

Executive Director Notes



Hello from all of us at ISE. This edition of our newsletter is bigger than usual because we have much to share with you. ISE is pleased to

announce our new

mission: **to inspire and educate students of the world through experiential learning across cultures.** Our new mission reflects our commitment to all those who consider themselves students of the world; teachers, students, parents and others. You may have also noticed that this newsletter reveals the new **ISE logo**. I would like to thank the ISE staff for their very hard work in selecting the new logo and the ISE board as they spent much time in dialogue before voting to accept the new ISE mission.

The new ISE website will be up January 1, 2009. The website has been redesigned to allow for more teacher, student and parent interaction thereby making information easily available to all interested stakeholders. We at ISE continue to integrate green practices into our workday. One result is a website we designed to reduce paper con-

sumption. Program applications, payment by credit card, and gifts to our scholarship fund can all be done on line. Additionally, you will find information about the ISE staff, our board of directors, and new and emerging programs such as opportunities to travel to China and Peru or host Chinese students in the U.S. next summer.

This newsletter contains information outlining ISE accomplishments for the year ending August 31, 2008. I hope you will take some time to review how we spent our precious financial resources (see percentage spent on program versus percentage spent on administration), numbers of students served, teacher awards provided, and funds allocated for student financial aid.

I would like to specifically thank world language teachers Mary Condon, Valerie Neri, Heather Klug, Chandre Hanke, Karolyn Busacker and Emily Allen for their time and energy over the past year. These teachers from the Northwest Suburban Integration School District in the Minneapolis metropolitan area were members of an ISE task force that met six times over the past year. The work of the task force focused on developing two pilot programs for schools serving students enrolled in International Baccalaureate

programs. Schools interested in customized programs are welcome to call me.

Finally, I would be re-miss if I did not mention the significant economic challenges facing many Americans today and the fear many of us have about spending. As a nonprofit organization, ISE is committed to providing excellent service for all those who experience our programs. Additionally, our board of directors is sensitive and aware that price is a significant concern to many families who choose ISE. We are committed to keeping our prices moderate and increasing our student financial aid. We believe this strategy is important to ensure that many students, teachers and others have the opportunity to experience cultural immersion despite the challenges of current times.

Have a happy and joyful holiday season. Please feel free to call or email me if you have thoughts, ideas, or any questions. Thank you for your interest and support of our work.

Seeing the World in Many Layers,

Cindy Murphy Kelley
Executive Director
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952.746.2290

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Volunteer News

Volunteers are often the heart blood of nonprofit organizations. Without them, the vital mission that drives ISE cannot be realized.

The many volunteers who serve ISE are comprised of dedicated, hardworking individuals: **teachers** who give countless hours of their own time to prepare and lead students abroad; **host families** here and abroad that welcome students; **parents** who involve themselves in many kinds of fundraising activities; caring **individuals from the community** who serve on the ISE Financial Aid Committee, the Teacher Advisory Committee and the IB Task Force. Interested in volunteering? Call Keely at 800.892.0022.

From the Desk of the Airline Coordinator

Debby Bluem has been the official airline coordinator at ISE for over 10 years and has been a travel agent since 1981! We thought it would be a great addition to the ISE newsletter to hear from Debby about FAQs. We hope you enjoy this new feature!



All ISE air is booked via group air contracts. A word about group air contracts:

Group air contracts carry unique conditions that are vastly different from most published fare tickets you may purchase directly from an airline. Group contracts allow space to be held without passenger names or immediate payment, giving greater flexibility for groups to change enrollments as necessary without the strict instant purchase, no changes, no refunds policy of most published fare tickets. The base price of the ticket is guaranteed, but the taxes and other surcharges levied by the airline such as fuel, are subject to change until tickets are actually purchased. Fees for baggage, meals, beverages, special seat assignments, etc. may be charged separately by the airline. Contract stipulations generally do not allow travel on any "partner" or "code-share" airlines. Only planes owned and operated by the contracting carrier and their employees may be used for travel. There are few exceptions to this rule. There may also be restrictions on dates, length of stay, routing, stopovers, changes, etc.

Once purchased, group tickets are generally non-refundable and are only valid for the original dates and routing shown on the ticket. No name changes or spelling corrections are allowed. If any or all of the ticket is not used, there is no refund nor can the unused value of the ticket be applied toward another ticket. These inflexible tickets are glibly referred to as "use it or lose it" by the airlines.

