



ASSIST

1969 - 2009

*Today's Scholars
Tomorrow's Leaders*



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Tomorrow's Leaders*

*by Richard P. Hall, Chair
ASSIST Board of Directors*

American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers

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DEDICATION

Writing the history of ASSIST has been a labor of love, with countless volunteers devoting time and energy to chronicling the organization's first forty years of service.

We appreciate the numerous Friends of ASSIST who researched, found photographs, wrote articles, and shared reminiscences. A number of them are acknowledged later in the book. We are particularly indebted to Dick Hall, Chair of the ASSIST Board of Directors, who is the chief architect of this project. He took the uncatalogued research off the desk of a beleaguered ASSIST President and through diligence and indefatigable, obstinate optimism edited and wrote much of this wonderful story.

Once written, the contributors saw immediately how interested in this history the ASSIST family worldwide would be. Regrettably, there was not a budget to print and distribute the history in a manner that was satisfying to the volunteer contributors, nor to the Board.

We were rescued by another group of generous and dedicated volunteers. These wonderful friends provided strategic feedback to help bring form to the final text; fully designed and complet-

ed the layout; printed the history in the beautiful format you see; and paid for the initial mailing to friends in the U.S. and Europe. The time, expertise and funding provided by these good friends enabled us to complete this project in the right way.

This latter group prefers not to be named – they believe the focus of this book should be on ASSIST and on the story of its founders and alumni. Nevertheless, we wish to take this opportunity to thank them for this gift, without which we could not have completed our history.

In addition, these friends have asked that the history of ASSIST be dedicated to the following pioneers, and we make this dedication with enthusiasm and gratitude.

The history of ASSIST is dedicated to:

Carlyle and Elizabeth Barnes

Kenneth and Betsy Lindfors

The Memory of Paul G. Sanderson, Jr.

The ASSIST Scholarships granted to Chinese Students

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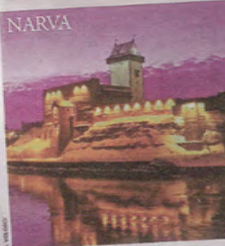
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Dear Mr Sanderson,
I arrived safely at the school, after
having had so much difficulty in trying to get there.
Mr Philip Davis, one of the women instructors I
met at the bus terminal in Albany and
things are going as smoothly with
very friendly and helpful
gratitude to
study

The Hotchkiss School
Lanewood,
Connecticut 06029.
8th September '73

ASSIST is a clever bird of many tongues which makes its habitat in Europe but it is known to migrate for ten-month periods during its secondary stage when it can find a nest in an American independent school. During this migratory period it meets and adopts readily the customs of many new species while getting a bird's-eye view of America. With new feathers in its cap, it flies home and often becomes the leader of the flock.

—Paul Sanderson, Founder of ASSIST





INTRODUCTION

ASSIST

AMERICAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



Michelle Stokien & Paul Sanderson

The 2008/09 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers – or ASSIST, as the program’s many admirers know it. Reaching this milestone would be cause enough for celebration for many organizations, but for the worldwide ASSIST family, it is an apt time to reflect on the fascinating road that has led to this anniversary, and to celebrate the many lives that have been positively affected and changed by the work of this international student exchange organization.

Beginning with 13 German secondary school exchange students and 11 member schools during the 1969/70 academic year, ASSIST has expanded and adapted its program continuously throughout its 40-year history. We now count more than 3,600 scholars from 36 countries as program alumni, and the 40th anniversary Class of 2008/09 is comprised of 130 students from 14 countries who study at 86 American independent schools.

From the beginning, the ASSIST ideal was an improbable and counterintuitive one that nonetheless attracted the interest, support, and imagination of countless people. When founder Paul (Sandy) Sanderson and his family departed from Suffield Academy for a sabbatical year in Germany in 1968/69, they had developed several wild ideas to which they were committed. In that era, few

TO PROMOTE MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING, CULTURAL
INTERCHANGE AND A MORE PEACEFUL
WORLD, ASSIST PROVIDES
OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTSTANDING
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO
ATTEND THE FINEST AMERICAN
INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS
ON ONE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS, AND
FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
FROM THESE SCHOOLS TO ENGAGE IN
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES ABROAD.

The ASSIST Mission



Jurate Bitinaite
St. Mark's School '95
Lithuania

international students attended American independent secondary schools, few American students were on scholarship, and certainly even fewer international students were afforded scholarships. As you will read, Sandy's vision, leadership, and persistence would change all of that.

Today, we remain the only organization of our kind, placing all of our students on scholarship at American independent secondary schools. ASSIST scholars are fixtures on numerous American campuses, and their legacy of achievement and contribution is firmly recorded in the annals of our member schools. As our alumni have moved through university study and into their careers, they are providing leadership in their home countries and aspiring to be agents of positive change. Equally important, there is a generation of American leaders and leaders-to-be who know their counterparts in 36 other nations, and a great deal of trust and mutual understanding have been developed among people who are key decision makers today and will be in the years ahead.



ASSIST Orientation staff from Germany: Joschka Zimmerman, Wayland Academy '06, Isabel Severin, Lake Forest Academy '05, Hannah Walenfels, Salem Academy '06, Stephan Düwel, St. Paul's School '01.

We have written this history to create a record of the fascinating and unique story of ASSIST and to thank the many leaders and volunteers who have worked together tirelessly to found and sustain a critical and counterintuitive ideal. As well, we believe our alumni and their families, our colleagues at member schools (past and present), and the many host families who have taken in ASSIST students will be interested to read of the program's history and future plans. This is a story about people and the courage to imagine, and it celebrates the thousands of individuals who have given selflessly to see the ASSIST program prosper and succeed.

Robert A. Stanley, President

It was the last week of the holiday when I offered to prepare a traditional Hungarian dish for my home stay family. I was excited and really nervous to do my best. I was cooking for a set of parents and grandparents, my host sister and brother, their aunt, uncle, and nephew. The dinner turned out fantastic. I was immensely happy and everyone was pleased. Then a month later the grandmother died of cancer. A few weeks later we had a couple of days off from school and I went "home" with my host sister. We were sitting at the dining table, and her Dad brought up the time when I cooked. He looked into my eyes and said, "That was the last real dinner that my mother had. It was memorable and you did it. We are thankful because what you did was unforgettable, and you made her happy." I was embarrassed, grateful, and proud at the same time. I was staring at the table in front of me, and tears started running down my face. Thinking about it now still touches me. My eyes are watering.

ASSIST Scholar

LETTER FROM A 2008/2009 ASSIST SCHOLAR

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stanley:

When I was still in Hungary, I wondered why this country had been called the Land of Dreams.

Then I arrived here and understood. The school, the host family, the house, the new friends I have are just simply wonderful. Everything seems so perfect. I feel you couldn't have chosen a better school for me. The subjects are wonderful, too, and I like them all. The best thing is that I can learn at last about things that I am really interested in. I have always been told what to do and what to learn. I always had to follow others' instructions, and I have never been given the freedom of choice.

It is so new and exciting. The openness and friendliness of teachers surprised me, too. I have never imagined that students can form a relationship this close with their teachers. I have never experienced the feeling of laughing and joking with teachers. If I can choose an ideal school, then this would be the one. I guess the case is the same in the other schools, too, and the other Central European students feel the same, but I can't help wondering how lucky I am.

Maybe you and other Americans haven't even recognized this. Maybe all Americans take this for granted. But for me, every small act of kindness and caring in school seems like a miracle. And

although I know that this miracle would only last for a year, it can't shadow my pleasure. The atmosphere of peace at school is incredible. Despite my short time spent here, I think I had been accepted and integrated into society (if I can use this term).

The family is wonderful, too. They really put an effort into making me feel comfortable. They take me to school and home in their fascinating cars. I have been given a room approximately four times greater than my bedroom at home. Their house is fantastic! Steven is very kind to me, he is always willing to help me whatever the case is. And his father, too!

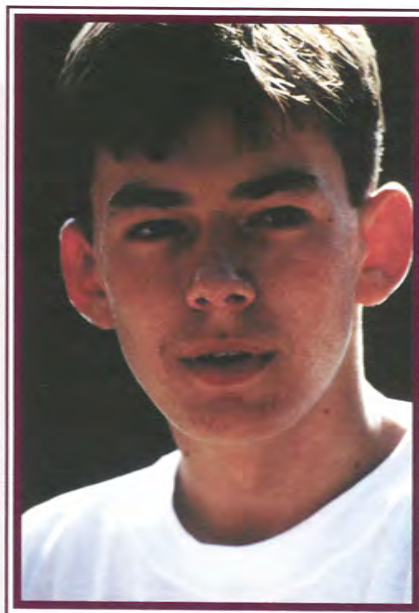
I know how sad it will be when the time comes to return home. I know it is hard to leave the dream life behind, and the contrast between this school and my school is harsh. I have only been here for a week, but I feel like at home! I certainly had my cultural shock, too. But this cultural shock happened in an absolutely positive way. I never expected the experience to be this wonderful. My cultural shock resulted in joy, laughter and a smile.

I would like to reassure you that I will not be bothering you by sending requests of permission to stay. Now I fully understand that my miracle should be others' too. Others in my country, perhaps even in my school, should experience that there is ALWAYS another alternative!

I don't think I could support the ASSIST case besides informing others of my experience (which has partly been done by now). But if I can help you somehow (no matter how small it is), please let me know! I would really like to return something, although I know I would never have been able to give you as much as I have been given.

Remaining your sincere applicant,

Mark



Arnoldas Prankevicius
Montclair Kimberly Academy '97
Lithuania



Elitsa Nacheva, Choate Rosemary Hall '07, and
Milena Dokova, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
'07, from Bulgaria

At my school everyone
every student
to our

Paul G. Sanderson (1929-1986), known as "Sandy" to all, started his teaching career at Suffield Academy in 1952, having graduated from Deerfield Academy and Dartmouth College. He coached three sports and taught seven classes that first year, later became head of the history department, and developed a dominant varsity soccer team. His son Paul became captain while a student at Suffield and played against his brother David, who was a member of the team at Deerfield. Soccer was a very important part of Sandy's life over a 22-year coaching career. He served as a member of the U.S. Olympic Soccer Committee, and in 2008 he was elected to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame as its 44th member for his "tireless efforts to help grow the association at the high school level."

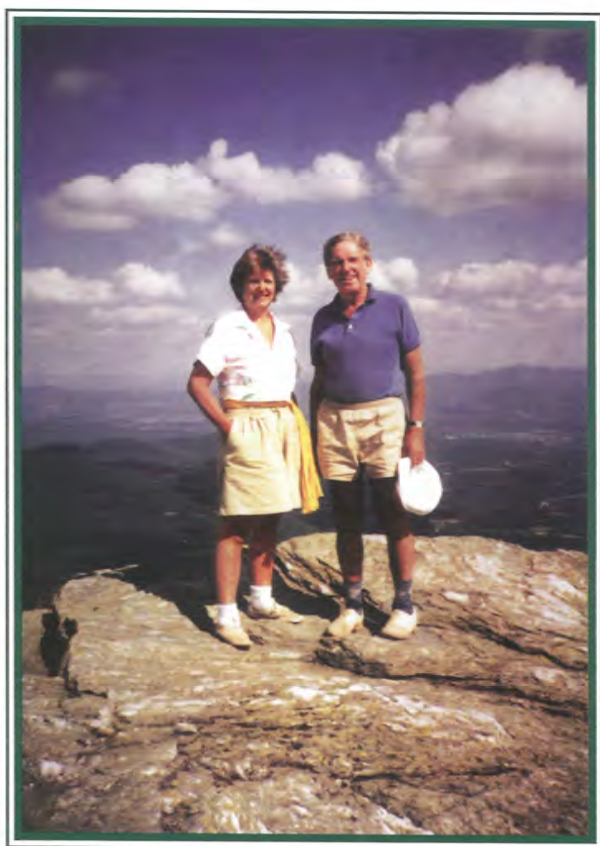
For 15 years, Sandy was director of the Suffield Writer-Reader Conference, a week-long program at the school in which internationally famous writers participated. He also served as Executive Secretary of the Secondary Schools Admissions Test Board. He earned his Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University in 1971.

Sandy was appointed director of admissions and then assistant headmaster prior to becoming headmaster of Suffield Academy in 1972. He encouraged applications from qualified international students from many countries. He initiated a foreign study program with the Experiment in International Living, which eventually led to his inspiration to create ASSIST during a yearlong sabbatical from Suffield Academy. At his death, the following tribute was written about Sandy. "He died prematurely, but in his 56 years he had touched hundreds, perhaps thousands, with his faith in people, the generosity of his caring and encouragement, and by his unswerving belief in education and the critical importance of understanding among people and hope for international peace... By his careful conceptualization, stressing quality and depth of experience, Sandy created in ASSIST an educational 'loom,' weaving a tapestry of friendship, understanding and knowledge."

Gail Sanderson also played a very important role in the founding of ASSIST. One year after her graduation from Mt. Holyoke College, she married Sandy. Together they raised their four children while she worked in many community organizations. Gail has been especially involved with performing arts projects. With Sandy, she assisted in the establishment of the Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University. She started a real estate firm in 1978, graduated from Vermont Law School in 1987, and has continued a strong interest in community involvement over the years. She chaired a Study/Travel program at Dartmouth and organized an LEAD (Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth) trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany.

It was in 1967 that she and Sandy and their four children (David, Paul, Kate, Meredith) embarked on a sabbatical leave from Suffield and began the adventure that resulted in the founding of ASSIST.





Gail and Paul Sanderson

ANY HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS AMERICAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MUST NECESSARILY BEGIN WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE LIFE OF THE FOUNDER WHOSE VISION, SENSE OF ADVENTURE, AND MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTER SIMPLY MADE IT HAPPEN THROUGH HIS FORCE OF WILL. THE FOLLOWING, WRITTEN BY GAIL SANDERSON, WIFE OF PAUL SANDERSON, FOUNDER OF ASSIST, TELLS THE STORY OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXUBERANT BEGINNINGS.



THE BEGINNINGS 1967 - 1968

It was 1967 when the idea first surfaced to establish a program for European students to attend American independent boarding schools for a year on scholarship. It really came about because I had been nagging Sandy for fifteen years to think of a way to take the family to Europe, a place he had never visited despite years of admitting international students to Suffield Academy. At long last Sandy announced that he was taking a sabbatical leave from school in 1968/69 to inaugurate a new program, now known as ASSIST (American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers). Of course, at the time he had no financial backing, but undaunted, he said that he would figure that out later. The mission of the new program was to bring talented European high school students (mainly from public gymnasias or their equivalent) to the United States on full scholarship at independent boarding schools for one year. Fourteen countries and twice as many campsites later, ASSIST was officially launched, and the Sanderson family (including four children, ages four to fourteen) was hopelessly smitten with the travel bug, not to mention totally committed to international exchange.

WE MUST TRAIN STUDENTS TO WEIGH ISSUES AND MAKE VALUE DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY RATHER THAN JUST THEMSELVES...WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT IN THIS COMPLEX WORLD, THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A CHANCE TO DREAM ABOUT IDEAS AND EXPERIMENT WITH NEW CONCEPTS...

Paul Sanderson

ONE OF THE MAIN BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM IS THE FACT THAT STUDENTS LEARN DEMOCRACY WHICH IS, OF COURSE, VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPEN SOCIETY IN MOLDOVA. FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS, THE MOLDOVANS EXISTED IN A SOCIETY WHERE ONLY ONE OPINION COULD BE HEARD AND NO PLURALISM OF IDEAS COULD BE HEARD.

Iulia Moldovan
Country Coordinator
Moldova



"It All Began Here" - the Sanderson home in Socking

On July 6, 1968, we sailed from New York City on the SS Rotterdam, a grand Dutch ship which could accommodate our family steerage-style to Ireland, where we would pick up a brand new Volkswagen bus (later named Brunhilde). The family included Dave, 14, Paul, 12, Kate, 10, and Meredith, 4. We had no reservations for the trip except for our first night in Cork. We had no idea where we would be living for the year abroad, and we went equipped with some overloaded camp trunks, a European camping location book, my guitar, and a pink potty (for Meredith). We ordered a three-room tent to be picked up in Amsterdam. Sandy had managed to secure pledges of some funds from the Tisch Foundation (the four sons of Larry and Billie Tisch were Suffield students), from Zurn Industries (another Suffield connection), and several other sources (one of whom was Dave Coffin of Dexter Company), to help launch the program.

Eventually, we made our way to Germany, and while we were camped in Munich, Sandy donned his business suit and went into the city to meet with contacts at the American Consulate. The United States Information Service (U.S.I.S.) had set up cultural centers ("Amerika Häuser") in several German cities after World War II. It was at the Amerika Haus in Munich where Sandy met with Klaus Kuerten of U.S.I.S., who gave him tentative approval for the proposed program (as yet unnamed) for which final approval would be necessary in order to obtain student visas.

We found a three-bedroom house in a small village called Socking, south of Munich. It didn't take long to make friends with our German neighbors, many of whom had learned

English in school. We were entertained in Bavarian fashion, and Sandy, in his inimitable style, soon had them laughing. In winter, the neighbors were curious to notice that he was hosing down the back yard in order to make a hockey rink for our boys, and local kids soon arrived with skates. At Fasching (Carnival) time we took part in local celebrations wearing the traditional Lederhosen and Dirndle costumes.

As soon as we were able to set up an office at the house, we produced a brochure to send to American schools, and also planned meetings with the Bavarian Educational Ministry and representatives of the American Field Service. Our German neighbor and friend, Gerhard Hahn, had spent hours helping us with the design of the brochure, explaining to the printer what we wanted and translating the English brochure into German. The brochure was sent to 140 schools in the U.S. We also published a brochure in German for distribution to educational ministries, school superintendents, teachers, schools, and parents.

Our original intention was to set up the program in as many European countries as possible during Sandy's sabbatical year; however, that was before we encountered the Bavarians and understood the Germans' concern about interrupting their students' course toward the Abitur exam, and before we realized how complicated it was to set up the program just in several German states, let alone other European countries.

Before leaving on sabbatical, Sandy had contacted several international exchange programs such as Youth for Understanding, American Field Service, and the Experiment in International Living in order to better understand how their programs were set up. Later, the Experiment in International Living agreed to furnish three-week home stays with American families prior to the students' entrance into schools in September.

In October, Klaus Kuerten from the U.S.I.S. had to stop helping Sandy because his boss, the Cultural Attaché from the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, decided that the State Department must officially endorse our program before the U.S. officials in Germany could help us.

The biggest challenge was to persuade, simultaneously, the U.S. Department of State, the American independent schools, the German states' educational ministries, the superintendents of schools, and the parents of the students that this new program was legitimate and worthy of their support. Student enthusiasm for the program, once they learned about it, was guaranteed, given all the other requirements.

By November 1968, the State Department had given us the go-ahead to use all U.S. embassies and consulates in Europe for ASSIST interviews and introductions to governmental authorities. Suddenly, Sandy was taken by the hand and introduced to every big official in Bavaria. He was invited to give a lecture to the foreign language teachers of all Bavarian schools the following February. The Bavarian Ministry of Education gave him full permission to solicit students from schools there, and said it would give them full credit for courses without losing a year. That meant they would be eligible to take the Abitur, the College Board-like exam given upon completion of 13 years of study. This all happened in such a short time - the recognition by the State Department and the Bavarian Ministry of Education - no one could believe it!

My role was that of secretary, helping Sandy with the design of ASSIST literature and stationery, typing up correspondence to all our contacts in Germany and the U.S., as well as acceptance and rejection letters to students following interviews. I also administered the English-as-a-foreign-language tests (TOEFL) and gave the students general information about schools and life in the U.S. as part of the interview procedure.

Fortunately, Sandy was also able to get the endorsement of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), with a membership then of about 800 private schools throughout the U.S. At that time, there was some pressure on the American schools from A Better Chance (ABC) to assign one-tenth of all scholarship funds to underprivileged students, causing some schools to adopt a "wait and see" policy before joining ASSIST. Although Sandy believed passionately in exposing American students to students from foreign countries through the ASSIST program, he had been

one of the first to join ABC, and he felt there should be room for both programs. Suffield and several other schools, including Phillips Andover Academy, signed up for ASSIST almost immediately, with another 80 schools still to hear from.

In the meantime, we had calls from all over Germany requesting literature and interviews. A father from Saarland who had acquired a copy of our German brochure invited us to come and stay with his family on our way to Paris the following summer. By the second week in December, we had gotten off



Mercersburg headmaster Walter and Barbara Burgin with ASSIST Scholar

MICHELLE IS ONE OF THE FINEST STUDENTS I'VE ENCOUNTERED IN 35 YEARS IN CLASSROOMS. THERE ARE SIMPLY NO SKILLS MISSING IN HER STUDY REGIMEN AND IN HER ABILITY TO CONVEY HER COMMAND OF EUROPEAN HISTORY. WHAT'S MORE, THOUGH, IS THAT SHE IS A WONDERFUL YOUNG LADY. SHE IS KIND, CONSIDERATE, COMPASSIONATE, AND UNASSUMING. THE VERY BEST THING THAT I CAN SAY THAT MAY DEMONSTRATE HOW MUCH I RESPECT HER IS THAT I HOPE OUR FIVE YOUNG GRANDDAUGHTERS GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE HER. I WISH HER NOTHING BUT THE BEST AS SHE CONTINUES HER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA.

Teacher at an ASSIST School



Director Pamela Thye

OVERALL, BEING AWAY FROM HOME, I HAVE REALIZED WHAT MOMENTS, PEOPLE, PLACES, IDEAS, THOUGHTS... FORM PART OF ME. FEELING LOST AT THE BEGINNING OF MY TIME IN AMERICA, I HAVE FINALLY FOUND MYSELF. I KNOW BETTER WHO I AM AND NOW I CAN MAKE MORE SOLID STEPS IN LIFE.

ASSIST Scholar

the major portion of the ASSIST mailings. The next task was to get some of the European governments to provide scholarship money for transportation and expenses for ASSIST students.

THE MUNICH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SAVES THE DAY

Up to this point, we had been living frugally on extremely limited funds with a stipend from Suffield Academy, no allowance for food or housing, and a few thousand dollars of grant money. So Sandy took the bull by the horns and charged (gently) into the Munich International School and asked the headmaster for a job. John Long, the English headmaster, was exhausted trying to run a school of about 200 students in upper and lower grades with no administrative assistance, except for one harried business manager. He hadn't a clue about American testing systems. The school had just moved out from Munich to Starnberg, a resort community on the Starnberger See in the foothills of the Alps. The school had purchased an old schloss (country home and farm) and needed everything. Sandy was hired

as Director of Studies (his own choice of title) but he actually ran the Upper School and helped with the testing. Because of this job, we had to work on the ASSIST program at night and we curtailed our plans to travel to other countries to set up ASSIST. The personal contact in each country was crucial to setting up ASSIST in order to recruit the candidates we wanted for the program. Even so, we were still about \$3,000 short of budget, but I was not concerned because Sandy lived under a lucky star with miracles coming out of the walls. Besides, the program thus

All these things seem to fit into place, and one simply has to have tremendous faith and patience, which I'm learning from Sandy and our financial experience here.

far had been so successful that it would be easier to appeal for funds to the German government and possibly to some private industries there. And we were optimistic that the American schools would come through with ASSIST membership fees as well as scholarship money for the ASSIST students. I wrote home: "All these things seem to fit into place, and one simply has to have tremendous faith and patience, which I'm learning from Sandy and our financial experience here. It is also that thing called 'Timing,' because it is really true about being in the right place at the right time."

