



# IFYE NEWS

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

October 2015

## President's News Article



Dear IFYE Alumni and Friends,

As October draws to a close your IFYE Leadership Team including the IFYE Board and IFYE Staff are hard at work on your behalf.

At the request of Agriculture Future of America (AFA) and approval of the IFYE Board at the June Atlanta IFYE Conference meeting, preparation and conducting of several possible events are scheduled for the remainder of

2015. Rest assured that the core values understood by IFYE alumni will not change. But, adaptation is necessary if IFYE is going to grow and sustain itself. The balance of this article will explain what is scheduled and happening in the remainder of 2015. Please visit our IFYEUSA.ORG website for updated information.

In July, an IFYE Design Team meeting was held at Agriculture Future of America's (AFA) Headquarters in Kansas City. The Design Team was valuable in providing an external perspective of various components of the IFYE Program. Questions such as "What makes IFYE unique?" were studied along with pressing questions concerning numbers of participants, current capacity and future goals. Issues concerning marketing, fundraising and finance, as well IFYE's ability to successfully measure successes and outcomes, were addressed. The discussion then turned to the potential cooperative aspects between IFYE and AFA, perceived benefits to students, as well as those possible linkages with corporations and universities' international programs. The Design Team then brainstormed potential IFYE experiences that would incorporate each of these entities.

The following recommendations were made to IFYE:

- Share Design Team work with the IFYE Board and request Board approval for continuance of process. (This was completed and approved 8/9/15.)
- Hold a Focus Group of College juniors and seniors on their "Needs and Expectations of an International Experience." (This was held August 11 with Alan

Lambert and Mike Coates meeting with AFA leadership and 8 AFA Student Advisors.)

- Share Design Team work and Student Focus group recommendations with the IFYE Board at the September 2015 Strategic Planning meeting in Indianapolis. The purpose is to consider incorporating recommendations into IFYE Programming and to be prepared to participate in a Think Tank in early November 2015.
- Develop measurement tools to assess growth and development of those participating in the IFYE experience.
- Identify strategic partners or perspectives to include in the planning process or "Think Tank".
- Conduct a "Think Tank" as a follow-up to the Design Team. Include additional students, university representatives and industry leaders. Outcomes to include specific programming ideas and methods to achieve those ideas.

In early September, the IFYE Board met in Indianapolis to spend three days addressing the Strategic Plan. A facilitator was secured to lead the Board through the process. The Summary from the Design Team and Report from the Focus Group provided helpful information as the Board continues the transition from an "Operational Board" to a "Governance Board".

It should be noted that until 2013, the IFYE Board had concerned itself solely with the IFYE Alumni. In 2013, the Board voted to take on full responsibility to administer and grow the IFYE Program. By taking on this additional responsibility, the Board began shifting to an entirely new role, one of running a non-profit business---the business of an international exchange program. This has been a major shift requiring numerous hours of staff and Board time to bring the organization to a healthy functioning point. The Design Team, Strategic Planning Sessions and Think Tank are all part of the plan to continue to move the Board and the IFYE organization to a more efficient, secure and expanding position.

The Board continues to need your input and support as Board Members do the heavy lifting of making this major change in the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. Please do not hesitate to call us or email us---you can easily find any of us at ifyeusa.org We look forward to hearing from you!!

Betty Jo

**With your help, we will continue to provide international exchange programs, promote cross-cultural education & global awareness.**

**Annual Membership** (per calendar year)      \_\_\_ \$30.00

Additional Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount over \$1000    \_\_\_ \$1000    \_\_\_ \$500  
                              \_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$50    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount

**I have enclosed my check**      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to "IFYE Association of the USA"

**Please send me by Email access information to the IFYE website "Paid Membership area"**

Yes      No      My Email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my credit card**    Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Master card    Visa    Discover    AE

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please pay online at <http://ifyeusa.org>**

**OR**

**mail form with payment to:**

Michael Coates  
4193 Riverview Rd  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411-7943

## **A FOND FAREWELL**

Norma Wu, Treasurer (2012-2015)

### ***Memory Lane***

My selection to be an IFYE to Taiwan by Connecticut in 1965 was very special for me. It was the biggest event of my life at that time. Little did I know when I left for this experience that it would be such a life-changing and mind-altering event.