Some airlines do allow changes to tickets after they have been issued, but they will be subject to much higher penalties and additional restrictions often apply. Once travel has begun, ticket changes can be extremely costly and restrictive if changes are allowed at all.

Some group contracts allow for a partial refund of unused tickets or, for a fee, they may allow the value of the ticket to be applied toward the purchase of another ticket by the same passenger.

Many airlines do not offer advance seat assignments on group reservations. Not everyone in a group may be seated together. Specific seat assignments may not be requested or guaranteed.

If you have questions about this quarter's FAQs or have suggestions for future FAQs feel free to email me: debby@isemn.org

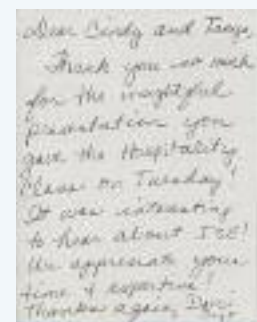
Eagan HS Visits ISE

On November 11, 2008 Darci Cyr brought her Eagan High School Hospitality Management class to ISE. They wanted to come and visit us and hear about running an "international non-profit enterprise." We addressed a LOT of questions including:

- How did the nonprofit get started?
- What does your nonprofit do?
- What is the ISE target market?
- How do we acquire new business?
- How do we decide where would be good places for students to travel?
- How do gas prices and inflation affect our nonprofit?
- How do we price our programs?
- What would we recommend for someone to consider when going into the travel and tourism business?
- What job skills would someone need to have a job like ours?
- What do we see as up and coming jobs in this line of business?
- What are the pros and cons of jobs in the travel and tourism business?
- What managerial qualities are key to success?
- Who is our competition and how do we stay competitive?
- What are our views on sustainability/eco-tourism?
- How has the nonprofit changed in the last 20 years?

They had excellent questions and we had a great time addressing them. We want to recognize and celebrate the motivation and ambition of these future global business leaders!

Good Luck Eagan High School Hospitality Class!

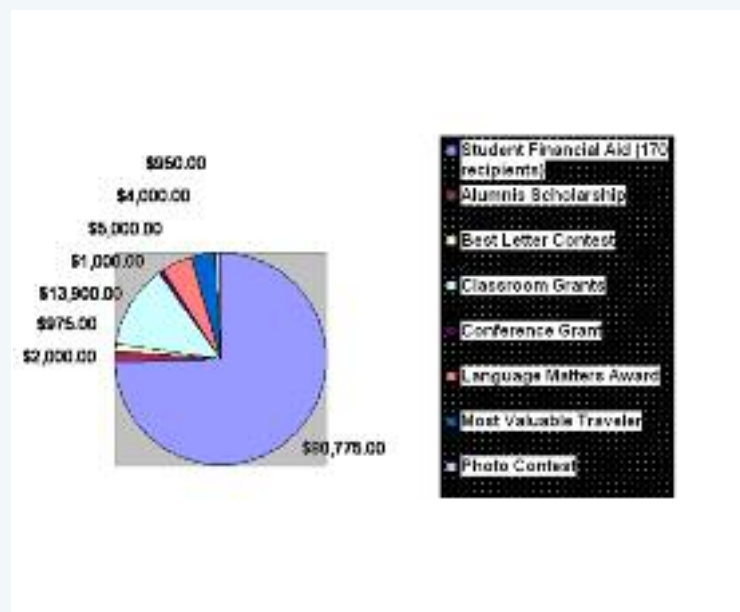


Mission Watch

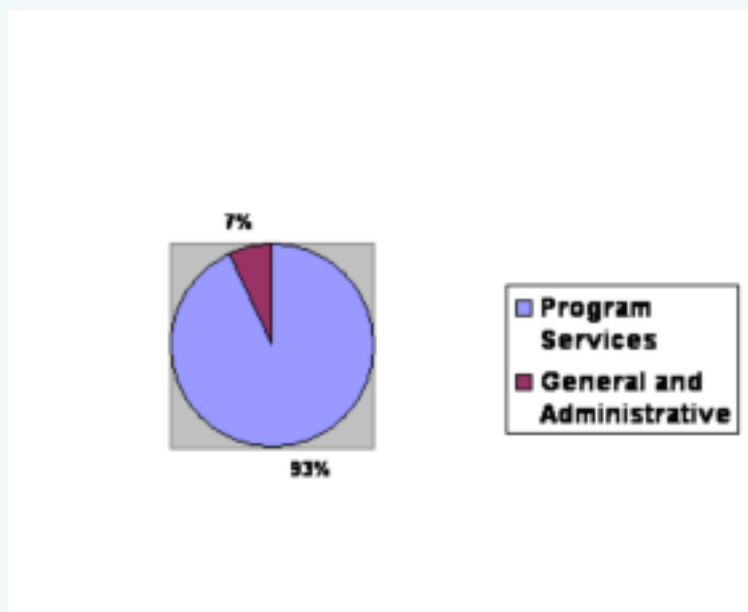
Meeting our Mission:

