

# The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

## Friends and Colleagues Gather to Congratulate



Tom Baldrige on the occasion of his retirement. Tom has served as the Executive Director of CIVIC and ICFRC for over 20 years. Colleagues describe Baldrige as a man with an encyclopedic knowledge of the local community and network of resources across the country. Attempts have been being made to 'download' this information into the two organizations data base with limited success.

Tom graduated from the UI in 1952 with a bachelor of arts in French and pursued graduate work in international studies. He served in the Korean War from 1953-1954. He later worked with the U.S. Foreign Service, serving as a Foreign Service officer in Washington D.C., Switzerland, Algeria and Laos over the span of his career.

Coming back home to Iowa City he wanted to share the knowledge and a different perspective on the world plus the sense of civic responsibility he gained from his experiences. "If you look at American history as taught to us, it is very sanitized. Others learn their own history in similar fashion . . . people need to learn how to appreciate each other and get along."

Tom has a passion for international relations; here is a quote from a recent article about him: "Citizen Diplomacy is important in shaping how countries interact with one another," Baldrige said. "By developing cultural understanding between people from our country and others, we can empathize and treat people better." Two years ago Tom received an award for "Advocacy" at the national conference of NCIV. This year, the president of NCIV, Sherry Mueller, presented him with the "coveted gold star" award in recognition of his many years of exemplary service with CIVIC.

Please join us in extending a very warm thank-you for everything he has done to further citizen diplomacy and just generally make this a much more interesting and friendly place to live.

**Congratulations, Tom!**

*From the President's desk ~~*

We are very fortunate to have Jeffery Ford's steady guidance through this interim period. He has tackled the complex and multi-faceted demands of both CIVIC and ICFRC, while simultaneously mastering the intricacies of the University's International Programs. His steady presence and wise counsel have kept us on an even keel, and we are most grateful.

The search for our new executive director is making progress and we hope to have an announcement very soon. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, we appreciate Marianne's continued alertness in keeping things on track in the office.

*Jean Lloyd-Jones*



**If you have not paid your 2008 Membership Dues . . . this is . . .**

### A GENTLE REMINDER

Dues are:

- \$25.00 for individual
- \$50.00 for family

We encourage you to also make a donation. . .

We cannot continue our many activities without support in dues and donations from people like YOU

**Our many thanks in advance.**

## We applaud Citizen Diplomats



Moldova: a [landlocked](#) country in [Eastern Europe](#), located between [Romania](#) to the west and [Ukraine](#) to the north, east and south. You can find those quick facts on the internet, but Betty Batterman can tell you it takes an eight hour flight to Frankfurt, Germany, with a nine hour layover before a three hour flight to [Chişinău](#), Moldova’s capital. She can also tell you Moldovans celebrate their Memorial Day more enthusiastically than we do in America. When I asked Betty what aspects of the trip she most liked she replied, “The whole thing.”

Betty went to Moldova to visit friends that she and her husband, Lester, have met through CIVIC. The two were involved with international visitors to Iowa even before CIVIC existed. They took part in the Council on International Programs (CIP) in which young internationals were brought to Iowa and gained experience in their field of work. CIP eventually lost funding, but luckily in 1982 they were contacted by CIVIC asking them to host visitors from South America. Lester and Betty have been involved ever since. Lester remembers that Iowa City received more visitors in the past. “Iowa fights a perception as a ‘cultural desert’.” But the Battersmans are certainly not a couple you would expect to find in a cultural desert. The two receive phone calls from places across the globe, including Switzerland and South Africa. “It’s kind of nice to get phone calls from all over the world – experience the world without leaving home.” They have “left home” a few times too, traveling to Norway, Spain, Russia, Greece, Egypt, Australia, Italy, and more.

Through CIVIC Lester and Betty have made lasting friendships. Lester says, “Every participant has had outstanding qualities... some have been really memorable.” An especially memorable group came in 2002 as part of CIVIC’s Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP). These five visitors from Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova, stayed until June of 2003, when they moved out of their apartment and spent some time in the Batterman’s home before their return trip. Predictably, it was crowded, but also a very fun couple of weeks say the Battersmans. These days they still keep in touch with some of the visitors.

Tatiana Valica, who Betty visited during her trip to Moldova, has returned to the United States to participate in a two year program studying autism at the University of Missouri.

Vladimir Kulikov has been working toward his doctorate here at the University of Iowa while his wife works toward her Masters degree and his daughter graduates from West High School.

And Ruslan Dimitriev has since attended Yale University for a second law degree (previously holding a degree from Moldova State University), and has recently been accepted to Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. At the same time he was offered a law firm job in Moscow. For some this may have been a difficult decision, but for Ruslan it was easy. He decided to do both, convincing Harvard to defer his attendance for one year while he works in Russia. Mrs. Batterman was able to visit Ruslan’s parents during her trip to Moldova. “There are not nicer people in the world,” she says.

Lester and Betty Batterman are a great example of how CIVIC can initiate and facilitate discussion of ideas and exchange of hospitality between Iowans, who are extraordinary representatives of the United States, and the rest of the world.

