

# EXTENOVATIONS

Vol. 8, No. 3

June 1987

FOR ALL OF EXTENSION

## International programs seek global awareness

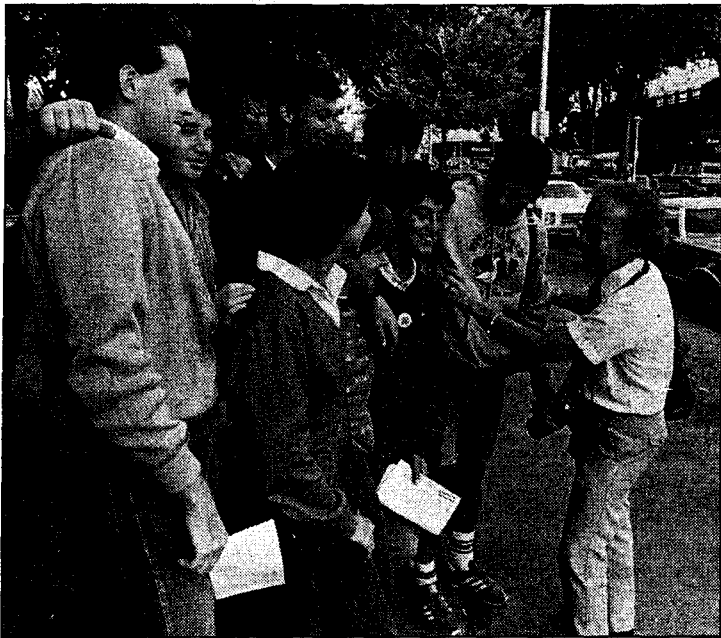


Photo by Don Breneman  
Dave Pace has fun lining up the delegation from Spain (who visited in Benton County) for the photographer during the State Fair.

The first week—a dictionary is a constant companion in a foreign country (whether it's "delegates" from Minnesota going there or "exchangees" coming here).

The second week—the dictionary is in the kitchen somewhere.

By the third week—no one seems to care where it is or even bothers looking for it. Somehow commu-

nication has broken the language barrier by then.

That's how it's explained to David Pace by those participating in the international 4-H programs which he coordinates for the University of Minnesota's Extension Service.

Since the first Minnesota delegate, Rodney Langseth, traveled

to Norway in 1948 as an IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange then and today called International Four-H Youth Exchange), 806 youth and adults have followed to 60 countries. Norway with 346 and Japan with 219 have attracted the most visitors from Minnesota, but included in the list of 60 countries are the People's Republic of China, Russia, Luxembourg, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zambia.

Since 1949, 84 countries have sent inbound exchangees, 2,729 of them (youth and adults) to Minnesota. Of these, 731 have been from Norway and 1,480 from Japan, but among the 84 countries are Afghanistan, Barbados, Burma, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Wales.

Inbound programs to Minnesota include IFYE Representative and IFYE Ambassador, Professional Rural Youth Leader's Exchange (PRYLE) as well as several special programs. Labo and LEX bring groups from Japan, Norske 4-H from Norway, Suomen 4-H Liitto from Finland, and the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association from Australia.

Minnesota 4-H'ers and alums might travel under the IFYE Ambassador program, Minnesota Exchanges, IFYE Representative,

Youth Development Professional (YDP), or Young Agriculture Specialists Exchange Program (YASEP). For agents, volunteer leaders, 4-H parents and 4-H alums there are group leader possibilities and International Extension 4-H Study Tours.

Langseth traveled from Worthington with the IFYE program when he was 22, 39 years ago. "It certainly was a challenge at the time," he recalls. "The success of the program was on our minds," as he and just 16 others from around the United States were the "trial balloons." He said everything went smoothly for him. Then 25 years later he revisited the three farms in Norway where he had stayed. Son, Paul, became the first Minnesota, second generation IFYE in the program, going to New Zealand in 1977-78.

"Oh my, yes indeed," the elder Langseth says when asked if his travels had an influence on his life in rural Worthington. His farm has hosted many exchangees since 1948 and he has attended many international reunions and is looking forward to the 40th in Topeka in 1988.

