

INTERNATIONAL YMCA
SERVING THE WORLD
SINCE 1911

"Just wanted to say thank you to you and your staff at ICCP that made our last minute placement (from Colombia) possible. She is a wonderful addition to our staff. She arrived yesterday and has jumped right in and is doing well. THANK YOU to you and your team for making the impossible, possible."

—Jenny Fehn, Director
Camp Hawthorn
Hollow
Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

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International YMCA News

A Branch of the YMCA of Greater NY

WWW.INTERNATIONALYMCA.ORG

SUMMER 2009

Winter Work & Travel Program—

Helps Ease Peak Staffing Challenges & Internationalizes the Workplace

The International YMCA is gearing up for the 2009-10 winter work and travel season and appreciates its relationship with current U.S. employers of our work and travel students. Current employers know that these university students work hard, assist the company in meeting peak season staffing challenges, and create an international atmosphere, bringing diversity to the workplace.

In early September, interviewing begins of English-speaking students from South America who are available to begin work in December, for up to four months. Students from Thailand, who will be available in April 2010 for up to four months, will be interviewed also.

The partnership between the

International YMCA and U.S. Employers works well. The International Y recruits, interviews,



Tatiana Shtranina (Russia), W&T participant, works in a bank in Wisconsin

assesses the applicant's English skills, and matches the applicant with the company's specific job needs. The Y ensures that all participants are enrolled in required non-work-related health and accident insurance plan. And provides orientation to all participants. It also is available to

employers and participants for needed support and assistance every step of the way!

The role of U.S. employers is to provide a safe and supervised work environment; pay at least minimum wage; and provide or arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Employers who commit to hiring at least fifteen students are invited to join the International YMCA in Asuncion, Paraguay, to personally interview students!

For more information, and to request the International YMCA to identify winter prospects for your company, contact **Scott Curry**, Director of International Exchange Services, at 212/875-4311, or by email:

scurry@ymcanyc.org

Study Tours to Jerusalem & S. Africa

The International YMCA is offering two excellent travel opportunities for Y professionals, volunteers, friends of the YMCA and anyone interested in a meaningful international experience, learning about the amazing work being done by the YMCA in Jerusalem and in South Africa.

Both study tours will be led by Y staff professionals from the

YMCA of Greater NY: **Bonnie Mairs**, Executive Director Emeritus of the International Y will lead the group to Jerusalem and **Elaine Edmunds**, former Senior Executive Director at Harlem Branch YMCA (NYC) will lead the group to Cape Town, S. Africa. Both will be hosted by the YMCAs in the two countries.

Fees

Cost is \$3100 and includes double room (\$3500/single), board and airfare from NYC.

Dates

Jerusalem: October 17—29
Cape Town: Nov. 28—Dec. 12

For more information, contact **Chad Hiu**:

chiu@ymcanyc.org

This is Dominguez's first trip to the United States, and she said she "didn't have any idea" what to expect. "I came with my mind open," she said. "I'm excited, and I'm really happy."

This is the first time the local YMCA has hosted a camp counselor from another country. "We thought it would be interesting to have someone from Mexico because there is a growing Hispanic population here, and we want to make sure we're open and make them feel welcome."
—YMCA Executive Director, Brad Kinkema

"I love Mexico, but there are a lot of places in the world you can know," she said. "I want to make the most of my life."

ICCP in the News

Reprinted from the "Martinsville Bulletin" in Falls Church, VA; written by Kim Barto, "Bulletin" Staff Writer—July 7, 2009

An international camp counselor exchange program has been a learning experience for both a Mexican college student and the children she works with at the Collinsville YMCA. **America Dominguez**, 20, came to Collinsville four weeks ago through YMCA's International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP). She is staying through mid-August with YMCA Executive Director **Brad Kinkema's** family and working each afternoon with YMCA campers.

"When I heard about the exchange, I said, 'I'd love to. I want to go to the states and do something different,'" Dominguez said. "Every day I come and learn something different," she added. "Everything is fun for me. This is the best experience of my life, really."

