



IFYE NEWS

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IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

December 2018

2018 IFYE Program Pilots Job Shadowing

For several years, IFYE Association has been looking for ways to enhance the program. Past work looked at international internships, but labor law restrictions in other countries were problematic. So, job shadowing was investigated. This year, IFYE was able to join forces with two agribusinesses to launch such a pilot program. Syngenta, a large global agribusiness, worked with inbound IFYEs; Massimo Zanetti Beverage (MZB), a large global coffee producer, collaborated with outbound IFYEs in Costa Rica.

The addition to the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. program adds the opportunity not only to live with a host family, but to also job shadow professionally with a member of the family.

Syngenta USA Pilots Inbound IFYE Job Shadowing Program

"I was able to learn about other aspects of agriculture while with my Syngenta hosts. It was an amazing adventure that I'll always remember," said Lisa Schmid (Stendal, Germany).

"I hoped to pilot the program in a way that we can replicate, so we can start thinking differently about introducing Syngenta opportunities to youth earlier - before they make major career-related decisions," said Jenny Heaton, Head of People and Organization Development, North America & Global Seeds for Syngenta.

First host mom, Beth Simonson (South Dakota) wrote, "We thoroughly enjoyed sharing our home, farming practices, culture, and the great state of South

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Coffee Culture in Costa Rica

*Laura Jensen (Wisconsin) and
Jennifer Moran (Minnesota)*

The two most important words you can learn before visiting Costa Rica are "Pura Vida". This translates to "pure life", but it means much more to the *Ticos* as the locals are called.

We had a little bit of a culture shock transitioning from Europe to Latin America, but after taking a sip of good coffee and practicing our Spanish, we've adapted to this new lifestyle.

Not only is coffee the beverage of choice (despite the sweltering heat and staggering humidity), but it's the life blood of the country. One quarter of the population works in the coffee process from farm to finished product. We have been living on a coffee farm in the Orosi Valley where we've helped harvest coffee beans. All Costa Rican coffee is harvested by hand because of the mountainous landscape.

In addition to living on the coffee farm, we spent a week



Café recibidor (coffee receiving hall/area) – farmers can bring their coffee to these little buildings instead of driving to the company. A truck collects all the coffee here at the end of the day and brings it to the company for processing.

with Beneficio La Eva – Santa Laura. They buy and process coffee from farmers across Costa Rica. After the coffee is dried, it is sent to Café Montaña to be roasted and packaged for sale.

At Café Montaña, we learned how to properly taste coffee for quality control. During this process, we tasted six cups of each variety the company made. We couldn't distinguish a difference within the varieties, but it was interesting to see the care put into each cup.



Jenny smelling coffee as part of the quality control process



Laura spitting coffee after tasting

We have a new appreciation for the intensive process that enables each of us to enjoy something as simple as a cup of coffee in the morning.

2018 – A Year of IFYE Accomplishments

August marked my one-year anniversary of serving as your Executive Director for IFYE. During the past year, we've experienced many successes. I am looking forward to building on those successes in 2019.



*Ken Gordon
Executive Director*

We focused efforts this year in three areas: enhancing the IFYE exchange program; continuing to solidify the Association's finances; and raising awareness of IFYE. Each area of improvement consisted of specific functions and planning to achieve success.

Discussions began in April for the opportunity to have a couple of our IFYE Outbound participants and one Inbound participant live and go to work with employees of large agribusiness firms. Syngenta, a global agribusiness, and Massimo Zanetti Beverage (MZB), a large global coffee producer both provided job shadowing opportunities for IFYEs to experience this year.

At Syngenta, Lisa Schmid, an IFYE from Stendal, Germany, stayed with three Syngenta employees at the company's Minnetonka, Minnesota facility. The pilot job shadowing program showcased research and acquisition learnings for Lisa over a three-week period.

Two of our U.S. IFYEs, Laura Jensen, from Comstock, Wisconsin, and Jennifer (Jenny) Moran, from Forest Lake, Minnesota lived on coffee plantations in Costa Rica and gained an understanding of the coffee harvesting process. They job shadowed with the employees with whom they lived, and experienced how the coffee was roasted, ground, packaged, and shipped through the second largest coffee processing facility in the country.

We are working to expand the job shadowing component of the IFYE program to add more value to attract more participants to our program.

Positive relationships are forming from fundraising activities that have focused on corporate, association, and foundation giving. More than 100 foundations, corporations and associations have been contacted with letters of inquiry and proposals. Each of those contacted are being called to follow up on the inquiries, and opportunities to contribute to IFYE are being promoted.

Raising awareness about IFYE by focusing on outreach to young adults continues through various association newsletters. This targeted outreach coupled with news releases issued to media continue to deliver positive messages about IFYE. News releases announcing the opening of the 2019 application process and about our Association's successful job shadowing program were issued to more than

600 media outlets. In addition, the announcement regarding our 2019 application process was also issued in more than 70 association newsletters.

