

AFS JANUS

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Dear AFS Friend,

I am happy to introduce our new "AFS in Action" column in this issue of the *AFS Janus*, which highlights a few of the many exciting events and projects from around the AFS Network. I also invite you to check out our new website (afs.org/about-afs/news-events/) to stay up to date about more AFS activities dedicated to creating a more just and peaceful world.

These activities are even more relevant as AFS celebrates the 70th anniversary of the student exchange programs this year. The programs were created in 1946 to promote intercultural understanding after two devastating World Wars, and the first group of AFS secondary school students arrived in the United States the following year. We share the story of the visionary individual and wartime volunteer who spearheaded this incredible initiative, Stephen Galatti, in our cover feature.

The AFS programs have grown exponentially in size and type since 1947, all while providing life-changing experiences to students and families around the world. Jen Rodewald, one of the 400,000 former AFS students, discusses her own experience and how she's still involved with AFS today in "Through Their Own Words: An AFS Returnee and the World War I Diary Project."

Later in the issue, Milena Miladinović, AFS International's senior writing and social marketing specialist, discusses how the AFS programs have evolved over time in "Making an Impact through the #AFSeffect." In his inaugural "Letter from the AFS President," Daniel Obst further explores the need for AFS in today's world and how we can work together to broaden the reach and deepen the impact of AFS through our newly launched **One Welcoming World** campaign.

Finally, AFS is saddened to report that one of our founders and life trustees, Ward B. Chamberlin, Jr., passed away this year. We remember him and his indelible impact on AFS in this issue.

Thank you for helping AFS to remain vibrant through the years. We are grateful for your support!

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Developing Intercultural Skills in Ghana

Volunteers and staff from **AFS South Africa** and **AFS Ghana** participated in the National Qualified Trainer Workshop held in Accra, Ghana, in February 2017. AFS now has 250 Qualified Trainers around the world who are certified to deliver the AFS Intercultural Link Learning Program. Using a variety of interactive and reflective methods, this program helps AFSers develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed when interacting with people from other cultural backgrounds.

Volunteers, staff, and family members at the workshop in Accra, Ghana.



Leading a Discussion on Global Competencies in Hong Kong

AFS Hong Kong and the Asia Society Hong Kong Center hosted a panel discussion on youth development and intercultural education titled "Developing Global Mindsets for Hong Kong's Future" on March 29, 2017. The panel was moderated by Alejandro Reyes (University of Hong Kong) and included AFS President and CEO Daniel Obst, Eric X. Li (Chengwei Capital and Guanca.cn.), Kuby Chan (AFS Hong Kong Board of Directors, Jockey Club Ti-I College, and Munsang College) and Ming Wai Lau (Commission on Youth). You can find the discussion here: www.facebook.com/AFSHongKong/videos/928612143942885/.

AFS President and CEO Daniel Obst speaking about the demand for globally competent employees. Photograph courtesy of AFS Hong Kong.



Supporting Short Programs for Youth in New Zealand

Nine Chinese students between the ages of 11 and 14 participated in **AFS New Zealand's** new Dragon's Programme in early 2017. The students were recruited by **AFS China** and attended schools for three weeks in Wellington, New Zealand. Intercultural learning activities and visiting cultural sites were highlights of the short exchange program. This new venture, including their stay with host families, was made possible through financial support from the New Zealand government.

Dragon's Programme participants point out New Zealand and China on a map. Photograph courtesy of AFS New Zealand.



Creating a Sustainable Future in Brazil

In October 2016, 189 attendees and volunteers from 52 AFS Network Organizations participated in the AFS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During the conference, **AFS Brazil** sponsored EFEITO+ Global Citizenship Education Workshop and Forum, a community event for students to learn ways to address critical local challenges and advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Watch the forum video at [vimeo.com/189148527!](http://vimeo.com/189148527)

Attendees and volunteers at the AFS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

AFS *in* ACTION

by Nicole Milano

We are proud to feature events and projects that showcase how AFS staff, students, volunteers, and host families are working to create a better world. View more exciting and impactful AFS activities at [afs.org/about-afs/news-events/!](http://afs.org/about-afs/news-events/)



Bringing AFS Students Together and Raising Scholarship Funds in the United States

Nearly 200 students, volunteers, and community members gathered at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina (USA), for a reception on March 31, 2017, coordinated by the AFS Greater Charlotte chapter of **AFS-USA**. The event, which raised scholarship funds for AFS, included speeches by Mayor Jennifer Roberts, Ambassador Thomas Robertson, and exchange student T. J. Turner. It was coordinated in conjunction with the AFS exhibition *The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I, 1914-1919*, which is on display at the museum through July 9.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts with local AFS teen volunteer Gabriel Rojas and AFS participant Chawit "Poom" Kritpracha (from Thailand). Photograph courtesy of Elliot Powell (photographer, Chicago, IL).



Stephen Galatti: The AFS Visionary

by Nicole Milano

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In the early 1950s, AFS World War II volunteer Arthur Howe, Jr. received a telegram from AFS Director General Stephen Galatti. It was dated June 30:

Busload of 38 students arriving 3rd July. Will need homes and hospitality 5 days. Know you can handle it. Steve.

Howe was initially frustrated at the presumption in this last-minute request. Galatti assumed Howe would drop what he was doing to find host families and activities within four days, simply because he asked.

Galatti presumed correctly. Howe noted that “like all of these absurd requests he made of you, you went and did it after you blew your top 14 times.” Howe found the families, and the 38 students happily spent a few days in New Haven, Connecticut.

