. Some other notable events and highlights of the conference included:



- The Department of State Reception, hosted behalf of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to honor and acknowledge the outstanding work of Global Ties US and its member organizations for their work supporting US foreign policy goals and successful IVLP programming. My colleagues and I were able to explore the historic Diplomatic Reception Rooms, surrounded by a stunning backdrop of American art and architecture from the time of our country's founding and its formative years, and mingle in the beautifully ornate Benjamin Franklin Room, where many achievements of American diplomacy have begun, including the signing of treaties, the conducting of summit negotiations, the hosting of swearing-in ceremonies, the facilitation of trade agreements, and the promoting peace and ending of wars.

- The “Excellence Awards Celebration Breakfast”, in which I won 3rd place in the photo contest for my picture entitled “International Visitors & Folklorico Dancers”.
- The intimate “Embassy Reception”, in which I was joined by a handful of lucky colleagues at the residence of the Moroccan Ambassador to United States for a glimpse of Washington’s diplomatic world and a formal dinner to express his appreciation for our work in building global ties with international visitors. Having spent a semester living and studying in Rabat, Morocco, I was thrilled to be able to practice my Arabic and enjoy the tastes of such a unique country. His Excellency Rachad Bouhlal showed us true Moroccan hospitality and reminded us of the historic diplomatic relationship between the two counties, as the Kingdom of Morocco was the first country to recognize the newly independent United States of America in 1777.



Most memorable, was the invigorating energy I felt through the shared excitement among the hundreds of dedicated individuals who came together in the name of public diplomacy. Aptly, given the theme of the conference was “I am Diplomacy: The Power of Exchanges”, I was surrounded by individuals who embodied the same dedication to citizen diplomacy as the members of SACIV, and who came together with the desire to share and learn. These networking opportunities were key to building existing relationships with my colleagues and making new connections for future endeavors.

I engaged in dialogue, made new connections, and witnessed the impact of the IVLP. I recognized the challenges we face, but also the opportunities for growth and was I motivated by ideas for the future. Having seen the power of exchange on individuals and communities, and having been introduced to the progress towards peace that these exchanges enable, I returned to San Antonio eager to implement these innovating and inspiring ideas in to action.



“WORLD VIEW”

Editor & Contributor

Cecilia Cross

ccross.saciv@gmail.com

““ Visitor Quotes ””

TOWARDS A MORE SAFE & SECURE WORLD: COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL CRIME

“The appointments met our professional objectives. Everywhere the host authority tired their best to explain how they are working, what challenges they are facing, and what limitations they have. They also answered all our questions and thereby both the country members had the opportunity to compare the functions of two countries.”

“We participated in home hospitality and enjoyed it a lot. We came to how a US family lives and runs their home. “

- **YM Belalur Rahman** (Bangladesh)

“I enjoyed home hospitality a lot! It was a pleasure to know a Bangladeshi-American family and their lifestyle in the US. The hosts and their friends were adorable. It was once of the best experience of the IVLP.”

“I had little idea that San Antonio would be so beautiful. It is a safe place with very efficient law enforcement infrastructure. “

- **Juairia Haque** (Bangladesh)

“Home hospitality was great! We enjoyed it and especially liked how kind and friendly Ms. Sabina Chowdhury and Ms. Kay Grosinske were. It was really appreciated!”

“Before arriving in San Antonio I thought that it would be not as clean and law abiding, but after arrival it changed. San Antonio is a nice city, so clean and the people are do good. I especially liked the River-walk! I really enjoyed the city!”

“We really appreciated the program! Thanks to the US Department of State and SACIV for their kind support. “

- **MD Ekramul Hoque Tutul** (Bangladesh)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY: THE NAFTA EXPERIENCE

“The appointments met my professional objectives as I was looking forward to learning about how a border state takes advantage of US-Mexico trade relations. The meetings helped me learn about various tools used for improving trade and business, which we do not have in South Asian countries. It gave me new ideas to help strengthen institutions engaged in this area of work in South Asia.”

“I heard the name San Antonio for the first time when the program was handed to us in Washington, DC. From a quick internet search, I got an idea of a small American city that is growing under the new developments taking place between the improving US-Mexico commercial relationship. But I found it to be a fairly developed city already with a good economy of its own that is self-sustained and very impressive.”