IFYE's presence among youthful audiences is also being enhanced by the social media activity of our current 2018 IFYEs and efforts on the IFYE Facebook page. There have been many Facebook and Instagram posts from this year's IFYE Outbound group and those efforts are being noticed. If you use social media, please find and share the posts from this year's IFYEs.

The IFYE World Conference and cruise was a highlight to this year's activities. I had the pleasure to meet many IFYEs and hear about their experiences. I am looking forward to our 2019 National Conference to be held in Lexington, Kentucky August 7-11, I hope to see many of you again there and make more new friends.

IFYE Receives Bequest

As mentioned in the November IFYE UPDATE, a surprise bequest from the estate of Alice (Bonomo) Matonic, 1963 IFYE from Michigan to Peru, has provided a substantial financial sum to bolster the IFYE Association and our program.

Her contribution provides a meaningful step forward to our Association as we work to further solidify our finances through foundation and corporate initiatives.

Alice was a graduate of Cassopolis High School and Michigan State University. She taught Spanish and French at Derby Middle School in Birmingham, Michigan and was an avid reader and volunteer for the West Bloomfield Library for over 30 years

Alice passed away August 12, 2017.



*1963-US International Farm Youth Exchange delegates to Peru:
C. Lamar Wommack (Georgia), Harold Ött (Pennsylvania),
David Winkelmann (Illinois), Marilyn Weaver (Indiana), 4-H staff
Eugene Seifert (Pennsylvania - Finland 1956), Alice Bonomo
(Michigan) (Photo received from David Winkelmann)*

2018 and 2019 Program Updates

IFYE National Program Director, Alan Lambert

Social media has enabled many individuals around the world to "connect" and IFYEs are no exception. Several 2018 IFYEs have utilized Facebook and other methods to share their one-of-a-kind experiences. You can find some of these articles on the IFYE website under [News Articles and Testimonials](#).

2018 IFYEs will all be attending the national debriefing in Washington, DC in early December 2018.

Returnees are eager to share their experiences; your help in identifying speaking and promotional opportunities for them will be a great asset.

We, as IFYE alumni, have committed to help these returning IFYEs construct dynamic presentations and offer assistance in finding ways to spread the IFYE experience. As many of you personally know, IFYE doesn't stop upon your return! Please contact Alan Lambert, alanelambert@gmail.com for liaison with you and the returning IFYEs.

June - December

Amanda Braun - Illinois to South Korea & Thailand
Laura Jensen - Wisconsin to Austria & Costa Rica
Jennifer Moran - Minnesota to Switzerland & Costa Rica
Hannah Nordby - North Dakota to Taiwan & Thailand
Sage Rodgers - Colorado to Austria & Argentina

June - September

Riley Flom - North Dakota to Norway
Katherine Knight - Maryland to Finland

September - December

Kate Garrity - Michigan to India
Jarrod Young - Ohio to Estonia

Read more about experiences from some of these IFYEs throughout this IFYE NEWS issue, on our News and Testimonials area on our website (ifyeusa.org), and/or on their social media pages.

2019 IFYE Program:

Uruguay and the Philippines have recently been added as participating countries, bringing the total to 18 countries! 2018 also marked the return of the IFYE program with Argentina. Additional country partners are being pursued.

Applications for 2019 IFYEs are now open. Information can be found under the "Foreign Exchange Programs" tab on the IFYE website.

One Missouri applicant has already been interviewed and selected. With our national goal of 20+ outbound IFYEs, we need everyone's help in finding qualified applicants, 19 years of age and older. IFYE continues to be a rural-based exchange in host countries. As in 2018, a \$500 financial incentive is available to anyone who 'recruits' an IFYE and they arrive in their host country.

Syngenta - continued from page 1



Colin Steen and Lisa Schmid

Dakota with Lisa."

Schmid's time with Steen (managing director for Syngenta Ventures) also gave her a chance to see more than the two states that IFYE assigned to her. The pair traveled south to Iowa to meet with representatives from companies that are prospective investment opportunities for Syngenta.

"When we visited prospective companies to invest in, it was great to get Lisa's perspective of how those technologies would fare in Germany," Steen notes.

On the right, URLs are listed for further articles regarding this 2018 pilot job shadowing program between Syngenta and IFYE.

IFYE: <http://ifyeusa.org>

International Job Shadowing Experience Pilot Program Enhancement Successful with Syngenta – October 9, 2018

<https://ifyeusaorg.presencehost.net/news-conferences/ifye-news-articles-testimonials.html/article/2018/10/25/international-job-shadowing-experience-pilot-program-enhancement-successful-with-syngenta>

Job Shadowing through IFYE and Syngenta

<https://ifyeusaorg.presencehost.net/news-conferences/ifye-news-articles-testimonials.html/article/2018/12/03/job-shadowing-through-ifye-and-syngenta>

Syngenta

Syngenta newsletter

<http://www.syngenta-us.com/thrive/community/international-exchange-student.html>

Syngenta and IFYE Association Successfully Pilot International Job Shadowing Experience Program

http://www.syngenta-us.com/newsroom/news-release_detail.aspx?id=208597

Tri-State Neighbor emagazine: November 23, 2018 beginning on page 10,12, 13 Vol. 35, No. 24

https://www.agupdate.com/tristateneighbor/edition/page/page_cf4c2510-3776-5169-bee4-262f71a9ad0e.html

JARROD YOUNG (Ohio)

Estonia (September - December)

September

Yesterday, I [job] shadowed an amazing chef in Narva. It's the third largest city in Estonia (57,130 people) and has a lot of Russians since it's on the border.

