



IFYE NEWS

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

September 2012



IFYE Conference Annual Meeting Opening Remarks *Alan Lambert,* *Association President*

July 27, 2012

Good morning and welcome to the annual meeting of the IFYE Association. I am pleased to see such a large crowd in attendance. I'd like to

take a few minutes to share some thoughts I have from a movie called "Cinderella Man".

As you may recall, it is the story of James Braddock, a boxer in the 1920's and 30's. He had tremendous early success in boxing and business. Then, with the economic crash of 1929 and subsequent years, he and his family fell upon hard times and lost virtually all they possessed. His young son stole a sausage log from the local butcher and was caught by his family. Braddock took his son and the sausage back to the butcher. He explained to his son that, despite the hard time, they were better off than many others. He said, "No matter how hard it gets, we do not steal. Is that understood?" With hunger rampant for millions of people, many families sent their children away to stay with relatives or abandoned them. However, he promised his son that his children would never be sent away. He did not forget his values. It was a measure of him as a man.

The destitute years forced him to plead for money at the feet of the men who had made great wealth off him as a boxer. All he was looking for was a way to keep his family together. He would do **whatever** was necessary.

Eventually, better times returned and Braddock became the heavyweight champion again, defeating the much bigger and favored Max Baer. Two years later, he lost his title to Joe Louis who called Braddock the "Greatest MAN he ever knew".

Why do I relate this story? In many ways, it can parallel the story of IFYE. We had some great years, suffered through some hard times and are making a comeback. What was Braddock's greatest asset? It was his measure of a man. What did he do to get back? He did **whatever** it took. He looked for opportunities, cooperated with others, neglected to hold hard feelings, and kept his values intact.

The IFYE Association has had its ups and downs as well. In our own lives, when faced with challenges, our human nature causes us to look back, longing for the 'good old days'... or at least the familiar old days. We may become like a rubber band, stretching a bit and then retracting to our old shape. We may spend time in the 'rearview' mirror' looking back on what once was.

We need to recognize our past, learn from our mistakes and success, but most importantly look forward. Can you imagine driving from your home to Omaha while looking only in the rearview mirror?

You might get a short distance before weaving all over the road and ending up in the ditch all because we are focused on what is behind us. Wouldn't it be more productive to focus on the destination by looking forward through an expansive field of view with unlimited possibilities to explore?

You are probably familiar with the story of a caged tiger, who for years, paced back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. He soon knew instinctively how many steps he could take in each direction before running into obstacles, the bars of his cage. When he was put in a new and larger cage, he still paced the same number of steps before turning around. He had been conditioned to certain circumstances which controlled him even though a great opportunity awaited him. But, he never looked for it.

There, also, was a zoological study of group behavior in monkeys. In the center of the monkeys' compound was a tall pole. Atop the pole, bunches of bananas were placed. However, as the monkeys attempted to climb the pole to reach the bananas, the staff shot a stream of water from a fire hose to knock the monkeys off the pole. Every time a monkey attempted to reach the bananas, they were knocked off by the water stream. Eventually none of the monkeys attempted to climb the pole anymore.

The study then began removing one monkey from the initial group, replacing it with a new monkey that had never been hit with the water stream. What do you think the new monkey encountered when he saw the banana at the top of the pole? The rest of the monkeys in the compound prevented him from climbing the pole and getting sprayed. As the study continued, monkeys from the original group were continually removed, one at a time, and new monkeys brought in as replacements. Eventually the group contained only monkeys that had never been sprayed by water. Yet, none of these monkeys attempted to climb the pole after the bananas. Why? Because they had been conditioned to think only one way.

What can we take away from these three stories? James Braddock was determined not to let outside circumstances keep him down. The tiger's limited capacity was self-imposed through years of repetition and never looking beyond what was. The new monkeys, though never experiencing the physical discomfort themselves, let group mentality and previous experiences "protect" the others.

Over the years, this association has gone through similar scenarios. Many of us have preconceived ideas, and come with certain ideas based on our previous exposure and experiences. However, the Association has a few monkeys that are refusing to take a beating and are looking for more bananas. As we move forward, there may be dramatic shifts, but always with our core values and principles in place.

As was explicitly shared at last year's conference, we were at a crossroads. Do something or die. You chose to direct us to do something. I challenge you to do **something** as well. How have we done? Individually or as a whole? We are all human. We make mistakes. I guarantee that more mistakes will probably happen. But our goal is to get better every day. Help us do that. Many of you have so much experience in so many areas, but we do not know who you are. Let us know. Guide us along the uncharted path. We need your help.

