

## Unforgettable New Beginnings in South Korea!

By Isabelle Brucellaria, ASSE Exchange Student (New Smyrna Beach, Florida USA) spending her exchange year in Daegu, South Korea.

Megan and I were welcomed warmly by our host mother upon our arrival in South Korea, on February 27th, after a 13 hour flight from our international gateway. Meeting her for the first time, we were relieved to see how enthusiastic she was about us becoming a part of her family; treating us as if we were natural family members, and making sure that we were as comfortable as possible. Our first night was great, and despite being tired from a long journey, we were still able to enjoy eating chicken with the family and learning more about each other.

Our first few days in Korea were labelled as our "honeymoon stage." We explored Daegu, visiting the street markets, downtown, and even the school that we would soon be attending. During these few days, our host mom taught us that humor and body language was the key to breaking any language barrier.

School started March 3rd—something extremely nerve-racking for me, considering I



ASSE Exchange Students Isabelle Brucellaria (New Smyrna Beach, Florida USA) and Megan Moreault (Donnacona, Quebec, Canada) along with Korean host mom Cleo Mi Kyung Kim explore Daegu, South Korea.

have only ever been homeschooled. Megan had her concerns as well, considering English wasn't her first language, and she only knew how to say "hello" in Korean. Upon our arrival to school, Megan and I were immediately thrown into class. We had barely even entered our new classroom before screaming could be heard from everywhere. While sitting at our desks, girls instantly crowded around us, introducing themselves, complimenting us, and asking for our numbers. It calmed down a little after several days had passed, but we still randomly get crowded around or have students from other classes come to ours to say hi or just sneak a glance. It was quite a big culture shock since we hadn't expected such big reactions from the students. Megan and I now have a collection of letters, drawings, and other small gifts from our classmates. They have all been so helpful and kind to us that I couldn't think of a better first experience attending school.

After a week of being in Korea, our host mom decided that it would be interesting for us to see what it was like attending a Korean church. I'm glad she took us because we have gained a lot of new opportunities from it! The Priest even greeted us himself and after mass invited us to have coffee with him in his office.

We've been honored with so many great experiences, varying from wearing hanboks and exploring Korea's history in Gyeongju, to relieving our stress at the Noraebang with friends after school. We have also been able to eat so many delicious foods, although I have to admit that some of them have made me scream from shock (for example: my host mom scooped an anchovy head out of my soup when I wasn't expecting it).

This has been the most memorable time of my life. Besides gaining the life-changing experience of living in a foreign country and learning a new language and culture. I have also gained a family that I know I will keep in my heart forever.

~ Isabelle



ASSE Exchange Students Megan Moreault (Donnacona, Quebec, Canada) and Isabelle Brucellaria (New Smyrna Beach, Florida USA) delight in the opportunity to wear a traditional Korean hanbok dress.

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### Editor's Box

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed your wonderful articles and photographs. Without you, there would not be any ASSE News! Tell us about yourself and you may possibly find yourself highlighted in the next newsletter or posted on the ASSE or World Heritage Facebook page. Pictures are encouraged to be sent by email. Let us know the fun things you are doing as a student, host family or Area Representative.

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Until next edition,  
Mary Loving ASSE News Editor

# Learning About Georgia USA

By Bob Comeau, World Heritage Area Representative (Georgia USA)



Left to Right: Yaryna Yakymets (FLEX Ukraine), World Heritage Area Representative Bob Comeau, Polina Vasyurenko (FLEX Ukraine), Martina 'Marti' Mereu (Italy), Karla Paaskesen (Denmark), World Heritage Area Representative Lane Clemmons, Letizia Casu (Italy), Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Segio Higalگو Lopez (FAO Spain), Sarah Reichert (Germany), Pikria Tsutskiridze (FLEX Georgia), World Heritage Area Coordinator Courtney Hendrix, Salome Akhaladze (FLEX Georgia), Georgia State Senator Harbin. (photo taken by Andrea Briscoe, the governor's photographer – photo used by permission)

World Heritage Exchange Students living in Georgia were treated to an event filled day while learning more about their host state! Sitting in the gallery of the House of Representatives, they listened to the Governor speak about tourism and movies in Georgia. The photo with Governor Nathan Deal and with Georgia State Senator Marty Harbin was a highlight. Governor Deal took time to learn about the students' home countries. He also explained

when his children were in school and they continue to keep in touch and even attended his exchange student's wedding.

