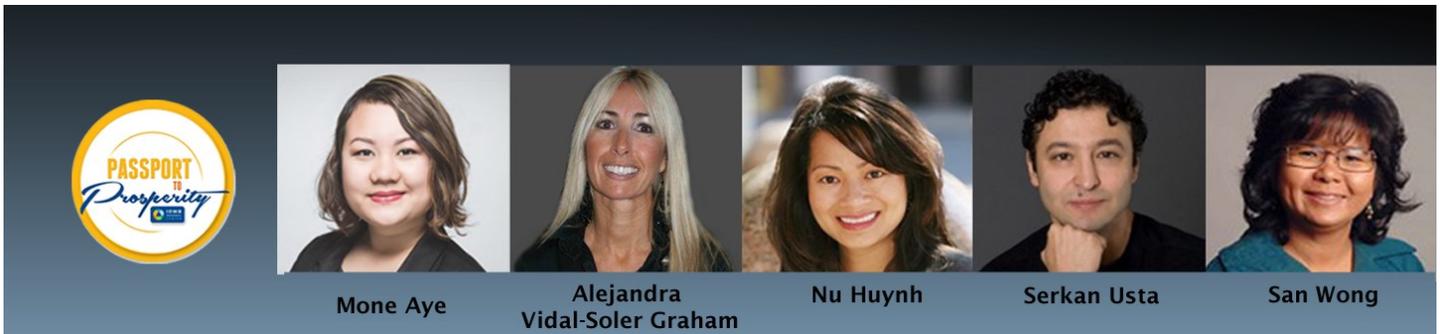




Do You Know the Inspiring Stories of These Global Iowans?



The inspiring story of a refugee of Burma, born in a refugee camp in Thailand, who is now helping fellow members of her Karen culture thrive in Iowa, using her own inspiring journey to U.S. motivation? Or the bold journey of a six-year-old boy from an orphanage in Turkey, who, through his tenacity and talent, immigrated to the U.S. as a young adult to pursue dance and curate an appreciation for classical ballet in Iowa? During this year's Passport to Prosperity Celebration, we'll introduce you to these amazing people who are Immigrants or refugees and call Iowa home. You'll not only enjoy a fabulous evening with a **menu reflecting the native cultures of our honorees**, as well as **dynamic cultural entertainment**, but you'll also be supporting the Iowa International Center's Ray Resource Initiative - a campaign to help refugees and immigrants throughout the state, with former Governor Ray's leadership in welcoming the world to Iowa a generation ago as our inspiration. **Passport to Prosperity tickets are only \$50, and can be purchased online at www.iowainternationalcenter.org.**

Thanks to these 2015 Passport to Prosperity Sponsors:

Conlin Family
Foundation



Mr. Jeffrey Aden

Mr. Don Kopriva

IIC's Accessible English Classes Help Build Skills - And a Sense of Community

The inability to communicate in English and engage with members outside of one's own community can be an isolating - and sometimes devastating - experience. An article just this week by Rehka Basu of the Des Moines Register shares the impact of depression and isolation on Bhutanese refugees in Iowa - leading to hopelessness, cultural conflict and for some, even suicide. Pictured here are students gathered for the 9 a.m. ESL Class at Deer Ridge Apartments, five of whom are from Bhutan. Students from other countries, including Laos, Sudan, Congo, Somalia and China, are also learning how to communicate in English and improve their lives through our ESL classes on site at Deer Ridge Apartments.



The classes are privately supported through the Iowa International Center's Ray Resource Initiative campaign - designed to give new Iowans the resources needed to thrive in our state. Free instruction and professional teachers help to engage students, build trust and create strong connections - all for the benefit of refugees and their families. The inspiration for this campaign comes from former Governor Ray's leadership in welcoming and

providing critical resources to refugees coming to Iowa a generation ago. The Iowa International Center currently offers Accessible ESL classes for refugees and immigrants in two locations in Des Moines, several times a week.

IIC Welcomes New Board Member Dr. Christa Olson

The Iowa International Center is proud to welcome Dr. Christa Olson of Drake University to our Board of Directors. Dr. Olson serves as Drake University's first Vice Provost for International Programs. In this capacity, she is charged with developing and advancing Drake's Internationalization and Global Engagement Strategic plan, overseeing administrative offices responsible for supporting Drake's internationalization efforts, and collaborating with colleagues across the Drake community, in Des Moines and around the world. Prior to coming to Drake, Olson served as the Associate Director for International Initiatives at the American Council of Education.



