

## Center for Integrative Leadership Newsletter - October 2014



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### >> CIL Spotlight

#### **CIL Hosts UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner and Somali Diaspora Community**

On Saturday, October 11th, the Center for Integrative Leadership hosted T. Alexander Aleinikoff, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, at a round table discussion with 30 members of the Somali Diaspora living in the Twin Cities, as well as faculty from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, the Carlson School of Management, the University of Minnesota Law School, and the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. This conversation included a robust exchange of insights related to implementation of the recently adopted Addis Ababa Commitment Towards Somali Refugees and laid a solid foundation for future communication and collaboration among the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Minnesota Somali community, the University and other stakeholders to meet the challenges of Somali refugees in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and Yemen.



## >> CIL Leader Profile

### Mary Curtin, Diplomat in Residence and Visa Project Advisor



On October 14, Sara Nobbs, Assistant Program Manager for CIL, spoke with Mary Curtin, Diplomat in Residence at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, about her experiences with boundary-crossing leadership as a U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer. In her 25 year Foreign Service career, Mary served in U.S. embassies in five countries, from Chile during the Pinochet era, to Tunisia during the time of the 2000 Camp David Summit, to managing the Political Section at the U.S. Mission to the European Union. When asked what she hoped students would learn about working across boundaries, Mary Curtin said, *“Especially in our current political environment of polarization, students need to learn to look for allies in places you might not expect and take that forward in their public service careers. It is possible to build coalitions.”* Read the entire interview [here](#).

## >> CIL & Students

### CIL Introduces Graduate Assistant: Thor Hong

Thor Hong is a second-year Master of Public Policy student focusing on U.S. Foreign and International Security Policy. During the summer of 2014, Thor assisted with the coordination and implementation of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for [Young African Leaders program](#) with Associate Dean Laura Bloomberg and CIL Associate Director Merrie Benasutti. Prior to starting his graduate studies, Thor served for two years as a US Peace Corps Volunteer working with youth and training teachers in the public schools of Abi Adi, Ethiopia. Thor serves on the board of the Public Affairs Student Association (PASA), is involved with the [CHANCE](#) initiative and tutors adult English learners at the [International Institute of Minnesota](#).



### CIL Provides Interdisciplinary Student Team with Opportunity for Engagement with Cross-Sector Visa Project

With support from the Carlson Family Foundation, the Center for Integrative Leadership is piloting an interdisciplinary program to provide students with exposure to integrative leadership initiatives in a practical setting. Mary Curtin, Humphrey School Diplomat-in-Residence and subject of this month’s Leader Profile, is representing CIL on this project. Mary is providing guidance and coordination for a student team that includes undergraduates from the Carlson School of Management and graduate students from Humphrey School Senior

Fellow Steve Kelley's capstone course, Political Advocacy in the Public Interest. The students' research supports the work of a cross-sector advisory committee appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to provide recommendations for improving visa issuance policies to increase international travel to the U.S. The project is also providing students with practical experience in working with federal government officials and private sector leaders, as well as in working across disciplines to examine a societal problem and come up with realistic solutions.

### **CHANCE Students Support the West Bank Ride**



The [West Bank Ride](#), coordinated by the West Bank Business Association and financially supported by Twin Cities LISC and the C4ward collaborative, boasted a variety of creative projects for riders this year. The ride hopes to make cyclists more comfortable biking in the district and more familiar with West Bank destinations. On Saturday, October 4th, cyclists met up at the corner of 3rd and Cedar Ave where they received a printed map with bike routes and over thirteen designated pit stops throughout the West Bank. Each pitstop featured West Bank landmarks, family-friendly games, open-air music, and activities. CHANCE hosted one of the pit stops where young riders could color license plates for their bicycles. Riders accumulated stamps at stops to earn prizes to area businesses.

### **>> Upcoming Events**

**Early November:** Deadline to apply. Paid opportunity for a graduate student to work on a cross-sector collaboration with the Healthy Food, Healthy Lives Food Issue Area Network. For more information, see "Student Opportunities" on the CIL [website](#).

**November 11, 6:30-8pm:** A special evening with writer, public speaker, and leadership consultant, Chris Lowney, sharing his thoughts and insights on personal and professional leadership from his book "*Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*". Event takes place at Schulze Hall on the Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas, located at 1000 Lasalle Avenue. For more information click [here](#).

**November 12, 6:30-9:30pm:** Minnesota Social Impact Launch Event! Minnesota Social Impact Center (MSIC) is a new organization dedicated to increasing the social impact of individuals and organizations seeking new entrepreneurial strategies to address today's social and civic issues. RSVP [here](#).



**January 31, 2015:** Deadline to apply for the Ideas for Action competition with the World Bank and Wharton Business School. The World Bank and Wharton are hosting a competition to increase the voice of the next generation of leaders in the global development financing agenda. Small teams of young people (ages 18-35) will develop a solution to an issue with which development financing institutions and private sector actors are current struggling. For more information click [here](#).