- **Joseph George** (India)

“I found San Antonio to be a warm, diverse, and vibrant place, as well as a tourist paradise. It is an upcoming destination for businesses the world over, with a special emphasis on small and medium scale. It was a truly intriguing place to be in.”

- **Tripti Chakrovorty** (India)

“San Antonio is a lovely place with relaxed and warm hearted people. I just loved being here. I look forward to visiting again.”

- **Ritesh Kuman Singh** (India)

“I love the spirit of San Antonio and the people and their pride for the city!”

- **Anantharaman Mani** (India)

“The appointments met our professional objectives. They helped us to understand how San Antonio has taken advantage of its location in enhancing US-Mexico trade and logistics in business, and how small business are being facilitated through market research, training, and expanding their overseas presence.”

“It was a fruitful and productive trip. We could also see the cultural vibrancy of the city and had the opportunity to not only meet the business but also to have Mexican fruit and visit the market.”

- **Manish Mohan** (India)

PROSECUTION MATTERS IN COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

“The visitors had a great time visiting Arlis and Louis Olson and four other guests. They enjoyed the conversation with them and thought that Arlis was the best cook ever! They said it was the best meal they had in the US so far! “

- **Ann Green** (Interpreter—South Korea)

Bangladeshi Delegation Visits San Antonio as Part of the IVLP Initiative, “Towards a More Safe and Secure World”

On April 27th – May 3rd, SACIV hosted four emerging judicial, law enforcement, and security leaders from Bangladesh, in the United States to learn about “Combating International Crime” as part of the flagship IVLP global security initiative “Towards a More Safe and Secure World”.



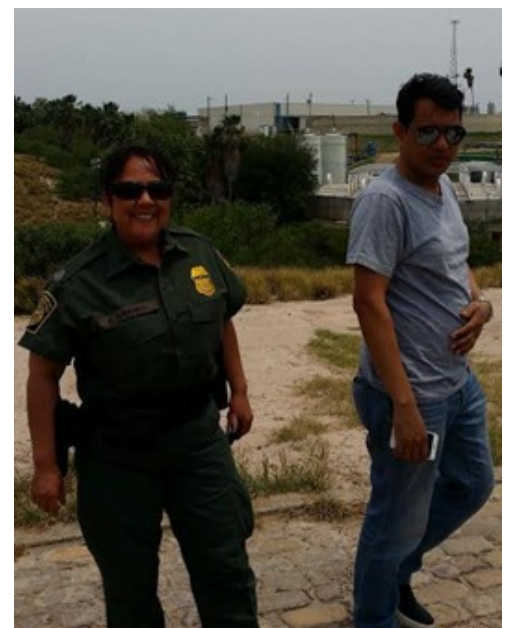
The initiative, consisting of a three-week long exchange for over 70 participants from around the globe, featured an opening plenary in Washington, DC with leading experts in the field of international security, and concluded with the annual “Combating International Crime: Global Cooperation” seminar in New York City, co-hosted by the FBI’s New York Field Office. This special global initiative addressed issues of international crime that challenge societies around the world and promoted global cooperation in the war against international crime.

A new flagship initiative of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the program aimed to examine the structure of the U.S. criminal justice system and US responses to narcotics trafficking, trafficking in persons, border security, money laundering, cyber security, wildlife trafficking, terrorism, and other international criminal activities. Participants traveled in six regional-specific groups to visit American cities, such as San Antonio, and engaged in dialogue with their US counterparts, allowing them to share best

practices and create valuable professional networks.

This innovative program reflected the US Department of State’s foreign policy commitment to:

- **Advance global security interests through strong people-to-people relationships.** An effective approach to combating international crime requires cooperation at every level. By connecting law enforcement and security professionals from around the world, we are promoting public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability.
- **Promoting Rule of Law.** The United States believes that law enforcement entities must have the ability to detect, prevent, and investigate criminal activity; the courts and judicial sectors must be able to handle criminal defense, prosecution, and adjudication of criminal cases; and there must be a functioning corrections system. As Secretary of State John Kerry said, *“If we are to turn the tides in the battle against organized crime and against drug traffickers, then we need to build cooperation and be innovative in our approaches. We in the United States believe that the rule of law has to be renewed every single day.”*
- **Leverage Partnerships.** The United States values strong international partnerships in the fight against transnational crime. Bilateral cooperation is an essential tool to confront such challenges, especially as criminal networks diversify their activities, creating new threats to governance, stability, and security.



