

The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

THE SECOND ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER SET FOR SEPT. 5th



will be held at the Brown Deer Golf Club in Coralville. The speaker this year is Alan Brody, former UNICEF officer in Swaziland, China, Afghanistan, Turkey and Nigeria.

As with last year's event, we will welcome the 2007 International Writing Program (IWP) participants to our community. Attendees may request to be seated with an international writer from a country of their choice. "It was so nice to sit and chat with the writers over dinner . . . Without fighting the bugs like at a picnic!", comment made last year.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and bring friends. Our committee members; Jo Jones, Kathy Moyer, Margaret Richardson, Kathy Belgum and Doris Houser promises it to be a gala event. For more information please call the CIVIC office at 335-0351 or e-mail, marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu

OUR BELIEFS AND VALUES

1. Each of us can make a difference
2. We live in a global village
3. We are more alike than different
4. We can foster world peace
5. Sharing our ways of life and exchanging views can decrease ignorance and fear and cultivate trust and understanding.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities is to foster respect and understanding among people by welcoming future world leaders to eastern Iowa and facilitating their communication with citizen diplomats in the Heartland.

From the President's desk ~ ~

We've Been Setting Priorities

Early this year Dick Schwab helped the CIVIC board to articulate our vision, beliefs and mission, and goals for the organization, and we thanked him by presenting him with an honorary membership for his skillful facilitation of those meetings. You will find the results on this page of the newsletter.

It is clear that our number one priority is to welcome international visitors who are sent to us by the U.S. Department of State, and to give them memorable experiences while they are here. We also want to share the opportunity of encountering these interesting people by involving more of our members in planning schedules, driving, and hosting these visitors. While Tom Baldrige, our Executive Director, has overall responsibility for the visits, board members are learning the intricacies of setting up appointments, coordinating transportation, and scheduling an appropriate amount of free time.

Another priority is to broaden our membership to include other eastern Iowa communities. We often take visitors to The Gazette, Kirkwood Community College, the Islamic Center, and various Cedar Rapids museums; we have recently recruited a new board member, Joe Aossey, from that community; and we hope to gain more members and expand our activities there.

On a recent weekend, we took a group of Haitian journalists to the Quad Cities for the day. They enjoyed the Black Hawk State Historic Site, a luncheon cruise on the Mississippi River, and a tour of the Figge Art Museum, which has one of the best collections of Haitian art in the country. We are encouraged by the prospect of tapping the resources of the Quad Cities to make this area even more attractive to prospective visitors. If you have friends who might be interested in Cedar Rapids, the Quad Cities, or other towns in our area, please send their names to Marianne Weiss in the CIVIC office.

A third priority is to raise visibility of CIVIC and to maintain fiscal stability. You can help accomplish this goal by attending our Fall welcome to the International Writing Program participants. You can find the details elsewhere in this newsletter. It is open to anyone interested in meeting the writers or in the work that we do. Invite a friend and join us for a stimulating evening. We hope to see you there!

Jean Lloyd-Jones
President

Four Russian Visitors

Ms. Olga Barannikova, Ms. Nadezhda Brazhina, Mr. Konstantin Ivin, and Mr. Aleksandr Krutikov, and two interpreters, Nadia Brunstein and Vladimir Motalygo,



visited Johnson County and Linn County July 10-13. Their interest was in food safety and agriculture. Two of the visitors were from Vladivostok and two from Moscow. Their backgrounds and expertise ranged from farming and beef industry sales to journalism and government administration.

Our visitors began by meeting with the General Manager of the Roberts Dairy Co., Jerry Steffensmeier, and receiving an extensive tour of Roberts' Iowa City production facility. The visitors all seemed to especially enjoy this experience. The visitors went on to meet with members of the Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation and an employee of a Hy-Vee Foods Store in Iowa City, where they pursued the topics of food safety in exports and food safety at the point of purchase.



Our visitors continued their visit with a trip to Cedar Rapids, visiting the agricultural program at Kirkwood Community College, the Linn County Dept of Public Health, and Silliker Labs, a food safety testing company, where they looked at the issues of food safety in regards to education of producers and oversight functions such as inspection and enforcement. The Russians were able to meet and discuss with Kirkwood Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Jerry Bolton, Tom Hart of the Linn County Department of Public Health, and Victor Zesiger of

Silliker Labs.

Our visitors also enjoyed a more relaxing evening as Victoria Korovkina, a native Russian, along with Don and Suzanne Kirchner co-hosted dinner the night of the 11th. The Russians seemed to enjoy their visit, and even squeezed in a little time to explore downtown Iowa City.