The urgency, the brevity, the boldness—these characteristics can be heard time and again in recollections by former colleagues who worked alongside Galatti, whose enigmatic charisma willed the impossible to become possible. He was the visionary behind AFS, lighting the spark that would ultimately spread worldwide, impacting millions of people as he endeavored to create a more peaceful world.

Calling the Shots at Harvard

Stephen Galatti was born on August 6, 1888, to Greek immigrants Paul Stephen

and Angelique (Kessisoglu) Galatti in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey. He had one brother, John, and attended St. Mark’s School in Southborough, Massachusetts.

According to AFS colleague Bob Thayer, Galatti felt like “he had suddenly found his place in the world” during his time at St. Mark’s School. He was a first-generation Greek American; the students at the school left “a very deep impression upon him and made him feel the importance of how young people without any prejudices or anything could

suddenly get to understand the point of view of somebody with an entirely different background and culture.” This experience would stay with him for many years, influencing decisions regarding AFS that would come later in his life.

Galatti was extremely popular and a great athlete at school. He became quarterback of the football team at Harvard, which was a dominant force in the early days of intercollegiate football. Galatti played alongside teammate Hamilton Fish III, an All-American tackle



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who would later go on to become captain of the 369th US Infantry Regiment (the “Harlem Hellfighters”) in World War I.

After graduating with a BA in 1910, Galatti began a career in banking with Ralli Bros., East India Merchants. He worked in New York and London and spent a year in New Delhi, India. After World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, Galatti resigned from the company and volunteered at the American Embassy in London.

A Clear Mind Behind a Disorderly Desk

In 1915, Galatti volunteered as an ambulance driver with the American Field Service, which was working near the front lines to evacuate wounded soldiers from what had become an extremely bloody war. Galatti was sent to the contested region of Alsace with unit SSU 3, working alongside famed Lost Generation artist Waldo Peirce. AFS founder A. Piatt Andrew recognized the talents in this young athlete and quickly promoted him. Galatti oversaw the daily operations of the AFS headquarters at 21 rue Raynouard in Paris, France, for the next two years.

AFS ambulance driver John Fischer commented on his experience interacting with Galatti in the spring of 1917, where there

*Stephen Galatti
“was a remarkable
American and a
remarkable citizen of
the world.”*

*—President
Lyndon B. Johnson*

was so much activity at the headquarters that someone had to steer him to a door marked “Mr. Galatti.” Upon entering the office, Fischer noticed “the most disorderly desk in the world. It had everything on it: letters, papers, books, scratch pads, pencils, cigarettes, more letters, more and more papers, more and more letters. You could barely look over the top of it and see Galatti sitting on the other side.”

Yet behind that messy desk was a clear mind. Fischer noted that Galatti was doing “as much as any four of the rest



of us.” Galatti selected volunteers to fill vacancies, corresponded with parents who were anxious about their sons overseas, ordered donor plates to fit on the ambulances, organized new sections, and yet still always made time to see volunteers who stopped by with a variety of questions.

Stockbroker by Day, Humanitarian by Night

When the US Army took over AFS in late 1917, Galatti was commissioned captain in the US Army Ambulance Service and subsequently became a major. Galatti joined the John Munroe & Co. banking firm after the war, working in its New York and Paris offices until 1930, when he joined Jackson & Curtis as a stockbroker. Galatti also helped in the creation of the AFS Fellowships for French Universities, which funded French and American graduate students to travel overseas. He served as director and later president of the fellowships after A. Piatt Andrew passed away in 1936.

After World War II broke out in 1939, Galatti spearheaded the reorganization of the ambulance corps and administered its overseas operations. After working as a stockbroker all day, he’d go to the AFS office in New York City after the markets closed to help raise funds; coordinate enlistment, interviews, and training of volunteers; meet with representatives from the US State Department; and make arrangements to supply ambulances >>>



Cover: Stephen Galatti in his AFS uniform during World War II. During his lifetime he was decorated with many awards, including the Croix de Guerre, Legion of Honor, Commander in the Order of the British Empire, and the US Medal of Freedom, among others.

1. Stephen Galatti driving an ambulance in 1915.
2. Captain and quarterback Stephen Galatti (second row, right) with the Harvard football team in 1909. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives (UAV 170.270.2, Box 3).
3. Stephen Galatti’s silk banner from Harvard.
4. Stephen Galatti at his desk in the East 30th Street office. AFS colleague Robert Applewhite once noted that this photograph was “typical” of how Galatti worked: “Everyone who knew Steve will recognize the desk and the clutter around it—gifts from students, wartime mementos, bulging ‘in’ and ‘out’ baskets and an endless supply of Pall Mall cigarettes. It was a miracle how he accomplished all he did, but somehow it all got done.”
5. AFS World War II promotional poster.



to the Allied armies, all on a volunteer basis. As with his experience in World War I, Galatti gave his undivided attention to AFS.

On rainy days, Galatti donned the trench coat from his World War I uniform to protect himself from rain on his way into the office. The elevated train squealed by outside, typewriters clicked with purpose, phones rang noisily, and volunteer ambulance drivers streamed in and out with loud greetings. Despite the racket, Galatti refused to have a private office, claiming that the noise helped him figure out “what’s going on.” He knew the ins and outs of AFS activity, and by the end of the war, 2,196 ambulance drivers served in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, India, and Burma, saving more than 700,000 wounded under his direction.