- **Defeat Terrorism.** The United States remains committed to a global response to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL and other terrorist organizations. Through uniting with partners around the globe we will defeat extremism and lay the foundation for a world that is more tolerant, more secure, and more prosperous. As Secretary Kerry has said, *“The rise of violent extremism represents the pre-eminent challenge of the young 21st century. Military force is a rational and often necessary response to the wanton slaughters of children, mass kidnappings of schoolgirls, and beheading of innocents. But military force alone won’t achieve victory. In the long term, this war will be won only by deploying a broader, far more creative arsenal.”*

Through meetings with members of the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT), Frost Bank’s Risk Awareness Team, the US Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Laredo, the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office, the San Antonio Police Department, and the Southwest Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), participants examined various aspects of combatting international crime. They learned about the structure of the US criminal justice system and examined American responses to corruption, money laundering, trafficking in drugs, persons, & arms, cyber-crime, smuggling, and the nexus between transnational crime & terrorism. They were able to evaluate the broad range of policies, operational strategies, and the network of federal, state, and local government and private-sector institutions working to combat international crime and yet protect civil rights. And they explored cooperative efforts that strengthen international partnerships to combat cross-border criminal activity, in addition to the services provided domestically and internationally to assist victims of international crimes.



Welcome to our newest Board Member!

JoAnn Andera

Jo Ann Andera is the Director of the Institute’s signature events, including the Texas Folklife Festival and the Asian Festival. She has directed the Texas Folklife Festival for over 30 years. An exemplary events planner, Andera has earned “Professional of the Year” and “Lifetime Time Achievement” honors from the Texas Festivals Association. She is a past Board Chair of the International Festivals Association and a member of the organization’s Presidents Council. Jo Ann has been an employee of ITC since 1970. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio and is a Certified Festival Executive from International Festivals Association and the Institutional Management Institute at Purdue University.



Thank you to our CORPORATE MEMBERS



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



GBM
WORLDWIDE, EST. 1983



James Lifshutz



Bernard Buecker



UNAM
SAN ANTONIO

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER: THE MEANING OF “I AM DIPLOMACY”

By Jennifer Clinton, PhD
Global Ties U.S.

Back in June of 2015, upon hearing that the National Meeting Committee chose “I am Diplomacy” to be our meeting theme, I was apprehensive. “What does that mean?” I asked myself. At first blush it struck me as an oxymoron. Diplomacy is traditionally a nation’s exclusive domain. Putting “I am” in front of a term carrying so much heft, history and tradition seemed odd—and, some might say, disruptive.

My Global Ties U.S. team reminded me there was nothing “traditional” or normal about the times in which we live. We talked about the nature of our roles and our goal of building a more peaceful, prosperous world. The more I reflected on it, the more convinced I became that using “I am Diplomacy” as our national meeting theme would turn things on their heads a little bit and lead to a fruitful discussion.

“I am Diplomacy” underscored the three pillars of citizen diplomacy: agency, action, and accountability

Honest Tea CEO Seth Goldman put it best when he accepted the Citizen Diplomat of the Year award, reminding us, “if it is to be, it is up to me.” If we want change—greater peace, hope, joy, prosperity, and understanding—we need to recognize that the power to make that change is within each of us. As I contemplated this humanitarian and businessman’s exhortation to us to act, I realized that “I am Diplomacy” underscored the three pillars of citizen diplomacy: agency, action, and accountability.

Agency is the expression of individual power through words and deeds. We saw dozens of examples of this at the National Meeting, showcasing how every individual, organization, and community expresses its strengths in unique ways. Agency was manifest at our Friday afternoon Citizen Diplomacy Luncheon where a number of individuals shared their personal stories. Michelle Wilson from Global Ties Akron shared a particularly powerful story about an IVLP delegation. The group was made up of doctors from Kuwait, were here in the U.S. to learn more about tackling the rapidly growing epidemic of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes affecting their country. One of their meetings included a visit to the local elementary school. When they approached the entrance to the school they found the doors covered with welcome greetings to each of the delegates in English and Arabic. They were greeted by

student ambassadors who proudly led each of the doctors by hand on a tour of their school. Fellow students gave welcome speeches to greet their special guests. Then it was off for a tour of the students’ teaching gardens—a community project in partnership with the American Heart Association. Needless to say, any stereotypes or misconceptions were now long gone. Hearts melted. Friendships formed.

