

DO YOU KNOW.....

- Which capital city is also the headquarters for NATO?
a) Frankfurt
b) Munich
c) Florence
d) Brussels
- Afrikaans, English and 9 Bantu languages make up the 11 official languages of which country?
a) S. Africa
b) Nigeria
c) Mozambique
d) Ghana
- Unscramble these cities:
a) RIAMDD
b) ASTGNOLA
c) TEMMARADS
- Answers on page 4

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Our Volunteers Make a Difference

There are currently eighteen young people serving as volunteers at the International YMCA, many as work-study students! Most are students at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) in Manhattan and became involved this past Fall as the result of a partnership formed with the International YMCA. Others are not, like **Anabay Sullivan**, a college graduate (Columbia University) who enjoys the multicultural environment at the Y. **Nathalie Gilles**, a junior majoring in international studies at City College of NY, says she has gained an understanding of the dynamics of the Y's many cultural



L-R: Ronald Yan, Imade Idusuy, Nakieta Sales, Anabay Sullivan, Jagriti Bowa, Nathalie Gilles

exchange programs.

Ronald Yan (above left), a Freshman majoring in architecture, was selected as NYIT's "work-study student of the month" for his volunteer role with the Y's Information Technology department.

Kelvin Eng, IT director, says of Ronald, "He is a hard worker, always looking for ways to be helpful and making things better. I feel I push him to his limits and, each time, he meets the challenge." Ronald contributes to web site changes, improvements to the data base and does computer repairs for the International Branch.

Others are involved with teen outbound programs, Work & Travel, Finance Department, and ICCP. They do a lot to assist the full-time staff and learn a lot in the process. Like Ronald, and as noted often by the staff, "they make a huge difference!"

Amarilis Soler—Staff Profile

Amarilis Soler has been with the International YMCA for 20 years! The Director of International Programs for the last five years, she has served also as Assistant Director of the International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP), relating to the southeast US region, and as Director of Overseas Relations.

"At the core of everything for me," she said, "is what we do for young people. There are so many opportunities to help them develop personally and professionally, to

challenge them to try something new, and for them to succeed."

She added, "And, I feel privileged to work with a group of colleagues who are the best at what they do. They are so committed and passionate about making sure that these young people have these exchange program opportunities."

Amarilis is originally from the Dominican Republic. She lives in the Bronx (NYC) with her husband, **Fermin**, and their two children, **Elena**, 6, and **Enrique**, 4 years old.

With a smile on her face, she says, "I love that we bring people together to make the world a better place, one person at a time!"



Amarilis Soler, director of international programs and with the Branch for 20 years



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently highlighted the importance of international exchange programs

"The more we can have that person-to-person contact, the more likely it is we can develop better understanding."

—Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

Over the next fifty years, 82% of the US population expansion will come from immigration.



Hillary Clinton Supports Exchanges

Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** held a roundtable with Indonesian journalists in Jakarta recently and highlighted the importance of international exchange programs. In response to a question regarding the Obama Administration's plan to "intensify the dialogue" between Indonesia and the United States, Secretary Clinton said:

"I hope we'll have a lot more exchanges of all kinds, people-to-people exchanges. I think governments have to talk, and that's important, and it's one of the reasons why I'm here in Indonesia. But there is nothing that is more effective than having people break down barriers between themselves.

"The level of interest here in

Indonesia for students studying in the United States has put student exchanges at the top of my list when I go back to Washington: How do we increase more exchanges? Because there's a great interest in having Indonesians study in the United States, and I think there will be opportunities for American students to do more in Indonesia. And I just had a wonderful meeting with your President, and he was talking about how we can have more higher education exchanges, university-to-university. We should look at all of that. How do we have more healthcare exchanges where our doctors and nurses and hospitals work with yours? The more we can have that person-to-person contact, the more likely it is we can develop better understanding.

