

INTERNATIONAL
YMCA
SERVING THE
WORLD SINCE 1911

THE
INTERNATIONAL
YMCA...

- HAS INBOUND AND OUTBOUND PROGRAMS SERVING 8000+
- RELATES TO 70 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD
- HAS 21 STAFF FROM 10 COUNTRIES

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International Y News

International YMCA ~ A Branch of the YMCA of Greater New York

WWW.INTERNATIONALYMCA.ORG

FALL 2009

New International YMCA Partner

The International YMCA was visited this past summer by **Alexie Kostyakov**, Russia's



Rayda Márquez (l), national Y coordinator and director of the YMCA in Ivanovo, a city located northeast of Moscow, along the middle of the Volga River, and traditionally known as the textile capital of Russia.

Alexie will serve as the International YMCA's new recruiter in Russia, promoting programs such as the International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP) and sending Russian youth to summer

camps in the U.S. Meetings with International's CEO, **Sandy Mitchell**, and senior staff **Amarillis Soler** and **Rayda Márquez**, mapped out plans and strategies for the new partnership.

The Russian YMCA movement, revived in 1992, has achieved noticeable success to date. One such YMCA is in Ivanovo. In Ivanovo, programs include fine arts, Christian education, a center for "street children, a multimedia center and leadership training.

The YMCA in contemporary Russia is a well-structured Inter-regional Association of public organizations of Christian youth and families and is spreading every year with an increasing number of new local organizations. Its main goals are to pro-

vide a wide range of citizens with various opportunities for their spiritual, physical, and mental development and to participate in formation of a stronger democratic society. It was the national Canadian and USA Y's that helped organize the first Russian YMCAs in the universities of Moscow & St. Petersburg in 1904 and it was the October Revolution of 1917 that put an end to the development of the YMCA in Russia.



Alexie Kostyakov tells **West Side Y Day Camp** children about life in Russia

Scott Curry—Staff Profile

Scott Curry, Director of International Exchange Services at the International Y since 2002, is responsible for Work & Travel and other program operations. Originally from Minnesota, Scott has a BA in International Studies from The School for International Training (VT) and his Masters in non-profit management from the New School University (NYC).

His international interests

were fostered early on as an AFS exchange student to New Zealand while in high school. Following Internships with ICCP and the German International Student Service, he joined the ICCP staff for two years and then CDS International as Sr. Program Manager ('88-'02)



before retuning to the International Y. He enjoys providing similar experiences to others as they bridge cultural differences, prepare future leaders and contribute to a more peaceful society. Scott loves fishing, travel, being a bona fide "foodie" and has completed 8 marathons!

Scott is married and lives in Queens, NYC.

Job Fair in Paraguay



Gonzalo "Gonzo" Garcia (l), former International Y Trainee, and John Hedbavny (r), in Montevideo, Uruguay. "Gonzo" now works with J-I visa programs at the U.S. Embassy there.

"The Global Teens program empowers teens with first-hand knowledge of international social issues and helps them build leadership skills and grow as global citizens."

—Anita Harvey, executive director of Staten Island YMCA's Broadway branch in West Brighton (NYC)

120 NYC teens traveled to seven different countries

One hundred and eighty university students and their parents in Asunción, Paraguay, recently attended an information session about YMCA program opportunities in the U.S., presented by **John Hedbavny** of the International YMCA. The presentation preceded a two-day job fair attended by **Jacie Gdoviack**, Director of International Programs for the YMCA of the Rockies (CO), and **Vladimir**, representing Publix, "the fastest growing supermarket chain in the U.S."

Both were kept busy interviewing for Winter Work & Travel positions for both com-

panies, and for Trainee & Intern positions at the Rockies' Snow Mountain Ranch and Estes Park sites. Hedbavny interviewed those interested in being U.S. summer camp counselors through ICCP. Some forty-five students were hired by Publix and seventeen by the Y of the Rockies.

The job fair was organized by **Alexis Alcaraz**, our recruiter in Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina, and former International Y Trainee.

Alcaraz and Hedbavny also visited the U.S. Embassy in Asunción to meet with the Consul and further strengthen

the International Y's J-I visa programs. They then flew to Montevideo, Uruguay, to promote the J-I programs in that country, visit the ACJ (YMCA), and meet with officials at the U.S. embassy.



Interviewing: Jacie Gdovick (front), Y of the Rockies, and Vladimir (back), Publix

Teens Travel Overseas for Service Projects

Reprinted from "Staten Island Advance"—Thursday, 10/17/09—
By **DIANE C. LORE**,
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, NY—WEST BRIGHTON—Four teens and one staff member from the Staten Island YMCA participated in the journey of a lifetime this summer as part of the International YMCA's Global Teens program.

Teens **Matthew Vazquez** of Port Richmond and **Abdul Hafiz** of Clifton, as well as **Cynthia Bayiokos**, youth and family coordinator for the South Shore Y, spent two weeks in Port Alegre, Brazil.

Meanwhile **Abdulahi Osman** of Clifton spent two weeks in Chiangmai, Thailand, and Marisol Ramirez of Eltingville, spent two weeks in Goyang, South Korea.

They were among more

than 120 teens from the New York area selected to travel to foreign countries. Thanks to fund-raising efforts and support from the Staten Island YMCA, the cost of the trip for the teens was largely underwritten.

Anita Harvey, executive director of the Staten Island YMCA's Broadway branch in West Brighton, said the program is a worthwhile investment in borough teens. "The Global Teens program empowers our teens with first-hand knowledge of international social issues and helps them build leadership skills and grow as global citizens," she said.

While abroad, the adolescents stayed in YMCA facilities and met and worked alongside teens their own age to complete service projects that

focused on particular social issues affecting the host country.

