



IFYE NEWS

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

December 2012

IFYE Association Board Embarks on a New Direction

For the past eight years, we have had 8 to 12 outbound IFYEs per year. Thanks to the efforts of nine IFYE Coordinators, the IFYE program still exists even though National 4-H Council stopped its support in 1992 and state funding for Extension has declined significantly. As current Extension/IFYE Coordinators retire or become unable to continue the program, it is realistic that the number of states conducting IFYE will dwindle. Therefore, it is essential that partnering occurs and additional states add IFYE Coordinators if the IFYE program is going to continue.

Reposition Committee Jump Starts IFYE Promotion

In 2011, the Reposition Committee (RC) interviewed many government and private entities in Washington D.C. seeking a new partner. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) was identified as a potential partner with its Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) program. During the last year, the RC has worked with the AFBF and its state YF&R programs. Seven newsletter articles have been published in 2012 AFBF publications about the IFYE program. All 50 state YF&R program coordinators were contacted through letters and phone calls to determine their interest level in IFYE. Almost 40 states want to further explore the opportunity for an IFYE exchange experience. The rest indicated that they may be interested later.

Omaha IFYE Conference and Beyond: Director of Partner Development position created

At the Omaha 2012 IFYE Conference, the IFYE Association President, Alan Lambert, announced to the Association Board and the general membership that the RC's work was completed. IFYE is in a better position to partner with another entity, possibly YF&R and AFBF. Now, the Association Board needed to determine how we would go forward in trying to develop this potential partner. By September, the Director of Partner Development position was created, a job description written, and estimated budget was created.

Alan Lambert accepts position of Director of Partner Development.

Since last fall, Alan has been the "face of IFYE" to the YF&R and the AFBF. As an independent contractor, Alan will begin his compensated functions 1/1/13. Until then, he is a volunteer with his expenses paid by the Association. To avoid the potential of a conflict of interest, Alan will relinquish his role as Immediate Past President of the Association Board in 2013. Connie Fukudome, Alan's predecessor, has agreed to remain on the Board as Immediate Past President for 2013.

Expected 2013 costs for the Partner Development position

It is estimated that Alan will recruit and present programs at 20 state FB YF&R annual conferences at a cost of \$40,000, flying to 15 and driving to 5 conferences. Three trips to Washington, DC for potential partnership development meetings with AFBF

costing \$2,800 are expected. Annual compensation of \$24,000 is included as is approximately \$1,000 in administrative costs such as telephone, printing, postage, etc. The total needed is \$67,800. Additional expenses could be incurred if more states indicate an interest in IFYE.

A Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) succeeds the Reposition Committee

With the realization of the size of the task and that communication is essential to all facets of the IFYE organization, Alan Lambert and President-elect Dick Wagner decided that, in order to retain continuity, it was wise to appoint an advisory committee for the Director. Members of the committee are: Marj Loyd, Dick Wagner, Connie Fukudome, Betty Jo Smith-Roberts, Nancy Maxwell-Rich, Prue Holton, Keith Ferris, and Chairman Art Deisher. Their task will be to build upon what the Reposition Committee started. They will be responsible for formulating partnering ideas, developing consistent communication items for the IFYE program, and assisting the Director to identify and secure key leaders in each state.

Why did the Association Board unanimously decide to proceed?

Since the YF&R meetings are primarily scheduled for December 2012 through March 2013, the decision to continue would keep the momentum going rather than delaying until next year when funds might become more available. Delaying a year could also affect the integrity of the IFYE program in the eyes of the potential partners. Rather than risk the loss of the Reposition Committee work, the decision was made at the November 4, 2012 Association Board meeting to go forward even with limited and unknown funding.

Is the IFYE Foundation going to raise the needed money?

Yes and no. During the first week of November, a grant request for the needed money was made to the Foundation Board. The Foundation President said that the Foundation will let the Association know ASAP how much it could grant. The \$61,000 requested is significantly higher than anything funded in the past. It was agreed between the Association Board and the Foundation President that the Association should proceed primarily with "outside" sources (those individuals not in IFYE database) for funding.

IFYE Association Board strongly supports Foundation campaign.

We encourage each Association member to annually support the Foundation with a contribution for the IFYE programs supported by the Foundation. In its fundraising efforts, the Association will include external funding sources, coupled with IFYE membership who have not participated in the Foundation campaign.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Alan Lambert,
Association
President



**Merry Christmas
to each of you.**

Moving Forward

For me, this time of year is for both reflection and dream building. I look back over the past twelve months to evaluate what has happened, both positively and negatively, and then to find ways to build on successes, however large or small they may be.

We have been sharing with you in the past year the Association Board's desire and steps to reinvigorate the IFYE program. In many of our goals, whether they are personal or professional, we often go through several conscious thought processes: Measuring our choices, planning our path, and making things happen. Our mindset is often 90% or more of our success or failure.

