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## Chief Executive Officer's Message

Volume 6, Issue 3, Year 2017

"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them." Francis Bacon, "Of Goodness & Goodness of Nature," 1627



Preparing Global Ties Alabama's strategic agenda for 2017 has been fortified by the citizen diplomacy legacy of our Diplomatic Corps of volunteers and the dynamic public private partnerships that allow us to confront new interconnected challenges.

The 2016 contributions of Alabamians to the International Visitor Leadership Program emerging leaders including the International Women of Courage, the Central American Youth Ambassadors, the Legislative Fellows from Pakistan and India, the Young entrepreneurs from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Open World Fellows from Kazakhstan and the Ukraine and the Fulbright Visiting Scholars have been unprecedented.

GTA's 2016 recognition scroll celebrated Dr. Libby Parker, Dr. Stacey Nickson, Honorable Mark Jackson, Judge Martha Sherrod, Honorable Jack Williams as well as distinguished Spirit of Diplomacy awardees and Strategic Partners of the Year.

These selfless mentors, professional/government/business/nonprofit resources, tour guides, drivers, and homes hosts have demonstrated a shared commitment which strengthened each engagement aimed at advancing collective peace, prosperity and human dignity through diplomacy and global development.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Feb. 8-11**

*Germany*  
IVLP  
Montgomery

**Feb. 11-15**

*Columbia*  
IVLP  
Mobile

**Mar. 18-22**

*Africa*  
IVLP  
Montgomery

April 4-11

*Central America Youth*  
CAYA  
Huntsville

**April 8-16**

*Russia*  
Open World  
Chattanooga

**July 9-Aug. 2**

*Central America Youth*  
Outbound  
Huntsville

**Sept. 23-Oct. 1**

*Kosovo*  
Open World  
Huntsville



THANK YOU

*Jacquelyn Shiye*

## GLOBAL TIES' COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM PROGRAM

by John Davis

Dr. Daniel Trepdorf took great advantage of the Global Ties' *Countering Violent Extremism* program when he visited Montgomery, Alabama. Trepdorf, Director of the Regional Center of Democratic Culture, West Mecklenburg, Germany, heard presentations and later reached out to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) of Montgomery. He sought their commentary at a conference he organized on "Right Wing Extremism and the Promotion of Democracy". Ms. Lecia Brooks, Outreach Coordinator, SPLC, presented to a noteworthy audience of German politicians, law enforcement officials, and social experts. She offered experiences and cautions drawn from the American Civil Rights perspective on stopping violent extremism.



**SPLC**  
**Southern Poverty**  
**Law Center**

Ms. Brooks outlined the mission of SPLC to research, identify, and counter such violent extremism directed against civil and human rights. Even though the Civil Rights era lies many years behind us, the need for active awareness continues. Stopping violent extremism now is especially true in this era of global right wing populism and the internet. She noted how well researched educational materials, conferences such as Dr. Trepdorf's, individual and group awareness, and informed actions must all be employed to defend against threats to long fought for rights. Passivity is not an option if one wishes to preserve the gains made in these arenas.

Dr. Trepdorf's engagement of the SPLC for his conference on the defense of human rights is yet another demonstration of the effectiveness of Global Ties. The need to counter the global phenomenon of violent extremism is an ever present need. Dr. Trepdorf shows us one way to do this by bringing to advantage the ground work of Global Ties.

### OPEN WORLD: *Kazakhstan*



Home hosts Mile Tilley and Wanda Gail Campbell enjoy their visitors

### CITIZEN DIPLOMACY LUNCHEON



GTA Annual meeting speaker, Bonnie Glick, Sr. VP of Meridian Intl with GTA Board members Diehl, Hamilton, Reynolds, CEO Shipe and honoree Honorable Jack Williams



Liz Hurley, WAFF-TV anchor and founder of Liz Hurley Run for breast cancer awareness

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**WHAT IS A GLOBAL TIES ALABAMA VOLUNTEER?**

*with John and Jane Davis, by Jenny Kile, editor of Mysterious Writings*

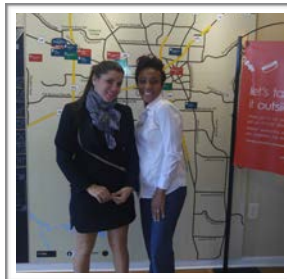
We volunteered with Global Ties, a non-profit that implements State Department exchange programs. We guide foreign guests to their appointments and try to treat each group as if they are the most important persons to visit Huntsville. We carefully review their biographies, and determine their particular interests, the better to make a personal connection. We've learned local history and prepare to answer visitors' questions. Many questions concern our Civil War or the civil rights period. We answer without equivocation. In fact, we make sure to tell our guests, before their formal meetings, to ask any question, and not be satisfied until the question is answered. Assume every issue is on the table. Jane is especially attentive to dietary or religious needs of our visitors, and conscientiously checks ahead for their particular requests. I should add all love their first chance to eat alligator!



