

Intercultural Student Experiences



Cindy Murphy Kelley, Executive Director

Points of interest:

- 2010 Audit Highlights
- Open House Highlights
- Family Stay Coordinator Training in Germany
- 2010 Student Evaluation Results
- 2010 Language Matters Award recipients
- USHP in Hilton Head

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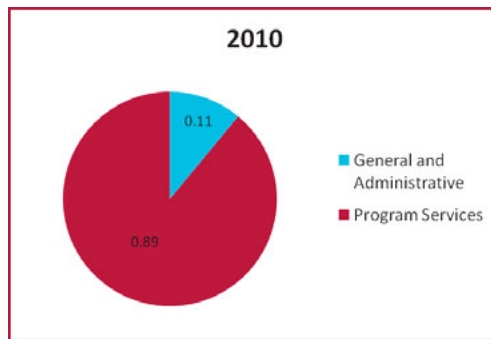
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We have much to share with you in this issue. Despite a challenged U.S. economy, our student enrollment has picked up this year over last year. We find parents are more cautious about spending but still very committed to giving their children opportunities for language immersion and cultural competency building. Our program to China (after a slow start) is moving forward this summer. Our custom programs continue to grow as teachers find ways to focus on their specific interests and work hard to keep costs down for students. Finally, our Morocco Teacher Educator Program for summer filled quickly and we are looking at expanding this program to other countries.

Our audit for the year ending August 31, 2010 is complete. Our financials reveal \$5,625,733 in revenue and \$6,036,871 in expense. ISE served 1,657 students and 230 teachers in our Cultural Immersion Abroad Program (CIAP). We also served 281 students from overseas in our U.S. Hosting Program (USHP). The pie chart on this page shows our administrative costs as compared

to our program services costs.

Like many other nonprofits, ISE suffered an operations loss due to low program enrollment as a result of the struggling U.S. economy. Fortunately, excellent stewardship of our financial resources over many years allows for ISE reserves to cover this loss and protect us against any future losses. ISE has a history of contingency planning. This ap-



Percentage of income spent on administration and programs in 2010. Percentages from the ISE 2010 audit performed by Eide Bailly.

proach protects ISE, protects funds given by parents for their children’s programs, and ensures that our pricing remains reasonable and our programs remain attainable by students. Despite a less than optimistic year-end financial result, we continue our commitment to offering annual financial aid so that low income students can also experience a life changing program abroad with ISE.

In September 2010, we began implementation of our three year strategic plan. As many of you know, ISE has entered into an Alliance partnership with Global Citizens Network (GCN). Our new strategic plan incorporates goals that support both ISE and GCN. Our four strategic goals are:

1. Grow the network of stakeholders committed to the success of GCN and ISE programs and sites.
2. Increase the number of people with intercultural awareness and competence around the world in a financially sustainable way.
3. Create new/refined models for intercultural learning and international development partnerships.
4. Achieve national and local recognition for advancing intercultural learning and international development through synergistic partnerships.

I welcome the opportunity to share additional detail about our strategic plan or our audit results. You can reach me by phone or by email (cindy@isemn.org) with any questions or comments.

Seeing the World in Many Layers,

Cindy Murphy Kelley

GCN-ISE Executive Director



Erin McGillivray,
Resource Development
Coordinator

“Being engaged with GCN-ISE has inspired me to reflect on authentic partnerships and the connections between local and global engagement.”

**Karen Brown,
GCN-ISE
Board Chair**

GCN/ISE Open House Highlights!

To mark the first anniversary of the GCN-ISE alliance, we hosted an open house at our new shared international headquarters in Minneapolis on Oct. 14, 2010. Thank you to those of you who joined us; we were thrilled with the constant flow of people!

The theme was *A Journey Through Our New World* and the evening included an interactive office tour, cuisine from various GCN & ISE travel destinations, and even henna painting offered by a local Somali artist. We were thankful for all of the people who shared their experiences and stories during the interactive tour.

Guests also learned more about one of the shared GCN-ISE alliance values: modeling of environmentally sustainable practices. For example, much of the new office space and furniture was built with recycled materials, repurposed products, and/or designed and produced locally. Other highlights included the pictures and stories that kids created during the event illustrating what it means to be a global citizen. Guests learned about ISE’s U.S. Hosting Program and the value of

the home stay experience in our kitchen; a place where many memories are formed during a cultural immersion experience. One of our meeting rooms provided a space where attendees received information about ISE’s Educator Exploration opportunities in Mexico and Morocco.

It was a great mix of volunteers, program participants, teachers, staff, board, community partners, and new stakeholders. Guests met founders of both GCN & ISE, adult participants learned from youth participants, ISE teachers exchanged stories with GCN travelers and we were all reminded that we can do more together than we can do alone. These conversations took place with the backdrop of our unique full-wall Peters Projection Map. The Peters Projection Map is a flat map that accurately shows area and position of countries and continents in relation to each other by reducing the distortion inherent in the curved depiction on a globe. To date, the GCN-ISE office houses the largest Peters Projection Map ever produced.

