
The Exchange

Family is the center from which each of our students take root in their exchange year here in the USA. Family is the place of safety, care and daily life in our America. Coming from a large family myself, I really enjoyed this year expanding my local NWSE family, as it gave me much joy and contact with wonderful families and other cultures. What a year of great adventures. Outstanding students, a dollop of rocky road, and immersion into our culture. I cannot believe that it is coming to a close, but before it does, I'd like to bring forth some of the accumulated joy of our students in the pages that follow.

This issue features Maiko (Japan) and the pride she shows with her school marching band, a trip to California for Bekjan and Kaukhar (Kyrgyzstan) with Explore America Tours, Ji Zhou's academic excellence and his bemusement at learning that all of the chefs in a popular Chinese restaurant were Hispanic. Next, Bekjan with his host family, a host mother's story, and a congratulatory page to the out-standing achievements of Bekjan's host sisters, followed by Kaukhar's participation in The Model United Nations Project Conference. Federico, a talented artist/photographer, and "good cooker" closes this edition of 'The Exchange' with a selection of photographs depicting his happiest moments here in the USA.

Special thanks go out to all of our host families for opening their hearts

Bon Voyage



and homes to exchange students this year. You are truly priceless in my eyes. Thank you all for sharing your stories and your photos with us throughout the year.

We welcome the Stein's and their new Italian daughter to the NWSE family. Will you be the next family to join our community? Or maybe someone you know or whom you could recommend? If so, please call or e-mail me at: 410-703-4321, incrabtownz@me.com.

Let me now introduce our feature student for the final issue of "The Exchange" for this academic year, Maiko of Japan.

MAIKO OF JAPAN

My American life is almost over as an exchange student. I have a new hometown in Chestertown, new family and friends since I arrived last August. Our home is a real running farm, so we have many kinds of animals such as sheep, horse, chickens and, of course, dogs and cat too. First time I couldn't remember each dog's name because they are all border collies, so they look similar. They have different personalities such as some dogs are shy but some dogs are friendly. I like animals so I spend fun time with them. To spend with other people who have different cultures or ideas we need to accept the difference them between Japan and the U.S. I also spend time with the Chinese student, Ji Zhou, who is an exchange student like me. When we have an issue about action or lifestyle we share our differences. Sometimes it is hard to accept, but sometimes it is good for us to learn something new. I have a good relationship with my family and friends, both in American and Japan. I am thinking what a lucky person I am. My host mom is sweet mom, we are like real parent and child and I spent lots of time with her. For the first two months I had two host sisters, Alina who is my host mom's daughter, and Lilli who is Alina's daughter. I spent only two months with them but I had a lot of fun stuff with them, like going to the beach. Each day when I returned from school I came I played with my host sisters. I had a fun time with them.

At the beginning of the school year I felt little confused about the school's ambience and school systems. My favorite part of th American school system is that each student can choose their own subjects. In Japan we cannot choose by ourselves. It is so cool for me. To make friends was hard for me, because at first I was so shy. I learned that communication is important, and don't be shy. I noticed that I need to communicate with other people to learn many things such as culture, ideas and how to make friends. I like music, so I participated in the band club. I think to join any club activities are good things to make new friends because they have the same hobby. I had a lot of fun stuff with them and I participated in many parades, concerts and a trip to Virginia Beach for band competitions. I cannot imagine my fun school life without them!

I want to say to future students that you need to share your own culture and new ideas, which you



begin to learn right from the beginning of your exchange program, and to join some clubs. There you can make new friends, and learn more about this culture and concepts. Also don't be shy and don't forget to keep a Smile on your face:D

MAIKO



PROM NIGHT: MAIKO & FRIENDS



SWEET MOM, SARAH, WITH TWO OF
HER BORDER COLLIES.



