

ASSIST Newsletter
December 2010

Holiday Greetings!

Alumni Gatherings Warm the Holiday Season!



The smiling faces of alumni capture the spirit of our gatherings over the last three months. Despite below-freezing temperatures and mood-capturing snow this past week in London, Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin, and Düsseldorf, we were warmed by the depth of connection ASSIST has with its current and former Scholars. During Bob Stanley's previous travels, he also enjoyed time with alumni in Beijing, Shanghai, Hanoi, and HCMC. Pictures of our various events will be posted soon on our web site. To the left is a picture of our gathering in Washington, DC.

Measuring Value Survey of ASSIST Alumni

This fall, ASSIST surveyed its alumni. Over 800 responded (a 30% return rate) from a mix of countries and classes (1987 to 2010).

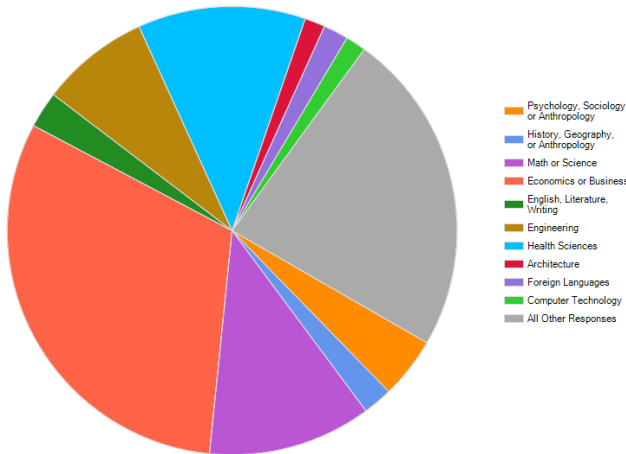
KEY FINDINGS:

- ★ Value of the ASSIST experience (top two ratings) 98%
- ★ Life-changing impact of the ASSIST year 91%
- ★ Keep in touch with host families 61%
- ★ Read ASSIST Newsletter 85%
- ★ Need for a web-based directory 96%
- ★ Electronic networking/job center (top two ratings) 73%/70%
- ★ Contributors to Annual Fund 26%

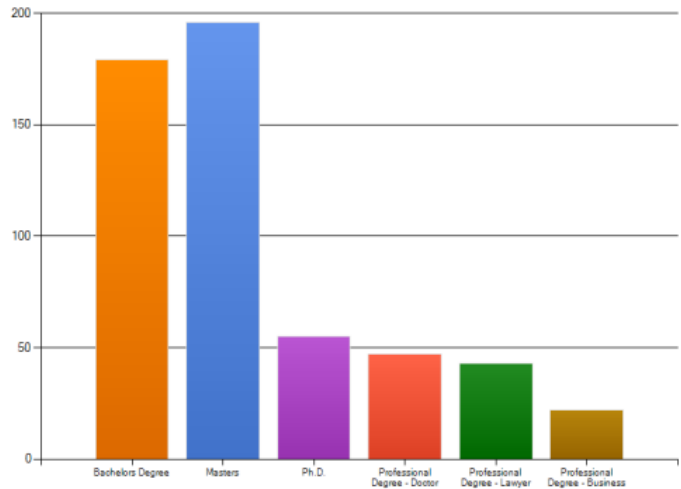
TOP 5 ATTRIBUTES OF GREATEST VALUE
The ASSIST Year-Long Experience

- ★ 95% - more independent
- ★ 93% - gain in maturity
- ★ 93% - language acquisition
- ★ 91% - adapting to new culture
- ★ 88% - making friends

Your undergraduate concentration or major subject?



Please check the degrees below that you have received.



Global Citizens & Contributors Around the World

Doron Shapir '11, Israel, Loomis Chaffee School, CT



Doron, an ASSIST Scholar from Israel, was featured in an article written by Nick Yannopoulou, a senior at Loomis Chaffee School. A link to the full article follows. Doron almost single-handedly raised \$1,234 for Seeds of Peace to aid victims of the flooding in Pakistan. Seeds of Peace is a program dedicated to creating tolerance among youth from ethnicities and cultures currently and traditionally in conflict.