Establishing the Role of AFS in Peacetime

Galatti’s disorderly desk remained after the war, though, thankfully, so did his incredible skill set. AFS colleague Bill Orrick noted that his “capacity to do several things at once, the decisiveness, the finality of his judgments, [and] the prodigious memory for details” continued and helped lead to his success in establishing the AFS we know today.

After the end of World War II, Galatti

and other AFS volunteers had a series of meetings about the future of the organization. Rather than organize a veterans group, they wanted to utilize their wartime experiences of working alongside foreign soldiers for good. The group felt that young people, as many of them were during the war, helped promote understanding between people of different nationalities. They believed that where there is genuine understanding, there may also be more paths to the peaceful solution of differences.

Galatti posed the question to all former AFS volunteers in a letter on July 9, 1946, asking: “What, if any, is the position of the American Field Service in peacetime? I have believed for some time that the AFS can further international friendships, if it can do this through the organized exchange of scholars between this country and those allied countries with whom we have served.” In a reunion in New York City in September 1946, the AFS volunteers from World Wars I and II officially endorsed the creation of a student exchange program. However, unlike the AFS French Fellowships that were established between World Wars I and II, the focus would now be on students of a younger age. Not all the AFS veterans were convinced this radical new scholarship program would get off



the ground, and so they also agreed to raise money for a permanent clubhouse for the AFS veterans at that same meeting.

Galatti worked his magic to ensure the clubhouse wasn’t the only peacetime product of AFS. In 1947, through Galatti’s work and the work of AFS World War II volunteer and life trustee Ward B. Chamberlin, Jr., and others, 28 students from France, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Norway, England, and Syria came over to the United States on the first-ever AFS secondary school scholarship program. They were joined by 22 college students from France, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia, Greece, England, Estonia, and Hungary. Additionally, five American college students were sent to the Sorbonne in France through an



AFS scholarship that year. The inclusion of Hungary indicates that their earlier proposition to focus only on former World War II allies had quickly expanded.

Collecting Pocket Change for the Piggy Bank

According to AFS colleague Bill Hooten, Galatti was “a great believer in the personal letter” and was able to raise an impressive amount of money to ensure success for AFS in part by penning letters to people by the hundreds over the years. He encouraged the AFS board of directors to do the same, prompting them to ask for donations from corporations



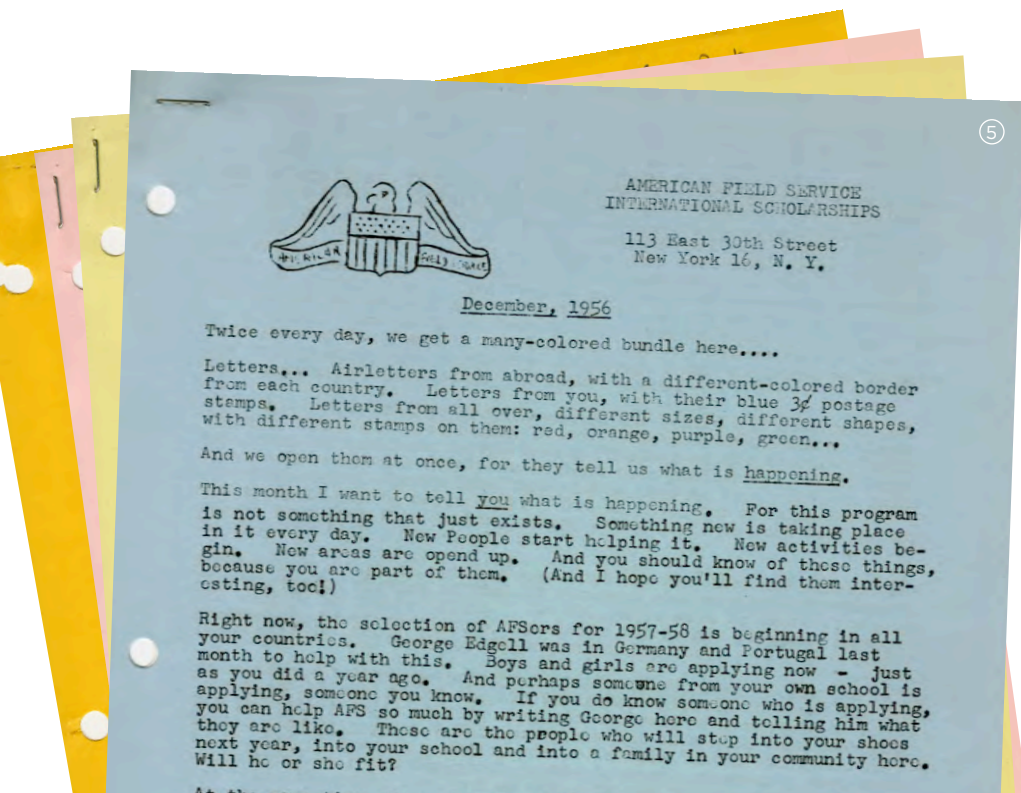
and friends.

Not only did Galatti pen and encourage personal letters, he also found clever ways to encourage donations. He kept a large piggy bank in the office for visitors to contribute their pocket change. On one occasion he even held a turtle race in the office, to convince his own staff to donate. The turtles were numbered and the staff bet on which one would come in first. The winner had to split their prize with the AFS scholarships.

Galatti sought out opportunities to expand the programs through new fundraising endeavors. In 1950, only five years after the end of World War II,

Galatti coordinated with the US State Department to bring the AFS secondary school programs to German students. By 1952, more than half of the 204 AFS students that year were German, financed by a US State Department grant.