I celebrated our fiftieth anniversary and our varied experiences of being IFYEs in Atlanta at the 2015 National IFYE Conference with 18 of my fellow 1965 IFYE brothers and sisters.

### ***Serving on the National Board and changes over past 4 years***

It has been my privilege to serve on the National Board and be the national IFYE Treasurer for these past four years. The Association has radically changed from an Alumni Association to a business with employees, multiple insurances, etc. It has stretched my abilities. It is time to pass on the baton. I am ready to retire and be available to travel with my husband.

The position requires a talented financial member and a bookkeeper. We have graduated to using Quickbooks software program for non-profits. It has made my life a lot simpler in generating reports for meetings and for the CPA. Our board has many dedicated members. Our program has merged, grown, and changed.

### ***Why not make a monthly pledge?***

To continue to survive and grow, we need steady income. To this end, I have pledged a monthly amount to IFYE for support. There are five of us at this point donating \$15 to \$150 a month. I strongly believe in monthly pledging to programs that I support.

So this is my hope and plea, that we can get many more IFYEs to pledge monthly to give us a base income to support our paid staff. It is easily done on our website with a credit card or by sending in a form to Michael Coates and he can create the necessary paperwork to do this.

### ***Expanding IFYE***

My term ends on December 31st. I look forward to following our progress on our website and through our newsletters. My thanks go to all who have served and worked hard as Board Members and as support. May we continue to grow and expand IFYE again.

## IFYE Website Update

*Keith Ferris, Vice President*

The IFYE Association Board encourages you to visit the site often to keep up-to-date on IFYE information. The address to get on the site is the same as before <http://ifyeusa.org>

If you are a life member or have paid your 2015 membership, you can access the "Paid Member" area of the website. *Email addresses that bounced are in the process of being corrected. Upon confirmation of corrected address, the individual will receive the missed email.*

If you are a life member or have paid your 2015 membership and need sign-in information to access the "Paid Member" area of the website, please

go to the IFYE website, <http://ifyeusa.org>

click on "About Us" in the navigation bar,

then click on "Contact Us" and send us a message.

We will respond to you by email with your personal sign-in information.

The "Paid Member" area gives you one-stop access to IFYE Association information such as Board Minutes, Association Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures. You can also update your personal information to include change of address, phone number, and email address. This will assist the Association in keeping your information in the IFYE database current and accurate.

If you want to become a paid member, please pay your 2015 membership ... go to "Membership" in the website and fill in the appropriate information. By paying your 2015 membership, you will have current access to the "Paid Member" area.

**Individual annual memberships are \$30.00 per year.**

**(Life members are not required to pay annual memberships)**

The website could also use some great IFYE photos. Please send any you may wish to share to Keith Ferris, [kferris@ifyeusa.org](mailto:kferris@ifyeusa.org) in JPG format.



### IFYE ASSOCIATION BOARD of DIRECTORS (2015)

*Seated (L to R): Elaine Watson, Nancy Maxwell-Rich, Betty Jo Smith-Roberts (President), Norma Wu (Treasurer), Dottie Nelson (Secretary)*

*Standing (L to R): Jack Morse, Jeff Miller, Alan Lambert (Nat'l IFYE Program Director), Tom Hein, Keith Ferris (Vice President), Mike Coates (Associate Treasurer), Art Deisher (Director of Development), Gary Heusel*