Kinkema called it "a great experience for America (Dominguez). It'll enrich her life," as well as the lives of the people she interacts with during her stay, he said.

Many local children have never traveled outside the region, let alone visited another country, and Dominguez "shows them there's a big world out there," Kinkema said.

This is the first time the local YMCA has hosted a camp counselor from another country, he said. Also, he said, "We thought it would be interesting to have someone from Mexico because there is a growing Hispanic population here, and we want to make sure we're open and make them feel welcome." The children love greeting Dominguez in Spanish when they pass her in the hallway, Kinkema said.

Dominguez works with 7- to 9-year-old campers, taking them to the pool every day, doing arts and crafts and other activities such as go-carting and roller skating. A combined 200 children on any given day attend camps at the Martinsville and Collinsville YMCA sites, Kinkema said.

This is Dominguez's first trip to the United States, and she said she "didn't have any idea" what to expect. "I came with my mind open," she said. "I'm excited, and I'm really happy."

Dominguez said she has a lot of college friends participating in the program this summer who went to other states. However, she said it worked out better for her to come to Collinsville without her classmates.

"I think if you go with friends from your own country, you don't get the full experience" of the different culture, she said. "I thought I was going to improve my English" by participating in the exchange, she said. "I don't want to make mistakes."

Dominguez studied English in high school and attends the Universidad de las Americas in the Mexican state of Puebla, where classes are taught in Spanish and English. There, she studies finance and accounting, but "I love dancing and theater" and the arts in general, she said.

Because about 30 percent of her classmates are foreign, Dominguez said she has been exposed to "a lot of different accents" and some slang. Also, she practices speaking English with her sister's husband, who is from New Zealand.

During her exchange trip, Dominguez has noticed "a lot of different things between Mexico and the United States, but nothing bad," she said. She said she likes how encouraging American parents are toward their children. "Here they're like, 'Hey, good job, try again,'" she said. "The kids are cute, they are nice, they are friendly. In Mexico, they are kind of shy."

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America Dominguez (20)—ICCP Counselor from Mexico, with children at Collinsville YMCA (VA)

Human Rights Summit—Towards Brighter Future

The International Y's Leaders' Club (IYLC) sponsored a Human Rights Summit in June that drew some 100+ attendees.



Held at the Jackie Robinson Center of the Harlem YMCA Branch in NYC, the gathering heard presentations from **Edward J. Flynn**, Senior Human Rights Officer with the Counter-terrorism Committee at

I Y L C — the United nations, Dr. Leo Casey, VP of Academic High Schools for United Federation of Teachers, and three speakers from UNICEF. In addition, there were workshops led by members of IYLC.

The purpose of the summit was to explore current events and issues related to the 1948 "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

adopted by the General Assembly of the U.N. in response to the atrocities committed by Nazi Germany. The summit's primary goal was to raise awareness of these issues among the youth in attendance.

The International YMCA Leaders Club aims to empower teens from the NYC area, to engage and interact with the global community, promote cultural diversity and international awareness, and to provide meaningful services to the local and global communities.

Many opportunities are available for U.S. youth to gain international perspective and global understanding through the International YMCA's outbound programs. To learn more, contact Chad Hiu, Director of Teen & Outbound Programs chiu@ymcanyc.org

Mano a Mano Youth Summit 2009

What is Mano a Mano? "*Mano a Mano sin Fronteras*" or "Hand to Hand Without Borders" is a trilateral Youth Leadership Summit of the YMCAs of Canada, Mexico and the United States. Since 1991, more than 450 youth from North, Central and South Americas, and Spain have participated in this program. Mano a Mano focuses on global issues impacting youth and their communities and emphasizes

service learning, civic engagement and community development.

The Summit will take place in Tijuana, Mexico, and part of the program is a learning service project in one of the four Migrant Homes along the Mexican—U.S. border.

The registration fee of \$900 includes airfare, travel insurance, local transportation, accommoda-

tions and meals.