THE SELECTION PROCESS

By February 1969, we had about 25 applications for nine places in ASSIST and, because the German schools were so late in putting up the notice about the program, we were amazed that so many applications had been sent in already. The candidates looked good, and we just wished we had more places to send them. The selection committee consisted of Dr. Otto Martz of the Bavarian Ministry for Culture and Education, Dr. Franz Ebner, Chairman of the Bavarian Philology Association and Principal of the Max Planck Gymnasium in Munich, Herr Klaus Kuerten, Cultural Specialist for the U.S.I.S. American Consulate General in Munich, and Sandy, now Director of ASSIST. On the basis of the TOEFL (English language) test, the personal interview, the academic record, and the recommendation of each student's principal, we selected students from Bavaria, Rheinland-Pfalz, Hessen, and Nordrhein-Westfalen.

The students represented a wide variety of extra-curricular interests, particularly music, language, and sports. Some showed interest in politics, theatre, art, photography, and the school newspaper. They loved soccer, skiing, mountain climbing, swimming, and also basketball, rowing, handball, skating, and table-tennis, a popular outdoor sport in Germany. Their parents represented many vocations, including teaching, farming, and working as local government officials. The students were to be assigned "home stay" families in the U.S., which were located in towns near the schools they would be attending. This would be their introduction to the American way of life prior to entering boarding school.

The interviews took place in Amerika Haus (the U.S.I.S. headquarters) in Munich. It was somewhat dramatic, since the local police were out in front putting up barricades against student protesters who had gathered outside in a large, noisy crowd. Although it was not clear why the students were protesting, this occurred at the same time as President Nixon's arrival in Berlin. This commotion did not prevent our students from entering or leaving the cultural center, but it was somewhat unnerving at the time, as we had never before been in the middle of a minor riot.

In March, we met the heads of State Boards of Education (Kulturministerialrats) in several German states. We also met some influential Germans, trying to interest them in the program for educational and financial reasons, and we even met with a member of an industrial research group. As a result, official doors opened for us with the help of American consulates in major cities along the way, and the response was very heartening.

And with the ASSIST program well underway, we turned our attention to another summer of camping. We experienced a small part of the cultural atmosphere, for instance, while camping just outside of Prague, when we discovered that we were the only Americans. The following day, however, we became instant heroes because that was the day, June 20, 1969 (my birthday), that the Americans landed on the moon! It was a thrilling experience to be in that place at that moment.

We experienced a small part of the cultural atmosphere, for instance, while camping just outside of Prague, when we discovered that we were the only Americans.

I remained in Europe until August 29, when the girls and I sailed for New York from Le Havre. My job was to load five large trunks, skis, snow tires, and assorted books and paraphernalia on our ship after seeing that the Volkswagen bus with all the camping equipment was safely shipped home by itself from Antwerp. Upon arrival in New York, I was knocked out by some falling luggage which had been hit by a dock truck. Sandy, who was to greet us at the pier, finally found us at St. Clare's Hospital, where I had spent my first night home in a year, with a broken rib. Nothing like making a grand entrance!



Directors Joan O'Brien, Dick Hall and Peter Stevens (from the archives!)

THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE TRIP WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES I HAD DURING MY ENTIRE EXCHANGE YEAR. IT GAVE ME A BETTER IDEA OF THE PRIVILEGED LIFE I AM ABLE TO LIVE. I WAS ALSO TOUCHED BY THE EXPERIENCE WITH THE SMALL KIDS IN THE ORPHANAGE IN TIJUANA.

ASSIST Scholar

London 7 October 1960

I have learned so much more this year than in any other year of my life. I have learned a lot about and culture and the American culture, new perspectives, gotten a deeper understanding of myself and what is important to me in life, received an AMAZING education and have experienced so many things both big and small, that I would never have had the chance to experience if I had not had the opportunity to go for an exchange year.

People are always more important than things and organizations. Individuals, by virtue of their creative contributions and adventurous desire to create, preserve or extend an idea or a cause, are what make things, institutions, or even nations important.

—Paul Sanderson





THE SUFFIELD YEARS 1969 - 1978



The Lithuanian delegation at Orientation 2007: (f) Katryna Kanapyte, Chatham Hall, Agne Kalinkeviciute, Culver Academies, and Justina Motiejunaite, Washington International School; (b) Eugenijus Denisovas, The McCallie School, Gabriele Balciute, Miss Hall's School, and Povilas Katkevicius, Fountain Valley School

During his year abroad setting ASSIST in motion, Paul Sanderson discovered that “students were eager to come but lacked financial resources and educational contacts.” He had learned that American independent schools were interested in a central clearinghouse, and ASSIST was born, “for the mutual enrichment of American secondary school students and European high school students by bringing them together in American independent schools for one year.”

It is interesting to note the order of the benefits: that the enrichment of the Americans was critical to the success of the program. Sandy also noted that he had received the approval of the U.S. State Department, the Educational Ministries of several European countries, and the National Association of Independent Schools. The October 1969 NAIS Report announced the beginnings of the ASSIST program. He had established a permanent office in Europe. Here is the model he describes: “The American schools provide the scholarships, the foreign students pay their travel and other expenses, and ASSIST finds the students and matches them to the participating schools.” It included a one-month home stay for boarding students, arranged by the Experiment in International Living (the administrative fee was \$60 per placement), as an important part of the program.

THIS HAS BEEN THE BEST YEAR OF MY LIFE. I LOVE MY AMERICAN FRIENDS, MY AMERICAN HOST FAMILY, MY AMERICAN SCHOOL, AND MY BUDDY, NOVA, WHICH IS MY FAMILY'S DOG. IT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE WHERE I HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFERENT CULTURES, WHERE RACE IS NOT A BOUNDARY, AND WHERE PEOPLE FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT CONTINENTS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. I WANT TO THANK ASSIST FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS THE BEST THING THAT COULD EVER HAVE HAPPENED TO ME.

ASSIST Scholar

MY EXPERIENCE OF
INDEPENDENT LIFE WITH MY
PEERS MADE ME GROW UP. IN
SEPTEMBER EVERYONE ASKED
ME IF I WAS A FRESHMAN, WHILE
IN MAY PEOPLE I MET THOUGHT
THAT I WAS A SENIOR OR THAT I
WAS ALREADY IN COLLEGE.

ASSIST Scholar

In June of 1969, Sandy announced that 12 German students would attend the following independent schools:

Jakob Hahn, *The Asheville School*
Paul Merz, *Gould Academy*
Brigitte Sanden, *Gould Academy*
Gerlinde Guenther-Vernen, *The MacDuffie School*
Bernhard Kreiling, *Phillips Academy Andover*
Horst Trodler, *St. Andrew's School, Florida*
Helmut Buckenhusker, *St. James School, Maryland*
Annette Fischer, *Stoneleigh Burnham School*
Franz Buchner, *Suffield Academy*
Josef Thoma, *Suffield Academy*
Georg-Peter Menz, *Vermont Academy*
Dietmar Mueller, *Wilbraham Academy*

In fact, there were eventually 13 students who became ASSIST scholars, with the later addition of Ulrike Voss, at Walnut Hill School. Suffield Academy began its long and close relationship with this program as the first school to enroll, at a cost of \$100, in October 1968, with a specific request for "a boy who will want to participate in extra-curricular activities."

Illustrating his own drive and sense of mission, Sandy declared himself ready "to tackle a larger 'migration' of European students to our shores."

After returning to Suffield Academy following his sabbatical, Sandy was appointed Assistant Headmaster of the school, and so began his ongoing battle to balance the needs of ASSIST business with the heavy demands of his day job. Letters often began with an apology about his "long silence." It's hard to imagine how he did succeed in accomplishing so much. Surely the support of his co-conspirator and wife, Gail, made a big difference. She is listed in one document as "Executive Secretary," although it is



Ellen Schuchart, Hockaday School '08, and Irene Pastor Escartin, Kents Hill School '08, from Spain

clear that she always worked as a willing and loyal volunteer.

The fall of 1969 was filled with preparations for the following school year. Klaus Kuerten was appointed Director of the ASSIST European Office. In 1968/69 his assistant was Renata Hahn, translator and adviser, who then became secretary for ASSIST in 1969/70. Herr Kuerten was sufficiently impressed by the program that he made office space and secretarial service available to ASSIST. He sent brochures and applications annually to hundreds of European high schools, handled student transportation fees, and set up interviews.

ASSIST ACTIVITIES

A January 1970 newsletter and other documents outline the following activities of ASSIST:

- Sandy conducted a meeting in October 1969 for participating member schools. There was special interest and enthusiasm for finding funds outside of the usual financial aid budgets.
- The State Department granted ASSIST official status as an Exchange Visitor program (P-III-4329). The support made it possible for ASSIST to use the services of the Public Affairs Officers and facilities at the American consulates and embassies in Europe when available.
- A number of German students in that first class met at Suffield Academy in December 1969, including one student who took a 21-hour bus trip from North Carolina just for the reunion. In typical Sanderson fashion, they "piled into Mr. Sanderson's VW bus," according to one participant, and went to Hartford for visits, a radio interview, a visit to the state capitol, and

a chat with Ella Grasso, then Secretary of State for Connecticut.

- ASSIST offered its first program, titled "Innovations in Independent Schools," at an NAIS Conference.
- In January 1970, Sandy had made his plans to conduct interviews for admission to the second ASSIST class, in locations including Austria, various cities in Germany, and Paris and Switzerland. In addition, he continued to recruit schools.

Each of the first 11 schools accepted a student for the second year. Eleven more schools took a student for the first time, and others joined as Associate Members, schools that could join the program but were not yet ready to accept a scholarship student. In classic Sanderson visionary mode, there were tentative plans for spring vacation tours for a total of 150 students in small groups, involving opera, art and architecture, skiing, basketball, swimming, and soccer. There was also a proposal for 150 students from Austria and France to come to the U.S. for the summer of 1971. In addition, Sandy envisioned a teacher exchange program between several European countries and American schools (he enlisted the help of Werner Brandes, a German teacher on sabbatical from Exeter), a semester abroad program, initially with spring term seniors, and recruitment of full-pay students. "Because of these possibilities and plans for next spring," Sandy wrote to John Cotton at Kimball Union Academy, "we are enlarging the membership to allow those



ASSIST visit to Ella Grasso

schools who may be taking students from Europe in the fall of 1972 to join ASSIST on a membership basis." The records show an ASSIST Opera Tour in 1971 directed by Richard Beams, a Suffield English teacher, and a soccer tour in March 1972 led by the athletic director at Berkshire School, Jack Stewart.

On an August 17, 1970, charter flight, 23 students traveled to New York to begin the ASSIST experience. Sandy and Gail's son David Sanderson remembers the arrival of those students:

"In many ways the annual rite of passage for ASSIST occurred in mid-August when the new class arrived at JFK Airport in New York from various cities across Europe.

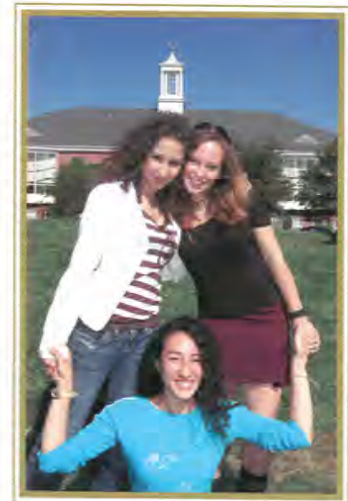
Recruited to drive by our father, we would depart from Suffield around noon on the designated day and drive to New York in Suffield Academy vans or rent-a-wreck types. International arrivals in those days were generally in one terminal, where all flights unloaded their passengers...

"First we had to hold up signs saying 'ASSIST' to help the students find us. Of course, once we did that I had many people come to me to ask for help with everything from directions to

money. Naturally they thought we could help because we had an 'ASSIST' sign...

"Once the students were located, after an afternoon of waiting in the hot New York summer climate, the students loaded on the vans and we made our way north to Suffield, arriving late in the evening after another four-hour drive."

The distribution of nationalities in 1970 was as follows: Germany, 17 students; Yugoslavia, one; Switzerland, three;



The Croatian delegation at Orientation '07: (f) Dora Tamara-Tutnjevic, Kents Hill School; (b) Blanka Glasenhardt, Deerfield Academy and Sasa Rados, St. Andrew's-Sewanee School

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO MY PARENTS SENT ME 700 MARTISOARE, SMALL DECORATIONS THAT MOLDOVANS GIVE TO EACH OTHER AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING. I PUT THEM IN ALL OF THE STUDENT MAILBOXES, AND THE NEXT DAY I GOT SO MANY THANK YOU MESSAGES, AND PEOPLE WERE ACTUALLY WEARING THEM. I WAS SO HAPPY!

ASSIST Scholar

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THIS PROGRAM IS FANTASTIC AND I KNOW THAT PEOPLE ARE THANKFUL BECAUSE THIS IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN HAVE. I APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH. AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE DOING THIS AND TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES LIKE THIS, BECAUSE IT IS WORTH IT.

ASSIST Scholar



George Semler
Country Coordinator, Spain

France, one; and Sweden, one. The 22 schools were located in Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia. The second year of ASSIST was launched.

ASSIST SPAIN

The following is a description of the beginnings of ASSIST Spain in the words of George Semler, who has for 30 years given critical support to the program as country coordinator in Spain:

"My beginnings in Spain go back to 1970 when, freshly released from the Marine Corps and in the process of saying 'Goodbye to All That,' my wife Lucie and I set out for Europe with a copy of Writers Market, zero prior publications, and the vague idea of penning a Vietnam memoir or, failing that, whatever else I could manage to write about European travel, culture and life in general. Our idea was to stay for a year or so and see how long we could survive. Thirty-eight years, four children, four grandchildren, a dozen books, and a hundred-odd articles and essays later, we're still at it.

"ASSIST came into our lives in 1978 when a mutual acquaintance introduced me to a squinty-eyed, half-blind, hard-of-hearing character named Paul G. Sanderson, who was looking for someone to advance some strange-sounding scholarship or exchange program. As it

happened, I was at the tail end of a seven-year ice hockey playing and coaching contract that had taken me from Madrid to San Sebastian to Barcelona and I was in the market for ways to keep the wolf from the door as I relaunched myself as a freelance journalist. Not that Sandy had a lot to offer in that regard, but we liked the energy field around this fearless and adventurous Pied Piper and thought that anything he was involved with was probably worth a shot.

"The Stanhome Corporation, for which Sandy's son David was working in Asia, offered a corporate scholarship, so some of our early candidates came through Stanhome. Things

picked up in 1980 when, through Ed Sainati of School Year Abroad, Barcelona's AULA Escuela Europea offered us several excellent candidates left over from the Kemper Scholarship competition to Andover. We held interviews in Barcelona and Madrid and, thanks to the good offices of Shelley Buckwalter, now Adjunct Director of the Fulbright Commission in Madrid and still one of our most important supporters, pre-screened candidates were identified from all

over the Iberian Peninsula, providing us with a steady flow of qualified candidates.

"After Sandy's tragic departure in 1986, ASSIST Spain wasn't sure what was coming next, if anything...but the Seventh Cavalry, in the persons of Ken and Betsy Lindfors and, in 2000, Bob and Anne Stanley, have provided the stability and leadership necessary to keep the ASSIST Spain ball rolling. My daughter, Katherine Semler, agreed to pick up the slack during Lucie's 2006 sabbatical year, when I was back and forth and mostly

The Stanhome Corporation, for which Sandy's son David was working in Asia, offered a corporate scholarship, so some of our early candidates came through Stanhome.

in Maine. This proved to be such a success that Katherine is now co-directing the ASSIST Spain operation. Over the years, ASSIST Spain has sent some 275 students from all over the Iberian Peninsula to NAIS schools across the United States. Our largest class was 21 in 1986. Normally, we send eight to 10 Spanish students to the U.S., where they continue to make Sandy's 1978 idea an ongoing reality."

ASSIST SWEDEN

ASSIST Sweden was established in 1971, when Paul Sanderson engaged Ingemar Landgren to be the ASSIST representative. Ingemar was a high school science teacher in Ornskoldsvik in north central Sweden. He was a prominent hockey coach as well, working in a "hockey town" that has produced a number of NHL players. It was through hockey that he had some familiarity with American independent schools. Many of the early ASSIST Swedish alumni were from Ingemar's school. In 1987, when Ken Lindfors first met him, Ingemar had retired from coaching. He was also reaching out to talented non-hockey players at his school while expanding his efforts for ASSIST to the southern reaches of Sweden. After 27 years of devoted and effective service, Ingemar retired as ASSIST representative in 1998 and was succeeded briefly by Kristina Nyberg, an ASSIST alumna, a lawyer, and a second cousin of Ken Lindfors.

MORE BEGINNINGS

There was exploration of the possibility of expanding the program to include independent day schools during the year 1970/71.

An ASSIST Advisory Board was established in 1971 to include Dr. Howard Bennett, president of Washington and Jefferson College, David Coffin, Chairman of the Board of Dexter Corporation, Samuel Fuller, Vice President of Hartford National Bank, James Lyon, attorney, the Hon. Ella Grasso, Connecticut Secretary of State, Laurence Tisch, president of

Loew's Theater Corporation, Frank Zurn, president, Zurn Industries, as well as James Gramentine from Western Reserve Academy, Richard Hunter from Choate School, and Roy Norcross from Kingswood-Oxford School.

In 1972, ASSIST was formally incorporated in the state of Connecticut, including the words "and teachers," indicating one of

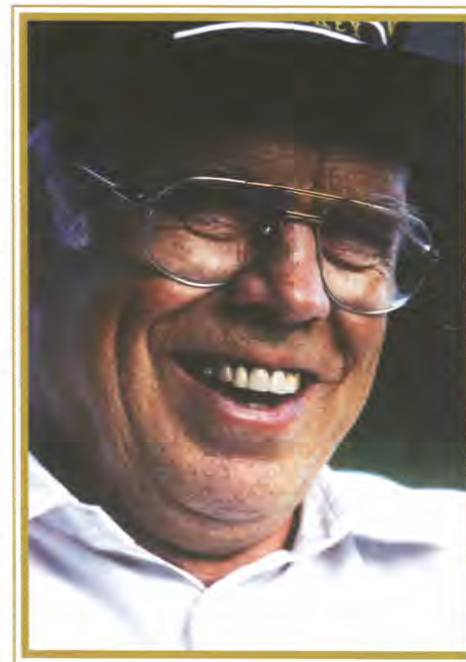
the possible directions in the future expansion of the program. An ASSIST brochure was produced in the name of ASSIST, Inc.

In the early 1970s, African students from Gambia and Kenya were chosen for ASSIST schools. There is an indication in letters from Sandy that the program had some inherent financial complications, as well as the fact that the students needed to stay on for college.

I BELIEVE THAT SIMON IS ONE OF THE TOP TWO STUDENTS I HAVE EVER TAUGHT IN MY LIFE. HE IS ENTHUSIASTIC, INSIGHTFUL, DETERMINED, AND ABLE TO HAVE FUN! HE IS SO READY TO PARTICIPATE, AND SO FIERY AND FULL OF IDEAS, THAT HE IS ABLE TO GO AND GO AND GO. I HAVE TAKEN MUCH JOY AND PLEASURE IN HIS CONTRIBUTIONS.

Teacher at an ASSIST School

After Sandy's tragic departure in 1986, ASSIST Spain wasn't sure what was coming next, if anything...



Ingemar Landgren
Former Country Coordinator, Sweden



Shanghai Reception

I AM NOW LIVING IN THE MOMENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE. I HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE INDEPENDENT THIS YEAR AND LEARNED TO TAKE INITIATIVES EVERY DAY. I HAVE REALIZED THE INCREDIBLE VALUE OF MY FAMILY BACK HOME. I HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE SOCIAL AND OUTGOING. I HAVE STRENGTHENED MY DESIRE TO MAKE A TRUE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE.

ASSIST Scholar

STAFF REORGANIZATION

Effective September 1972, Sandy was appointed headmaster of Suffield Academy. Clearly, that fact changed the nature of ASSIST, given that he needed considerable additional help for the program to continue. Dick Dolven, headmaster of Gould Academy, was enlisted to conduct the interviews in Europe in March 1972 and 1973. His pay was \$500 to cover some expenses, and his wife

Maizy joined him in this effort. Dick indicated that he would have to "dig around in my spare pockets for the rest of the cost." Virginia (Dinny) Bush was appointed Director, Foreign Student Programs, in the fall of 1972 and continued for three years. She had for 11 years been in charge of the boarding school program for the American Field Service (AFS). She continues to work today as an educational consultant. In addition, Bruno Schiefer, a former exchange teacher who was working part-time for the Amerika Haus handling exchanges, became the ASSIST contact in Germany. Later, Sandy's friend Louise (Weegie) Walsh, who had hosted an ASSIST student in 1972/73, became Director of Foreign Student Programs. In March of 1978, she traveled to Paris, Hermeskeil, Düsseldorf, Stockholm, Munich, and Cologne to recruit for ASSIST, a trip that she remembers with enormous warmth. She completed her tour of duty with ASSIST in 1980.

AND STILL MORE BEGINNINGS

In 1976, Sandy began a transition in his career, stepping down as Suffield's headmaster. For the next two years, he ran

the school's capital campaign. In 1978, he and Gail moved to Vermont to devote their full attention to ASSIST and its mission and to inaugurate the next phase of their life and of ASSIST's future.

I just wanted to check in and tell you how blessed we feel to have 'Vic in our lives. We couldn't have dreamt of a more perfect fit. She is so engaged and interesting and fun to have around. We had a fabulous Christmas hosting her family. I am certain we will be friends for life. It is hard for us to imagine that 'Vic arrived here at 14 years old and now is 15. She is so mature and capable. She has wisdom beyond her years.

'Vic has many friends and as you know, has embraced this experience with all she has. It had been so wonderful to watch the friendship develop between 'Vic and our daughter, Sheridan. They have so many of the same interests. 'Did you match them up or was this by chance? 'Both Sheridan and 'Vic are involved in the theatre dept. and they both sing in the a cappella group. Nice for carpooling, but particularly nice for bonding.