It also has one of the coolest castles in Estonia and that castle happens to be where our restaurant is.

That's right, I was cooking in a ... castle. Wow hehe! First time in a kitchen, by the way ...



Jarrod foraging for mushrooms



Me (2nd from right) with Franzini Restaurant workers

My Estonian mentor, the Russian cook, and Estonian/Russian waiter all had a great day ... and I learned a lot.

October

The Old Believers are an extremely small (and shrinking) sect of Russian Orthodox Christians. I visited the largest Old Believers Church in Estonia with this lovely lady. She didn't speak any English but my host Mom translated. When I asked about pictures, she said I had to remember the look of it with my eyes.

The relics from my host's private collection have been passed down from the most prominent iconographer who happened to be a member of the family. I'm grateful to have met her and experienced her faith firsthand.



Old Believers' Church



Part of host family's private collection

KATE GARRITY (Michigan)

India (September to December)

Kate wrote in her introduction on our website that "I have been attending IFYE conferences with my Grandmother since age 6. ... Not only did these conferences give me the chance to spend time with my wonderful Grandmother (who was an IFYE in 1956 to Wales and England!), but these conferences are also what have allowed me to fall in love with learning more about cultures that are different than my own by actually spending time immersing myself in said culture."

Everything about different cultures fascinate me. I am very excited to continue to learn about those differences. ... I hope to become a 'daughter' of new families, and experience and participate in the normal everyday activities, rather than just being a tourist and observing the culture from an outside position.

BEFORE INDIA: Before going to India this fall, Kate also had the opportunity to travel for a month with her dad to visit her brother – a Peace Corps volunteer – in Cameroon. After returning home in August, she posted that, "It's amazing how much you can learn about your own culture (and yourself) when you spend time in another one, especially one that is drastically different than your own."

And then it was time for Kate to leave for India as an IFYE for three months. The following excerpts from Kate's social media will highlight some of her experiences while experiencing India as an IFYE.

September 19 - "Starting off my three months in India by exploring New Delhi & drinking copious amounts of chai." [a Indian tea made with addition of milk, sugar, and cardamon *Ed.*]

September 25 - "Visited Barara Village, near the city I'm staying in, where my host family owns and farms 12 acres of land (the maximum amount of land you can own in India). On that 12 acres they produce millet, corn, guava, California grapefruit, eggplant, lemon, wheat, sugar cane, potatoes and more. They also have a fish farm (and water buffalo, cattle and goats!) in the village."

October 18 - "I go for a walk at least once a day in a nearby park; within the first 5 or so minutes of each walk I have at least one of the neighborhood kids come out to talk with me, usually followed by a few more in the next couple of minutes. They love to ask questions about America and to answer my questions about India. Their English skills amaze me. They've taught me how to play cricket (sort of) and they ... [are so much better than me *Ed.*] when I play soccer with them."

I went with my host family to a neighborhood birthday party which was a celebration bigger than most American weddings. When I told them that they said that I need to make it back to India for a wedding and then I will really be surprised (so I've heard!).

AND I was able to spend a day with my first ever friend (how crazy is it that out of all places we get together it's India?!). Hunter and her friend Justin came to my host fam-



Host mom serving children on Navrati

ily's house for lunch and then my host brother and uncle took us on a tour of the nearby village.

So thankful for all of the experiences I've had so far and I can't wait to see what the next two months bring."

October 18 - "Today, I celebrated the ninth day of Navaratri with my host family. This festival lasts ten days and nine nights. [October 10-18, 2018 Ed.] On each of [the] days, a different goddess is worshiped. On either the

eighth or ninth day, it is custom[ary] that wealthier families will feed 9 girls and 1 boy from a lower caste.

My host mother made the kids *halwa* (a sweet grain dish made with what we call durum wheat flour, ghee [clarified butter] and sugar), black *chana* (black chickpeas) and *puri* (a deep-fried bread). The kids will also be given some sort of treat or snack and a small amount of money. The children go from house to house receiving these things, so they bring a big bag with them to put any leftover food in and to carry their treats and the money given to them. The kids kept asking to have their pictures taken and then would run to me to see how the picture turned out ..."



November 10 - "There have been FOUR mass shootings [in the USA Ed.] in the last TWO months that I've been in India. They each have made international news, meaning they come up as topic of discussion when I meet someone new and they discover I'm from America.

