



## YFU-USA Alumni Association National Alumni Council Fall 2002 Meeting Summary

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### NAC Update to the YFU-USA Community

January 15, 2003

During the weekend of October 18-20, 2002, the National Alumni Council met in Washington, DC, with great success. This is the first in-person meeting the NAC has had since April 2001. The weekend was spent renewing member commitment, focusing on our goals for the next five years, reviewing current projects, and on member development. We began drafting a five-year strategic plan, to be completed before our next meeting, based on goals we agreed upon. The Council continues to fulfill the YFU-USA Alumni Association's mission of striving to provide alumni with the benefits and opportunities of life-long learning in the YFU community, thereby furthering the mission of Youth For Understanding USA. We continue to provide resources to all alumni, volunteers and staff.

### **Change in Membership**

Since our 2002 spring meeting update, some members have resigned from the Council for personal reasons. They all made valuable contributions to the NAC and the Alumni Association and we will miss them. In September we held a special election to fill the vacant seats, and our new members are:

- ✓ Karen Radnovich from Sherman, Texas, term ends 2004
- ✓ Danielle Rocheleau from Lakewood, Colorado, term ends 2005
- ✓ Ryan Savage from Lakewood, California, term ends 2005
- ✓ Autumn Widdoes from Jupiter, Florida, term ends 2006

Each year, five seats on the NAC come up for election, as we are a rotating council. In March, we will elect/re-elect up to five members.

Each fall, the Executive Committee, comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, also rotates. The current Vice Chair succeeds the outgoing Chair and a new Secretary and Vice Chair are elected. Of the 14 members on the NAC, 7 have been on the Council for less than one year, 3 have terms ending in March 2003 and 3 have served on the Executive Committee previously. Due to these conditions, the Council voted to elect an interim Vice Chair, with another election to be held at the spring meeting. The current NAC Executive Committee is:

- ✓ Chair: Laurie Sutch
- ✓ Interim Vice Chair: Danielle Rocheleau
- ✓ Secretary: Autumn Widdoes



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The NAC members, excluding the Executive Committee, are

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Lisa Chinnery      | ✓ Kim Kuchman     |
| ✓ Michele Peters     | ✓ Ryan Savage     |
| ✓ Melissa Williams   | ✓ Becky Lemont    |
| ✓ Andrea Coronado    | ✓ Valerie Moles   |
| ✓ Adrienne Sheffield | ✓ Karen Radnovich |
| ✓ Kristjan Stone     |                   |

We worked very successfully with Angela Kelly, our NAC staff liaison. With Angela's departure in January 2003, David Barber was named the new staff liaison. If you need to request information or have questions please contact either your District Facilitator or the Executive Committee ([nac\\_ec@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nac_ec@yahoogroups.com)) for assistance.

### **Projects**

Below are descriptions for many of the NAC's current projects. For additional information about these or other NAC projects, please visit the YFU-USA Alumni Association ([www.yfu.org/us/alumni](http://www.yfu.org/us/alumni)) website or contact the project manager.

**Alumni Referral Program:** An ever-growing list of young alumni who share their excitement about YFU with others who are interested in a YFU exchange program. Volunteer interviewers screen participants. <http://www.yfu-usa.org/> then click on "Ask YFU Alumni".

The current Project Manager is Danielle Rocheleau [danielleyfu@hotmail.com](mailto:danielleyfu@hotmail.com)

**District Facilitator:** As this position has evolved, it has changed to more of a mentoring role for Alumni Coordinators. To read about the District Facilitators' role, please visit <http://www.yfu.org/us/alumni/about/df.html>.

The current District Facilitators are:

Founders - Valerie Moles [vcmoles@attbi.com](mailto:vcmoles@attbi.com)

Heartland - Lisa Chinnery [lmnocean@aol.com](mailto:lmnocean@aol.com)

Northeast - Becky Lemont [blemontea@email.msn.com](mailto:blemontea@email.msn.com)

Southern Tier - Adrienne Sheffield [metropeppers@hotmail.com](mailto:metropeppers@hotmail.com)

Western - Ryan Savage [ryan6008@aol.com](mailto:ryan6008@aol.com)

**Alumni Contact Network (ACN):** Class contacts from different program years and countries find and contact members in their class to reconnect them with YFU.

<http://www.yfu.org/us/alumni/contact/index.html>

The current Project Manager is Andrea Coronado [andreayfu@yahoo.com](mailto:andreayfu@yahoo.com)

**Lead Inquiry Teams:** Established during the 1999 AO cycle, virtual teams of volunteers make follow-up contacts to American students who have inquired about a YFU program.

<http://www.yfu.org/us/alumni/sharing/lit.html>

The current Project Manager is Kristjan Stone [lityfu@hotmail.com](mailto:lityfu@hotmail.com)



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**Alumni Coordinators' Training Conference:** Held for the third year in August 2002; a conference for volunteer Alumni Coordinators to improve their skills and network with other alumni coordinators.

The current Project Manager is Adrienne Sheffield [metropeppers@hotmail.com](mailto:metropeppers@hotmail.com)

**YFU-USA Alumni Association Website:** Our main communication vehicle, the website is updated with information from the districts as well as national and international opportunities. The website has received a monthly average of 12,530 "hits" so far in 2002. <http://www.yfu.org/us/alumni>

The current Project Manager is Laurie Sutch [lasutch@umich.edu](mailto:lasutch@umich.edu)

**Alumni Coordinator Communications:** Currently consists primarily of an e-mail group with more than 30 Alumni Coordinators. The goal of this project is to enable Alumni Coordinators to network and better develop their local alumni groups.

[yfu-ac@yahoo.com](mailto:yfu-ac@yahoo.com)

The current Project Manager is Lisa Chinnery [lmnocean@aol.com](mailto:lmnocean@aol.com)

**Fundraising and Grant Opportunities Research:** We are seeking outside sources of financial support in order to continue to fund the NAC and alumni activities. This includes a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary appeal to alumni who returned from their exchange 25 years ago.

The current Project Manager is Andrea Coronado [andreayfu@yahoo.com](mailto:andreayfu@yahoo.com)

**Fundraising (Non-Grant) Research:** We are looking to form alliances with organizations and companies that may have a similar target market and who will work with YFU-USA in a mutually beneficial way in order to attract a target audience to youth exchange programs with YFU-USA. The research gained from this project will help solidify a way to assist in creating a grant research/fundraising plan.

The current Project Manager is Kim Kuchman [kimberleykuchman@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberleykuchman@yahoo.com)

**Coordination of Homecoming and Reconnection Events:** Over 6,000 alumni were invited to events across the country this past fall. Students just returning from their exchange were invited to Homecoming events; Alumni who returned home from their exchange more than one year ago were invited to Reconnection events, and to meet the newly returned students. Planning has started for Homecoming/Reconnection Events to be held this Fall.

The current Project Manager is Michele Peters [petersmichele@hotmail.com](mailto:petersmichele@hotmail.com)

Questions on projects should be directed to the NAC Executive Committee ([EC\\_NAC@yahoo.com](mailto:EC_NAC@yahoo.com)) or to the project manager.

Through the NAC's leadership, the Alumni Association continues to grow in number and in opportunities, forming an invaluable network of resources for the entire YFU family.