

# The CIVIC Citizen

*The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities*

## CIVIC Office Moves

After residing on the west side since 1987, CIVIC relocated, along with International Programs to a new, convenient spot in the Old Capitol Mall, in what was Younker's ground floor. We are somewhere near where Men's wear was. After three moves within the International Center building over the course of 19 years, this move meant really purging the contents of our old filing cabinets.

The Council for International Visitors  
to Iowa Cities  
1111 University Capitol Centre  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-5500  
Phone (319) 335-0351  
Fax (319) 335-2021  
<http://www.iowa.edu/~civic>  
email: [thomas-baldrige@uiowa.edu](mailto:thomas-baldrige@uiowa.edu)  
[marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu](mailto:marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu)

break 2005 to Spring break 2006. Even then there were some doubts that all would be ready for us by March 11<sup>th</sup>. It did come to pass as planned -- no Spring storms and very few hitches. By the end of the third week of March, we were all pretty well settled in our new digs. The work loads for both CIVIC and ICFRC co-operated, and the transition went smoothly. We acquired a second telephone line (Tom's direct number is now 384-2260) although it has taken a while to get the phones to work properly, but we're there now.

The renovation of the former Younker's space took longer than planned, so our moving date was pushed back from during the Winter



Save This Date  
Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>  
For  
Our Annual Dinner and  
Fundraiser.  
Speaker will be  
Sherry L. Mueller  
President of the National  
Council for International  
Visitors.

Details to follow .

## CIVIC President, Kenn Hubel attends National Conference

One of this country's great sights is the approach to Reagan National at dusk when the lights frame the great monuments and draw your eye down The Mall to the brilliant Capitol and its glowing dome. We were 8 hours too early, however. Our flight landed at noon and we boarded the Metro for the ride to L'Enfant Plaza and the hotel which hosted the conference. That afternoon Tom Baldrige, the executive director of CIVIC, and I visited one of the several agencies that plan the itineraries and programs for international visitors chosen by U.S. embassies. These companies select the cities to be visited, choose the themes of the visit, then contact the local councils who in turn determine who and what the visitors will see.

During the morning of the next day I tried to learn the computer program, eCIV, that CIVIC hoped would facilitate planning the local itineraries of our international visitors. I concluded after 3 confusing hours that we'd best stick with the local methods that have been honed with the experience of 20 years. At lunch we were welcomed warmly by the President's advisor, Karen Hughes. Then Chris Johns, Editor of *National Geographic* magazine, described the African jungle journey of one of their photographers. The underlying theme was the dependence of our environment on changes in places far distant and the need for cooperation among countries and regions if we are to avoid environmental degradation.

That night buses took us to the State Department building and the reception floor filled with portraits of the founders and memorabilia of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The wine and hors d'oeuvres were ample and the rooms opened on an open balcony with the glorious view that I had missed on landing the day before: the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the white spire of the Washington Monument and the Capitol in the distance.

In the morning we had breakfast with Jim Leach's and Tom Harkin's congressional aides, then visited briefly with aides in the offices of Chuck Grassley and Jim Nussle. That afternoon specialists from the State Department lectured on current conditions in different geopolitical regions. I heard a candid impressive presentation about the interminable and complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict that provided me little reason to hope for a just solution. Later my spirits were raised somewhat by the reception at the handsome Canadian embassy and the charm of its casual and entertaining ambassador.

In a discussion of the lifeblood of local councils, money, the Minnesota International Center presented a motivating program that stressed telling the community the importance of what we do. They described how their program encourages international friendships that breed trust and contribute the knowledge and understanding of the U.S. and its people. CIVIC members know

that. But in these days on international discord, it is all the more important that we spread the word.

The meeting provided evidence that many others share the same convictions. Kenn Hubel

## Board of Director Notes



### Thank You

outgoing **Board Members**

**Harry Kane**

**Kathy Belgum,**

and **President**

**Jeanne Cadoret**

for their hard work and leadership over the past years.

**Muriel Hartz** is our newest board member, joining us this spring. She moved to Iowa City from New Mexico 3 ½ years ago to be near family. She has become involved in several activities since moving here, but is especially excited about joining the board of CIVIC. She believes CIVIC is valuable for the world to see us in different ways, and she is amazed that we get so many visitors here when the other stops are in major cities.

She has never been involved with an international organization before, but she has always had international interests. She has traveled all over the world, is taking Spanish lessons, and since moving here she has attended CIVIC potlucks and has hosted dinners for CIVIC guests. She believes that CIVIC is important because, “the most important thing in the world is to understand each other”. She is glad to be a part of an organization that increases our understanding of other people and their cultures and increases their understanding of us. She notes, “I am proud of my country and want to share it with others.”

### 2006 Board of Directors

Kenn Hubel, President

Jo Lavera Jones, Vice President

Doris Houser, Secretary

Richard Braverman, Treasurer

Jeanne Cadoret, Past President

Newman Abuissa

Suzanne Kirchner

Tricia Knox

Dongwang Liu

Jean Lloyd-Jones

Patricia Kelley

Ex officio members are:

Diana Davies, Director of International Programs

Thomas Baldrige, Executive Director

Marianne Weiss, Office Coordinator

**YOU make the difference** - If you brought a dish to a picnic for writers in the International Writing Program or sat down to dinner with our international visitors, you understand why we have dedicated members. CIVIC gives you the opportunity to introduce our visitors to an America that they will never see on television or movies. These small efforts make a difference: picnics in City Park, conversations in our homes, candor in our opinions, walks on the peaceful streets of our small Midwest city. We make a difference. If you are new to CIVIC, help us to do these things and you'll discover not only how good it feels but how long the feeling lasts.