MAIKO, LILLI &
ALINA



MAIKO HOLDING A
NEWBORN SPRING
LAMB



MAIKO & LILLI WITH BUNNY AT
THE CHESTERTOWN FALL FESTIVAL



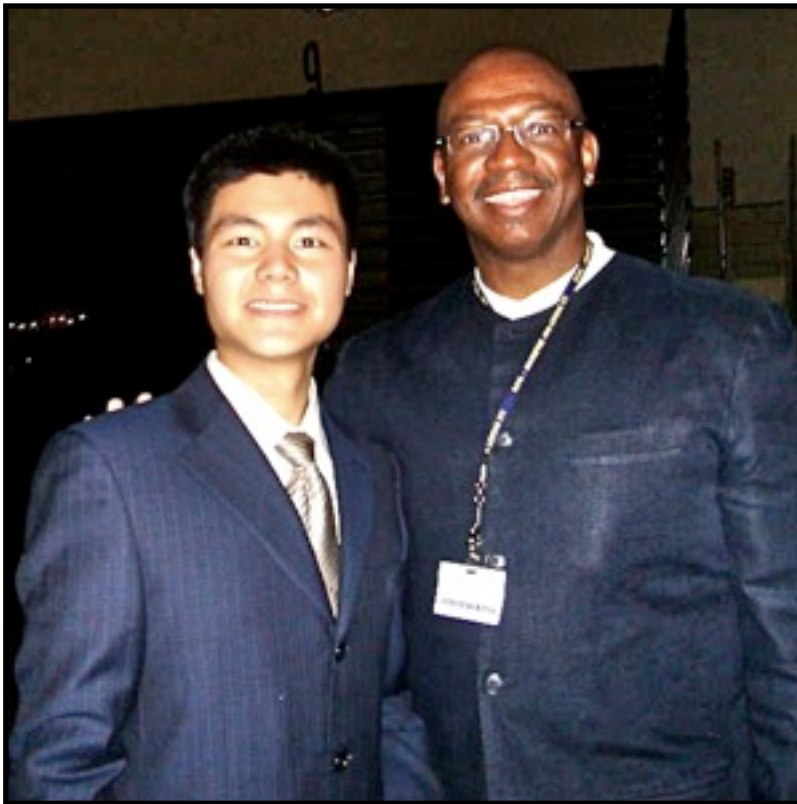
MAIKO, JI ZHOU, CASEY & CHILDREN AFTER
AN AFTERNOON OF SLEDDING ON THE FARM



MAIKO WITH HER SOME OF HER
FURRY FRIENDS ON THE FARM



Ji Zhou with his High School Principal



Congratulations
Ji Zhou!



Ji Zhou made the
honor roll
and four semesters
of Straight "A"s!



Ji Zhou and exchange student sister,
Maiko, at P.F. Chang's Restaurant.

The funniest thing about America that
Ji Zhou will tell his natural parents in
China upon his return. All the chefs
at P.F. Chang's are hispanic.



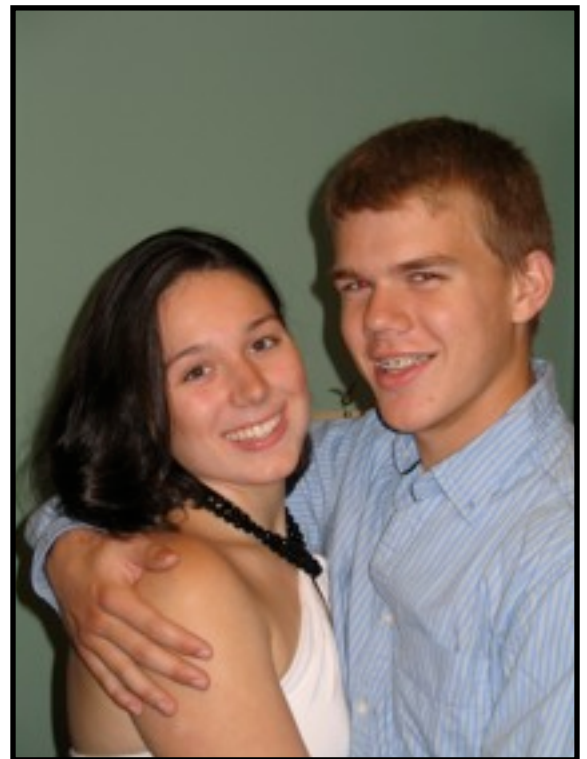


BEKJAN'S HOST PARENTS, LEO & PAULA
WITH PUP EXTRAORDINAIRE, PEANUT.

LEO WITH BEKJAN IN A WRESTLING HOLD.
SPORTS BUDDIES . . . GO HUSKERS!



LINDSEY WITH SWEETHEART, THAD.
LIKE BROTHER & SISTER TO BEKJAN.
INTRODUCING BEKJAN TO THEIR
SOCIAL CIRCLE & FOOTBALL.



BEKJAN, CHRISTMAS MORNING WITH HIS HOST FAMILY



BEKJAN RECEIVES A LAVA LAMP
FROM HOST SISTER, LINDSEY.



LINDSEY WITH FELT DOLL FROM
BEKJAN AND HIS KYRGYZ
FAMILY

SARA WITH FELT SLIPPERS FROM
BEKJAN AND HIS KYRGYZ
FAMILY



CONGRATULATIONS TO HOST SISTERS SARA & LINDSEY



Sara is graduating with honors from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Comparative Literature. She is in the College Scholars program where they design their own majors and must write a thesis to graduate. Her thesis is a comparative study of six Arab and American feminist short stories, which focus on issues of gender, religion and labor. Although there are both similarities and great differences between the issues within these regions, she uses the stories as a means to facilitate a mutually beneficial and respectful solidarity between Arab and American feminisms. She is fluent in Arabic and Spanish and plans to continue her education to obtain a master's degree and a PhD after taking a two year break. She is will be moving to Austin, TX this summer, where she hopes to find work either in the universities library archives or at a non-profit agency.

