



IFYE NEWS

The Official Publication
of the
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

November 2017

2018 IFYE Programs are Underway

Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director

Preparations for the 2018 IFYE program are underway with a focus to increase the number of outbound US IFYEs and add more partnerng countries.

IFYE Attending AFA and MANRRS Conferences

IFYE will be participating in several conferences at which high quality young adults will be stopping by the IFYE booth. Two of the largest attended conferences are:

- Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Leaders Conference and Opportunity Fair this month in Kansas City, Missouri and
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) conference in April 2018 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

More than 800 university students will attend each conference. Additionally, several hundred participants from previous year's conferences wish to remain in contact with IFYE as they consider participation in the IFYE program as an option during or after their academic career.

Network and Give a Presentation

Communicating effectively with these young adults will be our biggest challenge. Your individual efforts to personally visit with others you know will be the most effective recruiting technique. Even though it may have been years since you have given an IFYE presentation, you still know how to do so. Your network of contacts needs to know of the IFYE opportunity! There may be a friend's child or grandchild that is an ideal candidate. Without you, they may never know about the incredible international experiences that await them! All you need to do is to get permission to give me their name and contact information (mobile number and email). Thank you.

2018 Partner Countries

There will be approximately 20 participating countries for 2018 with the addition of Argentina and the Philippines in September - December. The US anticipates receiving 20-25 inbound IFYEs to be hosted by 10 states. Host families are needed for three to four weeks for each inbound IFYE.



2018 New Host Country Partners: Argentina & Philippines

2017 IFYEs include:

Joseph Ahrends, Illinois to Germany
Kelsey Crow, Kansas to the UK & Switzerland
Olivia Day, Nebraska to Austria & Costa Rica
Kayla Feiring, North Dakota to Switzerland
Kennedy Janssen, Minnesota to Switzerland & Costa Rica

Marissa Kleve, Iowa to Thailand

Maria Traskowsky, Kansas to Switzerland & Thailand

They will be returning to the US in early December with a two-day debriefing before arriving safely back home.

2015/2016 IFYEs Available for Presentations

Recently returned IFYEs from 2015 and 2016 are available for communication with a potential for presentations to groups or organizations. Available presenters include:
2015

Monica Campen, Missouri to Switzerland

Tiffany Hulinsky, Minnesota to Finland

Colleen MacMurtrie, Virginia to Estonia & Switzerland

Beau Nistler, Florida to Thailand

2016

Kelley Dickman; Ohio to Finland & Costa Rica

Allyssa Dye, Nebraska to Estonia & India

Taylor Hannan, Nebraska to Luxembourg & Costa Rica

Caitlyn Krueger, Minnesota to Finland & India

Rachel Manning, Maryland to Korea & Thailand

Let me know your interests and I can put you in contact with these IFYEs.

Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director

New IFYE Video Available for Viewing

A new video to be used for recruitment of IFYE participants is now available for viewing. The video features two recently returned IFYEs, Elizabeth Roller, 2014 outbound to Finland and Austria, and Taylor Hannan, 2016 outbound to Luxembourg and Costa Rica. Please take a few minutes and view the video by clicking on the attached link or by searching YOUTUBE for the IFYE Association of the USA. The video can be shared by anyone who may be recruiting potential participants to our program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twn8M4gi2VU>

Note: The video can also be referenced on our website <http://ifyeusa.org> under both the "Exchange Programs" and "About IFYE" drop-down menus as well as at the top of the homepage.



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
Peace Through Understanding

Please check the appropriate box for the support you wish to provide.

Return the form and complete action or actions that you have selected to Don DeWerff as listed below: **Please mail this form with payment and/or request to:** Don DeWerff, 29 Arrowhead Drive, Lyons, Kansas 67554

PLEASE COMPLETE:

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

I wish to support IFYE in 2017 with the following: \$5,000 \$2,500

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

I am unable to support IFYE with the choices above. **But I wish to support IFYE with an annual Membership fee.**

\$30 for 2017 annual membership**

** You can be a member with your \$30 membership without additional donation, but all donations above \$30 include memberships. **Note: If you are a life member, you will always be a life member and do not need to pay the \$30 annual Membership**

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: _____

Unfortunately, I am unable to financially support IFYE at this time.