In this year's program, 35 will be going to Norway from a five-state area: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Of these, 16 are from Minnesota. Some years, Pace says,

nearly 100 Minnesotans have gone to Norway, but the current economy has been a damper. This year the group will leave June 24 and return July 25.

"Yes, they pay their own way on these trips," he says. Three from Minnesota will be heading for Finland and 12 go to Japan on July 16, returning August 18. Two delegates will go to Switzerland, one to West Germany and one to Taiwan, the latter a six-month program.

This summer 97 youth and tutors (one adult tutor with each group of 15-20 youth) will come from Japan from July 29 to Aug. 23 to stay in Minnesota homes in some 25 hosting counties. "There will be about an even number of girls and boys and many are 13-14 years old," Pace says, though the range is from 11 to 18.

Pat Pogalz, 4-H community program assistant in Dodge County for nine years, calls hosting "the best way in the world to travel and not leave home." She has hosted Japanese youth three different times, then hosted two young men from France (through the National 4-H office in Washington, D.C.) who wanted to be in a home where English was spoken. Lifelong friends and contacts often result.

See INTERNATIONAL, page 4

## MAST students exchange more than knowledge

While many colleges and universities offer exchange programs, only two combine academic studies with the practical aspect of farming. The pioneer program, called MAST (Minnesota Agricultural Student Trainee) International, began here at the University of Minnesota in 1949, and the other program, at Ohio State University, is modeled after it.

The program was authorized by the Smith-Mundt Act, which was enacted in 1948 to strengthen relations with our allies. Later, this was amended by the Hayes-Fulbright Act, which has made it possible for thousands of scholars and students to travel all over the world in pursuit of a broad-based, international education.

Initially, MAST International was a two-way exchange program involving young farmers from what was then the University's School of Agriculture (now College of Agriculture) and from Sweden. Today MAST is part of the Minnesota Extension Service's Office of Special Programs, along with PART (Practical Agricultural Reciprocal Training), an inbound and outbound program in which Americans go abroad for up to a year for a purely practical experience while some international trainees who don't want the academic training are placed on farms here.

The University now receives students from 12-15 countries annually, but the number of American students going abroad is consid-

erably fewer. The reason for this, according to Fred Hoefler, Extension Specialist in International Program Development and director of the MAST/PART program, is that "as we became isolated (after World War II), thinking we were the best, that we had little to learn from those in other countries, fewer and fewer people became interested in an educational experience overseas. In recent years, however, people are once again adopting the attitude that an intercultural educational experience is personally valuable."

Each year, approximately 120 young farmers from such countries as England, France, Norway, Sweden and Australia arrive in Minnesota to begin their full year of training. Most of them arrive in March, spend their first eight or nine months as trainees on a farm, and then take a full course load at the University during winter quarter.

After that, some of the students return to their native countries, while others choose to travel for a short time and then return home. The majority, though, elect to extend for up to nine months of additional training or study.

Although there are ample opportunities for fun and socializing, particularly during their quarter at the University, Hoefler says that "more and more the underlying motive for all is a high-quality educational experience." This is verified by Andrew Mardon, a 24-year-old Englishman who received his practical experience at

a dairy farm near Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. "I've got a different aspect on life now" as a result of the program, he says. "You learn a lot about America and its people, but you also learn a lot about yourself."

Mardon got a more intense education than most MAST students when the tenant farmers he worked for were suddenly evicted by their landlord. "I

See MAST, page 4



MAST International students Gilbert Bonnet (left) and Andrew Mardon meet between classes at the St. Paul Student Center to exchange views on their temporary American lifestyle.

Also, in this issue of

# EXTENOVATIONS

Minnesota 4-H exhibits photos in Moscow. Page 2.

Master Gardeners mark 10-year anniversary. Page 2.

Volunteer financial management consultant program produces unexpected benefits. Page 3.

Joyce Bohlen, LeSueur County, takes over as chair of Extension's Citizens' Advisory Committee. Page 3.