As I am reminded in much of the reading I do, "The basis of a new direction is THINKING DIFFERENTLY!" and "You can't steer a parked car!" To that end, the efforts we are making to reach other groups such as the Young Farmers and Ranchers organization and Collegiate 4-H & Farm Bureau clubs are beginning to show results.

What's Happening

As of December 1, 2012, I will be attending the first of many of the Young Farmers & Ranchers annual state conventions. Thus far, 21 individual states have invited IFYE to have a presence at their event. We are able to promote IFYE through a combination of trade show booths, breakout sessions and 5-minute oral presentations at meal events. IFYE literature will be included in every attendee's registration packet. We may not be able to meet each attendee personally, but the information can be carried back to their local chapters. The contacts made at each state meeting will allow IFYE to 'drive down' to the local level where

support must begin before moving back up through the organizational structure.

Many of the state conventions occur on identical weekends. Though I have accepted the newly created position of Director of Partner Development (See Association article on page 1), and have been the main contact with each of these state organizations, I cannot physically attend each state YF&R conference. Thus, it will be necessary for local, enthused IFYEs to be part of these events. Currently, eight states have conferences on January 25-27, 2013, and five more states hold their annual conference on February 22-24, 2013. The National Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ on February 8-11, 2013.

The National Collegiate 4-H Conference will be held in Missouri during March 14-17, 2013. Our participation in that conference helps to expose the IFYE outbound program to some of the best youth available. Shane Sheridan, 2010 CO IFYE to Austria/Switzerland, was the keynote speaker at last year's conference in Reno, NV. That sparked substantial interest, and a dozen or so individuals sought out more information about IFYE and the exchange opportunities.

To say that the IFYE program is well on its way to dramatically increasing outbound applicants would be a stretch. Just as the farmer must prepare the soil to plant the seed, and all the other factors must happen before a bountiful harvest is achieved, IFYE is in the same cycle. Our work is really just beginning. Let's all put our 'shoulders to the wheel'.

As each of you prepare to do your part to assist us, please do the following:

1. Read this newsletter, and others found on the www.IFYEUUSA.org website, in their entirety to get background information.
2. Respond with your thoughts and feelings to an Association Board member.
3. Become involved in your state with IFYE activities.
4. Become an IFYE Association annual member. (\$25 individual, \$40 couple)
5. If you are financially able, contribute to the IFYE Foundation and/or IFYE Association.
6. Share your email addresses with the Association Board so we can keep you informed in a more timely manner about what certainly appears to be an exciting, changing world of IFYE in 2013!"

Immediate Past President

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How in the world is the Association going to fund this needed position?

Yes, we need money beginning in December 2012. No, we can't print money, use smoke and mirrors, nor likely find a corporate donor for 2013. It may take one to two years to cultivate corporate participants. In 2013, we will focus our campaign to raise funds for 2014 and beyond.

Since the Association has an investment fund of over \$180,000 from life member dues, we could borrow from this fund and pay back the loans with new outside money raised in the coming years. Each private dollar raised reduces the potential borrowing from the lifetime membership fund.

Can Association members contribute to help this cash flow crisis?

Yes! Here are four ways that you can help:

1. Donate to the IFYE Foundation through their Annual Giving Campaign (*Solicited*) they are currently conducting. Dollars collected will be available to possibly support the Association's \$61,000 grant request.
2. Donate to the IFYE Foundation through their Annual Giving Campaign (*Solicited*) they are currently conducting. On the memo line place the words **"IFYE Returns Special Campaign"**.
3. Donate (*Unsolicited*) directly to the Association. Send checks payable to "IFYE Association of the USA" to:
Art Deisher, Associate Treasurer,
6037 Frejon Lane, Sylvania, Ohio 43560.
Please add **"IFYE Returns Special Campaign"** on the memo line.
4. If you are affiliated with any entity that would support the IFYE Program, please contact any IFYE Association Board

member to share this information. Matching funds and challenges are welcome.

Remember, funding will nearly be accomplished if:

- 6 persons give \$10,000 each
- 12 persons give \$5,000 each
- 61 persons give \$1,000 each
- 610 persons give \$100 each.

Have Questions??? Call one of the Board members listed below. The Association Board of Directors :

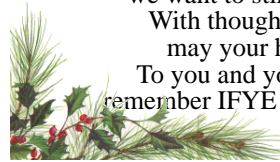
- Region A* - Trudy Peterson, John Wells, Norma Wu;
 - Region B* - Ken Jones, Cathy Kunkel-Mains, Bart Johnson;
 - Region C* - Alan Lambert, Dean Bloch, Richard Wagner;
 - Region D* - Shirley Coulson, Robert Doster, Art Tenbrink.
- (See complete board listing on page 2 for contact information.)

Come Now, dear IFYEs ...