A visit to the Court of Appeals followed the Capitol. The students met Chief Judge Sara Doyle who explained the court system and how things are decided in the Appeals Court.

Pikria Tsutskiridze (FLEX Georgia) said, "It was an honor to meet the Georgia governor, senators, judicial court attorney and judge. I learned a lot of things about the Georgia State Capitol building, how bills become laws and how the judicial system works."

The day ended with a visit to Georgia Tech including a visit to the McAuley Aquatic Center which hosted the U.S. Olympic diving and swimming teams prior to the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## Introducing ASSE Germany!

It is with great excitement and pride that we introduce our very own ASSE office in Hamburg, Germany!

Since its inception, exchange programs in Germany have provided exchange opportunities for over 175,000 participants. Together with its current partner organizations, iSt, Internationale Sprach-und Studien Reisen, GIVE and Team!, close to 25,000 students have spent a 'high school' year in America and Canada with ASSE. With its new office, ASSE is now able to offer its programs directly to qualified students and au pairs in Germany providing the same high quality and support as it has always done throughout the world.

The German team is made up of a multitude of Area Representatives all across

Germany, the majority of which are former ASSE High School students, and their parents, or EurAupair Au Pairs. They are all very passionate about their exchange abroad and eager to share their experiences with new students and au pairs.

Leading the team of area representatives are four full time staff members, who have not only worked for years in the field of student/au pair exchange, but also gained their own international experiences by living and working abroad.

Christiane Schumann, Svenja Liebhold, Lisa Ries and Reike Happel are looking forward to their new venture and providing German high school students and au pair with a World of Opportunities!



Lisa Ries, Christiane Schumann, Reike Happel and Svenja Liebhold make up ASSE Team Germany.

## Incredibly Lucky!

By Michael Gordier, ASSE Exchange Student (Brimley, Michigan USA) living with the Richter Family in Hamburg, Germany

Hello ASSE,

The past months have been absolutely fantastic. I've learned so much and feel fantastic every day, simply because I'm in Germany.

I feel incredibly lucky to be placed with my host family and setting. I don't think there could be a better fit for me, so a huge thank

song for a small performance (The A-Team by Ed Sheeran). It's not my favorite music but we've learnt the guitar together as a class. I'm amazed how a group of German students can sing and play an American song with ease.

In Michigan, I'm an ice hockey goaltender and my German host brother plays for the Crocodiles Hamburg Jugends!



Michael Gordier, ASSE Exchange Student (Brimley, Michigan USA) and his host family, Michael, Sabine and Andre exploring new places.

you to the representatives who helped get me here. I find that Langenhorn/Hamburg is becoming one of my favorite places I've ever visited. School is going well, but it's a little difficult at times and I have to constantly tell myself to stay engaged and thinking. I've been incredibly fortunate in that my family is constantly traveling to other countries and places. We've visited Spain, England, Poland and will be going to Denmark and touring some places in Germany in the future!

In America I'm in our school band as a tubist. My German school lacks a tuba but they have a fantastic music program/teacher. We've learned a lot about music theory and are currently working on a pop

I've been playing with the team since September and am so incredibly happy. I actually had day-dreams about coming to Germany and playing for a local team before I met my family. I've played in several games and am training 4-6 days a week. I am having fun every second of it!

My family has made it clear that they will give me the most authentic German experience they can. We've toured the city on multiple occasions and it's incredibly interesting. I've seen the most famous Hamburg landmarks and some more local attractions.

*Liebe Grüße von Deutschland,*  
**Michael**

## My Year in China

By Carey E. Key, ASSE Exchange Student (Alabaster, Alabama USA) enjoying an amazing year in China

In the spring 2016 ASSE and World Heritage newsletter, it was announced that Carey Key (Alabaster, Alabama USA) was the recipient of a 90% ASSE and World Heritage Outbound scholarship to China. An amazing year later, Carey describes her year in China!