## 2015 National IFYE Program Highlights

*Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director*

### 2015 Inbound/Outbound IFYEs

- Ten (10) outbound US IFYEs to ten (10) countries.
  - 5 IFYEs - six months  
*Dakota Harris (VA to Finland and Austria)*  
*Elizabeth Burst (VA to Taiwan and Switzerland)*  
*Colleen McMurtrie (VA to Estonia and Switzerland)*  
*Courtney Reints (MN to Norway and Luxembourg)*  
*Katie Schulte (SD to UK and Switzerland)*
  - 4 IFYEs -three months  
*Monica Campen (Missouri to Switzerland)*  
*Tiffany Hulinsky (Minnesota to Finland)*  
*Beau Nistler (FL to Thailand)*  
*Andrea Marlow (AK to Estonia)*
  - 1 IFYE - two months  
*Amy Keas (Kansas – Germany)*
- Twenty-two (22) inbound IFYEs to 11 states of the US. Predominantly three months with most returning on September 9, 2015 to their home countries.
  - States hosting during 2015 are: Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana, Alaska, Virginia, South Dakota, Florida, Missouri, Kansas, Ohio, and Michigan.
  - Home countries of inbound IFYEs are: Austria, Switzerland, Taiwan, Germany, Luxembourg, Finland, Jamaica, Devon Co England, Scotland, Wales.
- National orientation for both outbound and inbound participants was held in conjunction with the US IFYE Conference in Atlanta, June 17 - 21, 2015. New IFYEs and IFYE alumni enjoyed meeting and getting to know each other. 2015 IFYEs appreciated the insights and helpful hints offered by alumni. There was excitement and nervousness about upcoming experiences.
- There will be a debriefing for returning USA IFYEs in December in Chicago. IFYEs will then return home and share their experiences as part of promoting the IFYE program.



*2015 IFYEs at Orientation in Atlanta*

### Conversations and Promotions of future IFYE Partnerships and Programs

During the summer and early fall, I

- Attended European IFYE Conference in Scotland during August
- Traveled to other European countries to visit face-to-face with IFYE Coordinators in partner countries. These conversations with current participating countries were held to better understand their program, structure, staffing, and program viability. Both partners and USA wish to encourage return to longer exchange program lengths, rather than less than two months. Countries are facing similar challenges as the US in regards to finding qualified applicants, funding sources, host family recruitment, etc.

### Outlook for 2016

- I have been engaging in positive conversations for potential 2016 exchanges with Costa Rica and India, and perhaps selected countries in Southeast Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and Africa. Many of these are long-term processes, but initial conversations are beginning.
- The national IFYE Association has been promoting the IFYE program and exhibiting at trade show booths at the National FFA Convention and the Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference this fall. We have also gathered contact information from interested individuals for follow-up on future exchanges.



*Lizzie Burst (left) learning to use chopsticks in Taiwan*



*Lizzie (right) planting rice*



## My Life in Finland

*Dakoda Harris, Virginia*

I embarked on my IFYE journey with a national orientation of inbound and outbound delegates in Atlanta. Not only did I have a chance to meet other adventurous young adults looking forward to new cultural experiences, but because the orientation was held in conjunction with the annual National IFYE Conference, I met a number of previous exchangees who shared about their time in a variety of host countries.

I departed from Atlanta to Finland for three months in this Scandinavian country that is bordered by Russia on the east and Sweden and Norway on the north. Finland is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest country in Europe, and its capital, Helsinki, is the northernmost capital in the world. The population is 5 ½ million and the majority live in the south. The northernmost part of the country has a population of Laplanders, a group of people that I would compare to Eskimos. Finnish is spoken by 90% of the people; however, Swedish is spoken by a minority of people, most of whom live near Sweden in the southwest. The Laplanders have their own language, too. Finnish is a difficult language that is similar to Hungarian, I am told. Luckily for me, many Finns speak English.

After a country orientation in Helsinki, I went to my first host family. I was excited but a little nervous to be on my way. Since then I have had 3 host families, and they have all been great.

I lived on two dairy farms and a horse farm. I learned a lot about running a dairy farm and the dairy industry in general. The average dairy farm has 25 cows, but they use modern milking machinery, and the barn is very clean. A truck comes to take the milk every couple of days. Besides milk for drinking, the milk is used for making cheese, butter and yogurt. About 1/3 is consumed in Finland and the rest is exported to countries such as Denmark, Germany, and Poland. Most families have dogs, so I was glad of that, since I am a dog lover.