I know that 'Vic already invited you, but I would like to extend the invitation for you and your husband to come to Princeton to see 'Vic in the school musical, Sweet Charity, Feb. 19-22nd. We would be delighted to host you. 'Vic speaks so highly of you that it would be nice to meet the couple who facilitated the coming together of our two families. I would also love for you to see first hand how terrific PDS is for your future placements. I hope to meet you and thank again for sending us 'Vic.

ASSIST Host Family

Dear Sirs

July 1986



It's been a while since you have heard from me but I have travelled a lot and moved to a new company and city. Since my year in USA and University in Sweden (USA) I have always been working with English speaking clients.

Cologne, July 12th, 1973

So when I travel I normally go to England, America or Asia (South Korea normally).

Dear Mr. Dolven:

At the moment I'm a technical adviser for our clients. I'm working for ^(the) Swedish Steel Corp. heavy plate division in the marketing department.

With great pleasure I received your letter telling me that I shall be able to spend the coming school year at a boarding school in Pennsylvania. I am glad about this wonderful news and I want to thank you very much.

My family [wife and two children] recently moved to Oxelösund for two month ago, and by this manouver my traveltime from home to work was shortened from four hours to ten minutes.

I accept this ASSIST scholarship grant and I am looking forward to your further information.

I hope you can supply Hotchkiss School with my new address.

Botswana



Early 7 October 1946
Dear
Emma, it has been a pleasure and an honor to work with you this year. You are an incredibly talented dancer, and your abilities with the class. Your energy shine through, adding an intangible respected by your peers and ways, increasing the performance takes you.

Going abroad is like erasing everything from a paper sheet and writing and drawing new things on it. During your year you decide what else to write or draw on that sheet.

—ASSIST Scholar, 2007/08

Danke schön!

one heart



THE VERMONT YEARS 1978 - 1986



Sandy Roeser, who worked for the Educational Testing Service as SSAT (Secondary School Admissions Testing) Program Director, was the first paid Executive Secretary of SSATB (Secondary School Admissions Testing Board). ASSIST Director Woody Rutter remembers that he played a large role in expanding professional development for admissions officers. Sandy was elected chairman of the Board of ASSIST in 1978 and remained in that position until May 1981. Afterwards, he continued as secretary of the Board. He retired from ASSIST in 1999 when he entered into a working partnership with Bruno Schiefer, formerly a Board member of ASSIST, recruiting German students for independent schools.

In her 1980 Christmas letter, Gail Sanderson wrote about moving to Vermont:

Once we found the area, the house - Stonecrest Farm - found us. No one in their right mind would think of living in a house with six bedrooms, a heating bill that would suit a palace, and two huge barns, but no farm land. Of course we bought it on the spot - wisely anticipating the influx of students 'en route,' faculty conferences sponsored by ASSIST, various itinerant musicians, Yale roommates, Suffield alumni, and relatives from Georgia.

The Vermont chapter of ASSIST's history was launched. Here is how it happened: On October 25, 1978, the new Board structure of ASSIST was officially defined, one week before the Certification of Incorporation was signed in the State of Vermont. The minutes of the First Annual Meeting of ASSIST described the following actions:

- Sandy Roeser was elected Chairman of the Board of the corporation.
- John Caswell, president of Stanhome International, was elected vice chair in 1978. Robert Dobson (St. Andrew's School, DE) became Secretary-Treasurer.

I STILL RECALL MY INTERVIEW WITH SANDY SANDERSON IN COLOGNE 25 YEARS AGO. IT WAS MORE LIKE A FIRESIDE CHAT ABOUT U.S. GERMAN RELATIONS, PEPPERED WITH LOTS OF LAUGHTER. NOT THE STALE, FORMAL QUESTION AND ANSWER DRILL. AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW HE ASKED ME WHICH SCHOOL I WANTED TO ATTEND IF I WAS ACCEPTED. "SUFFIELD," I FIRED BACK AND HE LAUGHED HEARTILY, BECAUSE SANDY HAD BEEN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICER AT SUFFIELD BEFORE HE STARTED ASSIST.

ASSIST Scholar

When the Board of Directors was formed in 1978, John Caswell, an executive of Stanhome International (and later, in 1984, president and ceo of the Omnia Group, a position he held until his death in October, 2008) was elected vice chairman. He was living in Suffield at that time and had earlier been an advisor to Sandy on financial matters relating to the ASSIST organization. John remembers sitting at a round table in Sandy's office helping to organize the finances of the emerging organization. The round table, for John, was significant in its symbolism that, in international discussions, there should be no place that was head of the table. In February 1981, he was elected chairman of the executive committee, and then in May 1981, he became both chairman of the executive committee and chairman of the Board. He remained in that position until December 2, 1982, when he resigned due to his extensive travel schedule, but at a time when he felt comfortable that there were Board members in place with the appropriate expertise. At that time he was appointed Director Emeritus. He had a special interest in the concept of corporate scholarships.



Paul Sanderson was elected President of ASSIST.

- Nancy Henderson (Hotchkiss School) was elected a member-at-large of the Executive Committee. Also in attendance at the meeting were Thomas Wilcox (NAIS), David Rogerson (Groton School), and Beverly Marvin (Pomfret School). Other members of the Board were: Chris Corkery (Williston-North Hampton), Keith Green (University School, Ohio), Donald Hill (Mercersburg Academy), and Howard Jones (Northfield Mount Hermon).
- On Nov. 1, 1978, the Certificate of Incorporation in the State of Vermont was signed.

The structure of the Board of ASSIST as we know it today was launched. Financial issues were

indeed of concern during these early years. Given the start-up expenses and other complicated factors in the operation of the program, as well as the fact that 1978 was the first year that Sandy took a salary, paid office rent, leased a car, and hired a staff, a deficit was incurred.

A number of changes in Board membership took place. In November

1979, Chris Corkery was elected Secretary to the Board, and in February 1980, Tom Wilcox (Concord Academy), Robert Dobson and David Rogerson left the Board and were replaced by Peggy Slocum (Northfield Mount Hermon), Peter Esty (Deerfield), and Marjo Talbott (NAIS). Nancy Henderson was elected Vice Chairman in 1981.

NEW SIGNIFICANT PLAYERS APPEAR

John Caswell and Sandy hired Michelle Stokien as part-time Business Manager. Peter Adams (whose spouse was Director Nancy Henderson) was approved as "ASSIST field rep-

resentative for 1980/81 while Mr. Sanderson is traveling." Peter was to report every three weeks to Sandy Roeser. As he was a full-time student and not able to travel, Peter's contacts were by telephone. He recommended that, in the future, the Admissions Coordinator (as the job came to be called) could evolve into a full time position.

In 1982, the record shows the following staff and their duties: Paul Sanderson, full-time in Wilder, Vermont, as president of ASSIST; Gail

Thompson, also in Wilder, in a half-time role handling secretarial work for the staff and correspondence with students; Jean Meck, in a three-month part-time position as Program Coordinator (to terminate in January 1983); Michelle Stokien, part-time, living in Burlington, as Treasurer; and Chris Hale, who pursued corporate scholarships and funding proposals as Executive Vice-President for three months (extended to April 1).

Financial issues were indeed of concern during these early years. Given the start-up expenses and other complicated factors in the operation of the program, a deficit was incurred.

NEW INITIATIVES PROJECTED FOR ASSIST

Throughout these years Sandy's ingenuity in trying out new ventures was boundless. Here are a few examples:

In 1978, The Experiment in International Living and ASSIST jointly published a brochure offering an Academic Orientation and English Language Instruction Program at Berkshire School for international secondary school students preparing to enter American universities and schools. It is not clear, however, whether this program took place.

An August 1979 memo from Weegie Walsh listed the students who were to arrive. There was a combination of ASSIST scholarship students and full-pay students, but ASSIST took no responsibility for the latter. In 1979, Sandy reported on the success of two ASSIST student mini-programs: The University School in Cleveland visit to Paris and the German student visit to Northfield Mount Hermon. In 1980, Sandy made plans to visit Mexico and Venezuela to investigate exchange possibilities.

For 1980/81, participating schools (schools which offered one full scholarship to an ASSIST student) were eligible, in addition, for the following:

- Non-scholarship (full-pay) students (for every four non-scholarships, one full scholarship was required):
- \$500 per student
- Partial Scholarship: \$350 per student
- Mini-Study: \$750
- Teacher Exchange: \$250.
- Term Abroad: \$150 per student.

It is interesting to note that in April 1980, the Executive Committee met with German representatives Bruno Schiefer and Irene Wächter. They were concerned that the "non-scholarship"

aspect of ASSIST created a problem given that ASSIST was a "scholarship" program. In response, the Executive Committee decided formally that a division of ASSIST be used as a referral/placement agency for those students who did not qualify for full scholarships; that this agency be a P.O. Box near Wilder, Vermont; and that it be called Consultants for Secondary School Admission. Later, the name was changed to Counseling for Secondary School Admissions.

During his fall trip in 1980, Sandy recruited Mr. Shintaro Ota, president of Toho Mutual Life Insurance Company, to be chairman of the ASSIST Council in Japan. In 1981, the Voluntary Japan Council for ASSIST was founded. The first meeting was held on Nov. 14, 1981. The purpose was to support "educational and cultural exchange between Japan and the United States in order to enhance mutual understanding between the nations." The Executive Secretary was F. Roy Lockheimer, professor of intercultural relations at Nihon University. All funds raised for ASSIST through the Japan Council were to be sent directly to the ASSIST headquarters in the United States. Additional purposes were as follows: to fund scholarships for Japanese students; to promote short-term exchanges for Japanese and American students and teachers, and to produce and distribute material for use in American classrooms. Later, Sandy reported that "ASSIST Japan is proving to be slower than anticipated earlier." Gail Sanderson reported that, as an unusual part of the ASSIST program, in August 1982, Sandy organized a tour for a group of 31 Japanese students (ages 11 to



Vietnamese Scholars arrive at Orientation '08: Diep Nguyen, Porter-Gaud School, Ngan Nguyen, Hill School, Minh Vu, Asheville School, Julie Hoang, Hill School '07, and Thuy Tran, Head-Royce School.



Ben Diep
Suffield Academy

In December 1982, John Kidde was elected to the chairmanship of the Board of Directors. A graduate of Hotchkiss School and Princeton University, John was the founder of KDM Development Corporation, an investment firm in Upper Montclair, NJ. He was very involved in international work in Brazil, Paris, and the UK. John was on the board of many companies, universities, and non-governmental organizations. He remained in the position of chairman of ASSIST until 1987. He remained a devoted member of the Board until his death in 2001. Board member John Buxton remembers him as follows: "John Kidde was a businessman with the heart of an educator. John ran his business in a no-nonsense manner, and he was equally clear that the ASSIST Board should be run both formally and efficiently. John cared deeply about educating responsible citizens for the world, and he knew that diversity and shared perspectives were the answer. He believed in the mission of ASSIST, and he was willing to invest his time and his resources in its success. Yet, while the vision of the educators on the Board inspired John, their inability to see the venture as a business and to conduct their business in a corporate way frustrated him. John was an intellectual pragmatist with the sensibilities of an idealist. Without John Kidde, ASSIST would never have become more than a good idea. Still, it was John's sometimes uneasy partnership with Sandy that allowed the concept of ASSIST to develop as a viable enterprise."



in addition to sight-seeing. Gail recalls that this trip took place two years in a row.

FUNDRAISING

Of course, during these years, fundraising became an important aspect of the work of the Board and of the staff. In September 1979, ASSIST received initial approval for tax-exempt 501(c)3 status. This immediately enabled ASSIST to receive grants, and in December 1979, the records show a \$20,000 grant for start-up costs from the Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation. In 1982, the same foundation made a three-year grant of \$50,000.

In 1980, the Board minutes describe the concept of corporate scholarships, a special interest of John Caswell. In the fall of 1980, Sandy traveled to Spain, France, Switzerland, and Italy. He had 31 appointments, 21 of which concerned the corporate scholarship program.

In 1981/82, the Stanhome ASSIST scholarship program was established with students from Italy, France, and Spain. They attended Millbrook School (NY), Indian Springs School (AL), and Kimball Union Academy (NH). In 1982/83, six students

22) and adult chaperones in cooperation with Sony Travel Service of Japan. The group toured in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York City, and Anaheim, CA. There were lectures on American history, culture, and education,

were sponsored by Stanhome International and the Milton Bradley Company. As described in the 1981/82 newsletter, the scholarships "provide for the enrollment of children of corporate employees who are not U.S. citizens, for one year of study at American independent schools. The corporate sponsor's contribution is \$9,000. Two-thirds of the amount goes to the school, and the remainder goes to meet administrative expenses. The American schools then contribute \$2,500 as scholarship aid toward the tuition, room, and board." The scholarship was seen as a valuable benefit to the employees of the company, while "building the international leadership of tomorrow." In the 1982 newsletter, there was a description of the elaborate welcome from the Milton Bradley Company to the students from Ireland, the Netherlands, and Spain, who arrived for their years at the Fountain Valley School (CO), Miami Valley School (OH), and South Kent School (CT).

Notes show preparation for an application to the DeWitt Wallace Foundation to fund a Director of Development. It envisioned a phased growth of the Corporate Scholarship Program: 20 scholarships in 1984, 35 in 1985, and 50 in 1986. The goal was that in four years, ASSIST would become financially self-sustaining. In fact, the plans proved to be far too ambitious. Note: at its October 2008 meeting, the ASSIST Board authorized the addition of a director of development, an idea whose time had finally come.

One very important part of the ASSIST story was the creation in Germany in 1982 of the ASSIST Förderverein, which contributed \$2,000 in 1984. Under the leadership of Paul Sanderson and Guenter Ostermann, an ASSIST parent and prominent business leader who would become the first President of the ASSIST Förderverein, a group of 11 men

gathered in Cologne in January, 1982, as "charter members." The foundation that would have as its purpose "promoting cultural relations between the Bundesrepublik of Germany and the USA in the field of education at secondary schools and universities." This was seen as a contribution to improve mutual understanding between the people of Germany and the USA.

More specifically, the Förderverein wished to raise funds from companies, ASSIST parents, and ASSIST alumni in Germany, which could be used to support German students accepted by ASSIST who could not afford to participate without some financial assistance. In addition to Sandy and Guenter Ostermann, the other charter members of this ambitious new association were Karl Heinz Boehringer, Albrecht Colsman, Paul Decker, Nikolaus Heckmann, Paul Johnen, Rudolf Perger, Richard Richter, Bruno Schiefer, and Juergen Starck. Bruno Schiefer's association with the Förderverein continued until 1996.

Six members of this original leadership group were parents of children who had been or who were then ASSIST students at member schools in Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and they brought with them a keen awareness of how powerfully this important experience would affect their children's lives. They all wanted to ensure that the ASSIST experience would not be limited to boys and girls of means.

In 1984, John Buxton, chairman of the development committee, presented to the Board an idea for building an endowment through a capital gift campaign.

In 1984, John Buxton, chairman of the development committee, presented to the Board an idea for building an endowment through a capital gift campaign.

THE ORIENTATION EXPERIENCE

During these years, the orientation, always a key component, became a formal foundation of the ASSIST experience. George Semler, ASSIST representative in Spain, attended his first orientation in August 1984. He described the experience in a letter to Gail Sanderson:

"Orientation always takes me back to my first one, in August 1984, with Sandy at St. Paul's School in Garden City, Long Island: no tour of New York...a tiny swimming pool in an old gymnasium....smoke alarms kicking off from the humidity,

fire department arriving at four in the morning to evacuate the building, Sandy delivering hours of...chats through a bullhorn in an acoustically hyperactive basketball court...and yet it was all magic, the kids radioactive with excitement and promise, so full of what F. Scott Fitzgerald called a 'romantic readiness.' They were impossible to be around without spreading a sympathetic euphoria, at once frightened and thrilled with what lay before them, families lost, friends found, emotions

ablaze, a goofy combination of hilarity and adrenalin.

"Sandy handed out sheets and pillow cases, but he dispensed much more than bedding: a word, a laugh, some nutty joy - his special stock-in-trade; ASSIST staff sat for hours with the students on the school's front steps trying to describe where Wisconsin was, what America was all about: Life, Love, God and the Independent School.

"On the last morning, students leaving on the first bus were pursued, after teary farewells from forty-eight-hour friends for



Hartmut Wiedenmann's relationship with ASSIST is profound. His five children all attended ASSIST schools: Sabine '91, (Webb School), Markus '93 (Orme School), Helen '95 (West Nottingham Academy), Caroline '96 (Suffield Academy) and Nora '03 (Wyoming Seminary). Since 1971, he has worked in construction management. He took over the chairmanship of the ASSIST Förderverein after a motion to dissolve the organization was challenged at a meeting in Cologne on June 25, 1996. The motion had been to dissolve the Förderverein and turn over the assets of 700,000 DM to the Boerner Foundation. Ultimately, the motion did not achieve the margin needed, thanks to Hartmut's leadership, working with fellow board members, the Heidgens and the Klevers. Hartmut was elected Chairman, a position that he retained for the next ten years, until 2006, when he was named head of the advisory board. He was elected to the Board of Directors of ASSIST USA, serving from 1997-2005.



Paul Sanderson and Michelle Stokien with the first Chinese scholars and teachers.

life, by a mob of ASSIST scholars waving sheets, larger than life mouchoirs for huge hopes, gigantic fears. "

Through his description of the orientation program, George Semler managed to capture Sandy's relationship with students and the essence of the ASSIST experience, which would become an amazing legacy for generations of students to come. Remarkably, the magic of those four days in August are repeated annually to equal effect.

In 1983, ASSIST was selected as one of 30 organizations to participate in President Reagan's International Youth exchange initiatives. The program was listed in its brochure "One Friendship at a Time: Your Guide to International Youth Exchange."

CHINA AND ASSIST

July 31, 1980

State of Connecticut

Executive Chambers

Hartford

Dear Paul:

I remember well when you left for Europe with your wife and family to begin ASSIST in 1968. Your dream has now come true and over 300 talented foreign students and 50 independent schools have thus benefited.

This is a crucial time for our people and America. We must not forget our commitment to international understanding and exchange. I am delighted that you will take the lead in making possible one of the first secondary school exchanges with the Peoples Republic of China.

ASSIST has an important role to play and I am pleased to support this effort.

Cordially,

Ella Grasso, Governor

The first Chinese student was placed at Northfield Mount Hermon in 1980/81. But that was just the start.

The 1985 Board minutes describe a Sanderson exploratory trip to China for May and June 1985. Sandy and Gail were accompanied by Dr. Wang Wei Ming, a friend and art professor from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Ming was a member of the ASSIST Advisory Board. During the trip, he helped with negotiations and the screening and interviewing of students and teachers. He and the Sandersons visited six cities and spent time in schools. At each school they had a chance to speak with students who were learning English. Negotiations resulted in plans for three students and two teachers to come to the United States in 1985/86. Sandy wrote the following words in an ASSIST Update: "China's entry into the ASSIST program marks the first time arrangements have been made by a formal exchange organization, representing American independent schools nationwide, with the People's Republic." The teachers were placed at The Taft School and Hotchkiss School. The students attended Hotchkiss School, Concord Academy and Salisbury School. Sandy was especially proud of the teacher component, as he referred to the "multiplier role" of the teacher and the reason for the "T" in ASSIST. His vision was for the "visiting teacher" model to flourish. Gail points out that "the Chinese wanted to send us teachers because they were teaching English in the schools, and they had not had exposure to English

I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I AM NOT THE FIRST OR THE LAST TO SAY THIS, BUT THIS EXPERIENCE CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES IN WAYS YOU SOMETIMES DON'T EVEN EXPECT IT WILL. THIS YEAR HAS TRULY BEEN ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THAT HAVE EVER HAPPENED TO ME. THANK YOU FOR MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE!

ASSIST Scholar

speaking people.... It turned out that they had learned English by listening to Radio Free Europe while tending sheep in Inner Mongolia, where these 'intellectuals' had been sent."

It was reported in May 1986 that ten schools had signed up for ten Chinese students and two teachers (to go to Western Reserve Academy and Wayland Academy) for 1986/87.

THE FINAL YEARS OF ASSIST IN VERMONT

Clearly, the "Vermont Years" had seen remarkable growth and excitement since Sandy's retirement from Suffield Academy. An example of the progress of the organization was evident in the Fall 1985 ASSIST Update, which contained the following articles:

- "China Link Established"
- "Orientation Proves Rewarding Experience," by George Semler
- The census as follows: 69 German, 17 Spanish, 5 Swedish, and 2 French students. (Three Chinese students and two teachers were delayed because of Chinese bureaucracy.)
- "West German Förderverein is Pace Setter"
- "ASSIST Student Gets History Lesson While Jogging with President Carter" (Woodward Academy student Amy Carter was his friend)
- "Profiles of Chinese Students, Teachers"
- "Sampling of Honors Upholds Tradition" (Class of 1985)
- "Screening Students for ASSIST," by Woody Rutter (Salisbury School, CT, later headmaster of Beaufort Academy, SC, and currently ASSIST'S longest-serving Board member)

- "Happiness is Visiting ASSIST Schools," by Michelle Stokien
- "Spanish Educator Stresses Importance of International Content in Education" (Interview with Sr. Pedro Ribera, Director, AULA School)
- "ASSIST Alumni in West Germany Host Salisbury Rowers for Races in Europe"

Just as ASSIST was beginning to thrive, it would face its first dramatic challenge. On June 10, 1986, Sandy sent a final letter to the Board.

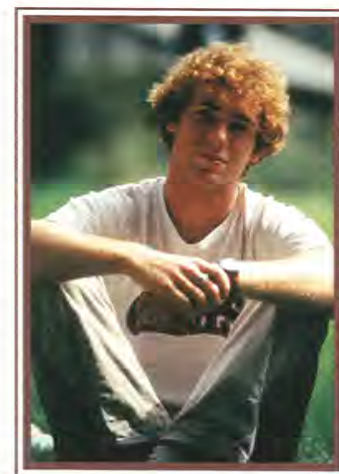
TO: Trustees of ASSIST and Others

I returned from China on May 22nd. The trip was successful, with the selection of ten students and three teachers accomplished. Four of the students and two teachers will come from Beijing. Five students and one teacher will come from the Fudan Affiliated Middle School in Shanghai. There is also the possibility of an additional student from the middle school in Nanjing.

As I indicated at the Board meeting in New York, over the past few months I have not had my old energy. After my return from China, it was decided that I should have a full battery of tests at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital. The doctors think I have Whipple's Syndrome, a very rare disease. Fortunately it is curable, and I have begun treatments which should solve the problem. I'd like to thank all those who have called or written during my stay in the hospital.

This has been a good year for ASSIST and we are looking forward to the arrival of 100 students and teachers next August.

Paul G. Sanderson, Jr.



Sean Harris
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School '05
Germany

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I REALIZED DURING ALL THOSE MONTHS IS THAT COMMUNICATION IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR OUR EXISTENCE. A GREAT DEAL OF MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF LACK OF COMMUNICATION AMONG HUMAN BEINGS. IF WE COULD GET CLOSER TO EACH OTHER WE WOULD REALIZE THAT STEREOTYPES ARE ABSURD AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO APPROACH PEOPLE IS AS INDIVIDUALS.