Please remove me from the *contact for donation* list. (This will be done discreetly and you will still receive one newsletter per year. Those who remit \$20 will receive all newsletters and 8 issues of the IFYE Update each year by postal mail. If you are a life member, you will have access to the Member area on the website.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE _____ 10/17

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>



A Message from Ken, your Executive Director

I have been with IFYE for three months and am very excited for our association's future. The engagement I enjoyed with members at the National Conference was invigorating. I heard a number of great stories and the excitement from those who shared their experience with me was contagious.

Ken Gordon

Executive Director

As I look at my first three months, I truly believe that IFYE has a bright future. Yes, we have challenges, but your board members and I are working to meet those challenges head on. We need to increase our number of participants, get the Association in a more stable financial position, and increase awareness of the value an IFYE experience brings to a participant.

When your IFYE experience concluded and you returned home, you shared your stories with others in your area, including civic organizations and schools. I challenge you to keep sharing stories with those with whom you fellowship at church or in the local volunteer organizations to which you belong. As you share those stories, ask if they know of an appropriate young adult who would benefit from an IFYE experience. You might be surprised and get a suggestion.

When someone suggests a possible candidate, please share that name and contact information with your state coordinator or if you don't have a state coordinator, please pass that information on to Alan Lambert. With your help we can all help IFYE grow and fulfill our mission.

As your Executive Director, I have been reaching out to many of those I have had the pleasure of working with over the

years. Many have moved to higher level positions within other companies; others have retired. I was sharing my experience with IFYE with the president of a global corporation and he was impressed by the support the Association receives from alumni. It is that strength that helps my work in securing additional funding from corporate sources.

We will soon be in our 70th year as an association. The Board of Directors and staff are working diligently to make 2018 one of the best years for our association and you can help as well. Share your experience, share your passion and your support. Together we can celebrate a very successful upcoming milestone year.

In the IFYE spirit,



(L to R) Connie Fukudome (Board Secretary) and Art Deisher (Board President). Ken Gordon, speaking at the annual meeting at the 2017 Conference in Florida. Facebook Live was available for those who could not attend in person. Over 20 individuals participated in this manner.

Organizational Capacity Campaign

An Organizational Capacity Campaign was announced at the Florida IFYE conference. The purpose of the campaign is to provide financial stability for IFYE to assist in getting financial support from grants and corporations.

The campaign is seeking 40 individuals that have the capability to pledge and provide \$5,000 per year for the calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Monies donated to fulfill the pledge are tax deductible and will be placed in a separate bank account. The goal is to have the 40 pledges by December 1, 2017. Use of these funds is restricted to organizational expansion as outlined in a separate budget, which is available upon request. Fifteen (15) of the 40 pledges have been made as of this writing. Twenty-five (25) opportunities still remain for participation. Can you? And will you?

If you have questions or would like more information on the campaign, please contact IFYE Board President Art Deisher at 937-935-3807 or Executive Director Ken Gordon at 614-539-0234. Thank you for your consideration.

Modified from: IFYE UPDATE - October 27, 2017

One of My Best Decisions

Olivia Day (Nebraska to Austria and Costa Rica - 2017)
Austria: June - August 2017

I grew up in a family that lives in the middle of Omaha, a city with more than 430,000 people. I just ate food that was put in front of me ... as long as it tasted good. I didn't think much about where it came from.

The IFYE experience has been very eye opening and I've only been living in Austria for 6 weeks. When living with families who raise animals and grow crops, you see where food comes from before it reaches the grocery store.

My first host father is the manager of pea production fields for Iglo, a frozen vegetable company located in Austria. I observed the process of how peas go from the fields to the containers that will be shipped to grocery stores. I saw how stressful it is to be in charge of making sure the peas get harvested at the perfect time and the many factors that go into figuring out when they should be harvested.

During my time in the fields, I was able to drive a pea harvester. Even though the harvesters didn't go nearly as fast as I had hoped, the fact that I felt pretty cool driving a machine that big made up for it. During my tour of the production facility, I got to see how the peas and spinach get sorted by size and quality as well as how they are cleaned and packaged.



Me (L) feeding Montana with Claudia - a farm assistant

to mention the day after it was born, I got to feed it with a bottle!

With my other families, I've:

- Attempted to learn how to milk a sheep.
- Learned how eggs come out of chicken coops onto belts to get sorted, labeled, and packaged.
- Learned how farmers cut and rake their grass to feed the animals.