Action is self-explanatory and was on display at the National Meeting. I’m not alone when I write that I never saw our network and its supporters more active and cohesive. They took action, visiting 120 Congressional offices, encouraging elected officials to help us unleash the full power and potential of exchange programs in the face of the worst Washington, DC snowstorm in about 100 years.



Finally, **Accountability** signifies our obligation to accept responsibility. This too was very much on display at the National Meeting. We saw it at the session on evaluating local impact, held in partnership with University of Southern California’s Center for Public Diplomacy; at the multiple listening sessions we held for and with leaders of our network; and at the session led by the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. I believe that “I am Diplomacy” will become a mantra, inspiring everyone to take pride in their roles as actors and agents working to make our world more peaceful and prosperous.

We were thrilled to welcome 955 participants over the course of four packed days of professional development sessions, unique networking opportunities, and high-level plenary events. If you were able to join us, thank you for coming and for contributing to the conversations. Those who could not attend can read about or listen to the collective efforts of those 955 participants on our National Meeting page.

Visitors from Armenia and South Korea Explore Methods to Combat Human Trafficking

Also known as human trafficking, and often referred to as “modern slavery”, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is defined as the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

During remarks at Clinton Global Initiative in September 2012, President Obama discussed the widespread international concern that is human trafficking: “It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business, because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I’m talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name - modern slavery.”

As a prevalent global issue, it’s of no surprise that the US Department of State’s often focuses on this topic though their IVLP exchanges, and SACIV has been pleased to highlight San Antonio’s local resources countless times since our founding over a quarter of a century ago.

Most recently, SACIV hosted two delegations of visitors this year from Armenia and South Korea, respectively, to examine local efforts to combat TIP. They focused on the “three P’s” of combatting Trafficking in Persons: prosecution, protection, and prevention.

The first group, consisting of six law enforcement officers from Armenia, visited San Antonio for a program on “Combatting Human Trafficking & Developing Major Criminal Cases” in February. The second delegation included six prosecutors from South Korea, whose program in April focused on “Prosecution



Matters in Combatting Trafficking in Persons”.

Armenia is a source and, to a lesser extent, destination

country for men, women, and children subjected to sex and labor trafficking. Accordingly, the Armenian visitors spent almost a week in our city to learn about transnational trafficking, border protection, the role of local law enforcement in combatting TIP, information sharing between agencies, and securing justice for & reintegrating victims. They met with representatives of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the San Antonio Police Department, the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT), and the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office while in San Antonio. Additionally, they spent a day in Laredo observing the US-Mexico border, visiting the Rio Grande Detention Center, and meeting with the staff of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. They were also hosted for dinner by members of the local Armenian community as well as by SACIV members for home hospitality.



South Korea is a source, transit,

and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Therefore, the South Korean prosecutors spent almost a week in San Antonio to examine legal assistance for immigrants at risk, services for victims of TIP which included personnel training, and prosecution of TIP offenders. They meet with the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT), Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office, the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), and the San Antonio Police Department. They also enjoyed home hospitality and had time to explore downtown San Antonio as well as the Texas Hill Country.

We will no doubt continue to host more delegations wishing to learn countering human trafficking in the future, and welcome the opportunity to share best practices with professionals from around the world.



[Members' Corner]

By Betsy Cameron
SACIV Board Chair

In February, SACIV received a five-member delegation from India whose focus was “Regional Economic Connectivity: the NAFTA Experience”. They had an opportunity to meet with Free Trade Alliance staff, Mr. Carlos Jarquin and Ms. Saani Fong, and learn about the organization’s role to position San Antonio as a hub for international business by promoting foreign direct investment & export development, and advocating on issues that affect international business in the

region. They were impressed with the energy of the staff. While at the International Center building, they met San Antonio’s Chief of Protocol and Head of International Relations, Ms. Shahrzad (Sherry) Dowlatshahi and heard about San Antonio’s Sister City relationship with Chennai, India, and were thrilled in having their pictures taken with the Chennai sign.

