

## Executive Director Notes



Welcome to spring! ISE spring programs are now underway and summer program planning is nearly complete. Staff are busy working with teachers who are interested in Early

Bird pricing and planning for 2010. We look forward to the next year of outstanding programs abroad.

It was wonderful to see many of you at our Teacher Workshop in late January. Upon reviewing the results of the evaluations, it's clear that most of you were satisfied with the time you spent with us in Minneapolis and we value the time we spent with you as well. You will see a partial breakdown of the evaluation results in this newsletter.

I would like to say a special thank you to this year's ISE donors who provided gifts to the Financial Aid Fund for 2009. These gifts support low income students in need of financial support to experience ISE programs. Over 100 students who would not have been able to go on a program in 2009 were provided financial aid that made the difference!

As we work to meet our mission, we often ponder the words we use to explain our nonprofit organizational values. 'Where Language Matters' has been the ISE tagline for many years and it continues to be so today as is evidenced in our new logo. While our mission has expanded allowing for the development of new programs, our commitment to world language will remain one of our fundamental priorities. Indeed, ISE staff speak second (and in some cases third and fourth) languages. We embrace world language and it is integrated into our work and our work culture. ISE will also work harder on strengthening and integrating cultural knowledge beyond language as a means to meet our mission. We believe that an emphasis on language and on culture is critical in developing broad cultural understanding and in building competent world citizens of all ages.

Merriam-Webster has multiple definitions of the word 'language.' I prefer 'the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by community.' I believe that the recognition of 'community' in defining language is a critical component to building more educated students of the world. The American Heritage Dictionary has multiple defini-

tions of the word 'culture.' I prefer 'the predominating attitudes and behaviors that characterize the functioning of a group (or organization).' The combination of language and culture is powerful. At ISE we continue to explore ways to better integrate the two of them.

This year we are planning new programs. We look to expand our U.S. Hosting Program (USHP), making room for additional students from other countries to spend time in the United States over the summer. Also, we are working to pilot a 'teacher only' program. We understand and support your interest in professional development opportunities with other teachers to learn more intensively about history, language and culture in new countries as well as opportunities for more intensive learning in familiar countries. Some of you have already sent me ideas. Please feel free to continue to email me any ideas you may have for teacher specific programs.

Thank you!

Seeing the World in Many Layers,

Cindy Murphy Kelley  
Executive Director  
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952.746.2290

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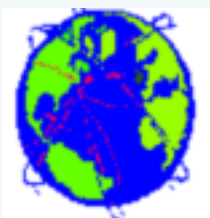
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### Volunteer News

Summer is around the corner and that means it's hosting time! This summer ISE is pleased to bring teenagers from Spain, France, Germany, Taiwan and China to the U.S. We need your help finding host families! Hosting a student from another country is the next best thing to going there! There are many benefits to volunteering as a host family: gain insights into the guest's culture and language; establish a living, personal connection to another country; receive \$100 discounts or rebates for travel on ISE programs. See and download our new application materials on our website: [www.isemn.org](http://www.isemn.org) or contact Kristi Mueller at [kristi@isemn.org](mailto:kristi@isemn.org) for more information.



# Inspiring Students of the World: A Tribute to Kathleen Bedner

By: Deak Ball (Anchorage School District)

I attended my first ISE Teacher Workshop a few weeks back. I have traveled with students on several occasions, but the upcoming trip to France this summer is my first with Intercultural Student Experiences. Several teachers within the Anchorage School District have traveled with ISE and had always recommended the organization highly to me. As a matter of fact, two teachers accompanied me to the training, one going to France and the other to Peru. We shared with each other both during and after the conference how much we had enjoyed our time as we interacted with the ISE staff and other traveling teachers. On Saturday evening during dinner, my name was the first one called for a door prize. I do not recall ever having won something at such an event. I sat down and reflected upon the fact that within that room, were many years of experiences by seasoned educators and ISE employees. I got the sense that we could have been there all night long if everyone had taken the opportunity to share a story of an experience had on a trip with students. I distinctly remember thinking, "I now understand what Kathleen was talking about!"