Interview and written by Nathan Cox

## Special Thanks to

### our volunteers who make our programs so successful

Newman Abuissa  
 Joe & Laila Aossey  
 Ken & Alice Atkinson  
 Thomas Baldrige  
 John Birkbeck  
 Adam Burke  
 Jeanne Cadoret  
 Holly Carver  
 Jeff Charis-Charlson  
 Ann & John Christenson  
 Diana Davies  
 John Deeth  
 Frank Durham  
 Ahmed Elkhalidy  
 Sonia Ettinger  
 Hugh Ferrer  
 Jeffery Ford  
 Richard Grimlund  
 Nancy Gardner  
 David Groh  
 Jay Honohan  
 Jan & Kenn Hubel  
 Chelsea Kammerer  
 Donna Katen-Bahensky  
 Alex Keefe  
 Don & Suzanne Kirchner  
 Marcia Klingaman  
 Jean and Richard Lloyd-Jones  
 Barbara Mann  
 James Alan McPherson  
 Chris Merrill  
 Tony Miller  
 Ila Miller  
 Jeff Morris  
 Atul Nakhasi  
 Peter & Mary Nazareth  
 Sonita Oldfield-Carlson  
 William Olin  
 David Redlawsk  
 April Samp  
 Dorothy Simpson-Taylor  
 Tom Stockett  
 Gerald Sorokin  
 Gordon Strayer  
 Marisa Suwanraj  
 Herb Trix  
 Kristin & Watson  
 Marianne Weiss  
 Gordon and Pat Williams  
 Vernon Yoder

## You've come a long way . . . .

It began with a newspaper advertising for volunteers to host dinner and provide home hospitality to a group of visitors from Armenia so M. Suzanne Kirschner along with her husband Don, a research engineer in Physics at the UI who makes instruments for spacecrafts, decided to volunteer. She plunged in whole-heartedly to dedicating both her time and home to visitors from all around the world. She joined the CIVIC Board of Directors and has served as Secretary her second term.



In February Suzanne attended the National Council of International Visitors convention in Washington DC with CIVIC President Jean Lloyd-Jones. She is shown here with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alina Romanowski attending the U.S. Department of State Reception.

Suzanne enjoys her time with CIVIC she and Don have hosted groups of students from Canada, visitors from Ukraine, Haiti and Bosnia; her flame for volunteering and travel keeps burning. Having spent time last summer in Egypt with the highlight being a trip down the River Nile and the viewing of her fourth of the original Seven Wonders of the World; the Great Pyramid of Giza she and Don are planning a trip to Turkey this summer.

Suzanne is also involved with the Preemie Project by UIHC, to help comfort preemies by donating accessories knitted by this group; serves on the board of a division of University Club called Newcomers, a women's group for women living in Iowa City under four years; and is a recipient of a governor-recognized award for selfless and dedicated service to others/volunteering (for working with five Bosnian families while living in Des Moines)

## 2008 Board of Directors

**President**  
Jean Lloyd-Jones

**Vice President**  
Newman Abuissa

**Secretary**  
Suzanne Kirchner

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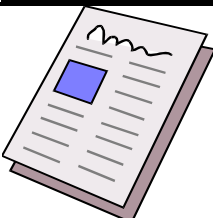
**Ex officio members**  
Diana Davies,  
Director of Int'l Programs

Jeffery Ford  
Interim Director

Marianne Weiss,  
Office Coordinator



*"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together." – Woodrow Wilson*



### NEWSLETTER SEEKS TO EXPAND READERSHIP

The CIVIC CITIZEN wants to keep all of you informed of our many activities, and hopefully encourage you to pitch in when you can. We invite you to e-mail us any items of interest or photos of your activities with our visitors. Also, to increase awareness and visibility of CIVIC and its important work, The CIVIC board has agreed to distribute the CIVIC CITIZEN more widely. If you know of individuals or organizations that might benefit from receiving this newsletter, please contact the CIVIC office or the newsletters editors by e-mail: [marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu](mailto:marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu)

**Thanks to you, Dick, for your many years of service to our community and our world.**



Given his warm and welcoming nature, it is no wonder that Richard "Dick" Braverman found his way to CIVIC and its Board of Directors in 2001. "I have always had an interest in world affairs and helping people," Dick said. So far, his positions on the board have included being the 2001 treasurer and being a home hospitality host, among other volunteer duties.

His interest in international affairs is demonstrated by his degree in political science from the University of Iowa in 1955, after which he spent two years in the Army. Following his term of service, Dick then went on to join, and eventually head, his father's wholesale food business - Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution. In his years with CIVIC, Dick has volunteered his business for tours, making it a unique outlet to CIVIC/FRC visitors who are

interested in food distribution. Dick's sons now run the company.

According to Dick, his parents greatly influenced his international worldview. Both his mother and father immigrated to the US from Poland, each having mastered an extraordinary number of languages and passing down a respect for people of other cultures. "They instilled in me the necessity of getting involved with people all over the world to make the world a better place," Dick said.

Dick's vision is not just for those around the globe, it is also for young people here at home. In this interconnected world, he would like to encourage high school students to pursue at least one foreign language. Furthermore, he hopes programs like CIVIC move into the high school setting. "I would like to see more done to get high school students involved in this (CIVIC) so that they are in tune with what is going on in the U.S. and the world, and know what they can do to pursue a career in diplomacy or international affairs. It is a dynamic field to get into." In addition to all this, he and his family continue to promote youth leadership through their annual scholarship to local high school seniors.

Dick retired from the board the end of the year. Again thanks to you, Dick, for your many years of service to our community and our world.

Interview and written by Krista Wiegert

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*Friends of CIVIC*



*YOU make the difference*