ASSIST Scholar

Regrettably, Sandy would not recover. On June 21, 1986, at the age of 56, Paul Sanderson died of pneumonia/Whipple Syndrome. A memorial service was held in Suffield on October 12, 1986. The following "Litany of Thanksgiving," written and led by Mason Nye, Sandy's colleague at Suffield Academy, was recited at that time. Those who knew him must have been captivated by the accuracy of this tribute:

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

O Lord, we gratefully give thanks for the life of Paul Sanderson. We pray for him and for all who were touched by his life and influence.

Grant him eternal rest. Let your light shine upon him and grant him peace.

We are thankful for his fruitful life that was so full of accomplishment, and for his vivid character and spirit:

For his clipboard clamped under one arm, his squint, and his shout of encouragement across the soccer field,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For the stir of gathering, laughter, and excitement whenever Sandy entered a room,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his essential friendliness and his special gift of comradeship with all kinds of men and women, the famous and powerful as well as the humble and obscure, and for his truly democratic spirit,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his kindness and sensitivity to those in trouble, and the countless people he helped in their difficulty,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his love of history and of art, music, and foreign cultures and places, and for his special ability to infect others with his interests and enthusiasms,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his indomitable courage and tenacity,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his special love of Suffield Academy, for his lifelong service to this school, independent schools throughout the nation, and to education throughout the world, and for his gifts as a teacher, coach and leader,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his unshakable belief in education as a vehicle for international understanding, friendship, and peace,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For the vitality and energy which colored all that he did, and which we feel still,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For his strong marriage and loving companionship with his wife Gail,

O Lord, we give thanks.

For the love of his children, David, Paul, Katherine, and Meredith, and for his special love of young people everywhere throughout the world,

O Lord, we give thanks.

Bless and console those who mourn his passing. Inspire us with your hope, O Lord, and prompt us to remember joyfully the remarkable character and accomplishment of your servant,

Paul G. Sanderson, Jr.

The ASSIST Orientation

A REALLY TOUCHING MOMENT HAPPENED THE VERY FIRST DAY AT MY SCHOOL WHEN I, WITH MY TWO HEAVY SUITCASES, WAS STUMBLING UP THE STAIRS AND THEN OPENED THE DOOR TO MY NEW ROOM...AND FOUND A GROUP OF EXCITED GIRLS ALL STANDING THERE TO GREET ME TO MY NEW HOME. THEY EVEN STARTED TO MAKE MY BED! THAT GREETING WAS SUCH A NICE THING TO DO SINCE I, TRULY ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME, HAD JUST COME TO A COMPLETELY UNKNOWN PLACE. WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I MADE FRIENDS THAT VERY FIRST NIGHT AND I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW MUCH SUCH A SMALL THING CAN MEAN IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION. THEIR REASON FOR MAKING MY BED WAS THAT "IT IS THE WAY WE DO THINGS HERE IN THE SOUTH." AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY IS SOMETHING I HAVE EXPERIENCED VERY MUCH THIS YEAR.

ASSIST Scholar



Teamwork builds a pyramid



The Class of 2005/06 celebrates a successful Orientation

I DOUBT THAT I WILL EVER ENCOUNTER A STUDENT AS DRIVEN AND MOTIVATED AS VI. HER INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AND PROBING QUESTIONS HELPED ME TO BECOME A BETTER TEACHER, AND I THANK HER FOR THAT. SHE WILL BE SORELY MISSED AT THE HILL. I HOPE SHE WILL REMEMBER FONDLY HER TIME SPENT HERE, AND I WISH HER NOTHING BUT SUCCESS IN WHAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE.

Teacher at an ASSIST School



Creating the ASSIST Choir

ASHVILLE SCHOOL
1900 1900
Samuel Lemann
Asheville School
Asheville, N. C. 28806

Dear Mister Sanderson,
I can hardly believe it, two more
School days; a week passed and
graduation is quickly
I am
I made the arrangements already
before to go to the head
the last senior here class
I hope you had a good trip
Europe and
selecting
Switzerland
I would a good trip to
I could make any body from
again? we are
exact in your school about
who meeting where are

...besides far-reaching discovery and utilization of individual potential there is the important objective of our program: to build inter-human relationships that are founded on tolerance, "inter" in the difference between cultures and people which lead to more common spirit and a multitude of unforgettable experiences.

—Jürgen Heidgen

VENDE 88



one heart



Michelle Stokien was hired as business manager in 1979 by John Caswell and Sandy, working part-time, while she was also working at Dartmouth College. In November 1979, she was elected Treasurer and became an ex-officio member of the Board. All financial matters were then to be directed to her. In 1983, Michelle Stokien was appointed vice president of ASSIST and became a full-time employee, with additional responsibility for follow-up visits with ASSIST students. When Sandy died in 1986, Michelle was the logical person to become acting executive director, as she knew the organization not only from the inside, but she and her family had also hosted students several times in their home in Hanover, New Hampshire. During 1986/87, a search was launched for a permanent CEO. Michelle, who is remarried, lives in California, where she works for the Veteran's Administration in Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.



THE INTERIM YEAR 1986 - 1987

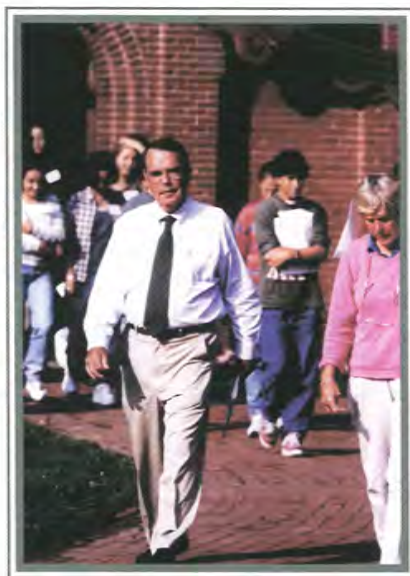
For Michelle Stokien, 1986/87 was an intensely busy year as she worked diligently to give continuity to the program. In fact, schools' confidence in ASSIST was maintained as the number of schools increased from 61 to 69 during that year, and later records show 139 scholars for 1987/88, an increase of 26 students. During that year, Michelle was assisted by Linda Eastman, who had been her assistant before Sandy died. Linda took over many of Michelle's duties and was very important to the success of the operation.

In October, Michelle made a report to the Planning Committee. She outlined the financial concerns of the organization and identified issues that continue to be part of the Board's deliberations to this day: merit- vs. need-based scholarships; tightness of financial aid budgets in the schools; competition with minority student programs for financial aid funds. One solution recommended was to market partial scholarships to schools to increase the number of participants. Michelle also suggested that the organization increase the ASSIST fee for parents.

She further reported that, since Sandy's death, the ten Chinese students and three teachers had been placed (from the Middle School attached to Fudan University, a relationship that

I FEEL THAT I AM NOT ONLY GERMAN ANYMORE – I'M PARTIALLY AMERICAN NOW TOO. WHEN I LOOK AT IMPORTANT ISSUES – BE IT IN POLITICS, FAMILY LIFE, OR JUST THINKING ABOUT MY OWN FUTURE – I HAVE A MORE DIVERSE OPINION BECAUSE I NOW HAVE TWO SOCIETIES "IN ME." ALTHOUGH MY IDEALS AND MORAL CONCEPTS HAVE NOT CHANGED, THIS YEAR MADE ME THINK ABOUT WHAT MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME AND ABOUT IDEAS THAT I HAD CONSIDERED INCONTROVERTIBLE BEFORE.

ASSIST Scholar



Director Ferdie Wandelt

continues to this day), as well as a German math teacher. Orientations were conducted with the help of George Semler (ASSIST Spain), and Irene Wächter, Heide Tobben and Jorg Swartz (ASSIST Germany). She would produce an ASSIST Update which included the first report on the alumni.

Michelle reported a staff that included Bob Graham, a part-time professional writer who had recently retired as head of the Dartmouth News Office; Gail Richardson, a CPA, who had been a consultant to ASSIST for five years; Caroline McNellis, former Development Director at Dartmouth; Skip Hanse, who was Director John Kidde's stepbrother and also head of Development and Alumni Affairs at Dartmouth.

During the interim year, the following news was reported:

- In 1986 Dr. Detlev Rohwedder, at the time chairman of the major steel company Hoesch, was appointed president of the ASSIST Förderverein, succeeding Dr. Gunter Ostermann.
- A search committee was formed at an Executive Committee meeting on Dec. 15, and George Stevens was hired as consultant to the search, which was chaired by Director John Buxton. The new CEO would begin on July 1, 1987.
- The P. G. Sanderson Memorial Fund was established. The funds accumulated have been used over the years to support students and teachers on outbound summer programs.

- Directors Woody Rutter, Director of Admissions, Salisbury School, and Ferdie Wandelt, Director of Admissions, Taft School, were interviewers in Germany and in Spain. There were 180 candidates in Germany and 45 in Spain. Woody remembers "taking Ferdie (with Michelle) on his very first trip ever out of the USA - to France, Germany, and Spain. He was petrified of getting separated, knew no other languages, and we got into the middle of an anti-American demonstration in Madrid at one point. I thought that he would never go overseas again! Ferdie is now one of the most traveled people I know."
- Michelle made a trip to China, which resulted in the continuation of the program there. S.L. Chen, an associate of Board Chair John Kidde, was appointed Chinese advisor to ASSIST.



Director Woody Rutter



Yi-ming Yang at Taft Graduation

At the end of that year, ASSIST Chinese student Yi-ming Yang was nominated to be the class speaker of 1987 at Taft School. He remarked that, although his classmates thought him “Americanized,” he said, “I am still Chinese deep inside. I tried very hard to be American because I figured this is the best way for me to get to know Americans and to understand Americans.” He described his classmates as follows. “I see the American spirit from them: humorous, challenging, and generous. I also try to respect their beliefs of individuality, though I was taught to regard the interests of community higher than that of the individual for a long time in China. Sometimes I share my

Chinese perspective with my American friends too. Most of the time, they show their full understanding...As long as people live together, they need understanding in order to maintain harmony.”

In 2006, Yi-ming, a cardiologist in New York City, became the first ASSIST alumnus to be elected to the Board of Directors of ASSIST.

At the end of 1986/87, Michelle’s financial reports were “very positively received” (quoting the February Board minutes), and in August, the Executive Committee expressed “appreciation for her prudent and creative management during this fiscal year.” ASSIST owed Michelle a huge debt of gratitude.

In the summer of 2008, she described the experience as follows. “The ASSIST position was the best job I ever had in my life. During the interim year, I continued the legacy that Sandy had begun. I have never met anyone who lived up to his standard.”

FOR A CHINESE STUDENT COMING TO AMERICA AT THAT YOUNG AGE, ASSIST PRESENTED ME WITH THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF MY LIFE. SUDDENLY, I DISCOVERED POTENTIALS THAT I DIDN’T EVEN KNOW EXISTED IN ME. I AM THE PERSON I AM TODAY BECAUSE OF ASSIST.

Yi-ming Yang



Yi-ming Yang Today

The world is small, fragile and interdependent, and it is important to grow up internationally. There is the potential for community growth as well as personal growth as people of different cultures interact and learn from one another. We like to think that we are building a network for peace among young people who have the potential for leadership roles in their countries.

—Ken Lindfors

At the same Board meeting, Ken also uttered the following immortal words:

There is no greater burden than having a great potential. —From the comic strip "Peanuts"



Ken Lindfors, now President Emeritus of ASSIST, graduated from Mount Hermon School and from Oberlin College with a BA in History. He received his MAT from Harvard University. Ken taught in independent schools for 28 years, 26 of which were at Suffield Academy. During those years he was advisor, coach, department chair, assistant headmaster, and finally headmaster for his final 11 years. He co-authored "The United States and the New Imperialism, 1898-1912," among other publications and was also the winner of several awards, including the Capital Area Outstanding Secondary School Teacher Award (presented by Trinity College, in Connecticut), the Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Fame, and the William Robertson Coe Fellowship at Stanford. Ken served as Chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evaluation for the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. He retired from the presidency of ASSIST in 2000.

Betsy Lindfors is Vice President Emerita of ASSIST. A graduate of Skidmore College, she was associate director of admissions at Suffield Academy from 1973 until 1987. Along with the typical admission functions at a boarding school, her work had an international component, critical skills that were needed by ASSIST in its own selection process. She had been a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee on Boarding Schools (now TABS, The Association of Boarding Schools) of the National The Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), giving her contacts and relationships with admissions personnel across the country, and she participated in school evaluations for the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. She has also been very active in church and community activities, including the Child and Family Services of Connecticut and the League of Women Voters.

Since their retirement, Ken and Betsy have continued to be irreplaceable resources for ASSIST. Their duties have included visiting schools, interviewing abroad, and acting as advisors to the Board and the President.



THE PETERBOROUGH YEARS 1987 - 2000

After a full search for a successor to Paul Sanderson, Ken Lindfors was elected president of ASSIST, effective September 1987. As a colleague of Sandy's at Suffield Academy, Ken had come to know many ASSIST students since 1969, and he was keenly aware of their contributions to the school community. As a first generation American (Ken was born in Sweden and emigrated to the United States with his family during World War II), he had strong international interests and family outside the United States. Like Sandy, he had sought to make Suffield a national and international high school of numerous creeds, colors and backgrounds, a place where, in his words, "national and cultural and racial diversity were assumed to be both natural and desirable, and where human differences were values to be celebrated, not problems to be fought over." His mandate at ASSIST was to continue and to formalize the work of his predecessor, while creating consistent guidelines for the structure of ASSIST's work. For instance, schools were now required to offer a full scholarship in order to receive candidates whose parents could afford a partial scholarship. There was also a need to put ASSIST on a firmer financial footing. Ken moved the office to Peterborough, New Hampshire, and his wife, Betsy

ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES, EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ARE SO IMPORTANT, TO BRING PEOPLE AND CULTURES TOGETHER, GETTING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING FROM EACH OTHER, TRYING TO ACCEPT DIFFERENT OPINIONS, BUT LEARNING TO SPEAK UP WITH ONE'S OWN. MORE AND MORE WE ARE LIVING IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE, DEPENDING ON EACH OTHER AS NEVER BEFORE, SO WE HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE 21ST CENTURY...

ASSIST Family from Germany

John Buxton was educated at Brown University. From there, he went directly to St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, where he served in many roles over time – English teacher, director of college advising, director of admissions, and for 15 years vice rector of finance and operations. In 1999, he was appointed head of schools at the Culver Academies. He joined the ASSIST Board in 1983 and became Chair of the Board in 1988. He remained in that position until 1996, after leading the search committee in the selection of Ken Lindfors as president. In his own words: "It was my role to be the 'nuts and bolts' adviser who would help with matters financial and legal. We were facing many problems at that time with budget, staffing, and direction... The next step was to recruit strong Board members with specific skills to build an even stronger governance team... Our final task was to unwind the relationship with our German friends and partners, establish... and negotiate a new and more realistic relationship with our support staff in Germany.... The real centerpiece for me was the chance to work with so many committed individuals, starting with Ken and Betsy Lindfors."



Dunnet Lindfors, immediately joined the ASSIST team and was a critical factor in the success of the organization in the years to come. At the same time, John Buxton took over the role of Board chair.

Clearly, the Sanderson legacy was safely in the hands of people who could capably move the organization into the next phase of its life.

THE FINANCES OF ASSIST: INCREASED FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Board meeting minutes indicate that Ken inherited a deficit of \$107,768, owing in large part to many complicated factors, including transition outlays, life insurance, and one-time expenses such as the move of the office to Peterborough and the expensive China program. By 1989/90, the full scholarships offered by schools had increased from 48 to 72, and coupled with fundraising and the controlling of expenses, the cumulative deficit had been erased (Treasurer David Howe reported the establishment of a

Reserve Fund of \$7,957 and the goal of increased stability for ASSIST was acknowledged as a high priority). As of September 24, 1999, Treasurer Howe was able to report an endowment of \$1,386,000. John Buxton speaks today about the extraordinary time and effort and expertise that David brought to the ASSIST finances.

EXPANSION OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Although the candidate pool continued to be very strong in Germany, schools showed waning interest in full scholarship students from Germany, as they were able to find German applicants who could pay the full tuition. The low point was in 1998/99 when there were only 15 full scholarships for German students. In addition, grants were made to students through the ASSIST Förderverein to allow needy students the opportunity to participate. Until 1987, while many countries had been represented occasionally, students had been selected primarily from Germany, with a few from Spain, then Sweden in fewer numbers, and finally from mainland China. Ken noted, "With more countries and cultures represented, ASSIST would be a more attractive option for schools and could result in having more schools enroll and offer more scholarships." To this day, the Board continues to subscribe to this point of view. To accomplish such an expansion in a thoughtful manner, Ken and Betsy spoke with a number of school heads and asked them what countries would be of greatest interest to them. Various ASSIST catalogues and publications were developed and, as has always been the hallmark of ASSIST, personal contacts were emphasized.

First, in the spring of 1988, Ken visited several Australian schools, through his association with Tony Hill, then headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School and formerly a faculty member at Phillips Academy in Andover. Five Australian students entered ASSIST schools in the fall of 1988, and Australian students have continued to be a part of ASSIST ever since.

Second and most important, in December of 1989, a

partnership was established with the Soros Foundation, which ultimately became critical to the future of ASSIST.

THE SOROS FOUNDATION AND ASSIST

On November 8, 1989, the East German government announced that visits to West Germany and West Berlin would be permitted, and crowds of East Germans climbed onto and crossed the Berlin Wall, joined by West Germans in a celebratory atmosphere on the other side. This inaugurated a period of time during which the Soviet Union collapsed, and countries that had hitherto been essentially closed to the West became accessible.

In October of 1989, Ken traveled to Washington to investigate how ASSIST might become involved in the dramatic changes that were occurring in eastern and central Europe at that time. He was advised to contact George Soros, who might be interested in the ASSIST program and who was, of course, clearly devoted to that part of the world, given his Hungarian origins. Mr.

Soros was founding the Open Society Institute, which would promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform in the region. As a foundation of this initiative, Mr. Soros would make a significant commitment to education, a cornerstone of which was providing exchange opportunities to allow the finest scholars in the east a year as students in the finest schools in the west.

A quick and immediate response from Liz Lorant, the Executive Director of the Soros Foundation, who was in

charge of initiatives in Hungary, followed Ken's letter of inquiry with the comment, "You are just what we are looking for." A partnership was quickly developed that enabled ASSIST to become a significant presence, initially in Hungary. As a start, Ms. Lorant indicated that the Foundation could arrange a national scholarship competition in Hungary, could cover the airfares and allowances of the selected students, and could also provide ASSIST with funding to cover its expenses.

Ken traveled to Washington to investigate how ASSIST might become involved in the dramatic changes that were occurring in eastern and central Europe at that time.

After Ms. Lorant's call on January 10, the process moved quickly, and by February 22, an agreement was reached. Ken and Betsy agreed to return to Hungary in April to interview ASSIST candidates in Budapest and committed to finding scholarships and places for four Hungarian students for the 1990/91 school year. Liz Lorant sat in on every interview to observe the process. The pool was so strong – in fact in Ken's words "simply irresistible" – that he decided to gamble and accepted nine Hungarian scholars. In addition, he aided Ms. Lorant in picking a good number of students for the Soros Foundation's summer programs.

On December 8, 1990, one of the nine Hungarian students, Balazs Barra, wrote a letter of thanks to Mr. Soros from his school (Woodberry Forest). It was published in the Open Society News, wherein he congratulated his benefactor on the Human Rights Prize that he had recently received.



Soros staff members Katalin Sellyei,
Liz Lorant, Eva Zorandy

TILL FINISHES THE YEAR AS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ASSIST STUDENTS WE HAVE EVER HAD AT CHRIST SCHOOL. UNIVER-SALLY RESPECTED AND ADMIRER. HE WON OUR HEARTS – IN THE CLASSROOM, IN THE DORMITORY, ON THE SOCCER FIELD. AS FRIEND AND AMBASSADOR. SAYING GOODBYE WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WE WILL STAY IN TOUCH, AND CHRIST SCHOOL WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO HIM – AS WILL I – FOR ALL THE MANY WAYS HE ENRICHED OUR LIVES.

Teacher at an ASSIST School



The first Soros-sponsored Hungarian student group, pictured with Ken Lindfors

HANA'S SUCCESS IN LATIN STEMS FROM HER MATURE APPROACH TO LEARNING. NOBODY HAS BEEN MORE DILIGENT IN MASTERING THE BASICS OF THE LANGUAGE. SHE IS A MODEL EXCHANGE STUDENT AND A SHINING EXAMPLE TO HER AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. SHE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMMERSE HERSELF IN THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE HERE. IT HAS BEEN A GENUINE PLEASURE TO TEACH HER.

Teacher at an ASSIST School

In addition, he wrote, "During these four months, I have experienced more than during the first 16 years of my life. I have been working hard ever since school has started trying to do my best to show the Soros Foundation and ASSIST that I deserve their trust."

One year later, the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of schools in Britain joined in the process of selecting students and, to this day, ASSIST and HMC work together

interviewing students in eastern and central Europe.

A key figure throughout the partnership was Eva Zorandy, a highly effective leader in the Soros Foundation office in New York. She coordinated the scholarship competitions throughout the region, ably assisted by Migen Prifti, and she often accompanied the ASSIST interviewers. She participated in the activities and deliberations in each country, and her experience and voice were an important influence on the work of ASSIST. Katalin Sellyei in Hungary also provided important support and leadership.

A sum of \$3,000 was awarded for each ASSIST student, \$1,000 of which was to be used for the student's personal expenses. The Foundation organized the in-country competition for scholarships to ASSIST schools, and covered round-trip airfare and health insurance during the ASSIST year in the U.S. Additionally, it covered the expenses incurred by the ASSIST staff in traveling to and conducting candidate interviews in each eastern and central European country where the Soros Foundation had a presence and a staff committed to international exchange. As a result, the number of schools

participating in ASSIST increased dramatically. In 1998/99, 48 full scholarships were awarded to students from eastern and central Europe.



1992 Traveling Seminar with leader Hope Stevens

In the tradition of Paul Sanderson, new programs were offered as additional ways to attract schools to ASSIST membership. In 1987/88 and thereafter, the decision was made to offer programs for American students and teachers to have educational experiences abroad. Scholarships were offered at AULA School in Barcelona, Colegio Estudio in Madrid, and at Melbourne Grammar School and Eltham College in Australia.