Finland has over 8,800 lakes and lots of forests. I have enjoyed lots of fishing, and I have been rabbit and duck hunting. I brought my guitar with me, and I have enjoyed playing and singing for my new friends. I actually gave a concert in the local town while with my first host family. My host mother made a poster to advertise the concert and it was well attended. Also I have helped to build a horse stable and attended a folk festival as well as an end-of-summer festival.

I also attended a week-long Nordic 4-H Camp. This camp is held every other year in one of the Scandinavian countries. This year Finland was the host, and the theme was “4-H Moving the World”. Over 1,000 young people and leaders attended and it was great fun. Campers came from many countries: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, etc. It was held in Eastern Finland at Hyvarila International Youth Center in Nurmes, Finland. This was on a lake and we could see Russia across on the other side.

We slept in tents with our sleeping bags; the tent areas were divided into area with 100 campers each. The opening ceremony features each region dressing in outlandish clothes and marching as a group with their identifying flag. It was hilarious to see their costumes and crazy antics.

Morning Workshops were divided into categories of “Head, Heart, Hands, and Health”; for example, Head included such choices as Music and Instruments, Stone Game, First Aid, Forestry, Media Workshop, and Traditional Games; Heart had Mission Impossible, Paper Costumes, Hulabaloo and Steps Forward; Hands offered Doll Making, Origami, Wool Picture, Bakery, African Food, and Fruit & Vegetable Carving; and Health choices were Afro-Dance, Hiking, Nature Trail, Fishing, Drumming & Singing, and Traditional Dances.



*Clothes making workshop from paper*

In the afternoons we went swimming, competed in a volleyball tournament, and played other sports. The teen 4-H group or 15 U.S. delegates and a chaperone through States 4-H Exchange was also at camp, and I was glad to talk with them and hear a little about their experiences in Finland, too. Each evening we had a group program with entertainment, dancing and other activities, which was followed by campfires and singing.

The food in Finland is nutritious and simple without the use of many spices. I enjoy “tea time” when we usually have delicious breads and cakes. Most families take a break or two during the day to enjoy a few minutes of relaxation and the simple joys of tea or coffee with bread and cheese and coffee cakes.

Another thing that I have tried is the Finnish sauna. That deserves an article all of its own, so I will write more about that later.

My free time travel of two weeks begins in a few days, and I plan to go to Norway and Denmark before ending up in my next host country – Austria.



## Estonia

Colleen MacMurtrie, Virginia

### Meeting other IFYEs at National Conference

After a missed flight (thank you Northern Virginia traffic), I made it to Atlanta for the conference. The current IFYEs' orientation lined up with the past IFYEs' national conference this year, so it was a great experience to talk with people who went to Finland by boat and to others who went to India and the Middle East. Everyone had different stories to tell about their time but they all came away with the same feeling - it changed their life in a way that is impossible to describe to people who are not part of the program. Talking with the past IFYEs also helped me become less nervous and more excited for my trip ahead of me!

With all of the new IFYEs, inbounds (those coming to the USA) and outbounds (those going to Europe or Asia), finally in one area we were able to talk a bit before dinner, bond during dinner (a fun experience of describing corn bread and peach cobbler to inbounds), and then played a few get-to-know-you games after dinner. These games were great in the fact that you had to quickly become comfortable with a stranger, a good skill to have when living with host families. The next few days flew by as three past IFYE's provided small workshops; group outings to either farms in Georgia, historic sites or areas used in films; and a cultural dinner and auction on the last night to wrap up the experience. The last night it was time to say goodbye to some great new friends but knowing a great adventure was ahead.



My first host brother had me watch "The Singing Revolution." - a great documentary about life for Estonians during the Soviet times, how they won their freedom and why they sing. I highly recommend it; it taught me about a period of time many schools have to skip over.