**Thank You  
CIVIC Dipolmats\***

**Newman & Kristi Abuissa  
Kent and Loretta Angerer  
Thomas Baldrige  
Edwin and Ethel Barker  
Kathie and David Belgum  
Otilie Blodi  
Lowell and Paula Brandt  
Richard and Phyliss Braverman  
Jeanne Cadoret**

\* Donated \$100 or more over membership dues

**If you have not paid your 2006 Membership Dues . . . this is . . . .**

**A GENTLE REMINDER. . . . .**

We encourage you to also make a donation. . . We can not continue our many activities without support in dues and donations from people like you.

**Our many thanks in advance.**

**SERBIAN VISITOR meets fellow countryman in Iowa**

In March, CIVIC hosted Dr. Ivanka Milenkovic from Serbia Montenegro under the auspices of the Department of States International Visitor Leadership Program. Dr. Milenkovic has her Ph.D. in mycology, a branch of biology, and has her own mushroom farming business. She is also on the biology faculty of the University of Belgrade, with an interest in agricultural economics. The purpose of her program here was to learn more about U.S. agriculture policy and programs (i.e. USDA), as well as farm management and economic issues.



She also visited Washington D.C., Oregon, California, and the Chicago Board of Trade. However, in Iowa her time was centered on various aspects of agriculture at the grass roots level. Her program included visits to several kinds of farm operations, such as hog production, livestock/sustainable farming, and an organic & sheep/angora goat farm with associated woven products. Dr Milenkovic increased her understanding of the roles education, marketing, and banking play in various agriculture enterprises. She visited with rural bankers, county extension staff, Farm Bureau officers, and a Soy Bean & Biodiesel Board Director, and a Corn products/commodity consultant.



While here she also met with Gordana Durkovic and Milica Savic from Serbia visiting the UI as part of the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) for the spring semester and heard their impressions about Iowa.

Dr Milenkovic hopes the information and perspective she obtained from this visit will assist in the development of Serbian agriculture as a viable economic entity. She rated her visit to Iowa as “perfect” and “excellent”.

***CIVIC VISITORS FISCAL 2006 YEAR TO DATE \****

October 12 to October 15, 2005  
5 MRP Rural Ag Development  
Strategies for Sustained Development

November 09 to November 12, 2005  
3 Kazakstani  
Academic Integrity

December 14 to December 17, 2005  
Chinese NGO Director  
Rural Development

February 11 to March 04, 2006  
15 Tokyo Denki University students  
Fee for Service ESL

March 28 to March 31, 2006  
Serbian Mycologist  
US Agriculture Policy & Programs  
April 17 to April 30, 2006

16 Nursing Students  
Fee for Service Exchange Program

April 23 to April 26, 2006  
Pakistani Attorney  
Judicial System

May 06 to May 10, 2006  
13 Middle Eastern / North African -  
RP  
State & Local Government

May 10 to May 13, 2006  
5 Ukrainians Ag Group  
Agril Futures Markets in US Economy

May 24 to May 27, 2006  
4 Belarusians  
Agriculture in the US  
June 07 to June 10, 2006

5 Bahraini Clerics  
Interfaith Dialogue/Moderation &  
Tolerance

June 10 to June 14, 2006  
Pakistani Radio Reporter  
Radio Broadcasting

June 11 to June 14, 2006  
5 Kyrgyz Journalists  
Role of Media in a Democratic Society

\* NCIV year follows the federal fiscal  
year October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>

**NEWSLETTER RETURNS**

Our newsletter, the CIVIC CITIZEN, is being reinstated after a one year hiatus. We want to keep all of you, our members, informed of our many activities, and hopefully encourage you to pitch in when you can. Co-editors Pat Kelley and Marianne Weiss hope to issue the newsletter two times a year. We invite you all to

email us any items of interest or photos of your activities with our visitors. Suggestions for the newsletter or the organization are always welcome also. Contact: [patricia-kelley@uiowa.edu](mailto:patricia-kelley@uiowa.edu) or [Marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu](mailto:Marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu).

2006 Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) Scholars return home



**Gordana      Milica      Bahodir      Milena**

Our last two visiting scholars Milena Karapetrovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bahodir Khashimov from Uzbekistan departed the Cedar Rapids airport on May 22<sup>nd</sup> for their wrap-up meeting in Washington DC. Gordana Durkovic from Serbia-Montenegro and Milica Savic of Serbia had left the week before, to do some sight-seeing in their final week in the US. The Program sponsored by the State Department has been shortened this year, allowing them to be on campus only one semester.

CIVIC for the last five years has been asked by International Programs (IP) to help the scholars 'settle in' as a fee for service from a grant received by IP. Upon their arrival, CIVIC provided host families, and through the help of other volunteers assisted them to find permanent housing. With some hard work and a bit of luck, a University owned rental house was located which was able to provide rooms for all of the scholars under one roof, as well as a short term lease at a very reasonable rate. After scrounging local thrift shops for furniture they moved in with the help of a group of CIVIC volunteers.

All four scholars quickly adapted to Iowa City and their University programs. Milena was doing research for a PhD in Philosophy, Milica and Gordana were doing their research within the Linguistics Department while Bahodir worked in the College of Education concentrating on a program in Administration.

As always seems to be the case, their 6 month's of study seemed to fly by and before they knew it, it was time to say goodbye to all the friends and colleagues they met while here in Iowa City.

Our special thanks go out to our host families Betty & Les Batterman, Donna Chandler & Jon Buswell, Suzanne & Don Kirchner and Karen Christiansen as well as CIVIC staff members Marianne Weiss, and Tom Baldrige for all the hard work and support they gave our Scholars towards another successful year!!

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***CIVIC***

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*Iowa City, IA 52242-5500*

**Friends of CIVIC**



**YOU make the difference**