While he was great at fundraising, Galatti’s budgeting was not always practical or easily understood by others. Mary Annery, who worked as the controller for AFS at the time, observed that the office operated on a shoestring and that Galatti “never believed in a budget.” To make matters worse, the AFS office, in an old building on 30th Street in New York City, was not aging >>>



1 & 2. Stephen Galatti and US president John F. Kennedy speaking to AFS students on the lawn of the White House in 1961. AFS students met with US presidents before returning to their countries between 1954 and 1976, including Lyndon B. Johnson. On learning the news of Galatti’s death, Johnson noted that Galatti “was a remarkable American and a remarkable citizen of the world. Through the fruits of this program, his influence will live on for many generations.”

3. Stephen Galatti accepting a proclamation from the “Bremer Roland,” symbol of the city of Bremen, Germany, on July 8, 1956. AFS summer students in Germany and the *Arosa Kulm* ship can be seen in the background.

4. Stephen Galatti going over travel documents with AFS students from Japan and Indonesia in 1957. Photograph by Fred L. Tonne. Courtesy of the *Milwaukee Journal*.

5. *Eagle Letters* publication sent to AFS students.

gracefully; the furnace was failing, and the ceiling leaked on rainy days. However, AFS colleague Blaikie Worth observed that the office's dilapidated state was "great for fundraising." Visitors would stop by and say, "Gee, you're sure not spending money on the offices, are you?" and would safely assume their donations were going entirely toward the students.

Galatti had an enigmatic quality that enabled him to convince others to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to make the AFS student exchange programs successful. Despite her frustrations regarding his budgeting skills (or lack thereof), Annery also noted that Galatti "just had you in a sort of spell." AFS World War II volunteer Ward B. Chamberlin, Jr. seconded this quality, noting that despite some faults, Galatti was "the most remarkable man I ever knew, in many, many ways."

The Students Always Come First

The students were also under his "spell" and were at the core of everything Galatti worked toward at AFS. His colleagues commented on how enraptured the students were with him, which is well represented in the AFS Archives through the many notes and photographs they gave him over the years. According to Chamberlin, the students thought that he "was the greatest thing. They recognized that in a strange world, he was on their side, and if he was on their side, it didn't matter who else wasn't."

The feeling was reciprocal. Chamberlin noted that Galatti "cared desperately about the young people that were in this program" and felt they always came first. Worth noted that without this component of the AFS programs, it "would have fallen" and have "been just like all the others" operating at the time. AFS's focus on the student experience helped guide the organization through the decades, setting it apart from the other student exchange programs that were established after World War II.

In the early years, Galatti made sure that each of the AFS students had a correspondent in the office, who would

check in with them periodically. He also began sending students a publication titled *Eagle Letters* (named for the AFS eagle logo used at the time), which included his advice and thoughts. In the September 1956 issue, he advised the students to "avoid making comparisons, favorable or unfavorable, between your home and the US...give yourself the time to see the whole picture before judging any particular situation. Try to see the 'Why?' behind things: often your opinion will change before you do." One can imagine that his experiences at St. Mark's School, in India after college, and in France during World War I encouraged him to share his own lessons learned with the students under AFS's care.

One student, Mary Heller, was a Jewish American who stayed with a family in Germany in the summer of 1952. After her life-changing experience in Germany, she gave back to AFS as a volunteer. Galatti could be a demanding boss at times, convincing her to take on challenges she didn't realize she could tackle. In one experience, Heller had to bribe a taxi driver and convince a ship captain to wait before leaving dock while she searched for an AFS student's lost passport in Europe. She describes the dramatic ending after miraculously recovering the missing passport: "I threw my arms around the captain's neck and kissed him, ran up the ramp myself, and off we sailed with the waning tide!" Despite all this, Galatti was not impressed with her story, because this was exactly what he had expected of her. Reflecting on her interactions with him, she observed, "No one ever had as much confidence in me as Mr. Galatti. I wonder where I would be without him."

Lighting the Fire of Friendship

Stephen Galatti died in his sleep on July 13, 1964, at age 75. He had been director general of AFS for 29 years, and the organization had expanded into 60 countries under his direction. AFS now has program activity in 99 countries, having grown from 55 students in 1947 to nearly 12,000



students today. Galatti's incredible vision for a program of peace built on international friendships has spread to all corners of the world and continues to diversify and positively impact communities and people each year.

In a tribute to Galatti written by AFS Returnees shortly after his death, they noted that in addition to being a leader, he was "a friend" who succeeded in building "a better world" for all, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, or economic background. They concluded:

*You lit the fire of friendship,
Mr. Galatti.
We will maintain it.
With all we have.
You will be with us.
Everywhere. The future will
show it.*

1. Director General Stephen Galatti with a group of AFS students and staff in Salt Lake City, Utah (USA), in 1959.

Note from the editor: This story was compiled with the assistance of former AFS colleagues who worked with Stephen Galatti, as well as with the AFS Oral History Collection, documents, and photographs housed in the AFS Archives.



Letter from the AFS President

A few weeks ago, I participated in an interesting panel discussion cohosted by AFS Hong Kong and the Asia Society, where we contemplated the importance of cultivating “global mindsets” in young people. Throughout the conversation, it became increasingly clear that having a global mindset is critical for two distinct reasons: first, it gives us the capacity to critically analyze global issues from multiple perspectives; and second, it serves as a personal cultural compass, highlighting a clearer pathway to navigate our complex, diverse, and rapidly changing world.