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Another Step Forward on the “Uncharted Path”

As of the 2012 IFYE national conference in Omaha this past July, steps were taken toward increasing our objectives of continuing and expanding the IFYE program. Some of these steps are:

- **Name Change** – The membership voted to officially change the name to **IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.** The IFYE NEWS and the website (<http://ifyeusa.org>) also reflect this change.
- **Bylaw Changes** – The entire revised bylaws may be viewed at the following site as of September 2012: <http://ifyeusa.org/association/> including, but not limited to:
 - **Mission Statement** – “The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. promotes international exchange programs, continued cross-cultural education and global awareness of its members and future IFYE Program participants.”
 - **Membership** – “Membership is encouraged from all participants of any cultural exchange and shall be open to all persons interested in IFYE and its mission.”
- **Programming** – As we continue toward increasing programming, steps being made include:
 - **Partnering** – financial and program sponsors/partners are being approached for their aid toward IFYE programming
 - **Association/Foundation Joint Committee** – a joint committee was created that will hold its first meeting in September. The main goal of this committee is to work toward joint methods of fundraising to allow more programming. This may include submitting grant proposals, as well as individual fundraising activities.
 - **You** are being asked for your dues/contributions to help in these efforts.
- **Website** – We are in the midst of updating the website to encompass the changes made at conference annual meeting. Other revisions are anticipated in the future.

In his keynote address at conference, Dean Jacobs talked of the *7 Wonders of Humanity: sight, touch, smell, hearing, laughter, love, and taste*. As we remember some of the best moments of our own exchange experiences and what made them so, in the words of Dean (<http://deanjacobs.org/about.html>), we challenge you to continue “to reach out into the world ... with our own hands and hearts, to touch and know the world we all share” and help us help young adults to have this same type of experience.



(L) Alan Lambert, Association President, congratulates Betty Stephenson (IA - England/Wales 1952) on being one of the six original signers of the Articles of Incorporation for the Association in 1962. Not able to attend conference to receive award was Anne (Rettig) Snyder (CO - Austria 1949)



(R) Also presented with awards at the International Banquet were Lona Hinshaw (KS) - Friend of IFYE and Mary Kay Munson (KS - India 1965) - IFYE Alumna making outstanding contributions to international exchange programs.

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IFYEs, Arise – Be Counted!

Norma Lawton Wu, Treasurer

THANK YOU to all our life members and current dues-paying members. You have seen the value of your IFYE experience and want that opportunity for others. If you are neither a life member nor current with annual dues, PLEASE step up and join the IFYE alumni/supporters who care about growing the IFYE program.

As of our annual IFYE Association meeting in Omaha in July, we have become the **IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. THIS IS EXCITING!!** To be financially viable, we need outside funding. By using the letters IFYE only, this name change frees us to seek new partners and the IFYE Foundation to seek funding and grants from multiple sources.

Increasing our active (dues-paying) membership numbers will greatly enhance our possibilities of obtaining grants and funding to continue IFYE. Here is what you can do:

- Change your dues status from Non-active to Active.
Over 2,500 of you are not dues-paying members. By simply sending in \$25 for annual membership (\$40 for couples!), you will help us reach the IFYE Association goal of 1,800 members. If that plateau is reached, the funding sources will recognize that IFYE is a viable entity that merits their funding support.
- Place a value on the IFYE experience you had. By paying dues, the membership roles help show the commitment you have to see the IFYE program continue.
- Directly help another person share in an IFYE experience. Yes, your membership will increase the probability to raise the funds to continue the IFYE program. YOU DO COUNT!!

Your \$25 for annual membership (\$40 for couples) or your life membership dues, will help us reach the IFYE Association goal of 1,800 active members. When this plateau is reached, the funding sources can more easily recognize IFYE as a viable entity that merits their financial support.

We look forward to receiving your backing this year via annual dues, life membership, or donation. This will help the IFYE Association know that we have your endorsement as we work toward new sustainable IFYE program,

Opt-in to MailChimp -- <http://www.eepurl.com/ciaVr>

If desiring to receive your IFYE Association communication through this method, complete first name, last name, email address and submit. Confirm through your email. You will now receive your IFYE NEWS via email notification.

Association Membership, Contributions & Address Updates

Name: _____ New Address/Information?
FIRST MI LAST

Maiden Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Program: _____ State Represented: _____ Host Country: _____ Year: _____

Extension Staff: _____ Host Family: _____ Friend of IFYE: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____

Prefer mailings via: E-mail Postal Both Remove from mailing list?

Annual Membership Dues @ \$25 single/\$40 married couple (calendar year) \$ _____

Life Membership @ \$300 single/\$400 married couple \$ _____

Contributions to IFYE Association General Operational Support *
(Contributions are Tax Deductible to the Extent Provided by Law*) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed Thank You! \$ _____

*The IFYE Association is an IRS approved 501(3)(c) non-profit charitable organization.

Please make checks payable to:

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

3912 County Road 130

Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9359

Todo Es Posible-Everything is Possible

Emma Byrne (WV - Mexico - 2011/2012)

I arrived in Mexico on September 8, 2011 to a welcoming party of my friends Karina, Guillermo, and Lolita – three Mexican high school teachers who had spent two weeks in my home state of West Virginia the previous summer learning about the 4-H methods of experiential education, service learning, and youth development.

The plan for my six-month stay in Mexico involved moving forward in the relationships forged between Guanajuato and West Virginia in order to learn about each other's cultures and educational systems, as well as work collaboratively to start a 4-H youth development program within the University of Guanajuato



Dance students in Irapuato celebrating Mexican Independence on September 16th, 2011

Family Life in Guanajuato, Mexico

During my six-month stay, I lived with host families in five cities: Irapuato, León, Salvatierra, Silao, and Guanajuato. By Mexican standards, Irapuato, Silao, and Guanajuato are all considered mid-sized cities (150,000 to 350,000 people). León is a metropolis (~1,436,000 people) and Salvatierra is considered rural (~ 40,000 people).

