

Passages

After four years, Laura Zaper is leaving Iowa Sister States. Her husband, Mahmoud, was offered a position at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Laura will leave us in mid-December, having made a substantial contribution to the growth and development of Iowa Sister States.



Over 70 applicants expressed interest in the Program Director's position. Seven highly qualified individuals were interviewed. On December 13, Kim Johnson will begin working as ISS Program Director. Kim received her BA in History at the University of Iowa, her Teacher's Certificate from Iowa State University and her Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Westminster in London, England. She has an extensive background in volunteer work and teaching. Please welcome her to ISS.

Open World Educators travel to Burlington

From October 3-10, eight educators from Russia visited Burlington as part of the Open World Program. The theme for their visit was Youth Issues: Education Reform. The schedule emphasized youth leadership and team building skills in meetings with the Girl Scouts, Burlington High School faculty and students and faculty at Southeastern Community College. Other meetings at the YMCA and Planned Parenthood focused on healthy lifestyles and prevention and treatment of addictions at Woodlands and Grade A Plus. Meetings were also held with city officials and the staff of Great River Medical Center, the community hospital.

In addition to the professional schedule, the delegation had the opportunity to experience Burlington hospitality by attending cookouts and potlucks. They tried Mexican food and attended a college women's volleyball game. Some went fishing or took a boat ride on the Mississippi River. Dr. William Johnson, President of Iowa Wesleyan College, and Mrs. Johnson invited the delegation for a dinner and musical evening at the school.

ISS Board Member, Terri Bonar, served as the local community coordinator for the delegation. "I'm a firm believer that the most important things that come out of these exchanges are the friendships formed and the lessons learned: that people are people, no matter where on the globe they live."



Open World Delegation studies HIV/AIDS

From October 20-27, five delegations of health care professionals visited Marshalltown, Davenport, Cedar-Rapids-Iowa City, Sioux City and Des Moines. The focus of the visit was HIV/AIDS, its status in Iowa and the programs we have to prevent and treat it. Patricia Young, RN, BS, CIC, who is the HIV/AIDS Program Manager for the Iowa Department of Public Health, provided a great deal of technical assistance in planning and conducting these visits.

As usual, the hosting communities provided an excellent professional and cultural program. Evaluations by all five delegations were very positive.

From Iowa, the delegations traveled to Washington, DC to continue the program. They were accompanied by Phil Latessa, ISS Executive Director, who had arranged a meeting with staff of the Iowa Congressional delegation to discuss health policy. The Open World delegations were also hosted at a reception at the Russian Embassy. Their visit concluded with a day of planning for projects that they will undertake when they return home based upon what they observed here about HIV/AIDS.

*We here at Iowa
 Sister States hope
 you have a safe and
 happy holiday
 season!*