And there is some cause for concern given the recent actions in many countries that demonstrate an increasing lack of acceptance toward others. But I am also hopeful, because organizations like AFS exist that provide many ways of bringing people from diverse communities together through open dialogue and collaboration. We encourage people to embrace differences. Our world is stronger and more dynamic because of them.

Our most recent study, called “Mapping Generation Z,” clearly demonstrates that young people around the world are eager to embrace and experience different cultures and ideas. According to the 5,000 teenagers we polled, cultural exploration is the prime motivator for them to seek international education opportunities. For 70 years our programs and opportunities have been designed to provide these young global citizens with international experiences that begin a lifetime journey of intercultural learning.

To keep AFS’s commitment to fostering intercultural understanding strong and vibrant, we are proud to launch the **One Welcoming World** campaign this spring. The goal of this campaign is to advance our mission, while strengthening the role of AFS International and our volunteer-based network, and the educational programs that empower young global citizens to make a meaningful difference. We hope you will support this important campaign!

I look forward to working with you to broaden and deepen the impact of AFS.

Daniel Obst

President and CEO, AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.

Above: Daniel Obst exploring new opportunities with Fundación CRUSA, an organization that provided scholarships for outstanding Costa Rican AFS students in 2017.

2016 AFS Award Winners

Each year, AFS recognizes and honors incredible volunteers, host families, and projects around the world that support our mission to create a more just and peaceful world.

Galatti Award

for volunteers who have demonstrated a long-term commitment and exceptional dedication to AFS and our mission

Wu Bing, AFS China

Trees Laga-Vanhecke, AFS Belgium Flanders

Linne Shields, AFS-USA

Young AFS Volunteer Award

for volunteers under 30 years old who provide fresh perspectives and make important contributions to drive AFS forward

Arendse Ursula Teilmann Aalund, AFS Denmark

Najmuzzaman Mohammad, AFS India

Siti Nurul Faizatus Sholikha, AFS Indonesia

Peggy and Art Howe Award

for outstanding AFS volunteer families—inspired by Peggy and Arthur Howe, Jr., who volunteered for AFS for more than six decades

Di Chiara Stanca Family, AFS Italy

Inoue Family, AFS Japan

Ngubeni Family, AFS South Africa

Proulx Family, AFS-USA

#AFSChangemaker Award

for innovative AFS intercultural learning programs created by volunteers and aimed at improving local communities and bringing together the diverse people who live in them

Tanweer Initiative, AFS Egypt

AFS Education Events Award

for educational events that foster intercultural learning and address challenges our local communities face today

Best Overall: Diversity is Everywhere, AFS Germany

Most Relevant: French for Mix!n in the Workplace — Intercultural Training for Oxfam Employees, AFS Belgium Flanders and AFS Belgium French

Most Sustainable: Intercultural Stories, AFS Turkey

Most Innovative: Language and Cultural Immersion Saturdays, AFS Brazil



Making an Impact through the #AFSeffect

by Milena Miladinović

Since April 1915, AFS has been making a significant impact on the world. From rescuing wounded soldiers coming from the battlefields of World Wars I and II, to traveling across an ocean to spend a year with a new family, AFSers have opened up their hearts and minds to others and worked to build bridges across cultures. Inspired by our legacy, AFSers across the globe remain dedicated to volunteerism and fostering intercultural understanding. We call this the “#AFSeffect.”

In this article, you will meet an AFS volunteer, an AFS exchange student, an AFS family, and an AFS partner office that exemplify the #AFSeffect. Their individual stories highlight some of the many ways AFSers around the world are keeping our traditions of volunteerism and intercultural understanding alive.

You can search for the hashtag #AFSeffect on social media to discover even more examples of how our volunteers, students, host families, and staff are working to deepen our impact and broaden our reach as an organization in the decades to come!



Volunteering to Build a Stronger AFS

More than 40,000 AFS volunteers around the world this past year provided guidance and support to exchange students and host families, while also developing their own intercultural competencies and leadership potential.

One of our exemplary volunteers is Wu Bing. For more than 10 years, AFS China has benefited from Wu Bing's creativity and problem-solving abilities. Under her leadership, the AFS chapter in Guangdong has become one of the most successful in China. Her commitment to intercultural education has resulted in strong ties and cooperation between AFS and local schools, which have hosted and supported students from more than 20 countries. An energetic and strategic volunteer leader, Wu Bing is known for developing engaging orientation sessions, identifying interesting cultural activities, finding the right solution to critical challenges, and recruiting new volunteers, students, and host families.



Experiencing a New Culture like a Local

Nearly 12,000 students embark on their AFS journeys every year, traveling to as many as 99 countries. In the process, they share their culture with their new friends, family, and local community, while also gaining new insights about themselves, their host culture, and the world.

This is precisely what happened to Panna Laura Kovács, an AFS student from

Hungary, when she set off to Costa Rica on an AFS program this past fall. “One of the best ways to get to know a culture is through the locals,” she explains. “You always hear this before visiting any country, and it could not be more true. But when you live with locals, eat with locals, not just for a week but for a year, everything changes. I’ve become a different person since I started my exchange year in Costa Rica.”

Panna was a recipient of an AFS Changemakers scholarship, which she received for her community service efforts and commitment to challenging stereotypes. To find out more about Panna and the experiences of other current AFS students, read their stories at afs.org/category/student/scholars.