- Visited an ostrich farm.
- Fed sheep out of my hands.
- Learned about the typical lunches of farm families.
- Had the opportunity to go on a sunrise hike at 4 a.m.
- Eaten in traditional Austrian Alms, which are houses in the mountains that serve hikers fresh homemade foods such as cheeses, meats, and breads.
- Visited a fruit juice company and toured their fields.
- Prepared sloppy joes and macaroni and cheese for my families.
- Went on hikes with my host families.



Part of my host family (L) and me (R) taking a short break on our hike to a mountain alm

I toured the Zotter Chocolate factory (<https://www.zotter.at/en/homepage.html>) with another host family; this is one of the most sustainable Austrian companies. I learned that their company buys all of their cocoa and sugar cane organic and from Fair Trade. Yes, this means their products are a little more expensive but it gives farming families in third world countries a chance to live with a little less stress due to proper wages as well as helping to prevent child labor and harsh working conditions. *This also means you can buy as much chocolate as you want without feeling guilty!* During the tour I learned about how chocolate is made here in Austria and what it tastes like every step of the way. I probably ate my weight in chocolate here since they had every flavor imaginable! At the Zotter Chocolate Factory, I learned how important it is and how much of a difference you can make across the world if you support Fair Trade. (<http://www.fairtradefederation.org/what-is-fair-trade/>)

I have not only learned much about food and how it is produced but I have learned:

- The world is a bigger and a more beautiful place than I could've ever imagined. I've traveled all over Austria already and each state's geography, crops, and lifestyle are different but also have similarities to the other states.
- The world really is quite diverse. (*This is the first country that I've been to outside of North America and, although it's smaller than my own state of Nebraska, it has a wide diversity of agriculture.*)
- Living with a host family gives a different viewpoint from

being a tourist. This includes learning what it's like to live on a farm in the mountains, that all houses don't have air conditioning, and that lunch is the main meal.

- Stepping out of your comfort zone can be a challenge but can also provide the most rewarding experiences.
- Communicating with someone who doesn't speak the same language as you isn't as hard as it may seem.
- By adapting to a situation you find yourself in and making the best of it, you will often find that the situation was not that bad and you end up learning from it.
- You should never turn down opportunities because you never know what you can learn or who you'll meet.

Most importantly, I've learned how essential it is to accept the differences you share with people and respect these variations. Although people may eat different foods than you, have different jobs than you, and drink water with no ice, there is no such thing as the wrong way. Asking questions to understand your differences before making judgments can get you a long way. The list of things I've learned so far is endless as well as the impact they've had on me.



Me with fresh fruit that will be turned into juice on the Altenriederer fields. They make every kind of fruit juice you can think of, as well as a variety of wines.

When I decided to participate in the IFYE program a few months ago, I had no idea it would be one of the best decisions I've ever made. Although quitting my two jobs and leaving my friends and family behind wasn't easy, I can't imagine it any other way. I'm so thankful to have learned the things I've learned, met the people that I've met, and seen the things I've seen. They have all made an impact on me, whether big or small.

I can't wait to see what the rest of my time here in Austria and my three months in Costa Rica brings to me.



Feeding the sheep

One of My Best Decisions (Part II) Costa Rica: (September - December 2017)



Excerpt from Facebook post (October 16, 2017): I got to take a selfie and become friends with a sloth today

Fun fact of the day: Sloths have a four-part stomach so it can take up to a month for them to digest a meal, which means it has very little energy left to move around making it one of the slowest moving animals in the world. @ Quepos, Costa Rica



Practicing diving after taking a basics course

Excerpt from Facebook Post (October 10, 2017)

Day in and day out I have been stepping out of my comfort zone. Things aren't always easy but you learn to accept the situation you are in, find something to be thankful for and turn it into a positive experience. I've learned to take advantage of the present moment and participate in every opportunity because before you know it you'll be looking back wondering what if and wishing you were still there. Also, you're not as smart as you think you are ...

Don't be afraid to take risks because they will help you grow and you really have nothing to lose, except the opportunity to make mashed potatoes in your room. It has made me appreciate everything I have at home and how incredibly thankful I am to have this opportunity to grow and experience how beautiful the world really is. Finally, you realize that posting pictures as often as you want is harder than you think ...



11th World IFYE Conference

Cruisin' with IFYE

September 8 – 16, 2018

Registration for the 11th World IFYE Conference, hosted by the IFYE Association of the USA, is open. Over 150 individuals have already registered from Australia, Denmark, England, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Wales and the USA! Specific details and registration are available on our IFYE website: <http://ifyeusa.org>

The conference begins with two optional pre-cruise events at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel on September 8, 2018.

