

Inspiring
Challenging
Learning
Discovering
Transforming

Supportive
Passionate
Caring
Understanding

Trustworthy
Reliable
Responsive
Experienced

Connecting
Sharing
Familial
Bonding

OCTOBER 2017

AFS Interculture South Africa News

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Message from the Chairperson



Dear RSA family and friends,

On the 15th of July 2017 we had our first board meeting for the new term. We appreciate the effort made by all the strategic pillars to ensure that we remain focused.

Keeping an eye on the ball takes commitment, teamwork and passion. The strategic pillars have made good progress during the past 3 months. This has laid a solid foundation for AFS ISA's future.

Our strategy is partially aligned with the AFS Strategy and Plan 2018-2022 which has 4 areas of action namely:

- Advocacy
- Programs
- Volunteerism
- Education

We would like to encourage members in each pillar group to remain engaged and involve other volunteers.

The lead volunteers and staff of each pillar groups are:

Active Citizenship

Volunteer: Nathan Swartz

Staff: Dzentra Greenland

Education and Programs

Volunteer: Sonto Sibiya

Staff: Claudia Organ

Fundraising

Volunteer: Phokwane Molele

Staff: Unathi Sophazi

Organizational Relationships

Volunteer: Mary Mlambo

Staff: Utumiseng Rangaka

Volunteer Development

Volunteer: Freddy Lumbu

Staff: Mbalenhle Nkosi

On behalf of the AFS ISA board, we wish you more peace.

Palesa Ramatsepe

Message from the Chairperson

Mama Lily turns 82

AFS Stories:

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 - Mohau Mofokeng
 - Ayron Paige Gallop
-

Programme Deadlines

AFS'ers in Action

Sinegugu Nsimbi:

Enjoying her programme



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MAMA LILY TURNS 82!!!

*Mama Lily celebrates her
82nd birthday.*



Happy Birthday Mama Lily

Meghann Hall

YPysNH17

I couldn't have asked for a better host family. I am fitting in so well and I can tell that I am going to have an awesome year and make good memories with them.

I have established my independence in the household, I appreciate the fact that my host family includes me in everything but they also give me space to make my own friends and go on my own adventures.

I'm getting used to having a list of chores and doing my own laundry, I've got the hang of it now.

I was worried that I would be home sick but I'm adjusting very well...which is a relief.

I have experienced some exciting things like: baseball, I saw the eclipse and many more things which I can't think of right now.

I have met half of the extended family members (there's a lot of them) and they were all excited to meet me.

There are three other exchange students that live in Davenport, from Egypt, Thailand and Pakistan.

I have been in school for a while now and I love it! I'm already involved in so many things.

My school subjects include: Choir, Orchestra, US Government, Psychology, Stagecraft, World Religions, and Introduction to Acting, Foods,

Written Communication, World Literature, Young Adult Literature, Theatre Performance and Sociology.

I've made such amazing friends and we have a lot in common. For community service I'm excited to be helping out at a theatre which teaches classes to little children.

I'm also involved in my host dad's youth group. There are so many opportunities for community service and I'm excited to get involved.

Well there's a lot more to tell but that's all for now.

Mohau Mofokeng

YPasSH17 - China



My host family is amazing and I feel part of the family, I love every second of it. I strongly believe in the saying "it takes a village to raise a child".

When I talk about my family it will definitely include everyone in the community and my friends.

Experiencing Ubuntu in China

I get along with everyone even the community members show interest in my South African culture.

Ayron Paige Gallop

YPasSH17 - Brazil

It has been 3 months in Brazil and I cannot begin to explain what a whirlwind it has been. From the day I set foot on Brazilian soil my whole life changed.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to all the people that made this opportunity possible for me.



I have since changed host families and I am happier than before. Two weeks ago I moved to a new family and we could not be a better fit for each other.

Three months of a whirlwind experience in Brazil.

We have similar interests and enjoy the same activities. Sometimes we take long walks in the park and we go to the gym. Occasionally we watch movies

but I have realised that I prefer engaging in outdoor activities.

I live in the capital city of my state. It is a picturesque environment covered with vibrant green trees and numerous parks.

There are also a large number of enormous shopping malls which create a perfect environment for friends to meet up.

During the weekends I sometimes go to the market, this is where the Brazilian spirit can be felt.

I live in a big city so I have not yet seen and experienced everything yet.

Brazilians in general are very loud and happy people. They are always laughing and singing.



I noticed a difference in the food. While the types of food are the same, how it's prepared and how it's eaten is very different.

Of course, Brazil does have its unique foods that are mouth-watering.

The food doesn't have a lot of spices or sauces; it's very bland compared to the delicious flavours of South Africa.

I can tell how much I have grown, not only in size (from all the food), but from becoming independent.

I am less shy and able to make decisions on my own without wondering what others will think.

I can only hope I will continue to grow and return a better person.

PROGRAMME DEADLINES...

SENDING

Application closing date for YPscNH18

USA: 31 January 2018.

Other Countries: 15 February 2018

For any queries please contact: unathi.sophazi@afs.org

HOSTING

Call for Host Families

Programmes:

- YPscSH18
- IPscNH18
- YPscNH18

For any queries please contact: utumiseng.rangaka@afs.org

AFS'ERS IN ACTION

YPbzNH17

Arrival Orientation @ Our Heritage



YPscNH17

Arrival Orientation @ Our Heritage



Mosselbay Chapter

Radio Interview



IPscNH17

Departure Orientation @ The Aviator



Weltevreden Park Chapter

Kalisa's Farewell



YPbpNH16

Amanda Zummo speaks about her exchange experience.



Peggy and Art Howe & Mama Lily Award Winner

Mr. Isaac Lategan



AGA 2017



AGA 2017

Emalahleni Chapter Members



ENJOYING HERSELF ON PROGRAMME

Sinegugu Nsimbi



My first month in the US was awesome. I am thrilled to be able to share all the exciting, joyful and challenging moments of my exchange in the US. I have attended a lot of exciting events together with my lovely family and my friends.

I have been blessed with an amazing host family. I love my host family they are awesome. I have since made friends with two beautiful young ladies; Noura from Germany as well as Veronica from Ghana.

My school is beautiful with about 18000 friendly students. I chose to do the more challenging subjects this semester but next semester I will do the fun subjects. I don't participate in any sports because all the teams were full.

Next semester I would like to try lacrosse and softball. I've joined a book club and I'm reading two amazing books titled "Holding up the Universe" and the "Memory book."

I attended the Japanese festival at the botanical garden and I tried sushi for the first time in my life.

I would like to thank everyone who believed in me and gave me a chance to experience such an amazing life in the US.

I am so glad that I got this opportunity to learn more about America and being able to teach Americans about my South African culture.

Thank you.