Vazquez, Hafiz and Ms. Bayiokos, who traveled to Brazil, for example, focused on healthy living. They arranged and participated in youth sports festivals with teens from the local YMCA and helped plant vegetable gardens and educate teens about healthy food choices.

"I was extremely excited to go to Brazil," said Vazquez, 15, a sophomore at Port Richmond High School. "The experience allowed me the chance to meet new people and learn about cultures different from my own and I feel I've come away from the experience with a new view of the world."

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Returning Summer Staff Special Offer



Camps that want any of their international staff from this summer or previous summers to return

Returning staff give camps a staffing edge

next summer, can begin the process now and save money—**ONLY \$350** for complete applications received by December 31st—regardless of this year’s visa sponsor! Payment must accompany each application.

The online application process, new in 2009, was received enthusiastically

by camps and called “very easy and efficient.”

The link to the simple application, to be completed by the host camp and the returning staff member, and a summary of the offer, is :

www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/CampDire/Camps_Flyer_2009.pdf

Or contact **Judy Gomez:**

ygomez@ymcanyc.org

FOR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH INTERNATIONAL YMCA STAFF, USE THE Y’S TOLL FREE NUMBER: 888/477-9622



Work & Travel Program From Jamaica to Kansas!

Nixie Gardner and **Nastassia Moore**, two International YMCA Summer Work & Travel program participants from Jamaica, were placed at Royco Hotel’s Super 8 Motel in Hays, Kansas. Both came to the program through Jamaica’s Spanish Town YMCA.

ROYCO is one of the leading hotel and management companies in North America, placing our participants in housekeeping roles.

The Work & Travel program



Nixie and Nastassia are shown here on their last night in Kansas, before returning to their native Jamaica.

provides full-time university students from around the world opportunities to work in the U.S. during their official summer school break.

Winter Work & Travel opportunities are available also and can ease peak season staffing needs for U.S. employers, especially at winter resorts. For more information, contact **Scott Curry**, director for international exchanges:

scurry@ymcanyc.org

Winter Work & Travel, Trainees and Interns—all J-I programs that can bring internationals to your site for experiences that benefit all involved.

Global Teens on You Tube

Check out You Tube for a new video put together by a team of summer volunteers in the YMCA of Greater New York’s Communications Department. You will hear from participants themselves about their experiences in other countries through the International YMCA’s **Global Teens** program.

Countries included in this sum-

mer’s program were Thailand, Peru, and Chile.

Here is the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT4BsFycfOU>

The Thailand Global Teen Project video was filmed by Ellen Murphy, Greater New York YMCA and Teen Press Correspondent, Eduardo. This link is found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtB2cQWozR0>

Destinations for 2010 Global Teen trips will be announced by the end of October. However, application packets for participants (14-18 years of age) and for Group Leaders (23+ years) are available now.

If interested, check it out now!

For more information on the **Global Teens** program, contact **Chad Hiu**, Director of Teen & Outbound Programs: chiu@ymcanyc.org

INTERNATIONAL YMCA
serving the world since 1911



OUR PROGRAMS

- **ICCP—Summer camp counselors, support staff, Trainees & Interns**
- **Summer/Winter Work & Travel**
 - **Global Teens**
 - **Go Global**
 - **United Nations**
 - **Study Tours**
- **Youth Ambassadors**

www.internationalymca.org

Evaluations!

Many camps have said that our “crop” of **ICCP** participants this past summer was among the best ever! We appreciate the positive feedback.

ICCP worked hard also to respond in a timely and productive manner to any concerns or problems. ICCP always strives to improve and customer insights and comments are helpful and important to achieve that goal. **You speak; we listen!**

If you have not done so yet, please take advantage of the opportunity to “evaluate” us and utilize the link below to do so. As was the case this time last year: *You speak; we listen!*

⇒ **For Camp Directors & Host Sites with Regular participants:**

www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/Forms2009/Camp_eval_iccp.shtml

⇒ **For Camp Directors and Host Sites with Direct Placements and Returning Staff:**

www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/Forms2009/DRET_eval_hostsite.shtml

⇒ **For all Trainees & Interns:**

www.internationalymca.org/TraingAndInternships/Evaluations.shtml

Global Teens Travel

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"This was my third Global Teens trip, and each one was as fun as the one before," explained Hafiz, 17, a senior at Susan Wagner High School. "In Brazil I got to work with the kids and teach my culture while I learned theirs. Global Teens is an invaluable experience that I have and will always cherish and remember," he added.

Osman's trip to Thailand, his second Global Teens trip, focused on human rights. He worked side-by-side local teens and adults to help build a YMCA youth development center, played volleyball and basketball with teens and helped local rice farmers plant.

"I'll never take rice for granted anymore," declared Osman, a 17-year-old senior at Curtis High School. Miss Ramirez' trip to South Korea focused on freedom of expression.

She and other teens helped deliver meals to seniors. She noted that Korean teens spend up to 10 hours a day in school.

"They have a great respect for their teachers, their elders and education. I found that to be an eye-opener," said Miss Ramirez, a 17-year-old senior at St. John Villa Academy,



Global Teens build a youth development center in Thailand

"The teens that were selected for these trips were a pleasure to work with and I feel privileged to have acted as their cultural ambassador," said Ms. Bayiokos. She said she hopes to increase the number of Staten Island teen applicants and raise awareness about the program for next year's Global Teens program.

Representatives of the International YMCA will be hosting information sessions on the 2010 Global Teens program at the Y's South Shore branch on Oct. 2 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and at the Broadway branch on Nov. 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. Applications will be available; teens need not be a YMCA member to attend.

For more information;

www.internationalymca.org