I quickly learned two things, Estonians are proud of the fact they gained independence in a non-violent way, and they love to sing. Every five years they hold a singing festival that attracts up to 30,000 singers and up to 80,000 spectators.

It is a small country and somewhat flat, their highest mountain is Suur Munamägi at 318 m (1043 ft), but it is filled with trees and forest and bogs and beaches. I have seen swallows (the national bird) and foxes and one of my most exciting moments was seeing a moose on the side of the road! I cannot wait to see more as I finish out my last month here.

### Host Families

Host families are amazing people. They take a complete stranger in from anywhere from a few days to a month and let you become part of their family. Just like families here, they all differ from where they live to what they do to who is part of the family. I have had parents who work for the military and others who are leading villages involved with handicrafts. My current host mom is a music teacher and sings in several different choirs and the dad builds log homes\ saunas. Some have lived in small villages with around 100 residents while another lived about 5 minutes away from Pärnu, the summer capital. All of my host families have asked what I want to do, or what I want to see, I show them my list but always add that if there is something they think I should experience please let me know. The country is small enough, the longest I have been in a car somewhere is 3 hours and we almost went the entire length of the country, that it is almost possible to do it all!



2015 orientation in Atlanta

### Coming to Eesti (Estonia)

Estonia is part of the Baltic States and a country most Americans have never heard of (I was one). Estonia is situated below Finland and shares a border with Russia to the East, Latvia to the South and the Baltic Sea to the West. The capital is Tallinn. Under Soviet Rule from 1944-1991, Estonians are one of the few countries to gain independence in a non-violent way. 1989 marked one of the biggest years for them with the Singing Revolution, night singing demonstrations at the Tallinn Song Festival grounds, and human chain made up of two million people spreading from



I have been able to climb around the ruins of castles, see the most northern point (if it had been a clear day I would have been able to see Finland), walk in bogs looking for cloudberryes (I also got to watch my host mom make a phone call in the middle of the bog), go to the southern area and see the sand caves in Piusa and go to a small island called Kihnu (7 km by 3.3 km, 4 miles by 2 miles).

When we are not traveling around seeing the country we are home. I usually help out with cleaning, gardening, making dinner and helping with dinner. It is funny - at home I never enjoyed cleaning or gardening, and sometimes making dinner, but I loved helping out host moms with these activities and I have grown to actually enjoy gardening!



*L to R: host mom Kalie, co-worker; mumsel (coworker's mother in law), me*

## Food

Every family has asked if I eat meat, the reason they grill out almost every night in the summer. I have had a lot of ribs, chicken, pork all marinated in different things and moose burgers at a mid-summer party. Everyone uses charcoal and they let the fire die down so the meat is more smoked. The biggest difference I have seen is with salads. Usually, to a cabbage base, they will add tomatoes, potatoes or carrots and then use a dressing of sour cream (*hapukoor*). This sour cream is a bit liquidy. I cannot compare taste because I was not a huge fan of sour cream at home. I have grown to like this though and might miss it when I come home.

The most adventurous food I have eaten is blood sausage. Every time I hear the name, I think of a sausage casing oozing blood, but that is not reality at all! It is filled with barley and I am not sure what else because I liked it and do not want to ruin it. While eating it one of my host brothers, who has it every Christmas, looked it up and was not pleased with what he found out. It is a bit crumbly so I finally learned to eat the insides and then the casing. The weather is so mild here, most days are in the upper 60's- lower 70's, we have only had few days in the 90's and they do not have humidity like Virginia, that one berry season follows the other.

When I arrived at the end of June, it was strawberry and wild strawberries. At the beginning of July, the blueberries came

in along with the cloudberryes, only found in bogs, and now the raspberries are coming in. Every one of my host families collected each berry and mashed them up for jams and froze them for the winter time. I was lucky and one of my host families took me cloudberry hunting in the bog. We went for a 40-minute hike through the woods with no trails to follow; the dad did it by memory to the edge of the bog. When we got to the area, the mom was a bit worried that we would not find any berries; but after about 10 minutes of searching, we found some! They come in reddish in color and when they are ready they are soft and pillowy and orange/yellow in color. They were not my favorite berry because they were kind of creamy in texture, but my host mom made a jam with them and they were much better!