Come now, dear IFYEs, and you will hear about a fiscal cliff that is looming near. It's membership dues that we worry about; paid membership gives us a lot of clout. It supports us and makes us stronger, you see; to find a new partnership for our dear IFYE. So, please step up and do your part; to give our group a stronger heart.

We thank all of our members for continued support; may many more join their ranks to raise our comfort. As we work our hardest to help IFYE return, we want to stir you up and make you churn. With thoughts of IFYE swirling around, may your holiday festivities abound. To you and yours for best wishes of cheer, remember IFYE dues before the end of the year!

Norma Wu, IFYE Assn Treasurer



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 to IFYE Association IFYE RETURNS SPECIAL CAMPAIGN * \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed Thank You! \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
6037 Frejon Lane
Sylvania, OH 43560

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

(Contributions are Tax Deductible to the Extent Provided by Law)



**10th World IFYE Conference
11-18 November 2013
Pattaya City
Chonburi Province, Thailand**



<http://www.worldifye2013.com>
<http://www.worldifye.doae.go.th>

President of IFYE Thailand

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the President of IFYE Thailand, you are cordially invited to participate in the 10th World IFYE Conference 2013 which will be held during 11-18 November 2013 in Chonburi Province, Thailand.

The Conference will be jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Thai Yuwakasetkorn Promotion (TYKPF) Foundation under the Royal Patronage of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and International Farm Youth Exchange Association of Thailand (IFYE Thailand), with the support from relevant concerned organizations of both public and private sectors.

The Conference's theme is highlighted on "Towards Green and Happy Society" which aims at providing a forum for IFYE members and families, 4-H members and leaders, farmers and interested persons and officials-in-charge from across the world to share views and experiences in the development of farm youth and farm population towards self-sufficiency and happiness, to foster IFYE network regionally and to impress with beautiful Thai culture and identity.

Besides a series of conventional meetings during the Conference, you will be invited to take part in a wide range of spectacular activities, for example, field visits, home stay, handicraft making practice, loy kratong festival, 4-H fair and much more interesting activities. Please find enclosed herewith the tentative programme for your perusal. More information, in particular, registration fees, registration method, accommodation will be made available in the website <http://www.worldifye2013.com>. Should you need further communication, please contact us at worldifye2013@mail.com.

We truly welcome you to the 10th World IFYE Conference 2013 and look forward to meeting you in Thailand in November 2013.

*Yours sincerely
Mr. Sakorn Prapaipong
President of IFYE Thailand*

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Some Sites for more information about Thailand and travel to the country

(Note: Conference site URLs and other URLs listed below were tested and working in English at the time of this newsletter's publication.)

Sites listed on World Conference home page

Thai Embassy and Consulates

Site currently listed in Conference information is in Thai. (For English: Thai embassy and consulate listings in the USA in Washington, DC; New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA; and Chicago, Illinois are found at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/thailand#>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
<http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/home>

Suvarnabhumi International Airport
http://www.suvarnabhumiairport.com/index_en.php?lang=en

Thai Airways
<http://www.thaiairways.co.th/thailand/en/home.htm>

Tourism Authority of Thailand
<http://www.tourismthailand.org/home>

Hotel information - <http://www.ambassadorcityjomtien.com/>
If using the above link currently listed on the conference website, you will need to link to the English version through the upper left area with the name of the hotel.

Other sites not listed on the Conference website that may be of interest

Hotel Information (Direct link to information in English)
<http://www.ambassadorcityjomtien.com/main.htm>

A Few Etiquette Rules for Thailand
<http://www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com/guides/thailand/etiquette-in-thailand>

Health Information for Travelers to Thailand
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/thailand.htm>

Loy Krathong Festival (Monday, November 18, 2013)
http://www.thailand.com/travel/festival/festivals_loykratong.htm

Those individuals planning to attend from the USA, please also see information related to country "dress", potential pre- and post-conference tours, and bandanas/gifts located on page 11.

IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.

President's Letter

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to those of you who have responded generously to the solicitation for funds to support IFYE programs in 2013. The attached list acknowledges those of you who were first to respond. If your name is not listed, your contribution was received after Nov. 15. If you have not yet responded, please consider a donation. You may use the envelope you received in the mail or the coupon below.

Please refer to the article on page 1 as to the Association's need for funds to continue the work that has been started to develop new partnerships. The Foundation has limited resources as some funds are restricted and others are to be invested for future needs. We will also continue to support IFYE orientation and scholarships, and 4-H international activities.

You can find a copy of our 2012 annual report detailing how our funds were disbursed in 2012 on the www.ifyeusa.org website. We will continue to try to be good stewards of your money.