## 4-H exhibits photos in Moscow

Visitors to the Children's Palace in Moscow, USSR, this fall can see 52 photos taken by Minnesota 4-H'ers depicting 4-H Family Life in Minnesota: people, animals, rural and urban scenes artistically portrayed.

This fall, the same number of photos taken by Russian youth are expected to arrive in Minnesota for exhibiting, says David Pace, 4-H Youth Development specialist who coordinated 4-H's part in the exchange. He describes the Children's Palace as a sort of youth center with areas devoted to library, industrial arts, drama and dance.

Pace received nearly 200 photo entries from 4-H'ers last fall and a panel of judges representing the photography industry, 4-H and family life made the selections. Each entrant (youth enrolled in 4-H during 1986 were eligible) received a certificate of participation for entering and a certificate of achievement if his or her photograph was part of the final selection.

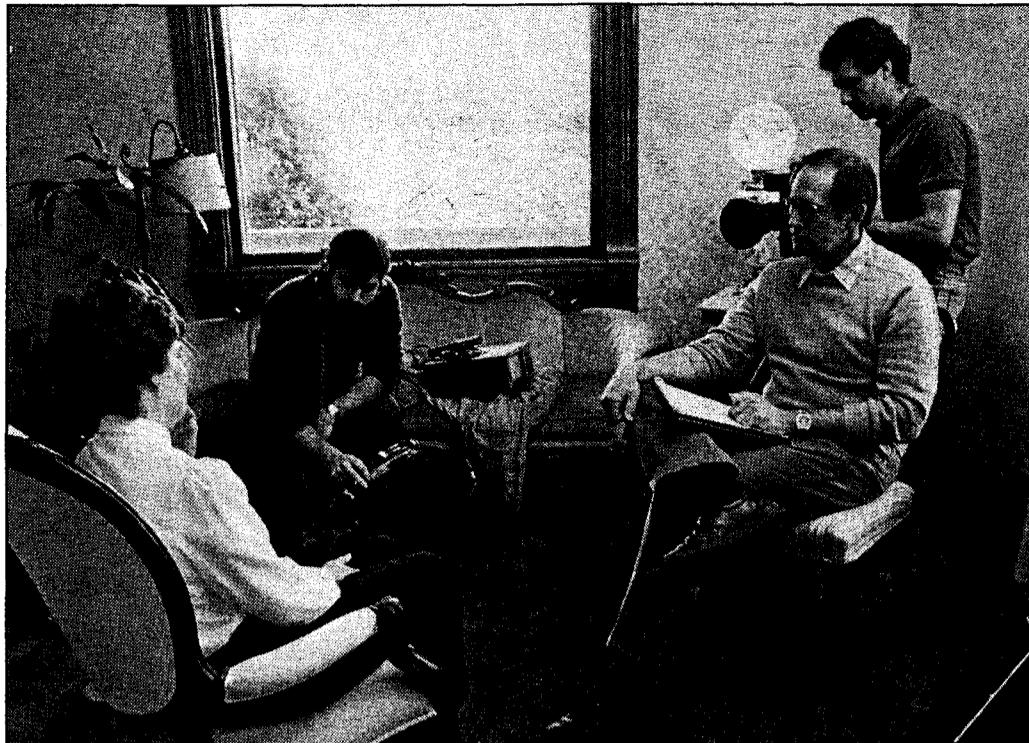
All Minnesota entries selected for the April 6 trip were processed and matted professionally and

then were hand delivered through CONNECT/US-USSR, a Minnesota-based, nonprofit, non-partisan organization working to foster educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries. During the last two years, CONNECT (its headquarters at 4835 Penn Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409) has originated art exchanges involving over 2000 American students in 40 states and over 500 Soviet school children in six republics.

Byron Schneider, assistant director, 4-H Youth Development, made the link with CONNECT for 4-H. The purpose is three-fold: to provide an opportunity for the people of the USSR to see America through the eyes and cameras of Minnesota youth, to establish a two-way exchange of photographs between Minnesota and Moscow youth, and to further cultural and informational exchanges between the youth of both nations.

