

## Best Decision Ever

By Melodee Ewing of Lima, Montana USA spending her ASSE Exchange year in China.

My name is Melodee from Montana and I have been in China for 5 months! I can't believe I'm already half way done with my exchange! Time flies by in the blink of an eye so spend your time wisely and enjoy!

I have fun everyday with my classmates and even teachers. So much is going to change for 2nd semester. I also have a new host family that seem like wonderful people!

When I first arrived in China, I barely knew anything in Chinese. Now, after 5 months of being

surrounded by it everyday, my Chinese has definitely improved! Although I'm still lacking, I study hard and the people help and encourage me which means a lot!

Choosing to study abroad was the best decision I have ever made. It will seriously change your life for the better and you'll meet many people. Plus, like me, you can make everlasting friendships with people from all across the globe! Now, it is winter break and I am spending the first part of it with ASSE, as they are taking us to Shanghai and other cities to tour. I can't wait for Chinese New Years and my birthday which

is coming very soon!

~ Melodee Ewing

*[Editor's note: Melodee Ewing is the 2015-16 The ASSE Walter Danielson Scholarship Winner. The ASSE Walter Danielson Scholarship is named after the founding father of ASSE and pays for the complete program for one very deserving student to experience an academic year abroad. As noted in the Spring 2015 ASSE Newsletter, Melodee loves to 'discover, live and learn about different cultures and people'.]*



Melodee Ewing ASSE Walter Danielson Scholarship Student (Lima, Montana, USA) takes every opportunity to learn more about the Chinese culture and the language!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Best Decision Ever
- Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship...
- A Worldwide Family of Friends
- Fun Moments Together
- Learning Something New Everyday
- Sharing Sweet Traditions
- A GREAT Chance!
- Enjoying Canadian Winter in Québec
- An Awesome Cook
- Photos and More!

## Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship Keeping the Legacy Alive

In memory of Jodi Kiefer, dedicated advocate for the ASSE and World Heritage International Student Exchange Programs for over 25 years, the Kiefer Family offers a North American high school



The memory of Jodi Kiefer will continue through the scholarship opportunity for an exceptional student in 2016-17

student with financial needs the opportunity to realize a dream of study abroad through the Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship.

The Jodi Kiefer Memorial Scholarship covers 100% of the 2016-17 year program fee, comprehensive insurance and monthly pocket money, one optional field trip in the host country and roundtrip airfare for one highly motivated and deserving student.

Jodi began her exchange student experiences as a host sister to a student from Sweden and then as an exchange student herself to Germany. Having benefited from high school international exchange firsthand, after college she began a lifelong career with ASSE International

Student Exchange. Jodi believed that one individual can make a huge impact and thousands of American families and teenagers from many countries realized the value of cultural exchange through Jodi's dedication.

Scholarship applicants must be between 15 and 18.5 years old at departure and have a minimum of a 3.4 GPA. The Preliminary Application may be submitted online at [www.asse.com](http://www.asse.com) by March 1st 2016.

Jodi's passion for international student exchange as well as her legacy will be kept alive by enabling one exceptional student to spend a school year abroad, making the world a better place!

### 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.

Please send your best photograph and article to:  
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Until next edition,  
Mary Loving ASSE News Editor

# A Worldwide Family of Friends

By Andre Manzotti ASSE Exchange Student (Brazil) and Constance and Kevin Mulcahy, ASSE host family, Kelso, Washington, USA (Year 2000)

## Andre Manzotti

ASSE Exchange Student Year 2000 (Brazil)

The year I spent in Kelso, Washington, USA was one of the most important years of my life with many experiences and learning for life. When I arrived at the Portland airport and met my host family, I knew it would be

a very good year. They were always laughing, easygoing, ready to help and made everything to be more comfortable.

At school I had the opportunity to play tennis, my favorite sport and now I know that Americans take sports so seriously. The school learning method was very different from Brazil, and it made me a new person

without doubt. From percussion class to the practical lessons in physics and chemistry, the exchange of experience was valuable for learning and makes one grow as a human being.