Dear ASSE,

My time here has been amazing so far. I have learned and experienced so many different things. It is difficult to remember all of them.

I have made some lifelong friends and have done so many things I've never done before like snow skiing or performing for the schools foreign language festival.

I've tried new foods and learned so much about Chinese culture.

This experience has shown me how big the world truly is. How incredible exploring it and learning about it can be!

I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to explore our world, learn a new language and culture. I have come to love it

here in China and I can't wait to see what these next few months hold. I hope someday after high school that I can teach others about our world and how to communicate in another language. Thank you ASSE for making this experience possible.

*Sincerely,*  
**Carey**

ASSE Exchange Student Carey Key (Alabaster, Alabama USA) and host sister Lin made dumplings together.



# ASSE Photo Gallery

ASSE is very grateful to receive so many photos from around the ASSE and World Heritage world! Enjoy the following examples of all of the fun!



ASSE Exchange Students visited the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas USA during the weekend excursion that also included a visit to the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas USA.

Left to Right: Carson Coker, Erica Cotugno (Italy), Anara Mutalipova (FLEX Kazakhstan), Heather Coker, Cameron Coker, Pore Sertsri (Thailand), Alex Roger (France), Chingiz Kushkumbaev (FLEX Kazakhstan), Carter Coker



ASSE host father Jesse Ross (Cocoa Beach, Florida USA) was invited to the Tajik wedding of Shabnam, Jesse's host daughter Munisa's sister. In Tajikistan the girl's wedding is first and then the next week is the men's.

Left to Right: Shabnam, the bride, ASSE host dad Jesse Ross and host daughter Munisa Ahmedova (FLEX Tajikistan 2014-15). Jesse said, "It was one of the most amazing experiences!"



Left to Right: ASSE Exchange Students Tetyana Rubashevskaya (FLEX Ukraine) and Olesya Deyneka (FLEX Ukraine).

ASSE Area Representative, Linda McCann (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA) and students visited the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. Linda said, "We had a great time in Washington D.C. I love these trips with the students."

Tetyana expressed, "A year ago I could just dream about visiting the capital of the United States! But dreams always come true if you truly believe and work hard for your dreams! I will always remember those days in Washington! Days when a lot of my dreams came true!"



ASSE and World Heritage Area Representatives, Area Coordinators, Directors and FLEX, YES and CBYX students met in Austin, Texas USA to spend 2 days learning how to promote and support U.S. State Department sponsored grants program students. The FLEX, YES and CBYX students were the highlight of the meetings and informal discussions.

Left to Right: Ruzanna Yazhyan (FLEX Georgia), Leo Kern (CBYX Germany), Zeeshan Ahmad (YES Pakistan), Sofiya Bezpala (FLEX Ukraine), Muhammad 'Kiki' Rizqi (YES Indonesia), Nikita Sadok (FLEX Ukraine), Aigerim Nurseitova (FLEX Kazakhstan), Elenora Kyrbieva (FLEX Kyrgyzstan)



ASSE Area Representative Cindy Jackson, filling in the 'O' in North and ASSE Exchange Student Ani Ivanyan (FLEX Armenia), filling in the 'O' in Carolina found this photo op at the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, North Carolina USA as part of their fun day exploring and learning in the North Carolina capital city! They visited the legislative chambers at the North Carolina Capitol and also explored North Carolina Museum of History and the Museum of Natural Sciences.



ASSE Exchange Students Ana Milojevic (FLEX Serbia) and Anca Coanda (FLEX Romania) visited the Washington State Capitol in Olympia, Washington USA. The highlight of their visit was meeting with Washington State Representative Ed Orcutt.

Anca described her experience, "I was amazed by the great architecture of the buildings and the history behind it. It was such a great experience seeing all the great people of Washington State doing their best for the people of Washington. It was a lovely trip!"

