



ASSIST E-Newsletter September 2010

Filled with Expectation and Jumping for Joy The Class of 2010/11 Arrives, the Class of 2009/10 Returns



In August, we welcomed **146 students from 21 countries** – the ASSIST Class of **2010/11**. Orientation was serious ‘business’ and great fun despite the rain and the absence of sun. The weather, in a way, was a bonus. Concentration was full on during class time. Out came jig saw puzzles, Monopoly boards, and Uno

This year’s Orientation video is on the ASSIST website. We invite you to meet some of the [Class of 2010/11](#) and get a taste of their four days.

cards. Pick-up games of ping pong, volley ball, and basketball in the Pomfret gym were a popular evening occupation. There wasn’t a complaint about soggy shoes after our day in Boston and our tour of Harvard. One student from Moldova said, “I don’t think our year could get any better than this!”

Well it does! The just-returning Class of **2009/10** is in full agreement. Saraj (**Croatia**) wrote that her year at the **Darlington School** was “full of memories ... new experiences, a new environment, and new friendships.” Even before she finished her 2nd term at **Exeter**, Martina (**Czech Republic**) “never wanted her year to end.” She thanked ASSIST and “all who supported me throughout and made this experience possible.” Martina earned two book prizes and was named to Cum Laude. Bach-Huy (**Germany**) received one of **St. Andrew’s School’s** top awards, the Robert H. Stegman, Jr. Award, given to recognize his top academic rank, demonstrated intellectual leadership, and contributions to the school community. Huy is not alone in receiving honors for the year - 91% of his ASSIST class received either honor or high honor grades. The Class virtually jumped for joy over its ASSIST experience – as demonstrated by Christoph and Julius (**Christ School**, right), for whom the school created an honorary brochure cover.



Scholars Leave an Impressive Mark on a School Community! Rob Hershey, Headmaster, Episcopal High School (Virginia)



Our ASSIST scholars have made a tremendous impact on the life of our school and the way our students view the world. They arrive intent on making the most of every experience and depart having left an impressive mark on our school community. They are serious students and significant contributors to our arts, athletics and other programs. Most importantly, however, they are eager to share their cultures and traditions with their new student peers. I have been impressed with their "can-do, will-do" attitude, zest for life and complete lack of any pretense. They exhibit the very qualities we hope to instill in all of our students: courage, open-mindedness, resilience, curiosity and compassion."

A Man of Many Talents – Dr. Josef Lunger, Trinity Prep '97 Surgeon, High Altitude Medical Researcher, Mountaineer and ASSIST Alumnus



ASSIST Scholars and Alumni are enormously resilient and resourceful. They combine their talents and their interests in extraordinary ways. They are doers, leaders, and contributors. Dr. Josef Lunger is one of many. That said, few of us are ready and willing to take on his category of challenge – climbing an 8,485 meter-mountain. Mt. Makalu is the 5th highest 8,485-meter mountain in the Himalayas. Climbing without the use of bottled oxygen, as Dr. Lunger has done, is a considerable mountaineering achievement.

Dr. Lunger's medical interest during the climb focused on high altitude sickness. He kept careful records throughout of the climbers, measuring heart rate variability in the acclimatization process to extreme altitude. This rate variability measures physical stress and may be able to predict a possible lung and cerebral oedema.



Dr. Lunger at the summit of Mt. Makalu



We encourage our readers to travel to the Expedition website (www.makalu2010.de). The journals of the expedition team are both inspiring and humbling. The pictures give a wonderful view of the impressive mountains and also a realistic snapshot of everyday life of the expedition.

Making a Difference Around the World

NEPAL - Jonas Tinius (Salisbury School '06), a 2nd year student at Cambridge University, agrees that



Facebook has proven to be a convenient tool. It was through Facebook that he reconnected with ASSIST. He is not alone. ASSIST. He is not alone. ASSIST has over 1,000 members on its group

page. Come join us.

Jonas has been in and learning from the top of the world – Nepal! He spent two months in Kathmandu at the Hindu Vidya Peeth School (a charity run boarding school). At Cambridge, he is an active fundraiser for the school. One fundraiser involved Jonas cycling 420 km in 3 days from Cambridge to his hometown in western Germany. He completed the journey and raised £200.

Jonas writes more about his stay in the *Class Notes* section of this newsletter. For more information about the school and the program, resource links follow:

<http://sites.google.com/site/cambridgevolunteersinnepal/Home> and <http://www.hvpuk.org.uk>.



UKRAINE – Pascal Riederer (Fountain Valley School '07) organized with a local Ukrainian NGO the Youth Culture Festival BIRD in May. It brought together 120 participants from Germany, Austria and the Ukraine for three days of performances. Over 1,000 visitors came to enjoy the program (theater, music, circus shows with workshops, and field trips with a focus on the culture of the Carpathian Mountains). The purpose of the festival was twofold – to combine a cultural initiative with local development. Pascal's lessons in global citizenship and enterprise had some of their roots in ASSIST. He writes, "It is amazing how ASSIST not only inspires us to think to the future, but also fosters an expectation that ambitious ideas can be realized." He thanks ASSIST for instilling the belief that all is possible and extends his gratitude to Eleanore Boyse, former Director of Alumni Affairs, for her help in identifying funding sources.



So Many Ways to Show Your Appreciation

MAKING A GIFT THAT REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



As a physician **Dr. Stephan Falk**, Mercersburg '75 is acutely aware of the needs of his patients. He is also concerned about the future generation. He believes that international education and scholarship are the most important resources mankind can tap and this is why he has just made his annual gift to ASSIST. Dr. Falk's gift not only supports ASSIST, but also contributes to the Förderverein as it funds deserving ASSIST Scholars in Germany and invests in bringing the ASSIST global community together through mentoring, networking, and gatherings. Undoubtedly, Dr. Falk would agree with other alumni we surveyed, 91% of whom noted that the ASSIST experience was life-changing, and with the 99% who gave the ASSIST experience their high to highest ratings.

CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH AN ASSIST CANDLE

Clara, Annie Wright School '05, is celebrating her birthday on October 9th. Instead of gifts, her mother will ask guests to donate to the Förderverein to support their funding of ASSIST German Scholars. Our country coordinator in Germany, Rosemarie Wegner, celebrated her birthday likewise by asking her guests to wrap up their present to support ASSIST.



BUILD BRIDGES



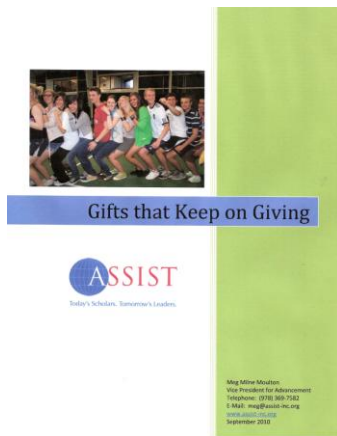
There are many special bridges that are being built by ASSIST alumni as they reach out within their communities and around the world. Each is a gift to others and to ASSIST. A special bridge was built at Orientation between Doron and Aziz (from Israel and Palestine respectively). They were an inspiring example as they sought to move forward to create greater understanding between their two countries.

PASS THE BATON TO NEXT YEAR'S SCHOLARS

Departing ASSIST 2009/10 Scholar Christy (China) was in touch with ASSIST incoming student Vicki about their same school (Episcopal School of Dallas) and shared her thoughts about life in America, school, host family and friends. Christy contacted her friends at ESD and asked them to take Vicki out to dinner when she arrived. Christy gave the gift of friendship.

HELP US EXCEED LAST YEAR'S GIVING RECORD!

30% of ASSIST's operating budget comes from fundraising and requires all of our support! We welcomed 39% more contributors than in 2008/09. Let's set a record for 2010/11! If you haven't received a copy of the 2009/10 Annual Report, please let us know (meg@assist-inc.org).



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- Student Sponsorships
- Matching Grants
- Annual Fund
- Planned Giving
- Special Projects (Orientation, Host Family Program, Alumni Receptions, Video, 45th Celebration, etc.)
- Your Choice!
- Would you like our brochure? Write meg@assist-inc.org.

Alumni Director Eleanore Boyse Steps Downs

Eleanore Boyse, ASSIST's first-ever Director of Alumni Relations, has stepped down from her position after a highly successful two-and-a-half-year tenure. We owe a debt of gratitude to Eleanore for her leadership and dedication to her work. She has become part of the ASSIST Family, and she has shown us the potential we have to further our mission and to support the careers and ambitions of our alumni. We will miss Eleanore a great deal.

[Eleanore Boyse Announcement](#)
[Director of Alumni Relation Position Opening](#)

Alumni Gatherings

Germany: Alumni and alumni families met in Düsseldorf in June at the home of Mrs. Rosemarie Wegner, ASSIST's country coordinator. Eleanore Boyse, ASSIST's Director of Alumni Affairs attended the event.



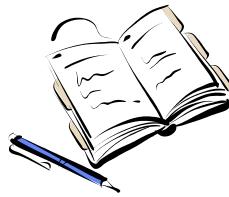


Hungary: Alumni Reception (above) and Orientation (r) in Leányfalu for orientation and a summer picnic. Each new Scholar received an ASSIST T-shirt.



Lithuania: A June Orientation in Lithuania with Ms. Jurate Kazickas and U.S. Ambassador, Ms. Anne E. Derse, present afterwards at a reception for the 2010/11 Scholars

China: ASSIST Scholars from China are becoming a **St. Albans** tradition. Pictured to the right are Bob, Percy, Chen, and Sandy



Mark your Calendar

2010	October 7	Alumni Reception, Washington DC
	October 9 – 11	Board of Directors Meeting, Suffield, CT
	October/November	ASSIST Travels to China, Vietnam, Australia, Germany
	November	Summary of 2010 Alumni Survey Available

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 record of Class Notes, click on the Class Year (www.assist-inc.org)

CLASS OF 2009/10

Duong Thi Thuy Chu, Albuquerque Academy
Covadonga Gomez, Kent Hills School
Josué Garcia, Sewickley Academy
Shan (Christy) Jiang, Episcopal School of Dallas
Martina Mihulková, Phillips Exeter Academy
Sara Sekelj, Darlington School
Bach-Huy Tran, St. Andrew's School
Chen Wang, St. Albans School

CLASS OF 2008/09

Bridget Connally, Santa Fe Preparatory School
Ana Godonoga, Wasatch Academy
Gustautas Jarasunas, Putney School
Thuy Tien Tran Vu, Head Royce School
Junyi Wang, North Shore Country Day School
XiaoAn Wang, Washington International School
Eliska Zoubková, Phillips Exeter Academy

CLASS OF 2007/08

Friederike Reuter, Francis Parker School

CLASS OF 2005/06

Jonas Tinius, Salisbury School

CLASS of 2004/05

Meret Hildebrandt, Stony Brook School

CLASS of 2003/02

Vicki Nokolova, Northfield Mt. Hermon School

CLASS OF 2001/02

Kerstin Thiel, Suffield Academy

CLASS OF 2000/01

Ioana Niculcea, Mercersburg Academy

CLASS OF 1991/92

Dominik Schrader, Taft School
Tina Kleingarn, Kents Hill School

This newsletter will be published throughout the year. Articles and notes welcomed!
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