- 1968 IFYE 50th Anniversary Gathering and Brunch, 10:30 am, for all IFYEs who traveled on the IFYE program in 1968 and guest(s). The cost is USD \$35 per person and requires pre-registration.
- IFYE “Meet and Greet”, 5:00 to 9:00 pm, a chance to visit and reconnect with IFYEs and others. The cost is USD \$50 per person and requires pre-registration. The registration fee includes hors d’oeuvres and cash bar on September 8 AND hotel to ship transportation on September 9.

The 7-day Alaskan Cruise will depart Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on September 9 with optional shore excursions at the following ports of call: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, with a day of scenic cruising in Glacier Bay. You will depart the cruise in Seward, Alaska on September 16, 2018.

The World IFYE Conference officially ends when the cruise finishes on September 16, 2018. You can make arrangements to:

- Fly home from Anchorage.
- Cruise back to Vancouver,
- Sign up for a land tour through Holland America.
- Sign up for one of the tours organized for IFYE.

Exclusive IFYE Land Tour Options

Three land tour options have been arranged EXCLUSIVELY for IFYE following the cruise.

- (1) If you have already registered for the conference and submitted your cruise booking form, you will receive an e-mail from Cruise Specialists with instructions on how to make a reservation for an IFYE post-cruise land tour.
- (2) If you have not yet registered for the World IFYE Conference, you will have an opportunity to register for an IFYE post-cruise land tour **once you submit your completed cruise booking form**. Descriptions and cost for each tour are outlined below:

Can you imagine a more fun group with which to cruise? ... neither can I! Check out the IFYE website for more information: <http://ifyeusa.org>

The tours are also located on our 2018 World IFYE Conference page under Cruise Line Information.

Post-Cruise / TOUR 1 - Two Night Post Cruise Kenai Peninsula & Matanuska Susitna Valley

Price Per Person for Tour 1:

Double Occupancy - \$829 USD pp

Single Occupancy - \$1,299 USD pp

Sept 16 SUN

Transfer from the ship to Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise

Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise – about 6 hours

Transfer Seward to Anchorage by Motor Coach

Overnight at The Lakefront Anchorage

Sept 17 MON

Anchorage & Matanuska Susitna Valley Sightseeing

Visit Musk Ox Farm - Palmer

Free time for lunch (at your own expense) in Downtown Palmer

- Mat-Su Visitor Center / home to the “Mat-Su Giant” vegetables

Visit Anchorage Museum

Overnight at The Lakefront Anchorage

Sept 18 TUE

Transfer from hotel to airport



**Post-Cruise / TOUR 2 - Four Night Post Cruise
Spectacular Kenai Fjords National Park & Denali**

Price Per Person for Tour 2:

Double Occupancy - \$1,429 USD pp
Single Occupancy - \$1,999 USD pp

Sept 16 SUN

Transfer from the ship to Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise

Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise – about 6 hours

Overnight in Seward at Harbor 360 Hotel

Sept 17 MON

Continental Breakfast at hotel

Sightseeing as you travel from Seward to Talkeetna

Visit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

Lunch stop at Anchorage Museum (Voucher Lunch)

Late afternoon arrival in Talkeetna

Overnight at Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

Sept 18 TUE

Enjoy a day at leisure to choose your own activities

Talkeetna Optional Tours (at own expense):

- Denali Flightseeing
- Riverboat Touring

Overnight at Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge

Sept 19 WED

Talkeetna to Anchorage

Visit Musk Ox Farm - Palmer

Free time for lunch (at your own expense) in Downtown Palmer

- Mat-Su Visitor Center / home to the “Mat-Su Giant” vegetables

Overnight at The Lakefront Anchorage

Sept 20 THU

Transfer from hotel to airport



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**Post-Cruise / TOUR 3 - Five Night Post Cruise
Kenai Fjords National Park & Kenai Peninsula**

Price Per Person for Tour 3:

Double Occupancy - \$1,729 USD pp
Single Occupancy - \$2,399 USD pp

Sept 16 SUN

Transfer from the ship to Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise

Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise – about 6 hours

Overnight in Seward at Harbor 360 Hotel

Sept 17 MON

Continental Breakfast at hotel

Visit SeaLife Center in Seward

Afternoon on own to explore

Overnight in Seward at Harbor 360 Hotel

Sept 18 TUE

Continental Breakfast at hotel

Sightsee as you travel from Seward to Homer

Visit Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

Overnight in Homer at Land’s End Resort

Sept 19 WED

Enjoy a day at leisure to choose your own activities

Homer Optional Tours (at own expense):

- Bear Viewing
- Biking / Kayaking
- Fishing

Overnight in Homer at Land’s End Resort

Sept 20 THU

Sightsee as you travel from Homer to Anchorage

Visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

Lunch stop at Alyeska Resort

Visit Anchorage Museum

Overnight at The Lakefront Anchorage

Sept 21 FRI

Transfer from hotel to airport

Thailand - Land of Brilliant Colors and Hospitality

Maria Traskowsky

(Kansas to Switzerland and Thailand)

I arrived in Thailand in the afternoon of September 18. First impressions were many and there are more every day. I'll start with one of the more obvious differences ... weather. For everyone that has been asking; yes, it is hot and humid. I don't think I have truly stopped sweating since I got here. Yet, it's not overpowering; living through humid Kansas summers has prepped me well for this type of climate. A nice cold drink or a cool breeze takes the edge off and then it's wonderful. It is currently the rainy season in Thailand and rains almost every day depending on the area.

There are also so many vibrant colors: The buildings are blue, green, pink, orange ... Advertisements and signs ... Street carts with their umbrellas, cars and motorcycles - all different colors. It's such a contrast from anything I've ever experienced.



One of the colorful scenes I've observed in Thailand

Then, there are the motorcycles. Everywhere I look, they zoom around and weave in and out of traffic. I have been lucky enough to ride on the back of one with a member of one of my host families and it is my favorite way to travel. The wind feels so good and you can explore places that you can't get to by vehicle and can park wherever you want to.

A few differences about the traffic are:

- Vehicles are driven on the left side of the road instead of the right.
- Honking is used as a form of communication between drivers and is not considered rude. In fact, it's courteous to alert others and avoid accidents.
- Traffic lights are timed in seconds when changing from red to green. It's very helpful and makes a lot of sense to know your timing.
- The traffic in Bangkok is almost unbelievable. It can take hours to drive just a few kilometers. Bangkok, in a few words, is beautiful chaos.

In my first few days in Thailand, I was introduced to the IFYE Thailand team and given an amazing welcome. These people are some of the kindest I have ever met; they do so much for the IFYE program and the delegates that travel here.



My favorite way to travel in Thailand!

I traveled to my first host family, in Ratchaburi Province. I stayed with Mr. Bon, an IFYE to the U.S. in 1978. We did so much in 5 days including: visiting a melon farm, a grape farm, a candle house, ceramic factory, floating markets, street markets, a cave with 100 million bats, and many Thai restaurants where I was able to taste all kinds of dishes. I loved being a tourist for a few days but my favorite part was spending it with my host family. Mr. Bon and I had a special connection as he reminded me in many ways of my grandfather who passed away a few years ago. His entire family welcomed me with open arms, taught me some Thai language, customs and traditions, and even showed me how to cook a meal - Thai style. My time with them was wonderful and a great introduction to Thailand.



My favorite part of my time was spending it with my host family

Marissa Kleve, an IFYE delegate from Iowa, joined me and we headed to our next host family in Suphanburi Province. Our host family was so welcoming and we learned so much. They are rice farmers and also have a combine business. We stayed there for 10 days and learned all about rice processing, the Young Smart Farmers group (which our host sister



Marissa (Left) and me (Right)

Poo is very active in), and even got to drive a Thai combine. We also visited a mushroom farm and a tomato farm and learned about processing these products. We visited the temple with our family which was a very special experience. Our host family taught us so much and we are so thankful to them for hosting us.

We then traveled to Faprathan Farm in Nakhom Ratchasima Province. This was another great experience as it is a very diverse farm growing many different kinds of flowers, roses, various types of vegetables, fruits, and many types of trees. It was so interesting to see the projects that they are working on; we were surrounded by kind people who taught us so much.

On the last night there, we traveled (in the bed of a pickup) to the top of Khao Phaeng Ma, a mountain that offered amazing views of the surrounding area. It was a great end to our stay there. We are thankful that our hosts gave us a great experience and that we learned more about agriculture.

