

# The CIVIC Citizen

*The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities*

## NCIV Convention Report

Jean Lloyd-Jones, President

Joe Aossey, Tom Baldrige, Tricia Knox and I attended the National Council of International Visitors convention February 14-17<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Snow storms caused us to miss the pre-conference workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup>, designed to teach us how to use the computerized scheduling program (known affectionately as "eCIV") but we got there in time to catch the orientation for first-time attendees on Wednesday afternoon. With over 600 people in attendance, it was the largest, and according to everyone I talked to, the best convention yet.



### Highlights:

Opening night speech by Keith Reinhard, President, Business for Diplomatic Action

Reception in the historic State Department Diplomatic Reception rooms with 18<sup>th</sup> century furnishings and a number of venerable documents under glass

Breakfast in the Dirksen Office Building with Members of Congress or their Aides, followed by meetings with our own Members in their offices.

Newly elected Congressman Dave Loebsack joined us for breakfast, and Tom and Trish visited the offices of Congressman Bruce Braley and Senators Harkin and Grassley.

Receptions at 9 different embassies. Our delegation was invited to the Bulgarian Embassy, and enjoyed their sumptuous buffet, Bulgarian wines, and an excellent video about the country.

In between these special events were other speeches, panel discussions, award ceremonies and workshops. Tom Baldrige

was on a panel titled "Building Partnerships with Elected Officials" and did us proud. We also discovered that Tom received last year's "Advocacy" award -- a code word for "Lobbying Congress." In his self-effacing way, he says that's an indication of how poorly the rest of the CIVs have done.

We learned what other CIVs are doing in fundraising, in refining their programming for visitors, in board effectiveness, in recruiting a new generation of leaders, and recognizing the contributions of volunteers. Again and again, they told us how important our efforts are in helping shape foreign policy. Among the 135,000 people who have come to the U.S. since the inception of the IVLP (International Visitor Leadership Program) are over 200 current and former Heads of Government or Chiefs-of-State. They include President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan (1987), President Mikhail Saakashvili of Georgia (1999), President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia (1998), Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany (1981), President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya (1999), President Ricardo Lagos of Chile (1988) and Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand (1998). Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and Egypt's Anwar Sadat were also participants in the program, but I don't know the years.

There are 91 groups like ours in the country. In 2006 over 4,000 International Visitors participated in 903 projects on such themes as Journalism, Democracy and Rule of Law, Religious Tolerance, Civic Education, and Disease Control.

I returned with a greater appreciation of what the national organization does, a better understanding of the agencies that contract with the State Department to design these visits, and renewed enthusiasm for the part we play at the local level. We all got lots of ideas for how we can do our job better and involve more people in the exciting exercise of "Citizen Diplomacy."

“When you think about the power of engaging with people...through IULP, you really do see why what you are doing is absolutely a national security priority and a foreign policy objective. It is those handshakes that will truly make this world more prosperous and peaceful for our children and grandchildren.” – Assistant Secretary of State Dina Habib Powell, Luncheon with the Ambassadors Speaker, 2007 NCIV National Meeting



### Four Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) Scholars Enriched Our Lives Civic volunteers assist International Programs in helping visiting scholars settle in.



**Tatyana Zayseva, Azerbaijan Library & Information Science (Pictured with Jeanne Cadoret)**

**Elena Osinskaya & Marianne Weiss** spent most of Martin Luther King Day eating Chinese and drinking tea while waiting for the delayed flight from Chicago. . . . only to find on its arrival – No Scholars! Their Kansas City flight was cancelled due to winter storms . . . . The scholars finally arrived on January 16<sup>th</sup> to find Iowa at its very worst . . . .

ICE, SNOW and COLD!

First stop was shopping for a winter coats and sweaters.



**Muhabat Bakaeva, Uzbekistan Comparative Literature**

Thanks, **Jeanne**, the warmth of the DIVP “Souper Bowl” was a real treat!



**Marija Barjaktavoric Serbia-Montenegro Linguistics**



**CIVIC** gives a special thanks to **Les and Betty Batterman, Kathleen Renquist, and Waltraud Maierhofer**

who opened their homes to our guests while we found permanent housing for their stay.

