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[U.S. Center Research Report:the impact of citizen diplomacy on people and communities in the U.S. and abroad, Julienne Krennrich, September, 2008](#)

["Voices of America:](#)

## February 5th, 2009 Washington, D.C.: Launch of the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy

Mark your calendars! The launch of the Initiative on Global Citizen Diplomacy will take place in Washington, D.C., on February 5th, 2009.

During this special event, the U.S. Center will conduct a press conference and solicit President Barack Obama for his endorsement of and involvement in the U.S. Center national campaign to mobilize and engage more Americans in building strong person-to-person relationships with citizens from other countries. A "CALL TO ACTION" will also be presented to the new President and the public to energize the American citizenry to become globally engaged - to become citizen diplomats of the highest order for their communities and their country.



- LOCATION: National Press Club, First Amendment Lounge
- DATE/TIME: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 5:30-7:30pm

### IN THE NEWS...

Recently, Executive Director Ann Schodde and Vice President, Former Ambassador [Mark Johnson](#) spoke to Iowa Public Radio, host of "Talk @ 12" Katherine Perkins about the Initiative. [Listen to the interview!](#)



Vice President Mark Johnson also described the Initiative for Citizen Diplomacy in a *Missoulian* guest column. Read the story: [The world around us is closer than we realize](#). In response, the readers of the *Missoulian* wrote a follow-up story stating, "Citizen diplomacy is not new to the Missoula community. " Click here to read about the great examples of citizen diplomacy these Montana residents are setting: [International Choir Festival brings world to Missoula.](#)

### Spotlight on Organizations:

[U.S. Public Diplomacy for the 21st Century,"](#)  
[Kristin M. Lord,](#)  
[November 2008](#)



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[U.S. Public Diplomacy Envoy Cal Ripken's stories in Nicaragua](#)

[Open Doors 2008: International Students on U.S. Campuses At All-Time High](#)

[Open Doors 2008: U.S. Study Abroad Up 8%, Continuing Decade-Long Growth](#)

[U.S. Department of State: Increase in Student and Exchange Visitor Visa Issuances](#)

Quick Links

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[The World Affairs Councils of America](#) has been a leading outlet for foreign affairs discussions since 1918. With affiliate councils across the country, WACA promotes greater understanding of global affairs through public events, educational activities, and international visitor programs. Members of the Council include schools, public institutions, businesses, and individuals who want first hand information on global issues and direct participation in international exchange.

The Council has been a partner with Gallup and the U.S. Center on the *"Who Speaks For Islam?" forums*, which continue to be presented across the country. The partnership with the U.S. Center is just one example of the many community programs WACA works on each year.

In addition to its [national flagship programs](#), [Member Councils](#) develop their own regional initiatives. For example, the [Council in Seattle, Washington](#), is focused on an Environment and Energy Series. These lectures and workshops are designed to engage the Seattle area community with open discussions on global trends related to the environment, climate change, and energy consumption and development.

All of WACA's programming reflects its core goal of empowering citizens to participate in the national debate on world affairs.

[Visit the U.S. Center web site](#) to learn about more opportunities to get involved with your local chapter of WACA, or to locate other national organizations conducting citizen diplomacy activities in your state.

### "Who Are Citizen Diplomats?" Cal Ripken, Jr. Brings Baseball and Fun to Nicaragua & China

Well-known athletes who exemplify the best in their sport, as an athlete and an individual, are appointed by the Secretary of State to be [American Public Diplomacy Envoys](#). Cal Ripkin, Jr. is the most recent of these special envoys, who not only reach out to youth through sports but promote the best aspects of American culture and democratic principles through their own personal example. We recognize them as exemplary U.S. citizen diplomats.



Click [here to read Cal's blogs](#) about his second trip in this role to Nicaragua. Click [here](#) to read Cal's first trip in this role to China.