The Summit is open to all YMCA staff and volunteers, ages 18-25, who are committed to the YMCA mission. For more information, contact:

antonio.merino@ymca.net

Applications are due by August 24th with a letter of endorsement from the Y's CEO/Branch Executive.

ICCP in the News *continued from page 2*

In Mexico, Dominguez lives in Cholula, a suburb about four times bigger than Martinsville and Collinsville, she said, but she has not lacked for things to do here. "One girl told me Martinsville/Collinsville is not a place for young people, but I found everything I need here," Dominguez said.

So far, Dominguez said she has not

missed Mexican food. Local Mexican restaurants serve "kind of American-Mexican food," she said, not exactly like the food she would eat back home, "but it's similar."

The Kinkemas and their neighbors show her around on weekends, Dominguez said, going to places such as Smith Mountain Lake and a farm in the country. She also enjoys shopping and working out with them. "I feel like they were my family," she said.

Also, she said, "I like the food. They cook very good. I'm afraid of getting used to it and missing it when I go back."

Dominguez said she hopes to keep traveling to many different countries in the future. "I love Mexico, but there are a lot of places in the world you can know," she said. "I want to make the most of my life."

Camp Visits—A Snapshot View

ICCP, the International YMCA's International Camp Counselor Program, has been "bringing the world" to U.S. summer camps since 1959 on J-1 (cultural exchange) visas to work with children as counselors or in support staff roles, i.e. kitchen, office, and maintenance

TRAINEE, INTERN, and WINTER WORK & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to have current summer staff return as Trainees (up to 18-months) or Interns (12-months), or for 120 days during the winter (their summer; must be f/t students), contact ICCP

TOLL FREE

888/477-9622

More info available on the web site:

www.
internationalymca.org



Sylvain (France) at YMCA Camp Mohawk (CT) with executive director Fran Marchand & camp director, Nadine Thompson (England)



Diego & Florian (Colombia) love being at Camp Horizons (CT) for children with special needs.



Support Staff from Turkey with Chef Mike at Camp Chimney Corners (MA)



Emma (Australia/above), Rodrigo (Brazil/middle) and Cheikh (Senegal/middle) at 4-H Camp Howe (MA)



Alejandro (r) from Bolivia on check-in day at Camp Lincoln-Lake Hubert (MN)

Pictures of international program participants are requested and encouraged. Please send in jpeg format to ips@internationalymca.org with "For Newsletters" in the Subject line.

Camps that want current international staff to return next summer, can begin the process now and save money—regardless of this year's visa sponsor! ONLY \$350 if application is received by December 31st.

Trainee & Intern Opportunities



Tomi Ahonen & Petri Kohtanen, from Finland, at Tommy Bartlett's Water Show; Wisconsin Dells, WI

The International YMCA's Trainee & Intern programs offer opportunities to U.S. companies, businesses, camps, conference centers and other employers, to provide skill training and new knowl-

edge to internationals with education and work experience in their field abroad.

The host site writes a training plan (TP) to be followed. A Trainee's program can be for a maximum of eighteen months, Interns for up to twelve. Trainees must have a post-secondary degree and at least one year of work experience in the field

of their degree and both must match the proposed TP. Without a degree, five years of work experience related to the TP is required. Interns do not need the work experience as they are current undergraduates or will have graduated within 12 months of the U.S. start date.

More information, application requirements, approved fields, etc., are on the web site:

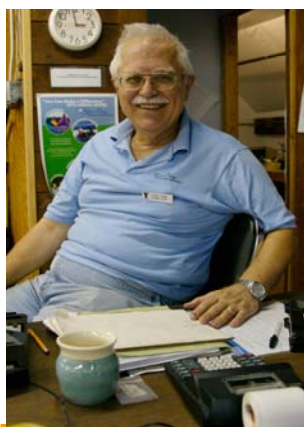
www.internationalymca.org/TraingAndInternships/Home.shtml

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

Nuri Tirpan—Young at Heart

Nuri Tirpan, from Turkey, turned 72 years *young* this past February, and is spending his fourteenth summer at the YMCA's Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks on Lake George (NY).

