



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...ALAN LAMBERT

OCTOBER 2013



What a great year for both inbound and outbound exchangees with the international exchange programs. SD sent two summer teenage delegates abroad, Nicole Hamilton to Finland, and Audrey Johannes to Japan; and young adult twins Elizabeth and Mary Jo Osman to Tasmania .

We hosted 19 LABO delegates and 2 chaperones from Japan, and one inbound IFYE from Germany and Taiwan each. (See *individual articles elsewhere*.)

Thank you to the many host families involved for hosting these inbound youth and adults, and the grateful support of the outbound delegate's parents.

The SD IFYE Association continues to promote the international exchange programs for both those of 4-H age and those over 19. We have been able to attend the annual SD 4-H Leaders Conference, the Teen Leadership Conference, share our delegates and their stories at the State Fair 4-H BBQ, as well as promote the programs at 4-H club meetings and 4-H recognition events.

Returning delegates are required to help spread the word about these programs through speaking engagements as a condition of the scholarship monies they received from the SD

IFYE Association. They would like to share their experiences with as many groups as possible, so please contact me so that arrangements can be made to attend your events. I know many of us spoke at winter events (such as Wheat Growers, Pork Producers, business appreciation banquets, etc.), schools, community events and the like upon our return.

2014 promises to be an exciting year for SD International Exchanges. I have already received interest from Taiwan and Tasmania for inbound delegates. The young man from Tasmania met SD IFYEs Elizabeth and Mary Jo Osman this spring, and that prompted his interest in the IFYE experience. We expect to host 24 young teenage LABO delegates (ages 12-14) and two adult chaperones for one month in late July – mid August. We also plan to host 3-5 older teenagers from Finland for one month (typically July) as well. Delegates are placed with families with a family member of the same gender and within two years of age. Chaperones will have two host families for two weeks each. Any family can host a chaperone.

This organization continually needs your support to make these exchanges possible...both through your time and energy as hosts, volunteers for interviews, orientations, transportation, and financial contributions. Annual dues are only \$10, and a clip off form is found on the last page of this newsletter. Additional contributions are appreciated as well.



Through the Eyes of the Exchanges...

Outbound to Japan Audrey Johannes



Miwa, Minori, Audrey & Takashi Fukuji

For eight weeks this past summer, I lived as a member of two Japanese families. I participated in the two-way exchange program in cooperation with the Japanese LABO and States 4-H International Exchange Programs. Let me begin by saying, this was an experience of a lifetime!

My first host family lived in Yokohama, in the Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo. I was the older sister in the Fukuji family, consisting of my dad, Takashi; my mom, Miwa; and my 9-year old sister, Minori. I loved them more than I can explain. I really felt part of their family, not just a guest. Though I attended weekday classes, and time with the family was thus shortened during the day, we formed a very loving bond.

I attended the LABO Japanese Language Institute class, along with other North Americans to learn Japanese, Monday through Friday. We learned so much through the teachers, field trips, and various other learning exercises. For example, we traveled to 'Harajuku', the largest fashion district in Japan, and shopped the entire day. Another day, we attended a very formal tea ceremony. Eventually, I was able to have a basic conversation in Japanese, as well as read and write most Hiragana and Katakana.

During weekends, my family and I would go camping at the base of Mt. Fuji, go to amusement

parks such as Fuji-Q Highland, and to Tokyo Disney Sea. I also played soccer with my host dad and sister, as well as many friends through the weekly LABO meetings. I was quite sad to leave the Fukuji family, and many tears were shed.



Akari, Audrey, Mana & Akemi Funabiki

The second month reunited me with Akari Funabiki, my LABO sister who had stayed with my family one month in the summer of 2012. Koichi and Akemi (Dad and Mom), brothers Masayuki (20), and Hiroyuki (18), and sister Mana (16) completed the family. We lived in Tsuyama, in the Okayama prefecture, a town far south of Tokyo. I needed to take the "Shinkansen" (the bullet train) from Tokyo to Okayama.

I was especially thrilled to see Akari again, and experience her life, in much the same way she experienced mine. I had more time to spend with them because I was no longer in school. However, Akari was not yet on vacation, so I often attended school with her. This family lived in a large home in a rural area, while my first family lived in a very modern, but small apartment in a very large city. Thus, I was able to experience two different sides of Japanese culture.

I would highly recommend an international experience to Japan to anyone. It is an experience like no other, and I would not trade my summer there, or the relationship I made, for the world. I am planning on returning soon because I miss everyone so much. This was the best summer of my life, and I am so happy to have had the chance to participate as both a host sister in 2012 and a delegate in 2013.