I thank the whole team of ASSE who organized get-togethers and gave all necessary support. I could write a book of all my experiences and there are stories and moments that I will keep forever in my memory.

I recommend the experience as an exchange student to everyone, and if possible I will encourage my children to live it. Thank you Connie, Kevin, Greg, Sarah, Veryl, everybody who were involved and made my year more special than I expected.

~ Andre Manzotti

*[Editor's note: ASSE Western Regional Director Veryl Anderson was Andre's ASSE Area Representative during Andre's ASSE Exchange Year. The lasting legacy of a dedicated ASSE Area Representative is priceless in the life of a young teen!]*

Constance and Kevin Mulcahy  
ASSE Host Parents Year 2000

When our second child went to college we opened our house to an exchange student, Andre Manzotti from Brazil. Little did we realize how our lives would be impacted

for the good and our experience, on a worldly plane, would be vastly grown.

Having Andre in our home was an experience that we still continue to enjoy today. He took his studies seriously yet we encouraged him to include lots of fun in his time here.

We have had the opportunity to meet his family several times since hosting and most recently met up with them in Tampa Florida. We are so proud and happy for the man Andre has become and the successes he has gone on to experience in his profession and life.

Working with ASSE made the whole experience for our family very easy, safe and welcoming. We have gained a family of friends on the worldwide scene and we look forward to the day of visiting his home country of Brazil. We suggest hosting a student through ASSE as they are knowledgeable, experienced, supportive and very creative in their offerings and help.

Thank you for this great opportunity that has brought a loving family into our homes and hearts for life.

~ Constance and Kevin Mulcahy



Mulcahy Family and the Mazotti Family meet up in Tampa, Florida USA for a happy reunion!

# Fun Moments Together

By Emilie Strenzke, ASSE Exchange student (Germany) living with the Forrester family in Mentone, California USA

## Terry Forrester

ASSE Host Mom

What a great time it's been having our ASSE exchange student, Emilie Strenzke from Germany with our family. Since arriving in August, we've had many fun moments together. We travelled to Sequoia National Park and had tons of fun in the snow. In October Emilie dressed up as the grim reaper on Halloween night. It's certainly enriched our lives learning about Emilie's culture and Skyping with her family.

~ Terry Forrester

## Emilie Strenzke

ASSE Exchange Student (Germany)

I came from a small city in Germany so coming to Southern California has been a big adjustment. One of the first things I did with my host family was attending a University of Southern California football game where about 100,000 people were in

attendance. This was exciting to see so many people. We have travelled to the beach, high school football games, the Redwoods, the Long Beach Aquarium and to the Wild Animal Park in San Diego. One of the most unique experiences was dressing up for Halloween and celebrating with all the kids that came to the house for candy.

Attending high school has been so different from what I was used to in Germany. The school is very big and has many students. I am currently involved in helping to be a manager for the girls' basketball team. Also, I've gotten involved in attending pottery lessons at a master teacher's home.

My host family has been great and we go somewhere every weekend. There is never a dull moment. My English continues to improve and I know many American friends.

Thank you ASSE for my placement with the Forrester's in California.

~ Emilie Strenzke



Emilie Strenzke, ASSE Exchange Student (Germany) and the Forrester Family enjoy fun times together



ASSE Exchange Students Netta Lehtola (Finland) and Arisara Paoin (Thailand) are delighted to visit the Grand Canyon with their ASSE Area Representative!

# Learning Something New Everyday

By ASSE Exchange Students Netta Lehtola (Finland) and Arisara Paoin (Thailand)

## Netta Lehtola

ASSE Exchange Student (Finland)

My exchange year in southern California has been a wonderful experience so far. I have learned a lot about American way of living and met so many new people that I will most likely keep in touch with. When you are an exchange student, you learn something new every day. My year is in its halfway and I have already changed a lot as a person. I still have five more months to go and I know that the person going home in June will be completely different from the one that arrived here in August.

~ Netta Lehtola

## Arisara Paoin

ASSE Exchange Student (Thailand)

Before I came here I was so scared and worried about how to make friends, how to speak, and everything. When I came here everyone is so nice and talks to me a lot. I have changed a lot and I think when I go back to Thailand I'll miss everything and everyone in America.