Lindsey is graduating from high school with a 4.5 GPA, received a scholarship and will be attending University of Maryland College Park Campus this Fall.

During her junior and senior years, she was the President of the Model United Nations Club, coordinated trips each year to the national Model U.N. conference in Washington, DC (including fundraising), and led her team to more than triple the club's membership. She will go to Tennessee for one week this summer to serve on an Appalachian Service Project (ASP) with other students and adults from our church, where they will make major repairs to the home of a disadvantaged family. This will be the third summer she has made this commitment.

Paula



I keep expecting him to come up behind me in the kitchen and ask, "What's for dinner?" You know your exchange student feels comfortable in your home the moment he asks that same question that your own kids would ask. Bekjan was our second student from Kyrgyzstan. The young man whom Bekjan must have felt was an older brother that he had never met, Almaz, had been our exchange son seven years before. There were so many similarities between them that we sometimes goofed and called Bekjan by Almaz's name. However, each exchange experience is different in a variety of ways. Bekjan came to us Labor Day weekend and went back to his natural parents last weekend.

Almaz was more outgoing and made friends more easily both at home and at school than Bekjan. However, they both had a great sense of fun. Bekjan, who enjoyed being told that he resembled Bruce Lee, was a natural mimic and made us laugh with his imitations of everyone from his host sister, Lindsey, to rap stars.

Bekjan, whose uncle had run for president against the recently

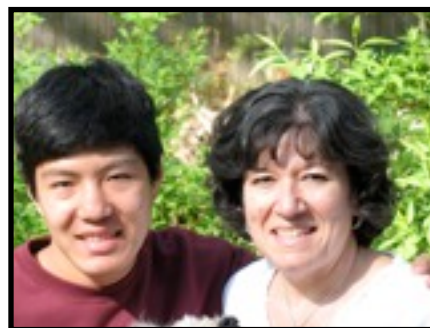
deposed president of Kyrgyzstan, was very proud of his country's rich culture. He brought us a huge set of photos (on CD's) of the geography, animals, customs, national costumes and intricate crafts of his beautiful country. He brought us small, handmade gifts such as miniature urtes (elaborate tents made of sheepskin and tapestries) and stuffed camels to represent the way many Kyrgyz people spend their summers in the mountains. He told us about some of the fascinating customs of his culture, such as the celebration commemorating a little boy's first attempts to walk alone.

We all watched the news with rapt attention when the opposition overthrew the Kyrgyz government on April 20th and the president fled the country. Although Bekjan's family sided with the opposition, the people in surrounding villages, who had come to loot the businesses in Bishkek, completely decimated his mother's grocery store. Bekjan didn't want to hear that he was safer here with us when he wanted to be at his mother's side protecting her store. Two of his uncles became ministers in the newly formed government. Bekjan was eager to return to his family to help in any way that he could, including campaigning for his uncle's renewed presidential campaign.

Kyrgyzstan doesn't have an international airport. To get back to his family, Bekjan had to fly from here to Frankfurt and then on to Kazakhstan. The border between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan has been closed

from the Kyrgyz side due to the political upheaval. As a result, Bekjan was to be picked up by a cousin who was married to a Kazakh and be taken to the border between the two countries. His cousin couldn't take him into Kyrgyzstan because she wouldn't have been allowed back into Kazakhstan, and his parents couldn't cross the border to pick him up. In the middle of the night his cousin and her husband were to drop him at the border, he would walk through the checkpoint to the Kyrgyz side and his parents would pick him up there. Although he didn't seem concerned about this complicated itinerary, I was worried for him. It was a great relief to hear his voice on the phone when he called to tell me that he was with his parents on the Kyrgyz side of the border and his parents wanted to thank us for all that we had done for him. We are so comfortable and complacent in our safe, American homes that we forget how tenuous life can be in other countries until we open our homes to children from another culture.

Paula



BEKJAN AND HOST MOTHER,
PAULA

Kaukhar takes JHUMUNC 2010 . . . and where on earth is Djibouti?



Johns Hopkins University Model United Nations Conference, JHUMUNC 2010, was a great experience for me this year. Though many schools had participated for a number of years, it was the first year for my high school. The country chosen for our school to represent was Taiwan. The conference took place in Baltimore at the Sheraton Hotel. We spent four days at the conference with hundreds of students from all over the United States and Canada.