A photo album of some 45 photos from Minnesota 4-H will travel through the English speaking schools in Moscow, Pace says. ■

—Mary Kay O'Hearn



## Video spotlights bed and breakfasts

Don Breneman conducts an on-camera interview with Sandra Grettenberg, owner of The Victorian bed and breakfast in Lake City. The interview will be part of a videotape on bed and breakfast operation currently being produced by the Minnesota Extension Service.



Sue Davis (left), Itasca County program assistant; Tom Papin, director of social services in Itasca County, and Janie O'Connor, home economics extension agent in that county, shared honors for the effectiveness of the volunteer budget consultant program underway in their area of northeastern Minnesota. The recognition came at a recent meeting of the Association of Minnesota Counties.

## Itasca's budget consultant program cited by counties' association

Itasca County's extension office and its social services department were cited recently by the Association of Minnesota Counties for their cooperative Volunteer Budget Consultant program. The program uses well-trained volunteers to teach financial management skills to families and individuals experiencing financial crises.

According to Janie O'Connor, county extension agent, the program developed from a pilot effort in four northeastern Minnesota counties. Itasca County has continued with the venture for two years. Its annual allocation of approximately

\$22,000 allows the hiring of a full-time program assistant/financial management educator, Sue Davis.

The effort is aimed at persons who are unemployed or underemployed and are deeply in debt, living on seasonal incomes, newly divorced or married, new parents or newly retired. Most of those who enter the program have been referred from the county's social services department. O'Connor adds that the budget consultants help participants recognize their financial problems, seek alternatives and explore the consequences of their decisions. ■

—Deedee Nagy

## Master Gardeners mark ten years helping plants—and people—grow

Minnesota's Master Gardener program is ten years old this year, and it remains a good example of how well volunteerism can work.

"Master Gardeners represent all walks of life, from young men and women in their 20s to retirees in their 70s," says Mike Zins, area horticulture agent who helps coordinate the program. To become a certified Master Gardener, a person must do 50 hours of volunteer work in exchange for the approximately 50 hours of training that extension has provided to the individual. To remain certified after the initial training year, Master Gardeners volunteer an additional 25 hours of work each year.

Zins says Master Gardeners make their presence known throughout Minnesota by conducting plant clinics at shopping malls or garden centers, presenting educational programs on television, teaching community education classes or explaining plant growth to elementary school classes or 4-H groups. Others write newspaper columns or an-

swer listeners' gardening questions on local radio stations.

Jane McKinnon, extension horticulturist, is program co-coordinator with Zins, and does most of the Master Gardener training and workshops in Greater Minnesota outside the Twin Cities area. There are more than 800 active Master Gardener volunteers statewide, Zins says. Ramsey and Hennepin Counties each have 77 Master Gardeners and a number of them have been with the program for its ten-year history.

He adds that there have been some interesting spinoffs from the training. One couple became so interested they returned to college for degrees in horticulture. Several others have found jobs in Minnesota's horticultural industries. At least one Master Gardener now serves on a county's extension advisory committee, helping to guide extension programs in his own area.

But the program's prime purpose, Zins says, is "getting information to people." It is a local commu-

nity answer to the growing popularity of gardening and the need for a way to accurately disseminate the University's educational information about home horticulture.

The Master Gardener model of volunteer work in exchange for training has worked so well it has been applied successfully to such efforts as food preservation and financial planning, again with benefits for extension as well as for the volunteers and those they instruct.

In Blue Earth County, some of the county's dozen or so Master Gardeners helped conduct a spring gardening seminar at Mankato State University this spring. Nearly 150 people attended.

Wendy Bode, a horticultural assistant in the Blue Earth County Extension Office, praises the volunteers' commitment. "Some Master Gardeners give hundreds of volunteer hours a year even though they may only be required to put in 25. Their enthusiasm is contagious!" ■

—Mary Kay O'Hearn



Libby Willis, Ramsey County Master Gardener, teaches a school group at St. Paul's Como Park about plants growing in the Japanese Garden. Of her 10 years in the program, she says, "During the season, almost every conversation I have with neighbors and friends ends up on the subject of gardening!"