Marj Loyd, Foundation President

IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc. Board of Directors

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Contributions: August 14 - November 14, 2012

- I - IFYE Patron (\$1,000 +)**
Betty Stephenson
- F-Foundation Fellow (\$500 +)**
Robert E Ellis
Keith R Olsen
- Y - Youth Sponsor (\$250 +)**
Mary Heisler
John Wells
- E - Excited Member (\$100 +)**
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Martha J (Prather) Storie
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Vermont IFYE Association
Edward Wuerker
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4-H Leaders Association
Janet Marshall
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Renee Mullowney
Donna Rusk
Judy E Scott
Carol S (Henriksen) Stillman
Everett H Whiting
Larry D Williams
- Anniversary Fund [years]**
Joyce Drewiecki (50)
Nyla "Bock" Musser (50)
- IN HONOR OF**
4-H CLUBS of SOUTH DAKOTA
Janet Atkinson Weston MD
MARY CARLSON
Vermont IFYE Association
- IN MEMORY OF**
BEA CLEVELAND
Lad Harrison
Mary Ann (Vaughan) Tinus
MARY AGNES DRANE
Theodore Drane
RUTH E HARRIS EDDINGTON
David Eddington
KATHLEEN FLOM
Richard Angus
ERIC HOLM
Naomi Mouis
RHUA (Slashes) KEPFERLE
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EDWIN & FLORENCE LAWTON
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ROBERT & MARGARET
WILCOX
Doreen A VanSickle

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

Name: _____
FIRST
MI
LAST

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

_____ 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.

“And Skies are Everywhere as Blue as Mine.”

Chiara Wagner (Germany), **Leo Reuter** (Switzerland), and **Derek Hollander** (Australia) were among the 2012 IFYE delegates who arrived in Wichita, KS on June 15 to take part in orientation with the outbound IFYEs from Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Kansas. The inbounds arriving in the USA to learn about our country and the outbounds leaving to learn about another country.



Derek at the K-State Ag research facility in Hays, Kansas operating the grain elevator

Hollander not only attended a wedding but also went on a float trip, to a drive-in movie, and frog digging while with the Pages. His host father, Trent, is a vocational agriculture teacher and so Hollander tagged along to his activities, one of which was a livestock judging contest. Emily works in downtown Kansas City for Ag Future of America (AFA) and her job gave him a peek at urban life as well.

Hollander learned that there are many similarities between Americans and Australians. “After being in the USA, I feel most welcome here of any country I’ve visited,” he indicated.

Leo Reuter (24) (Switzerland to KS)

Reuter stayed with Dale and Deb Brobst of Stockton, KS. “I planned a trip around the world for one year. While searching for an activity within which to spend his first three months, Reuter said. “I saw a story about an IFYE student and was interested. I wrote a letter to the address at the end of the story and that was the beginning of my IFYE adventure.”

The wide-open spaces were something new to Leo as he grew up in a town of about 10,000 people. Among his favorite memories this past summer were riding in a miniature airplane piloted by the rodeo clown at the rodeo in Phillipsburg, KS. Other fun experiences were learning to ride a horse and taking a trail ride through the Flint Hills. “The view was amazing without roads, electricity, or oil wells. Just nature. I felt like an Indian might have more than 100 years ago,” said Reuter.

Chiara Wagner (19) (Germany to NE)

Chiara’s father was an IFYE to the United States from Germany in the 1970s. “He told so many wonderful stories about the experience I had to apply,” Wagner indicated.

Of Wagner’s five host families, her first two were in the Nebraska Sandhills. One of her favorite pictures is taken in a pasture, sitting on a four-wheeler holding a sign that reads, “Middle of Nowhere.”

Chiara was able to experience the diversity in agriculture in Nebraska. After experiencing putting up hay in the Sandhills to working cattle and riding a horse, Chiara moved to the Platte Valley where her third host family raised and irrigated corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.



Chiara on a four-wheeler in the Nebraska Sandhills where two of her host families lived on ranches. She fell in love with the cow-calf operations there.

Among her more interesting activities were: observing a mud volleyball tournament, participating in her host sister’s annual end-of-summer mud fight and joining in a pig wrestling contest at the county fair.

“I was beginning to wonder what her parents might think about this ‘dirty’ family, as all of these mud-related activities occurred within a one week span,” said her host father, Don Batie.



Chiara at Carhenge, a replica of England’s Stonehenge created using old cars, located near Alliance, Nebraska

Upon returning home

In talking about their plans upon returning to their home countries, **Derek** planned to run the family agribusiness in Tasmania, selling livestock chemicals, fertilizer, cropping and horticulture supplies.

Chiara planned to take more university studies in agribusiness where classes would have already started before her return in the fall.

Although **Leo** studied auto mechanics for four years and did an internship the last two years, he was uncertain of what he would do upon return to Switzerland. As with many IFYE participants (both to and from the USA), he indicated that his dreams had changed a bit.

Becoming an IFYE participant

Competition to get into the IFYE program depends on the country. In Tasmania, for example, it is quite an intense selection process conducted through the Rural Youth program, requiring an interview, position paper, and demonstration.

