

The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

TENDING TO INTERNATIONAL VISITORS (and accolades)

BRAZIL

The Case of the Missing Glove: a Brazilian journalist visiting Cornell College dropped a glove and was unaware of it. An hour and a half later, on another part of campus, a Cornell art professor located the journalist and told her where to find her glove. When the journalist returned to her CIVIC vehicle, there was a different glove, but the same size and color as the one she had lost, stuffed under the door handle. The journalist retrieved her own glove, which was where the professor said it would be (not the door handle), and took the other glove to lost- and -found.

BELARUS

One member of CIVIC prevented a Belarussian journalist from getting hit by a truck while another member, a medical doctor, later advised her on an illness the journalist had contracted upon her arrival in the U.S. This visitor was one of our more hapless, but she left Iowa City in one piece and relatively healthy.

JAPAN

Dr. Kenji Iwata, an economist from Japan, was so impressed by his visit to Iowa City that he expressed an interest in moving here. In an interview Dr. Iwata said, "I want to thank all of you for your hospitality" - hospitality provided by CIVIC volunteers David and Tamara Schoenbaum, Peggy Houston, Jeanne Stoakes and Patrick Hughes, Sally and Roger Stutsman, Dorothy Paul, Jerry Nordquist, Victoria Korovkina and David Ayres. This was Dr. Iwata's second visit to the U.S. but his first to Iowa. He said it was an "entirely new" experience, that he learned another aspect of life in the U.S., and that all of his false impressions gleaned from American movies had been dispelled. He was accompanied by Alison Baker, a New Yorker working for the Department of State. Alison wrote to her supervisor: "Iowa City richly deserves its reputation for hands-on, Midwestern hospitality. Dr. Iwata was amazed at how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Many thanks....to all the CIV volunteers who contributed to making Dr. Iwata's visit to Iowa City such a success." She also wrote that Tom Baldrige, "...was constantly attending to our every wish and need."

AT HOME

Speaking of our diligent, devoted executive director, Tom Baldrige received an Advocacy Award from the National Council for International Visitors. The award was for his persistent efforts, prodding elected officials to get more involved with the International Visitors program. And for getting results. He was able to arrange for Senator Charles Grassley to address the Midwest Regional meeting of the National Council for International Visitors two years ago in Des Moines.

He also recruited Representative Jim Leach to join a colleague in writing a memo to fellow members of the House of Representatives in support of an expansion to the International Visitors Program of the State Department.