Outbound to Finland Nicole Hamilton



“*Mui! Minun nimuni on Nicole Hamilton.*” “Hello! My name is Nicole Hamilton.” I am from Hitchcock, SD, and recently went to Finland this past July on a States 4-H Exchange. I stayed on a dairy farm with my host family of six. It was a full house, but I fit in great because my family back home was just as crazy!

My host dad (Timo) and host mom (Mari) milked 50 cows twice every day. I had two host brothers (Ville and Antti) and two host sisters (Veera and Anni). My host mom, Mari, could speak decent English, and Veera's English was fair.

During my stay, I learned how valuable communication truly is; yet I also learned that the differences in the way we communicate make life more interesting. For example, my younger host brother, Antti, and I would often sing karaoke together with his loud voice and my quiet one. Of course, most of the songs were in Finnish, but I understood what the songs were trying to convey, even in a different language. Another example is when Veera asked me if I wanted to jump on the trampoline. I said yes, but she looked at me funny and then I suddenly realized she had asked me in Finnish!

One of my favorite pastimes with the family was berry picking. Veera, Anni, Antti, and I would often go out on walks in the forest, eating wild blueberries and sometimes wild strawberries if we were lucky. One day, the whole family went to pick blueberries, and we brought back buckets of them. We then made the best pie I have ever eaten. With the leftovers Mari made blueberry raspberry soup, which we ate on cornflakes or with porridge.

We went on holiday for a week during my stay. My family rented a summer cottage on a remote lake. We swam almost every day, ate more wild berries, and canoed. It was very relaxing. They also took me to the Olavinlinna Castle, and I met some of their family. Finnish people are very accommodating, something I noticed throughout my whole exchange.



My family would sauna every night! I thought it was a little much, and when I asked Veera at what age they begin to sauna, she said, "Little baby". Needless to say, I was stunned!

I have grown up on a farm, but living on a dairy farm for a month was a new experience. I learned so much about their farming practices though, and I never ran out of questions.

I bought a t-shirt that had a Finnish phrase on it, and I thought it should be something to live by. The rough translation goes something like this: "Life can be anything else, difficult or easy, but not boring".

I wish to thank IFYE for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I truly had an amazing experience.



Host sister Veera and Nicole making "pulla", a type of bun.

Outbound to Australia Mary Jo and Liz Osborn



Mary Jo and Liz Osborn

G'day, Mate! In Aussie "slanguage", this means "pleased to meet you". We met people of all kinds, we learned about their lifestyles, partook in family activities, threw a few "snags" (sausages) on the barbie, and had a pretty "grouse" (terrific) time, on our IFYE exchange to Tasmania.

The first part of our exchange was spent at AgFest. This is a three-day event similar to our state fair. Rural Youth members and the people of Tasmania look forward to it every year. Twenty-nine years ago, Rural Youth began running the AgFest to support their programs. In the beginning, about 9,000 people visited over a 2-day span. Today, around 60,000-80,000 people visit over the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday event.

We worked along with the Rural Youth to organize and set up for the fest. At 80 hectares (almost 200 acres), it is a massive piece of land and is mostly filled during the three days of AgFest. Vendor booths (large tents or marques) were being set up, farm machinery being placed, and wood chips being hauled in. Day by day, you could see the progression of many hardworking hands. A few of the many things we did included: painting doors, marking spots out for vendors in the craft sheds, and installing arm rests onto benches. We parked cars, worked at the ticket booth and in the Rural Youth promotion tent during the fest.

Southbound we go! After AgFest, we traveled to Hobart, the capital of Tasmania. There we spent our time staying in suburban and rural homes. We were taken to the Salamanca Market, went on a beer brewery tour and drove 20km to the top of Mt. Wellington. One of the Rural Youth members took us on a day trip through the Huon Valley to visit fish hatcheries along the coast. Driving along, you get a real feel for an area. We saw hops and poppy fields that were foreign to us. Throughout the exchange, we encountered wildlife in their natural habitats. We saw wild wallabies, kangaroos, possums, bandicoots, owls and even a platypus.

We six exchangees (England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and us) did many day trips together, usually with a Rural Youth member along. One of our

expeditions included driving to South Cape the southern-most edge of Australia. The ocean never ceases to amaze us. In Tasmania, you are no more than two hours from the Dakotas, but there is nothing like the feeling of looking across vast ocean waters, feeling the breeze, the smell of salt in the air, and the feeling of perfect, fine sand between your toes. Where there is a beach, there will always be a Fish 'N Chips shop nearby. Baked or flaked fish 'n chips (flaked fish and french fries) were always guaranteed to be fresh and delicious.