That night, Karen Brown, GCN-ISE Board Chair shared this sentiment with me: “Being engaged with GCN-ISE has inspired me to reflect on authentic partnerships and the connections between local and global engagement.”

More inspiration from the evening is expressed in the following quotes from two more Open House guests:

“I can continue to be a global citizen by learning another language.”

“Travel inspires me to be a better person.”

All in all, it was a wonderful evening that celebrated the important role we all play in increasing cross-cultural understanding and global cooperation. If you’re in the area, please feel free to stop by for a visit!

Erin McGillivray,

Resource Development
Coordinator



GCN-ISE Board member,
Wayne Wilson, in front of the
Peter’s Projection Map

Connecting with Family Stay Coordinators in Germany

In November 2010, I had a chance to meet many of ISE's German Family Stay Coordinators. After three years of working together, it was nice to meet the people who work as volunteers to find host families for our students who go on Germany programs! Out of 17 coordinators, 13 met in Dresden for a one-day workshop, along with Katharina Schirg, Tanya Gajewski and me.

The workshop focused on updating coordinators on ISE policies, the exchange of ideas between coordinators, as well as expansion of the US Hosting Program to include students from more areas of Germany.

Four ISE Family Stay Coordinators have placed American students with German families for over three dec-

ades and received special recognition at the workshop: **Hedda Olbrich** from Ulm (since 1975), **Christa Stanton** from Bensheim (since 1976) **Bernd Requardt** from Münsingen (since 1978) and **Werner Balmert** (1975-2008) from Koblenz. Newer coordinators had a chance to hear some of the veterans' favorite hosting stories and get tips on how they find host families.

After the workshop, we stretched our legs on a walking tour of Dresden's *Neustadt* (New City). It was fascinating to stroll the streets where children's author Erich Kästner grew up and hear about how the "new" city was rebuilt after the fire of 1685. Looking over the Elbe River from

the Japanisches Palais, we caught a beautiful panorama from the Yenidze (a former cigarette factory built to resemble a mosque) to the Semperoper, Dresden's world-famous opera house. Evening entertainment included an American jazz show, which was part of *Jazztage*, the city's jazz festival.

As we were about to fly out of Berlin, I spotted a woman in the airport whom I recognized as a German exchange student and close friend of mine from high school in 1989. We hadn't laid eyes on each other in almost 20 years and I recognized her as if it had been a blink. A lot of wild exclaiming, hugs and tears ensued, as well as an exchange of e-mail addresses. What a poignant end to a fruitful workshop on lasting intercultural friendship!

Hoping that you and your students make lasting connections with your hosting communities,

Jana Velo,
Austria, Germany,
US Hosting Coordinator



ISE German Family Stay coordinators with Jana Velo and Tanya Gajewski



Jana Velo and former exchange student Isabell

Congratulations Language Matters Award Recipients!

It has been such an honor for ISE staff to attend the world language association conferences this year and to present the ISE Language Matters Awards. We met and sometimes reunited with outstanding teachers who represent the best of language and culture immersion education in the U.S.

AATF—**Megan Iranpour (\$500)**

AATG—**Peg Meyers (\$500)**

AATSP—**Sean Hill (\$500)**

IA-IWLA —**Dr. Elizabeth Zwanziger (\$250)**

CO-CCFLT—**Andrea Leslie (\$250)**

WAFLT (WA) —**Connie Gronenthal (\$250)**

WAFLT (WI) —**Lisa Hendrickson (\$250)**

¡FELICIDADES! GRATULIERE! FÉLICITATIONS!

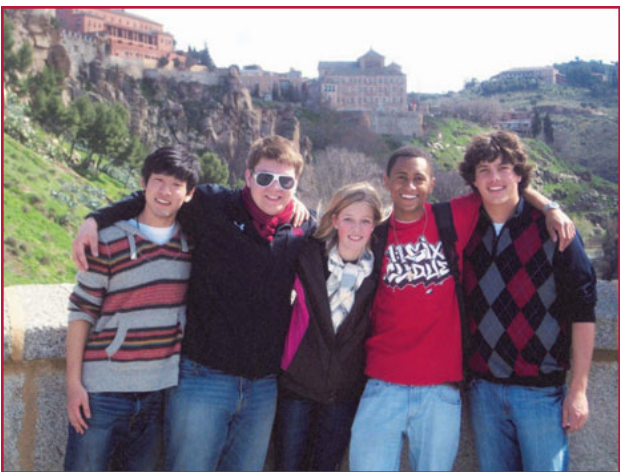
Changing Lives and Inspiring Students



ISE Photo Contest 1st Place Winner \$150
David Pauley, Fruita Monument HS, Fruita, CO



ISE Photo Contest 2nd Place Winner \$100
John Gingerich, Hastings HS, Prescott, WI



ISE Photo Contest 3rd Place Winner \$50
Samantha Kaeter, Foley HS, Rice, MN

Program Evaluation Results

We have been reviewing the results of 2010 program participant evaluations and are excited to report the results!