No one understands why they continue to happen. No one understands why it seems we sit back and let them happen without acting to change our laws. I don't get it either, and I don't have a good answer to their questions. Hearing of each of these shootings, as well as the countless ones before these, has made me an equal mix of sad/mad."



Host mom lighting candles for Diwali

November 7 - "It's Diwali in India today!!! Diwali, Deepavali or Dipavali is the Hindu festival of lights which is celebrated every autumn in the northern hemisphere. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance."

November 13 - "... at Himalayan Orchard. Learned how to make marmalade, picked rose hips for jam, cut flowers and herbs for tea, danced and sang around a fire for Diwali, saw some of the most mesmerizing views of my life, and last but not least, got to know an amazing family. I can't wait to visit again some day!"



November 22 (at Punjab region) - "Wishing I was eating turkey with my fam[ily] today, but dancing with the village locals will have to do. SOO thankful for this experience. India is a beautiful country with some of the best people. If this trip has taught me anything, it's to be extremely grateful and aware of the privilege that I was born into. My time in India has inspired me, more than ever, to work toward helping those without that privilege.

Happy Thanksgiving, y'all!"



November 25 - With Harrie Singh eating *gol gappay*. **Gol gappa** (also known as *pani puri*) is a popular bite-size *chaat* (savory snack) consisting of a hollow, crispy-fried puffed ball that is filled with potato, chickpeas, onions, spices, and flavored water, usually tamarind or mint, and popped into one's mouth whole.

November 27 - Chandigarh "About 30% of the jewelry Indian brides wear...gotta have a strong neck 'cause this stuff is HEAVY."



Please check out the articles from these 2018 IFYEs that are currently on our IFYE website and/or are on social media, including Facebook.

Riley Flom – North Dakota
Norway (June – September)

During my time in Norway, some of my memorable experiences included, but were not limited to:

- Meeting with other exchanges during Welcome Weekend – including those from England, Scotland, N. Ireland, Taiwan, Germany, and Switzerland.
- Trying on a *Bunad* which is the "umbrella term" for traditional and modern folk costume/ the national dress of the Norwegian people. The design of the *bunad* depends on which part of Norway you are from. Many Norwegians wear *bunadar* for special occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and the 17th of May which is their national day (like our 4th of July).
- Meeting in one day with three farmers – It was very positive to see how all three farmers respected each other's different views and have one common goal: protecting and preserving the soil now and for future generations of farmers.
 - o Farmer Trond – a dairy farmer for over 20 years who bought a robotic milking system over a year ago. He loves it as this system gives him more time to focus on other things around his farm and spend more time with his family.
 - o Farmer Erling has 4 barns with 7,500 chickens in each barn. He ships out over 216,000 eggs per week! This farmer also has around 300 Charolais beef cattle and raises a few different kinds of crops. Erling travels to the United States and Canada a few times a year and has a lot of views similar to farmers here [in North America *Ed.*]
 - o Farmer Vegard has some milk cows but his main focus is goat production. He sells goat meat directly to different consumers which not only benefits him but consumers as well. His two daughters have started their own small businesses selling quail and chicken eggs.



Wearing a bunad

- Talking to students at an agriculture school about North Dakota agriculture and giving them a little insight as to what it's like to be a farmer in the United States.
- Meeting with a dairy and sheep farmer (*right*) who produces an ancient breed of sheep specific to Trøndelag (an area of Norway in which I stayed). I was even given one of his sheepskins to take home.



A sheepskin from Trøndelag area

Hannah Nordby - North Dakota
Taiwan (June-September)

[Please see much more from Hannah on her social media (including Facebook) and/or the summaries of her time in Taiwan and Thailand found on our IFYE website (<http://ifyeusa.org> under News Articles and Testimonials. Ed.)

For more detailed and complete information and photos, please read about her time including, but not limited to information about: bamboo sprouts, Hope farmers' market, Beitou – Taiwan's first green library, rice farming, eating sweet potato leaves, passion fruit, grapes, mushrooms, oysters, second hand store, dairy, beef, deer farms, making chopsticks, cucumbers, papaya, bee farm, no flower fruit, coffee, and more.

June 28, 2018 - "After 10(ish) days in Taiwan, I have never been more grateful for my diverse educational background. Having a broad understanding of different ideas, concepts, and agricultural practices make piecing together more complex ideas using "simpler terms" a million times easier for me and the other person ... it is so rewarding to see their face light up when I catch on and start filling in the blanks!"



July 18, 2018 - "Walking through the streets of Budai, you will see crates overflowing with oyster shells. ... Used in everything from a morning omelet to evening soup, oysters are more versatile than most assume! Once the "goods" are removed, the shells are re-used and placed in the ocean as the bedding for the baby oysters to attach and grow. Oyster farmers dry the larger oyster shells in the sun and later drill a small hole to slip a nylon string through, safely securing 10(ish) shells in place."