For the most part, my host parents in each city worked in the school system as teachers or principals. Daily, I traveled with them to school and spent time learning about the educational system and sometimes attending classes. Living with these families, I also became accustomed to Mexican culture by attending family events and holiday celebrations.



One of my host families and me (center) at the beach in Ixtapa.

On November 1st and 2nd, many Mexicans observe the holiday *Los Días de los Muertos* (The Days of the Dead), which honor deceased family members with shrines that commemorate their lives. I traveled with my host family from León to the city of San Miguel de Allende for this holiday celebration, which usually involves eating *pan de muertos* (bread of the dead) and visiting shrines encased in orange marigold flowers.

On the sixth of January, we celebrated *El Día de los Reyes Magos* (Three Kings' Day), which marks the day in Christian history that the three wise men visited the newborn Jesus. Children in Mexico ask for their holiday presents by writing letters to the three kings, and then attach the letters to helium balloons that are released into the night sky. In Irapuato, we watched three actors portraying the wise men as they marched into the city on elephant, camel, and horseback to mark the coming of the holiday.

Training Teachers in 4-H Programming and Youth Development

My main responsibility for the blossoming Mexican 4-H program was to train teachers in the Essential Elements of Youth Development and provide models of club and community service work. In Guanajuato, the K-12 educational system is coordinated by private and public universities throughout the state, with standards set by the government's department of education. The University of Guanajuato, which is among the largest public state universities, operates a system of ten high schools, as well as various middle and elementary schools. In October and November, I traveled to one of these ten schools each day of the workweek to train teachers and school administrators. The University of Guanajuato wanted to use 4-H as a supplemental education program aimed at teaching leadership, responsibility, civic action, as well as some targeted skills like entrepreneurship.

I'm very grateful for the patience and understanding of all the teachers who participated in my training. My imperfect Spanish and relative inexperience might have deterred some seasoned teachers, but each day I had a group of educators ready to tackle another piece of 4-H training. Looking back, I realize that it was highly improbable that this arrangement could lay the foundation of a successful 4-H program, and I count myself lucky that we made it work. I think my experience is a real testament to the strength of the 4-H educational model, as well as the importance of building respectful relationships with educational partners, no matter what the designation of "teacher" and "student" might be. We also worked under the mantra that *Todo Es Posible*, or "Everything Is Possible." This positive attitude helped enormously with overcoming the small and large obstacles that came in our way.

Seeing the 4-H Program Take Off

Although I was traveling to each of the schools to meet with students, teachers, and faculty – these growing 4-H communities had little knowledge of each other's progress. The previous year, West Virginia University (WVU) and the University of Guanajuato (UG) had organized the first "4-H Colloquium" to discuss and plan ideas for 4-H in Mexico. So, in February 2012, we planned the 2nd Annual 4-H Colloquium for all the participating clubs in the state to share their projects and socialize. The event also coincided with a visit from some WVU faculty and volunteers, who brought additional training for the participants.

In the morning, the 4-H students presented their community service projects and received feedback from WVU and UG faculty. The projects, which were all created and designed by high school 4-Hers, included revitalizing an abandoned school orchard, providing training in science and technology to elementary students, spending time with and caring for the elderly, and starting community soccer teams for young kids. At the end of the day, all the students and teachers participated in five educational workshops or "Skill-a-thons" that focused on teamwork, communication, leadership, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. Preparing for this event was probably the most difficult and time-intensive of my experiences in Mexico. However, seeing the excitement and progress of all the teachers and students was incredibly rewarding.



4-H students and teacher planning their community service project - I am on the far right.

In planning for the future, the faculty at WVU and UG are very excited for the proposed 4-H exchange for students in Guanajuato and West Virginia. In the summer of 2011, twenty seven students and six teachers from Mexico came to West Virginia summer camps. We hope that, by 2014, we can send West Virginia youth to the first 4-H summer camps in Mexico.

The University of Guanajuato also hopes to integrate the Extension model into their 4-H program so that educational activities and resources from the university and high schools are accessible to rural and underserved communities throughout the state. Hopefully, the project continues to experience success as more people become involved and catch on to the idea that *Todo Es Posible*, especially in 4-H.

Thank You

I would like to thank West Virginia University, especially the Extension Service and Global Education Team, as well as my friends and colleagues from La Universidad de Guanajuato for all their support and for giving me this opportunity. Please contact me by email (emma.byrne13@gmail.com) with questions or comments.



Happy graduates in Salvatierra after finishing 4-H teacher training

2013 IFYE Bed and Breakfast Guide

Many of you may recall that Missouri IFYE Alumni Association took the initiative over 20 years ago to compile a list of US IFYEs/ host families that are willing to host current and former IFYEs for an overnight stay. Currently, there are over 160 families listed in the guidebook. Unfortunately, the most recent update was in 2007.

