



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2003 Meeting Summary**

NAC Update to YFU Staff

The YFU-USA National Alumni Council (NAC) fall meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois, during the weekend of October 24-26, 2003. The meeting was spent planning for the future of the NAC, as well as discussing current and proposed projects.

During the meeting, NAC members discussed changing the Alumni Association URL from www.yfu.org/us/alumni to www.yfu-usa.org/alumni for consistency with the new YFU USA address. A decision was made to begin using the new address as new publications are created; however, the old URL will continue to work as well.

Through homecoming and reconnection events, the Alumni Association has reached out to nearly 1,000 alumni with the help of the NAC. During the last six months, the NAC also implemented its AO Presentation Training Pilot. The first two training sessions went very well and more sessions are planned during the AO cycle.

In order to streamline communications and outreach, the NAC decided to eliminate the District Facilitator positions and in their place created two new projects that will address the former District Facilitator duties. The new positions will be known as Alumni Prospects Liaison and Alumni Coordinator Project Manager.

One of the NAC's major accomplishments since the spring meeting was the Alumni Contact Network's 25th anniversary appeal. More than \$1300 was collected and deposited into the Follebout Fund, including a sizeable donation of \$1000 by one of the alumni contacted. The task of the Alumni Contact Network (ACN) project manager was to contact alumni who went on exchange 25 years ago, soliciting both involvement with the Alumni Association and small donations to the Follebout Fund for alumni development. The NAC received a good response to this appeal and plans to conduct it late each spring.

The NAC continues to strive to fulfill the YFU-USA Alumni Association's mission of providing alumni with the benefits and opportunities of life-long learning in the YFU community, thereby furthering the mission of Youth For Understanding USA. We continue to provide resources to alumni, volunteers and staff, and to work closely with our staff liaison, David Barber.

Per our tradition, all of the NAC members donated to the Follebout Fund at the conclusion of our meeting.

Change in Membership

The NAC held a special election and elected three new members prior to the meeting. The new members are Tommy Buadaeng (Japan summer, 2000), Heather Curtis (Netherlands, 1995-96),



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2003 Meeting Summary**

and April Forer (Ukraine semester, 1997). The current members of the NAC welcomed these new members at the meeting.

The Executive Committee members also changed at the meeting. Danielle Rocheleau became the NAC Chair, Adrienne Fortin was elected as Vice Chair, and Ryan Savage was elected as Secretary. The NAC welcomed the new Executive Committee members and expressed their belief that the new members will continue to promote the YFU-USA Alumni Association mission as their predecessors did.

All NAC members were present at the meeting:

- Tommy Buadaeng
- Andrea Coronado
- Heather Curtis
- April Forer
- Adrienne Fortin, Vice Chair
- Becky Lemont
- Valerie Moles
- Michelle Peters
- Karen Radnovich
- Danielle Rocheleau, Chair
- Ryan Savage, Secretary
- Kristjan Stone
- Laurie Sutch
- Autumn Widdoes

(Note: Since the meeting, Autumn Widdoes and Karen Radnovich resigned due to personal circumstances.)

Through the NAC's leadership, the Alumni Association continues to grow in size and in opportunities, forming an invaluable network of resources for the entire YFU family. If you would like to request information or have any questions, please contact the Executive Committee (nac_ec@yahoogroups.com).

Current NAC Projects

Below are descriptions for many of the NAC's current projects. For additional information about these or other NAC projects, please visit the YFU-USA Alumni Association website (www.yfu-usa.org/alumni) or contact the appropriate project manager.

Alumni Prospects Liaison: Communicates with YFU USA alumni through the various Yahoo! groups by forwarding information to the groups as well as managing and maintaining groups that do not have Alumni Coordinators. Tommy Buadaeng, Project Manager (puon16@hotmail.com).



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2003 Meeting Summary**

Alumni Coordinator Project: Communicates with the Alumni Coordinators as well as Field Directors. Mentors new Alumni Coordinators and assists Field Directors in recruiting Alumni Coordinators. Becky Lemont, Project Manager (blemontea@email.msn.com).

Alumni Contact Network (ACN): Assists class contacts from many different program years and countries with finding and contacting members of their classes to reconnect them with YFU. Andrea Coronado, Project Manager (andreayfu@yahoo.com).

Alumni Link: A quarterly alumni newsletter available online at the YFU-USA Alumni Association website. Ryan Savage, Project Manager (ryan6008@aol.com).

Alumnus of the Year: An award given to an alumnus or alumna who goes above and beyond the call of duty as a volunteer. Nominations for Alumnus of the Year will be accepted each winter. Adrienne Fortin, Project Manager (metropeppers@yahoo.com).