Dr. Olson's involvement enhances the bond between the Iowa International Center and Drake. Our organization was founded on Drake's Campus in 1938, and Drake is home to Passport to Prosperity, our largest annual celebration and fundraiser. Drake also serves as a promotional sponsor of IIC's Dialogue series. Welcome, Christa!

Iowa International Center Dialogue Series

September Event

One State, Many Faiths: Religious Diversity in Iowa

Tuesday, September 1 - Noon to 1 p.m.

Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue—Downtown Des Moines



Dr. Maeve Callan

Dr. Maeve Callan, Associate Professor of Religion at Simpson College in Indianola, has been studying and teaching religion for more than 25 years. A first-generation American whose family emigrated from Ireland, she received her B.A. in Religion from Pomona College in California, her M.Phil. in Women's Studies from Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), and her Ph.D. in Religion from Northwestern University in Illinois. Her book, *The Templars, the Witch, and the Wild Irish: Vengeance and Heresy in Medieval Ireland*, was published earlier this year by Cornell University Press in the U.S. and Four Courts Press in Ireland.

During **this Dialogue Program**, **Dr. Callan will discuss Iowa's rich religious diversity, which contradicts common assumptions.** Cedar Rapids' Mother Mosque is among the oldest in the U.S., Baha'is and Pagans live throughout the state, and Des Moines is home to thriving Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, and Muslim communities, among others. The metro area boasts at least two gurdwaras, three synagogues, four mosques, and four Buddhist temples, thanks in part to Governor Robert Ray's work to establish Iowa as a refugee resettlement center in the 1970s, a tradition that Iowa has continued since. Dr. Callan will explore the ways in which religious diversity and American democracy mutually enrich and challenge each other.

The Iowa International Center Dialogue Series engages public and business professionals in conversation on global issues and Iowa's connections abroad.

Videos of Iowa International Center Dialogue Series Presentations are available online. Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org to catch up on these cultural conversations.

All Iowa International Center Dialogue Series events are free and open to the public. Guests are welcome to bring lunch to the event.

Thank you to our promotional sponsors:



Volunteers Offer Knowledge and Iowa Hospitality to International Visitors

The **Sehgal Foundation International Visitors Center** at the Iowa International Center recently experienced a delightful deluge of emerging global leaders. **In July alone, 26 visitors from 20 countries** took part in professional exchanges in central Iowa through the **IVLP (International Visitor Leadership Program.)** Program topics included Women Leaders as Engines of Social Change, Human Rights & Minority Advocacy, U.S. & European Security Issues, and Youth Agricultural Outreach & Extension. These emerging global leaders learned, listened and enjoyed interactions with our volunteers, and built memories to last a lifetime. Pictured above are visitors from Central and South America, as they met with Mone Aye (2015 Passport Honoree) and Rachel Vannice of EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center.) Mone and Rachel shared how EMBARC addresses the needs of Burmese refugees in Iowa.



Thanks to the many outstanding volunteers who made July successful!

Key Dates To Remember

August 4 - IIC Dialogue Series - 40 Years of Resettlement: The Vietnamese Community in Iowa, with Vinh Nguyen of DMPS

August 5 - 9 - IVLP program focused on U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges, with visitors from Croatia, Finland, Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom

August 11 - 13 - IVLP program focused on Good Governance and Refugee Services, with visitors from the Republic of Georgia

August 12 - 15 - IVLP program focused on Youth Leadership and Community Service, with visitors from Estonia and Latvia

August 16 - 19 - IVLP program welcome visiting veterinarians from Azerbaijan

Sept. 1 - IIC Dialogue Series - One State, Many Faiths: Religious Diversity in Iowa, with Dr. Maeve Callan, Simpson College

Sept. 7 - Labor Day (IIC office will be closed)

Sept. 26 - Passport to Prosperity, Drake University



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

The Iowa International Center

319 7th Street, Suite 200 Des Moines, IA 50309

P: 515.282.8269 F: 515.282.0454 Email: info@iowainternationalcenter.org

FREE 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline

Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org/resources or call 515-282-8269

For news, events and program updates, visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org

For multilingual resources in 80 languages, visit www.welcometoiaowa.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/iowainternationalcenter

Follow us on Twitter: [@IAInternational](https://twitter.com/IAInternational)