Welcoming the World into Our Home

AFS host families have a unique opportunity to learn about a new culture, while simultaneously sharing their values in their own homes. Well-trained AFS volunteers support this rewarding and fun experience and help the host families create relationships for a lifetime with their hosted students.

One of these incredible families who has opened their home to AFS students from around the world is the Ngubeni family in South Africa. From grandparents to grandchildren, and for more than 20 years, the Ngubeni family has become a leader in fostering intercultural understanding in their own community. Always motivated to exemplify the AFS values in their township of Soweto, the family has served as regional coordinators and chapter volunteers and



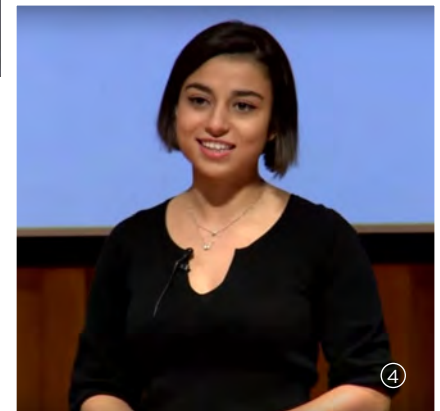
has helped to find local host families. Willing to promote the benefits of diversity in communities where differences are not widely accepted, the entire family is dedicated to the AFS mission of fostering greater intercultural understanding.



Educating Global Citizens to Make a Difference

The educational impact of AFS includes carefully designed intercultural learning journeys for exchange students, host families, staff, and volunteers. This includes educational programs that engage local communities and provide transformative and practical experiences to global citizens of all ages.

One of these initiatives is the intercultural storytelling and journey-sharing program titled *Kültürlerarası Öyküler* (Intercultural Stories), which is coordinated by AFS Turkey in collaboration with a team of local professionals. The popular event, modeled on the famous TED Talks format, has drawn more than 1,500 attendees over the last five years. The talks featured a diverse group of guest speakers, including AFS Returnee Ece Ömür, who engage a live and online audience with their intercultural



experiences and encounters. These stories have prompted discussions on a variety of topics and career options and have encouraged everyone involved to network with each other.

Watch these intriguing storytellers (in Turkish) on AFS Turkey’s social media channels at www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLoaKVfiluoOc8bxLJ1-9AOc_M9_B0psX.

1. AFS president and CEO Daniel Obst and Rolando Araya, AFS Costa Rica’s national director, speaking at an orientation for participants of a community service program in 2017.
2. Wu Bing, leader of the AFS chapter in Guangdong, China, and winner of the 2016 AFS Galatti Award (AFS’s highest honor for volunteers.)
3. AFS Changemakers scholarship award winner Panna Laura Kovács (left) with one of her host sisters in Costa Rica.
4. AFS Returnee Ece Ömür, who also serves on the board of the AFS Turkey Volunteers Association, speaking at *Kültürlerarası Öyküler* in 2015. This interactive program was honored with an AFS Education Events award in 2016.
5. The Ngubeni family of South Africa received the Peggy and Art Howe Award in 2016, a new honor for dedicated AFS families.

Sailed from New York on La Touraine
Oct. 12, 1916. Burr, Rantoul, Davis
Carmen, Buzekow and myself from
Boston, Perry from New York and
Pavell and McMan. Rough unconfi-
dence with poor accommodations
but good food. Following great
quins most of the way and we
had to run into the gale at
all one day. Had



Through Their Own Words: An AFS Returnee and the World War I Diary Project

by Jen Rodewald



Today, as I hold a bound diary written by a World War I AFS volunteer in my hand, the yellowing pages covered with script and containing fascinating stories, I realize that AFS has never been very far from me. It has shaped how I view the world, how I value varied perspectives, and how I engage with unfamiliar experiences.

My first experience with AFS began in the summer of 1986. I was turning 16 and would be spending my summer in a village called Villiers-Couture in central France through AFS. I was excited to learn the language and more about the culture. When my host mother picked me up for the first time, she started speaking to me in French. My two years of high school French had not prepared me at all, though I recognized one word—*piscine* (swimming pool)—and knew I would be fine. As a lifelong swimmer, this would be how I'd find my place in this tiny community. I taught all the kids in the village how to swim that summer, and they fondly called me *l'Américaine* (the American) as they passed by our

house. By the end of the summer, thanks to my interaction with the kids and my host family, I was practically fluent in French.

Another thing that came about during that summer was my love of photography. I rode my bike for hours every day, taking pictures of anything that caught my eye. It was calming and meditative. I knew that photography would somehow play a large part in my life, and it surely has.

Nearly 30 years after returning home from my summer in France, I would again come into contact with AFS. When Nicole Milano, the head archivist and historical publications editor at AFS, got in touch with the Center for Jewish History regarding the World War I Diary Project for the AFS Archives, I was thrilled at the possibility of collaborating with such a fantastic (and, to me, beloved) organization.

The Center for Jewish History in New York City consists of five preeminent archives dedicated to preserving the history, culture, and heritage of the modern Jewish experience. Our collections span more than a thousand years, with more than five miles of

archival documents in dozens of languages and alphabet systems. As the digital services manager, I oversee all of the Center for Jewish History's many digitization and photography projects, including some with outside organizations that don't have the specialized equipment to digitally preserve their bound historic material.

One of our main goals at the Center for Jewish History is not only to digitally preserve historic materials but also to provide access so that people around the world can engage with them.