Born in Istanbul, Nuri first came to the U.S. to obtain his Master's degree in electrical engineering while a Teaching Assistant at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY). While speaking Sundays in various



local churches, he mentioned to one couple that he was looking for something to do during the summer. The rest, as they say, is history!

Nuri spent the summer of 1959 as a helper in the kitchen and returned for the summer of 1960 as a dishwasher. He completed his Master's degree in 1961 and went to Montreal, Canada, where he worked for five years as an electrical engineer.

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Rayda Marquez—Staff Profile

Rayda Marquez, Director of International Relations for the International Y since last summer, has been at the International Y for nine years. In her current role, she oversees all relationships with the Y's international partners, recruiters and YMCAs around the world. Since coming to the International Y in 2000, Rayda has been an ICCP Placement Director and then directed the Overseas Department

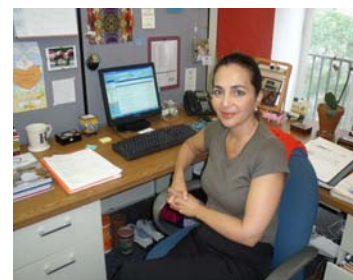
for ICCP, the International Camp Counselor Program.

The YMCA operates in 125 countries around the world and the International Y relates to about 70.

A native New Yorker, Rayda's international interests were sparked as a high school exchange student who went to France. Following her college years, Rayda spent eight years in Colombia

teaching at the university in Cauca. While there, she became a YMCA volunteer and learned of ICCP.

Rayda is passionate that everyone have an experience outside of their own culture. She says, "I love my work as it allows me to see, first-hand, how lives are changed, doors are opened, and participants can dream bigger as a result."



Rayda Marquez



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

After Camp Jobs?

Camps often need staff to accommodate post-camp groups, family camps and other programs. Many summer camp staff look for post-camp work at a different site after completing their initial placement. They are allowed to work a maximum of 120 days from the start date on their DS-2019 form or, if a counselor, until September 20—whichever comes first. Support Staff (office, kitchen/food service, maintenance/housekeeping) can also work 120 days maximum but can work after September 20 if their “proof of student status” form confirms they do not have to be back at their university.

Send notice of any post-camp work opportunities ASAP to ips@ymcany.org and it will be posted on our web site at the “After Camp Jobs” link on the page for Participants.

INSURANCE REMINDER

Participants covered by International YMCA insurance for non-work related injury or illness requiring medical attention can access information & forms at the link for Participants at internationalymca.org Password is PART09

Nuri Tirpan

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Nuri spent two years in the Turkish Navy and utilized his education, serving as an electrical engineer. He taught in a technical college in Istanbul.

He has two grown children. In 1992, his daughter spent a summer at Silver Bay working at the conference center. His son, a concert pianist and composer, gave a recital there one summer while visiting. Nuri returned to Silver Bay in 1996 and has been there every summer since as a J-1 visa participant through the International YMCA's International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP).

In recent years, Nuri spends the summers at Silver Bay in the Craft Shop, where he teaches enameling and glass-work.

Throughout his life, Nuri has been interested in travel. He has visited more than seventy countries and has been to forty of the fifty United States. Now retired for a number of years, he is a cruise enthusiast, continuing his travels and world exploration.

Asked what it is about Silver Bay that keeps him returning, summer after summer, Nuri's answer is quick and simple. He says, “the people here are great and there is a real sense of community. People care about each other, they are the ‘cream of the crop’ and I probably have more friends here than in the rest of the world combined!”

To learn more about Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks:

www.silverbay.org

Donations to this year's **Strong Kids Campaign** are still being accepted and will help the International YMCA make its \$120,000 goal to ensure that no young person is turned away because of the inability to pay to participate in one of our programs.



Hundreds of youth are helped each year and requests are rising at unprecedented levels. Your donation will enable American youth to go abroad as cultural envoys through the **Go Global** and **Global Teens** programs and will assist young internationals to come to the US on our **International Camp Counselor Program**. To donate:

ymcany.org/netdata/takedon.mac/pledgeform?inpBrn=85