Today, here in the USA, IFYE exchanges are conducted in collaboration with State IFYE Coordinators. While selection, orientation, and debriefing processes are coordinated by individual



state coordinators, the programs are also facilitated and supported by the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. and the IFYE Foundation of the USA, Inc.

During 2011 and 2012, Kansas has coordinated the actual orientation for inbounds and outbounds; the orientation now moves to Illinois.

Derek with a stock horse used rounding up cattle in Ottawa, Kansas.

States that hosted IFYE inbounds this year were: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, West Virginia, Michigan, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Nebraska hosted in cooperation with the Kansas program.

Those states with outbound participants during 2012 were: Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Montana. For some of the reports on their outbound experiences, please read pages 8 -10 in this issue. Other similar articles are planned for the next issue.

Just do it!

For those who might have reservations about becoming an IFYE, Reuter said, "Just do it! The organization did a very good job and I met a lot of very friendly people and had a lot of different adventures."

Host parent, Emily Page indicated, "It's as much a cultural experience for you as for them and, if you are not in a position to travel, it's a wonderful way to see the world." Reuter was their fourth IFYE, said Deb Brobst. "Don't worry about entertaining them, they just want to be a part of your life," she advised.

"The IFYE Association is exploring both inbound (hosting) and outbound travel options with the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Many of these 18-35 year-olds have an interest in international cultural and business opportunities. Many of our former IFYE delegates have had backgrounds focusing on youth development with agriculture as a main component of the exchanges," said Lambert.

"Portions of this story were reprinted with permission from the Midwest Producer. The September 7, 2012 article ("Youth exchange: Farm work is the reward") was written by Producer correspondent, Barb Bierman Batie, a 1980 IFYE to West Germany from Nebraska"



Ultrasounding a cow at Fort Hays State University, pictured with Stephanie Eckroat, Department Manager.

Making Connections - Continuing the Experience

Sharing information about friends including fellow IFYEs has a way of helping one relive our own experiences and connections to a country/experience before and after. Many of us do this - part of what displays our change after our international experience.

Edgar Ugalde (Costa Rica to USA 1961)



Edgar Ugalde (Costa Rica to USA 1961) with his wife, Haydee (back) with Glenn and Joy Hansen of Webster, SD (front). The Hansen's hosted Edgar in 1961 and they have kept in contact ever since.

Currently located in his current post of Permanent Ambassador at Washington DC, Edgar Ugalde (Costa Rica USA 1961) recently revisited South Dakota. Staying with his former host family (Glenn and Joy Hagen), he also took time to speak before the Young Men and Women's group at the Joy Ranch in Florence, SD.

Ugalde also represents Costa Rica to the Organization of American States (OAS) and the International court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

Alan Lambert, Association President, was able to visit with him during his time in SD and talk with him about the potential of restarting an exchange between our two countries through IFYE.

Charles Bruffy (MO to Finland 1982)

Thanks to Marj Loyd (KS Israel 1968) via Doug Nelson (NE Uganda 1968), we have heard about an IFYE brother – Charles Bruffy – whose time spent on IFYE exchange have led him to make connections further in life in his current career.

Bruffy (MO Finland 1982) has been artistic director of the Phoenix Chorale since 1998; he is also conductor for the Kansas City Chorale. He credits his time spent in Finland with his initial fascination of Finnish language - his first language studied other than English. That, combined with his career in music, led him to Finnish music connections and a way to combine these connections in the October 2012 Nordic Voice concert held in Phoenix.

IFYE -> Finland -> Charles Bruffy -> Rita Varonen -> Gunilla Luboff -> Oja Gjelio -> Phoenix Chorale

For more information about Bruffy, visit: <http://www.kcchorale.org/conductor.html> ... For more information about these connections, please visit the following URL: <http://www.azcentral.com/thingstodo/stage/articles/20121001phoenix-chorale-nordic-voices-composers-scandinavian.html>

2012 IFYEs Report Back - *The following four articles are from 2012 IFYEs (Pages 8-10) who have recently completed their stays in their host countries. More articles are planned for the next newsletter.*

IFYE - a “code word” for Hospitality

Jamie Smith (CO to Germany/Finland 2012)

My time abroad via the IFYE program will be ending in December and the experience has been great! Germany and Finland have both offered endless opportunities to learn of the culture, traditions, landscape, and people. I have been incredibly humbled by the immediate and warm welcome of IFYEs and IFYE hosts. I feel as though “IFYE” is an international code word for the greatest hospitality a person could ever experience and great friendships.



The children from this 4-H club in Finland were interested in learning of some American traditions, such as rodeo. I taught the kids the basics of rodeo and then we had a stick horse rodeo competition. After the awards ceremony for the winners (no gold buckles just yet... only candy!!!), we took this photo. (I am kneeling in the middle of the front row.)



Me, taken on a visit in mid-November to a reindeer farm in Ruhtinansalmi (northern Finland).