The last 10 days of our exchange were spent in northern Tasmania, where we first began our Aussie adventure. There, we experienced farm life. Our host family lived on a dairy farm outside of Scottsdale in the Dorset region. We enjoyed herding the cows into the milking barn. We loved being outside and riding the 2-wheeler. We tried our hands at milking, which is harder than it looks. We went wallaby and possum hunting with our family. Our host mother drove us to a family member's to go kayaking one of the days too. We also developed the skill of whip cracking. We would practice until our arms and wrists were sore; but, by the end of the week, we were professionals.



"Being involved in 4-H has been a great experience; and getting the chance to be an IFYE was a great opportunity. I am so glad to have gone on the exchange. It was a great way to live, learn, and meet new people in a different country. I would recommend being an IFYE to anyone who is outgoing, flexible, likes people, and [is] willing to learn." [Liz

"We are so fortunate to have IFYE and Rural Youth coordinate and organize such an amazing and unforgettable exchange. Without host families, this would be impossible. We will take the things we've learned, the people we've not only met but became friends with, and our experiences in Australia with us for the rest of our lives. We highly recommend and encourage anyone who has a sense of adventure, is open to learn, a people person, and wants to experience a country from the inside out to be an IFYE." [Mary Jo]

IFYE from Taiwan
Kate



Kate, from Taiwan was a delightful guest in the Wayne and Bev Wright household at Turton, SD during the month of August. She was a school teacher and had NEVER been on a farm before! However, she adapted well! Kate was here to learn more about the 4-H program in the United States. She was able to attend 4-H meetings and was able to witness firsthand the judging of exhibits at Achievement Days. She also delved into an 4-H manuals, literature that we could get into her hands! The picture above shows Bev's grandson, Connor Kruse from Minnesota, holding a rubber band gun, made of wood but the ammunition is a rubber band. Connor enjoyed it immensely. In the center of the picture is Talli Wright, granddaughter of Bev from Turton with the calligraphy pen she used with Kate's expertise to write the word "money" on a gift envelope used just for that purpose. Standing on the right of Bev is Spink County 4-H'er, Tomlyn Toy of Conde, holding the small IFYE flag who just simply enjoyed being a part of all the fun.

Kate didn't see all she wanted of South Dakota as everyone had told her that you MUST see Mount Rushmore but her time element did not let this happen so she is looking forward to coming back to the United States.

Kate enjoyed fishing, cooking, mowing the lawn, pulling weeds and especially learning about the South Dakota 4-H program. May everyone have as good an experience in hosting as the Wrights did!
Submitted by Bev Wright

IFYE from Germany
Florian Otte



Summer activity; pickup load of sweet corn at the David & Teresa Abrahamson farm near Howard, SD. Kaitlyn Abrahamson, Florian Otte, Aaron Byers & Joseph Abrahamson.

Florian Otte, a 21 year old young man from Germany, lived with multiple SD host families from June 17 to September 2 as part of the IFYE program. His first host family, Wayne and Gennie Lee, Reva, SD, live a quite different life than Florian was used to. The Lee family ranches in north-western SD, and the experiences of cattle, ranching, rodeos, 4-H activities and the sparse population were all a huge change for him. Florian thoroughly enjoyed the three weeks with the family, and came to appreciate the individual's self reliance yet community involvement of all he met.

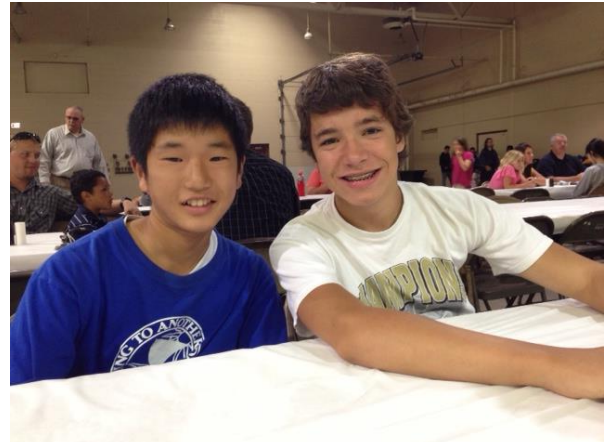
Florian also lived with the following families for varying lengths of time: Lester & Rosemary Moeller, St. Lawrence; JP & Holly Heber, Zell; Brian & Jamie Johnson, Frankfort; Jeff & Shelia Gatzke, Hitchcock, David & Teresa Abrahamson, Howard; and he ended his SD stay with Jared & Katie Knock, Willow Lake, SD.

Florian was very adaptable, inquisitive, and always ready for a new experience. He participated in the many daily activities, such as moving cattle, haying and harvesting, and daily chores. He learned about the seed corn business, the mechanics of combines and balers, livestock genetics, feeding and nutrition and a host other things. Florian was also enthusiastic about cars, motorbikes, waterskiing, swimming, sports. He was able to experience a part of SDSU, staying overnight in one of the campus dorms and attending a Division I football game.

