

Goats and County Fairs - American Experience!

ASSE Exchange students Ines Constante (Spain) and Marie Amelie Brevet (France) are spending their exchange year in Nashville, Arkansas USA with the Morris Family have jumped right into their American experience by joining the Howard County 4H Show Stoppers Club. According to host mom, Louise, both girls are really amazing even though they had never been on a farm or cared for animals.

Ines said, "I came to America to learn English and change my routine. Here I'm learning to feed goats and cows...When my host family talked to me about showing the

goats at the Howard County Fair, I was so excited because I thought that it was so cool. My first time to catch the goats was so funny because I couldn't catch my goat by myself. My host mom taught me how to show my goat at the fair and I practiced every day. I had to wash and blow dry my goat's hair up so she would be pretty for the fair."

Ines continues, "We loaded the goats in a trailer and took them to the fair. We put them in their pen and decorated the pen with a sign that was really neat. It had my name and the Howard County 4-H club, Show Stoppers which is the club I represented. A few days later, I showed my goat in front of the judge. I won three ribbons and a belt buckle. My host family was so excited for me. I was so happy,

everybody was congratulating me. It was new for me!"

Marie Amelie was not able to show her goat at the County Fair but both Marie Amelie and Ines showed their goats at the District Fair. Ines won 2 first place ribbons and Reserve Grand Champion. Marie Amelie won a first place ribbon and Grand Champion.

ASSE host mom Louise said that both girls have embraced other opportunities in their host community including playing basketball.

"I love Arkansas and Nashville! It's full of new things and I'm really lucky with my great host family!" exclaims Ines Constante, ASSE Exchange Student (Spain).



Ines Constante, ASSE Exchange Student (Spain) and her goat "Tinker Bell" receive her Senior Showmanship Belt Buckle prize from Show Judge Dennis Guidry at the Howard County Fair in Arkansas USA.



ASSE Exchange Student Marie Amelie Brevet (France) grooming a goat in preparation for the District Fair



ASSE Exchange Students Ines Constante (Spain) on the left and Marie Amelie Brevet (France) on the right celebrate their success!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Goats and County Fairs - American Experience!
- ASSE / WH Recognized
- The Great Dane
- What an Experience!
- ASSE Affiliated Program Earns Recognition in Ocean City, Maryland USA
- American CBYX Students in Washington D.C.
- Marching Band is Cool!
- Lasting Connections
- First Impressions
- Leadership Shadowing
- Photos and More!

ASSE / WH Recognized

ASSE is happy to announce that the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) has recognized ASSE and World Heritage with an award for 30 years of support and cooperation.

Bodil Dencker was honored to accept this award from CSIET Executive Director Chris Page at the recent CSIET conference.

It is through the dedication and hard work of all in the ASSE / WH family that this was made possible. Thank you!!



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:
ASSE News, 10754 Belle Creek Blvd., Suite 101, Henderson CO 80640 USA
Tel: 303-227-7634 • Fax: 303-252-0629 • E-mail: mloving@asse.com

Until next edition,
Mary Loving ASSE News Editor

ASSE News is published three times a year. It is provided free of charge to ASSE participants, host families, representatives and other friends of ASSE. Any copyright material is published with written permission of the published and is so indicated. Any other material may be used for publication without permission of ASSE.

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!



Eva Boryer, ASSE CBYX* Exchange Student (Portland, Oregon USA) enjoyed travelling with her host family to Munich for Oktoberfest. In preparation for the opportunity Eva said, "I now have suitable shoes for the occasion, as well as specific jewelry, blouse, and tights." Dressed in her Dirndl Eva fits right in!



ASSE Exchange Student Luis Sebastián López Ruiz (Mexico) spending his exchange year in France hiked in the mountains with his host brother.

Luis says, "We walked the up the hill 16 km and the landscape was breathtaking!"