Within three short months at Loomis Chaffee, Doron has become an outstanding example for others. He embodies the school's motto, "our best selves." He said, "For me, being friendly, open-minded and supportive of others is my way to prompt the change I want to see in the world." He demonstrates that personal efforts will inspire others on a larger level.

Our Pelican from Israel: http://www.loomischaffee.org/cf_news/view.cfm?newsid=1399

Rytis Masiliunas '05, Lithuania, Woodberry Forest School, VA

Rytis spent this past summer in a hospital in Omsk, Western Siberia, as part of an exchange program in Neurosurgery sponsored by his university in Lithuania. He found the people kind and hospitable, but going there was similar to time travel – he felt transported to another era. In his emergency room responsibilities, there was neither a CT scanner nor an MRI to be found. In December, Rytis will be attending the Neurosurgical Anatomy Conference in Cambridge as a student observer. He continues his research on the neurophysiology of the frog's visual system.

31 Years, 48 Scholars Later – Woodberry Forest School



"Woodberry Forest has been an ASSIST school for many years. Throughout my time here, every ASSIST student has brought exceptional skills and made remarkable contributions to Woodberry. This year's young man is no exception. We greatly value our long relationship with ASSIST."

Dennis M. Campbell, Headmaster, Woodberry Forest School, VA

Woodberry Forest is a longstanding and outstanding member of ASSIST. Wherever we travel, an alumnus of ASSIST who is a cheerleader for the school is always at the center of good conversation. Pictured to the right is ASSIST's Vice President for Advancement, Meg Moulton, alongside **Navin Olschewski '08**, Germany. Navin's future avocation is medicine. He is proud to be an alumnus of both ASSIST and an on-going member of the Woodberry Forest community.



And How is the Class of 2010/11 Doing?

Her first snow fall! **Alice Tran**, Vietnam, Fountain Valley School, CO



Natalia Guaza, Spain, Princeton Day School, NJ

I am having a wonderful time. Fall was beautiful and it was fun watching the trees turn slowly into brilliant reds and oranges. I absolutely love my host family. I was surprised I wasn't homesick. While I miss my family at home, I feel like it is home here. Everyone is so nice ... This year is going to be the best year in my life. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity!

Quyen Nguyen, Vietnam, Latin School of Chicago, IL

I feel like this year is all about pushing my limits and testing how much I can stand on my own. It's not easy. But not for one second have I regretted taking this year abroad with ASSIST. I hate to repeat myself, but thank you, ASSIST, for helping me know what I am capable of.



So Many Ways to Show Your Appreciation

Today's Scholars. Tomorrow's Leaders.

Dancing in Tune with ASSIST

Mengyue (Vicky) Yang '09, China, Loomis Chaffee School, CT



Her ASSIST year was a significant milestone in Vicky's life. She has expressed her gratitude in a most touching and meaningful way. Her gift to the ASSIST 2010/11 Annual Fund is the sum total of her salary earned this year as a ballroom dance instructor. Perhaps her generosity will inspire others to step forward and dance with her same spirit. It is the act of giving (independent of the size of the gift) that we prize. Gifts, most especially from our alumni, endorse the value of the ASSIST experience and highlight the community of scholars and leaders that bring us together in a unique way.

Organizing/Hosting Alumni Gatherings

Our special thanks to ASSIST Director **Cathy Tinsley** and the following alumni for their support of our gatherings around the world: **Cecilie Rohwedder '85** (London), ASSIST Director **Ulrich Graebner '84** (Frankfurt), **Babette Claas '88** (Munich), **Christoph Partsch '78** (Berlin), and **Res Nostra**, the German alumni association (Düsseldorf). These receptions represent a different and meaningful dimension of giving. The gift of time is deeply appreciated.