I am referring to my dear colleague, Kathleen Bedner, who tragically suffered a terminal illness soon after she returned from her last trip to France, this one with a home stay in Bordeaux. Other trips had taken her and her students to the north and south of France, a country whose people, culture, and language she sincerely loved. Kathleen was passionate about her teaching and the kids knew it because it was evident in her preparation and everything she had to offer them. When speaking of her travel plans, she would espouse the benefits of traveling with ISE in particular. She promoted the family stay component and also boasted of the quality of the ISE staff with whom she had worked so closely in planning her trips. In fact, she simply would not consider making use of the services of another organization.



As I looked around the room that evening and enjoyed the experiences shared by those individuals who stood up, it became clear to me that each comment shared something in common. They were all based upon providing opportunities for our students to fall in love with not just language, but with the culture of their host families with whom so many had developed long lasting relationships. Several had become teachers because of their rewarding experiences. I kept thinking about Kathleen and her trip experiences she had shared with her colleagues. I get it now; I understand her unwavering commitment to the ISE FAMILY and she will be often present in my thoughts as I lead this next group to France this summer.

Madame Kathleen Bedner stands proudly left of her students in this photo taken on her last ISE trip to Bordeaux, France in March of 2008. Senior Heidi Robuck directly center graciously provided this photo.

## 2009 ISE Alumnus Scholarship



Congratulations to Christine Milgie, 2009 Recipient of the \$2000 ISE Alumnus Scholarship! This scholarship is awarded annually to a student who traveled as a junior on an ISE program and intends to continue foreign language study in college. Christine was nominated by her teacher Rebecca Riggs at International Academy in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

There were 9 outstanding candidates and the committee recognized that Christine represents all that we look for in Alumnus Scholarship recipients including academic achievement, leadership in and out of school, continuing study of foreign language, and clear impact of an ISE program.

After Christine received her award letter, she sent ISE staff the following:

*Thank you so much for giving students like me the opportunity to have life changing experiences through the wonderful trips that you offer! I am so grateful to have had two amazing, unforgettable, and life changing experiences through the ISE. Thank you so much for selecting me for your very generous ISE Alumnus Scholarship! I want you to know that this is a great honor for me, and that I will use this scholarship to get closer to achieving my dream of becoming a Spanish teacher.*

*Sincerely,  
Christine Milgie*

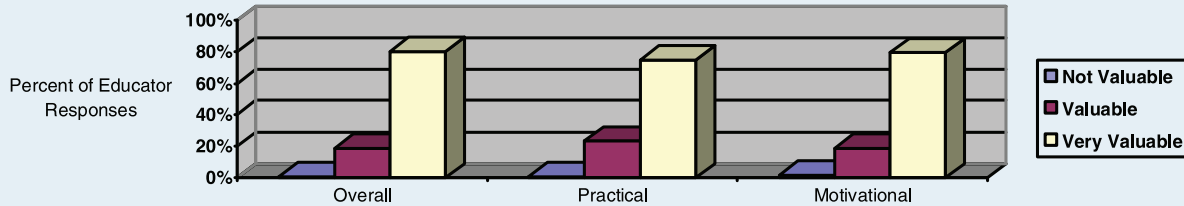
Christine plans to go to Oakland University in Rochester, MI or the University of MI, Dearborn. ISE will provide Christine with a \$2000 scholarship payable to the university in which she will enroll.

We thank all the nominating teachers and we wish success to all the students impacted by their ISE experience! Bravo!

# Meeting our Mission

Thanks to all of you who helped to make this year's Teacher Workshop a success! Through your feedback, it is clear how much you value the opportunity to come together at the annual workshop. Our mission includes providing opportunities to learn from and share information among educators to lead programs that emphasize language immersion and cross-cultural exchange. We are pleased to see that we continue to meet this aspect of our mission! The charts below represent some of the responses from the evaluations that participants of the workshop completed on SurveyMonkey. At this writing, there were 112 respondents to the evaluation. Almost 200 educators and leaders attended!