Maulida Nurhasanah, ASSE Exchange Student (YES* Indonesia) celebrated Indonesia Independence Day, August 17 with her host family in Redmond, Oregon! Fun times were enjoyed while riding the horses, walking in the downtown and cooking Indonesian food for dinner. Maulida cooked Nasi Goreng (Fried Rice), Telur Dadar (a kind of Omelet), and Tumis (green beans, carrot, and tofu). Maulida commented, "My 'host sisters' are grown and live on their own but they came to help celebrate. They really like Tumis, because it has so many vegetables in it."



ASSE Exchange Student Ranee Wigren (Coon Rapids, Minnesota USA) spending her exchange year in Mexico is on the right and enjoys a moment with a classmate.

Describing her exchange experience, Ranee says, "Mexico is much different from the United States. I believe the biggest difference is the people, they are so much more loving and kind here, than in the U.S. My school is so much smaller here, but I've found out I prefer it like that because the all of the kids are more like a family. I have already traveled to Puerto Vallarta with my family and we're soon going to Playa Del Carmen. I am so excited to experience so many more different things & of course I love everything I have experienced already!"



World Heritage Area Representative Charity Law arranged for some of her students to volunteer as Junior Docents at The Hermitage: Home of President Andrew Jackson. They had a great time sharing information about this historic home (and about their exchange program!). Charity said, "From the many people touring The Hermitage, I received lots of compliments on what a wonderful job the students did."

Photo Left to Right: ASSE Exchange Students Dinah Ackon-Mensah (YES* Ghana), Laura Brunner (Germany), Kira Berg (Germany), Tatyana Polozova (FLEX* Russia) enjoy volunteering as Junior Docents at The Hermitage – Home of President Andrew Jackson.



ASSE Area Representative Robin Beal, Merritt Island, Florida USA, and her students enjoyed an activity to see bioluminescence in the water along with kayaking on the Banana River. Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism. The fish glow at night while the water is so warm.

Photo Left to Right: ASSE host sister Brianna, Rhonda the Guide, ASSE Exchanges Students Zhanna Ateibek (FLEX* Kazakhstan), Coline Heloire (France), Anna Giorgobiani (CBYX* Germany), ASSE host sister Tiffany, ASSE Area Representative Robin Beal, Tugdual Pichon (France), Arina Lipina (FLEX* Kazakhstan), Josy Kuettnner (CBYX* Germany) and Maria Sousa (Portugal)



ASSE Exchange Students in the Springfield, Illinois USA area had a great time visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum along with ASSE Area Representative Gordon Wayman. The Lincoln Museum is the number one museum in Central Illinois and features the life story of one of the most famous American Presidents. The White House is recreated in the background and the students posed with life size figures of President Lincoln and his family.

ASSE Exchange Students pictured with the Lincoln Family: (from Left to Right): Thorun Pineiro Gomez (Spain), Richard Rampas (Czech Republic), Maximilian Schiller (Germany), Gordon Wayman, ASSE Area Representative, Maren Hagen (Norway), Viktoria Falk (Norway), Mariana Nunes (Portugal), Maria "Lua" Corte Real Jonet (Portugal), "Wai" Tulboonma Ploychanok (Thailand) and "Linda" Yi Lin Hsiao (Taiwan).

*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

What an Experience!

ASSE Area Representative Leigh Walker combined a summer visit of her 2011-12 ASSE host daughter Lea Blanchard (France) with her ASSE outbound orientation meeting for Sydney Gaddy, ASSE Exchange Student anticipating her exchange year in France. As Lea assisted in welcoming Sydney into the ASSE family, Leigh helped to make sure Sydney was prepared for her new journey of spending a year in France!

Now that Sydney is several months into her French experience, she says, "It has gotten nothing but better each

and every day. The friends I am making and the experience all in one is absolutely amazing!"

"The biggest struggle is the language and how it may be just jibberish at times. I find myself speaking more than I ever thought possible in such a small amount of time! I came into the program thinking I knew what I was in for. But now that I'm here and living the days I was once so excited for, I am truly impressed with this whole experience!"