August 4, 2018 - "While in Taiwan, I've found that while there's a language barrier, there is always a way to relate with people. ... I got a new comment at my last stop. After introductions and shaking hands, before the pictures were even taken out, the older gentleman made a comment that our hands were similar. He pointed to his own saying "farmer" and then feeling the calluses on mine (which I know are nothing compared to some real old-time farmers and ranchers) and said "same". It felt nice knowing that while we are different, we both work hard, dedicating time to a way of life and our hands symbolize that shared passion. The best part was we didn't need to communicate this passion, it was simply known."

September 8, 2018 - "While in Dali, Taichung I got to participate in more adult-focused programming that the farmers' association helps organize. I have seen the 4-H activities in action and I enjoyed seeing some of the activities offered for older adults."

... What was especially neat was learning [from some] that they were attending an international IFYE alumni reunion cruise to Alaska! ... it was nice to meet individuals that stay connected to the program!"

Amanda Braun - Illinois
South Korea (June-September)

[Although a few incidents and thoughts from Amanda are listed here, read much more about her Korean experience on our website under News and Testimonials and in her social media (including Facebook) Ed.]



During her time in South Korea and spending time with seven host families, Amanda's activities included: watching a demonstration on hand painting of fans, attending a Korean wedding, helping make rice wine, and attending both 4-H camp in Jinhaegu, Chang-wonsi and an international 4-H camp.

July 13-14 - 4-H camp in Jinhaegu, Chang-wonsi. Amanda attended a seminar writing, "about the Korean War with Japan and how the general was the greatest leader of all. After that lecture we made wooden boat models that the soldiers used in the war. I was told they are called Turtle-ships because it has armor on the top to protect from bombs. We played games and exercises and had a great time with my new friends! The second day we went out on the ocean in a boat! The ocean is so beautiful and being with awesome people makes it even better!" She also participated in community service of weeding.

Last week of July - International 4-H camp. "I went to the fish market with Mr. Peter in the morning and there was soooo many people! I saw huge octopuses and ate soup with octopus! It was so yummy! Then we went to the beach and did water sports! ..."



Amanda - enjoying water sports with friends at international 4-H camp

August week 3 - "Enjoyed 4-H camp this week in Wanju-gun North Jeolla! At the camp there were many high school students, maybe 300 total and maybe 100 staff and young farmer members. We did activities like a nature walk, fishing with only nets, climbing, and a concert! It was a very enjoyable time. And the last night there was a huge ceremonial bonfire and everyone stood in the clover shape holding candles! The sight was very beautiful."

September 6 · "This is my last home stay in South Korea! 😊 I am excited to go to Thailand but also sad because ... I have fallen in love with this country.

Yesterday, I helped make 막걸리, which is a traditional rice wine. ...

Staying with this family has been really enjoyable already and I am not even finished yet! I hope [during] the rest of my stay I can make more memories 😊❤️"

Hannah Nordby with Amanda Braun
Thailand (September - December)

October 13, 2018 "We stopped at this 'sugar shack' to try the palm juice out for ourselves and weren't disappointed! The father even took the time to show us how he climbs into trees to essentially 'tap' and attach a large cylinder container to collect the sap. Thank you to Tonaor Lertmongkol and your family for sharing about your product with a couple strangers from the United States! It was nice to meet you and good luck selling!"



This is palm juice, more specifically, Asian Palmyra Palm juice!

October 23 - A "huge thank you to Pee Pawn for hosting ... the past two weeks! ... The farm was inherited from his grandmother ... Modeled after the King's Agriculture Philosophy, the focus is on having a diverse array of crops managed in an economically sustainable way.

What was especially great about staying at Smile Lemon is how we were constantly encouraged and challenged to answer the questions 'How can you take what you're learning with you back home?' and 'How can this be applied?' ... It was great to feel involved and I cannot wait to see how Smile Lemon grows in the coming years!"

November 23 - "While everyone was celebrating Thanksgiving back home, in Thailand, it was coincidentally the full moon of the 12th lunar month ... it marks the celebration of Loy Krathong Festival. This is an ancient Thai tradition ... On this day, it is a custom to decorate a banana tree stem raft with flowers, leaves, candles and incense. After saying a prayer giving thanks and asking forgiveness for the use of water from the river goddess Pra Mae Khongkha, the candle is lit and the raft floated down a river. ... Loi means 'to float' while Krathong translates to 'see further'- which can float the farthest!"

November 29 - "About a million orchid petals, 10 hours, and 3 garlands later I have learned 1 [more] priceless skill.



(L to R) Amanda and Hannah

In Thailand, it is extremely common to take garlands or bunches of orchids to temples as a symbolic offering placed on a tray for Buddha and other spirits. There is a belief that purple flowers reap more blessings compared to other colors.

Of course, these are surface level reasonings behind the offering of flowers. If one delves deeper into Buddha's teachings, they learn that while flowers are initially beautiful they too dry up, wither and die - a reminder to followers that all things are impermanent. It is important to value and be thankful for what you have now and live in the present."