Other professional meetings focused on business development included Mr. Cliff Paredes, of the International Trade Center at UTSA, and the Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos (AEM), where they met several board members and learned about their support of bilateral relations and assistance to both Mexico and U.S. entrepreneurs. One quote that summarizes the group’s experience – “I love the spirit of San Antonio people and their pride for the city.”



Colombians Explore Vulnerable Populations and Victims' Assistance

On March 15th through March 19th, SACIV hosted four Colombian visitors for a program on “Vulnerable Populations and Victims’ Assistance”. Their program aimed to explore national, state, and local policies, programs and institutions committed to protecting at-risk populations and underrepresented communities; examine challenges facing victims of violence, human trafficking, internal displacement, and gender-based violence; observe programs that facilitate reintegration of troubled youth, former gang members, and previously incarcerated individuals; and explore local level programs and nonprofit organizations seeking to support, place, and integrate immigrant and refugee populations.

Specifically, their program in San Antonio focused on three areas:

- **The New Orleans Diaspora: Internally Displaced Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.** Visitors met with **Dr. Sara DeTurk**, Associate Professor of Communications at UTSA, for an academic insight into how internally displaced persons were provided with assistance and integrated into the community after the 2005 hurricane. Having grown-up during a war in their home country, the Colombians asked many poignant questions about her advice on conflict resolution techniques. They also met with representatives of the **City of San Antonio’s Office of Emergency Management** at their Emergency Operations Center. There, they were able to learn about the City’s role in 2005 in providing assistance and housing for thousands of evacuees from New Orleans and how they work with and serve those affected by severe weather. And they met with staff of **BCFS** (formerly Baptist Children and Family Services) to learn about their Emergency Management Division and responses to regional hazards such as wild-fires, hurricanes, and tornados. They also had the opportunity to hear about the shelters BCFS has set-up recently for unaccompanied migrant minors that have been entering Texas from Mexico and Central America in the past years.



- **Supporting Hispanic Immigrant Communities and Promoting Integration.** The delegation met with representatives from **Texas Riogrande Legal Aid** to learn about their work to provide legal services and assistance to low income families and individuals in South Texas specifically, how they aid immigrants and victims of human trafficking as well as migrant and seasonal farm workers throughout the state of Texas. Similarly, they met with the staff of **American Gateways** to discuss their vision for all people to have a right to equal access to justice and how they provide the legal and educational services immigrants need to navigate the immigration system and begin a new life free of torture and abuse.



The visitors attended a roundtable discussion with member representatives of the **Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT)**, a group of professionals that represents local NGOs and agencies that aim to defend and protect victims of trafficking as well as raise awareness to prevent trafficking at a grassroots level, specifically in underserved areas. They discussed their collaborative efforts and shared training techniques with the group.

- **Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons.** The visi-



Latin American Women Leaders as Agents of Social Change

In March, fourteen international visitors from Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Spain, and Venezuela came to San Antonio for a program entitled “Women Leaders: Agents of Social Change”. Their program focused on efforts to promote the status of women and encourage their change-making contributions to society. On March 24th, they attended three meetings with local speakers to learn about this topic from area women leaders.

First, they visited with the staff of the Martinez Street Women’s Center, a non-profit that provides girls and women from low-income San Antonio neighborhoods with access to vital health services. The conversation focused on women as leaders in community development and they had the opportunity to share their stories of success as well.



Next, they went to City Hall to meet with Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran and learn about her experiences as a woman who has run for elected office and risen to a political leadership position. They were impressed with how the top levels of municipal leadership in our city are positions held by women. Councilwoman Viagran discussed challenges she has faced, such as “subtle sexism”, and emphasized strategies to build alliances. Sharing advice to the diverse group of Latin American women, “there is more that unites us than divides us”, she said. “Never be afraid to ask questions. You are representing everyone who elected you and they put their families trust in you... If I can do it, you can do it too!” Visitors were very moved by her stories and enthused by her words of¹⁵ encouragement.

Finally, they met with staff of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center to learn about their work as a community arts organization focused on promoting civil and economic rights and honoring cultural heritage through many mediums. The center’s representatives disused their programs and events geared towards advocating for women’s & gay rights, racial tolerance & understanding, and promoting peace by facilitating the exchange of ideas as well as encouraging education & empowerment, especially among minorities. They especially loved visiting with the women artists at their Westside project, the Mujer Artes women’s arts collective.