~ Arisara Paoin

ASSE Exchange Students Netta Lehtola (Finland) and Arisara Paoin (Thailand) are spending their exchange year with the Pecht Family of Imperial, California USA.

# 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/WH students enjoy a Mile Hi view on a visit to the Colorado State Capitol in Denver, Colorado USA.

Left to right: Maria Cutrin Outeda (Spain), Ida Eskildsen (Denmark), Anna Maria Castigli (Italy), Valentina Sulis (Italy), Alberto Tomas Martin (Spain), Berenice Devos (France) and Natsumi Akaska (Japan)



Makhabat Omorova ASSE Exchange Student (\*FLEX Kyrgyzstan) expresses the delight she felt when she visited the Atlantic Ocean for the first time.

"It was the first time that I saw the ocean. Unforgettable emotions that I felt when I saw the big waves, and beautiful huge ocean. For me it seemed like ocean does not have the end. I am really thankful for my amazing host parents/ASSE and the FLEX program)." Makhabat says she is learning many leadership skills that she looks forward to taking home at the end of the year. She also says this year is "great fun"!



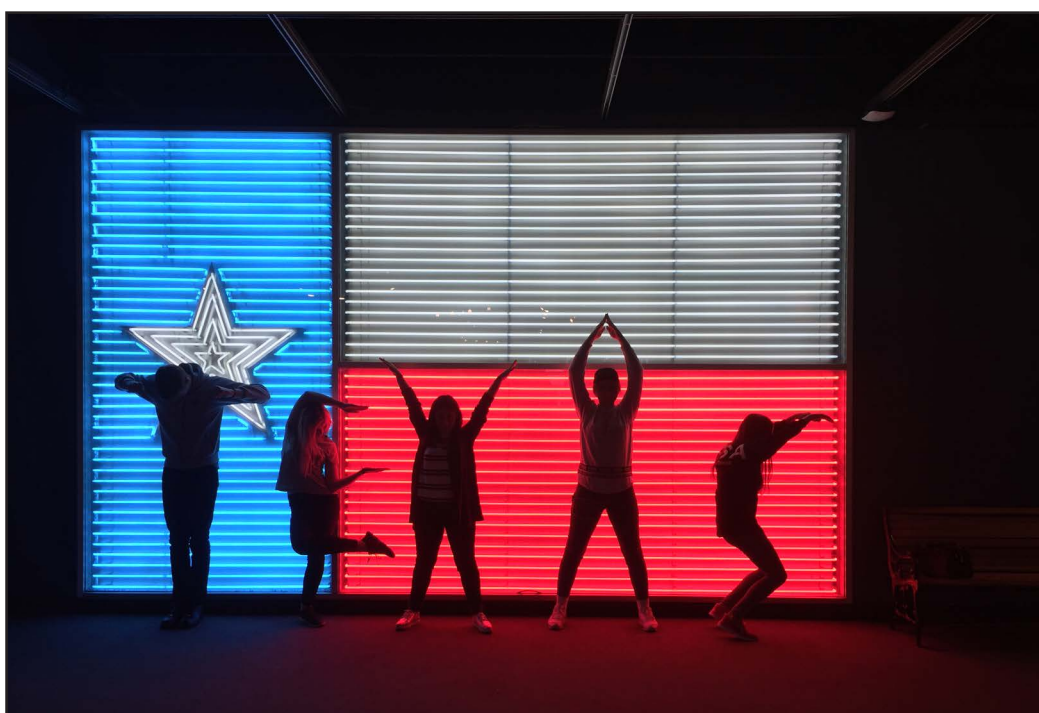
ASSE Exchange Students enjoy a visit to the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, USA.

