

Check out more post-arrival orientation pictures inside!

September 2010

Pacific Intercultural Exchange  
8880 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 1015 San Diego, CA 92108



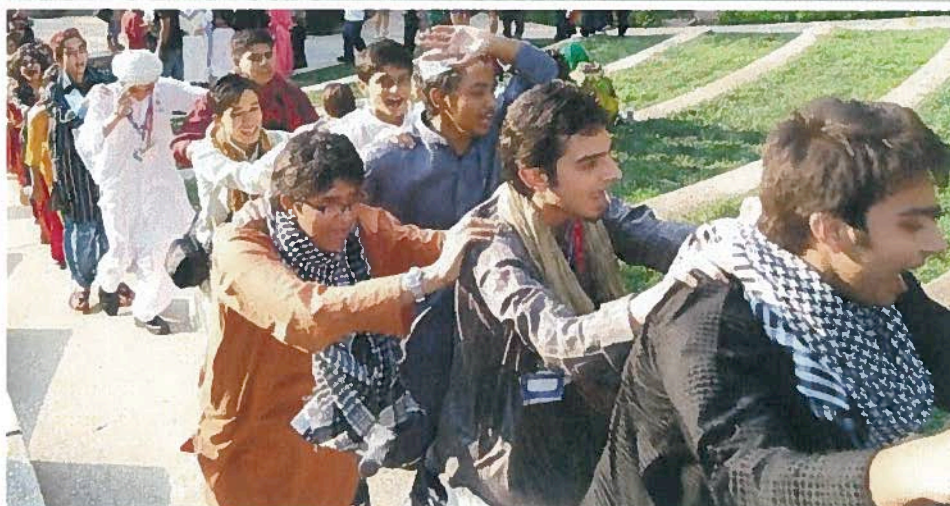
# The FLEX-YES ExPRESS



## Welcome 2010-2011 Students!!



**YES students gather together in Washington, D.C., for a post-arrival orientation as they gear up for the upcoming year in the United States.**



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## YES Students Visit Washington, D.C.

Shahzeb Younis  
Pakistan/ West Virginia

August 4th, 2010. This day changed my life! After a tiring 18 hour flight from Pakistan, all of us were amazed to see such a beautiful America. Everything seemed wonderful and everyone was excited. After we reached the American University, the real fun began! I met students from different countries and made a lot of international friends. Everything was so exciting and fun! I learned about different cultures and values, shared Pakistani culture and could not believe how interested everyone was in learning about my country. Everyone was eager to tell about their countries too. The last day was the best day of my life. Students from each country showed their cultural dances, handicrafts, songs and other specialties. I will never ever forget that day.

Americans are so friendly, kind and helpful. The three days at the American university changed a part of me. I became a lot more confident and proud of myself. YES is really a life changing opportunity! (I can feel it now) I am so lucky to be a part of it. I thank the American government for giving me a chance to come to the USA and exchange my experiences, culture and traditions in such an awesome way.



YES students (right) take part in the post-arrival orientation in Washington, D.C.

### Drama troop teaches student about American fairytales



FLEX student Lullia Mirzac adds drama to her American adventure with her host family and new friends.

Lulia Mirzac  
Moldova/OHIO

Hello everybody! Let me introduce myself--I'm Lulia, a very excited exchange student from Moldova that is writing an article about her first days in the USA! I have been here for six days and everything is still new, interesting and very exciting! We had a party here one day with the drama team that my host parents started.

I was very impressed! Each participant was dressed like a character from famous stories. I met Snow White, Peter Pan, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Pinocchio, Aladdin and about 20 others! One of those characters "killed" his Majesty, Henry VIII. Our job was to find out in two hours which one of the characters did it. I was the journalist and photographer.