The next day, after a closing evaluation session, they spent their final day in the US enjoying cultural activities. This included a lunch at Los Barrios Mexican Restaurant in which dozens of SACIV members and their friends welcomed the delegation and exchanged in animated and engaging conversation. They women were particularly warmed by this enthusiastic reception and grateful for the hospitality shown by our community. They departed San Antonio as women of like mind helping to transform the landscape for future generations and positive change.



recognizing
Women IVLP Alumni

To celebrate 2016's Women's History Month theme, "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government", we are recognizing five inspiring International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumni.

To celebrate this year's Women's History Month, Global Ties U.S. recognized five female International Leadership Program (IVLP) alums for their dedication to promoting peace and strengthening their communities. These women are just a few out of many who model strength, wisdom and tenacity, and whose legacies will inspire many future generations and continue to shape the modern world. Fittingly, the theme of the 2016 Women's History Month, as declared by the National Women's History Project, is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government". This talented group of women undoubtedly exemplify this theme through their commitment to creating positive change with political contributions and activism.

BEATRICE MTETWA

Recognized by the *New York Times* as "Zimbabwe's top human rights lawyer", Beatrice Mtetwa has had an impressive career defending activists and challenging unjust government policies. Mtetwa received her undergraduate degree in law from the University of Botswana and Swaziland in 1981 before returning to Zimbabwe, her home country, to enter private practice, specializing primarily in human rights law. She gained international attention following her highly publicized case against Zimbabwe's Private Voluntary Organizations Act, a legislative policy that enabled government ministers to appoint or dismiss board members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). She also was a major proponent for journalist's rights and freedom of press: in 2003 she successfully prevented the deportation of Andrew Meldrum, a reporter for *The Guardian*, and in 2008 Mtetwa won an acquittal for *New York Times* reporter Barry Bearak who was being detained. Mtetwa was honored with the International Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists for her work in 2005 as well as the 2010 International Human Rights award of the American Bar Association. In 2013, Mtetwa and her defendants were featured in a documentary *Beatrice Mtetwa and the Rule of Law* to acknowledge her achievements and highlight key issues in the justice system of Zimbabwe. She was the recipient of the 2014 International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. State Department and was subsequently invited to participate in the IVLP program.



"If anyone wants change, they have the obligation to do something to attain that change."

TAWAKKOL KARMAN

An activist, journalist, politician and Nobel Laureate, Tawakkol Karman has an impressive list of credentials to her name. Her father being a prominent member of the Yemeni government during a tumultuous political era, Karman was inclined to activism and viewing the unhappy state of her country and maltreatment of its people. In 2005, she co-founded Women Journalists Without Chains to advocate for the rights of investigative journalists and to report on human rights violations, and in the same year she participated in the IVLP program. Two years following, Karman began organizing weekly protests in the capital city of Sana'a that demanded change for the corruption, repression and other injustices occurring in the leadership during Yemen's own Jasmine Revolution from 2011 through 2012. For her contributions, Karman was regarded as the "iron woman". She lobbied the United Nations Security Council as well as the United States in an effort to bring to light the discontentment of the Yemeni people and hold the current president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, accountable for his wrongdoings. The first Arab woman and second-youngest person nominated to win, Karman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her practice of nonviolent activism and



"Women should stop being or feeling that they are part of the problem and become part of the solution."

HELEN CLARK

With an extensive career in foreign policy, Helen Clark is an incredibly influential person involved in world affairs today. Ranked as the 23rd most powerful woman by Forbes in 2014, Clark previously served as Prime Minister to New Zealand from 1999 to 2008, and currently holds the position of Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is the third highest position within the United Nations. Since a teenager, Clark has been very active within the New Zealand Labour Party, and after earning her degree from the University of Auckland, she made her political debut in Parliament. In 1998, Clark, hosted by Meridian International Center, participated in the IVLP program and traveled to the United States. By this time, she had become an influential member of her party, and was later appointed Prime Minister in 1999 following a previous unsuccessful attempt. During her tenure, Clark implemented many economic initiatives and introduced a number of policies aimed at educational reform and environmental conservation. She advocated for many free trade agreements as well as the advancement of anti-militarism, which caused New Zealand to become much more influential in world affairs. After serving three terms as Prime Minister, she began her career at the United Nations as Administrator of the UNDP and Chair of the United Nations Development Group in 2009.