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## 2008 AABF Follow Up & New Video Page

After the enormous success of the [2008 Arab American Business Fellowship Program](#), the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy heard back from all four Arab fellows that had spent one week's time in Des Moines. Let's share their words:



Mohamed Al Borno

*"The AABF was a life changing experience for all of us! It was great chance to experience corporate America first-hand, to share professional know-how and best practices. Last but not least the AABF was an amazing chance to break the stereotypes between Arabs & Americans."*



Alaa M. Zayed

*"AABF is very important programme and badly needed because it depends on communication and accepting others' differences, lately there is a lot of misperception between USA and Arab Nations, and I believe the only solution to get over all of these obstacles will be through building trust between each other and it will never happen without positive communications."*



Alaa Qattan

*"My experience on the Arab American Fellowship was enriching on a personal and professional level. Not only have we demonstrated to the U.S. that Islam and the Arab world is peaceful, modern and progressive, but we also established friendships with the American sponsor companies who have generously supported this very important program."*



Khaled Khalil

*"Getting to know my dear Arab fellows as well as our friends in every company and home we visited in the US was a tremendous addition to both personal and professional level. We learned a lot as we had the chance to look from the other end of the Telescope. Our visit helped to see a clearer picture of the US as well as providing the Americans with a clearer picture of our world. I am sure we have now a better understanding, and a mutual respect from both sides. "*

[Click here to read all the quotes!](#)

### Video Page!

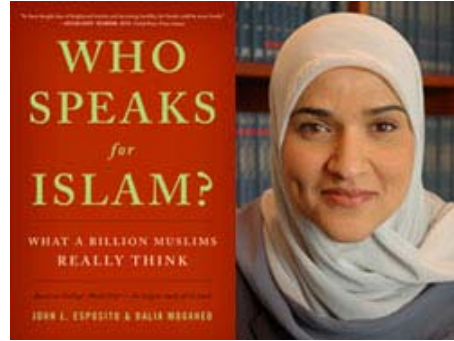
The U.S. Center has launched a new video page for the Arab American Business Fellowship Program. Thanks to our intern Matt Clark, who produced the videos.



[Click here to watch all three videos!](#)

## Who Speaks for Islam? Naples Forum Attracts A Crowd

The third in a series of seven *Who Speaks for Islam? forums* was held in Naples, Florida on November 17, 2008. The Naples forums were attended by over 1,200 people who heard author and speaker Dalia Mogahed, Senior Analyst and Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, discuss recent Gallup World Poll results.

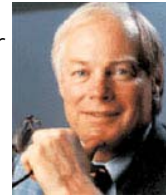


The partners for the forum series are The [U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy](#), [Gallup](#), and the [World Affairs Councils of America](#). Thank you to the [Naples Council on World Affairs](#) who was the sponsor for Naples venue! Watch for information on upcoming forums to be held in Missoula, MT (March 17), Milwaukee, WI (April 15) and Springfield, IL (TBA).

## Board and Advisory Updates

### Transition Team Appointments

U.S. Center Advisory Council member and former U.S. Congressman James A. Leach represented President-elect Obama at the President's Global Economic Summit. The Washington Times: [Albright, Leach to represent Obama at summit](#)



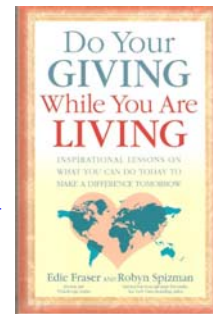
Advisory Council member Aaron Williams was selected to serve on the Obama foreign assistance transition team. The Office of the President-Elect: [Obama-Biden Transition Team announces broad list of Agency Review Team leads](#)



### New Publications

USCCD Board Member and President of The National Council for International Visitors, [Sherry Mueller](#) recently published a new book called "Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development".

Advisory Council member and Chair of Diversity Practice & Managing Director, Diversified Search Ray & Berndtson, [Edie Fraser](#) is the author of a new book "[Do Your Giving While You are Living: Inspirational Lessons On What You Can Do Today To Make A Difference Tomorrow](#)". USCCD Executive Director [Ann Shodde](#) has contributed an article for Edie's book. Click [here](#) to read!



## U.S. Center Interns: Where are they now?

Haileigh Meyers was the first student intern at the U.S. Center, working closely with Ann Schodde from January 2006-August 2006. After graduating from Central College, she participated in the Mountbatten Internship Programme. This program places American college graduates in financial industries in London, and Haileigh worked at Clifford Chance LLP in the Capital Markets division as a paralegal.



Today, Haileigh is back in the U.S. studying for her Masters in Public Service Administration and someday hopes to be working as a Foreign Service Diplomacy Officer... [Click here to read Haileigh's entire story!](#)

Visit our new [Intern Page](#) often to help track of what our former university interns are doing as citizen diplomats around the world!

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This is a monthly publication of U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. For further information about this newsletter please visit our website at <http://www.uscenterforcitizendiplomacy.org>

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