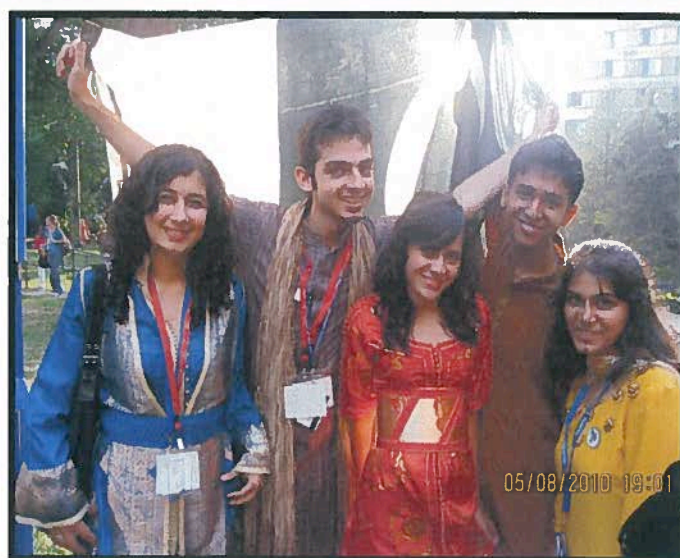
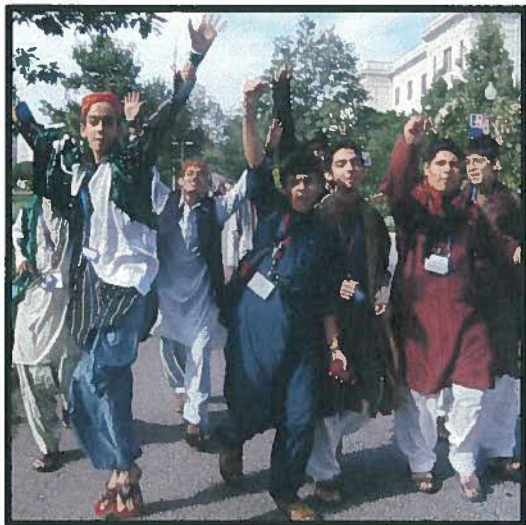
It was a lot of fun! I met so many people and made a lot of friends. Everybody was so friendly, so open-minded and such good actors! I learned a lot about the American culture-they are very creative, kind and simple!

I'm very thankful to my host family for organizing this party and to all the members of the drama team for being so friendly and interested in me! It was a very good beginning which makes me think about the wonderful year we are going to have together! Thank you very much!

## Post-Arrival Orientation!

Celebrating  
Cultural  
Diversity!

YES students spend time learning about each other's cultures at the post-arrival orientation in Washington, D.C.



## Monthly Allowance and Bonus Checks

All FLEX and YES students will be receiving a monthly allowance check of \$125.00 by the 10th day of each month, beginning in September and ending in May. If you have not received your check by now, contact us at [news@pieusa.org](mailto:news@pieusa.org). You may use this monthly allowance to pay for entertainment, activities, or personal items. The monthly allowance is your spending money. Ask your family for upcoming trips and activities they may be having, so you can budget your money accordingly.

Twice during the exchange year, (in December and in May), you will receive a **bonus** check for an additional \$125.00, if you are in compliance with all the requirements of the program as outlined.

## Start Up Expenses and Emergency Funds

All FLEX and YES students are provided a total allowance of \$300 for the entire program year. For example, if you spend \$250.00 for start up expenses, you will have \$50.00 left to spend for other school supplies, clothes or end of year expenses such as extra luggage, gifts for your host family, or souvenirs to take to your friends and family back home. Again, be sure to budget your \$300.00 allowance to last the **entire** program year.

If you have medical expenses, such as immunizations, or a doctor's office co-pay, be sure to use the Emergency Fund form for this, not the Start-Up Expense form. For any questions, please email [news@pieusa.org](mailto:news@pieusa.org).

## FLEX Times Newsletter

We hope you enjoy this newsletter as we try and highlight just a few of the many exciting adventures you, your fellow students and your host families will have this year! We encourage you to submit any suggestions or ideas you have that we can use to help make this newsletter more informational and educational during your program year. We also welcome any pictures or stories you or your host family would like to see included in the newsletter! Pictures and stories can be submitted by email to [news@pieusa.org](mailto:news@pieusa.org).

## Remember...

The effort you put into your program will determine your overall success this year. We suggest joining many clubs, getting involved with your host family or community churches and joining sports team among other activities. All of these are a great way to make friends and discover community service ideas and possibilities. Don't be afraid to meet new people. Striking up conversations with other students in your school or people in your community is a terrific way to make lasting friendships.



**FLEX student Marina Bobyleva holds on tight with host mom Linda Middleton on the American Plunge at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO.**



**FLEX student Mark Kulik (Ukraine) and YES student Mohamed Al-Duhbani (Yemen) with host parents Rick and Carolyn Vandendolder and their son Thomas**



**Left: Hanna Krymska (Ukraine) and host parents Gregory Doten and Karen Kokosh-Doten**

**Right: FLEX student Myroslava Kulshova (Ukraine) and host mother Cheryl Fox**



**Help find host families for other students, earn a referral fee!**

Looking for opportunities to earn extra spending money? Then help locate families to host incoming exchange students for the 2011-2012 program. Students that identify families that sign up to host a student can earn a \$75 referral fee.