He walked and blew hair and the
door 30 yds. into the street. He also
told us of Doc Archard's guide, the
Duc de Clermont-Tonnere, one of
2 grand French families. After lunch
we passed a village with a lot of
houses destroyed by shell fire, some
soldiers sitting behind wire on fold
wooden supports that rolled up
and more and still more grand
transport of all kinds, with old
and soldiers everywhere. Had my
and so on. Too good. Spent
night at the St. Regenes, hotel
so well and I am sleeping in a
French house which we ate

It is such a pleasure to collaborate with an institution like AFS, which has the same goals. For the AFS World War I Diary Project, I photographed 10 diaries of ambulance drivers who volunteered for AFS in Belgium and France between 1915 and 1917. AFS has now made the diaries accessible online through its new website!

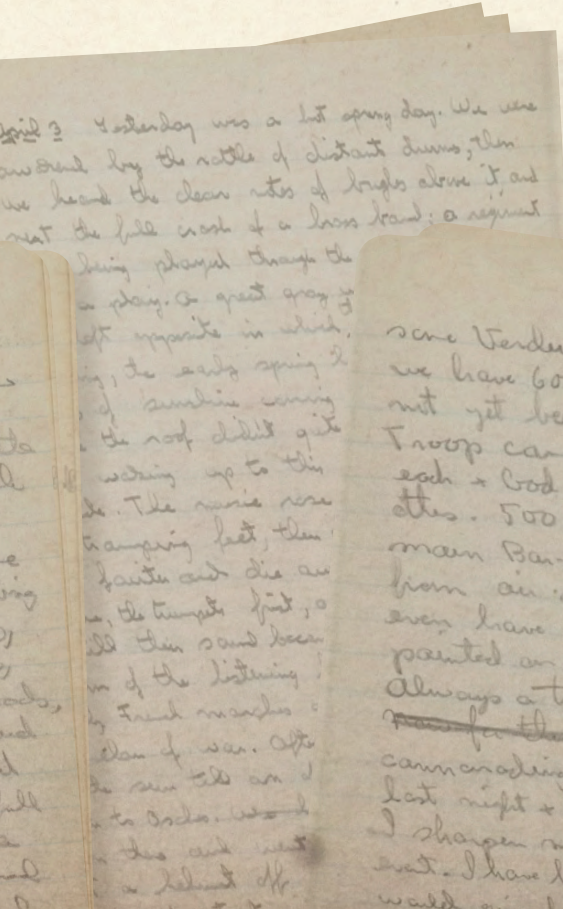
As a former AFS student, it was intriguing to photograph pages documenting the experiences of the first AFSers, and I took time during the digitization process to read a few of the diary entries and learn more about the dedication and humanity of these folks. The diaries contain incredible detail about a little-known part of World War I: American volunteers serving overseas prior to the entry of the United States into the war. From the fields of Flanders to the trenches of France, their accounts depict their daily activities, including ambulance evacuations and shared meals with soldiers, as well as their thoughts and impressions of the war. In many cases, the entries contain vivid descriptions of places they visited, experiences being shelled by the enemy, conversations with German prisoners, and details of medical treatments and operations at the hospitals and dressing



stations where they delivered the wounded.

It was wonderful to learn about the history of AFS through these diaries and to also be a part of the preservation of these unique materials. You can learn more about the history of the organization through the volunteers' own words by reading through the diaries at afs.org/world-war-i-diaries/!

After my summer in France, our family went on to host two AFS students, and my sister spent a summer abroad in Switzerland. We are still very close with our AFS brothers and their families and try to visit whenever we can. AFS first sparked my love of photography, and I'm thrilled to be able to now use my professional photography skills to benefit AFS!



1. Jen Rodewald photographing an AFS diary at the Center for Jewish History in 2016.
2. Pages from Oliver Wolcott's diary, which was written when he served with AFS unit SSU 2 in Verdun. Several diaries digitized as part of this project include descriptions of the AFS ambulance work in Verdun, the longest and bloodiest battle of the First World War.
3. Joshua G. B. Campbell (with his dog, Khaki) and four men in Flanders, Belgium, in 1915. Campbell's diary, digitized as part of this project, includes detailed passages about his activities, places where his unit was stationed, and being shelled by the enemy while serving with AFS unit SSU 1 in Belgium and France.
4. French stretcher-bearers moving the wounded from a dressing station to an AFS ambulance in Alsace, France. Philip T. Cate's diary, which was digitized as part of this project, includes his experiences with AFS unit SSU 3 during this bitter period of fighting in Alsace between 1915 and 1916.
5. Lawrence B. Cummings wearing a gas mask in Ippécourt, France. Cummings's two diaries, which were digitized as part of this project, were originally written for his two sons in order to give them a vivid picture of his work overseas with AFS units SSU 3 and 4 along the Argonne and in Verdun.



WARD B. CHAMBERLIN, JR.

AFS Driver, Broadcaster, and Changemaker

August 4, 1921–February 23, 2017

AFS World War II volunteer and life trustee Ward B. Chamberlin, Jr., a pioneer in public broadcasting in the United States, passed away on February 23, 2017. Ward first became involved with AFS as an ambulance driver and later became a major and commanding officer of AFS 485 Company during World War II. He went on to help create the AFS student exchange programs after the war, serving as a director, general counsel, chair of the Board of Trustees, a founding member of the AFS Foundation, and finally as a life trustee.

AFSers around the world continue to be influenced by Ward's incredible legacy and the organization he helped to create and then shape. We thank him for his commitment to the belief that the AFS experience could change people's lives, as well as for his efforts to make education and the arts accessible to all.



