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UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 11 – 17 Morocco, IVLP
"Startups and the U.S. Economic Ecosystem"
Huntsville

January 24 - February 1
Open World: Tajikistan
"Government Management in the U.S.", *Huntsville*

January 26-29 Rwanda, IVLP "Combating Trafficking in Persons" *Birmingham*

February 1-3 South Africa, Sadiq Toffa *Montgomery*

February 2-5
MRP, IVLP, "Human and Civil Rights" *Montgomery*

February 18 - March 6
Iraq, IVLP, "Building Capacity Among Civil Society Leaders" *Birmingham*

February 29 - March 5
Africa- Francophone, PanAfrica Youth Leadership Program, "U.S. Electoral Process" *Montgomery*

March 10-14
U.K., IVLP, "Pluralism" *Birmingham*

March 16-19
Cameroon, "Rule of Law" *Montgomery*

HAPPY 2020!

If you could review a timeline of Global Ties Alabama in the past year, you would see change - new headquarters at the UAH Executive Plaza - and growth - new satellite office at TROY University's Montgomery campus. You would marvel at GTA's global emerging leaders to include 48 Youth Ambassadors — high school students representing 19 countries and 14 adults (mentor chaperones plus 16 other visitors) including International Women of Courage, Hidden No More/STEM leaders and staff from Kazakhstan's Parliament. You might be surprised to learn of the citizen diplomacy exemplified by your Alabama neighbors - 37 served as home stay hosts for 1 - 2 week's and 57 hosted our international visitors for southern hospitality in their

homes. I'm certain you would share pride with me witnessing our university interns evolve to join the staff of the British Embassy in Washington, DC and to be selected as one of 20 Emerging Leaders nationwide as well as being nominated by Congressman Mo Brooks to serve in a South Korean It is with gratitude that I salute GTA's team and stakeholders throughout Alabama - the GTA Board of Directors, GTA Advisory Council, GTA Diplomatic Corps of volunteers, strategic partners, professional resources, donors - especially as we prepare to celebrate a new decade and GTA's 55th Anniversary.



GTA CEO, Jacqui Shipe and former high school intern, Shannon Mitchell, who is now enrolled in Emory Law School during the Equal Justice Remembrance Project kickoff in Huntsville.

*Yours in Global Service,
Jacquelyn Shipe
Global Ties Alabama
Chief Executive Officer*

2019 Annual Meeting and Citizen Diplomacy Luncheon



is excited to announce our secondary office location in Montgomery! In partnership with
You can find our new office at
Troy University's Whitley Hall,
231 Montgomery St. Room 312



Huntsville
Executive Plaza
555 Sparkman Dr. NW
Suite 800 Building 800
Huntsville, Alabama 35816

Montgomery
Troy University
Whitley Hall Rm. 312
231 Montgomery St.
Mongomery, AL 36104

GTATEAM

Jacquelyn Shipe
Chief Executive Officer
Suzanne Greer Roten
Operations Assistant
Annette Philpo't
Program Consultant

Interns

Kezia Daniel, Oakwood
Gabriela Garcia, Calhoun
Starr Davis, Oakwood
Matt Osadci, Bob Jones HS
Ezra Wyso, Randolph HS



**Kaleeka Signh and Arno Pardeep of
Serve2Unite speak at GTA's Annual
Meeting**



**Dr.Drew Reynolds, left, GTA Board of Directors, and
Jacqui Shipe, GTA CEO, present Dr.Jack Hawkins,
middle, of Troy University with his Global Leadership
Award.**

CITIZEN DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR

Honorable Mark Jackson

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Bryan Stevenson, Equal Justice Initiative

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mayor Todd Strange
Dr. Jack Hawkins

SPIRIT OF DIPLOMACY AWARD

Al Allenbeck
Rochdi Allul & Patricia Forgarty
Scott Edmonson
Neil Foulger
Pryce & Paula Haddix
Dr. Cheryl Lang
Joe & Lucie Lee Lanoux
Dot Moore

Honorable Will Sellers
Honorable Malika Sanders Fortier
Isaiah Sankey
David Sadler
Martha Hawkins, Martha's Place
Suzy Steen
Jean Graetz
Peter & Janet Waldo

STRATEGIC PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

Meeson Han, AKEEP
City of Montgomery Police Department
Hyundai
SPLC
Shawna Faniel, Doubletree Hilton
Kiara Boone, EJ

**Marcus Hannah, Selma/ Dallas
Detention Center**
Nichelle Nix, Alabama Governer
Dept. of Minority Affairs
Charlie Schmidt, Hampton Inn

Diplomacy Begins Here Summit

By GTA Interns, Kezia Daniel and Gabriela Garcia

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When someone delves into the unknown, they are beginning a journey to understanding other people in a way that cannot be described, it must be experienced. The Diplomacy Begins Here Regional Summit was held in Louisville, Kentucky and its theme for 2019 was "The Future of Global Education". Expert speakers on topics like global education in the 21st century, global exchange on local education, and incorporating exchanges into educational programs were present. The Summit also brought together Community-Based Members, National Program Agencies, Department of State representatives, students, and other entrepreneurs.