## EXTENOVATIONS

Vol. 8 No. 3  
June 1987

Published bimonthly by the Director's Office, 240 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108

Managing editor ..... Deedee Nagy  
Production editor ..... Margo Doten  
Designer ..... Paul Lee  
Photo editor ..... Don Breneman

Produced by Educational Development Systems, 433 Coffey Hall

The University of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Extension Service, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, handicap, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

# Volunteer financial consultants find extra benefits



Photo by Don Breneman  
Bonnie Augst, Hennepin County Extension Agent for Home Economics, discusses the location of the county's Financial Management Extension consultants with Arlin Epperson. Epperson works for a property management firm and volunteers his time to work with reduced income families through the Extension Service.

More than one volunteer in the financial management consultant program has found unexpected side-benefits from service. For example, says Pat Stumme, Freeborn County home economics agent, "Three of the four volunteers we trained developed so much self-confidence and skill, they found paying jobs." That success gives the county, says Stumme, the "happy problem" of having to train new volunteers.

Jean Bauer isn't complaining either. As she explains it, the program was designed to snowball. It is based on an elaborate pyramid structure in which Bauer, who developed most of the training materials and worksheets, plus family resource management specialist Sharon Danes and three area agents (Marian Anderson, Mardi Harder and Joan Sprain) trained 25 county agents.

The agents, in turn, have already trained 143 volunteers, who do the one-on-one or small group education with targeted audiences. The volunteers receive 12 hours of training, and agree to pay back 50 hours of teaching and working with individuals and families in small groups and one-to-one situations.

The volunteers were recruited from many different backgrounds, says area agent Joan Sprain. Volunteers include "former bank examiners, a former bank vice president, self-employed financial planners, full time homemakers and people who work for other helping professions," she says. "In many cases we were surprised at who volunteered. Often it was people who had never worked with extension before."

Throughout the state the agents

found a real diversity of volunteers, Bauer adds, including a custodian, an AFDC mother, several farm women and an unemployed man.

The volunteers were contacted by advertising and by creative networking. The volunteers in Freeborn County, for example, were found by networking with the Community Action Agency, who recruited the volunteers to receive extension training, says Stumme.

The financial management consultant program worked from the first with specific targeted audiences. It began, explains Bauer, with the northeast volunteer budget consultant program which was developed for reduced income families. That program was for families who were struggling with sudden changes in their income due to job layoffs.

The Living Resourcefully with Reduced Income bulletin, developed by Bauer and Kathy Mangum, has become a best seller, with over 18,000 copies printed, of which 8,000 were reproduced and distributed by the Minnesota Attorney General's office, says Bauer.

But the northeast materials met only one population need. Bauer decided to add a limited income module. "You deal with the problem of going from one income to a drastically reduced one differently from the way you deal with the problems of chronic limited income," explains Bauer.

"Families with limited income have a much shorter planning horizon; long-term planning is almost impossible. Some families are able to plan two or three

months ahead but with only small amounts of money. The limited income materials were developed to be easy to read; and, since many people with limited income are older and have arthritis, we designed the worksheets with big blocks to write in," Bauer says.

The limited income module has been wholesaled to other human service agencies with success. Last September Bauer's team pilot-tested a training program with human service agencies in the seven county metro area.

"Since then we have trained about 350 agency professionals and volunteers in 50 counties. They have purchased the limited income materials from us, and we've provided the training for them. This wholesaling of the program works out well because our expertise in education blends with their one-on-one client access," Bauer says.

It was a natural progression to move from working with reduced and limited income families to working with families who have another financial management problem—those with shared family and business expenses. These families include farm families, ministers' families and families involved in tourism. "We developed materials that dealt with their issues of uneven income and resultant cash-flow prob-

lems, and showed how to figure out the percent of income or dollar amount to allocate to family living expenses," Bauer says.