A 2013 IFYE B&B Guide is being planned for JANUARY 1, 2013 For those of you who are listed in the 2007 guide, a note (email if possible) will be coming to you to check your information and update it if necessary. Also, this gives you the chance to say whether or not you wish to continue to be listed. For those of you who wish to make a **new entry**, please see the information that is requested at the end of this article.

Please contact Mary Simon Leuci SO THAT YOU CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW EDITION. Deadline for all information (updates as well as new entries) should be sent to Mary at leucim@gmail.com **BY NOV. 15, 2012 for inclusion in the new edition.**

Electronic copies in PDF format can be requested from Joyce Taylor (TaylorJL@missouri.edu) OR Mary Simon Leuci (leucim@gmail.com).

www.ifyeusa.org

A printed copy of the edition may be requested from Joyce Taylor for a fee of \$3.00 after January 1, 2013

Missouri IFYE Alumni Association
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The guide has listings from most states and a couple of countries.

Most listings include:

- Name and address
- Phone
- Email address
- When and where the host was an IFYE
- How many people can be hosted
- Special directions or limitations, and
- Nearby attractions.

Each of these listed IFYE hosts and their families are welcoming you into their homes for one night and will provide breakfast for you at no cost. When making plans, please contact your hosts as soon as possible, as many of these IFYEs have personal and professional schedules to accommodate.

2012 National IFYE Conference

Liz Carlson

The 54th National IFYE Conference in Omaha, NE is now considered history with many pleasant and unforgettable memories for the 222 (218 Full-time - 4 Part-time) IFYEs, spouses, Friends of IFYE and host families that attended the conference. Thirty-seven states and 5 countries were represented to engage in a "Heartland Heartbeat ... Reaching Out" to create a well-rounded week of renewing old friendships and gaining new friends. The international "flavor" added by the inbound IFYE's during "IFYE's Got Talent" night got everyone off to an enthusiastic and "lively" start ... one of those "Reaching Out" and getting everyone involved moments.

Keynote - Nebraska native, Dean Jacobs, continued the enthusiasm the following day by his upbeat presentation with pictures and humor. His world-wide travels and "Reaching Out" experiences are such, only an IFYE could truly understand, laugh at and appreciate. His "hunger" to see and live various cultures falls right into the hands of our own exchange experience.

Workshops - The workshops offered anything from Laws of Leadership to Cooking in NE (yummy cheese spread to mouth-watering chocolate) to learning how to search for your Family History. Although there was the flooding of last year and the drought of this year, you could learn how to cope with both at the Rain Water Garden workshop.

Tours - Even though a few changes had to be made regarding the tours, the only complaint heard was they were "too short". So, the sights and sounds of the Henry Doorly Zoo, the history of how the railroad was built from east to west, the Mounted Police school, the Mead cattle feedlots, how Boys Town began and anything else you may wish to see again, could be put on your "bucket list" to revisit Nebraska once more.

Social Time - With the Old Market directly across the street from our Embassy Hotel, attendees took advantage of a delightful chance to shop and taste various foods in Downtown Omaha. Others went for a walk along the small lake in the Con Agra Park or along the riverfront located behind the hotel.

One can't forget the hospitality room that was so well supplied with goodies given by the various states that wished to "help out" and hosted it each evening. It provided a time to reminisce about those "remember when" stories with friends.

Service Project - The fundraising event proved to be a great success for the Mongolian 4-H Reading Program with a live and silent auction, the workshop to sew book bags, and a presentation by Kim Reaman. However, the surprise visit of having the Executive Director of the Mongolian 4-H program and her daughter present, gave greater meaning to the success of the Service Project. Thank you for coming to our conference. Also, a big thank you to all of those that volunteered at the Open Door Mission hands-on project.

Thanks, Hotel Staff - The Embassy Hotel staff and their outstanding hospitality bears mentioning. The excellent food prepared for our meals, at break time and most of all the delicious and enjoyable food served at the Banquet, held at the spectacular Swanson Gallery at the Durham Museum, was certainly greatly appreciated.

Ending Ceremony - Adding the candlelight closing ceremony, the invitational pictures to the World Conference in Thailand in 2013 and the dance that followed resulted in a full conference, leaving each one with a "Heartland Heartbeat ... Reaching Out" experience to be talked about and remembered for years to come! A multimedia presentation of conference can also be viewed at: http://youtu.be/-TnuYk_bKXo (It is 5 minutes 12 seconds long.)



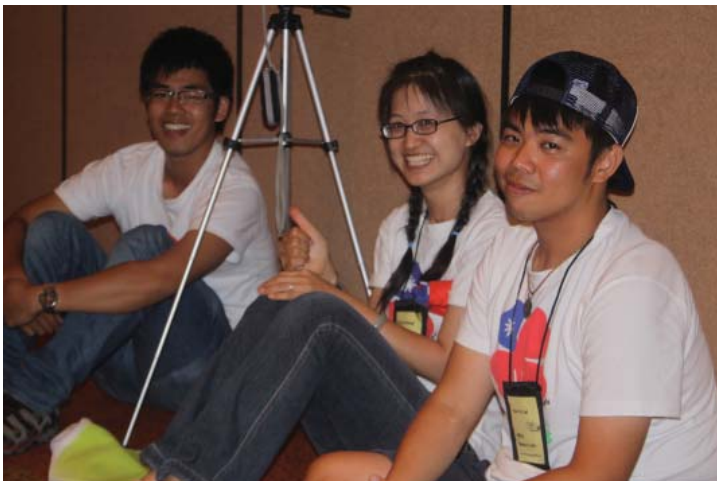
Ruth (Witte) Ready (NE - UK 1980) and Liz (Hofmann) Carlson (NE - Switzerland 1969), Co-Chair, open the 2012 conference with the ringing of the IFYE bell.



