

In This Issue:

- Letter from Linda
- 2008 Election Study Program
- A Look Ahead at 2009 Programs
- Nominating and State Hosting
- Alumni Election Updates
- Staying Involved
- Supporting ACYPL



Revelers celebrate in front of the White House on Election night 2008.

Letter from Linda

2008 was an amazing first year as ACYPL CEO! In addition to working with the dedicated ACYPL team to conduct 25 programs with 27 countries around the world, I had the privilege of escorting American delegations to South Africa and Australia. Experiencing firsthand these ACYPL exchanges was both inspiring and a validation of the value and power of our programs.

Throughout the year, we highlighted campaigns and elections around the country and at every level of government and, of course, there was tremendous interest in America's historic Presidential contest. In November we welcomed delegations from Hungary, Israel and Jordan to participate in a special US Election Study Program. After visiting DC and the swing states of Colorado and Virginia, the program culminated with the Israelis and Jordanians paying a spontaneous visit to the White House on Election night to revel with thousands of others and recognizing the power of young people to change the course of history.

ACYPL also faced challenges in 2008. While the failing economy presented a difficult fundraising environment, ACYPL alumni demonstrated their commitment to our work by contributing nearly \$75,000, as well as giving generously of their time and expertise while hosting delegations in their communities. When we say we could not do our programs without you, we mean it, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The entire ACYPL team looks forward to a productive and successful 2009.

Regards,

Linda

2008 Election Study Program

The United States elections captivated the interest and imagination of people around the world and were a focal point of all our programs throughout 2008. Visiting delegations enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the McCain and Obama campaigns, Democratic and Republican national party leaders as well as state party officials. They attended political rallies across the country, and participated in discussions with candidates and campaign experts on all aspects of elections.



Jordanian delegate Fozat AlFrehat inspects a ballot at a DC polling place on Election Day.

American delegations abroad were asked thousands of questions about US politics, but *the* question of the year was always about the speculation about the outcome of our Presidential election.

With generous support from the **United States Department of State** and the **El Pomar Foundation** in Colorado, ACYPL implemented a US Elections Program for 20 young political leaders from Hungary, Israel and Jordan. The groups arrived just in time for the final weeks of our exciting and historic elections. They spent time together in Washington, DC before going off to two battleground states - the Hungarians visited Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado and the Jordanians and Israelis experienced the different poles of Virginia politics in Richmond and Alexandria/Arlington. Election Day was spent touring polling stations, interacting with American voters, watching and waiting for election returns, and attending victory parties.

As we gathered for a farewell dinner, the Israelis and Jordanians spoke poignantly about joining hundreds of people gathered in front of the White House on election night. Tomer Lotan, of Israel, explained, "We all stood there together - something that would be impossible in our own countries - and realized the power of young people coming together to do something really historic and really brave. At that moment, we all shared in the possible." This captures the essence of ACYPL programs.

Like all ACYPL programs, the US Election Study Program would not have been possible without the financial support, enthusiasm and hard work of our American alumni. A huge shout out of thanks to **Ben Dendy, Courtney Malveaux** and **Chris Rivers** in Richmond; to **Bill Hybl, Gary Butterworth** and the wonderful Fellows at El Pomar as well as our alumni and supporters in Colorado; and ACYPL alumni **Chris McCannell, Cameron Quinn** and **Brad Minnick** and Trustees **David Jones, Alex Johnson, and Ken Gross**, in Washington, DC.

ACYPL finished our 2008 program year with American delegations going to **Japan** and **China** while simultaneously hosting a delegation from **China**.

Special Thanks!

The ACYPL team extends our deepest thanks to **ACYPL Trustee Andrea Fischer Newman** and **Northwest Airlines** (now **Delta**) for the generous gift of international airfare for our American delegates traveling to China and Japan. We also thank **Abbott Labs** for their continued support of our inbound China program. We are so grateful!

A Look Ahead at 2009 Programs

This year will bring new opportunities and challenges to ACYPL's bilateral exchange programs. During 2009, we will undertake five new programs in regions and countries that have long been under-represented in our exchange portfolio. For the first time, we will host delegations of young leaders from **Kyrgyzstan** and **Nepal** and, after nearly a decade, will renew exchanges with **New Zealand**. ACYPL will also conduct a multi-country program with the **sub-Saharan African countries of Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa** as well as a multinational program for minority leaders from the **Western European countries of Austria, Italy, Norway, and the United Kingdom**.



