



Global Awareness Lecture
Spring 2006

Citizen Diplomacy in Utah: An Overview of UCCD Laura Dupuy

Executive director, Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy

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NOON
238 HRCB

Laura Dupuy became executive director of the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD, formerly the International Visitor Center) in 2000. Dupuy, who had been working as an accountant for KPMG, was asked to help with an accounting issue. She volunteered her time and soon realized her work at the council was a “much better fit for me personally.” UCCD is one of a ninety-six member council of communities throughout the U.S. that help support the Department of State’s exchange initiative. Delegates come to the U.S. for a four-week program in Washington, D.C., and three U.S. communities determined to best match the program objectives outlined between the delegate and their local U.S. embassy liaison. In 2005, UCCD hosted 334 delegates with the help of community volunteers—local professional resources, delegates’ professional counterparts, and ordinary citizens. Born in Louisiana, Dupuy’s family later moved to Texas and Florida. She claimed “the defining moment in my life came when I was sixteen. My father, who had a lifetime career with a chemical company, came home one day and said ‘What would you think about moving to South Korea?’” They moved to Seoul between her junior and senior year, where she graduated from Seoul Foreign School. An accomplished musician, she taught music for ten years and has played the fiddle in bluegrass and Celtic bands. She received a BA in international studies from Western College in Oxford, Ohio (1970), an accounting degree from Idaho State University (1982), and an MBA at Westminster College (1998). She and her husband, Tripp Hopkins, a respiratory specialty manager for Merck, live with their two chocolate Labrador retrievers and a cat in Salt Lake City’s avenues. See UCCD online at <http://www.utahdiplomacy.org>.