In fiscal year 2008, ISE provided our students and teachers \$108,600 in financial aid, grants and awards. 2,680 students and 160 teachers and adult participants experienced our Cultural Immersion Abroad Programs. In addition, we had 190 students from abroad participate in our US Hosting Program. ISE continues to prioritize accessibility to our immersion programs and recognition of excellence for our foreign language teachers. We are honored to work with dedicated and committed students of the world!

Chart of Financial Aid, Grants & Awards



Percentages of Expense in Program and Supporting Services



2008 Language Matters Awards

This year ISE recognized several teachers who have demonstrated enthusiasm and great skill in the art of supporting students to communicate in the target language and providing immersion experiences for students.

2008 Recipients:

AATG

Stephanie Duisberg of Amphitheater High School, Tucson, AZ

WI-WAFLT

Cathy Etheridge of Appleton East High School, Appleton, WI

CO-WAFLT

Chikako Misener of Bothell High School, Bothell, WA

MA-MaFLA

Lauren Izzicupo of Wilmington Middle School, Wilmington, MA

KSWLA

Kristi Pishko of Andover Central High School, Andover, KS



Cathy Etheridge & Tanya Gajewski at WAFLT

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for my selection as the Wisconsin recipient of the ISE Language Matters Award. It has been a privilege for me to work with ISE for 20 years as I took my first student group with you in 1987. The opportunity for students to visit the places they are studying, experience the culture, and live with families is priceless and has changed many students' lives."

- Cathy Etheridge

Introducing ISE Regional Representatives!



From left to right: Cathy Loncore, Great Lakes (at MiWLA); Jane Ditewig, Pacific Northwest (with Eva Rederick at WA-WAFLT); Mary Tuchscherer, Southeast (at FLANC).

The hiring of Regional Representatives is a new endeavor for ISE. We decided that to share the mission and vision of ISE, we wanted to have individuals who share our excitement about programs abroad spread the word in new communities. All three representatives have long standing relationships with ISE. Mary and Jane have traveled with ISE since 1992. Cathy has traveled with us since 1994. Both Mary and Cathy are now retired from teaching Spanish and are thrilled to continue to carry on the work of inspiring students of the world. Jane has traveled with ISE since 1992 and is still teaching French in Longview, WA. Jane will be going again with ISE this summer as a staff guide. All three Regional Representatives have been very active in our US Hosting Program and remain committed to helping us place students in families here at home. Feel free to contact them if you are in their region and want to have them meet with a new teacher or school you think would be a great fit for ISE!

cathy@isemn.org
mary@isemn.org
jane@isemn.org

A Message from Eva



As I look back on more than 23 years of service to the foreign language teacher community, I do so with much gratitude. It has been a great pleasure to work for and with all of you. As I move on to the adventures of tomorrow – bicycling the length of the Danube, exploring new travel destinations with my husband and spending much more time with my grandchildren – I want to say THANK YOU to all of you for having been such a wonderful part of my life.

Celebrating Staff



This year ISE celebrates the gifts of three dedicated individuals: Edie Green, Dennis Meredith, and Eva Rederick. Edie resigned her position last year as Executive Director, as you all know. For the year of transition with our new Executive Director, Cindy Kelley, Edie has volunteered on the ISE Board of Directors. As planned, in November 2008, Edie resigned from the ISE Board of Directors. Her commitment has been unyielding and her contributions to ISE and everyone who has worked with her are innumerable.

Staff and colleagues recently celebrated the contributions of Dennis Meredith and Eva Rederick at their retirement parties and we thought we'd share some photographs of the festivities. We appreciate that all of you are grateful and inspired by all the skills and energy they have committed to ISE over the years.



New Staff Update

The Director of Education: Tanya Gajewski, 5 months on the job!