Sage Rodgers - Colorado

Austria (June - September)

Being in Austria from June-September was one for the books! I stayed with seven host families from almost every part of the country allowing me to really see and experience Austria.



Sage helping out at his host family's dairy farm producing yogurt for local schools only from their own farm's milk

My Austrian hosting experiences included several dairy farms (including an organic dairy farm which has remained in the same family since the 1200's) and wheat harvest (as well as raising pork and corn). My first family had children who were learning English; it was fun helping them further their knowledge of the language and to practice.

My second family in Preowitz lives only a couple miles away from the only nuclear power plant in the world that was fully constructed but never put into service. Zwentendorf

Nuclear Power Plant was never put into service because it was constructed before the public voted on if they wanted the plant. After the plant was completed, there was a ballot referendum created for a vote on the startup of the plant. The margin was small, but the majority of the public voted in opposition of the plant, and so it has sat dormant since 1978.

From *Weinerschnitzel* (not the hot dog) to *apfelstrudel* (apple strudel), I was able to taste some of the best traditional food Austria has to offer.

I also helped on a neighboring *alm* (high altitude farm) bring in the second cutting of hay on some of the steepest fields I've ever seen. This *alm* had the traditional farm animals such as cows and goats but also Sitka deer which thrive on the mountain grass and are raised for local fare in the restaurants. There are many *alms* like this in Austria that produce specialties like cheese and *zirbenschnapps* (pine cone schnapps) to tourists exploring the alpine and some also rent out huts for lodging.

Along with working farm operations, I had the opportunity to visit the following attractions/areas:

- Orientation in Vienna with six other IFYEs.
- Ostrich farm
- *Huerigen* (wine tavern)



Sitka deer

- Summiting Zinkwand and exploring a mine in the middle of it that has been open for centuries
- Italy and Germany while I was in Salzburg area – including "the opportunity to summit the tallest mountain in Germany, Zugspitze, in a 30+ mile 7500+ feet elevation gain single-day trip"
- Czech Republic

The first snow of the year arrived on August 26, which was a great sight to wake up to on my birthday the next day.

At a neighboring lake, Prebersee, there is a competition held called *Wasserscheibenschießen* <https://www.tamsweg.info/de/wasserscheiben-schiessen-prebersee-tamsweg-lungau.html>. This competition involves teams bouncing bullets off the water to hit targets.

A huge thank you to the following host families for hosting me and really showing me what life is like in Austria: Klopff, Popper, Steiner, Johanna Prodingler and Daniel Hötzer, Taschl, Ziernhöld, and Lerchner families. Receiving all of the great hospitality and being able to work and stay with these families truly made Austria feel like a second home.

Argentina (September - December)

Sage will be submitting an article about Argentina upon his return to USA this month. In the meantime, he has sent some photos of his time while in this country. Later this month, check our news articles about the 2018 IFYEs, etc. on our website for more about Sage's time in Argentina.



Sage climbing windmill to remove parrots' nests which are a nuisance in this area



Drawing blood on cattle so they could be transported legally.

(Right) Sage - at one cattle ranch helping the gauchos move cattle to new pasture



Participants in the IFYE World Conference 2018



11th WORLD IFYE CONFERENCE September 08-16, 2018 (Alaska)

- 273 individuals participated in the 11th World IFYE Conference
- 45 individuals participated in the "Celebrate with '68" 50th Anniversary Brunch
- 12 individuals participated only in the pre-cruise events
- 22 countries were represented: Australia, Austria, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, India, Isle of Man, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, the Philippines, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (R.O.C.), the Netherlands, USA, and Wales.

Toni Frank and Kim Reaman (Co-Chairs) would like to thank the following IFYEs who helped make the 11th World IFYE Conference a great success:

- Ginny Warner for endless hours on the registration process and web site
- Bob Ellis and Mary Crave for bringing so much personality and fun to Opening and Closing Programs
- Anna Parker and Matti Kuykendall for providing leadership to the FABULOUS social activities on board the ship – and all the US IFYEs who helped or participated!
- Cathy Drake and Harlen Persinger for taking the Country Photos
- Linda Pursley for making sure the U.S. IFYEs had red, white, and blue bandannas
- Barbara Maidment for coordinating the 1968 Brunch
- To the IFYEs who worked at the registration table or greeted whenever we asked them to: Hope Heslop, Joyce Drewiecki, Ellen Paine, Ron and Marty Tarter, Kelso and Judy Wessel, Pat and Dennis Hutsell, Joe Rich and Nancy Maxwell-Rich Linda Pursley, Chris Goodman, Mary Buchele, Shirley Lemke, Barb and Don Batie, Elaine Watson, Laura Schick, Linda and Don Eppelheimer, Carolyn Olson, Vicky Warren, Ruth Trail, David and Jo Lynne Johnson, Mary Kay Munson, Les and Dorothy Mergelman



Joyce Drewiecki (Wisconsin to Luxembourg 1962) has participated in all 11 world conferences!