This is a tough financial problem, and a difficult group to reach. As Joan Sprain explains, "Farm families are still very reluctant to ask for help. Also, the farm is so large and takes so much of the income, that the family part of the financial planning seems so small compared to it. But what we tried to show them was if they could gain control of their family living expenses, they will gain more confidence and it will be easier to deal with the rest."

Having developed financial management education programs for families in crisis, Bauer next wants the program to focus on pre-crisis planning. "Right now I'm working with a graduate student to develop a financial management module for a newly formed household—the young single, or the young couple. Sharon Danes is working on a pre-retirement module."

The purpose of this planning is to reach families "at the beginning, before they have all the problems," she says. In many cases these targeted audiences already have formed groups through which the education could be offered. For example, many churches have marriage classes, and a lot of high school groups

could be tapped as access points.

"This is a long-term, additive program," Bauer says, "one that you can enter at any point, but one that builds on previous modules."

For Sprain, the most important component of the education is how the whole program integrates financial management into family values: "I think the part of the training that has been the most important to the volunteers is the segment on values. It helps them understand why families spend their money differently from their neighbors.

"We teach the volunteers not to make value judgments," she says. "A lot of them come to the training wanting us to come up with budgets and financial benchmarks for families. The important learning for them, I think, is that financial management is a process for the family that involves values and requires and develops skills in family communication and decision-making."

When values are sorted out, Sprain believes, finances become a learning tool for much more than the budget sheet. She says, "One of the most important things we can teach families is how to get that inner sense of control, not just with finances but with the rest of their lives." ■

—Jennifer Obst

## In brief . . . In brief . . . In brief

Shirley Baugher, assistant director, home economics, received the Outstanding Adult Educator Award from the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association at its annual meeting in April in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Liz Templin, Washington County, was elected Vice President of Membership Services and Naomi Fruechte, Houston County, was elected Director at Large of the Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE).

Dorothy Zimmerman, Lincoln County, received the 1987 Minnesota Home Economics Teacher of the Year merit award from the Minnesota Home Economics Association (MHEA) at its annual meeting. This award recognizes outstanding contributions of home economics teachers and identifies exemplary education programs, teaching techniques and activities. Zimmerman is a member of the Lincoln County Extension Committee. She is also an extension Master Gardener and food preservation volunteer.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*



Photo by Don Breneman  
1987 members of the Minnesota Extension Citizens' Advisory Committee are, from left to right, Donna Olson of Clay County, Don Scheel of Washington County, Shirley Pietz of Jackson County, Dean VonBank of Chippewa County (4-H representative), Rae Cech of Freeborn County, Gerald Meierhofer of Stearns County, Betty Edgren of Mille Lacs County and Joyce Bohlen of LeSueur County (1987-88 chair).

Photo by Don Breneman

Also recognized by MHEA at its annual meeting was Pat Borich, dean and director, Minnesota Extension Service, who received the 1987 award to an Outstanding Friend of Home Economics. Borich was recognized not only for his support of home economics and its contributions within the Minnesota Extension Service, but also for his past work in humanizing education, which embraces many of the same issues now being addressed by home economics professionals throughout the state.

\*\*\*

## New citizens' advisory committee members convene

The Minnesota Extension Citizens' Advisory Committee met this spring to visit their legislators at the State Capitol and to discuss extension's restructuring plan, budget situation and other current issues.

Joyce Bohlen, LeSueur County, 1987 chair-elect, took over the post from Willis Miller of Scott County. Her successor will be

Chuck Stranberg, Kandiyohi County, who was named the 1988 chair-elect.

Members going off the advisory committee were Terry Knudson, 4-H representative from Houston County; Jo Nunn, Hennepin County; Warren Rodning, Nicollet County; John Sethre, East Otter Tail County, and Frank Swedzinski, Lincoln County. ■



Photo by Don Breneman  
Willis Miller (left) of Scott County accepts a plaque from Pat Borich recognizing Miller's contributions during his year as chair of the Minnesota Extension Citizens' Advisory Committee. Miller passed the gavel to this year's chair, Joyce Bohlen of LeSueur County, at the advisory committee's March meeting.