*Summer berries*

## Final Thoughts

I am now with my last host family and leave in less than 20 hrs. Since I last wrote, I have been with two other families and seen the rest of this beautiful country. Estonia is small and the longest I have been in the car is about 3 hrs. Traveling can be very tiring sometimes, but I am always excited when we are (in the car) because it means I get to see more of the country.

I have come to love this small country that I know I would never have visited otherwise. I now get to come home and tell people all about it and hopefully maybe even convince some future IFYE to choose Estonia over the other options. I may not have chosen Estonia but it chose me, and I am so glad for it.

## What's next?

August 9th marked my one month left to stay in this beautiful country. I will be off for a two week break. I will be spending about five days in Wales, four days in London and four days in Spain. I will be meeting my sister and friend and have left the planning up to them. My next country will be Switzerland from September 23rd to December 11th.

## 2015 National IFYE Conference Report

*Betty Jo Smith-Roberts*

Those attending the 2015 National IFYE Conference in Atlanta from June 17-21 were greeted with warm, sunny Georgia days, a wonderfully accommodating hotel and lots of conversations bringing together old and new friends!!

Eugen Schoenfeld, a holocaust survivor opened the conference proceedings with gripping stories of his experiences. Eugen transported us back to the concentration camps bringing to life the people and events of the time. Those in attendance will long remember his stories and cautions for the future.

The conference sessions offered opportunities to learn more about Georgia History, Georgia Agriculture, an update on the Peace Corp, Youth Development Work in Iraq, and for those of us into food, there was a presentation by a Georgia Grown Chef who provided samples! The exploration of Georgia continued through the conference tours which included an Agricultural tour which explored the Chic Filet's agri-tourism farm and then on to a peach farm and processing plant. The Entertainment tour explored CNN and Fox Theatre while the Historical Tour visited local historical sites in Atlanta. The day culminated with everyone in attendance at the Medieval Times Dinner Theatre. What a show!!!

An auction was held to raise funds for the IFYE program with proceeds of \$4835!! What a great show of support for IFYE!!

There were over 30 Inbound and Outbound IFYEs in attendance and once again, they brought energy and enthusiasm to the conference. It was great to visit with them during meals and to hear their country presentations. Their presence was such an immediate reminder of the excitement and challenges that all IFYEs face as they head to their host country.

The business meeting focused on the events of the past year and how the IFYE Board is positioning itself for the future. Time was given to answer questions and receive input from the membership.

It should be noted that this conference was planned and conducted by the IFYE Board with leadership by President Betty Jo Roberts and Vice President Keith Ferris. IFYE Board members and spouses worked to make the conference a success. A great debt of gratitude is sent to all of those individuals who made the conference a reality.

Next August, the National Conference will move to Manhattan, Kansas, home of Kansas State University! We look forward to seeing you there!!



*Eugen Schoenfeld, Keynote Speaker*



*Georgia Grown Workshop Demonstration*



*Liz Carlson and Jon Roberts checking out a watermelon on one of the tours*





2015 NATIONAL IFYE CONFERENCE  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
JUNE 17-21, 2015



*Tanisha Lewis (Jamaica) giving presentation about her country before the conference attendees*



*Victoria Warren, Connie Fukudome, and Art Deisher after purchasing some of Larry Wachtel's fudge at the Auction which raised \$4835 toward IFYE programs. Paul Rice served as the able auctioneer.*

*Below: Sixteen of the nineteen 1965 alumni participating in this conference and celebrating 50 years since their IFYE experience.*







# 57th European IFYE Conference

## Scotland

### 15 - 22 August 2015



## European IFYE Conference - Scotland

*Crystal Yonker*

Some people are attracted to men and women in uniform. Imagine how much more they gravitate to IFYE Scots in kilts and tartans! The European IFYE Conference in August at Gordonstoun School near Elgin, Scotland held all the magic imaginable.