"Any serious shift towards more sustainable societies has to include gender equality."

MARGARET THATCHER

Britain's first elected Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher has become a figurehead of conservative ideology and earned the title the "Iron Lady" for her unyielding politics. Thatcher attended Oxford University and graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1947, although she always had political ambitions. Unsuccessful in her first attempts to win a seat in Parliament, she studied and practiced law until 1959, when she became a member of the House of Commons. In 1967, Thatcher was invited by the Department of State to visit the United States through the IVLP program. "...I traveled the length and breadth of the United States. The excitement which I felt has never really subsided. At each stopover I was met and accommodated by friendly, open, generous people who took me into their homes and lives and showed me their cities and townships with evident pride." Thatcher, over an extended period of time, became very influential in the Conservative Party, and was appointed Prime Minister in 1979. Caught in a time of financial downfall, Thatcher implemented many aggressive initiatives aimed at strengthening the economy through industry privatization and welfare reduction. Although her policies were not always popular, she was praised for her uncompromising resolution and fierce determination. Thatcher served three terms as Prime Minister before her resignation, and she passed away in 2013 due to health related reasons. However, her policies left an undeniable impression on Britain as well as internationally, illustrating her immense influence in the political world.



"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

INDIRA GANDHI

Daughter of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi was the first and only female Indian Prime Minister to date, as well as the longest holder of this position. Often described as stubborn yet highly talented, Gandhi attended several schools in Switzerland and England before returning to India to assist her father in political affairs. Later, she served on the India National Congress and was subsequently elected as Congress President in 1960. The next year, Gandhi participated in the State Department's IVLP program, which was facilitated by the Meridian International Center. Following the death of her father's successor, Gandhi was appointed Prime Minister and immediately took initiative to alleviating some of India's most troubling problems. One of her more important political contributions was assisting in the Pakistani war of independence and following creation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, in which she was greatly commended. Additionally, she led the Green Revolution by increasing crop diversification and exports to support the struggling agriculture industry. A major leader in world affairs and diplomacy, Gandhi took many risks in an effort to bring India into a more globalized world. She was later assassinated following her controversial actions to suppress a separatist movement led by Sikhs.



"Social change is brought about by those who dare and act, who can think unconventionally and who can court unpopularity."

SOFT POWER, HIGH IMPACT

America's premier exchange program is 75 this year. In this compilation of personal experiences, participants offer insight into its unique effectiveness.

BY ROBERT ZIMMERMAN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL
(DECEMBER 2015)

One of U.S. foreign policy's ground-breaking soft power initiatives is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year: the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Though it is not widely known and operates quietly, with a current budget of \$90 million, the impact of the IVLP is significant. The program has helped launch the careers of many world leaders, as well as civic leaders, while strengthening ties with our allies and advancing U.S. interests. As America's leadership debates the balance between hard and soft power, this time-honored and proven initiative demonstrates how the United States can show its best face to the world while achieving its goals peacefully.

About 5,000 foreign nationals visit the United States annually through the IVLP. Some 345 former and current heads of government have visited under the aegis of the program. Their ranks include Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, Indira Gandhi, Nicholas Sarkozy and Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias, all of whom participated early in their careers. Two current Latin American presidents, Brazil's Dilma Rousseff and Uruguay's Tabare Vazquez, are also among the 200,000 foreign alumni from 190 countries who have taken part in the program over the past 75 years.

International exchange alumni are prominent in a host of fields. Many business and economics professionals who participated in the IVLP have become economic or finance ministers in their home countries. IVLP also generates business for the United States.

The impact of international exchanges has not escaped the attention of our senior policymakers. In testimony to Congress in 2003, then-State Department Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Charlotte Beers noted that "50 percent of the leaders of the global coalition against terrorism had been International Visitors."

"Simple exchanges can break down walls between us, for when people come together and speak to one another and share a common experience, then their common humanity is revealed," notes President Barack Obama. One of U/S Beers' successors, Judith McHale, called exchanges "the single most important and valuable thing we do."