Their time here went much too fast . . . It seemed like the welcoming ‘Chili Fest’ hosted by **Les & Betty Batterman** was immediately followed by the Farewell Party hosted by **Jeanne Cadoret**.

*Impressions of Iowa in January  
(Dedication to Iowans)  
By Muhabbat Bakaeva*

*January Iowa... white and queer,  
One feels holy quietness here,  
Architecture’s strange and unique,  
Now new, now quite antique.*

*It’s midwinter, windy, frosty and cold,  
It freezes so that you may scold,  
Snowy, chilly, ungracious weather  
Impedes your adapt altogether.*

*But the people...what a contrasting pleasure!*

*Mother Nature knows the measure.  
It has taken some heat from the climate  
And has added to Iowan hi-mate*

*Cold weather plus the warmth of people  
Makes a balance, it sounds oddly simple.  
Don’t believe? – Come and practice  
This replacement is just on surface.*

*Iowans are smart, and frank, and helpful,  
Their smile looks not artificial,  
It shines with pretty inner brightness,  
And speaks of cordial human kindness*

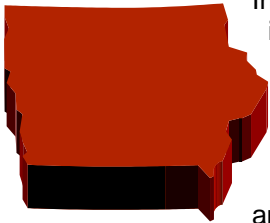
**Yryshan Nogoibaeva**  
Kyrgyzstan  
Psychology



**Our Scholars & Yryshan's daughter  
Who celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in  
Iowa**

*I'm a stranger; my words may seem plain,  
But they're from candid heart's domain.  
I'll take the sparkle of gentleness here  
And fetch to another hemisphere –  
Where it may turn into a marvelous flame,  
And burn the ropes of the temporal strain,  
And days, and weeks, and months will pass,  
And spirit of goodwill triumphs at last.*

**PROGRAMMING FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS REQUIRES FLEXIBILITY**



International travel is always uncertain, and recent weeks illustrated the need for flexibility in programming. First, in mid February, Tom Baldrige, Pat Kelley and Bob Engel planned for some visitors from Moldova. While their general interest was higher education, we were assigned the area of community college education. Bob Engel, CIVIC member, planned an entire day at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids before their trip was cancelled at the last moment. Days later, CIVIC was asked if we could bring in a journalist from Brazil the next day; his special area is biofuel farming and industry. Tom Baldrige, Jean Lloyd-Jones, Pat Kelley, and Joe Aosseay had a planning meeting that evening and set up the program in the afternoon of his arrival that evening. He had a full day in Iowa City and a half day in Cedar Rapids, but had to leave early due to the ice storm. Joe Aosseay had a complete schedule for them in Cedar Rapids which had to be shortened. These challenges just make the work more interesting. As Tom Baldrige says, "What good is flexibility if one doesn't exercise it?"

The following are excerpts from various e-mails expressing thanks to our team of programmers:

- 🌐 "In the 5 years I have worked for State, this is positively the first time I feel the visit is as successful. So much so, he would like to return to Iowa City on his own! Thank you Tom, you should be the model for all other CIV's." - Martha Allan, Interpreter(ELO) for Enrique E. Miles from Argentina
- 🌐 "Thank you so much for the alacrity with which you responded to our cry of help for Jamil Chade! You took up the challenge of creating two days of programming with less than 24 hours' notice. Nan Bell talks about the flexibility of the International Visitor Leadership Program – and your work epitomizes that flexibility." - Jennifer Strauss, Director International Exchange Programs

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



**Thank You**

Home Hospitality	Airport Transport	Escort & Lead Tours
Carol Spaziani	Joe Aosseay	Bob Engel
LaVonn Horton	Jean Lloyd-Jones	Bill Eginton
Dongwang Liu & Yonghong Zhu	Kenneth Hubel	Muriel Hartz
Donna Chandler & Jon Buswell	William Eginton	Pat Kelley
Hualing Nieh Engle	Ken Atkinson	Joan Bourret
Richard & Jean Lloyd-Jones	Richard Grimlund	Joe Aosseay
Jordan & Jana Cohen		Ricardo Sauro
Tom & Karen Casavant	<b>Over Night Stays</b>	Pat Kelley
Lyle & Linda Hubbard	Muriel Hartz	Joe Aosseay
Richard & Phyliss Braverman	Jean Lloyd-Jones	Jean Lloyd-Jones
Richard & Jane Gibson	Pat Kelley	Edwin Barker
Don & Suzanne Kirchner		