Alumni Referral Program: An ever-growing list of young alumni who share their excitement about YFU with others who are interested in a YFU exchange program. The list is accessible in the "Ask YFU Alumni" section of the YFU USA website. Volunteer screeners interview participants for this project. Danielle Rocheleau, Project Manager (danielleyfu@hotmail.com).

Coordination of Homecoming and Reconnection Events: Over 6,000 alumni were invited to events across the country this past fall. Students just returning from their exchange were invited to Homecoming Events and alumni who returned home from their exchange more than one year ago were invited to Reconnection Events and were given the opportunity to meet the newly-returned students. Planning has begun for the next cycle of Homecoming/Reconnection Events. Michele Peters (petersmichele@hotmail.com) and Adrienne Fortin (metropeppers@yahoo.com), Project Managers.

Fundraising: Researches possible fundraising and grant opportunities for the Alumni Association. April Forer, Project Manager (aforer@sbcglobal.net).

Lead Inquiry Teams: Established during the 1999 AO cycle, virtual teams of volunteers make follow-up contacts to American students who have inquired about YFU programs. Kristjan Stone, Project Manager (lityfu@hotmail.com).

Parent Referral Program: Similar to the Alumni Referral Project, but for parents. Enables parents of prospective AOs to contact parents of alumni to ask questions about their children's exchanges. Becky Lemont, Project Manager (blemontea@email.msn.com).

Stay Over Program: The Stay Over Program makes it possible for alumni to stay overnight at the home of fellow YFUers around the world. In return, participants agree to place their contact information on a list available to other SOP members worldwide. Andrea Coronado, Project Manager (amcoronado@yahoo.com).



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2003 Meeting Summary**

Web Address Updates: Updates alumni addresses received from the alumni website. Inputs the new addresses in an excel spreadsheet and forwards emails to the appropriate Alumni Coordinator, Field Director, and Project Managers. Valerie Moles, Project Manager (vcmoles@comcast.net).

YFU-USA Alumni Association Website: The NAC's main communication vehicle, the website is frequently updated with information from the districts as well as national and international opportunities (<http://www.yfu-usa.org/alumni>). Heather Curtis, Project Manager (alumweb@yfu.org).



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2003 Meeting Summary**

Addendum: Replacement of District Facilitators

The mission of the National Alumni Council (NAC) continues to be to provide opportunities for lifelong learning in the YFU community for the alumni of YFU thus helping further the mission of YFU. In order to better advance this mission, the NAC has made a change from the past use of District Facilitators in each of the YFU districts. With the former system, an NAC member acted as a facilitator between the Alumni Coordinators (AC) and YFU staff in his/her district or as a link between alumni, YFU and the Alumni Association in those areas without an AC.

To better serve our alumni and to further the goals of the Alumni Association, the District Facilitators have been replaced with a Web Update and Interests Project Manager, Alumni Prospects Liaison for the Yahoo! Groups email groups and an Alumni Coordinator Project Manager. Each position will work with all districts and will work together with the Alumni Coordinators, Field Directors and other YFU staff to help alumni and to promote YFU.

The Web Update and Interests project manager will receive all alumni address updates and volunteer interest inquiries through the YFU-USA Alumni Association website and US mail from YFU and will forward them to the Alumni Prospects Liaison, appropriate project managers, local Field Directors, Alumni Coordinator (where available) and the YFU National Office for updating in the AS400 database. This person works "behind the scenes" to make sure information alumni send to the YFU-USA Alumni Association is routed to the appropriate contact person.

The Alumni Prospects Liaison invites alumni to the appropriate Yahoo! groups and forwards their information to the appropriate Alumni Coordinators in their states. The Alumni Prospects Liaison will also follow up with any alumni who requests further information. This person will also post information from the NAC, YFU-USA Alumni Association or YFU to be relayed to the alumni email groups. This person will be the contact whom interested alumni volunteers are directed when wishing to contact the YFU-USA Alumni Association and an available person they may contact if they do not receive follow up from their local area.

The Alumni Coordinator project manager works directly with the ACs as well as the Field Directors to help promote YFU and YFU-USA Alumni Association activities. The idea is to promote YFU, and volunteer opportunities and to work with local alumni to develop active alumni groups and activities in every local area or state in the country.

The NAC is streamlining the web inquiry response, the help for Alumni Coordinators in each region/state and the communication procedure for all alumni. These changes have taken effect and can be seen on the YFU-USA Alumni Association websites for each local area.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the NAC, the Executive Committee, nac_ec@yahoogroups.com, or the project managers:

- Web Update and Interests Project Manager – Val Moles at vcmoles@comcast.com.
- Alumni Prospects Liaison – Tommy Buadaeng at puon16@hotmail.com, or
- Alumni Coordinator Project Manager – Becky Lemont at Blemontea@msn.com