Commitment, Caring, Contribution

Many of you are familiar with ASSIST Director **Woody Rutter**. He is pictured next to his vintage "Woody" and also happily gives visitors a ride in his prize-winning 1953 Citroen. Woody is a treasure both in the independent school world and in the ASSIST community owing to his deep commitment to young people and schools as they stretch minds, build character, and foster a global mind set. Woody has been on the ASSIST Board for 27 years. We have been the beneficiary of his wisdom, kindness, diplomatic skills, and generosity. Woody is an Annual Fund donor and has also sponsored ASSIST Scholars for many years. He can think of no better way to make a difference in a young person's life and in the life and thinking of a school. Please join him by gifting a Scholar sponsorship (\$8,000).



2010/11 Annual Fund: \$72,915 Raised Toward Goal of \$150,000



Gifts that Keep on Giving



Today's Scholars. Tomorrow's Leaders.

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Vice President for Advancement
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E-Mail: mm@assist-inc.org
www.assist-inc.org
September 2010

As you celebrate the Holiday Season, consider putting ASSIST on your gift list. More than 30% of ASSIST's operating budget comes from fundraising and requires all of our support. In 2009/10, we welcomed 39% more contributors than in 2008/09. Let's set a record in 2010/11!

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- Annual Fund
- Student Sponsorships
- Matching Grants
- Planned Giving
- Special Projects (Orientation, Host Family Program, Alumni Receptions, Video, 45th Celebration, etc.)
- Your Choice!

Mark your Calendar



2011	January	ASSIST Scholar recruitment travel in western Europe, eastern and central Europe, Middle East, South Africa
	February	23-25 National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) conference, Washington D.C.
	April	Alumni Receptions: Amherst, MA; Cambridge, MA; New Haven, CT; New York, NY
		10 DC Chapter Spring Gathering, 1:30 – 3:30, Holton-Arms School
		29 ASSIST Board of Directors spring meeting, Suffield, CT

NOTE: Alumni and friends of ASSIST are welcome to events and gatherings, wherever they might be. Please contact meg@assist-inc.org if you find yourself in the area!

Class Notes



We welcome your news. Please send e-mails to us at ASSIST@assist-inc.org (Subject Line: Class Notes). New notes are identified below. To navigate to the full history of Class Notes, click on Alumni, Class Notes, and then Year on the ASSIST website (www.assist-inc.org).

CLASS OF 2010/11

Nicole Andrianopoulos, Community School of Naples
Laura Avram, Hotchkiss School
László Berencei, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
Edita Bulovaite, The Baldwin School
Momchil Dikov, Santa Fe Preparatory School
Greta Gervyte, Ethel Walker School
Natalia Guaza, Princeton Day School
Kirstin Jauch, Fountain Valley School
Mbali Khumalo, Maret School
Lenka Knapová, Trinity Preparatory School
Victoria Kumhoff, Episcopal School of Dallas
Karim Melliti, St. Mark's School of Texas
Elena Morpurgo, Hawken School
Quyen Nguyen, Latin School of Chicago
Dominka Schmidtova, Albuquerque Academy
Doron Shapir, Loomis Chaffee School
Denisa Skantarová, Porter-Gaud School
Alice Tran, Fountain Valley School
Wen Tong, Porter-Gaud School
Katrin Wissenbach, Bishop's School
Dian Yu, Potomac School

CLASS OF 2009/10

Naomi Baba, Annie Wright School
Sophia Thamm, Annie Wright School

CLASS OF 2008/09

Georgi Klissurski, Woodberry Forest School
Mengyue (Vicky) Yang, Loomis Chaffee School

CLASS OF 2007/08

Navin Olschewski, Woodberry Forest School
Jan (Honza) Dvorsky, Episcopal Academy

CLASS OF 2006/07

Lenka Medvedova, Albuquerque Academy

CLASS OF 2004/05

Rytis Masiliunas, Woodberry Forest School

CLASS OF 1996/97

Lenka Fedorova, Catlin Gabel School

CLASS OF 1993/94

Athina Chawale, St. Andrew's-Sewanee School

CLASS OF 1992/93

Vincentas Vobolevicius, Lake Forest Academy

CLASS OF 1990/91

Tascha Alvarez v. Gustedt, University Liggett School

CLASS OF 1975/76

Claes-Johan Geijer, Suffield Academy