Korea - Mr. Jung-Ick Kim and Mrs. Myung-Soo Lee



Cruising Glacier Bay, Alaska - Australian IFYEs

Work has begun on the report of the 11th World IFYE Conference. The report is currently planned to be electronically available during the first quarter of 2019.

Four IFYEs to Begin Service on National Board in 2019

Four IFYEs recently completed their applications, were interviewed, nominated and approved to serve three-year terms on the IFYE Board of Directors beginning in 2019. The new Board members will help provide oversight and guidance to the Association and fill vacancies left by Board members who departed in 2018. The following four individuals will be joining the Board in January 2019.

Brigadier General (Retired) Robert G. (Bob) Jenkins. General Jenkins grew up on a farm in Madison County, Virginia. After majoring in animal science and graduating from Virginia Tech, Bob delayed entry to active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force to participate in IFYE. Bob traveled to India as an IFYE in 1964. Upon returning, he completed a Master's degree in reproductive physiology before beginning his pilot's training in the U.S. Air Force. Bob served the Air Force for 30 years with increasing command responsibilities including service at the Pentagon. Bob and his wife Nicki, spend time between their primary residence in Vienna, Virginia and their farm in Madison County.

Sheri Swackhamer, IFYE from Maryland to Italy in 1983, has held managerial positions with various Nordstrom Dept. stores in Virginia, Maryland and Indiana and has worked as a Wealth Advisor Premier Banker at Bank of America for seven years. She has been with her current company now for over eight years as an independent financial representative predominantly serving couples and individuals in their pre-retirement years. Sheri lives in the Fairfax County area of Alexandria, Virginia, outside of Washington D.C. Sheri's personal background and supporting family connections to

agriculture and 4-H provide a strong foundation on which to provide leadership support as a member of the IFYE Board of Directors.

Carolyn Hansen, Ohio IFYE to the Philippines in 1972 - Early in her career, she served the Ohio IFYE Association and finished her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from The Ohio State University. In addition to her early service to IFYE, Carolyn enjoyed a 20-year career in insurance education with State Farm Insurance Companies. In 2013, she became the 4-H Educator for McLean County, Illinois. During that time, she was part of the sub-committee that raised funds for the International Room at the Ohio 4-H Center. Carolyn retired in 2017 and is a volunteer working with the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

Barbara Batie, Nebraska IFYE to Germany in 1980, was born and raised on a dairy farm in northeast Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with degrees in Home Economics and Journalism. Upon her return from her IFYE experience, she worked for the Tri-City Tribune in Cozad, Nebraska, as well as two other daily and two weekly newspapers. She currently serves as secretary and on the Board of Directors for Batie Cattle Company, a family farm corporation. Barb is currently serving as Secretary on the Nebraska IFYE Alumni Association Board of Directors. In addition, they have hosted eight IFYEs and countless other international students over the past 33 years. She also works as a freelance writer and photographer with most of her work being published in agriculture magazines.

Look for additional information after January 2019 at ifyeusa.org about our new members to the IFYE Board of Directors.

Come to Kentucky for the 2019 IFYE Conference (August 7-11, 2019)

Cathy Kunkel-Mains

We are really excited to invite all IFYEs, families, and friends to the great Commonwealth of Kentucky for the 2019 IFYE Conference.

The conference will be held in the Bluegrass area (Central) Lexington, Kentucky. Our stay will be at the Downtown Lexington Hilton which is offering a rate of \$129.00; this includes parking and full breakfast for each room occupant.

Click here to make [room reservations](#).

We love that we have two land grant colleges that have built and grown support for our rural communities and all citizens. The University of Kentucky is home to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) and is located in Lexington. The Kentucky University is located in Frankfort, Kentucky. Both schools have been pioneers, experimenting and introducing new crops to our farmers to offset the tobacco loss.

In addition, our agenda will include tours to Bourbon Country, Horse Country, and historical landmarks.

Workshops will include special tasting as we look at the:

- Heritage Foods in the North, South, West, and East areas of Kentucky.
- A discussion of tobacco crops and its loss to Kentucky farmers as we review new product development (i.e. Wine, pawpaw, hemp, etc.), and livestock's influence on Kentucky's economy.

Music is planned with our superb 4-Hers in the Creative Arts programs. Story Telling as a backbone of our history will be explored with a renowned speaker who is part of Kentucky Chautauqua.

Full registration is planned to be online by January 2019 at <http://ifyeusa.org>. Click on News/Conferences tab and then Upcoming Conferences.

A response directly to Cathy Kunkel-Mains, Chairperson, is needed if anyone anticipates bringing children so that we can plan accordingly for their care and activities. I can be reached at email: cakuma50@gmail.com

Please join us in the land of "My Old Kentucky Home", Wildcat Football and Basketball mania, Good Bourbon, and world-recognized Horse Racing and Southern Hospitality Galore. We promise you a great convention and fun with your forever IFYE brothers & sisters.