“Thank you, Ward, for your guidance, wit, clairvoyance, undaunted positive attitude, and, above all, your friendship. You remain an inspiration and extraordinary example for us all.”

—Marianne Meyer, AFS Foundation

*“What a legacy!
What a man! What
a privilege to have
known him and had
the honor to call him
my friend!”*

—Hal Denton, AFS General Counsel

*“I will always
remember him
for having a
visionary, inclusive
leadership.”*

—Ludee Vermaas, AFS Returnee

*“He was
flabbergastingly
generous and
courageous and
indispensable to
my professional life.”*

—Ken Burns, Documentary Filmmaker

“Ward was a true giant in the history of AFS. His enormous impact can be measured by the million or more young people and families whose lives have been transformed in some way by their AFS experience. For those of us who were privileged to serve or work with him, he played a major role in our lives, for which we shall be forever grateful.”

—Bill Meserve, AFS Board of Trustees



AFS WWII Ambulance Drivers Last Post



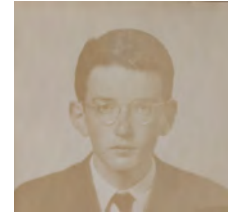
Howard O. Allen
(ME 35, FFC)

Howard Owen Allen passed away on November 6, 2015, at age 95. Allen served overseas with AFS between December 1942 and December 1944, serving in Syria, the Western Desert, North Africa, and Italy. He later became a photographer, publishing a book about Jacqueline Kennedy. He was predeceased by his wife and survived by two daughters and two grandchildren.



Bryant Bannister
(IB 54)

Bryant "Bear" Bannister passed away on July 15, 2016, at age 89. Bannister volunteered with AFS between March and November 1945, serving in the Burma Campaign. After the war, Bannister taught at the University of Arizona, where he served as the director of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. He married Betty Stanaway in 1951, and the couple had two daughters.



Thomas C. Benét
(IB 60)

Thomas Carr Benét passed away on September 7, 2016, at age 89. Benét was sent overseas with AFS on August 5, 1945, and served until the cessation of wartime hostilities. After the war, he graduated from Yale University; he later served as editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He was predeceased by his wife, Joan, and survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.



Alexander Boyd
(IB 16)

Alexander Boyd passed away on February 19, 2013, at age 87. He was sent overseas as an ambulance driver with AFS in January 1944 and served in the Burma Campaign until April 1945. After the war, he was a real estate developer and served as president and chairman of Union Deposit Corporation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



Austin D. Brixey, Jr.
(ME 32, FR 6)

Austin Day Brixey, Jr. passed away on September 25, 2014, at age 95. He was sent overseas with AFS in November 1942, serving in the African Campaign in the Western Desert and in the Italian Campaign before returning to the United States in November 1944. He went overseas again with AFS in January 1945, serving in the France-Germany Campaign until July 1945.



John C. Harkness
(CM 41)

John Cheesman "Chip" Harkness passed away on November 28, 2016, at age 99. Harkness was sent overseas with AFS in April 1943, serving in the Western Desert and Italy until June 1944. He later cofounded the influential firm The Architects Collaborative. He was predeceased by his wife, Sally, and survived by his companion, Christine, four daughters, two sons, and 10 grandchildren.



John J. Harmon
(ME 13, CM 92)

John Jason Harmon passed away on August 18, 2010, at age 89. He was sent overseas with AFS in June 1942, serving in North Africa, Italy, and Germany until his repatriation in July 1945. He was ordained in the Episcopal Church and became a lifelong advocate for human rights. He was predeceased by his wife and survived by four daughters and five grandchildren.



Rodney R. Richley
(IB 16)

Rodney Roland Richley passed away on January 9, 2014, at age 93. He was born on June 14, 1920, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was serving as a senior stock clerk when he volunteered with the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in August 1943. He was sent overseas in January 1944 and arrived in India in March 1944.



Lombard W. Sargent
(IB 60)

Lombard Williams Sargent passed away on June 28, 2016, at age 89. At only 18 years of age, Sargent was sent overseas as a volunteer ambulance driver with AFS on August 5, 1945, to serve alongside the British South East Asia Command. Owing to the cessation of wartime hostilities, he was repatriated to the United States that same year.



71 West 23rd Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10010, USA

Arthur Howe, Jr.: From Watertown to the World with AFS

by Elena Abou Mrad

AFS Intercultural Programs is pleased to announce the completion of the *Arthur Howe, Jr. Archival Project*, which was made possible thanks to the support of generous donors from around the world! Started in September 2016, the project aimed to preserve and make accessible the photographs, documents, and artifacts donated by Arthur Howe, Jr. and his family to the Archives of the American Field Service and AFS Intercultural Programs. The collection documents the incredible and impactful life of an AFSer who had, in his own words, “a burning desire to do what one could” to make the world a better place.

As part of the project, 2,065 unique photographs and documents—including handwritten drafts of his famous speeches to AFS students—were digitized and made available online. Many of these items can also be viewed in the newly launched online exhibition titled *Arthur Howe, Jr.: From Watertown to the World with AFS*. Visit afs.org/arthur-howe-jr/ to follow Art on his adventures around the globe from his volunteer service during World War II to his work as president and life trustee of AFS.



Arthur Howe, Jr. on top of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa.
February 5, 1942.

SUPPORT AFS

Please consider contributing to AFS to fund important projects like this and to further the educational and volunteer efforts that Art and his wife, Peggy, so strongly represented. You can send a tax-deductible contribution using the enclosed envelope or donate online at

www.afs.org/donate.