

# *The CIVIC Citizen*

*The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities*

A Thank You from an Uzbek, by DR. KAMOL MUSTAEV

*Dr. Mustaev was a participant in the Junior Faculty Development Program. He is a professor of literature in Samarkand.*

"Right now I am sitting last time in the office alone. And I try to write about my stay in Iowa. What could I write? Perhaps the books or a book. But how I could write this in about a page? I mean I could tell a lot of wonderful things about Iowa and stories about my fishing, auto driving, tap dance class, salsa class, etc. And how many wonderful stories I could write about people with shyly smile who live here, whom I met here, who helped me a lot and made my life easier. Especially people from CIVIC.

Usually I do travels alone and nobody meets me at airports. This time people met me at Cedar Rapids airport. So I met Les Batterman and little bit later Betty his wife. Pretty soon I became as a member of their family. And liked to call them 'Mama' and 'Dad'. I will never forget also how I am first time driven a grass mowing mini tractor at Dave and Victoria's house. I enjoyed of this.

Looking back I discovered that during a year I had no bad feelings. Just as I remember my negative reaction was to hot weather in a last summer in Iowa. I am from hot Uzbekistan. I run from this and I did find that summer here sometimes is very hot.

I always believed that most treasure of U.S. are not skyscrapers or army, it is a people who live here. To know members of CIVIC and their lives helped me. These people do a great job. They make peoples friends of America.

One by one these people invited us to their house what is very important in a discovery process. So I know how Americans live and how they do their household. These people make charming, slowly running (in comparison to East and West coasts) Midwest lives.

And Iowa is green and peaceful, right place to study, to research, to love, to bring kids and grow up them. If I had possibility I would stay here till the end. The land of Iowa and people on this land I would love to stay with forever.

Thank you Iowa!!!! Stay as Iowa forever!!

With love to all,  
Kamol Mustaev

***There is a new group of Junior Faculty Development Program scholars arriving August 16<sup>th</sup>, and we could use your help. We are expecting four participants – a woman and three men from Serbia and Ukraine. We need to find them temporary housing, maybe for up to two weeks and permanent housing. If you are able to help, if you have an extra bedroom available, please call the CIVIC office at 335-0351 or e-mail marianne-weiss@uiowa.edu.***

***Editorial staff***