For six summers (1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998), students traveled to Brussels and Cologne (and sometimes Berlin and Paris) with the ASSIST Traveling Seminar. Students learned about the European Union in Brussels. In Cologne, they were exposed to various aspects of German society through home stays with current or past ASSIST families. The first seminar for 11 students was

organized by Board members Dick Hall, then head of the International School of Brussels, and Bruno Schiefer, as well as the leadership of the ASSIST office in Cologne, and it was led by Hope Stevens from Oregon Episcopal School. This program was Francine Ugeux's first exposure to ASSIST, when her family hosted one of the students, leading eventually to Francine's leadership of the program. A former trustee of International School of Brussels, she later became a member of the Board of Directors of ASSIST and assumed leadership of the European Union seminars for teachers, which began in 2001. In addition, Pamela Thye (former host parent, Middlesex School), also an ASSIST Director, was a regular chaperone of both the student and the teacher programs, providing valuable perspectives as she had herself lived for many years in Germany. The extraordinary number of other options available for students in the summer resulted in limited demand for this program, and so the decision was made to discontinue it after six years.

Our partnership with the Olomouc Summer Institute for Young Leaders in the Czech Republic, under the leadership of Ivana Mrozková, attracted American students from ASSIST schools annually from 1999 to 2007. These students joined a group of scholars primarily from the former Soviet bloc nations to focus on leadership issues, global issues, political science, economics, and sociology.



Jack Tyrer and OSI Program students

THE TERMINATION OF THE FIRST CHINA INITIATIVE

One major disappointment occurred early in Ken's tenure. Sandy's hopes for funding of the Chinese initiative did not materialize, so that the receiving schools had to pay a surcharge of \$2,000 to cover costs for the scholars. The schools were required to take a regular full scholarship ASSIST student as well. The program became a loss leader. Ken reported to the Board that "the students from China were inevitably impressive as scholars and as persons and contributed to ASSIST's stature

in the schools they attended." However, in May of 1990, he told the Board that, for various reasons, there was diminished interest in this initiative by the schools. As it turned out, only one month later, four of the five ASSIST students from China enrolled in 1989/90 did not return home as promised. This was a source of embarrassment and concern for ASSIST and for those who had created the

Chinese pool of candidates for us, and so the program in China was immediately terminated.

EXPANSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During Ken's tenure, the Board, 20 of whom remained in place ten years or more, grew in number and commitment to the organization. Board members generously contributed their



Ken and Betsy Lindfors with
Pia Bungarten,
Suffield Academy '74, Germany



Director Bill Olsen

WELL, NOW THAT MY TIME
HERE IS NEARING THE END, I
JUST CAN'T SAY THANK YOU
ENOUGH TO EXPRESS HOW I
FEEL. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME
SUCH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY
AND SOMETHING THAT I WILL
KEEP DEEP IN MY HEART FOR
ALL MY LIFE. I HAVE FOUND A
HOME, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
IN A NEW COUNTRY AND ONE
OF MY WILDEST DREAMS
CAME TRUE AND I JUST WANT
TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THIS.
IT'S BEEN AN HONOR.

ASSIST Scholar

time to the operational aspects of ASSIST. Some took part in the annual orientation and in the development and implementation of summer programs in Brussels and Germany. Other Board members visited ASSIST students in their schools. Special mention is owed to those Directors who interviewed students abroad, as the health of the program depends critically upon the careful screening of candidates. Over the 13 years of Ken's tenure, the Board grew to 21 members, nearly doubling in size.

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

In 1987/88, the Development Committee of the Board, under Director Bill Connelly's leadership, developed a fundraising strategy for ASSIST. For the first time there was an expectation that each Board member would contribute to the Annual Fund. Gradually, the number of donors in the annual giving program climbed from one donor in 1986/87 to more than 60 by the late 1990s. Between 1997 and 2000, over \$550,000 were received in the Annual Fund and as part of a capital campaign. By the year 2000, the ASSIST endowment had risen to \$1.4 million. A few foundations also provided support. Since those days, fundraising has been a critical concern of the ASSIST Board, especially since the cessation of Soros Foundation support owing to the foundation's policy of initiating programs and then challenging the recipients to continue without Soros support. The schools and the Board have been eager to continue the participation of needy eastern and central European students in the ASSIST

Between 1997 and 2000, over \$550,000 were received in the Annual Fund and as part of a capital campaign. By the year 2000, the ASSIST endowment had risen to \$1.4 million.

program, possible only with an energetic development effort. In addition, as the financial conditions of the organization improved, marketing materials became more refined, and ASSIST gained a much stronger national presence.

CHANGES IN GERMANY

For many years, the ASSIST office in Germany had been directed by Irene Wächter, assisted by Heide Tobben, with Klaus Tobben acting as consultant. Bruno Schiefer was a member of the Förderverein, a legal entity of its own, at the time when Ken began his tenure.

The ASSIST Förderverein continued to build its own history alongside that of ASSIST. Five of its presidents since 1982 were Guenter Ostermann, Detlev Rohwedder, Klaus Piltz, Helmut Burmester, and Hartmut Wiedenmann - all of whom had one or more children representing Germany in the USA as ASSIST scholars. Special mention is due to Richard Montague who was among the earliest and strongest supporters of the Förderverein.

His stepson, Achim von Klitzing, was an ASSIST scholar at Milton Academy, and that resonated with Mr. Montague's own experiences at Deerfield and Harvard. Mr. Montague has been a tireless advocate for ASSIST, seeking to discover students and encourage donors, and he has been personally generous both to ASSIST and the ASSIST Förderverein.

Two very sad events in the history of ASSIST, however, had a profound effect on the organization. First, Detlev Rohwedder, President of the Förderverein beginning in 1987,

was tragically assassinated in 1991 in his Düsseldorf home by a Red Army terrorist group. He had been head of Hoesh AG, the fourth largest steel company in Germany. He had been appointed by Chancellor Kohl to head the government agency in charge of privatizing East German industries following the reunification of East and West Germany. His daughter Caecilie had attended the Orme School (1984/85).

Second, in April of 1993, Klaus Piltz, president of the Förderverein at the time, and two of his children, Klaus, Jr. (Hebron Academy, 1991/92) and Ute (Northfield Mount Hermon School, 1989/90) and a family friend, Ansgar Rumler (South Kent, 1987/88), were tragically killed in an avalanche in the Austrian Alps.

In 1990, discussions were begun, led by Ken Lindfors and John Buxton, then Chairman of the Board, to establish a branch office of ASSIST which would outline more formally the parameters of the relationship between ASSIST Germany and the home office.



ASSIST USA with German office staff: Michelle Stokien, Irene Wächter, Paul Sanderson and Heide Tobben



Gisela and Jürgen Heidgen

On November 16, 1990, the Board voted that this recommendation be adopted as of January 1, 1991. ASSIST owes deep gratitude to John Buxton for his efforts in making this change a reality.

In the early 1990s, a group of German scholars decided to remain in touch after their year with ASSIST, and their first task was to develop an alumni directory, which came to fruition in 1993. They were led by Kai Thürbach (St. Andrew's-Sewanee, 1990/91) and Antje Klever (Ethel Walker School, 1990/91). The directory was dedicated to Klaus Piltz. The phrase "Res Nostra" was printed on the last pages of the directory, as it was "the motto in the many night sessions it took to complete the book," according to Kai. The team included Alexander Gruhl (Dublin School), Christian Niegel (Asheville School), Dorothea Meier (St. Paul's School), Sabine Wiedenmann (Webb School), Stefan Schultes-Schnitzlein (Webb School), and Valerie Zech (Stoneleigh Burnham School), all from the ASSIST class of 1990/91.

Jürgen and Gisela Heidgen have been married since 1967, the year before Paul Sanderson traveled to Germany and established a program called ASSIST. Jürgen began his career as a banker (Deutsche Bank) from 1957 to 1965, during which time he spent six months as a trainee in San Francisco and subsequently traveled throughout the U.S. for six weeks. He then moved to Ford Motor Company where he joined their Credit Bank. In 1977, his family moved to the UK, where he had management assignments in the treasurers' offices of Ford of Britain and Ford of Europe. Jürgen repeatedly had business trips in the United States when he was a Ford manager. In 1993 he took advantage of an early retirement program, to the great benefit of ASSIST.

Gisela has had professional experience, also at the Deutsche Bank and in the editorial office (for contemporary literature) of the WDR Broadcasting Company in Cologne.

Gisela and Jürgen joined ASSIST in the autumn of 1993 and led the German office for seven years. They especially remember how valuable was the support of the Wiedenmann girls, "one after the other: Sabine, Helen, Caroline, and Nora!" As loyal and dedicated leaders of ASSIST, they built a superb organization and remained in charge until 2000. They left ASSIST Germany and joined the ASSIST Förderverein, remaining on that Board together until 2006 when Gisela resigned. Jürgen then became chairman and remained in that position until 2008.



R.P. Thurbach, ASSIST Förderverein,
with son Kai,
St. Andrew's Sewanee School '91

THIS YEAR HAS GONE BY
SURPRISINGLY FAST, AND I
AM AMAZED BY HOW MUCH I
LEARNED AND HOW MANY NEW
AND INTERESTING PEOPLE I GOT
TO KNOW AND LOVE. I FEEL LIKE
I REALLY DO HAVE A SECOND
HOME NOW – WHICH I WOULD
NEVER HAVE EXPECTED. I WANT
TO JUST TAKE EVERYTHING I
LEARNED – ALL THE PEOPLE,
MEMORIES, AND MOMENTS –
PUT THEM IN A JAR, AND TAKE
THEM WITH ME. I WISH I COULD
TAKE BACK TIME AND JUST LIVE
THROUGH THE YEAR AGAIN.

ASSIST Scholar

According to Gisela Heidgen, more alumni continued the effort in 1996: Katharina Greulich (Hotchkiss School, 1993/94), George Langenberg (Indian Springs School, 1993/94), Britta Sieper (Baylor School, 1993/94), Anders Lundgren (Lake Forest Academy, 1995/96), Andreas Kessell (McCallie School, 1993/94), Jens Dargel (White Mountain School, 1992/93), and Joon-Mo Lee (Wyoming Seminary, 1993/94).

In addition, Alumni supported ASSIST in the following ways:

- Assistance in orientation seminars for students before departure
- Representation at youth fairs
- Introduction of "Future Talks" by older alumni about their start in their professional lives
- Assistance in preparation of the 25th anniversary celebration in Cologne in 1994
- Organization of social and sports events
- Introduction of a web site, newsletters, and a chat room
- Formation of regional groups for recruitment of students
- Support of communication among and coordination of ASSIST alumni in Germany

In later years, Sean Harris (St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, 1994/95) was a particularly loyal supporter of the alumni movement. He participated in many youth fairs as alumni representative, and was instrumental in developing the Res Nostra regional groups. After some years of strong participation as a member and then officer of the ASSIST Förderverein, Sean was elected to the Board of ASSIST in 2008.



Daniel Rheinbay, South Kent School '04, with Gisela Heidgen and Sean Harris

In 2001, Jürgen Heidgen became Res Nostra's Honorary President, a role that was not in title only. It included undertaking their annual audit!

OTHER EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE

In 1999, Ylva Nord, a guidance counselor at a Stockholm secondary school, took over from Kristina Nyberg and continues to be the ASSIST Sweden representative to this day. Ylva brings notable USA-Sweden experience to her responsibilities. Although some of her elementary school, secondary school, and college education was in the USA, she earned both her Gymnasium and university diplomas in Sweden. Ylva met her American husband, Dick, then an undergraduate, when her father was teaching at Cornell University. One of her three children spent a year in Iowa as a high school exchange student. Her daughter graduated from Macalester College in Minnesota. ASSIST Sweden continues to be in excellent hands.

In 1987, Patti Burk came to work as office manager for Ken and Betsy and was their faithful colleague for 12 of the next 13 years. Debbie Despres also provided excellent support as office manager in year 13.

In 1993, approximately one-half of the full scholarships offered were awarded to students from former Soviet bloc nations.

Hungarian National Television presented four 50-minute programs focusing on Hungarian ASSIST students attending Hebron Academy, Northfield Mount Hermon School, St. Paul's School, and Williston Northampton School during the 1992/93 school year.

In October 1994, ASSIST Germany celebrated the 25th anniversary of the organization in Cologne, with nearly 300 persons in attendance, including Ken and Betsy Lindfors and seven Directors, all happily housed in the Dom Hotel. Horst Berl was the General Manager of the hotel and the parent of a former ASSIST student (Andreas, Dublin School, 1989/90). Alumni Matthias Lilienthal (St. Andrew's School, 1986/87) and Sonja Groebel Stuchtey (Canterbury School, 1987/88) had sent out a questionnaire asking for expressions of interest in such an event. The 25th anniversary event included a dinner dance, speeches, and great spirit.

In 1995, Bruno Schiefer left the Board of ASSIST, as he and his wife Dagmar had set up an organization for German students to attend independent schools in the United States. At the May 1995 meeting, he reminisced, referring to himself as the "original junior woodchuck" of Paul Sanderson. In 1998, Sandy Roeser joined Bruno in his endeavor and likewise resigned from

the Board. The two Sandys had been together at the start.

In 1996, John Buxton announced his retirement from his position as Board Chair, having completed eight years of admirable service to the progress and future of ASSIST. Ken described him as "a thoughtful, stabilizing influence and a very effective leader." His successor, Jack Tyrer, began his tenure in May of that year.

In October 1996, Ken reported gifts received of \$181,000 for the 25th Anniversary Campaign. He also announced that the Barnes Foundation had made a pledge of

\$15,000 in support of the Paul G. Sanderson, Jr. Fund, to underwrite Americans traveling abroad, bringing the total of this fund to \$100,000. The Barnes Foundation has been a long and consistent supporter of ASSIST to this day. Betty Barnes, former trustee of Suffield Academy, served for 13 years as a very active member of the ASSIST Board.

In the May 1999 minutes of the Board meeting, it was reported that George Soros had ordered an internal review of exchange initia-

tives funded by the Soros Foundation. Clearly, it would not be long before ASSIST would need to consider its future in central and eastern Europe, as a shift of priorities could be predicted.

Jürgen and Gisela Heidgen announced their intention to retire effective July 1, 2000, after seven years of devoted service. They had clearly transformed ASSIST Germany.



Director Emerita Betty Barnes

In October 1994, ASSIST Germany celebrated the 25th anniversary of the organization in Cologne, with nearly 300 persons in attendance.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET AWAY FROM HIS OR HER LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD. EVERYONE NEEDS TO TRAVEL AND LOOK BACK ON HIS OR HER CORNER WITH DIFFERENT EYES. I HAVE NOW SEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES THAT HAVE NURTURED MY LIFE EXPERIENCE.

ASSIST Scholar

"I'M JUST A TEENAGER FROM A SMALL COUNTRY, BUT WITH MY FRIENDS I KEEP IN MY HEART PIECES OF THE WHOLE WORLD."

ASSIST Scholar



"When Pfc. John (Jack) Tyrer was called into the presence of a placement officer in Erlangen, Germany, in June, 1946, he was surprised to hear: "Private Tyrer, you have had two-and-a-half years of college. I don't want to put you just anywhere. What would you like to do?" Jack thought to himself: "This is the Army?" But he was quick to take advantage of the thoughtfulness of this officer. "Well, sir, I am considering the ministry, and so I would like to be a Chaplain's assistant." "Being granted that opportunity opened his eyes to the rest of the world beyond New England, where he had grown up. As the assistant to a chaplain he had helped reach out in many ways to and enjoyed the friendship of many Germans, including through organizing and directing a choir composed of both Americans and Germans. When he headed back to Bowdoin College one year later, he knew that his life had changed. Once he finished college, he accepted the challenge of a position as a hall master/teacher/coach/mentor in a boarding school – Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts. He saw that as a mission not particular to, but not unrelated to, an established church. He became immersed in such a mission and in what young people can learn about themselves and others under the dedicated faculties and families of such schools. This led to a 43-year career in independent boarding schools, including The Hill School (PA) and as Headmaster of Asheville School (NC). At Asheville he was responsible for the introduction of coeducation, as well as the exchange program sponsored by the English-Speaking Union. And when Sandy Sanderson introduced ASSIST to a handful of schools, Asheville was quick to accept. In the course of a career, and after earning a masters degree at Middlebury College, Jack served as chairman of the Boarding School Committee of NAIS, the Exchange Committee of English-Speaking Union, the Southern Association of Independent Schools, and other such organizations dedicated to outreach. In the spring of 1992, as he was anticipating the pleasures of a retirement free from commitments, he received a phone call from one Woody Rutter, who said that he had been empowered to invite Jack to join the ASSIST Board. Jack's reaction: "But I am retiring." Woody's response: "Now you'll have time for ASSIST." And that was the beginning of a special relationship, which has been the ultimate culmination of the mission that so subtly touched Pfc. Tyrer in 1946 and imbued his life and career with the proverbial pride and joy. He took particular joy in the collegiality of the members of the ASSIST Board, particularly as it took on new challenges that, while consistent with the ASSIST mission, were not always seen as attainable. Probably his proudest moment was when the Board agreed that in every respect Bob and Anne Stanley would be the obvious inheritors of the great leadership models of Ken and Betsy Lindfors." (Written by Jack Tyrer)

Jack led the Board as chair from 1996 until 2005.

THE TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP

In the spring of 1999, Ken and Betsy Lindfors announced that 1999/00 would be their final year as president and vice president, respectively, of ASSIST. Ken wrote the following letter to Chairman Tyrer:

Dear Jack,

This has been an agonizing decision for us. We love what we do, and we can not think of anything that we have done in our lives that has meant more to us, both personally and professionally. Over these years we have come to admire and feel great affection for the many young people, adults and schools who give ASSIST its life and meaning, both here and abroad. I must say, too, that we feel especially lucky that you and so many members of this extraordinary Board have offered us your friendship as well as your leadership.

But the decision to leave next year and to move on to another chapter in our lives has a rightness to it. I believe that I have had ample time to make my contribution to ASSIST, as has Betsy, and that a new person should guide ASSIST into the first decade of the 21st century.

Betsy and I recognize that in an organization as small and personal as this one a change in leadership can be unsettling and can result in a period of uncertainty. This being the case, we believe that the change should come when ASSIST is as stable as possible, and when there is a relative lull in the organization's ongoing evolution. We believe that this is such a time.

As you know, over the past 12 years we have accomplished a great deal together by concentrating on doing a few things well -

most notably, perhaps, establishing a close working relationship with the Soros Foundation that has allowed us to effectively expand ASSIST into eastern and central Europe; identifying and supporting strong leaders in Australia and western Europe, and most notably in Germany; creating opportunities for American students to have viable and valuable educational experiences abroad in Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, and Spain; achieving very important financial strength and stability through successful fundraising efforts and careful management of ASSIST's resources; refining an orientation program that has clearly helped many students get off to solid beginnings; staying in close touch with our students and schools in a very deliberate way; and enlarging the membership of an increasingly active and effective ASSIST Board. Although there is always a significant degree of fragileness to what we do, ASSIST is in good health at this point in time.

My successor, then, will find an organization that Paul Sanderson first brought to life 30 years ago in a wonderfully visionary way and that has gained in strength, confidence, and stature over these years due to the efforts of many, many good people. It will be with great pride in ASSIST, then, and all that it stands for, that I shall turn over leadership of ASSIST to my successor.

I want you to know that Betsy and I are looking forward to our continuing work with you and members of the Board with great anticipation. We want to have a strong finish and want to contribute to an orderly and very helpful process of transition as we all work to nurture in every way the special opportunities offered by this wonderful program.

Sincerely, Ken

Jack replied, in part, with the following words:

Much can be said about the superb job that you have both done for ASSIST, but for now I will simply state this: you came to ASSIST at exactly the right time; through your energy and vision you brought our schools to envision for themselves the benefits to their students of being a part of the world community; and by your own examples you have shown hundreds of young people from around the world the open hearts that may be the most important memory they will have of Americans.

For the ASSIST Board and all the students and schools you and Betsy have reached, I convey our most profound thanks.

Very sincerely, Jack



Ken Lindfors



Gesa Bernhardt, Cranbrook Schools '02, Henning Hüsch, South Kent School '02, and Katharina Kluschat, Master's School '05, in Cologne

OVER THE YEARS I'VE BEEN HEADMASTER, OUR ASSIST STUDENTS HAVE MORE DRAMATICALLY AFFECTED THE STUDENT BODY OF OUR SCHOOL THAN HAS ANY OTHER GROUP OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS. THE ASSIST PROGRAM BRINGS HOME THE SHRINKING SIZE OF OUR WORLD; THE VITALITY, THE CREATIVITY AND DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST IN OTHER CULTURES; AND THE FACT THAT AT THE CORE OF ALL HUMAN ASPIRATION LIE COMMON HOPES AND DREAMS.

Headmaster of an ASSIST School



Betsy Lindfors and Director Diane Proctor

I DECIDED TO BECOME PART OF THE SPRING MUSICAL. EVEN THOUGH IT ASKED FOR A LOT OF FREE TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING WEEKENDS, AND IN THE END (WE HAD A PRODUCTION WEEK CALLED "HELL WEEK" BECAUSE REHEARSALS GO EVERY NIGHT FROM SIX TO TEN AFTER SPORTS), I WILL NEVER REGRET MY DECISION. IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. DURING THE WHOLE PROCESS OF REHEARSALS, STAGE BUILDING, AND INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES THE SHOW CREW BECAME A TIGHT GROUP OF AMBITIOUS STUDENTS WHO WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A UNIQUE SHOW. WE SUPPORTED AND IMPROVED EACH OTHER AND I DID NOT ONLY HAVE A LOT OF FUN, BUT I ALSO IMPROVED MY COMMUNICATION WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND GOT TO KNOW MORE STUDENTS FROM OTHER GRADES.

ASSIST Scholar

In his final report in May, Ken included a snapshot of enrollment in the program with a comparative history during his tenure.

The ASSIST Class of 2000/01 has taken form. Here is how we look this year, with some comparative data:

	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Schools	69	74	82	77	75	73	75	79	80	80	79	77	78	79
Full Scholarships	48	63	72	75	66	65	67	72	74	73	77	72	74	77
Partial Scholarships	89	65	67	67	73	73	73	73	76	78	72	74	72	67
Full Payers	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	139	129	142	142	139	138	140	145	150	151	149	146	146	144



Ken & Betsy Lindfors



Anne Stanley, Ken Lindfors and Bob Stanley

Enrollment History from Ken Lindfors' Last Report

1997/98		1998/99		1999/00		2000/01	
Australia	2	Australia	2	Australia	2	Albania*	5
Austria	1	Bulgaria	6	Bulgaria	6	Australia	3
Czech R.	7	Czech R.	6	Croatia	4	Bosnia*	5
Estonia	5	Estonia	6	Czech R.	9	Bulgaria	5
Germany	83	Germany	82	Estonia	5	Croatia	5
Hungary	8	Hungary	4	Germany	90	Germany	85
Latvia	7	Latvia	6	Latvia	6	Macedonia*	5
Lithuania	8	Lithuania	7	Lithuania	6	Moldova*	3
Netherlands	1	Romania	5	Romania	6	Netherlands	1
Romania	6	Slovakia	7	Slovakia	6	Romania	5
Slovakia	6	Spain	11	Spain	6	Slovakia	7
Spain	10	Sweden	4			Spain	8

* New Countries in 2000-01

SOPHIE, WHAT A JOY IT WAS TO BE YOUR TEACHER THIS YEAR! NOT ONLY ARE YOU ARTICULATE, THOROUGH, COMPREHENSIVE, AND ANALYTICAL, BUT ALSO FUNNY, APPROACHABLE, AND INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS. IN MY YEARS OF TEACHING, FEW STUDENTS HAVE IMPRESSED ME AS YOU HAVE. ALTHOUGH YOU WERE AWAY FROM HOME, MISSING YOUR ROUTINE, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE WORKING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, YOU EXCELLED IN UNPARALLELED WAYS. I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF YOUR WORK, AND I AM GRATEFUL THAT AS I STARTED MY CAREER AT PDS, I ENCOUNTERED STUDENTS LIKE YOU WHO STRENGTHENED MY COMMITMENT TO TEACHING.