# Community Service: The Race is On!

The 2009-2010 FLEX and YES group completed an impressive 16,400 hours of community service during their exchange year. Can the FLEX and YES 2010-2011 class- beat this record? We sure think so! **NOTE:** If any YES student submitted community service hours by FAX to Jan McInvale, YES Administrator, in the month of August and September, please fax it again. The phone line was down temporarily and we want to make sure all the community service hours are recorded.

FLEX STUDENTS:	HOURS:				
Abdrakmanova, Aisuluu	18	Lysyakova, Oksana	0	Smagulova, Rinata	0
Abdusamieva, Farangis	0	Makarenko, Alona	0	Stavnycha, Maryana	0
Agalyev, Dovlet	0	Matyakubov, Azat	0	Steshina, Anastasiya	0
Akhmedov, Abrorkhon	0	Merenkov, Stepan	0	Sydorivska, Olha	0
Akhmetova, Aygerim	0	Metskhvarishvili, Ana	0	Synytysya, Viktoriya	0
Akimtegi, Temirlan	0	Mirzac, Iulia	0	Tagaeva, Aizhan	0
Aleksyeyeva, Yelizaveta	0	Mokhova, Tatyana	0	Taganova, Leyla	0
Asduallyev, Rauf	0	Mukhambetkali, Laura	0	Telman, Meruyert	0
Asryan, Arman	0	Muradilova, Cholpon	0	Tendikov, Ayan	0
Baktybekova, Saltanat	0	Musayev, Abdulmedjit	0	Tikhomirova, Iya	0
Barbasheva, Darya	0	Musyalo, Artur	0	Turkovska, Roksolana	0
Berezniatskaya, Alina	0	Nefedova, Yelena	0	Usmonov, Sino	0
Berikashvili, Ana	0	Nekrasova, Anastasiya	0	Uzhytska, Lyudmyla	0
Bobal, Kateryna	0	Nikiforova, Tamara	0	Vorobyova, Tetyana	0
Bobyleva, Marina	0	Novruzova, Leyla	0	Vovk, Oleksandra	0
Borisenko, Irina	0	Nurmatova, Nasiba	0	Voznaya, Polina	0
Bystrova, Valeriya	0	Nysanov, Yerlan	0	Vus, Oleh	0
Chmutova, Tetyana	0	Ochirov, Temir	0	Yakubova, Khursheda	0
Culiac, Ghenadie	0	Odnorob, Tetyana	0	Yefremova, Darya	0
Daniilova, Kamila	0	Ohorodnichuk, Mykola	16	Yem, Margarita	0
Dovbenko, Valeriya	0	Oliylyk, Oleksandr	0	Yunkova, Anna	0
Drezin, Mark	0	Osmechuk, Artem	0	Zelenkova, Lyubov	0
Duysenbiyeva, Aygerim	0	Osmanova, Jennet	0	Zhakypova, Elina	0
Dzhumayeva, Zarina	0	Ovcharenko, Evheniya	0	Zohrabyan, Hripsime	0
Eni, Elena	0	Ovchinnikova, Irina	0	<b>YES STUDENTS:</b>	<b>HOURS:</b>
Fedorova, Yevgeniya	0	Pak, Andrei	0	Abdullah, Hana	0
Frolova, Veronika	0	Papyshev, Gleb	0	Abu Ahmad, Ahmad	0
Gabdullina, Lena	0	Pavlenko, Edman	0	Abu Rokba, Ghadeer	0
Gara-Dashly, Aygul	0	Petashvili, Nino	0	Abuhaliqa, Mohammed	0
Glushchenko, Vladislav	0	Petrosyan, Ani	0	Agopian, Serj	0
Gogia, Data	0	Plamadeala, Lia	0	Akhlaq, Syeda	0
Gogoi, Tamara	0	Polyakova, Nina	0	Akter, Kazi	0
Grigoryan, Naira	0	Ponomareva, Alena	0	Al-Duhbani, Mohamed	0
Gurbanli, Fidan	0	Pryymak, Vasyi	0	Al-Kohlani, Ammar	0
Hordyeyev, Yevhen	0	Pushkova, Mariya	0	Ali, Ali	0
Huseynov, Buzurgmehr	0	Pustovit, Lyudmyla	0	Alloush, Riham	0
Ilich, Aleksandr	0	Radzivil, Hanna	0	Anik, Shadman	0
Ivakhov, Vyacheslav	0	Rozmetov, Sultanbek	0	Diop, Mouhamed	0
Karpovich, Kristina	0	Rubanovich, Kirill	0	Faiz, Nida	0
Kepuladze, Mariam	0	Rudych, Darya	0	Fofana, Souleymane	0
Khachatryan, Meri	0	Rybalkina, Valeriya	0	Heraghi, Islam	0
Khafizova, Diana	0	Samandarova, Maftuna	0	Houssaini, Nouhaila	0
Khalafov, Teymur	0	Savruk, Mariya	0	Irshad, Maira	0
Khalilova, Arzu	0	Semenkina, Ulyana	0	Khalil, Yara	0
Konshina, Yekaterina	0	Shakirov, Ildar	0	Mobassir, Bhuiya	0
Koroleva, Anna	0	Shamuradovna, Selbi	0	Mouahid, Siham	0
Krymska, Hanna	0	Shatalov, Vladislav	0	Mubaidin, Osama	0
Kuleshova, Myroslava	0	Shchepanska, Yana	0	Nakhleh, Nour Al-Deen	0
Kulik, Mark	0	Shcherbakova, Darya	42	Nakib, MD. Abrar	0
Lakvekheliani, Vladislav	0	Shevchuk, Olha	0	Omran, Adnan	0
Latifova, Ulviyye	0	Shlyapnikova, Diana	0	Owiwi, Mohammad	0
Lidzhiyeva, Danara	0	Shpadi, Danila	0	Rawnak, Ramis	0
Lohvina, Kateryna	0	Sikharulidze, Tamari	0	Younis, Shahzeb	0
Lushina, Natalya	0	Simonova, Anastasiya	0	Zaiter, Shirine	0
		Skrebtsova, Darya	0	<b>GA Students:</b>	<b>HOURS:</b>
				Erkomaishvili, Guguli	6