The Regional Summit allowed us the opportunity to learn more about global education and different perspectives of the effects it has globally.

One session that stood out to us was learning about how schools in South Africa are affecting academic and social progress from simply providing students calculators.

Global education, and the cultural understanding it provides, fuels International exchange programs that in turn provide the basis for involvement and interaction around the world.



Gabriela Garcia, left, and Kezia Daniel, right, sit on an interactive installment at the Churchill Downs Derby Museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

One Table Huntsville

By Starr Davis

Thanksgiving reflects a sense of interconnection among people however, not everyone is able to go home or have loved ones to spend holidays with. Village of Promise, a non-profit organization, and other organizations including Global Ties Alabama, teamed up to host One Table Huntsville. This community initiative invited the public to attend a free pre-Thanksgiving Day meal in downtown Huntsville. It was an opportunity for people from all across Huntsville's diverse communities to come together to share a delicious meal and conversation.

One Table Huntsville's purpose is to remove barriers and bring people from across Huntsville together to get to know each other, and to build understanding, and friendships. Many people came not only to enjoy a meal, but to serve others; by serving, setting up tables, picking up trash, or just welcoming guests.

This initiative reminds me of GTA's host-families who graciously open their

homes to international visitors, One Table Huntsville and host-families through Global Ties Alabama exchanges allow us to better understand our differences and appreciate our similarities. When initiatives like these are planned to celebrate community, diverse cultures, and backgrounds, there is an even greater impact for the city, the country, and the world.



GTA intern, Starr Davis serves food to the community for One Table Huntsville.

Just what does it mean to be a Citizen Diplomat?

by Jane Davis

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the authority of the Fulbright
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Jane K. Lowe
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Connect With Us!



“Based on dozens of groups I’ve accompanied to their professional meetings, I’ve discovered a few common traits to make such experiences more enjoyable. Before they arrive, I try to learn as much about their countries, and their customs, as possible. Just like us, guests are encouraged to speak when someone asks about their own country. Remember, visitors to America are at first overwhelmed; having a kind, receptive listener is so important. Our American history, architecture, language quirks, and government are fascinating for visitors. Best to brush up on stories of our own country, and read the Constitution!

I try to show them parts of our region they won’t necessarily see during meetings. I’ve directed the driver through all sorts of neighborhoods, answering questions as we go. I try to explain the history behind places we see. My first comment to our guests is, ‘Everything is open to your questions. Anything you want to ask, please do so! No questions are off limits!’ I learn about food requirements. I find restaurants which have, say, kosher or halal food available. Sometimes they ask where they can pray. Patience, especially with their language, is important. Although most are fluent in English, the State Department sends along a bilingual translator. In the end, I learn even more from them than they from me. You truly get a chance to make friends, often for life, one handshake at a time.



Diplomatic Corps member Noor Gillani welcomes Moroccan delegates to dinner in his home.



Leading without a Title

by Kezia Daniel, Intern

Anesu Emmanuel Chagadama is a part of the "Leading Without a Title" Youth Mentoring Program at Prince Edward High School in Virginia. Having a creative mind, Anesu loves playing around with words but has ignored his gift until recently. He started his first official project 13 months ago and launched the ebook "Tightened Strings" recently on Amazon Kindle.

Tightened Strings is about a young man, Emmanuel, who follows in his father's footsteps and joins a secret agency called the Blue Eye. A few years after his father's death, the Blue Eye contacted Emmanuel in a bid to recruit him and resurrect the organization. They send him to an expert in Asia who equips Emmanuel with all he needs to be a secret agent. When he returns, the organization decides to expand their services. They begin to assist the less-privileged through aide and scholarships known as The Blue Eye Outreach program. One of the beneficiaries, Pepper, impresses the board and they give him all he needs to become an agent as well. However, he turns on the agency and he joins the Blue Eye's long term rival, IBIS.

If interested in more information, please contact
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