"Transitioning from familiar to unfamiliar really opens your eyes, I have been inspired to not only travel to more places, but to learn more languages, and cultures because it is so amazing to learn the history of something as little as a painting or sculpture, to as big as an entire country!"

"So far so good, and it only gets better!?! What an experience!"

Lea Blanchard ASSE Exchange Student 2011-12 (France), Leigh Walker ASSE Area Representative and Sydney Gaddy ASSE Exchange Student (Wichita, Kansas USA) spending her exchange year in France.



Leadership Shadowing

Carolina Andriuta, ASSE Exchange Student (FLEX* Moldova) chose to shadow Teej Jenkins, Manager/Producer of the Channel City 12 in Rochester, New York, USA for her first FLEX leadership skills building project.

Carolina summarizes her leadership



ASSE Exchange Student, Carolina Andriuta (FLEX* Moldova) and Teej Jenkins, Manager / Producer of Rochester, New York USA Channel City 12.

observations, “Shadowing Teej Jenkins taught me that being a leader is extremely challenging and interesting at the same time. I learned that you have to be sociable, intelligent, honest and confident. A sense of humor is another quality that I observed in the behavior of Teej, and which is very important in communicating with other people. You also have to be well organized and really hard working. You have to possess excellent communication skills and always be ready to make the right decisions. A leader has to be an example for everyone to follow.

“I can certainly say that spending a day with a leader was a great experience for me. I learned how important leaders are for our society and how much work and dedication they put into their jobs. I believe in the future I will become a good leader just like Teej Jenkins.”

Imane Majid, ASSE Exchange Student (YES* Morocco) shadowed Nancy Berry, the mayor of College Station, Texas USA, as her first YES leadership skills building project.

Imane began her day with the Mayor visiting Easterwood Airport for a meeting with the aviation director and other members of the City Council to discuss future work on airport management and structure. After the meeting, the group toured the airport discussing improvements

During lunch with the Mayor, Imane learned about Mrs. Berry’s favorite books, which included many biographies of leaders. Imane said, “That made me realize how it is important for a leader, no matter what their rank is, to be updated and stay informed of the latest and best techniques to be a good leader.”

The final stop for the day was in downtown Bryan where they attended a meeting with the policy committee in the Brazos Administration Building. Imane said she was impressed how well loved the Mayor was. Imane also noted, “A leader should be punctual. There is a saying: ‘Being early is

being on time. Being on time is being late.’

“I have learned that everyone can be a leader, but it takes hard work to be a successful leader,” remarked Imane.

To continue the experience, Imane rode with the Mayor in a police car for the National Night Out, and attended a City Council meeting later in the week.



ASSE Exchange Student Imane Majid (YES* Morocco) and Mayor Nancy Berry, College Station, Texas USA. Photo provided by the Mayor’s office and was used with permission.

First Impressions

By Charlotte Severns, ASSE Exchange Student (Spokane Valley, Washington USA)

My very first impression that gave me a positive outlook on Sweden was seeing the isles of candy in the store and seeing the beach so close to my home.

When going on a student exchange, I’ve learned that first impressions mean everything. I have had a life, friends and family for the past 16 years that I was quite used to. Of course things change, but those changes seem quite insignificant compared to moving thousands of miles away to a new country that speaks a new language. As one can imagine, there is nothing normal or comforting about leaving everything you know for something new and different.

My first day, I went with my host dad and host siblings to a

local store called ICA. There, I saw the biggest aisle of candy I had ever seen! And it was just in a normal store. I could grab a bag and chose any type of candy I wanted to mix together and try out. It made me so excited.

The second day here I went on a walk with my host family and I realized how close I live to the ocean. It was so beautiful, and only a 5 minute walk away. I knew that if I was ever homesick or sad I could just jog to the beach and take some time to myself on the magnificent Southern Swedish coast. That was a first impression done right.



Charlotte Severns, ASSE Exchange Student (Spokane Valley, Washington USA) fun discoveries in Sweden.

American CBYX Students in Washington D.C.