Ana expressed, "The Washington State Capitol was truly amazing and beautiful, especially since we got the opportunity to learn about its history. We were fortunate enough to meet with Washington State Representative Orcutt, who was very welcoming and pleasant."



ASSE Exchange Students Shabrang Tolibshoeva (FLEX Tajikistan) and Paul Podbielski (CBYX Germany) volunteered with the Lundstrom Family at Feed My Starving Children in Grand Forks, North Dakota USA. Together, 147 volunteers packed 158 boxes of meals for children in over 70 countries. 93 children will be fed for 1 year on what was packed during their session.

\*FLEX – Future Leaders Exchange, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

\*CBYX – Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

\*YES – Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

# 2017-2018 Outbound Scholarship Winners!

We are very excited to announce the ASSE and World Heritage Outbound Scholarship Winners for the 2017-2018 Program Year!

We had a record number of excellent applications this year, and an amazing group of students have been chosen.

All of us at ASSE and World Heritage are very proud of our Outbound program - with good reason!

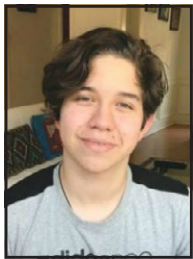
- The ASSE/WH Outbound Program is one of the largest – because we are dedicated to helping American High School Students go abroad!
- ASSE/WH Outbound students get to choose their destination country – other programs tell the students where they can go!
- The ASSE/WH Outbound Program does not require foreign language proficiency – but our kids come home dreaming in their new language!
- The ASSE/WH Outbound Program has the lowest fees that are all inclusive
- ASSE/WH provide multiple scholarships for Outbound Students every year

The Walter Danielson Scholarship – named for the founding father of ASSE – pays for the complete program.

- 100% of the Program Fee
- Domestic Flight Costs to and from the departure gateway
- Spending Money for incidentals while on program
- One optional Field Trip

The Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship In cooperation with SHE Herencia and the Kiefer Family, ASSE and World Heritage offer one full scholarship to Spain for the 2017-2018 school year. This 100% scholarship also pays for the complete program (see above).

How do we choose the lucky winners? These scholarships are intended to provide program opportunity for students who otherwise would not be able to realize their dream for lack of financial resources – in other words “financial need” is the final qualifier. All of the applicants for these scholarships are amazing, well-qualified students who have also won because of their overall merit.



**Hector Lopez Garcia of Carrollton, Texas USA** is the recipient of the prestigious 100% Walter Danielson Scholarship. Hector will be spending his exchange year in Germany. Hector is very active in his community and high school. His hobbies include playing soccer and basketball and he is a Juvenile Jury Member at the Municipal Court of Plano. Hector speaks 3 languages fluently, as a native from Mexico, he knows Spanish and English and learns French. He wishes to study in Germany to learn the German language and culture as he dreams of becoming a successful business man – now he has the chance and will put it to the test.



**Tatum McCollough of Mountain View, Missouri USA** was awarded the 100% Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship and will spend 10 months in the Spain. Coming from a small community in the Midwest, she takes active part in the opportunities she is offered. Tatum is part of the school's cheerleading team and drama club. She loves playing the guitar and reading. Tatum is an active member of her church and volunteers at the local youth center. She realizes that the exchange experience will continue on past the time she spends abroad and wants to bring back what she will experience and inspire others to seek such opportunities.



**Laurel Muhly-Alexander of Bridgeport, West Virginia USA** will spend her exchange year in Mexico as an ASSE 90% scholarship winner. She is involved in her high school's Spanish Club, the Thespian Troupe and Chess Club. Laurel loves to read, cook, learn and volunteers in her free time at the local hospital. She is also a member of the local 4-H chapter and a cadet in Civil Air Patrol. This year will be a 'giant leap' for her to and she recognizes the importance of the ambassador role she is taking on.



**Danielle Surgeoner of Vero Beach, Florida USA** cannot wait until her exchange adventure begins in France. She has been awarded a 90% scholarship. She has been learning French for 2 years and loves the history and culture of France. Danielle believes that cultural exchange is the key to humanity and wants to build a past, present and future that will forever inspire others. She is an active member of her school's writing club and enjoys technical theater, photography, running, reading and music. Danielle plays 4 instruments and also has a passion for languages. We believe she will represent the United States very well in France!