Teacher at an ASSIST School

Finally, at Ken's last meeting, he indicated that he and Betsy would try to be helpful to Bob and Anne Stanley in the days ahead, without falling into the dangerous trap of providing lots of advice. Socrates, he noted, "spent a lot of time going around giving advice to the Athenians; I am quite aware of what happened to him." But Bob Stanley was not to release them quite so easily.

The ASSIST Board looked to the future with full confidence that the warmth and humor of the Lindfors would continue to be an essential part of the leadership of ASSIST.

Sophie, what a joy it was to be your teacher this year! Not only are you articulate, thorough, comprehensive, and also funny, approachable, and intellectually curious. In my years of teaching, few students have impressed me as you have. Although you were away from home, missing your routine, foreign language, and despite the fact that you were working at PDS, I encountered students like you who were committed to teaching and I am grateful that you were in a position to do so. You excelled in unparalleled ways. I am proud of your work, and I am grateful that you were in a position to do so. You excelled in unparalleled ways. I am proud of your work, and I am grateful that you were in a position to do so.

We must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures, it is our gift to each other. We have that gift... ASSIST does... We promote that gift in all we do... year after year... day in and day out... student by student... school community by school community... We promote the gift of peace. That is the hope of all nations and we are part of it.

—Jack Eidam

Danke schön



one heart



After graduating from Suffield Academy, **Bob Stanley** earned his A.B. in English and American Literature from Brown University. He then spent four years in the corporate world with May Department Stores Co. at their G. Fox division in Hartford, Connecticut. In September 1987, he joined the faculty at Suffield and taught English and technology, coached football and ice hockey, was a dorm parent for ten years, and managed administrative responsibilities ranging from admissions to development to publications to technology to his last post as dean of students, spending a total of 13 years on the faculty. Along the way he earned an M.A.R. degree in Religion at Yale University Divinity School. It is interesting to note that, as the president of his freshman class, Bob learned a great deal from Headmaster Paul Sanderson. He was also advised on his course load by Director of Studies Ken Lindfors. He has been president of ASSIST since August 1, 2000.

Anne Stanley is a graduate of Syracuse University. She and Bob met as fellow executives at G. Fox. Anne worked at Ethel Walker School as director of admissions, followed by employment at Suffield Academy with admissions and college counseling responsibilities. She has been vice president of ASSIST since 2000. She and Bob have two daughters, Olivia and Jordan, both of whom regularly attend the ASSIST orientation and are the youngest participants in the annual group photo.



THE STANLEY YEARS 2000 - to the Present

When Ken and Betsy Lindfors announced that they would retire following the 1999/00 academic year, the search firm of Carney, Sandoe & Associates was engaged to manage a national search to identify candidates for the search committee, led by John Buxton. By January of 2000, the field had been narrowed to four candidates. Emerging from this process came the appointment of Bob Stanley as the third president of ASSIST. That summer, the offices were moved back to Suffield, Connecticut, and the Stanley years began. Bob appointed Anne Stanley as vice president and Kristen Sullivan as program coordinator. Ken and Betsy Lindfors remained important parts of the ASSIST team, working closely with the Stanleys to support and advise them. Both Ken and Betsy are tireless in their support for ASSIST to this day, traveling for the organization to visit schools and to interview abroad, serving on the orientation staff, and attending Board meetings. This unusual relationship has been of enormous strength to ASSIST and is successful owing to the dedication of both Ken and Betsy to the leadership of Bob and Anne.

It should be noted that the events of September 11, 2001, had important consequences upon the work of ASSIST. Bob



Martin Reindl, St. Mark's School of Texas '09,
Germany, and Olivia Stanley



Director Jack Eidam

Stanley wrote the following words to the Board at the end of September 2001:

"It is clear that the outcomes and implications of these attacks can not be known at this time. As we sort through the implications for ourselves personally and as a nation, we are also sorting out what this means for ASSIST as an organization. For instance, will parents be less likely to encourage their children to apply for ASSIST scholarships next year? Are there continued worries about the safety of national and international travel? Will student visas be granted less frequently?"

Bob continued his report with his typically optimistic view." As we see the outpouring of support from all parts of the world, and as people understand that this is both an American and international event, we can be stirred and optimistic about the good that might come from evil circumstances. This tragedy has brought opportunity for constructive change and new friendships. What would be most tragic about the loss of life would be that nothing substantial came of it, or that fear rules our lives...ASSIST's own deliberations should match in part what is occurring nationally. As an international organization that seeks to foster a more peaceful world, what role could we play to combat the broken relationships that lead to calamities like these terrorist attacks?"

Additionally, at the September Board meeting in 2001, Director Jack Eidam, director of admission and international and summer programs at Wyoming Seminary and unofficial chaplain of the ASSIST Board, shared the following thoughts with his colleagues:

The events of September 11, 2001 will be marked in our minds forever:

- *The unimaginable image of jet liners exploding through the Trade Center.*
- *The Hollywood-like collapse of the world's symbols of might and independence and freedom.*
- *People leaping to their deaths from tens of stories above the ground.*
- *Faces filled with fear and astonishment and bewilderment.*
- *The amoeba-like cloud of dust, smoke and debris that rushed across Lower Manhattan.*

But then in contrast, we witnessed:

- *Out-reaching hands – one stranger to another – in ways that America has not seen for a while.*
- *Grown men embracing in support.*
- *People genuinely committed to doing good.*
- *A world united in common cause.*
- *A country that feels a new sense of unity and pride.*
- *A government that rallies for its people.*
- *Generosity in terms of service and resources beyond belief – hundreds of millions of dollars of charitable giving.*
- *A city known for its cynicism and arrogance turning to love and compassion and courage.*

The images that occupy our minds are contrasting. The feelings and thoughts they generate become all jumbled up and confused. In the face of it, we must focus on the hope that good will conquer evil and love will overpower hate.

Later in his remarks Jack said the following: *We heard the words of the Romanian scholar, Elie Wiesel:*

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to respond to it. None of us is in a position to eliminate war, but it is our obligation to denounce it and expose it in all of its hideousness... Mankind needs peace more than ever, for our entire planet, threatened by nuclear war and unthinkable violence, is in danger of total destruction... And that is a destruction only man can provoke... only man can prevent."

We must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures, it is our gift to each other. We have that gift... ASSIST does... We promote that gift in all we do... year after year... day in and day out... student by student... school community by school community... We promote the gift of peace. That is the hope of all nations and we are part of it.

It is our mission: to provide all those touched by ASSIST with cross cultural experiences, friendships, skills, and understanding that will enable them to grow and to be effective and responsible contributors to a more peaceful world."

The Board and ASSIST's leadership accepted the challenge. Despite depressed numbers in the pool of candidates and significant economic and other concerns, 136 ASSIST scholars enrolled for the 2002/03 academic year, a tribute to the power of the ASSIST mission and to the inspired work of the ASSIST staff around the world.

THE SOROS TRANSITION

As recorded in the Board minutes in May of 2000, Ken Lindfors warned that the Soros funding was going to be curtailed, and he set the stage for an issue that occupies Bob Stanley to this day. If the Soros Foundation were to withdraw, students would need funding from other sources to support travel and spending money, as well as the ASSIST program fee. In addition, ASSIST would need to cover costs related to program promotion, prescreening, interviewing and selection, orientation, and ongoing support throughout the placement year. The minutes from

that meeting included the following prescient words: "Since anything that happens at the Soros Foundation could have implications for ASSIST, we will have to monitor this closely." At the same time the following resolution was passed by the Board:

"The contacts ASSIST has made in Eastern Europe have enhanced the ASSIST program, and it is a goal of ASSIST to continue to be a

presence in this part of the world."

This provided a significant challenge for ASSIST: to develop fundraising opportunities. Bob Stanley recognized the importance of that motion for the future direction of his leadership. He was to work closely with Eva Zorandy, long-time leader at the Soros Foundation in New York, to move toward a transition into the new era for ASSIST.

IT HAS BEEN A TERRIFIC PLEASURE TO GET TO KNOW DENNIS THIS YEAR AT WOODBERRY. HE IS A GOOD SCHOLAR, AN EXCELLENT ATHLETE, AND A FINE HUMAN BEING. HE HAD A PERFECT ASSIST YEAR AND REPRESENTED HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS COUNTRY WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR.

Teacher at an ASSIST School



The prom at Wyoming Seminary, spring 2006: Marina Csermely, Hungary, Director Jack Eidam, Charlotte Stieda, Germany, Anna von Lenthe, Germany, and Felix Schaaf, Germany.



Carolin Fretschner '08 meets Christine Lagarde, Finance Minister of France, both Holton-Arms exchange students

CHRISTINA IS ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXCHANGE STUDENTS THE ACADEMY HAS EVER HAD, TRULY! SHE HAS JUMPED INTO THIS SCHOOL'S CULTURE AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ALL IT HAS TO OFFER: TEAM SPORTS, MODEL UN, MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS, DANCES, DIVERSITY DAY, CHORUS, PLAY PERFORMANCES...THE LIST KEEPS GOING ON AND ON! CHRISTINA HAS A WONDERFUL OUTLOOK ON LIFE, POSITIVE AND HAPPY. SHE IS ALSO A TRUE SCHOLAR, ORGANIZED, THOUGHTFUL, AND CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE, YET BALANCING HER LIFE AS WELL. SHE HAS GIVEN THE SCHOOL MUCH...AND I WILL MISS HER. SHE IS A WONDERFUL YOUNG WOMAN WHO SETS THE BAR HIGH AND ENGAGES ALL WHO MEET HER. WHAT A PLEASURE TO KNOW HER!

Teacher at an ASSIST School

After 14 successful years, the direct collaboration of ASSIST and the Soros Foundation ended in accordance with Mr. Soros' philanthropic philosophy: he initiates programs and helps them to thrive, after which he expects the sustaining funding to emanate from local sources that benefit from the projects. The decision was made by the Foundation to shift priorities away from secondary education. As a result, ASSIST, under the direction of Bob Stanley, reorganized the process of selection in a number of the Soros-supported countries where on-site leaders were willing to continue the work. By the school year 2004/05, the Foundation's support had been fully withdrawn, and ASSIST inherited a fundraising challenge of approximately \$6,000 per student. The Board and administration had entered the "post-Soros" era. The goal was to maintain the same census of scholars from eastern and central Europe by putting a directly-managed organization in place in each country and by securing funding for each scholar. This successful transition was a major challenge and accomplishment of the Board and staff in the years to come.

Over the Soros/ASSIST years, there were 473 ASSIST scholars – from Hungary (starting in 1990), Lithuania (1992), Latvia (1993), Bulgaria (1993), Romania (1992), the Czech Republic (1994), Slovakia (1995), Estonia (1997), Croatia (1999), Bosnia-Herzegovina (2000), Macedonia (2000), Albania (2000), Moldova (2000), and Azerbaijan (2001).

The departure of Soros provided a significant challenge for ASSIST: to develop the fund-raising capability to secure

sponsorships that would continue to support the participation of these excellent scholars. In the first years, several leadership donors stepped forward to express faith in the work, and ASSIST used part of its reserve funds to maintain a robust presence in the region. For the 2006/07 academic year, ASSIST succeeded, for the first time since its partnership with the Soros Foundation, in securing philanthropic funding for each student coming from the region.

In 2008, the eastern and central European initiatives are active and successful in Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, and Slovakia. Four persons continue from the Soros days as ASSIST representatives: Lydia

Dachkova in Bulgaria, Vesna Puhovski in Croatia, Zdenka Almerová in the Czech Republic, and Iulia Moldovan in Moldova. Each has found time to lead the ASSIST initiative while engaged in full-time work: Lydia is the executive director of the Bulgarian Reading Association, ably assisted by Rumena Dimitrova; Vesna is the executive director of the Forum for Freedom in Education, with a strong partner in Mario Bajkusa, who became involved for his civil service commitment and

continues to this day; Zdenka is the chief financial officer for the Open Society Fund Prague and has been a pioneer in sustaining the program and in securing new funding; and Iulia is executive director of the National High School Debate League and director of the Youth Development Centre, while Adrian Catan assists her with all of these programs. The leadership and unstinting devotion of this group of colleagues kept the programs alive and vibrant while funding was secured.

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In addition, Katarina Krizková, a graduate of the Faculty of Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava, is the ASSIST regional coordinator for Slovakia and Austria. She has worked for the Open Society since 1999. Elena Smolinska preceded her in her ASSIST role and now is Program Manager for the Open Society. In Hungary, Andrea Pordán, whose daughter Dora is an ASSIST alumna (Wyoming Seminary, PA, 2003/4), assumed leadership responsibilities during the 2007/08 academic year. She is a teacher of English Language and Literature. ASSIST returned to Lithuania in 2005 with the sponsorship of the Kazickas Family Foundation. Zenonas Bedalis, the executive director of the Foundation in Lithuania, coordinates the scholarship competition on behalf of the Foundation and ASSIST.

As mentioned earlier, part of the success of ASSIST's ongoing work in eastern and central Europe has been our continued collaboration with the HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) Projects in the UK. Also previously funded by the Soros Foundation, HMC and ASSIST continue to work together in five countries, allowing candidates to express preferences for the country in which they wish to study. During this era, HMC benefitted from the strong leadership of Roger Wicks, Patrick Tobin, Robin Schlich and Robin Hildrew. Along with numerous other volunteer colleagues, they joined with ASSIST representatives to form a warm and effective partnership between two organizations that share so many ideals and goals.

REPORT FROM GERMANY

It should be noted that the ASSIST Förderverein has also provided advisory and financial support to initiatives that have

brought American students and teachers from ASSIST member schools to Germany during the summer months for enriching educational and cultural experiences.

Most important, Hartmut Wiedenmann announced at the time of the 35th anniversary of ASSIST that 228 German students had received financial aid from the Förderverein, totaling \$650,000. This very generous support has enabled ASSIST to offer life-changing opportunities to many deserving young people in Germany, regardless of their financial circumstances. The Förderverein in Germany is a critical part of the ASSIST story.

In 2004 Rosemarie Wegner assumed the full leadership of ASSIST's work in Germany, and she has been aided by a loyal and hardworking group of alumni. Res Nostra, the German Alumni Association, has been active in recruiting succeeding generations of German candidates, establishing regional groups focusing on major cities, sustaining regular contact through the ASSIST Germany web site, and working to promote their experiences in their communities. Sean Harris (St. Andrew's-Sewanee, 1994/95) worked with Rosemarie in 2004 and 2005, focusing on recruitment and alumni work. As mentioned earlier, in 2008, Sean became the second alumnus elected to the Board of Directors of ASSIST.

When Hartmut Wiedenmann stepped down as chair of the ASSIST Förderverein in 2005, after a remarkable



Jürgen and Rosemarie Wegner



Rosemarie Wegner with Dick Hall



John Faylor

and successful leadership tenure, Jürgen Heidgen was elected the organization's new chair. He was joined on the Board by Vice Chair John Faylor, who has been ASSIST's legal champion for over a generation, and who was able to persuade his firm to make ASSIST a pro bono client. At the same time, Sean Harris became treasurer. Working together and with the membership, the organization changed its by-laws to allow ASSIST and the ASSIST Förderverein to undertake joint fundraising within Germany. Gifts made would benefit both organizations and would be tax deductible.

Another joint initiative of the Förderverein and Bob Stanley was to seek ASSIST's first-ever director of alumni relations. The first person appointed to this position was Eleanore Boyse, who took up her duties in the spring of 2008.

During the Stanley years, interest from our schools for German ASSIST students decreased, and one could say that it was ASSIST's historic success in Germany that played a role in this trend. As schools received dynamic and appealing German students through ASSIST, they began to recruit in the country directly. Over the course of time, they were able to attract talented students whose parents could afford to pay the full tuition. Another factor was the gradual change, state by state, to a 12-year school system, which discouraged students from taking their exchange year in the 11th grade, the grade preferred by American schools. Finally, the member

During the Stanley years, interest from our schools for German ASSIST students decreased, and one could say that it was ASSIST's historic success in Germany that played a role in this trend.

schools asked ASSIST to seek students from a wider geographical region, extending beyond western Europe.

ASSIST established a presence in Austria, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Vietnam in the Stanley years. China rejoined in 2006 after a 17-year hiatus, in large part thanks to the efforts of ASSIST Director and alumnus Yi-ming Yang.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

During the first eight years of Bob's tenure, two long range plans were produced, the first in 2002 under the leadership of Dick

Hall and the second in 2004 with Peter Hursh, former host parent (Erik Segerborg, Sweden, 2002/03), and former trustee of Wildwood School, CA, leading. In 2008, a Board retreat was held to identify the issues that would continue to challenge ASSIST.

In 2002, a major goal of the Board was to attain a more visible position of leadership in the independent school world and to be established in schools as an essential part of their programs. In addition, marketing to non-school constituencies was emphasized. It was

confirmed that ASSIST'S presence in central and eastern European would continue, and that financial stability would be a priority, given a limited resource base.

In the minutes of the Board meeting of April 2004, the following issues were noted as strategic challenges that would be addressed:

- Sustainability of future financial plans
- Right size and staff for the program

- **Germany and diversification: threats and opportunities**
- **Right balance of our various scholarship programs and how this relates to the market**

In addition, the Board wondered how the new NAIS Global Initiatives program would affect the future of ASSIST.

Beginning in 2004, the Hursh-led Long Range Planning initiative proposed three goals for ASSIST and for each of its Board committees. Following each goal are examples of progress made on each objective.

- **Measured growth**
 - In 2000, there were 78 member schools, rising to 88 in 2008
- **Increased voluntarism, modeled by the hugely significant volunteer service of Ken Lindfors throughout the Stanley years, in addition to Betsy's endless hours working for ASSIST**
 - Woody Rutter's extensive work following his retirement from Beaufort Academy
 - The ASSIST Chapters in Washington under the leadership of Director Cathy Tinsley (former president of the Parents Association, Washington International School, DC), in Chicago directed by Dale Wentz (Director of Admission and Financial Aid at North Shore Country Day School, IL), in New York under the direction of alumna Helis Zulijani (Croatia; Cranbrook Schools 1999/00). In November 2008, Peter Hursh organized the first meeting of scholars and schools for a chapter in Los Angeles.

- Active alumni club in London, led by Yizhou Ren (Taft, 2004/05)

▪ **Emerging Leadership in the field of international exchange**

- Increased visibility within the independent school world, with a reputation for consistent excellence– For our schools, presence in non-traditional parts of the world in eastern and central Europe, China, Vietnam (Skip Mattoon, former Head of School at Hotchkiss School, CT, has been leading a committee to examine which areas of the world ASSIST should consider for future expansion)
- An emerging presence in the Middle East through collaboration with Seeds of Peace
- Formal investigation of a return to Africa

AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR, WE VOTE TO COMMEND CERTAIN STUDENTS IN EACH FORM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING OVERALL PERFORMANCE. NICO IS ONE OF THE STUDENTS CHOSEN TO BE COMMENDED FROM HIS FORM. THE WORDING OF THE COMMENDATION IS "IN RECOGNITION OF OVERALL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, THE SALISBURY SCHOOL FACULTY IS PLEASED TO HONOR NICHOLAS WITH COMMENDATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR, 2007-2008." CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESS HERE, NICO!