2013 LABO Summer Inbound Delegates



Leona Ito and Alex Bishman, Harrisburg, SD



Daichi Kawasaki & Shawn Stemsrud, Stockholm, SD



Akane Matsushita & Victoria Braley, Valley Springs, SD



Aoi Yoshino driving horses at the Ingalls Homestead, DeSmet, SD. Aoi was hosted By Luke & Kim Holzwarth, Hazel, SD



Akane Matsushita, Victoria & Elizabeth Braley, Valley Springs, SD

South Dakota hosted 19 Japanese delegates and Two adult chaperones for four weeks this summer. Approximately 60 host family members and delegates attended a midpoint gathering at the Ingalls Homestead near DeSmet, and over 125 attended the farewell event in Sioux Falls. Host families need to have a child of the same gender and within two years of age. Many families enjoyed the hosting experience.

2014 Outbound Programs

Country	Age Required	Dates	Cost
Japan -4Weeks	12-18 years old	July 9– Aug 7, 2014 With a Japanese Host Family	Approx \$3,800 - \$4,200 Depending on the state
Japan – 8 Weeks	12-18 years old	June 11 – Aug 7, 2014 1 st (4) weeks with Japanese Host Family and classroom setting. 2 nd (4) weeks with Japanese Host Family in another area	Approx \$4,800 - \$ 5,200 Depending on the state
Australia -4 Weeks	16-19 years old	June 18 – July 16, 2014 with Australia Rural Host Families	\$4,900 - \$5,300
Norway - 4 Weeks	16-19 years old	June 25 – July 25, 2014 Homestay with 4H Norge. 4h Norge's one-week camp with over 1,000 Norwegian 4-H members in attendance.	\$3,900 - \$4,400
Costa-Rica – 4 Weeks	15-18 years old	Late June-Late July (Dates TBA) With A Costa Rican Host Family	\$2,650 - \$3,050
Tanzania - 2 Weeks	15-19 years old	Two weeks in July, 2014 (Final Dates TBA) Youth Leadership Conference, visits to local schools/4H clubs, US Embassy & Safari Tour	\$3,800 - \$4,300

- All Delegates travel is with an adult chaperone
- Minimum age by travel date
- Additional program costs may include passport, some meals, gifts & spending money
- Payment Schedule
 - December 10, 2013 \$1,000 deposit due
 - January 20, 2014 \$ 2,000 due (less scholarship funds)
 - February 20, 2014 Medical Form & Passport Copy
 - April 15, 2014 Remaining Balance

2014 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The IFYE board will support four (4) outbound scholarships (up to \$1,500, not to exceed program costs) Each applicant will need to go through an interview process for ANY outbound program. These state scholarships will help to defray travel and administrative expenses for the outbound delegates, and increase participation in the various programs.

In return for this financial assistance, each of the 2014 Outbound delegates receiving scholarship monies from the SD IFYE Alumni Assoc., will agree to speak about their experiences to groups of all sizes.



Florian Otte, Germany to South Dakota, Nicole Hamilton, South Dakota to Finland, Alan Lambert, State Coordinator spoke at the 2013 State Fair 4-H BBQ.

IFYE BOARD & SUPPORT PERSONNEL 2014

Alan Lambert, President Summer LABO, IFYE & Outbound Coordinator	Sioux Falls	605-366-6107	alanelambert@gmail.com
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SOUTH DAKOTA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DUES

We are dependent on membership dues to administer the Summer LABO, Inbound & Outbound, IFYE Inbound & Outbound, the year long High School FLEX programs. Dues cover telephone, postage, mileage, printing, annual meeting expenses, and program coordinator expenses, etc. Please help keep these programs alive!!

Only \$10 per year -- A REAL BARGAIN!
Already Paid? THANK YOU!!!!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to: South Dakota IFYE Association
Jerry Micheel, Finance Officer
195 SE Prospect Drive
Huron, SD 57350



Other Ways You Can Support 4-H International Programs

1. Encourage friends and family members to become a host family
2. Share host family opportunities at 4-H Club meetings and other school / church events
3. Encourage a young adult you know to participate in an exchange program.
4. Volunteer as a board member (Alumni or Host Family) or support personnel for the IFYE Board.
5. Submit articles / updates for the newsletter on what's happening.

Important Dates to Remember

- Welcome Home
Saturday, Jan 14, 2014 @ noon
Beadle County Extension Office
3rd Street & Lincoln Ave. SW
Huron, SD
- National IFYE Conference
June 19-22, 2014
Sparks, Nevada
More info at www.IFYEUUSA.org