IFYEs from 19 nations from Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA were “piped” (led by bagpipes and drums) into the beautiful Gordonstoun School chapel. Many wore their National Dress for the official opening ceremony. The fabrics, embellishments, colors, and workmanship of National Dress were exquisite from lederhosen to kilts and tartans to dirndls and heavily embroidered wool jumpers.

The official conference photograph and country photographs recorded the beginning of an activity-packed week. Scottish culture was taught through a kilt-making demonstration, crafts, singing, percussion, dousing, dancing, hiking, biking and sports contests. Larry Wachtel (IL) was the hero for his sports team in the playoff championship. Tours to local farms showed current farming and livestock trends. Scottish black face sheep and hairy coos (Highland cows) were popular attractions. Other educational tours were to whiskey distilleries, woollen mills, a cooperage, an abbey inhabited by Benedictine monks, Cawdor Castle, Lossiemouth RAF, and Fort George.

Each host family visit was touted as the very best! After traditional Scottish fish and chips, there was a sunset cruise on Loch Ness. Neither the sun nor “Nessie” were visible.

Robert Burns’ dinner (usually celebrated in January) included the ceremony of the haggis, reading of some of Burns’ works in Scottish dialect, traditional music and songs. All were punctuated with whiskey, providing a “slice” of Scottish tradition. The meal included haggis, neeps and tatties, salmon, new potatoes with basil, fresh green vegetables, cranachan, and cheese and biscuits. ...Aw, me lads and lassies, what an evening!

Evenings were filled with music, dancing, visiting, and a few trips to the IFYE bar.

The week in Northern Scotland was filled with many opportunities to reminisce, catch up, and form new bonds with conference newbies. Indeed, the IFYEs made everything feel magical and continued the motto of “Peace through Understanding”

*Next year’s European IFYE conference is scheduled for Estonia from July 23-30 in Jõulumäe, Pärnumaa*



*USA IFYEs and friends in attendance at this year’s conference included: Standing L to R: Lew Bordeaux, Matti Kuykendall, Jamie Smith, Helen Obernagel, Alan Lambert, Dale Yonker, John Stewart, Ruth Trail, Eff and Anita Embree, Emily Stewart, and Ellen Paine. Kneeling: Friend of IFYE Seated: Crystal Yonker, Larry Wachtel, and Judy Stewart Anna Parker was not available for the photo above.*



*Ruth Trail joins the pipers for a photo op*





## 2016 National IFYE Conference Manhattan, KS August 10-14

So you think Kansas is flat and boring? Come to the 2016 National IFYE Conference in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas and find that Kansas is anything but flat and certainly not boring. You will stay at the lovely Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan

Opening night festivities will take place at the Flint Hills Discovery Center near the hotel. Special activities are planned for other nights of the conference, ending with a banquet on Saturday night. Special musical entertainment is planned for the banquet.

You will have the chance to visit one of the following day tours that are included in your conference cost:

- Abilene, the home of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the end of the Chisholm Trail that brought cattle to Kansas from Texas.
- those lovely Flint Hills with cattle, small towns and the last stop on the Oregon Trail.
- Topeka's newly renovated Capitol and Museum.
- Kansas State University and the Wizard of Oz Museum.

So put August 10-14, 2016 on your calendar and plan to join other IFYEs in Manhattan, Kansas. Registration forms will be in the winter IFYE News and be available on the IFYE website in January. Register early for an early bird registration cost.