Two Incredibly Different Experiences

Matti Kuykendall (KS to UK and Switzerland)



Me, in front of the Matterhorn

My six-month IFYE exchange was split between three countries of the United Kingdom (Scotland, N. Ireland, and Wales) and Switzerland. The UK and Switzerland were two incredibly different experiences and I am very pleased to have had them both.

Before landing in Scotland, I didn't have many expectations for the exchange ... I just wanted to see everything and anything I could about life “across the pond”. Looking back, I think this was a great way to approach it, because if I had had expectations, they likely would

have been very misguided. The countries of the United Kingdom are far more diverse than movies and other media portray them. There are different accents, dialects, and languages, as well as many varying cultures with proud histories. Switzerland was also more than just chocolate, cheese, and yodeling.

Farming and agriculture were nothing like I was used to growing up on the plains of Kansas. Farms in both the U.K. and Switzerland are often smaller than those in the Midwest USA, but ran with much more multi-tasking and government aid. Learning about the different styles of government gave me a unique perspective, especially during a U.S. presidential election year, the Queen's 60th year of reign, and the Summer Olympics. I learned much about the world's perception of America, my own political opinions, and the many things I am grateful for in the United States.

The IFYE experience has had a positive impact on my life in so many ways: creating new friendships, strengthening old ones, learning more about other cultures *and* my own, and finding I didn't know as much about myself before the trip as I had previously thought. It's an experience you can't find studying abroad or being a tourist.



They say hindsight is 20/20. Even with that perfect vision - seeing all the bumps in my journey, looking back, I know I wouldn't change a thing.

(Above) Spending time with IFYE friends from other countries - while in Northern Ireland for 5 weeks. (L to R): Me, Sabine Wegmann (Switzerland), Karen Peters (Germany), Tanja Salonen (Finland), Sandra Unterkofler (Austria), Zac McCarthy (Australia), and Angela McDonald (Canada)

“Learning by Doing”

Tiffany Poet (CO to Switzerland 2012)

That was the saying that I heard at every one of my host families and exactly the reason that I came to Switzerland as an IFYE. Before even leaving the USA, I had decided that my goal was to learn about culture, language, and agriculture. But, what I found out was that each family had SO much more to teach me.

To most people, Europe sounds like the perfect place to spend a six-month holiday and take a break after graduating from college. But, I chose to be an IFYE representative to Switzerland to continue to grow, mature, and learn ... not to stop. Getting on the plane, I realized that I was going to be faced with the challenge of my life and it wasn't until my first host family that I understood the importance of attitude and rising to meet that challenge.

Attitude is Everything

My first host family lived on an alp where they milked eight goats, seventeen cows, and made cheese ... every day. That's not all; they also only had electricity from a generator for the milking machine and no shower; water had to be boiled on a wood-burning stove for cleaning. Oh, and no Internet or cell phone service either; just in case you were wondering, I had been stripped of luxuries of my American lifestyle and didn't know how I was going to survive.

Thankfully, I remembered something my parents, 4-H leaders, teachers, coaches, and mentors had always told me ... attitude is everything. I would have no one to blame but myself if I wasted this opportunity with a bad attitude. So, I buckled down and began to open my eyes and mind to the experience. I began helping with milking, cheese making, and many other daily tasks with a positive attitude instead of feeling sorry for myself. By the end of two weeks, I was joking about changing my name to “Heidi” and planning my return visit to the Alp Farm. I won't lie; the two weeks of alp farm life was mentally and physically the toughest two weeks of my life. But, when I revisited this host family at the end of my six months (ironically, on Thanksgiving Day), I could see just how blessed I had been.

Learning in my Host Families

Learning to hike was a priority and practicing on the hills and mountains around my host homes included: IFYE Hiking Weekend, hikes on the Niesen, and trips to Wengernalp, Pilatus and Santis, just to name a few. What I didn't expect was to learn to play so many different board and card games, to watch (and understand) so much soccer and tennis or to make cheese on an alp. Every host family introduced me to new foods, traditional Swiss dishes, and drinks. I even got to try my hand at cooking a few times and found out that I have a lot of learning left to do.

I learned what it was like to have brothers and to be the “only child”. I learned to drive a Hürlimann tractor and a little about harvesting everything from potatoes to apples to wheat. I learned how to do numerous crafts, to crochet, shoot a Swiss Army gun, dance, and run several kilometers without passing out. I learned to love the sound of an alphorn, cow bells, yodeling, and *schwyzerörgli* (Swiss version of the accordion). Each family taught me words both in proper German and their local dialect that helped me to get so much more out of my Swiss experience than a normal tourist would.

I was most impressed and surprised when my hosts would teach me to do something and then trust me to do it on my own without supervision the next time. Many times, my hosts had more confidence in me and my abilities than I had in myself! Every task, big and small, made me feel trusted, valued, and like part of the family - whether it was helping with milking, sanding, feeding the rabbits, collecting eggs, vacuuming, helping with English homework, painting, doing dishes, or getting fruits and vegetables from the garden.