It's hard to believe that it has almost been one month since I arrived in Thailand. This is a beautiful country with so much beauty, history, culture, and different types of agriculture. Most importantly, we have been welcomed by so many of the kindest people, and I love all of the smiles of everyone I meet.

I am excited to see what the rest of our time here in Thailand brings and am so thankful for this opportunity to learn about this amazing country.



A Thai combine



Learning about Thai culture from Mr. Bon (R)



A great way to spend our last night in this area of Thailand

58th National IFYE Conference Orlando, Florida

August 30 – September 3, 2017
“Rekindle the Magic of IFYE”



Conference keynote speaker: Sarah Lanier, author of "Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Hot and Cold Climate Cultures"



Line dancing at the end of the conference opening ceremony

- At the end of the opening ceremony, an animated group of line dancers responded to instructor, Ms. Lou Grayford, a Florida 4-H volunteer.
- The opening included the Parade of Flags, Ringing of the Swiss Bell, “Song of Peace”, and inspirational memories from our groups celebrating their 50th and other anniversaries.
- Ken Gordon, new IFYE Executive Director, was introduced in a reception prior to the opening evening activities. *Please read more about Ken and his ambitions for the Association in this Newsletter on page 3.*
- Sarah Lanier, Author of “Foreign to Familiar, A Guide to Hot and Cold Climate Cultures” gave a relevant talk relating to our IFYE Program connecting positively with all in attendance. Her insights were inspiring! She continued with a workshop following her keynote address.
- The three other workshops: “Go Wild! Why having native plants in landscapes is important”; “Interface with ECHO International Tropical Agriculture”; and “Promotion through Social Media” were all well received by attendees.
- Al Capone’s Dinner Theater was quite a treat and the Planning Committee even provided hats and boas for us to wear to get in the mood of the evening.
- All tour-goers reported having wonderful experiences. The BOK Tower and Gardens were relaxing and interesting, the Wine tour was tasty and the Buggy ride through the swamps of the citrus orchards kept everyone alert. The highlight for some in the lovely town of Mt. Dora was the boat ride through the scenic canals.



2017 Conference Attendees



Georgene Bender in Japanese dress

Highlights from the Conference



- Milton Mains, spouse of IFYE, Cathy Kunkle-Mains, entertained us with a couple of his famous or infamous stories as he served as auctioneer of the live auction. Much laughter abounds when Milt takes the microphone!
- Robust IFYE discussions took place during the Annual Meeting led by President, Art Deisher. The hope is that actions taken on these discussions will make our IFYE Program stronger as we move forward.
- A highlight of the International Banquet was the talks and slide shows given by Miss Jarucha “Naam” Phetcharawan, Florida’s 2017 inbound IFYE from Thailand and by Beau Nistler, Florida’s 2015 IFYE to Thailand. Each speaker had fascinating information about the country to which many of us went for the 2013 World IFYE Conference.
- The Candlelight Ceremony and “Song of Peace” closed out the conference on a note of magic and reflection.
- And finally, for those who did not need to catch early flights out of Orlando, the Ecumenical Service gave another opportunity to reflect on the week, on memories of our friends who have passed away, and on other inspirational thoughts.
- Be sure to plan on attending the World Conference IFYE Cruise to Alaska in 2018 or the 2019 Conference in Kentucky or both! Looking forward to seeing you again and even more of you!



Auctioneer Milton Mains



Thanks, Marj Loyd, for sharing your incredible quilting talents with IFYE by donating the above IFYE quilt to be sold at the 2016 conference auction. The proceeds go to the IFYE exchange program. In 2016, IFYE Judy DeVooght Moenck purchased the quilt. She gave it to Georgene Bender, who donated it back for the 2017 FL conference auction. Alan Lambert purchased it and then he told the auctioneer to resell it!

Michelle Stork was the last bidder standing and she proudly took the quilt back to KS! The 2017 proceeds from the quilt totaled \$750.