- 96% of students who responded to evaluations this year said that their language skills improved by going on their program.
- 90% of students said that their family stay experience was good to excellent.
- 98.5% of students reported that the program as a whole was good to excellent.
- 99% of students said that they were glad that they went on the program.
- 99% of students said that their preparation was good or excellent before they went abroad.
- 87% of students reported that they used the target language abroad more than 50% of the time.
- 93.5% of students said that their leader used the target language abroad more than 50% of the time.

Congratulations to Emily Sharick from St. John's, MI. She won the \$150 random drawing for those who completed an evaluation. Remind your students to fill out their evaluations and they could win in 2011!

Congratulations to students and their teachers and leaders for making the most of their time abroad. You are all an inspiration!

Photo Contest

As you can see by our photo contest winners on the left, we had a tough job choosing the winners this year! Program participants clearly had some incredible experiences and captured many of them in photos. We posted the submissions for the contest on our Facebook page. If you haven't "fanned" us yet; look for us on Facebook.com at ISE—*Intercultural Student Experiences* and check out the photos and the latest ISE buzz.

Most Valuable Travelers

Students who win the \$250 cash prize for this award are nominated by their group leaders. Winners are selected in a random drawing from all the students nominated.

Winners for exemplary use of target language on the program:

Emily Nalbone —France
Katie Splean —Germany
Danielle Brooke —Mexico
James Jagger —Panama
Alexander Seling —Spain

Winners for outstanding leadership on the program:

Austin Frank —France
Amanda Smith —Germany
Cody Groen —Mexico
Rachel Nagel —Panama
Tyler Janson —Spain

Congratulations!

Tanya Gajewski,

Director of Education

Hilton Head, SC U.S. Hosting Program Community—Welcome!

Bringing Spain Home

Many of us think of educational travel *abroad* as the way to equip our students with broader world views and cultural awareness.

We sometimes forget that it is possible to find opportunities for cross-cultural understanding in our own back yards. It happened to some families on Hilton Head Island, SC this past summer when they opened their homes and hearts to young students from Spain.

Thanks to ISE and the Interway program in Spain, ten students from Madrid and Barcelona are now a treasured part of our community.

Here are a few examples of what our host families had to say:

The Fisher family, Hilton Head Island:

"We had a very positive experience hosting Roberto. We want to ensure that our son, Carsten, is exposed to as many experiences and cultures as possible. Carsten, being an only child, also relished the idea of "a brother" for the summer.

We learned a great deal from Roberto...how much we have in common and also how our cultures differ. He fit in very well with our family dynamics. He was polite, helpful, and very sociable. We would strongly consider sending Carsten on a similar program to Spain!

We would certainly partici-

pate in this program again and highly recommend the ISE U.S. Hosting Program!"

The Perez family, Hilton Head Island:

"The Summer of 2010 was special. A beautiful young Spanish girl named Pilar entered our lives and things were never the same.

Pilar's quiet elegance, loving heart and delightful sense of humor brought our family nothing but joy!

Our two children adored Pilar and as "Pili's" American parents we loved her as much as our own.

We experienced Hilton Head Island as never before - through the eyes of Pilar and her wonderful Spanish friends.



Mary Tuchscherer, U.S. Hosting Program Coordinator and visiting Spanish students on Hilton Head Island, SC

We had taken so much for granted until we took the opportunity to open our hearts and home to this lovely young woman.

THANK YOU, PILAR. WE LOVE YOU!!!"

Marion Moore, Hilton Head Island:

"Having been an exchange student myself many years ago, and having encour-

aged my children to take part in exchange programs when they were in their teens, it was not a difficult decision to make to offer my home to a Spanish student this past summer. It was not the perfect situation, since there would be no other teens in the home and I live alone, but I reasoned that for just a week we ought to be able to survive! As it turned out, the young woman assigned to my home had a close friend in the group, who had also been lodged in a household with no other teens, so we teamed up and often took the two girls out together. In addition, my pre-teen granddaughter arrived later during that week, and my

Spanish guest was very happy to spend time with her. She was also very open with me - she kept comparing me to her grandmother(!) - and very keen to see as much as possible of life in this country. She showed interest in everything she saw and did, and the visit was a very

positive experience for all of us. We remain in touch via Face book and chat on -line occasionally. I would be very happy to remain involved in the ISE U.S. Hosting Program."

Submitted by:

Mary Tuchscherer,
USHP Local Coordinator



Photo of Marion Moore and Ariadna and Gemma USHP, Hilton Head 2010

"We experienced Hilton Head Island as never before - through the eyes of Pilar and her wonderful Spanish friends."

- Perez family, 2010



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