*L to R: Laura Asbury with Salome Savoy of Switzerland and ilJung Kim of South Korea at Wolfe Creek Indian Village in Bastian, Virginia*



*Tug 'o War at European Conference in Scotland*



*Host mom and Colleen MacMurtrie at Narva Castle*



*Campfire at Nordic 4-H Camp*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Sherrie Jo Bartholomew**  
(NY Finland 1964) 12/27/12  
**Pieter R Dukhuis** (Netherlands to USA) 11/17/14  
**Dorothea (Drane) Dowler**  
(MO Denmark 1957) 02/15/15 (LM)  
**Marion R (Hall) Duke**  
(MA Switzerland 1952) (LM)  
**Catherine (Pempek) Gourley**  
(IL Japan 1975) 12/15/12  
**Jack W Grier** (KS Norway 1952) 10/21/14  
**Ruth M (Morse) Harris**  
(NY Austria 1956) 04/12/15 (LM)  
**Frances T Hart** (OH Belgium 1954) 09/05/15  
**John R Hildebrand**  
(CA England 1957) 07/01/2006  
**Robert L Horton**  
(MO New Zealand 1964) 2012  
**Donald Johnson** (GA FR 1962)  
**Karen M (Edeal) Kander**  
(NE Australia 1963) 2/15/15  
**Tima Sue (Heusner) Krausse**  
(KS Kenya 1969) 12/05/14  
**Charles J Larson**  
(CT Denmark 1948) 06/15/15 (LM)  
**Dorothy F (Hilton) Linse**  
(WI England 1954) 03/21/15 (LM)  
**Dr Robert Lochtie** (UK US 1952) (LM)  
**Durward A Lyon** (IA Finland 1949) 04/07/15  
**Frank Mentlik** (VA Peru 1956) 07/28/14  
**Anita L Mitchell** (IL Philippines 1969) 05/12/15  
**Leonidas (Leo) C Polopolus**  
(CA Greece 1954) 08/17/15  
**E Gordon Richardson**  
(IN Turkey 1954) 12/01/13  
**Margaret V Ries** (Spouse of John (Art) Reis - WA Israel 1952) 04/19/15  
**Frances L (Odgers) Russell**  
(KS Finland 1955) 08/09/15  
**John W Sadler** (IL Argentina 1960) 09/08/14  
**Rodney H Sellen** (NY Sweden 1949) 01/06/13  
**John Shamburg** (NE Peru 1962) 10/04/15 (LM)  
**Violet (Klobas) Shepard**  
(OR Austria 1957) 10/13/15  
**Norma L Simpson** (ID Peru 1962) 01/03/15 (LM)  
**Maurice D Stillings** (Spouse of Helen Stillings - NE Sweden 1948) 02/05/15  
**Jean R (Richards) Tulip**  
(MI Sweden 1952) 01/02/14  
**Howard N Watkins Jr**  
(OH New Zealand 1958) 03/07/14 (LM)

*LM = Life Member*

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.  
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## World IFYE Board

This is a report on planning progress for the 2018 World IFYE Conference. A rotation scheme was determined at the 2003 World IFYE Conference in Sigtuna, Sweden that identified Africa as the 2018 site to be followed by North America in 2023 and Middle East in 2028.

Current status is that the U.S.A. IFYE Association is coordinating with Uganda 4-H Organization to host the 2018 World IFYE Conference in Kampala, Uganda. Global Adrenaline in Evanston, Illinois will assist with logistics, marketing, and registration process. Global Adrenaline will offer pre- and post-conference tours to anyone interested.

Dale and Crystal Yonker met with Global Adrenaline representatives in their Evanston offices on 8 June 2015 to discuss Uganda weather, security (both health and physical) plus mitigation suggestions, diplomatic history between Uganda and Western Countries, significant news events, tourist attractions, and entry Visa requirements. Global Adrenaline manages similar activities for Harvard University Business School students in both Rwanda and Uganda.

The World IFYE Board set a condition that the U.S.A. IFYE Association must be satisfied that sufficient definition in conference plans is available or North America would advance in the rotation scheme to 2018. Coordination with the Uganda 4-H Organization is very slow and we are attempting to find another point of contact with which to work. I have established November as the date to make a recommendation to the U.S.A. IFYE Association Board on viability of Uganda plans, I recently identified this information to attendees at the European IFYE Conference General Membership Meeting. We should be thinking of a contingency plan to determine which state IFYE Association could take the lead in organizing a 2018 World IFYE Conference.

Submitted by: Dale Yonker  
North America Representative

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