Teacher at an ASSIST School

AMERICANS ABROAD

Director Julie Hall (former head of school at North Shore Country Day School, IL) and her Americans Abroad Committee inspired the first summer program for teachers, organized in 2001: European Unity, in Brussels. The program continued for the following six years, involving 10 to 15 teachers from ASSIST member schools each summer. Directors Dick Hall, Francine Ugeux, and Pamela Thye served as leaders of these seminars at different times during these years, and Belgian friends of



Directors Dale Wentz, Peter Hursh, and Cathy Tinsley



Colin Nimmons
Presenter, Brussels Seminar

ASSIST SEMINAR - JUNE 23-29, 2001

European Unity

PROGRAM

- Saturday, June 23**
- 10.00 Arrival at Brussels Airport, Dick Hall Annick Buck
 - 12.30 Brussels « Scavenger Hunt », Anette Black, Meet in Amigo Lobby
 - 19.00 Dinner: Chez Armand, pick up in Amigo Lobby at 18.55
- Sunday, June 24**
- 09.30 Breakfast: Palais des Beaux-Arts, pick-up at 9.00 in Amigo Lobby
 - 10.00 Presentation, Paul Dujardin
 - 11.00 Concert: « Rising Stars »
 - 12.30 Lunch: Zavel in the Sablon
 - 14.00 Meet with Colin Nimmons at the Sablon Church
 - « Cultural Cross Roads of Europe » a walking tour
 - 17.00 Generation Europe, Catie Thorburn, meet in Amigo Lobby
- Monday, June 25**
- 08.00 Depart for ISB by public transportation (bus 95 from La Bourse to Boitsfort)
 - 09.00 Lecture: « European Unity: Myth or reality », Lode Beckers
 - 10.15 Lecture: « The Euro and the US \$ », George's Ugeux
 - Dialogue between George's Ugeux and Lode Beckers
 - 11.15 Tour of the International School of Brussels, Richard Hall and Francine Ugeux
 - 12.00 Lunch with European Teachers at ISB, Board Room
 - 13.30 International Schools and their Role, Richard Hall/ Francine Ugeux
 - 14.00 "European Unity: Diverse Educational Systems, Problems and Solutions", Jorgen Olsen
 - 16.00 Leave for US Embassy, Brussels
 - 16.30 Briefing at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, rue Zinner, 13, 100 Brussels
 - « European Unity and its Implications for the United States »
 - 19.00 Dinner: Strofilia; Pick-up at 18.45 in the Amigo Lobby
- Tuesday, June 26**
- 08.20 Pick-up at the Amigo Hotel by NATO bus
 - 09.00 Arrive at NATO Headquarters - Welcome
 - 09.15 Liaison Officers Briefings
 - 10.15 Break
 - 10.30 Briefing on European Security Issues
 - 11.30 Meeting with Representative of the US Mission to NATO
 - 12.30 Lunch to NATO
 - 13.45 Return to ISB with NATO bus
 - 14.30 Discussion on NATO day
 - 15.30 Preparation for EU day, in the Elementary School Computer Lab
 - www.europa.eu.int
 - 17.00 Free Time in Boitsfort
 - 19.00 Dinner at ISB: Elementary School Faculty Room

- Wednesday, June 27**
- 08.30 Pick up at the Amigo Lobby for European Commission (Taxi)
 - 09.15 Ms. Kramfort: Reception rue van Maerlant, 2
 - Welcome by Ms. Inge Hjerensen, Information Officer, Priority Visits unit
 - 09.30 Meeting with Mr. Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Head of Commissioner Lamy's cabinet
 - Theme: "formation of the European Union: Comparison to the USA"
 - 10.30 Break
 - 10.45 Meeting with Ms. Nicole Versiip
 - Representative of the Economic and Financial Affairs Directorate-General Theme: "Cooperation in the Field of Education - EU - US Exchange Programmes"
 - 11.30 Break
 - 11.45 Meeting with Mr. Peter Bekx
 - Representative of the Economic and Financial Affairs Directorate-General Theme: "Economic and Monetary Union: the EURO"
 - 12.45 Departure for: Rue d'Arlon, 84 (10 min. walking distance)
 - 13.00 Lunch offered by the Commission at the Restaurant "The Concert Noble" Hosted by Mr. Claus Haugaard Sorensen, Head of Commissioner Nielson's cabinet
 - 14.45 Departure for: Rue de Luxembourg, 46 (10 min. walking distance)
 - 15.00 Meeting with Mr. Richard Lewis
 - Representative of the justice and Home Affairs Directorate-General Theme: "The European Foreign and Security Policy"
 - 15.30 Departure for: Rue Van Maerlant 2 (15 min. walking distance)
 - 16.15 Meeting with Mr. Paul Reiderman
 - Representative of the Press service of the Council of the EU Theme: "The European Foreign and Security Policy"
 - 17.15 Return to Amigo Hotel (taxi)
 - 19.00 Pick up in the Amigo Lobby
 - 20.00 Dinner at the home of Maria and Claus Sorensen
- Thursday, June 28**
- 08.00 Pick-up in the Amigo Lobby, Andrée Jacquet, Guide
 - 08.32 Train to Bruges: « A Medieval Focus for Europe Today »
 - 11.00 Visit to the College of Europe
 - 12.30 Lunch in Bruges
 - 13.30 Continue Bruges visit
 - 19.30 Pick-up in the Amigo Lobby
 - 20.00 Farewell Dinner: Medicis
- Lode Beckers: Former Head of Citibank, Chairman Lobo N.V.
Anette Black: Former ASSIST Representative in Denmark
Annick Buck: Assistant to the Director, International School of Brussels
Paul Dujardin: Managing Director, Brussels Philharmonic Society
Richard P. Hall: Assist Board Vice-Chairman, Director of the International School of Brussels
Andrée Jacquet, Tour Guide, Discover Delgium
Jorgen Olsen: Former Head of the European Schools; Board Chairman of the World International School
Colin Nimmons: Head of High School History Department, International School of Brussels
Claus Sorensen: Head of Commissioner Nielson's Cabinet
Bob Stanley: ASSIST President
Catie Thorburn: President, Generation Europe Foundation
Francine Ugeux: Former Trustee, ISB - Trustee ASSIST
George Ugeux: Group Executive Vice-President, International: New York Stock Exchange
European Teachers: Hélène Boin, Bart Dankaerts, Ena Gieseler, Iannis Leonidakis, Colin Nimmons

ASSIST – Annick Buck, Isabelle Castiaux, Renelde Lambert, Colin Nimmons, and Veronique Wilmot – gave of their time and energy to assure the excellence of the program.

In 2005, ASSIST undertook a seminar in Berlin for teachers under the direction of Rosemarie Wegner, and in 2007 and 2008 a program for faculty was established in Prague through the excellent work of Director Brad Gioia (Headmaster of Montgomery Bell Academy, TN) and Jim

Womack, a faculty member at Montgomery Bell. In 2008, the Board decided to discontinue these programs, given the extensive time needed to organize them, the numerous other programs available to our schools, and the urgency to concentrate on the core mission of ASSIST.

In 2006, Jack Tyrer (accompanied by his wife Jeanne for six of these years) completed seven years of participation in the Olomouc Summer Institute for Young Leaders (OSI),



Jack and Jeanne Tyrer

located in that university town in the Czech Republic. Each year, the Tyrers and a small group of American students from ASSIST member schools joined international students, mainly from eastern and central Europe, for a monthlong seminar where Jack taught a course on leadership and Jeanne provided mentoring, photography, and support for Jack and our students. The program was founded in 1994 and led by Dr. Ivana Mrozkova of Palacky University. The staff also included faculty members from the University. In 2007, Amelia Kegan (an alumna of the OSI program from North Shore Country Day School, IL) assumed the role that Jack and Jeanne had so ably performed. As was true with the teacher programs, ASSIST's formal sponsorship of this program ended with the 2007 group. A total of 42 American students took part over the nine years of ASSIST's participation.

VOLUNTEER BOARD PARTICIPATION

Bob Stanley notes that, "Among the unusual qualities of the ASSIST Board is the time spent by Directors in activities usually performed by staff. Perhaps the most notable example is travel for international interviews to winnow the 600-plus finalists down to a class of about 130 ASSIST scholars." Many Directors have contributed to this enormously important role. Over the years, Director Joan O'Brien, St. Andrew's School,

Diane Proctor, Middlesex School, Walter Burgin (former headmaster of Mercersburg Academy), Dick Hall, and Dale Wentz served on interview teams. Jack Eidam, Woody Rutter, and Ferdie Wandelt are surely the most frequent travelers. Each spends several weeks annually on the road to interview, meet with diplomats, and entertain alumni. Among the three of them, they have worked in every country now in the ASSIST program – and several "alumni" countries, too.

Very importantly, Woody Rutter and Ferdie Wandelt have established relationships in Germany through interviewing that date back a generation, and to this day they are key friends for the German alumni. ASSIST has surely depended upon school professionals to take the lead on interviewing teams to maintain the excellence of scholars that is so essential to the success of the program.

When Director Julie Hall retired from the Board in 2005 after distinguished service, she said the following words that described the Board and its sense of dedication: "I have been thinking about so many good people, for good purposes and for good reasons. 'Good' may not be a 'big' word, but it is nonetheless an important word. There are not enough good people in this world."

Bob Stanley replied, "Julie has brought consistently strong and humane instincts to our work...if there are not enough good people in the world, it is not because of Julie Hall."



The German interview team '06" (F) Directors Ferdie Wandelt, Woody Rutter and Walter Burgin; (b) Anne Stanley and Rosemarie Wegner



Directors Emerita Julie Hall and Joan O'Brien



Directors Bill Buice, Diane Proctor and Woody Rutter

COMING TO THE UNITED STATES WITH NO BACKGROUND IN OUR HISTORY, SONJA EMBRACED THE SUBJECT, BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE CLASS. SHE HAS BEEN A BELOVED STUDENT, AND HER GOOD CHARACTER WAS INSPIRING TO A NUMBER OF HER PEERS. SONJA'S HAND WAS ALWAYS UP TO ASK OR ANSWER A QUESTION, AND SHE TOOK HER WORK VERY SERIOUSLY. I REALLY APPRECIATE STUDENTS WHO WORK HARD, AND SONJA HAS EARNED MY RESPECT THIS YEAR.

Teacher at an ASSIST School

FUNDRAISING

During the Stanley years, fundraising became an increasing priority for Bob and the Board, owing in part to the departure of Soros support, but also owing to the need for increased staff, given the complexity of the operation, (especially State Department requirements), and the decreasing value of the dollar vis-à-vis the Euro. Since Bob Stanley assumed ASSIST's leadership, the cost of the Euro climbed

from \$.85 to the euro to \$1.59 in 2008. During these years, Bill Connelly and Woody Rutter led the development committee, and the highly experienced and successful fundraiser Walter Burgin followed Bill. They were succeeded by Andrew Wooden (Head of School at Bosque School, NM), who has brought extensive energy to his leadership. At the same time, Woody shifted his emphasis to the alumni.

In 1999/00, the Annual Fund totaled a record-breaking \$50,529. At the end of the 2007/08 fiscal year, the Fund had risen to \$113,362.84. In addition, with the departure of the Soros Foundation grants, sponsorships for eastern and central European students were required to make possible the continued participation of these students. For the year 2007/08, ASSIST secured sponsorships for all 33 students totaling \$231,325.

Thanks to the good work of former Board Chair John Kidde, ASSIST received a bequest of \$250,000 for endowment from the estate of Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder. The Lindfors Society was created, and the following people by 2008 had indicated that ASSIST figures in their planned giving intentions:

Carlyle and Elizabeth Barnes
Mrs. Alice Blake
Mrs. Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder
Richard and Carol Hall
Kenneth and Betsy Lindfors
Timothy and Rhonda McIntyre
Mrs. Peter Skoufis
J. Wood Rutter
Anonymous

Over the years, ASSIST has also received a total of \$85,500 from the Barnes Foundation, thanks to former Director Emerita Betty Barnes and her husband, Hap. Other benefactors of ASSIST who have contributed in excess of \$50,000 during the Stanley years include Bill and Stuart Buice; Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder; Gerry Lenfest; Julie and Parker Hall; The Kazickas Family Foundation, and Pamela Thye.

Clearly, in 2008, ASSIST is continuing to make the transition from a selection and placement organization to include a strong fundraising function. The Board understood that this change was a requirement for ASSIST to maintain the ability to select students from a wide range of countries – especially where needy families require support in order to be able to participate. By 2008, 34 percent of ASSIST's operating budget was generated through fundraising, and it became clear that even more fundraising would be required to sustain our level of excellence. Increasingly, ASSIST is turning to our alumni to help, asking them to support the organization that provided them a life-changing experience. In March 2009, Meg Moulton, executive director of the National Coalition of Girl's Schools, accepted an appointment with vice president for advancement.

TECHNOLOGY

During the Stanley years, technology has played an increasingly important role in the operation of ASSIST. Bob has been instantly available by e-mail whenever and wherever he has traveled. Two versions of the main web site have been developed, the most recent in 2008, thanks to the pro bono work of PAID, Inc., and CEO Rich Rotman, a Suffield Academy classmate of ASSIST Director Andrew Pilaro. Web sites have also been established in different parts of the world (Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Lithuania). Bob Stanley has produced an electronic newsletter bi-annually since the fall of 2007.



Directors Mitchell Bronk and Andrew Wooden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2004, several important Board changes occurred. Following the excellent and extended leadership of Jack Tyrer, Dick Hall (former head, Washington International School, DC)

became chair-elect, to assume full duties in 2005. Bill Buice (former trustee of Asheville School, NC) became vice chair, bringing to that post his hugely skillful analyses of difficult problems. He quickly became the person with whom the Chair would test the hard, clear questions.

He helped to define ASSIST's leadership at a critical juncture.

In 2006 Mitchell Bronk brought his considerable skill to ASSIST as treasurer from his post as comptroller of Salisbury School, succeeding Chuck McCullagh, chief financial officer and business manager, Williston-Northampton School. Chuck had been pivotal in helping to institute new financial modeling and control protocols. In the next few years, some substantial "new blood" and substantive skill sets were recruited from outside the school world: businessmen Paul Gossling, Fred Morefield, and Andrew Pilaro, along with seasoned school heads Priscilla Winn Barlow (former head of Brearley School, NY) and Jeannie Norris (head of Miss Hall's School, MA).

A category of Board members, "Directors Emeriti," was formally established in 2005 to assure that long-standing former members with distinguished service of at least eight years remain in touch with the organization. The following were elected: Betty Barnes, John Buxton, Bill Connolly, David Howe, Joan O'Brien, and Carter Walker. In fact, former Board Chair John Caswell had been elected to Director Emeritus at the time he retired in 1982. Later, Julie Hall and Jack Tyrer were added to



Dick Hall graduated from Trinity College and L'Ecole Francaise at Middlebury College before beginning a 47-year career in six independent schools. He taught at the Berkshire School and the Phillips Exeter Academy before moving to the Seven Hills School in Cincinnati as head of the upper school. He served as head at

the North Shore Country Day School, the International School of Brussels, and Washington International School over a 28-year period. He is a member of the boards of trustees of the National Association of Independent Schools, the International Student House in Washington, the English Speaking Union of Washington, and St. Albans School. He joined the ASSIST Board in 1984 and has served as head of the nominating and long range planning committees, as well as in the role of vice chair. He expresses the following in his own words: "The mission of ASSIST is unmistakably important given the ever present uncertainty of relations among peoples in our world. ASSIST brings together outstanding student scholars and produces adult leaders whose understanding of human relationships is the best hope for peace, and we Board members are privileged to contribute a small part to that result."



Director Dick Hall and Director Emeritus Bill Connelly

the list. At the time of Jack's departure from his tenure as Chair, his Board colleagues inaugurated the Jack and Jeanne Tyrer Scholars Fund, which supported one scholar from eastern and central Europe annually for four years.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

At this writing, the efforts of Bob and Anne Stanley continue to build the strength of the organization in an era marked by rapid and often unpredictable change. While managing this change has proved a tremendous challenge to ASSIST, we have also embraced it as an opportunity to consider new initiatives and to explore new ways to serve our scholars, alumni and member schools.

Emerging from the long range planning has been the clarification of our "hedgehog concept" – the definition of what ASSIST does best: selecting the finest international scholars, placing them carefully at American independent schools, and fully supporting the scholars, families, host families and schools. We

have explored many related spheres of activity, but returning to our core competency – and eliminating interesting but ultimately distracting initiatives – has given renewed strength to the delivery of our mission.

As we look toward the future, the question we have begun to ask more forcefully is: While focusing on our "hedgehog concept," in what new ways can we better serve our constituents? What can we do extremely well for our member schools that they cannot easily do for themselves? What

scholars, undiscovered today, would benefit most from the ASSIST program? How can we support our alumni?

In beginning to answer that, we have surveyed our member schools, worked carefully within the Board, and begun to affirm the following: While remaining true to our current family of 14

countries, we will focus our expansion on countries and regions underrepresented in our school communities. This philosophical undergirding has led to our partnership with the Seeds of Peace program (scholars from the Middle East) and to the formation of a Board task force that is planning our reentry to Africa. We will continue to lead, to innovate, and to serve scholars and member schools in ways they could not easily serve themselves.

As well, we believe that we should play a stronger role in the lives of our alumni. With the hiring of Eleanore Boyse (noted



Director Emeritus John Buxton



Director Emeritus David Howe



Hap and Director Emerita Betty Barnes



Director Emeritus Carter Walker

above), we have taken an important step in connecting our alumni worldwide, and we believe with deep conviction that they can support one another and support ASSIST in the years ahead to help deliver the dream of a more peaceful world.

The strong collegial work of the Stanleys and the Board, particularly in inaugurating excellent long range planning, promises to usher in another era of success for ASSIST. The Board support for the leadership of ASSIST has been annually reaffirmed in clear terms by the Board's evaluation of the president. ASSIST will not only continue to fulfill its excellent mission but will also grow in stature as it serves the interests of its scholars who are poised to be international leaders. The following words of Bob Stanley are a fitting conclusion to this history:



Betsy Lindfors and Director Emerita Joan O'Brien

The occasion of recognizing ASSIST's 40th anniversary has made Anne and me appreciate even more so the privilege of undertaking this work. The vision and faith that led to ASSIST's creation, the tireless work that has led to our expansion, and the unceasing and unstinting devotion of so many volunteers clearly point to the significance of the ASSIST experience and to the many lives it has positively changed.

A counterintuitive idea at our start, and having faced so many significant challenges along the way, ASSIST continues to be valued and appreciated by all who have benefited from our efforts. The work of ASSIST has never been more relevant, and with the support of an enormous corps of dedicated volunteers and enthusiasts, we are confident of a vital future.



Bob Stanley

ASSIST IN 2008

A number of ASSIST scholars were legacies, with family connections to earlier ASSIST students - a sign of the maturity of the organization.



The ASSIST Staff, Suffield, CT

(b) Kristen Sullivan, Anne Stanley, Bob Stanley, Cathy Presnick, Jean Sutton

(f) Debbie Viets, Julie Dodds, Kathy Willoughby



Members of present and past staff, alumni, and present and past Board members conducted the orientation.

The ASSIST Class of 2008/09
130 Scholars representing 14 countries
Orientation, Pomfret School, CT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the course of the research associated with the writing of this history, I was reminded over and over why I have remained so long on the Board of the organization. I have found that the people who have been associated with ASSIST over the past 40 years are inevitably dedicated to the critical importance of our mission, and that feeling seems not to diminish with the passing of time. For instance, my wife and I were privileged to spend time with Weegie Walsh, who worked with Sandy in the late 1970s, and who to this day entertains former ASSIST scholars in her home. When we visited, for instance, German Scholar Pia Bungarten (Suffield Academy, CT, 1974/75) had just left Weegie's home in Rhode Island after a visit in August 2008. Telephone calls with John Caswell and Dinny Bush elicited great warmth from both about their experiences with ASSIST. Similar affection for Sandy and the program was expressed by Michelle Stokien Gilman when we met her for lunch in Baltimore. If you meet her, ask her about arriving, all alone, in Shanghai with no one to meet her at the airport. Yes, ASSIST is about people and their sense that peace in the world is established when scholars grow to be leaders who have the cross-cultural understanding that ASSIST has uniquely provided over 40 years.

There are also those whose help has been invaluable in the research and writing of this volume. The reader will note immediately the contribution of Gail Sanderson, whose enthusiasm for the project has been enormous. Each time I thought that I was almost finished, I would receive a package from Gail, filled with materials recently discovered in her closet, that added interest to the story. Ken and Betsy Lindfors made a huge contribution to the research and writing of the sections about the Förderverein and the Soros Foundation. They were consistent proofreaders at each

iteration, with a keen eye for accuracy as well as nuance. We spent a wonderful three hours at the Orientation in Pomfret in August of 2008 sorting through 13 scrapbooks of pictures that Betsy had compiled over the years - a difficult task as the stories relating to the ASSIST scholars, Board members, and others associated with the organization had to be told.

Those of you who know him can just hear Ken saying, "Come on, Betsy, we will never get through these!" Special thanks to Carol Hall, Joan O'Brien, and David Sanderson (Chairman), who served on the committee that oversaw the project, and to Jürgen and Gisela Heidgen, who made excellent contributions. The book would never have been accomplished without the enthusiastic encouragement of Bob Stanley, who served as cheerleader, researcher, proofreader and Czar of the appropriate comma.

Finally, every book needs an editor, and Selby McPhee volunteered to serve in that role. She had a long and distinguished career at NAIS followed by five years as director of communications at Washington International School. By chance, she and her family once served as an ASSIST host family when she lived in Boston. She led us through the editing and proofreading process with great skill and good humor. In the process, she also agreed to serve on the leadership committee of the ASSIST Washington Chapter. No good deed goes unpunished!

*Richard T. Hall, Chair
ASSIST Board of Directors*



The Board of Directors of ASSIST
October 2008

Baden 7 octobre 1966

Appendices

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007/08

RICHARD P. HALL

Chair of the Board

Dick Hall graduated from St. George's School and Trinity College and received his masters degree at L'Ecole Française at Middlebury College in 1968. During his career he taught at Berkshire School and Phillips Exeter Academy, and was head of the upper school at Seven Hills School. During the next 28 years he served as headmaster of the North Shore Country Day School, the International School of Brussels, and Washington International School, from which he retired in 2007. He currently is a member of the board of trustees of the National Association of Independent Schools, the International Student House, and St. Albans School in Washington, D.C.



WILLIAM T. BUICE III

Vice Chair of the Board

Bill Buice graduated from the Asheville School, Washington and Lee University and Duke University School of Law. Since 1967 he has specialized in Trusts and Estates at Davidson, Dawson & Clark in New York City. He was for many years a member of the boards of Grace Church School in New York and of Asheville School and served as chair of both boards. He was also on the board of the Independent Schools Chairmans' Association. In addition, he and his wife Stuart were a host family for English Speaking Union students over a ten-year period.



DIANE C. PROCTOR

Secretary of the Board

Diane Proctor graduated from Boston University and received her M.Ed. from Harvard University. Having taught European History and Urban Planning and having served as director of admissions and director of college counseling at Milton Academy, she continued her career as dean of faculty at Hotchkiss School. After Hotchkiss, she was director of college counseling and is currently teacher of literature and writing at Middlesex School. Over the years she has served in various capacities with the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC), the Secondary School Admission Test Board (SSAT), the Harvard Institute, and the Taft School Educational Center.



MITCHELL H. BRONK

Treasurer of the Board

Mitchell Bronk is a graduate of Gilman School and Harvard College, and he received his master's degree from Trenton State College (now College of New Jersey). After teaching for a year at Trinity School, he became a faculty member of Princeton Day School and then Milton Academy. He joined the staff of Salisbury School in 1986 and retired as Controller in 2007.



WALTER H. BURGIN

Walter Burgin graduated from Mercersburg Academy, and later became a member of the faculty. After teaching for eight years at the Phillips Exeter Academy, he was appointed headmaster at Mercersburg in 1972, a position which he held until 1997. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received his Ed.M. degree from Harvard University in 1964. While teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy, he spent a year as a math teacher in the Schoolboys Abroad Program (now School Year Abroad) in Rennes, France. He served as Executive Director of the Edward E. Ford Foundation from 1998-2002, where he is currently chair of the board. He has also taught at Sidwell Friends School and Maret School where he now serves on the board of trustees. Walter currently chairs the committee on Directors. He has served as an ASSIST interviewer several times in Germany as well as in eastern and central Europe.



JOHN R. EIDAM

Jack Eidam has served as Dean of Admission at Wyoming Seminary since 1969. Additionally, since 1990, he has added the responsibilities of Director of International and Summer Programs. He graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, and received his M.Div from Drew University. He is currently treasurer of the board of TABS (The Association of Boarding Schools). Jack has served as chair of the student recruitment committee, and is a regular interviewer for ASSIST in eastern and central Europe.



BRADFORD GIOIA

Brad Gioia has been headmaster of Montgomery Bell Academy since 1994, having previously served as teacher, director of admissions and headmaster of Darlington School. In these schools he has been involved with ASSIST for over 20 years. He has been a member of the ASSIST board since 1999, has chaired the marketing committee, and was instrumental in the organization of the Prague Teacher Seminar. Brad is a past chair of the board of the Coalition of Boys' Schools. He graduated from the University of the South and received his master's degree from Middlebury College.