Of course, my host families made sure that I experienced the best of Switzerland during my stay. Places and things like the Rhine Falls, Ballenberg Museum, FORC (2013 Schwingen prize bull), the Basel Tattoo, an open air cinema, castles, chocolate and cookie factories were visited. Cities like Bern, Fribourg, Thun, Solothurn, Zürich, Brienz, Luzern and Sion were toured and photographed. In addition to all this, I felt like a “real Swiss” when I got to attend the OLMA (OLMA Swiss Fair for Agriculture & Food), the Bern IFYE Fondue meeting, Trucker and Country Festival, a local Brown Swiss show (including the parade), and school on the primary, secondary, and college levels. The only thing that could have made my time in Switzerland better would have been meeting Roger Federer, the Schwingen King or a prince!

Thank You

I spent six months in this beautiful country, had eight families that opened their doors to me, and met so many other wonderful people along the way. From my first car ride from the airport with Christian to my last day in Switzerland, my time was filled to the brim with memories, experiences and stories. I even have a five-month-old Brown Swiss heifer named Alpenrose at home to help me remember my IFYE Experience. I cannot find the words to properly thank each of my hosts and Swiss IFYE for their hospitality and generosity. My life will be forever changed by this experience and the people I have met in last six months. The doors of my home will always be open to future generations of Swiss IFYEs and those of you I met.

IFYE gave me the challenges and experiences I needed to continue growing, maturing, and learning. I will be forever changed for the better because of six short months in Switzerland and two weeks on an alp. (*Find more information about Tiffany's IFYE experience at www.tiffanypoet.blogspot.com*)



Stefan and me making cheese



Me, Christa (center) and Stefan (right) Sieber-Beer. Stefan and Christa were my alpine host family.



Me, milking one of my favorite cows!

Opportunity and Realization

Larry Dale Fritzler (CO Tanzania 2012)



This is Godson. Godson is a twenty-three-year-old member of 4-H Tanzania. He's paid for electrician school, his sister's primary school, and rents a print shop with his 4-H project. He grew up in a two-room house outside Arusha, Tanzania. He is polite, hospitable, and shares his 4-H story with other potential members to let them know what 4-H can do for them. Now, the reason I made this short introduction is because Godson is my friend and an example of the 4-H successes that unfold all over Tanzania.

I traveled from the plains of Arusha to the mountains of Songea. I've been on the coast of the Indian Ocean and the highlands of Njombe. I can tell you, assuredly, that these success stories are everywhere; the more I looked, the more it reminded me of home. The remote highlands of Wino brought to mind Folsom, NM. The oakbrush (or something like it) combined with the rugged landscape brought back memories of another region as desolate and rugged as anywhere in East Africa. The flatlands of Arusha with hills on the horizon brought to mind the town of Fort Collins, CO where I had gone to a few 4-H conventions. Tanga and Morogoro became, instead, College Station and Houston in my mind's eye.



Adaptation of <http://0.tqn.com/d/geography/1/0/4/3/1/TanzaniaMap.gif>



Me (far right) with the 4-H advisor and club members from Livingston School in Njombe

Now, I'm laying the poeticism on pretty thick because my next point is that the people that inhabit these familiar-looking places (minus the banana trees) are not so different from any Americans I've ever met.

Take for instance, Tanga. I stayed a month with an Islamic family. In fact, it was the month of Ramadan¹. I didn't know, however, that there would be a big barbecue to kick it all off. I mean, it was like the Fourth of July after all the incense was burned up and the old timers were done praying. There was beer, goatmeat, laughter, and stories abounding. I suppose, we're not so different after all.



My host father, Baruti, and one of the nephews at the Ramadan barbecue

I could write a book; but, I won't. I'll just try to wrap this all up and put a pretty bow on it by saying that 4-H all over the world is about opportunity. Pay for school, start a business, etc.

The IFYE program is about realization. Realizing that from one side of the world to the other, the 4-H program has the same mission statement with the same quality of kids and leaders. That's what makes it and its members the best all around.

¹Ramadan - the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Every day during this month, Muslims around the world spend the daylight

hours in a complete fast. Muslims are also called upon to use this month to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to 2012 IFYEs (inbounds and outbounds) for sharing some of their experiences with us through this issue of the IFYE NEWS. Tiffany, Larry, and Jamie are traveling home to the USA as we put this issue to press. Look to the next issue for more sharing of adventures and reflections.

Shirts for USA Attendees at 2013 IFYE World Conference

Roger McCoy

The shirts are to be embroidered with the IFYE logo on the left front with "USA" below and the state name above. We are ordering the shirts from Lands' End® because of their selection, true sizing, and styles to fit women. By having the embroidery done locally, we could have the state changed to meet the needs of IFYEs around the country.