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
Peace Through Understanding

Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Return the form and completed action(s) that you have selected to: **Don DeWerff, 29 Arrowhead Drive, Lyons, KS 67554**

PLEASE COMPLETE:

NAME _____ **EMAIL** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** ___ **ZIP** _____

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

I wish to support IFYE in 2019 with the following: \$5,000 \$2,500

\$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 Other Amount \$ _____

I wish to support IFYE with an annual Membership fee. \$30 for 2019 annual membership

- If you are a **life member**, you will always be a life member and do not need to pay the \$30 annual Membership.
- **ALL life and annual members** have access to the Member area on the website.
- You can be a member with your \$30 annual membership only, but all contributions (by non-life members) above \$30 membership will count as a general donation.

Enclosed is \$20 for the postal mailing of two IFYE NEWS and eight issues of the IFYE UPDATES published during 2019.

PAYMENT METHOD

I have enclosed my check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ payable to "IFYE Association of the USA"

I would like to pay the above amount on a payment schedule. Please contact me. Phone # _____

Please charge my credit card: MC _____ Visa ___ Discover _____ Amex _____ **AMOUNT \$** _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP. DATE: ___/___ Security Code: _____

SIGNATURE _____

I will pay online at <http://ifyeusa.org>

Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Paid Membership area"
My email address is: _____

I am unable to financially support IFYE at this time. Please discreetly remove me from the *contact for donation* list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE _____ 11/18

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

<http://ifyeusa.org>

Goal Reached to Stabilize IFYE Finances

During last year's IFYE National IFYE conference in Florida, a campaign was launched to help stabilize IFYE's financial position. The goal of the announced Organizational Capacity Campaign was reached earlier this year, thanks to many IFYEs from across the Nation who contributed.

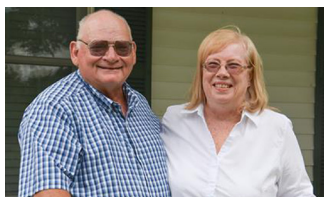
Pledges for support from more than 70 IFYEs who agreed to contribute for a three-year period secured our campaign to provide \$200,000 per year until end of 2020. By reaching this goal, IFYE is in a strong position to garner additional funding from other sources that review our finances before making a decision to help support an organization.



SEASON'S GREETINGS



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>



Congratulations to (L to R): Jon Roberts (Indiana to Panama 1970) and Betty Jo Smith-Roberts (Kansas to Ecuador 1970) for their work on the family farm and its conservation work featured in an October 29, 2018 article in the Indiana Prairie Farmer. To learn more about their conservation efforts, check out this [article](#).

IN MEMORIAM

Lawrence Beymer (Indiana to Netherlands 1952) 03/03/2018
Sara (Cashwell) Donaldson (North Carolina to Ecuador 1957) 06/03/2017
Nancy (Pritchett) Fawcett (North Carolina to Germany 1952) 09/16/2016
Gerald C Grooms (LM) (Ohio to Japan 1953) 09/28/2018
Charles W Guthrie (SPIFYE) 04/03/2018
Edward H Hill (LM) (Texas to Greece 1950) 08/08/2017
Marjorie (Faeth) Frankenbach Hillmann (Missouri to Ireland/No. Ireland 1961) 01/12/2018
Donald Kemp (LM) (New Hampshire to Norway 1950) 05/27/2018
Mary Ann (Grundman) Parthum (Nebraska to Austria 1952) 1994
Gerald C Puppe (LM) (North Dakota to Lebanon 1960) 01/29/2018
Minaxi K Muley Rana (India to Massachusetts/South Dakota 1962) 09/18/18
Kent A Ringkob (LM) (Minnesota to Finland 1965) 02/03/2018
John K Romig (Ohio to Brazil 1957) 07/20/2018
Hazel R (Creasy) Roughton-Harvey (Georgia to England 1956) 01/11/2008
Bernice Rydrych (Pennsylvania to Austria 1953) 07/14/2014
Louise Thar-Poland (Travel Seminar) 12/24/2014
Herman R Weingart (Connecticut to Spain 1957) 07/17/2017

Laura Jensen (Wisconsin) Austria (June - September)
Landjugend, which translates to "rural youth", is a national program in Austria offered to youth in rural areas and is the hosting organization for IFYE in Austria. Focus is on six Austrian-wide priority areas: General Knowledge, Agriculture and Environment, Sports and Society, Culture and Customs, Young and International, Service and Organization.



Laura learning to cut hay at a Landjugend event

Both Sage Rodgers and Laura Jensen had the opportunity to attend the *Sensenmähen* championship this summer. Each competitor was given a square of grass that they cut with a scythe. Laura says, "It was an incredible atmosphere. Youth from across Austria bussed to the contest to cheer for their friends complete with posters, noisemakers, and face paint. During the lunch break, I learned how to use the scythe. After struggling to cut my section, I had a new appreciation for everything the competitors do. The awards ceremony was amazing to see; everyone was dressed in dirndl and lederhosen while waving their regions' flags proudly."