PAUL L. GOSSLING

Paul Gossling is a graduate of the Watkinson School, Suffield Academy and Trinity College. He is president and owner of Garden Zone, LLC and travels seven times a year to China for his work. He has been associated with Taft School, Westminster School and Watkinson School through various family members. He is a member of the board of directors of the Hazelton Foundation and is Chairman of the Hazelton New York board of directors. Paul is co-chair of the marketing committee.



SEAN HARRIS '95

In 1994/95, Sean Harris was an ASSIST scholar from Germany at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, and from March 2004 until December 2005 he was the Market Development Manager for ASSIST in Germany. Sean graduated from the Rotterdam School of Management and received his Master of Law degree (LL.M) in Air and Space Law at Leiden University Law School. Since June 2007 he is the CEO at C. B. Shoes (GmbH) in Germany and serves as treasurer of the ASSIST Förderverein (the foundation that helps needy ASSIST scholars from Germany to participate in the program). Sean was elected to the board of ASSIST in the spring of 2008.



PETER W. HURSH

Peter Hursh graduated from Harvard College, received a law degree from the University of Virginia, and has an extensive background in business and management. He has served as vice president of the board of trustees of the Wildwood School and was a member of the long range planning committee of Brentwood School, where he and his wife were also a host family for ASSIST. Peter is co-founder (2004) and managing director of ECG Advisors, LLC, in Los Angeles. From 1979 to 2002 he worked for Towers Perrin in various positions, finally as managing director, western U.S. region. Peter was an American Field Service student in Italy between high school and college. He has served on many non-profit boards and is currently chair of the long range planning committee of ASSIST.



ROBERT H. MATTOON, JR.

Robert H. ("Skip") Mattoon, Jr. served as head of school at The Hotchkiss School from 1996-2007. Prior to that, he was dean of faculty and associate headmaster at Deerfield Academy (1982-1996). He grew up on the campus of Kent School, which was founded by his great uncle and where his father taught. He was graduated from Deerfield Academy and Dartmouth College. He holds graduate degrees from Tulane University (M.A.) and Yale (M.A., Ph.D.) and taught Latin American History at the Universities of Michigan and Arizona. At Arizona, he served as associate director of the Latin American Area Center. He has served on a number of boards and is currently Executive Director of the Eight Schools Association. Skip currently serves as chair of the student recruitment committee.



FREDERICK L. MOREFIELD

Now retired, Fred Morefield has been an independent consultant in the field of information systems strategy. From 1977 to 1994 he was an executive in the health care industry, especially Shared Medical Systems Corporation, and before that in several major oil companies including Mobil Oil Corporation. He graduated from Mercersburg Academy and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a law degree from the Harvard Law School. His community activities include the George C. Marshall International Center in Leesburg, VA, where he has been president of the board of directors since 2005.



JEANNIE NORRIS

Jeannie Norris graduated from Pittsburgh State University with a bachelor's degree in music education and from Temple University with a master's in music. Since 1996, Jeannie has been head of school at Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, MA. During her tenure she completed a \$25 million campaign and has overseen many capital improvements. During her career she has held various administrative positions at Madeira School and Springside School. She has served on the boards of NAPSG (National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls) and SSATB (Secondary School Admission Test Board) and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools, as well as AISNE (Association of Independent Schools in New England). Jeannie was elected to the board of ASSIST at the spring meeting in 2008.



ANDREW C. PILARO

Andrew Pilaro is chairman of CAP Advisers LTD, a family-owned investment office in Dublin, Ireland, where he and his family reside. Among others, he sits on the boards of PAID, Inc., the CAP Foundation that supports educational programs, as well as Fay School. Andrew is also a member of the steering committee of the Ron Brown Scholar Program. He is a graduate of Suffield Academy and the University of Virginia and holds an MBA from Columbia University. Andrew chairs the subcommittee on investments.



J. WOOD RUTTER

Woody Rutter is the longest serving member of the ASSIST Board, having joined in 1982. He has served as head of many committees, and is currently co-chairing the alumni committee. For most of his years of service as a Board member, he has been a lead recruiter for ASSIST throughout Europe, especially well known to generations of German alumni. Woody graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and Washington and Lee University and received his master's degree from the University of North Carolina. Much of his career was spent at Salisbury School, where he taught French and Spanish and served in many administrative capacities (including director of admission and director of development) before assuming the headmastership of Beaufort Academy. Over time he has served on many school and community boards, and currently he is chairman of the Historic Beaufort Foundation and treasurer of Thumbs-up, an organization for after-school tutoring for children of at-risk families.



DAVID S. SANDERSON

David Sanderson is the son of the founder!! He graduated from Deerfield Academy and Union College, and received his MBA degree from Northeastern University. David is currently a principal at Global Partners, Inc., and lives in Florida. He joined the ASSIST Board in 2002 and was chair of the marketing committee. He describes his ASSIST association as follows: "It is my family legacy and lifelong passion."



PAMELA M. THYE

Pamela graduated from the Nightingale Bamford School in New York City and Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA, before attending Finch College. She has been involved in many volunteer activities over the years, including the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Mayday Fund in New York, as well as several other foundations. She lived in Germany for 18 years, and became acquainted with ASSIST when she and her husband served as a host family for a student at Middlesex School. Pamela accompanied student and teacher groups on the ASSIST European Seminars as the ASSIST representative for many years. She currently co-chairs the marketing committee, having served for many years as head of the Americans abroad committee.



CATHERINE M. TINSLEY

Cathy Tinsley graduated from St. John's School and Earlham College, where she currently serves as a trustee. She has been an English-as-a-Second Language teacher and a lead volunteer and organizer in many schools. At Washington International School, where her youngest child was a student, she led the Parents' Association and was also a member of the ASSIST Steering Committee. She participated in the Experiment in International Living program as a student, as a parent of a participant, and finally as host parent. Cathy lived in the Netherlands for nine years over a twenty-year period. She currently co-chairs the host family stewardship committee and is chair of the Washington ASSIST Chapter.



DALE L. WENTZ

Dale Wentz has been director of admissions and financial aid at North Shore Country Day School since 1997, and she has served on the Board of ASSIST since 2005. She is a graduate of Smith College and served as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. Dale has served on the interviewing team for ASSIST in Germany, currently co-chairs the host family stewardship committee, and chairs the Chicago ASSIST Chapter.



FREDERICK H. WANDELT III

Ferdie Wandelt graduated from the University of North Carolina, and received his MALS degree from Wesleyan University. Director of admissions at Taft from 1976 to 2006, Ferdie has been a member of the Board of Directors of ASSIST since 1988 and also serves as a trustee of Wolfeboro Camp School and Challengers Boys' and Girls' Club, Los Angeles, CA. He is a former trustee of the Secondary School Admission Test Board (1978 to 1989, and president from 1985 to 1987) as well as a past director of The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS). He was awarded the William B. Bretnall Award for exemplary contribution to the field of independent school admissions in 1994. He now works as assistant to the headmaster for alumni affairs and development at Taft.



PRISCILLA WINN BARLOW

Priscilla Winn Barlow graduated from the University of Liverpool, where she received her doctorate in the Faculty of Science. She has worked as an administrator at the Wheeler School and Milton Academy, and she was principal of Havergal College in Ontario before serving as head of the Brearley School from 1997 to 2003. She served as interim head of the Hamlin School in 2007/08. Priscilla has served on many boards of trustees, including Middlesex School and Wheeler School, and currently is a member of the board of the Pine Point School in Connecticut, the Waterford School in Utah, and Lyme Academy of Art.



ANDREW WOODEN

Andrew Wooden graduated from the University of Maine and received his master's degree in religion from Yale University Divinity School in 1996. He was admissions director at Choate Rosemary Hall from 1984-96, where he was involved in extensive international recruitment travel. He is currently head of school of the Bosque School in New Mexico. He has been a member of the ASSIST Board since 2002 and currently serves as chair of the development committee.



YI-MING YANG, MD '87

Yi-ming Yang was the first alumnus on the ASSIST Board, serving since 2005. He was one of the first ASSIST scholars from mainland China and was a member of the class of 1987 at The Taft School. After returning to China, he enrolled in Peking University Medical College and served as class president during his three years of pre-med study. After returning to the U.S. in 1993, he earned his M.D. degree at Columbia University and currently works in New York as a cardiologist. He serves on the board of the Taft School and joined the ASSIST Board in 2005, for which he is co-chair of the alumni committee.



Note on Accuracy of Research

Because ASSIST was founded in an era that predated the personal computer, the research included in the appendices is reconstructed from original, paper archives. There are doubtless a number of small errors, for which we apologize, and for which we invite your corrections

In the years ahead, we will incorporate the data of the appendices into our web site, which will also include the names, schools and countries of our Scholars. We invite you to visit:

www.assist-inc.org

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
Agnes Irwin School (PA)	2006/07	2
Albuquerque Academy (NM)	1987/88	60
Andrews School (OH)	1989/90	8
Annie Wright School (WA)	1989/90	37
Asheville School (NC)	1969/70	41
Athenian School (CA)	1988/89	4
Augusta Preparatory Day School (GA)	1993/94	11
Avon Old Farms School (CT)	1988/89	1
Bancroft School (MA)	1987/88	3
Baylor School (TN)	1990/91	36

Beaufort Academy (SC)	1999/00	7
Berkshire School (MA)	1971/72	34
Berwick Academy (ME)	1992/93	3
Blair Academy (NJ)	1977/78	7
Bolles School (FL)	1984/85	5
Bosque School (AZ)	2000/01	10
Brentwood School (CA)	1992/93	18
Brewster Academy (NH)	1990/91	1
Brooks School (MA)	1988/89	4
Brunswick School (CT)	2008/09	1
Bryn Mawr School (MD)	1993/94	3
Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School (MA)	1986/87	4
The Buckley School (CA)	1999/20	9
The Cambridge School of Weston (MA)	1987/88	1
Campbell Hall (CA)	1986/87	1
Canterbury School (IN)	1991/92	29
Canterbury School (FL)	2000/01	2
Canterbury School (CT)	1984/85	9
Castilleja School (CA)	1995/96	7
Cate School (CA)	1984/85	11
Catlin Gabel School (OR)	1980/81	31
Chadwick School (CA)	2006/07	3
Chatham Hall (VA)	1999/00	18
Choate Rosemary Hall (CT)	1973/74	30
Christ Church Episcopal School (SC)	1993/94	15
Christ School (NC)	1989/90	51
Christchurch School (VA)	1995/96	26
Colorado Academy (CO)	1984/85	2
Colorado Rocky Mountain School (CO)	1989/90	16
Colorado Springs School (CO)	1989/90	6
Community School (FL)	2006/07	3

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION cont.

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
Concord Academy (MA)	1984/85	4
Cranbrook Schools (MI)	1978/79	76
Culver Academies (IN)	2000/01	17
Dana Hall School (MA)	1978/79	1
Darlington School (GA)	1991/92	55
Deerfield Academy (NH)	1970/71	33
Derryfield School (NH)	1983/84	2
Dublin School (NH)	1988/89	41
Dunn School (CA)	1989/90	18
Emma Willard School (NY)	1972/73	5
Episcopal Academy (PA)	2003/04	11
Episcopal High School (FL)	1998/99	9
Episcopal High School (VA)	1982/83	8
Episcopal School of Dallas (TX)	2008/09	1
Ethel Walker School (CT)	1981/82	12
Fenster School (AZ)	1984/85	17
Fountain Valley School (CO)	1982/83	45
Foxcroft School (VA)	1970/71	12
Francis Parker School (CA)	2003/04	7
Friends Academy (NY)	2006/07	3
Garrison Forest School (MD)	1977/78	2
Gilmour Academy (OH)	1986/87	4
Gould Academy (ME)	1969/70	17
Greenhill School (TX)	1990/91	5
Greens Farms Academy (CT)	1979/80	2
Greenwich Academy (CT)	2007/08	2
Groton School (MA)	1973/74	7
The Gunnery (MA)	1977/78	16
Hackley School (NY)	2005/06	4
Hampton Roads Academy (VA)	1988/89	5

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
Haverford School (PA)	1993/94	5
Hawken School (OH)	1989/90	3
Head-Royce School (CA)	2006/07	3
Hebron Academy (ME)	1984/85	61
The Hill School (PA)	1998/99	10
Hockaday School (TX)	1995/96	17
Holton-Arms School (MD)	2007/08	2
The Hotchkiss School (CT)	1971/72	46
Indian Springs School (AL)	1974/75	74
Interlochen Arts Academy (MI)	1984/85	4
Judson School (AZ)	1987/88	28
Kent Denver School (CO)	1988/89	7
Kent Place School (NJ)	1983/84	9
Kent School (CT)	1986/87	1
Kents Hill School (ME)	1973/74	48
Kimball Union Academy (NH)	1977/78	30
Kingswood-Oxford School (CT)	1971/72	4
Lake Forest Academy (IL)	1988/89	51
Lake Highland Preparatory School (FL)	2001/02	4
Lancaster Country Day School (PA)	1995/96	9
Landon School (MD)	2008/09	1
Latin School of Chicago (IL)	1994/95	5
Laurel School (OH)	1985/86	2
Lawrence Academy (MA)	1977/78	7
The Lawrenceville School (NJ)	2000/01	9
Loomis Chaffee School (CT)	1970/71	18
The Lovett School (GA)	1992/93	7
Lyndon Institute (VT)	1983/84	7
The MacDuffie School (MA)	1969/70	31
Madeira School (VA)	1970/71	4

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION cont.

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
Maret School (DC)	2006/07	3
The Masters School (NY)	1987/88	48
Maumee Valley Country Day School (OH)	1986/87	33
The McCallie School (TN)	1981/82	27
Mercersburg Academy (PA)	1971/72	44
Miami Valley School (OH)	1980/81	11
Middlesex School (MA)	1989/90	6
Midland School (CA)	1994/95	7
Millbrook School (NY)	1981/82	3
Milton Academy (MA)	1979/80	12
Miss Hall's School (MA)	1986/87	18
Miss Porter's School (CT)	1975/76	3
Montclair Kimberly Academy (NJ)	1989/90	8
Montgomery Bell Academy (TN)	1995/96	13
Moses Brown School (RI)	1979/80	1
National Cathedral School (DC)	1993/94	17
New Hampton School (NH)	1970/71	4
Newark Academy (NJ)	1975/76	6
Noble & Greenough School (MA)	1973/74	4
North Shore Country Day School (IL)	1981/82	42
North Yarmouth Academy (ME)	1970/71	3
Northfield Mount Hermon School (MA)	1979/80	130
Northwood School (NY)	1982/83	45
Oak Grove-Coburn School (ME)	1983/84	10
Oldfields School (MD)	1986/87	10
Oregon Episcopal School (OR)	1977/78	35
Orme School (AZ)	1981/82	45
Overlake School (WA)	1994/95	15
Parish Episcopal School (TX)	2008/09	1

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
Park Tudor School (IN)	2003/04	5
Peddie School (NJ)	1984/85	9
Phillips Academy (MA)	1969/70	12
Phillips Exeter Academy (NH)	1971/72	4
Pomfret School (CT)	1976/77	14
Porter-Gaud School (SC)	2000/01	9
Portsmouth Abbey School (RI)	1992/93	2
Princeton Day School (NJ)	1987/88	16
Providence Day School (NC)	1996/97	5
Purnell School (NJ)	1984/85	1
The Putney School (VT)	1987/88	34
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School (GA)	1993/94	43
Ravenscroft School (NC)	1989/90	1
Rocky Hill School (CT)	1979/80	1
Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School (UT)	1992/93	17
Saint Mary's Hall (TX)	2000/01	1
Salem Academy (NC)	1998/99	32
Salisbury School (CT)	1980/81	30
Santa Fe Preparatory School (NM)	2007/08	2
Seven Hills School (OH)	1978/79	5
Sewickley Academy (PA)	1988/89	7
Shipley School (PA)	1986/87	4
Solebury School (PA)	1987/88	38
South Kent School (CT)	1976/77	42
St. Albans School (DC)	1989/90	5
St. Andrew's School (DE)	1971/72	45
Saint Andrew's School (FL)	1969/70	14
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School (TN)	1990/91	67
St. Anne's-Belfield School (VA)	1986/87	20
St. George's School (RI)	2006/07	3

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION cont.

School Name	First Year in Program	Number of Scholars
St. James School (MD)	1969/70	20
St. Johnsbury Academy (VT)	1980/81	28
St. Luke's School (CT)	2007/08	2
St. Margaret's School (VA)	1992/93	16
St. Mark's School (MA)	1984/85	13
St. Mark's School of Texas (TX)	1995/96	23
St. Martin's Episcopal School (LA)	1984/85	5
St. Mary's School (IL)	1987/88	9
St. Paul's School (NH)	1970/71	48
St. Sebastian's School (MA)	1985/86	1
St. Stephen's Episcopal School (TX)	1982/83	21
Stoneleigh-Burnham School (MA)	1969/70	62
Stony Brook School (NY)	1993/94	24
Suffield Academy (CT)	1969/70	52
The Taft School (CT)	1982/83	36
Tandem Friends School (VA)	1974/75	3
Tilton School (NH)	1988/89	7
Trinity Preparatory School (FL)	1996/97	13
Trinity School of Midland (TX)	1998/99	2
University Liggett School (MI)	1985/86	27
University School (OH)	1973/74	51
Verde Valley School (AZ)	1981/82	60
Vermont Academy (VT)	1969/70	5
Viewpoint School (CA)	1997/98	10
Virginia Episcopal School (VA)	1984/85	24
Walnut Hill School (MA)	1969/70	8
Wasatch Academy (UT)	2008/09	2
Washington International School (DC)	2002/03	10

School Name	First Year in Pgm	Number of Scholars
Wayland Academy (WI)	1981/82	86
Webb School (TN)	1987/88	40
West Nottingham Academy (MD)	1987/88	25
Western Reserve Academy (OH)	1970/71	43
Westminster School (CT)	1972/73	21
Westover School (CT)	1971/72	55
Westtown School (PA)	1987/88	53
White Mountain School (NH)	1984/85	51
Whiteman School (CO)	1980/81	1
Wilbraham & Monson Academy (MA)	1969/70	45
The Williston Northampton School (MA)	1981/82	21
The Winsor School (MA)	2006/07	1
Woodberry Forest School (VA)	1970/71	46
Woodstock Country School (VT)	1973/74	1
Woodward Academy (GA)	1984/85	5
Worcester Academy (MA)	1970/71	3
Wykeham Rise School (CT)	1987/88	3
Wyoming Seminary (PA)	1973/74	84
York Country Day School (PA)	1989/90	1
Total		3,777



ASSIST Enrollment 1969 TO PRESENT

Year	Number of Member Schools	Total Scholars
1969-70	11	13
1970-71	22	23
1971-72	25	21
1972-73	23	25
1973-74	25	28
1974-75	16	16
1975-76	17	17
1976-77	17	17
1977-78	20	22
1978-79	24	25
1979-80	22	28
1980-81	23	36
1981-82	33	42
1982-83	32	51
1983-84	34	57
1984-85	56	97
1985-86	59	92
1986-87	61	109
1987-88	69	136
1988-89	74	127
1989-90	82	139
1990-91	77	139
1991-92	75	137
1992-93	73	136
1993-94	75	140

1994-95	79	144
1995-96	80	145
1996-97	80	148
1997-98	79	147
1998-99	77	144
1999-00	78	144
2000-01	79	144
2001-02	78	143
2002-03	76	136
2003-04	81	144
2004-05	78	132
2005-06	78	131
2006-07	84	139
2007-08	84	133
2008-09	86	130
Total	3,777	

DIRECTOR HISTORY

Name	Beginning	Ending
John Caswell	1978	1982
Christopher C. Corkery	1978	1982
Robert E. Dobson	1978	1980
Keith Green	1978	1990
Nancy Henderson	1978	1982
Donald D. Hill	1978	Not Known
Howard Jones	1978	Not Known
Beverley Marvin	1978	1987
Sanford Roeser	1978	1998
David S. Rogerson	1978	1980
Paul Sanderson	1978	1986
Thomas Wilcox	1978	1980
Peter Esty	1980	1983
Peggy Slocum	1980	Not Known
Michelle Stokien	1980	1987
Marjo Talbott	1980	1982
Mary K. Dennison	1981	1985
John Kidde	1981	2001
Holly Hoopes	1982	Not Known
J. Wood Rutter	1982	Current
George Stone	1982	1985
C. Carter Walker	1982	2004
John Buxton	1983	2002
Albert Gordon	1983	1986
Richard Hall	1983	Current
Joungwon Kim	1983	Not Known
Frederick H. Wandelt III	1984	Current
William G. Connelly	1987	2001

Name	Beginning	Ending
David Howe	1987	2003
Joan O'Brien	1987	2003
A. William Olsen Jr.	1987	1998
Kenneth Lindfors	1987	2000
Elizabeth Barnes	1988	2001
Diane Proctor	1988	Current
Peter Stevens	1988	2000
Bruno Schiefer	1989	1994
John L. Tyrer	1991	2007
Pamela Thye	1992	Current
Julia P. (Julie) Hall	1994	2005
Francine Ugeux	1996	2007
Timothy McIntire	1997	2007
Hartmut Wiedenmann	1997	2005
William T. Buice III	1998	Current
John (Jack) Eidam	1998	Current
Bradford Gioia	1999	Current
Walter Burgin	2000	Current
Robert Stanley	2000	Current
Charles McCullagh	2001	2006
Kevin O'Brien	2001	2004
Andrew Wooden	2002	Current
Peter Hursh	2003	Current
David Sanderson	2003	Current
Robert H. Mattoon	2005	Current
Dale Wentz	2005	Current
Eric Widmer	2005	2006
Dr. Yi-Ming Yang	2005	Current
Mitchel H. Bronk	2006	Current

DIRECTOR HISTORY cont.

Paul L. Gossling	2006	Current
Lance Odden	2006	2008
Andrew C. Pilaro	2006	Current
Catherine Tinsley	2006	Current
Priscilla Winn Barlow	2007	Current
Frederick L. Morefield	2007	Current
Sean Harris	2008	Current
Jeannie Norris	2008	Current



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MONTEPELLE PALACE

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ASSIST COUNTRIES

ASSIST Country	Number of Students
Albania	7
Australia	65
Austria	17
Azerbaijan	8
Belgium	1
Bosnia & Herzegovina	23
Botswana	3
Brazil	1
Bulgaria	89
China	58
Croatia	47
Czech Republic	72
Denmark	9
England	1
Estonia	16
Finland	2
France	9
Gambia	3
Germany	2396
Honduras	1
Hungary	125
India	3
Ireland	2
Italy	3
Japan	3
Kenya	2
Latvia	38
Lithuania	77
Macedonia	24

Moldova	41
Mongolia	1
Netherlands	8
Nigeria	1
Norway	1
Romania	38
Slovakia	73
Spain	282
Sweden	201
Switzerland	5
Vietnam	15
Western Samoa	1
Yugoslavia	5
Total	3,777



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