Dean Jacobs, keynoter, touched the IFYE memories of conference participants when in talking about the 7 Wonders of Humanity: sense of taste, smell, touch, sight, hearing, laughter, and of love. (<http://deanjacobs.org/about.html>)



Representing the 2012 Conference Service Project to "raise the quality of life on a national or international level" - Mongolian 4-H Reading Program: Nomundalai Batmunkh (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia); Caitlin Lanzavecchia (Broomfield, CO); Alanna Elder (Laramie, WY); Sergelen Vanganjal (Ulaanbaatar Mongolia)



Ping Chi Li (Eddy), Ya-Zan Cheng (Vicky) & Kun-Yu Lai (all 2012 Taiwan) taking a break between photo ops



Art Tenbrink (CA - Brazil 1970), Maximillian Schulze-Esking and Chaira Wagner (both 2012 Germany), & Dale Yonker (IL - Turkey 1963) taking part in Taiwanese song during talent show.



Twenty-two IFYE alumni from 1962 were able to attend the 2012 Conference International Banquet (several meeting at conference for the first time since their IFYE experience).



Being able to share dress from our IFYE countries, helps to keep the memories alive, as shown by Tom Williams (PA - India 1962) and wife Tiz.



Dick Tenney (OH - France 1959) and Harlen Persinger (IA - Norway 1970) take time out on the Union Pacific tour to chat.



Becky (Upton) Grandle (WV - UK 1978) and husband Chris display their purchase at the Conference Service Project's auction.

Transforming Lives Through Study Abroad - Semester at Sea

Krista Weih (IA – Poland – 1980)

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Director of Alumni Engagement for Semester at Sea, a non-profit, global comparative education study abroad program based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Established in 1963, Semester at Sea is the only global education program of its kind in the world. Using a ship as our traveling campus, undergraduates, lifelong learners, faculty, and lecturers live and learn together while circumnavigating the globe each fall and spring semester and exploring a world region each summer. Credit earned is fully transferable by the University of Virginia.

As an undergraduate at Iowa State University in the spring of 1979, I had the opportunity to go around the world with Semester at Sea visiting 12 ports of call, with 550 other undergraduate students from all over the United States, 30 renowned faculty and lecturers, including the late Arthur C. Clarke, 30 “adult passengers”, faculty and staff children, and over a 100 Taiwanese crew members.

Ninety-eight percent of our Semester at Sea alumni report that their SAS experience is their most significant semester of their college career -- it was also for me. Being in a living learning community on the ship with people from so many different backgrounds; learning how to travel and interact with cultures and peoples of developed and emerging nations; and developing a better awareness of my own country and culture through comparison and contrast with other cultures – these have been lifelong gifts that have influenced every area of my life.



Kevin, Krista, and Aibek at Great Wall near Beijing, China (April 1-7, 2012)

Semester at Sea Leads Me to IFYE - But, above all, it was this experience that gave me the interest and courage to apply to be an IFYE. Three weeks after graduating from college, in the spring of 1980, 8 other Americans and I were on our way to Poland to spend 6 months living on state, collective, and private farms learning about their culture and their agricultural practices. One of the highlights was being in Poland at the time when Lech Wałęsa led the strikes at the Gdansk shipping yards and founded Solidarity¹.

¹*Solidarity - the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. Ed.*

Prior to departing for Poland, I had interviewed and landed a job as a fashion buyer at a department store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. But, halfway through my experience in Poland, I knew that I had changed so much that I wrote the store and told them I couldn't take the job.

Upon my return back to the United States, I interviewed and took a position with the National 4-H Council in Washington, DC, where I worked with citizenship, leadership and international programs for over 5 years. I was then set on my trajectory of working with people and programs that changed and transformed lives. This included my husband and I spending a month in Kazakhstan 10 years ago to adopt our son, Aibek. It was during this trip, just a year after 9/11, that I became keenly aware that I needed to work for an organization that would help others travel outside our country to see the “real” world and to better understand who we are as a people and a country.

Serendipity was working in my favor, for as I was searching for work, Semester at Sea moved their headquarters from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Charlottesville, Virginia, where I live. I put in an application and now have worked for this program that transforms lives through study abroad for six years.

Passing on Global Experiences - at home and abroad

My parents were the ones who instilled in me a value of a world larger than the one around us living on our corn and cattle farm in central Iowa. In my teenage years, my parents and our family hosted a foreign student each year to study agriculture. We hosted students from Brazil, Taiwan, Germany, and the Netherlands. My brother lived in Brazil and Germany on an FFA program and my sister was an IFYE in 1982 to Luxembourg.