**Alicia Griggs of Simi Valley, California USA** is looking forward to her exchange year in Italy beginning this fall on a 90% scholarship. She is an active volunteer in her community and helps regularly at the local soup kitchen with a variety of tasks from bussing tables, cleaning dishes to helping with paperwork. Alicia also enjoys dancing, baking, cooking, photography, playing the violin, board games and biking. We think Alicia will be a great addition to an Italian family and learn the language and culture quickly!

*We wish all scholarship winners a successful and exciting year abroad! Congratulations from ASSE and World Heritage!*

# Outdoor Spirit & Community Service

By ASSE Exchange Student, **Gvantsa Dolbaia (FLEX Georgia)**

When I became a president of an outdoor club at my school, I wanted to involve the members of the club with my Global Youth Service Day project for the ASSE FLEX program. I love being outdoors and thought that organizing an event that is also related to my club would be beneficial as well as a lot of fun!

The #1 ranked trail in my town, Vernal, Utah USA, had a review that said it was extremely hard for the reviewer to find the way. They often got lost, wasting time and energy and not being able to indulge themselves into the actual sightseeing of the place. The trail, “The Three Kings Panel” is unique with its history. One of the three oldest tribes lived in this area and their history is engraved on the cliffs of the trail through pictographs. In order

to admire all the trail wonders, the adventurers must follow the trail.

The outdoor club advisor was very enthusiastic for my leadership in solving the problem through our ‘outdoor spirit’ because she also was once lost on the trail. When I contacted the property supervisor/guardian and suggested helping to make the trail, she was very happy to hear the offer.

On April 1, my 20 volunteers and I went to the destination with the marking tape to make it easier for the visitors to explore the beauty of the historical trail. After long hours of walking, after working hard and having a lot of fun at the same time, we successfully completed our task. Hopefully, more people will enjoy one of the truly enchanting places of Utah.

~ **Gvantsa**



*Third from the left: ASSE Exchange Student Gvantsa Dolbaia (FLEX Georgia) and some of the members from her volunteering group admire the pictographs to be found on the trail, during a short break from their hard work.*

# Greetings from Belo Horizonte Brazil

By **Jayden Stauffer, ASSE Exchange Student (Alix, Alberta, Canada)** discovering incredible Brazil during his ASSE exchange year

This has been an incredible journey so far and time is flying by! There definitely hasn't been a dull moment since I arrived!

The language barrier has definitely not been as difficult as I feared, and the Brazilians are extremely patient and understanding with me. I can't believe how far my Portuguese has come in just a month! When I stepped off the plane, I knew next to nothing, and while I still have a long way to go, I am learning new words every day and have found myself asking my host brothers and friends to speak Portuguese instead of English!

By far my favourite part of Brazil are the people. I have already made so many amazing friends and established an incredible bond with my host family. I believe they are the reason I have adapted so well to my new life in Brazil, and while it has only been a little over a month, I have not felt even the slightest bit homesick.

Since arriving, I have gone out with my friends (who are very excited and interested in my culture and language, and I have had as much fun teaching as I have learning!), prepared a Canadian Breakfast for my host family

(with a family recipe for pancakes, maple syrup, bacon, eggs and maple cookies along with an array of fruits and drinks), joined the local gym, started forro classes (a traditional Brazilian dance), toured the city, planned trips with my host family to Rio de Janeiro, the historic cities of Ouro Preto, Tiradentes and Diamantina, tasted traditional foods and drinks (Minas Gerais is considered the culinary state of Brazil, and I believe it's perhaps my next favourite thing after the people!), went on a day trip to the National Park Serra do Cipo, participated in the Carnival celebrations, and so much more (too many to list)!

I have noticed so many cultural differences, and already feel my perspective has changed, and I have a newfound appreciation of the world around me. While I have been frustrated many times, I know this is all part of the learning experience. I just want to thank you, ASSE and everyone who made this unforgettable trip possible!

~ **Jayden**