Photo by Don Breneman

Mike Patton, program director, Caribbean Project, was principal resource person at the national extension workshop for program evaluation March 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas. Extension staff from more than 40 states and territories participated in this second annual workshop, which emphasized the use of evaluations for accountability, program improvement and policy formulation.



## International programs seek global awareness

Continued from Page 1

Through the international program, Delores Andol, extension director in Roseau County, believes her area "has come to appreciate other cultures." Two exchangees from Japan and one from Switzerland will be coming to the county, but no one is going as a delegate from Roseau County this year. "We involve them (exchangees) in what's going on in the area," she says. Crossing an international border (Roseau is 9 miles from Canada) is a new experience for them: most live in areas where this isn't possible.

Host families assume costs for room and board and should have a child between ages 11-17 if hosting a youth; 4-H looks for families who are good representatives of 4-H and family life in the community.

One person told Pace being a host family "is as comfortable as having the neighbor's daughter from a mile away."

In Duluth, the kimono given by her host family in Japan became a bride's wedding dress. Elsewhere, grandparents of delegates have visited grandparents of exchangees because the program has given travel connections in another country. Two who met as participants in the program have married and live in Norway. Because of the program there are new stamp collectors all over the world.

It wouldn't be summer for some Minnesota families without a piece of the international action. A mile outside Stacy in Chisago County, Mrs. George Tri says her family still is in touch with 80 percent of the youngsters they have hosted over many years. They have a Japanese tutor coming this summer while their daughter, Georgeanne (now Mrs. Lyle Johnson) is hosting a Japanese exchangee.

In 1973, the first year of the Japanese exchange program, Georgeanne was a camping assistant, fell in love with the Japanese children and told her parents "you've got to have one." They've been active with the program every year since. When language becomes a problem, "you can always write it down, use a dictionary or use your hands a lot," Mrs. Tri says.

Some of the youngsters who have visited their home have been real pranksters—even to putting a pail of water above a door.

Now retired farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Tri have visited Japan. She doesn't see hosting as costly, adding "they just live as one of the family." A trip to the North Shore is an annual event each summer for her family and she just plans it when hosting an exchangee.

Kathy Roycraft, international program assistant in the state 4-H office, spent 18 months in Guatemala as part of a Youth De-

velopment Program. She moved 13 times in those months while working in leadership training, group building and recreation with an organization much like Extension. Her parents in southern Minnesota have hosted exchangees.

Pace is used to any-hour phone calls, mixups, injuries (no fatalities, thankfully) and last-minute house guests as part of his job. One year a youngster fell from a truck and was unconscious for several hours. Later, when the Paces visited Japan, that youngster and his mother took a 4-5 hour train trip to Tokyo just to show them he was fully recovered. There have been the usual lost passports and missed buses. Once some travelers ended up in Mankato when they should have gone to St. Cloud. "They got on the bus they were told to, but we put them on the wrong bus," he recalls.

Pace has been with the program since 1970. With Global Awareness and understanding a current programming issue area in 4-H Youth Development, Pace would like to see more of the professional 4-H and Extension staff participating in international programs. He envisions people such as beekeepers, nutritionists and poultry specialists traveling to help countries develop their youth programs and the skills of youth to prepare for life in the 21st century. ■

—Mary Kay O'Hearn



The Gerald Anderson family of Shoreview (Ramsey County) got to know Takumi Baba, Osaka, Japan, their 13-year-old summer visitor.



Snapping photos to take back home is this group of 4-B members from Botswana in southern Africa. Peter Scheffert, acting extension agent in Nicollet County, is instructing. 4-B is similar to 4-H.

## MAST students exchange more than knowledge

Continued from Page 1

learned that you can't trust anybody, and I've learned to be a lot more careful about agreements."