"I also am very impressed at the way Indonesia has led inter-faith dialogues, and also its emphasis on democracy, like the Bali Democracy Forum, bringing countries together that are at different stages of democratic development. So we do see a tremendous opportunity for us to increase our government-to-government cooperation and the comprehensive partnership that I discussed with both the President and the Foreign Minister, but also more on a people-to-people basis."

Read the entire roundtable transcript at

www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/02/119423.htm.

The Culture Corner

Census projections tell us that, over the next fifty years, 82% of the US population expansion will come from immigration. Assuming this is true, it means our already increasingly diverse population, will become even more diverse.

As our current multi-cultural society expands, we only can expect our summer camps to become more multi-cultural. Multi-cultural

camps prepare our children to live in a global culture.

Summer camps for children are a US tradition and do so much more for a child's development than simply teaching them to swim, improve skills in a favorite sport, or learn to ride a horse. The inter-personal skills and social development that results from living together, functioning as a group, and growing as an individual, are a major part of the camp experience. The current presence of international counselors, support staff and international campers at camp contribute to this in many ways.

The International YMCA's
International Camp Counselor

Program (**ICCP**) has been "bringing the world to camps" for fifty years. Many US camps have developed overseas partners that send groups of campers to them. And, overseas families are sending their children for a US summer camp experience.

More camps are becoming more diverse simply by being more inclusive.

The American Camp Association (ACA) says that "camps do kids a world of good." The more culturally diverse the camp, the truer this statement.

FYI—New York City's public school students represent about 188 different countries!

135 Global Teens for World Travel, Summer '09



Global Teens in Thailand, Summer 2008

135 teens from among more than 200 applicants have been selected by the International YMCA's **Global Teens** program to travel to nine different countries this summer. Global Teens is the Y's youth development program with a special emphasis on service learning and the

development of leadership skills and cultural competence. The teens will be challenged, by their adult leaders and the international experience, to develop a stronger sense of self-confidence, independence and cooperation, as well as to deepen his/her appreciation for the diversity and interdependence of the world's people.

Trip destinations and the focus of this summer's service learning experiences are as follows:

- ⇒ **Peru** — Youth Work
- ⇒ **Colombia** — Environment
- ⇒ **Hong Kong** — Human Rights
- ⇒ **Italy** — Living "Green"
- ⇒ **Thailand** — Children's Rights
- ⇒ **Brazil** — Healthy Living
- ⇒ **Chile** — Indigenous Rights
- ⇒ **Oklahoma** — Diabetes Prevention

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For more information, contact **Chad Hiu**: chiu@ymcanyc.org

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



Go Global

Go Global is accepting applications for volunteers 18+ looking to travel abroad, two weeks to two years, to do service with a YMCA or other NGO. Program fee is \$775 and includes room and board for the duration of the program and insurance for the first four weeks of the program (\$14.50/week fee for insurance charged after first four weeks). GG volunteers fully immerse themselves in the culture of their host countries. Contact:

Chad Hiu: chiu@ymcanyc.org

ICCP—50 Years!

ICCP, the International YMCA's International **C**amp **C**ounselor **P**rogram, is celebrating 50 years! Recruiting in close to seventy countries around the world annually results in bringing 3000 young internationals to US camps and conference centers to serve as counselors, program specialists and for support roles in food service, offices and maintenance. ICCP has been building global citizens in the US and abroad since 1959!



Fall Study Tours

In the spirit of promoting international awareness, peace and tolerance on a global scale, the International YMCA is pleased to sponsor **Study Tours**, open to YMCA volunteers, staff and friends of the YMCA desiring first-hand knowledge of the amazing work done by the YMCA around the world. Details on Fall 2009 Study tours to *South Africa* and *Jerusalem* will be available soon. This will be the fourth year for these inspirational international opportunities.

*Anyone interested in supporting US youth traveling abroad with our programs, and young internationals coming to the US, can do so by donating to the International YMCA's **Strong Kids Campaign**. See Page 4 for details.*

Did You Know.....