Why International Exchanges?

One key goal of any government-managed exchange program is the casting of the host country in the best possible light in the minds of a foreign audience. Another objective is sharing knowledge that overseas visitors can use when they return home as well as facilitating an exchange of ideas. Federal agencies have for decades invited foreign scholars, experts, military personnel and researchers to our country to meet American counterparts in fields from museum management and public health development, to international trade and foreign policy, to name but a few.

Since 1940, the United States has invited these would-be leaders from around the world on short-term visits under the auspices of the International Visitor and Leadership Program. U.S. embassy officials identify and nominate candidates whose careers

are still unfolding but who have already demonstrated the potential to become influential at home.

Visitors take part in programs that last from a few days to three weeks. While Washington, D.C., is often their first stop, nearly all participants go on to visit three to four cities across the United States. The program operates on the premise that foreign participants will gain a realistic picture of the United States by spending time there. Visitors see firsthand how American society and politics “work,” leading to understanding if not admiration.

Most International Visitor Leadership Program funding ultimately filters back to the United States, to be spent on services provided by U.S. firms. For example, the 1978 Fly America Act (Public Law 95–473) has been interpreted to require the use of U.S. carriers where possible. The entire program takes place in the United States, to the benefit of its hotels, transportation companies and contractors. Many participants bring extra funds with them to purchase gifts for families and friends at home. Some even extend their stay to see more of the country on their own.

The IVLP’s “Gold Star” program brings alumni who have made a significant impact in their home communities back to the United States to share their insights and to discuss new strategies with their American counterparts.

I reached out to the network of individuals and organizations that made the International Visitor Leadership Program a global success in search of a few stories to share, and heard from many wonderful people, far more than we could include here. The following selection of personal accounts by participants offers abundant testimony to the program’s vitality and effectiveness.



Robert Zimmerman is an FSO who has served overseas in seven countries over the past 22 years. Currently assigned to Washington, he is doing an excursion tour with Global Ties U.S. (formerly the National Council of International Visitors), a nonprofit that works with more than 100 partner organizations in 44 U.S. states and 15 foreign countries to help implement the International Visitor Leadership Program.

≡ HOME HOSPITALITY

What is Home Hospitality?

Home hospitality is one of the most important components of our visitors program in San Antonio.



Additionally, it is a fulfilling experience for our volunteers, offering an opportunity to

**FORGE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS
AND BUILD IMPORTANT BRIDGES
WHILE SHARING A MEAL.**



If you are interested in welcoming our international visitors for dinner at your home or favorite restaurant, please contact Cecilia Cross at ccross.saciv@gmail.com.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 HOSTS!

**Kay Grosinske
Sabrina Chowdhury
Arlis Olson & Louis Viggiano
Tamara & David Dennis
Irma & Roger Reyes
Betty Berchemmann
Rita Heck**



San Antonio Council
FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

P.O. Box 6088 San Antonio, TX 78209

Board of Directors & Staff

Betsy Cameron,
Chair

Bcameron.saciv@gmail.com
210.663.8055

Dr. Bernard “Ben” Buecker,
Immediate Past Chair

mastholte@aol.com
210.454.7742

Dr. Angelika Jansen-Brown

angelikajansen@yahoo.com
210.224.6011

Sarwat Husain

shusain@cair.com
210.378.9528

Marcos Fragoso,
Vice Chair

fragoso@uiwtx.edu
210.805.3014

Irma Reyes,
Founder & Chair Emeritus

sacivtx@sbcglobal.net
210.380.0377

Jose Luis Garcia

Jlgarcia78205@sbcglobal.net
210.827.7863

Mary Walsh

marysapple@gmail.com
210.497.3894

Justin Rice,
Secretary

justrice@yahoo.com
210.738.8772

Franco Cristadoro,
Treasurer

cardigno@sbcglobal.com
210.735.7232

Cecilia Cross,
Executive Director

ccross.saciv@gmail.com
210.287.6328

San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) was founded in 1989 as a non-profit, volunteer-based organization aimed at encouraging understanding and friendship between the community and visitors from abroad. SACIV provides information, hospitality, and assistance in making business and professional contacts for these visitors. SACIV is a member of Global Ties US in Washington, DC. This publication is funded by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961.