Since I started in July, it has been a fun and rewarding time of growth and adjustment for me. I have joined the lead directors in managing some of the administrative functions of ISE; I've hired three fabulous ISE representatives from various regions of the US (see page 4 for more on that); completed two newsletters, finished production on the new study units; begun the preparations for Teacher Workshop in January; participated in fall conferences where I met some of you; and have taken the lead on a "green revolution" to work with staff in fostering a more paperless office. I'm sure that many of you have responded to your "Evites" to the Teacher Workshop by now. This is an example of one way we are reducing our impact on the environment. It has been a busy but very rewarding start. ISE has the best staff and I am honored to join them in serving educators and students.



From left to right: Tanya, Anca, Jana & Keely

Note from the newest staff member: Anca Coleman, French Coordinator

I am happy to join the ISE Team. The educational environment, goals, hopes and investment in educators give me a sense of purpose that cannot compete with anything else. As Native American wisdom would say, "we are borrowing the Earth from our children" and if the world belongs to future generations, I believe teachers have a key role in building the "beautiful minds" of our inheritors. I feel that the purpose of ISE is to add a brick to the house of education and I am proud to be part of this organization. ISE staff, volunteers and educators give students the opportunity for an incredible experience in cultural exchange. Personally, the experience of being an Erasmus scholar in Bordeaux has not only changed my perspective on life but also the way I live my life. During my studies in France I made invaluable lifetime friendships. The education that I received in France, and the culture and language helped me become a better, more understanding human being and a more knowledgeable, bilingual professional. I truly hope to be able to help other students to have the same experience. I have a love for the French language and everything that relates to France and I look forward to working with many of you in helping your students discover the amazing country and people of France and the French language.

Almost at the one year mark for Jana Stow, German Coordinator

In June, I traveled for a week with an ISE 21-day program to experience a self-guided itinerary in living color. Seeing the students make the transition from apprehension into confidence with German was *wunderbar!* I now have an even greater respect for the teachers who are dedicated to creating this incredible educational opportunity for their students. This fall, I met many Minnesota and Wisconsin German teachers at the MCTLC and WAFLT conferences, and was happy to find many ISE fans among the attendees! I look forward to meeting more of you at the Teacher Workshop in January!

10 months at ISE and still learning new things! Keely Lind, Office Coordinator

Many of you have probably already spoken with me without even knowing it. Among the many things I do, I have the opportunity to speak to all of you as I manage the main phone lines at ISE. Throughout my time at ISE, I have learned many things from the staff, volunteers and teachers. My Bachelor's degree in Business Administration has helped me develop the basic tools to work in an office environment, but ISE has taught me a great deal about cultures different than my own. I love working with the staff here at ISE because they hold so much valuable information about the world which I have never known. I can truly say they have opened my eyes to the world in which I live, which is something I know they have done for many others. I am grateful and excited to work in a place with such global awareness and commitment.

Classroom Tidbits

Fun with Painting Masterpieces

This activity combines grammar and culture! It's a great way to introduce art to your students! Using PowerPoint slides, students create bubble captions to illustrate specific grammatical concepts. For example, captions that employ direct / indirect commands or the interrogative. The teacher may assign a given number of famous masterpieces and see what students create! It is interesting to see how many different phrases come out of the same painting!



ISE Board Members

Cathy Connett, Acting Board Chair
Joan Johnson, Secretary
Robert Reed, Treasurer
B.J. Anderson
Victor Barela
Thomas Goodman
Edie Green
Margaret Lulic
Cindy Murphy Kelley, Executive Director

ISE Staff

Tanya Gajewski, Director of Education
Katharina Halverson, Director of Operations
Tracy Tomberlin, Costa Rica & Mexico
Anca Coleman, France
Holly Kuisle, France & Quebec
Jana Stow, Germany
Jennifer Beattie-Cramer, Peru
Kristi Mueller, Spain
Courtney Faragher, Registrar
Debby Bluem, Airline Coordinator
Keely Lind, Office Coordinator



1st place \$150
Miranda Metheny
Parkway West HS
Ballwin, MO
Teacher: Rose Altadonna
Program: Costa Rica, summer



2nd place \$100
Amanda Kohls
Renville County West HS
Renville, MN
Teacher: Kathleen Froland
Program: Mexico, spring



3rd place \$50
Ali Gulick
Eagle Valley HS
Gypsum, CO
Teacher: Gretchen Gerleman
Program: Costa Rica, spring

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