**Professional Appointments**

- |                     |                     |                    |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Benjamin Read       | Ed "Tony" Ulch      | Joe Bolkom         | Robert Dvorsky         |
| Bill Keettel        | Ed Williams         | John Reitz         | Robert Hardy           |
| Carly Bossert Weber | Eric Fuhrmeister    | Judy Polumbaum     | Roger Stutsman         |
| Catherine Sladek    | Gary Grant          | Kembrew McLeod     | Sally Stutsman         |
| Christina Bohannan  | Gene Mohling        | Lois Pavelka       | Ross Wilburn           |
| Chuanren Ke         | Hualing Nieh Engle  | Mark Bowden        | Sarah Swisher          |
| Cliff Missen        | Hugh Ferrer         | Marlene Lucas      | Scott Schnell          |
| Connie Benton Wolfe | Margaret McDonald   | Mary Mascher       | Seung-Bok Lee          |
| Connie Mays         | James McDonald      | Michael Judge      | Sonia Ryang            |
| Dale Simon          | James Dane          | Michael Ott        | Stephen Atkins         |
| Damon Terrill       | James Leach         | Michael Schiffer   | Stephen J. Berry       |
| Daniel Holub        | James Rebhuhn       | Mike Wagner        | Stephen Vlastos        |
| David Bills         | James Sladek        | Natasha Durovicova | Thomas R. Sharp        |
| David Leshtz        | Janet Rorholm       | Nicholas Johnson   | Tom Hansen             |
| David Redlawsk      | Jennifer Hemmingsen | Nicole Riehl       | Vernon Yoder           |
| Dennis Reese        | Jerry Anderson      | Pamela Creedon     | Wilbur Yoder           |
| Dongwang Liu        | Jim Fawcett         | Peverill Squire    | William "Bill" Ellison |
| Douglas Jones       | Jim Lewers          | Rebecca Kessler    | William Casey          |

**CIVIC VISITORS - FISCAL 2007 YEAR TO DATE \***

10/29/2006 - 11/01/2006  
4 Korean Officials  
U.S.-ROK Relations: Alliance & Beyond

11/01/2006 - 11/03/2006  
2 Chinese Journalists  
Investigative Journalism & Soc Welfare

11/01/2006 - 11/04/2006  
3 Chinese Officials  
Intellectual Property Protection

11/05/2006 - 11/08/2006  
4 Young European Leaders  
Citizen Engagement & Responsibility

11/15/2006 - 11/18/2006  
2 Indonesian Journalists  
Investigative Journalism

11/22/2006 - 11/25/2006  
3 Frenchmen - Thanksgiving  
Pluralism and Democracy in the U.S

01/31/2007 - 02/03/2007  
1 Chinese Journalist  
Responsible and Open Press

02/21/2007 - 02/24/2007  
1 Brazilian Journalist  
Agriculture/Alternate Fuels

03/03/2007 - 03/09/2007  
6 Yamanashi Prefectural U Students  
English as Second Language

03/08/2007 - 03/11/2007  
1 Argentinean Journalist/Farmer  
Agricultural Technology

03/17/2007 - 03/21/2007  
1 Australian Senator  
US Political Scene

04/01/2007 - 04/04/2007  
2 Japanese  
Security in North-East Asia

04/04/2007 - 04/07/2007

2 PRC Journalists  
Journalism Ed for the 21st Century

04/11/2007 - 04/13/2007  
5 Brazilians Educators  
Community Colleges in the US

04/15/2007 - 04/17/2007  
1 European Commission Staffer  
US Culture and Arts/Elections

05/13/2007 - 05/17/2007  
Chinese Sociology Professor  
American Culture/Society

06/10/2007 - 06/13/2007  
4 Russians  
Agricultural Policy, Food Safety, and Quality

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

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*CIVIC*

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*Friends of CIVIC*

*YOU make the difference*