Left to right: Pierre Defives (France), Sebastian Axelsen (Denmark), Leon Schreiber (Germany), Daniella host sister, Frederikke Smoerum (Denmark), Mille Soerensen (Denmark), Kristina Golubeva (\*FLEX Kazakhstan), Caterina Ferraro (Italy), Berangere Frotte (France)



ASSE / WH host mom Kendra Hansen of Cushing, Wisconsin, USA says, "My dad, Mel Elliott (or as Valentin would call him 'Grandpa') taught Valentin to fish!" The family live on the lake and the photo was taken before the snow covered the ice. Kendra continues, "Over the Christmas break, we caught 46 fish on day 1, 1-1/2 hours of fishing, 43 on day 2, 2 hours of fishing, and 26 on day 3, 50 min of fishing. We caught mostly perch, as Valentin is showing but also some blue gills, crappie and sunnies!"

According to ASSE/ WH Area Representative Tanya Tretsven, Valentin is "an outstanding guy and so well liked in his community. He's fun to be with and has great manners as well as excellent grades in school!"



ASSE Area Representative, Audra Locke and her ASSE Exchange Students visited the Institute of Texan Culture. Audra says, "It's a great museum in San Antonio that focuses on the people of Texas (indigenous and immigrants). The kids had a blast!"

Student spelling out Texas from left to right: Serhiy Shkvarnytskyi (\* FLEX Ukraine), Nanna Jakobsen (Denmark), Tiniko Labakhua (\*FLEX Georgia), Polina Nikolayenko (\* FLEX Ukraine) and Salome Kirchner (Germany)

\*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

# Sharing Sweet Traditions

By Vicky Muth, ASSE Exchange Student (Germany) and Tracey Hudson, ASSE Host Mom

**Tracey Hudson**  
ASSE Host Mom

Every year the Scheu girls (all ages from 72 to 3 months) get together and exchange cookies to help reduce the cookie baking burden. This year, we also started a cookie making weekend tradition with the Hudson girls. We had four generations of girls starting with my mom, Patti Scheu, myself, my two girls Ashley & Jossie, my German ASSE Exchange Student daughter Vicky Muth & my granddaughter Charlie.

The following weekend we meet up with the ladies from the Scheu Family for our cookie exchange. Everyone



ASSE Exchange Student Vicky Muth (Germany) filling Husarenkrapfen with raspberry jam.

brought an appetizer to share and cookies to trade. We were missing about 15 of the ladies this year due to illnesses or other commitments with the children-- but for those who did, it was a day full of sweet treats, good conversation and lots of love.

Vicky shared another family favorite Husarenkrapfen with raspberry jam filling that we took to Christmas dinner. Our family has some new cookies to add to our tradition and hope Vicky takes some new ones back to her family as well. Our family loves to gather together to celebrate big and small things in life. Food is our way of expressing love and binding family ties from the past and future. Experimenting in the kitchen is one of my personal passions. We have spent a lot of time cooking and sharing traditional foods as well as just foods we love. I am sending an 85 page photo album/cookbook home with Vicky to have as a keepsake full of pictures from her time here and recipes that we made or shared at different family functions.

~ Tracey Hudson

**Vicky Muth**

ASSE Exchange Student (Germany)

I have had an awesome experience here in America with lots of football, great people, very good food and fun times with friends and family. Since my host family here volunteers a lot, I got to experience a lot of fun stuff, like helping out in the kitchen, working in concessions, and helping to clean in Germania during their Christmas play.

One of my favorite things was to cheer and watch football games. We even got to go to 3 Vanderbilt University games since my "host" cousin plays there. I also loved the big family get-togethers on Thanksgiving or Christmas.