ASSE American CBYX (Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange) scholarship Exchange Students gathered in Washington D.C. August 4-6, 2014 prior to departing to Germany. During the preparation meetings, students visited the offices of Senators / Representatives from their home state and

district; visited and learned about the U.S. Capitol/ National Monuments; met with U.S. Department of State CBYX program officers and had discussion sessions to prepare for the new cultural experience awaiting them in Germany.



ASSE American Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) scholarship students pause in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. USA

ASSE Affiliated Program Earns Recognition in Ocean City, Maryland USA

The Honorable Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robin Lerner, who oversees the Department of State’s J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program, visited Summer Work Travel Program (SWT) participants in Ocean City, Maryland USA, this past summer as part of her “Route J-1 Tour”. She attended cultural activities coordinated by the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce’s Seasonal Workforce Committee. ASSE’s own Eastern Regional Director for the ASPIRE Worldwide Summer Work Travel Program, Carrie Linch, chairs the committee.

The Summer Work Travel Program has been an integral part of Ocean City’s summer season for decades. Nearly 5,000

participants come from 50 countries around the world to spend their summer break from university living in Ocean City, working, and learning about American culture. ASSE ASPIRE Worldwide has been a part of the Ocean City summer community for over 15 years.

Ms. Linch commented, “Ocean City has recognized the exchange program’s tremendous benefits to our community, and beyond for many years. The program’s significance to our seasonal workforce is unquestionable. But equally important is the impact on the lives of the residents and visitors who have had the opportunity to meet the participants and learn about their lives and cultures while also sharing our

own culture with them.”

As a community, Ocean City has truly embraced the J-1 Summer Work Travel Program, and has worked diligently for a number of years to improve the quality of the program in their town. They could not have been more pleased that Ms. Lerner had the opportunity to see this first-hand by meeting Mayor Meehan and hearing the amazing stories from the participants and people in the community.

Ms. Linch said, “We deeply appreciate Ms. Lerner’s recognition of the community’s efforts and positive impact we have made on the program. To be held as an example for the rest of the country by the Department of State, of what a community can achieve with

regards to the program, is a great honor for Ocean City.”



ASSE ASPIRE Worldwide Eastern Regional Director, Carrie Linch and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robin Lerner

Lasting Connections

ASSE Exchange Student Ahmad Abdulfattah, 2005-06 (YES* Kuwait) reflects, "I'm lucky to have been an ASSE Exchange Student."

After his ASSE exchange year in Washington State USA, Ahmad joined the YES* Alumni group in his home country. Through the Alumni groups, exchange students have an opportunity to put into practice the leadership skills learned as well as a way to pass on the care and compassion that was shared during their exchange year. As a member of the YES* Alumni group, Ahmad participated in many

activities including volunteer work, leadership seminars and promotion of the YES program. They held parties for young cancer patients and recently distributed meals to sanitation workers during Ramadan.

Ahmad graduated from his home country high school with honors and is currently studying computer science on a full scholarship at Kuwait University.

He says, "My exchange year had so many memorable moments. I can only say that I still marvel at my host family's generosity and kindness. My advice to students who have just

arrived is to open their hearts and their minds to be able to receive the love of their hosts and the vast amount of knowledge through the year."

Ahmad was recently chosen to attend a YES Alumni Workshop. He says, "I look forward to acquiring the tools of social change and leadership so I can be as effective in my community as my beloved hosts."

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



ASSE 2005-06 Alumni Exchange Student, Ahmad Abdulfattah (YES Kuwait)*



Continuing the connection! ASSE Area Representative Gail Smith describes 2012-13 ASSE Exchange Student Ani Avetisyan (FLEX* Armenia), who spent her exchange year in Frankenmuth, Michigan USA as petite, lively and intelligent with a great sense of humor.

Ani along with other FLEX Alumni organized a FLEX t-shirt flash mob to bring all the FLEXers in their University together. Ani says, "It gave us opportunity to tell our fellow classmates about FLEX and share our experiences. And most importantly, it made us feel united and part of a huge family."