Charlie Walkinshaw coordinates the practical aspects of the MAST program and the inbound PART trainees. It's his job to match the incoming trainees with host families on farms all over the U.S. and to conduct orientation sessions for both hosts and trainees. Walkinshaw relies on county extension agents and local, farmer-oriented newspaper ads to meet the ongoing need for good hosts, although he would like to see more farm families volunteer for the experience.

"Both hosts and trainees often

view this as the experience of a lifetime," Walkinshaw says, "and for many it becomes a long-term involvement as they host year after year." The friendships formed often last a lifetime, and hosts and trainees meet in Europe for periodic reunions, which give hosts the opportunity to visit the farms of their former trainees.

The effects of the program go well beyond the relationships developed between hosts and trainees, Walkinshaw adds. "The benefits of hosting extend to local communities as MAST International trainees interact with extension personnel, school groups, clubs and other community organizations." And the process does not end with the local communities. "As hosts and trainees live and

work together, there is a growing awareness and appreciation of the need for increased international understanding and cooperation. These realizations can only help to reduce tensions in our complex world."

Once on the farm, the trainee works closely with the farmer to plan a project and training plan for the training period. Both then fill out monthly reports which are monitored by Walkinshaw. At the end of the training period, the host and the trainee fill out separate evaluations of the overall experience.

Trainees are paid \$525 a month, of which \$300 is set aside to cover tuition and living expenses during the academic quarter. Trainees are also responsible for transportation to and from the U.S. As a result, the students must use some of their own savings to finance the experience. Hosts pay an additional \$50 a month to the MAST program and also provide Workers' Compensation.

Cathy Solheim is coordinator for the academic aspect of the MAST program and for American outbound students in the PART program. Until recently, she says, American students were generally more concerned with finishing their studies and getting started on a career, while international students are traditionally more inclined to take time out for travel or experience before settling down. This is one reason why the number of international students has been so much greater than the number of American students going abroad. Solheim sees that changing now. "American students seem to be

recapturing that sense of adventure that had previously been more common among international students."

Solheim's job in the MAST program is to get trainees registered for classes and situated in living arrangements during their academic quarter. Their coursework is often related to the practical training. However, since many of the trainees have already finished their academic studies abroad they often study subjects that are not available to them there.

Gilbert Bonnet, 24, came from a winery in France and spent his practical training period at a winery near San Jose, California. During the academic quarter, his courses included plant pathology and poisonous plants of North America, "just to study something different."

In the early days, when many of the foreign students were here to have a good time, some of the faculty had reservations about the program. Today, according to Hoefler, "the faculty look forward to having these students in their classes and value their contribution to the intercultural educational experience."

That intercultural experience has become for many the most valuable and enduring part of the MAST International program. The friendships forged here continue and friends often meet in Europe to visit or travel together. And the departing students take with them a new understanding of the American lifestyle and system of values. Says Bonnet, "I'm surprised at how polite Americans are. Here people don't argue; in France we argue all the time,

about everything." Of course, not all of their American experience is positive. "There's one thing I don't like," Bonnet says. "It's hard to believe that in such a wealthy country there are so many people starving."

Though Mardon's host family is not starving, they and he learned some valuable lessons as a result of the current small-farm crisis in this country. There were times when the young Englishman ran the whole farm himself. Some of the lessons are personal; Mardon now realizes that "I could never milk cows for somebody else—if I milk cows, they're going to be my own."

Mardon and Bonnet arrived last June and attended classes during this past spring quarter. Now that their year is over, both would like to stay. Mardon will extend, and though Bonnet cannot afford to do so now, he says, "I will definitely be back."

Hoefler and the many families who host MAST trainees think that many of them learn something about themselves during their year here. It takes a special effort to reach out, to make friends and take chances in a society whose culture and language are challenging to many.

The program's organizers are pleased with the growth of the program and with the response from Minnesotans whose lives have been touched by the MAST participants. They benefit from the exchange too, they add, because reaching out to foreign students and taking the same sorts of chances teaches us all something valuable about ourselves. ■

—Guy Rehwinkel



The annual International Potluck Dinner gives incoming MAST students the opportunity to meet new friends while sampling various international foods prepared by outgoing MAST students.