As in 2008, we will arrange the logistics of purchasing and embroidering shirts for the 2013 World IFYE Conference. Details on the cost of shipping and embroidering will be available after the first of the year. If interested, email me at r.mccoy69@sbcglobal.net and I will forward the cost details as soon as they are available. Go to <http://www.landsend.com/business> to see the selection, prices, and sizing charts.

Pre- and Post- Conference Tours

Art Deisher

For those individuals who are planning to attend the 2013 World IFYE Conference in Thailand, there is a pre-conference and possibly a post-conference trip being planned. Details are sketchy as of this printing, but should be finalized by Christmas.

If you indicated an interest in these possible tours when you were at the Omaha conference in July, information will be sent to you as soon as it is known.

If you want to be included in that information stream, please contact Art Deisher at adeisher@bex.net. If you wish to call, do so at 800-497-7840.

Orders for Pins/Bandanas

Bart Johnson

Orders for gift items (*bandanas and Friendship crossed-flag lapel pins similar to those presented during the Australian World Conference*) will be placed by this coming mid-April. These are used as gifts to hosts and dignitaries and as souvenirs.

If you are planning on attending the World Conference, please email Bart Johnson (KS Barbados '87) at p2johnson@comcast.net (Tel: 423-903-9265) so that a count can be made for a quantity to order. Indicate how many of either item you need. Our target is 300 for bulk rates to reduce the cost to \$2.50 per item.



Joel Soobitsky
"Friend of IFYE"

Michigan State University - retired:

"Dr. Soobitsky is being honored for his vision, execution, competency, and enthusiasm:

- in bringing 4-H Youth programs to urban areas;
- building national and international collaborations, and
- strengthened relationships between youth serving organizations.

... He lives and breathes 4-H and its ability as a program to develop youth and volunteer leaders. His enthusiasm and creativity never stop."

Congratulations, Joel and Mel!



Two IFYE Association Lifetime Members inducted into 2012 NAE4-HA Hall of Fame

His Enthusiasm and Creativity Never Stop

As one of Joel Soobitsky's accomplishments as a national 4-H program leader for 4-H resource development, staff development and training, Joel was able to expand 4-H's role in International development.

Also included in the 2012 induction program is a quote from Linda Nierman, PhD,

"An Image of Excellence includes an International Dimension!"

Mel Thompson's 2012 induction into the NAE4-HA Hall of Fame has brought one more dimension to his activities in the area of global understanding and living.

Mel's international interest began when his family started hosting exchange participants

and was strengthened when he heard Russell Mawby report on his 1948 IFYE experience in the United Kingdom.

He served as President of the Michigan 4-H International Association, twice President of the IFYE Association of the USA, as well as IFYE NEWS Editor for over 15 years. Currently, he is President of Horizons International - consulting and managing programs aimed at promoting international understanding through exchange, development, and educational programs.

Mel has indicated, "... 4-H provided the incentives which led to my career involving an international emphasis at all levels - county, state, national, and globally. People-to-People connections are the key to understanding - a must objective for all educational institutions and programs ... an endeavor I strongly endorse and promote! A challenge to all: An Image of Excellence includes an International Dimension!"



Mel Thompson
(MI Turkey 1953)

Assoc. Board Member Changes for 2013

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Four Association Board members are completing their terms on the Association Board of Directors: Trudy Peterson - Region A, Ken Jones - Region B, Alan Lambert - Region C, and Shirley Coulson - Region D. The remaining Board members gratefully appreciate the time and effort these individuals have made in their already-busy lives to move the IFYE Association and its goals forward.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Moving? New 911 Address?

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

Although Alan Lambert is completing his three-year Board term, he will continue to work with the Board and Association in the newly created position of Director of Program Development. (See related article on page 1.)

Incoming Board members for a three-year term are: Region A - currently vacant, Region B - Marla Peterson, Tennessee; Region C - Betty Jo Smith Roberts, Indiana; and Region D - Gary Heusel, Hawaii. More information about these talented individuals will be in the spring newsletter.



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 previously been noted in the IFYE NEWS.

David Giorgi (March 2012) (CA Italy 1952)

Harry Aubrey Jones (July 18, 2012) (SC Columbia 1958)

Vernon A. Jurgemeyer (August 30, 2012) (IA Israel 1967)

Verle E. Lanier (August 17, 2012) (MT Japan 1958)

Jessie (Baldwin) Merritt (August 12, 2012) (NH India 1957)

Lester Earl Miche (August 23, 2012) (IL Australia 1953)

Ervin G. Otte (September 17, 2012) (IN Germany 1957)

Marcia Rygaard (September 6, 2012) (KS Germany 1961)

Frank Wesselius (June 5, 2007) (WA Venezuela 1965)

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.

A 2013 IFYE B&B Guide will be published by JANUARY 1, 2013 and contains IFYE B&B listings in many states.

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

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
ATTN: Joyce L Taylor
Clark Hall
Univ of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, MO 65211
Tel: 573-882-6393

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.