Aibek and a new friend at the city market in Winneba, Ghana (Feb 12-16, 2012)

The opportunity to pass these values on to my 10-year-old son came this past spring, when my family and I were fortunate enough to travel around the world again with Semester at Sea. It was during this second time around the world with Semester at Sea, that I was able to witness on a daily basis our students, faculty, lifelong learners and children's lives being changed and transformed by their learning opportunities and interactions with each other, through their travel experiences in port, and from the reflections they shared of their lives before this experience.

After visiting Ghana, our students shared about their experiences, the friends they made, the orphanages they visited, the service projects they worked on, and trying to make sense of the extreme poverty they experienced. It was after this time that I was able to understand what we, at Semester at Sea, mean when we call this a transformational experience.

In the words of one of our alumni, Katilin Kikalo, Fall 2011, "In the past 100 days my mind, my perceptions, my opinions, and my emotions have been challenged in ways I could have never even imagined. I fell in love with the world and in love with its people. Semester at Sea changed me as a person, and that is the greatest gift I have ever been given."

For more information about Semester at Sea go to <http://www.semesteratsea.org> or <http://www.enrichmentvoyages.org> (our shorter educational cruises) or email Krista at kweih@ise.virginia.edu.



Farmer who spoke English to us near Shanghai, China (April 1-7, 2012)



Krista visiting a women's weaving co-op near Cochin, India (March 12-17, 2012)

1967 Alumni to India Reunite in Omaha

Nancy Maxwell Rich (IL - India - 1967)

The IFYE to India 1967 delegation gathered for a reunion in Omaha before the annual IFYE Conference ... after almost 45 years. Nine of the 11 IFYEs joined in "live time". We connected with Ken Offord (WI) via Skype at his home in Byron, MN. Karen (Martikainen) Cross (ME) was unable to attend ... but was present in spirit and in our memories and storytelling.

The SpIFYEs (spouses) were welcomed into the family with laughter, stories, more stories and ... even bigger stories with confirmation that some of the stories that they had heard from their IFYE spouse were indeed true. Or, at least others had the same memory!

What a joy to reconnect with happenings, milestones, and daily routines in our lives since 1968. We also relived those "day-to-day" and "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences in India. Roger Wahls (IL) brought his carousel projector (remember those?) and slides from his many IFYE talks. Who were those "slender" young folks with dark hair and weird American clothes? We also shared the hi-tech digital photo travelogues from two recent trips to India by Nancy (Erickson) Allen (IA) and Nancy Maxwell Rich.

Each of us has kept that IFYE spirit alive through learning, traveling, sharing, loving, nurturing families, service, laughter, eating and adventurous living. Our spouses can attest to our amazing reconnection as family. We left Omaha with long lingering hugs and a commitment to not wait so long to gather again. Thanks to the Nebraska IFYE conference planning group

for their support in our planning and arrangements for the 1967 IFYE to India alumni reunion.



Back row (L-R): Mark Zeug - MN, Jim Ploger - KS, Roger Wahls - IL, and John Nagel - KS
Front Row (L-R): Mary Patterson Koepke - WI, Nancy Erickson Allen - IA, Harriet Shaw Butcher - WV, Nancy Maxwell Rich - IL and Bev Ferris Hain - MI

IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.

President's Letter

Marj Loyd, mloyd1@cox.net

It is my pleasure to greet you as the new president of the IFYE Foundation. I was a 1968 IFYE to Israel from Kansas and have been a member of the Foundation Board of Directors since 2000, most recently as Vice-President. I am joined by new Vice-President. Bob Ellis of Georgia; Secretary, Paul Langseth of Minnesota; and new Treasurer, Dale Yonker of Illinois.

The IFYE Foundation had an interesting meeting in Omaha in July. One major action was to change our name to only the acronym "IFYE" Foundation of the USA, Inc. Changes were made to the IFYE Foundation By-laws to reflect the name change and to allow Internet meetings and voting.

The IFYE Foundation funded a very successful orientation for 32 inbound and outbound IFYEs in Wichita, Kansas in June. Young people from 12 foreign countries and 4 American states attended a weekend orientation before heading to their host countries and states. Other funding projects for 2012 were the Indiana exchange with Poland, IFYE Association of the USA's reposition activities, States 4-H exchange and IFYE scholarships.

These activities cost more than our income for the past year so we are asking you to be generous when you receive our annual solicitation for funds this fall. As we move forward with more exchanges and some exciting possibilities in the future, we depend on you to make these possible. You can also make a donation by using the form at the bottom of the page.

We welcome one new board member, Elaine Ellis Watson, IFYE from Michigan to Peru in 1965, now a resident of Arkansas. We also owe a great deal of thanks for many years of service to retiring President Norm Bauer and Treasurer Bud Aupperle.

IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.

Board of Directors

Marjorie Loyd
President

Bob Ellis
Vice President

Paul Langseth
Secretary

Dale Yonker
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Norm Bauer
Past President

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Andrea Maille

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Sarah Song
Betty Stephenson
Tom Trail
Elaine Watson

Alan Lambert
Ex-officio

Mildred Weidemann
Maurice Johnson
Advisors

In addition to the contributions listed on the right, it is reported that "An impressive total of \$4,553.00 was collected for the Mongolian 4-H Project. IFYE Alumni donated \$830.00 to the Anniversary Fund at the Conference with promises of more to come in the mail. Twelve Alumni donated \$1,088.00 to the General Fund while \$381.00 was given to the Endowment Fund for In Memory of ..."

