



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Fall 2004 Meeting Summary**

NAC Update to YFU Staff

The YFU-USA National Alumni Council (NAC) met in Chicago, IL, over the weekend of October 22-24, 2004. The goal of this meeting was to build upon discussions at last spring's meeting in Bethesda and our efforts between meetings, as well as to devise more ideas for promoting the Alumni Association to our alumni constituency.

During the meeting, NAC members discussed the importance of utilizing strengths, resources and abilities members use in their work and personal lives.

One of the NAC's major accomplishments since the spring meeting was the Alumni Contact Network's 25th anniversary appeal. The task of the Alumni Contact Network (ACN) project manager includes contacting 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 continues to receive a good response to this appeal and conducts 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. The NAC continues to provide resources to alumni, volunteers and staff as appropriate, and to work closely with our staff liaison, David Barber.

Following tradition, all NAC members made donations at the conclusion of the meeting. This year, the donation will be made directly to Youth For Understanding USA.

Bylaw Changes

The NAC discussed council term lengths and the efficacy and possible burn-out rate of members in three-year terms. Members voted unanimously to change term lengths to two years with the option of being in office for three terms. Following three successful terms, a member may wait one year before seeking reelection.

Current members will be given the option of being elected for a total of three consecutive terms, all future terms being two years in duration.

The three members with terms expiring in April 2005 (Valerie Moles, Danielle Rocheleau Salaz and Ryan Savage) will be permitted to seek re-election for a one-year term. This one-time change was not added to the bylaws, but was made to provide consistency as the Council is redesigned and rebuilt.

Quantitative Information

- Number of LIT members: 27



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- Number of AR Screeners: 29
- Number of AR Participants: 89
- Number of ACN Participants: 51
- Number of Active Local Groups: 25
- Number of active YFU USA related email groups: 33
- Number of people in active YFU USA related email groups: 1,218
- Average monthly web hits (January-October): 11,757
- Number of web updates: 55
- High month website hits: September, 14,578
- Number of alumni who are volunteers: 1,793

NAC Executive Committee

Due to extenuating circumstances, the Chair position needed to be filled at the meeting. Lengthy discussions on the duties and responsibilities of the Chair and the difficulty of moving into this position without being the Vice-Chair over the preceding year ended by deciding to elect interim Co-Chairs to lead the NAC. Members felt this was the best approach to help the leaders successfully undertake the Chair tasks. Andrea Coronado and Valerie Moles were elected as the Co-Chairs, and will serve for six months. At the Spring 2005 meeting, they may seek re-election, either together or individually, for the remaining six months. If neither Co-Chair runs, or is elected, again in the spring, the Vice-Chair will take over as Chair at that time.

The two other Executive Committee positions were also filled at this meeting. Erik Lingren was elected as Vice-Chair and Heather Curtis 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.

Current NAC Members

Andrea Coronado, Co-Chair

Heather Curtis, Secretary

Andrea Gappell, *new member*

Erik Lingren, Vice-Chair, *new member*

Valerie Moles, Co-Chair

Danielle Rocheleau Salaz

Ryan Savage

Kristjan Stone

Shane Ulrich, *new member, not present at meeting*

(Note: Shane Ulrich resigned from his position after encountering difficulties from having missed the meeting.)



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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 Project Managers listed below.

The National Alumni Council reaffirmed our five organizational goals:

1. Find and keep alumni connected.
2. Create and support national, regional and local communication network.
3. Personal, financial and volunteer opportunities for all alumni.
4. Integrate alumni into YFU program process.
5. Share decision-making authority among volunteers, staff and alumni.

During project discussions at the meeting, each project manager was asked to identify the goals their project meets and how they meet those goals.

Alumni Address and Interest Update Project allows the correct routing of each alumni interest form and address update form to the appropriate project manager and YFU staff. It also ensures efficient updating of an alumni's address in the YFU databases. This project meets goals 1-4. Valerie Moles (vcmoles@comcast.net), Project Manager

Alumni Contact Network is intended to help fellow alumni get and stay in touch with each other as well as to provide opportunities for alumni to get reconnected with YFU in many different ways. Many different groups (by program, year and country) already have a volunteer class contact working on contacting and finding fellow "exchange mates." This project meets goals 1-3. Andrea Coronado (yfu_acn@yahoo.com), Project Manager

Alumni Coordinator Project is a project to support the local Alumni Coordinators across the United States. The project manager supports each coordinator at the level that they wish to participate in this volunteer opportunity. The project manager provides resources both online and in-person where feasible to all who request assistance in the volunteer community. This project meets goals 1-4. Valerie Moles (vcmoles@comcast.net), Project Manager

Alumni Prospects Liaison helps facilitate electronic communications between the NAC and alumni. The APL also helps individual alumni find out about volunteering and other opportunities and helps them get in touch with other alumni, staff and volunteers in their areas. This project meets all goals. Kristjan Stone (ktstonefy@hotmail.com), Project Manager

Alumni Referral participants respond to emails, calls and letters from prospective students or parents. Referral participants must have gone on exchange in the past five years; anyone who has been back longer can become a Screener of Alumni Referral participants. This project meets goals 1-4. Danielle Rocheleau Salaz (referral@yfu.org), Project Manager



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Alumnus of the Year recognizes an outstanding alumnus or alumna who goes above and beyond the call of duty as a volunteer. Nominations for Alumnus of the Year are accepted each winter. This project meets goal 4. Heather Curtis (hcurtis@ameritech.net), Project Manager

Executive Committee members for the NAC are the Co-Chairs (Andrea Coronado, andreyfu@yahoo.com and Valerie Moles, vcmoles@comcast.net), Vice-Chair (Erik Lingren, elingren@dacbsa.org) and Secretary (Heather Curtis, hcurtis@ameritech.net). If you have ideas, suggestions, or other comments about the YFU-USA Alumni Association, please direct it to one of us. The Executive Committee meets goal 5.

Fundraising researches possible fundraising and grant opportunities for the Alumni Association. This project meets goals 2 and 3. Erik Lingren (elingren@dacbsa.org), Project Manager

Lead Inquiry Team members call students who have expressed interest in YFU exchange programs and encourage them to sign up for the opportunity of their lifetime: being a YFU exchange student. This project meets goals 1-4. Kristjan Stone (lit@yfu.org), Project Manager

Staff of the Year recognizes an outstanding staff who goes above and beyond the call of duty as a YFU USA staff member. Nominations for Staff of the Year are accepted each winter. This project meets goal 4. Heather Curtis (hcurtis@ameritech.net), Project Manager

YFU-USA Alumni Association Website - Getting input from alumni is one of the most important aspects of this project. The website is a resource for current activities and opportunities throughout the country. This project meets goals 1-4. Heather Curtis (alumweb@yfu.org), Project Manager

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).