Participants were required to be communicative, demonstrate leadership skills and be proficient in speech and debate. We were required to wear a western style business attire, which presented a more formal and professional look.

Basically, Model UN is a very good example of what the United Nations does in reality. The UN has many special committees: UNESCO, UNDP, UNICE, etc. Our committee was UNDP or the





KAUKHAR'S COMMITTEE AT
THE 2010 JHUMUNC

United Nations Development Program. We had three different topics to discuss and vote on: Question of Aid to Samaliland, Environmentally Friendly Development in Developing Countries, and Food Prices. In my opinion, all three topics were serious and it was amazing to see high school students being involved and care about things like that.

I met so many new and interesting people, who were interested in me, since I was the only foreign exchange student at the conference. The funniest experience to me was how all

of us during conference referred to each other by the country each of us was representing, not by our names. By the end of each session I was friends with Nigeria, Portugal, Italy, Kazakhstan, Germany, Russian Federation, Cuba and Djibouti.

But where I really had fun was Saturday evening at the Delegates Dance. Everyone was dancing so wildly. About ten young men asked me to dance. Although I was flattered, it was too uncomfortable for me, as everyone was dancing too close with their partner. In my culture young people like myself would dance in a group, but not with a partner.

This experience has made a paramount impact on my life and I have decided that I will major in International and Comparative Politics next year at the University in Bishkek. Right now, I am thinking in my mind, perhaps I am, in the future, the delegate of my country to the United Nations. . . Today a seed, tomorrow a reality.

Kaukhar



KAUKHAR'S TRADITIONAL KYRGYZ DANCE PERFORMANCE
AT HER HIGH SCHOOL



Federico's Play Space



**in the rain, there exists a special kind of
silence . . .**

as brotherly love



☞ Francesco and Federico ☞

walks the long and winding road.

silencio.



www.nwse.com

NWSE welcomes all participants and hosts, without regard to race, creed, religion, or color.

For information or questions regarding our program, please contact your Local Academic Coordinator:

Jeanne' Berger
Local
Academic Coordinator
Crownsville MD 21032
410-703-4321
877-256-0971 (toll free)



Please check out the new exchange students profiles on the NWSE website.

[www.nwse.com/
profiles](http://www.nwse.com/profiles)

Username:
nwsehost

Password: hosting

We hope you will host one of the students we have selected for this issue.



Stu. ID: 1403

August 2010 Academic Year Program

Paula **Brazil** **Female** **D.O.B.:** 3/9/1994

Recommended Grade: 11 **Pets:** Can live with pets

Main Interests: Swimming, loves animals/nature (wants to be a vet), reading, v-ball team

Smoking: Can live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes



Stu. ID: 1359

August 2010 Academic Semester Program

Marius **Germany** **Male** **D.O.B.:** 6/26/1995

Recommended Grade: 10 or 11 **Pets:** Can live with pets

Main Interests: Bicycling, soccer, skiing, tennis, chess, movies, reading, video games, tennis club

Smoking: Cannot live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes



Stu. ID: 1365

August 2010 Academic Year Program

Tensho **Japan** **Male** **D.O.B.:** 7/5/1993

Recommended Grade: 11th **Pets:** Can live with pets

Main Interests: Tennis, trombone, photography, sewing, chess, cooking, movies, Internet, reading, video games, tea-ceremony

Smoking: Cannot live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes



Stu. ID: 1231

August 2010 Academic Semester Program

Jana F **Germany** **Female** **D.O.B.:** 3/11/1994

Recommended Grade: 11 or 12 **Pets:** Can live with pets

Main Interests: Basketball, bicycling, Frisbee, ice skating, inline skating, guitar, flute, piano, photo club in school, painting, photography, movies, likes children

Smoking: Can live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes



Stu. ID: 1232

August 2010 Academic Semester Program

Lilith H. **Germany** **Female** **D.O.B.:** 1/23/1994

Recommended Grade: 12 **Pets:** Can live with pets

Main Interests: Horseback riding, jogging, snowboarding, skiing, tennis, Yoga, piano, flute, dancing, drawing, painting, pottery, cooking, movies, Internet,

Smoking: Cannot live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes



Stu. ID: 1233

August 2010 Academic Year Program

Gabriel **Ecuador** **Male** **D.O.B.:** 2/23/1993

Recommended Grade: 12 **Pets:** Can live with pets; has a dog

Main Interests: American football, basketball, bicycling, horseback riding, ice skating, music, drawing, photography, wants to play soccer, hopes to be architect

Smoking: Cannot live with smokers **Attend church?** Yes