~ Vicky Muth

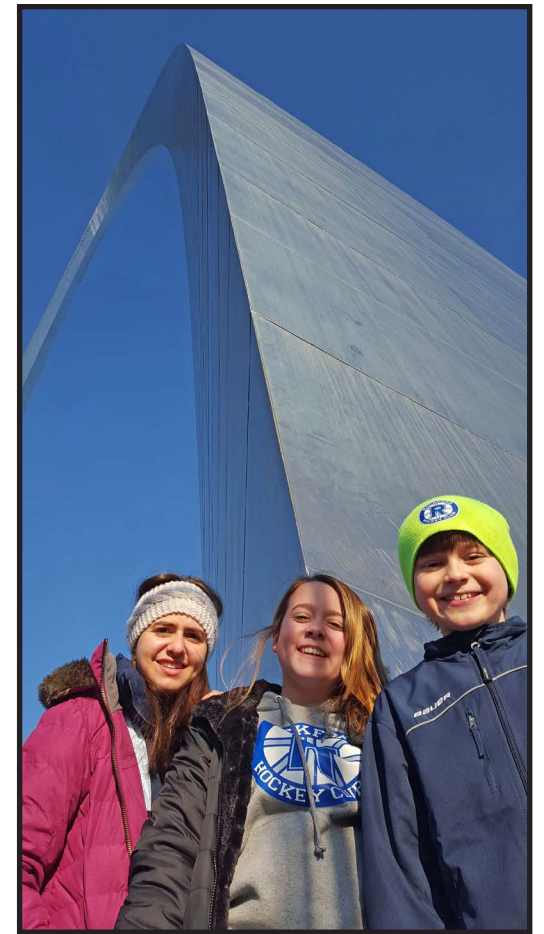
# A GREAT Chance!

By ASSE Host Mom Tammy White and Tania J. Juan Marcos, ASSE Exchange Student (Mexico)

This is our first time hosting – something we always wanted to do and decided to “take a chance.” It was a GREAT chance! We just love Tania. My husband and my older son, Michael, went to San Diego in November to see a Bears game and it just so happened that Tania’s parents were in San Diego at the same time for business. They had never met so they arranged to meet and have dinner. My husband said it was a great time... like he had known them forever. Tania was so excited and proud to know that her parents were actually meeting her family here in America.

We are truly enjoying our time with Tania. She is such a blessing to our family this year!!

~ Tammy White



ASSE Exchange Student, Tania J. Juan (Torreon, Mexico) and host siblings Anna and Peter visit the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Tania says the visit to St. Louis was “a very cool experience”. She felt St. Louis is a very pretty city and she enjoyed going there and spending time with her host family.

# Enjoying Canadian Winter in Québec

By Tanja Scholler, ASSE Exchange Student (Germany) enjoying her Canadian year in Compton, Quebec, Canada



Tanja Scholler, ASSE Exchange Student (Germany)

During my year in Québec I took the chance to try a new sport for me, Cross-Country Skiing. I started training in a group in Sherbrooke close to my new home. In fall training

started on roller skis so I had already a bit of practice before starting on the snow. I got the chance to participate in a competition of our club. We had great weather even though it was quite a bit cold. But that’s the Canadian winter.

~ Tanja Scholler

# An Awesome Cook

By Teth Tu Nguyen Monath, ASSE Exchange Student (\*CBYX Germany)

I am very lucky to live in the Claussen Family. My host mother Elizabeth and host sisters Nadia and Ashley are all very motivated and my host mum is very supportive when it comes to school work. My host family also take me to so many places like the Halloween festival, Mt. Rushmore and to the grandparents of my host family.

When I want to cook something my host mom helps me to understand what the recipe wants me to do and she runs me to the store so I can buy whatever ingredients I need. I always cooked Asian stuff at home but here I also got introduced to food from other countries.

I am in a very special school where everything is project-based. The content

to be learned is divided into sections and then each are taught one by one. Students learn in groups and help each other when needed. This is much more motivating than the learning environment that I was in back in Germany. Even more motivating in my opinion is that every Friday, the class celebrates something or someone for doing something good in the past week. Personally, this motivates me to try harder in order to be celebrated.

My ASSE Area Representative Tracy Pepin also is a very caring person and she always helps me when I need.

~ Teth Tu Nguyen Monath



Teth Tu Nguyen Monath, ASSE Exchange Student (\*CBYX Germany) makes pork steamed buns! He started the previous night marinating the pork spare ribs in hoisin sauce. Then on meal day, he started at 1 p.m. making yeast dough, baking the ribs, shredding the meat and mixing it with cabbage and scallions. He filled the dough balls rolled out into circles with the meat mixture, then steaming them in the bamboo steamer. A lot of work but the host family says they were so good! Teth is an excellent cook and the Claussen family of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA is blessed to have such an awesome cook in their home this year!