In reflecting on her experience in America, she says, "The single most important thing that benefited me from the FLEX program was

international understanding. FLEX changed my world view, the way I understand people and their culture."

When asked about a special memory, Ani reflected, "My first American Christmas was one of the most precious memories of my exchange year. It was very special, warm and fuzzy, filled with family time, fun and games. It made me feel at home, especially when we decorated the Christmas tree and the cookies, made rock candy and went shopping for gifts. I could feel the magic in the air even if I was no longer a little kid."

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

2012-13 FLEX Alumni students include ASSE FLEX Exchange Students, Anushik Shirvanyan who lived in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota USA (2nd from the left) and Ani Avetisyan who lived in Frankenmuth, Michigan USA (3rd from the left)*

And the ASSE influence continues!

ASSE Area Representatives Mark & Elizabeth Milby enthusiastically shared a message from their 2010-11 host daughter, ASSE Exchange Student, Yelena Surnina (FLEX* Russia).

Yelena tells her host family, "Did you know that I decided to follow your footsteps and be a coordinator for some of exchange students in my university? Now I fully understand you! I think it's so amazing that I can learn a little bit more about the world and help the students to adjust to my culture. It is terribly interesting to show them some cool sights of our city! Now I don't understand how people live without it - it should be really boring!"

Mark & Elizabeth Milby remark, "She got it! What joy it brought to our hearts! She is awesome and she followed our model in how we always reached out to our placements through relationship building activities via tours, trips, and gatherings. Pass the lighted torch to someone else and make the world a brighter place!"

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



ASSE 2010-11 Alumni Exchange Student Yelena Surnina (FLEX Russia) along with one of the University exchange students under her coordination.*



ASSE Exchange Student, Cassandra "Cassy" Lampert (CBYX Germany) performs with her American high school band*

Marching Band is Cool!

ASSE Exchange Student, Casssandra "Cassy" Lampert (CBYX* Germany) stepped right in to an ultra American high school activity when she joined her school's marching band. Her high school, located in Clayton, Ohio USA, boasts an award winning marching band that competes at both the local and national level.

Cassy, who plays the trumpet, was three weeks behind her bandmates when she arrived in the U.S., but the band welcomed her with open arms, providing one-on-one guidance to help her understand the terminology and the proper marching techniques.

Besides marching band, Cassy also takes a classroom band class during the school day. She says this is her

favorite period of the day.

By the time the season ends in mid-November, Cassy will have performed in 10 football pre-game, halftime and post-game shows and performed competitively in at least eight shows throughout southwest Ohio and in Indianapolis, Indiana. Additionally, the band performs in several community events such as the Strike Up the Band for Hunger where the audience gains entrance by donating canned goods for the needy.

About her experience in marching band, Cassy says, "Marching band is cool!"

The Great Dane

Opportunities and challenges add 'spice' to ASSE Exchange Student Sebastian Bay Granzow's America experience!

On the way home from shopping, Sebastian and his friends stopped by the American restaurant Buffalo Wild Wings. Sebastian comments, "I kind of always loved spicy food so the other guys suggested that I try the Blazin Challenge. I was up for it right away."

Sebastian continues, "The challenge is to eat 12 wings, covered in spicy sauce in 6 minutes. AND they are hot! The first bite I took, I could just feel the heat and my lips burned. I fought through the first 9 wings in 3 minutes while I was being videotaped by my friends. The last 3 wings were the worst because I just wanted to stop. I had lost momentum. But I got it done! And then I ordered my friends to start opening up the wet napkin packets. I think I ended up using

30 napkins."

"It was so fun and one of the best days with good friends! Hot wings and ICECREAM after."

Sebastian has started an American t-shirt collection. After winning the challenge he was presented with a t-shirt marking the event. Sebastian says, "I am proud to have that t-shirt and it is a day I will remember!"

ASSE Exchange Student Sebastian Bay Granzow (Denmark), affectionately called 'The Great Dane', proudly shows his t-shirt reward.