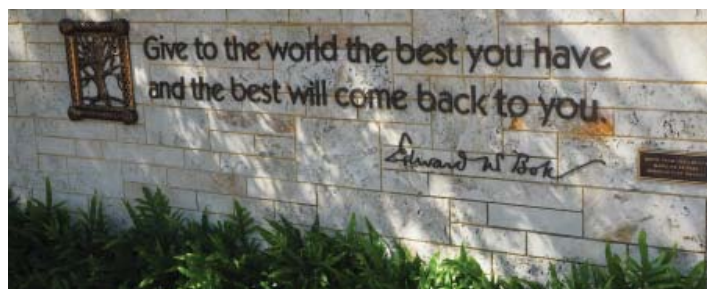
Pictured above with the quilt are (L to R): Georgene, Marj, Michelle, and Alan



(L to R) Beau Nistler and Jarucha “Naam” Phetcharawan - highlight presentation of the International Banquet



Seated (L to R): Corinne Hay and Art Deisher with an actor (center) from the Al Capone Dinner Theater



Bok Garden - Florida Conference Tour

IFYE UPDATE

Want more information on the IFYE Program, IFYE Board activities, or the status of IFYE finances? Please refer to the IFYE Update published each 6 weeks.

The last issue was on 10/27 and the next issue is scheduled for December 8th.

Note: This communication is sent to those requesting communication via email and those individuals who have paid for postal copies. It is also available at <http://ifyeusa.org/news-conferences/newsletters.html>.



(Back Row - L to R: Fernando Venancio (Parana), Judy Brummeler and Norm Veliquette (Michigan), Carl Castleton (Bahia)
(Front Row - L to R: Karen Chitwood (Texas) Dulce Castleton (Bahia), Ilma Arns Wang (Sao Paulo), and Elda and Lauro Viana (local hosts in Goias))

In Memoriam

Albert Bishop (Spouse) 03/20/2017

Jo Ann (Knuppel) Block (Illinois to New Zealand 1966)
04/25/2017 LM

Curtis Bohl (Missouri to Australia 1985) 08/23/2017

Phyllis A (McInturf) Brown (Ohio to Sweden 1954)
06/05/2017 LM

Rod Buchele (Spouse) 8/02/2017 LM

Diana L Jaun (California to Israel 1963) 07/10/2017
LM

Mary Ann (Valentine) Larson (North Dakota to Finland
1959) 01/13/2016 LM

Alice C (Bonomo) Matonic (Michigan to Peru 1963)
08/12/2017

Russell Mawby (Michigan to United Kingdom 1948)
10/20/2017 LM

Frieda Nelsen (Spouse) 12/20/2011

Jeralyn (Beverly) Pigott (Illinois to Guatemala 1974)
09/20/2017

A Lois Redman (Oregon to Sweden 1968) 05/02/2017
LM

James Sais (New Mexico to Ecuador 1958) 05/22/2017

Armin ("Sam") Samuelson (Kansas to Sweden 1948)
09/23/2017 LM

Jane (Herman) Scheef (South Dakota Nepal 1967)
04/26/2017 LM

Ivan Schmedemann (Kansas to Germany 1950)
03/18/2017 LM

Walter Schmidt (Maryland to Austria 1956) 07/03/2017
LM

Leroy Stumpe (Nebraska to United Kingdom 1977)
07/24/2017 LM

John A Taylor (Wisconsin to Dominican Republic 1957)
DOD Unknown

Norman Warminski (Texas to Philippines 1965)
09/21/2017

LM = Life Member

Reunion of 1965 IFYEs in Brazil

Brazilian IFYEs and their counterparts of 1965 held a highlight reunion in Goias, Brazil in early October. Weather was excellent and 52-year-old camaraderie was even better!

Lauro Viana, who worked with the Brazilian Ag Extension Service after being an IFYE in the US, located and arranged visitations with all three 1965 Goias host families. Two host mothers are still living.

Carl Castleton visited members of his host families in Minas Gerais. Norm Veliquette, a past district governor in Rotary International, spoke at Rotary Club meetings in four cities testifying to the enduring value of youth exchange programs and international friendships.

Brazilians attending were: Lauro and Elda Viana along with their daughter Laura and her family, local hosts in Goias; Ilma Arns Wang from Sao Paulo; Carl and Dulce Castleton from Bahia; and Rotary exchange student Fernando Venancio.

Americans attending were Karen Chitwood from Texas; Norm Veliquette and Judy Brummeler from Michigan. Also in attendance was Castleton (a 1966 New Hampshire IFYE to Brazil), who married Dulce (1966 from Goias State) and now lives in Bahia. Venancio was hosted in Michigan by Veliquette in 1983.

Reunion and Award

Nancy Moga (Virginia to New Zealand 1974) has reported that two of the memorable events for her this year have been:

- A visit this past summer from a host family from 43 years ago.
- An Alumni Distinguished Service Award presented by Virginia Tech this past May. See more details at: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2017/05/alumni-distinguished-service.html>