- **The International YMCA's Trainee & Internship Program** has placed thousands of international participants in US organizations since its establishment in 2001?
- Trainees can come to a US host site for up to 18 months & Interns for up to 12 months?
- Approved categories for Trainees & Interns include Education, Social Services, Library Science, Counseling, Social Services; Management, Business, Commerce, Finance; Health Enhancement; Arts & Culture; Hospitality & Tourism; Information Media & Communication; Public Administration & Law; The Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Mathematics, Industrial occupations?
- The International YMCA officially began to administer its first exchange visitor program in 1948 after receiving a grant from the Ford Foundation to bring trainees to the United States?



More information, criteria, forms and instructions are online:
www.internationalymca.org/TrainingAndInternships/Home.shtml



INTERNATIONAL YMCA
serving the world since 1911

OUR PROGRAMS

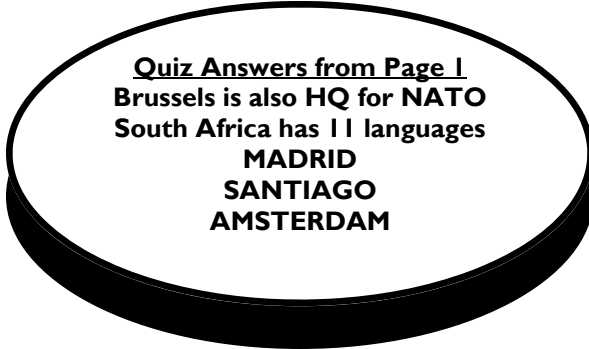
- **ICCP—Summer camp counselors, support staff, Trainees & Interns**
- **Summer/Winter Work & Travel**
 - **Global Teens**
 - **Go Global**
 - **United Nations**
 - **Study Tours**

www.internationalymca.org



The YMCA operates in 130 countries around the world; the International YMCA recruits program participants from nearly 70 of them! How many countries can you identify from the flags pictured above? For help:

http://www.allstates-flag.com/flags/world_flags.htm



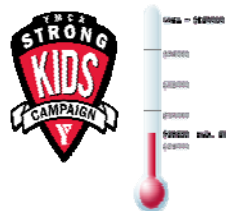
Quiz Answers from Page 1
Brussels is also HQ for NATO
South Africa has 11 languages
MADRID
SANTIAGO
AMSTERDAM

Strong Kids Campaign

Contributions to the International YMCA's annual **Strong Kids Campaign** (SKC) ensure that no young person is turned away because of the inability to pay. Hundreds of youth are helped each year and requests are rising to unprecedented levels. This year's goal is to raise \$120,000 and Host Sites—camps, businesses, etc.—have a unique opportunity to "be there" for American youth to go abroad as cultural envoys (i.e. **Global Teens** and **Go Global**) and to help young internationals come to the US as summer camp counselors (**ICCP**), and for all International YMCA programs.

recipients of SKC scholarship funds say:
"Global Teens serves many teens like me who otherwise would not have the opportunity to travel abroad. We witnessed the appreciation of the community service we performed. Most cannot begin to imagine the warmth in our hearts when we put our heads down on our pillows after doing something great that helped so many in a foreign country." – **Abdul Hafiz**

2009 Strong Kids Campaign Goal: **\$120,000**



Here are what two recent

"My experiences in Thailand mentoring students, staying with a host family in a small neighborhood, renovating a school yard and building a wall for a YMCA site, reaffirmed my life's mission. One day I hope to pursue a career in international non-profit work, specifically working with those organizations that assist women and children living in developing countries. In Thailand, I realized how much I loved learning about cultures other than my own and helping those who need it most. Global Teens made a difference in my life and I will forever be grateful for the program and the people who made it happen."

– **Juneisy Padilla**



Donations to the SKC also provide scholarship funds that make travel to the US possible for a summer camp counselor who could not otherwise participate.

For more information and to make your donation, please call us today or log on to:

<http://www.ymcanyc.org/index.php?id=1579>

They're counting on us, and we're counting on you!