Contributions:

April 10 through August 6, 2012

I - IFYE Patron (\$1,000+)

F - Foundation Fellow (\$500+)

Y - Youth Sponsor (\$250+)

Don Campbell
Linda Carr
Keith & Pam Ferris
Jim & Henrietta Hensler
Don F. Seaman

E - Excited Member (\$100+)

Norman Bauer
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Paul Langseth
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Judi Rine
George Randell
Tom & Jo Ann Trail
Westfield Fair Association

S - Supporter (up to \$100)

Curtis A. Absher
Joy Bickford
Sandi Carlson
Toni Frank
Allison Guthrie
Judith Harvey
Sharon Heck
Art Holevoet
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Nancy Maxwell-Rich
Robert Miller
Ruby Nock
Charles Oldham
Roger Pine
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ANNIVERSARY FUND (years)

Curtis A. Absher (50)
Joy Bickford (60)
Don Campbell (50)
Sandi Carlson (50)
Linda Carr (50)
Margaret S. Dixon (63)
Toni Frank (17)
Allison Guthrie (59)
Rita Hamerla (60)
Judith Harvey (50)
Mary-Ball Massey (50)
Nancy Maxwell-Rich (45)
Robert Miller (60)
Roger Pine (50)
Steve K. Sedgwick
Betty Stephenson (60)
Mildred Weidemann (57)

IN MEMORY OF . . .

BEA CLEVELAND

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Don F. Seaman

LINDSEY FERRIS

Keith & Pam Ferris

KEITH GARRITY

Shirley Garrity
Sharon Heck

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IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.
DONATIONS / ADDRESS CHANGES, ETC.

Name: _____
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_____ Use as Needed for IFYE and 4-H International Programs

_____ In Honor* of _____

_____ In Memory* of _____

_____ Other: Please specify: _____

*Acknowledgement (omitting amount) should be sent to: _____

Address, ZIP: _____

Make checks payable to IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.
Mail to: IFYE Foundation, 209 W. Stonybrook Dr., O'Fallon, IL 62269-3509

*Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
The IFYE Foundation is an IRS-approved 501(3)(c) non-profit charitable organization.*

Youth Leadership Program with Sub-Sahara Africa

Kansas 4-H Youth Development, Kansas State University Research & Extension and Kansas 4-H International hosted 10 people from Kenya, February 12-27, 2012.

The Sub-Saharan region includes Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Nigeria. Oregon 4-H also hosted 10 participants during February, with their group being from South Africa. In late October 2012, Wisconsin 4-H will host 10 participants from Tanzania with Oregon 4-H hosting 10 participants from Nigeria.

The intent of this Sub-Sahara Africa program is to acquaint youth with the U.S., the democratic process, and skill-building activities that will help participants develop leadership skills in building community upon returning home.

The four high school students and their principal from each of two schools in western Kenya near the Uganda border stayed with host families in Riley and Geary Counties, near Manhattan and Junction City, KS.

To be considered for the travel opportunity, youth were invited to write a 250-word essay in answer to the question: "What qualities should a good leader have?" The students who wrote the 10 top essays from each school were invited to the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi to be interviewed for the travel opportunity. The Kenyan group selected by U.S. Embassy staff consisted of five young women, three young men, and two school principals as chaperones.

Among other activities, the 15 to 17 year-old youth studied a leadership curriculum emphasizing community service, volunteerism, and citizen involvement. They attended Kansas 4-H Ambassador training at Rock Springs 4-H Center and Citizenship in Action (CIA) - a 4-H program with the Kansas Legislature.

"The benefits of the educational effort work both ways," said Doug Jardine, who with his wife, Anne, and family of four served as a host family. "This is a cultural exchange and an opportunity for our family to learn about the larger world, and places that we could never afford to visit. We may live differently, but can share our home as part of the learning process."

Students were encouraged to complete a needs assessment with a plan on how to address these needs. With reducing the school dropout rate and teen pregnancy as their goals, the students considered innovative, yet practical ideas.

- Planting community gardens should allow them to sell produce to help pay for tuition.
- To reduce teen pregnancy, youth are planning an educational campaign and to lead by example. While being interviewed, 16-year old Milkah Wahjiru indicated that "Last year, there were 14 girls in my form (class) and 11 of them either had children or were pregnant. We want to teach them the importance of education and to focus on education for their future."
- Wahjiru and 17 year-old June Mukanda said they wish for more people in Kenya to have a higher education and to be able to go places with their future. These youth also said that they take their studies very seriously because <...> it is one of the only ways to have a future beyond their current lives.

"If you don't use your time well in school, you won't get time to do it (*studies*) when you get home." Mukanda said. "You have to get firewood, fetch water, and wash clothes. It



is nothing like life here; there is so much electricity, it is unbelievable. So many machines and electricity and huge cars. We both walk more than an hour to school every day."