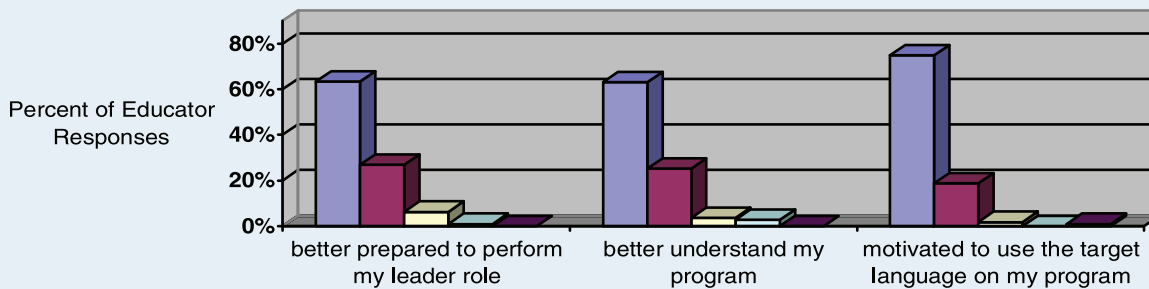
**Value of Teacher Workshop**



The chart below shows clear and strong agreement from participants of the workshop who felt better prepared to lead their program, with better understanding of their program and more motivation to use the target language on their program after the workshop. Bravo!

**Agreement regarding impact of the Teacher Workshop**

■ 5 (strongest agreement) ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 (least agreement)



## Thank You Financial Aid Fund Donors!

ISE staff wishes to express significant gratitude to the following donors who contributed to our student financial aid fund this year. Donor gifts expand the ISE funded pool of aid made available each year. Financial aid provides the opportunity for low income students to experience ISE educational travel programs. Without this support, these students would be unable to experience our programs. This year's financial aid supports students in spring and summer 2009 programs. Your gifts are much appreciated!

- Marie-Claude David
- Joan Kanavich
- Cindy Murphy Kelley
- Dennis Meredith
- Barbara Richardson
- Kenneth Zapp

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the ISE financial aid fund, please go to the DONATE button on our web site or call Cindy Kelley at 952.746.2290.

## Classroom Tidbits SCOLA Partnering with ISE!

What is SCOLA? SCOLA is a nonprofit educational organization that receives and re-transmits television programming from around the world in native languages. SCOLA also provides other language learning content via this website. Universities, colleges, K-12 schools, cable systems, government language schools and individuals use SCOLA content for current news, language study and cultural enhancement. SCOLA content is available via satellite, the Internet and cable providers.

As a benefit of our partnership, SCOLA is providing you, as ISE stakeholders, free access to their content. You can access an enormous amount of material that you can use in your classroom or for your own continuing education. Use the following Username and Password to log in at [www.scola.org](http://www.scola.org) from April 15 through June 15 2009:

Username: isemn  
Password: scola





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## ISE Best Letter Award Winners

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**1st place \$150, 2nd place \$100, 3rd place \$75**

### *Spanish*

1st Faith Taylor

Ann Arbor Community HS, Teacher: Laurel Landrum

2nd Chris Zukauckas

Rochester Adams HS, Teacher: Joe Ciluffo

3rd Merissa Hoffman

Parkway South HS, Teacher: Jeanette White

### *French*

1st Sara Kern

Kirkwood HS, Teacher: Cindy Koehler

2nd Rachel Johnston

Mansfield HS, Teacher: Gerard Benoit

3rd Meredith Barrett

LaSalle HS, Teacher: Annette Hallaux

### *German*

1st Vasian Markollari

Ladue Horton Watkins HS, Teacher: Debbie Lund

2nd Ashley Rando

Northwest HS, Teacher: Kim Bowen

3rd Brian Behrens

Ladue Horton Watkins HS, Teacher: Debbie Lund