**We applaud
Citizen Diplomats
whose volunteering
makes our programs so
successful**

Airport Transport

Robert Jensen
Patricia Kelley
Dongwang Liu
Jean Lloyd-Jones

Home Hospitality

Alan & Mary Brody
Karen & Tom Casavant
Connie & Craig Champion
Jon Buswell & Donna Chandler
Jordan & Jana Cohen
Jeffery & Lynette Ford & Marshall
Linda & Lyle Hubbard
Pat & Verne Kelley
Don & Suzanne Kirchner
Edward & Jeanne Saunders
James & Catherine Sladek

Escort & Lead Tours

Dwayne & Joan L-Zug Bourret
Ken Atkinson
Richard Grimlund

Professional Appointments

Jerry Anderson
Phil Bicket
David Bills
Jerry Bolton
Mark Bowden
Bob Braverman
Bill Casey
Pamela Creedon
James Dane

William Gorman
Samuel Hargadine
Tom Hart
Matt Hartz
John Henik
Daniel Holub
Rebecca Kessler
Jae-On Kim
Mike Krogh

Dongwang Liu
Connie Mays
Gene Mohling
Steve Ovel
Benjamin Read
David Redlawsk
Sonia Ryang
Edward Saunders
Scott Schnell

Dale Simon
James & Catherine Sladek
Phil Squire
Jerry Steffensmeier
Charles Swanson
Stephen Vlastos
Jerry Waddilove
Ross Wilburn
Victor Zesiger

Feel inadequate vis-à-vis IV's?

Check out the new OISS "Going Global in Iowa": Intercultural Training Services (GGI) website: <http://intl-programs.uiowa.edu/oiss/GGI.html>

ONLY IN IOWA...

By: Ken Royar



On Sunday afternoon, July 22, the world became a little smaller as residents of the Iowa City/Coralville area and nine journalists from the country of Haiti began shucking Iowa sweet corn, cutting potatoes, onions, cabbage, and carrots for the nearly fifty who attended a "milk can" dinner at the home of Don and Suzanne Kirchner. Those who attended could say a lot about the food and the unique way of preparing it, but so much more can be said about the conversations that took place between the journalists from Haiti and those who got to know these visitors, now friends, and their interpreters.

You could tell from the questions asked about Haiti, a French and Creole speaking Caribbean nation south of the United States, and the responses of the Haitians who were taking part in our government's program for developing international understanding that there was a deep love for their country. "Come visit Haiti. Experience the warmth of our weather and our people." At the same time, the Haitians had questions about life here in the United States. When they looked at the infrastructure of our city and country, visited the School of Journalism at the



University of Iowa, and visited Davenport, the questions rose, "How is this possible? Who pays for all this? Why does the United States do the things it does?" And the opportunity to share about life in the United States and what it means to be a citizen flowed. New understandings came to all those who attended.

One highlight came as someone found a bongo drum. It wasn't long before the rhythmic beat of the drum and the songs of Haiti began to spill across the neighborhood. Caught up in the universal language of music, all those who were there found themselves captivated by the sound. It was a delightful evening. Thanks to all those who made it possible.

"Many thanks, Tom, for yet another first rate program AND. . . for taking care of the group as wonderfully as you and your colleagues in CIVIC have



during our staythe group was most pleased for both visits in the Quad Cities region. . . . a Mississippi River boat ride, a visit to the Haitian Art Collection at the Figge Museum in Davenport, and a wonderful dinner in the company of some 25 or so volunteers at the home of the Kirchner Family. They left Iowa City feeling it had offered both a strong professional program as well as a particularly hospitable and welcoming community" reported Gilbert Martin, Interpreter.



BOARD MEMBER MOVING



Muriel Hartz, board member since early 2006, attended her last board meeting July 5th. She is moving to Salt Lake City to be near family. She has been a valuable member of our board and we will miss her enthusiasm.

Thank you Muriel

Wanted --- Alive

- Host families for over night stays for 14 females Joetsu Japanese Students - 2 per household on Friday September 21st and Saturday the 22nd.

- Home Host Dinner on Fri, Sat, Sun or Mon evening October 5th to 8th for 11 Anglophone African Women, 2 or 3 per household, who are in Iowa City to learn about "Women as Political and Economic Leaders". Contact Marianne Weiss at 335-0351 or Marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu.

New Feature . . . Get to Know Your Board of Directors



Tricia Knox, a University of Iowa alumna and four-year CIVIC board member, embodies international involvement and concern. Knox recalls, "As long as I can remember, I have been interested in meeting people from broad work and ethnic backgrounds". And for quite a long time, she has done just that. From living in Egypt as a child to entertaining foreign guests in her family home upon returning to the US, to adopting a son from Somalia with her spouse Pete Kollasch, Knox knows what it means to engage with people of cultures different than her own.

In fact, it is her value of global awareness that drew her to CIVIC and the Iowa City Foreign Relation Council (ICFRC) in 2003. "After we moved back to Iowa City five years ago, I realized I was feeling deficient in my understanding of many cultures and religions, so I began to attend or listen to ICFRC lectures," Knox said. What she found in CIVIC and ICFRC was organizations whose impact on awareness "is huge both globally and locally". The citizen diplomacy promoted by CIVIC was in line with Knox's cross-cultural appreciation. According to Knox, citizen diplomacy exposes a simple but potent truth: we all are linked by the common thread of humanity. "When you meet people face to face you see that humanness and human concerns are universal, like the need for peace and the love for family. . . Meeting one on one is key [because] when you meet people cross-culturally, false assumptions are exposed . . . [and you] realize that it is our governments that are at odds with each other, not the people generally."

Knox cited a CIVIC program with Russian librarians as an example of how one can see the commonality of human concern. Though the librarians were tiring after a long visit, "many of the women had teenage children and they recognized there was a need in their communities for a program of understanding for their youth like Iowa City's UAY." Knox commented later that instance such as these show that all people "strive to teach their children, strive to be peaceful".

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CIVIC

Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

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Friends of CIVIC

YOU make the difference