This year marks the 30th anniversary of ACYPL's on-going bilateral exchanges with the **People's Republic of China**. To celebrate the occasion, ACYPL and our long-time partner, the All-China Youth Federation, will organize a special 4-5 day program in China for former US to China alumni to take place at the end of our nine-member young leaders' delegation program. In turn, ACYPL will host a similar group from China in 2010. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming months.

ACYPL will host delegations from the following countries:

Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa), China, El Salvador, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Western Europe (Austria, Italy, Norway and the UK), Nepal, New Zealand, Palestinian Territories, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey

ACYPL will send American delegations to the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, China, China 30th Anniversary, Egypt, Hungary/Romania, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Philippines, South Korea

[**Click here to nominate now!**](#)

Nominate Young Leaders

Alumni are our best source for identifying promising, young political leaders for future ACYPL delegations. As a former delegate, you are encouraged to nominate up-and-coming political, policy and government relations leaders for one of our international exchanges.

Nominees should be:

- Between 25 and 40 years of age at the time of travel
- Be involved in government, politics, policy, advocacy or government relations and possess the potential to assume a leadership role

- Typical nominees include exceptional state legislators, mayors, members of city and county councils, political party and policy leaders and other political activists who have an interest in gaining international experience.

Host in your community

ACYPL wants to come to your community and we need your help! Each year ACYPL welcomes over one hundred young, international political leaders to Washington, DC and states across the country and it would be impossible to do so without the outstanding efforts and support of our vast network of committed alumni.

State hosts arrange delegation meetings; secure donated or reduced rate hotel rooms and ground transportation; provide hosted meals; seek corporate and individual contributions; and join the delegation at meetings and events throughout their stay. In return, each state host has the opportunity to strengthen his or her connection to ACYPL and to the international exchange experience, as well as establish friendships with up-and-coming international leaders and help them to gain a better understand of the U.S. political system and the community their delegation visits.

If you are interested in, or need information, regarding hosting an ACYPL international delegation in your state, please contact Libby Rosenbaum at rosenbaum@acypl.org or 202.857.0999 x16.

Alumni Election Updates

CONGRATULATIONS to our ACYPL alumni newly elected members of the 111th United States Congress: **Mike Coffman - CO** (South Africa '93); **Brett Guthrie - KY** (Brazil '99); **Lynn Jenkins - KS** (Vietnam '01); **Frank Kratovil, Jr. - MD** (Taiwan '98); **Erik Paulsen - MN** (Philippines '01); and **Gary Peters - MI** (Saudi Arabia & Jordan '95).

New state legislature members: **Tanya Cook - NE** (Argentina & Uruguay '05) and **Brenda Council - NE** (Thailand '94), **Eric Griego - NM** (Romania & Hungary '05), and **Tishaura Jones - MO** (Israel & Palestinian Territories '05). Returning state legislators: **Bryan Pedersen - WY** (India '05) and **Michael Sanders - OK** (Taiwan '06).

Best wishes to **Kate Brown** (Australia '96) newly elected Oregon Secretary of State, **Tre Hargett** (Taiwan '00), recently elected Tennessee Secretary of State, **Kevin Boyce** (South Africa '08) recently appointed Treasurer of Ohio, and **Clint Zweifel** (South Korea '05) newly elected Missouri State Treasurer.

Please send us updates if you have changed positions or are planning to run for elected office. With almost 6,000 alumni it is difficult to keep track of everyone!

Staying Involved

There are several ways to stay in touch with ACYPL and fellow alumni. First, you can register with the [State Department's alumni network](#) that focuses specifically on exchange programs like ours. Stay connected with your fellow ACYPL alumni, and learn about upcoming alumni activities being implemented in communities the world over. Or you can join [ExchangesConnect](#), the State Department's social networking site that allows you to post photos, videos and blog about your exchange experience. Also, ACYPL is on [Facebook!](#)

Supporting ACYPL

The best way to stay involved and support ACYPL is by joining the ACYPL Alumni Council. Alumni Council members receive priority consideration for meeting with and hosting international delegations, while Charter members receive exclusive consideration for escorting future delegations. All Alumni Council members enjoy discounted hotel rates at Club Quarters Hotels worldwide and are invited to our exclusive *Insider Briefing* series and other timely events throughout the year. Click [here](#) to download the 2009 Alumni Council Membership form. Please contact Libby Rosenbaum at rosenbaum@acypl.org with any questions or to join.