Despite the challenges they face, Wahjiru said it is worth struggling to obtain an education. "We love school. We want to make a difference and have a future. The things I have learned here are making me think much bigger about my life and to not have a small vision, but have a larger vision for my future." Both Mukanda and Wahjiru dreamt of finding a way to go to college and become doctors.

As these student visitors worked hard on their take-home message, many of the unusual opportunities –

and firsts – generated smiles. For instance, shopping for essentials in a discount department store provided interesting contrasts for students who sometimes have to walk an hour or more to school each way and live without electronics and other features common in American homes.

Lilian Tabu - one of six children - cited friendship, the need for leadership skills, and an interest in a political career as some of her take-home messages. Fredrick Ombunga has become a keen observer of infrastructure and cited the differences in traffic flow between Washington, D.C. and Kansas. That's not surprising; he wants to be an engineer.

This Sub-Sahara Africa program is being sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by States' 4-H International Exchange Program. In Kansas, it was implemented by IFYE alumni: Deryl Waldren (Poland 1977), Mary Kay Munson (India 1965) and Marj Loyd (Israel 1968).

Other KS IFYE alumni who helped with the 15-day short course were Carolyn Olson (Peru 1968), Warren Prawl (Switzerland 1951), Amy Sents (Germany/Switzerland 2007), Michelle Stork (Norway 2011), and Beth Hinshaw (Switzerland 1988). KS 4-H Japanese Exchange alumni, Katie Fox (2004) and John Boyington (2009) also helped with the program.



Deryl, Marj (both far left) and Mary Kay (2nd from right) join the Kenyan teens and their chaperones at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS as part of their learning about democracy in the USA.

Region B IFYE Meeting

October 5-8, 2012 - Chattanooga, TN

NOTE: Due to timing of the Region B meeting and the publication of this newsletter, an email has gone out to those who have provided us with email and live within the Region B states.

Agenda

Friday evening:

"Meet and Greet" at downtown location (Bart will finalize details after attendance numbers are known.)

Saturday evening: Group dinner

Sunday: Southern Region Meeting

Topics include:

- Status of the IFYE Association and the IFYE program
 - Update from National IFYE Conference in Omaha, Nebraska
 - 2013 World Conference - Thailand
- ~~~~~

Dining

All of the meals will be on your own. More than 20 quality restaurants are located within a 10-block radius of downtown.

~~~~~

### Tours and Activities

Several tour opportunities are available. One or two will be selected by consensus.

The tour possibilities include: Tennessee Aquarium, Blue Moon Cruise, Rock City Gardens, Tennessee Valley Rail Museum, Wine over Water (Sat. 5-8 PM), One Bridge Folk Art Festival (Sat. & Sun. - free), 3 Sisters Festival (Fri. and Sat.)

**Please visit the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau website:** [www.chattanooga.com](http://www.chattanooga.com) – for other activities and information.

~~~~~

Lodging

All reservations need to be booked by **09/09/2012** to get the IFYE rate.

Delta Queen Hotel

Coolidge Park (100 River St.)
Chattanooga, TN
423-468-4500

Last 10 rooms are being held for IFYE at the rate of \$69 +17% tax per night.

Marriott Chattanooga at the Convention Center

2 Carter Plaza
Chattanooga TN
423-756-0002 800-841-1674

It does not provide free breakfast. Rooms are being held at the rate of \$99 +17% tax per night.

Please email Bart Johnson: p2johnson@comcast.net, with the number attending, what days they will be attending, choice of accommodations, and which tour you prefer. See you in Chattanooga!!!

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
PO Box 2332
Carson City, NV 89702-2332

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Moving? New 911 Address?

Send mailing label corrections to IFYE NEWS (return address above OR vwarner@sbcglobal.net)



Visit: <http://www.ifyeusa.org>

In Memoriam

We have received information concerning the passing of the following IFYE alumni and supporters of IFYE. *Although some are not during 2012, to the best of our knowledge, they are individuals whose passing has not been noted in the IFYE NEWS to date.*

Monte W. Alderfer (12/03/2011)

(IN - India 1954)

Jeanetta (Schweitzer) Bycroft (April 7, 2012) (NE - Scotland 1954)

Robert A. Boisseau (June 4, 2012)

(MA - Turkey 1953)

Roger Detering (July 9, 2012)

(OR - Turkey 1955)

Sharon Detering (July 25, 2011) Life

Member and Spouse of Roger Detering

Andrew "Jack" Good, Jr (July 27, 2010) (VA - Pakistan 1957)

Glenn Klein (August 8, 2012) (OR -

New Zealand 1951) - Oregon's first IFYE

Richard Rankin (Feb 19, 2010) (KS -

Brazil 1960)

Rhua Ethel (Slavers) Kepferle (Dec 29,

2011) (MT - Luxembourg 1949)

Ferdinand "Bud" Thar (June 16, 2012)

(MI - Israel 1962)

Don Weixelman (April 10, 2011) (KS -

Lebanon 1953)



Pattaya City, Chonburi Province

As of this newsletter, the following updated information can be found at:

<http://ifyeusa.org/conferences/world.html>:

Formal Invitation

Tentative program

As we receive updated information and registration form, we will attempt to keep our website up to date. You may also check the 2013 World Conference website found at: <http://www.worldifye.doae.go.th/>