Above all though, we've found that to study others' beliefs and customs makes us aware and respectful of cultural differences. Of most significance, and most commented upon, is our honest and straightforward method of dealing with questions. We try to respond to inquiries with comprehensiveness; to place information in context. We don't avoid even potentially problematic issues. We enjoy asking as well as answering questions! That's how we learn. Listening is a wonderful art, and expands our world. In fact, one guest, a mayor from the Philippines, reported later that cooperative efforts he'd discovered here through Global Ties resulted in his peace initiative between combating factions in his country. They even worked together after a tremendous typhoon, helping each other regardless of ethnic or religious differences! Our motto is that of Abraham Lincoln, "If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend." We've learned what patience, diligence, imagination, and sincere care for each other can do to break age old walls.

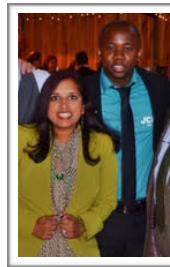
**WHAT IS A MENTOR?**

*a Latin American and Caribbean Young Leaders Perspective*



Laura Castro

Mentor: Lyn Pinchon  
warm, nice, strong advisor



Moreno Jackson

Mentor: Ruchi Singhal  
wonderful, polite, dedicated



Louby Georges

Mentor: David Person  
simply amazing and a blessing in my life



Maria Cordova

Mentor: Dr. Libby Parker  
committed, faithful and full of hope



Abbigale Loncke (Guyana)

Mentors: Beth Brooks, Elaine Dickson  
selfless, resourceful, amazing, inspiring



Humphreys-Rodgers House  
102 Gates Avenue Southwest  
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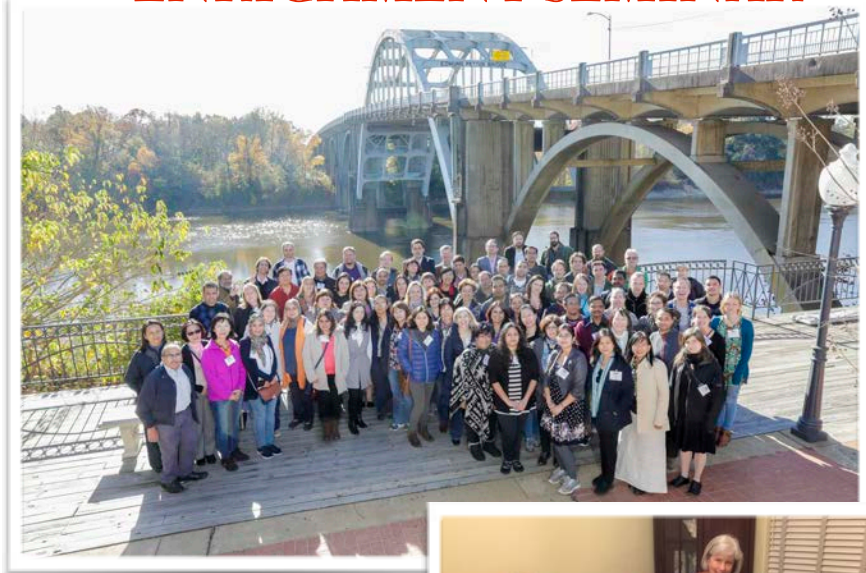
**Jacquelyn Shipe**  
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**Mariana Stovall**  
*Operations Assistant*

**Annette Philpo't**  
*Program Consultant*

**Alana Henry**  
*Oakwood University Intern*

Connect With Us!



Fulbright Scholars at Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL



Southern hospitality in action



Muslim and Jewish Fulbright Scholars building bridges during Gratitude Circle session



Dr. James Nathan, Jacqui Shipe, Grant Hammond and Dr. Lee Sellers join Mayor Todd Strange (center) in welcoming 80 Fulbright Scholars for reception at Montgomery City Hall