Students must complete a minimum of 21 hours by December 1st to receive a special December bonus check!



## Looking Ahead...

### Important dates to keep on your calendar:

- The first seven hours of community service are due by October 10th. Additional community service forms are located on our website at [www.pieusa.org](http://www.pieusa.org).
- By now, many of you have already had your post-arrival orientation, but if not, then you should expect to attend your orientation by October 15th.
- You should have already meet your local area representative. Please let us know right away if you have not by sending us an email at [news@pieusa.org](mailto:news@pieusa.org).

## Community Service Awards

Every FLEX and YES student is required to complete at least 50 hours of community service in order to stay in compliance with their scholarship.

FLEX and YES Star Students who exceed the community service requirements by April 1st, will be awarded the following:

Star Volunteer

**Gold Medal**

For 250+ hours of service

Star Volunteer

**Silver Medal**

For 175+ hours of service

Star Volunteer

**Bronze Medal**

For 100+ hours of service

### **Presidential Certificate**

In addition to the medals above, FLEX and YES students who complete 100+ hours will receive a Presidential Certificate!

\*\*\*\*\*



**Pacific Intercultural Exchange**  
*Field Staff*

#### **Regional Managers:**

Liza Arguello  
Shelli Arguello  
Mary Armstrong  
Pat Blundy  
La Juan Dixon  
Patty Grasty  
Daniel Knepper  
Pat Littrell  
Melissa Litwiller  
Paula Nicholson  
Lori O'Brien  
Teresa Owens  
John Richardson  
Charity Webster

## We Want to Hear from You!

Want to brag about what exciting activities you have been up to with other FLEX and YES students? Share your stories, letters, updates and pictures for the newsletter by emailing us at [news@pieusa.org](mailto:news@pieusa.org).



Former Soviet Union Countries



Predominately Muslim Countries



**FLEX-YES ExPRESS**  
Edited by Sarah Goldstein



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*Office Assistants:*  
Jenna Sotelo



**FLEX student  
Marina Boblyleva  
shares a bit of her  
home country culture  
at the Yakov  
Moscow Circus with  
her new host family,  
the  
Middletons,  
in Branson, MO.**

Be featured in  
the next *FLEX -  
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