

A Message from the ATAD President

If I were a student returning to school and my teacher asked me to write about my summer vacation, what an essay I could write. The last two weeks of the summer were two of the most interesting and exciting weeks I can remember. My husband Larry and I visited our two exchange cities, as well as many other amazing sites, in the diverse and beautiful country of Peru.

On August 23 Larry and I flew to Lima. We spent 2 days with Gachy and Eduardo Bedoya, the Arequipa liaison and her husband, staying in their beautiful apartment in Lima. A liaison is the person who is responsible for choosing ATAD students to come to Rochester and for placing our students in the exchange city. The Bedoyas were so pleased that an ATAD president was finally visiting Peru that they kept from us the fact that Gachy had a heart attack in July. They were afraid that, if we knew, we wouldn't be willing to stay with them. Gachy has been the Arequipa liaison since this program started 25 years ago, so this was, in a way, an anniversary celebration. From the time we began planning our trip until the hour that we left for the airport to return to Rochester, Gachy and Eduardo were the most wonderful hosts imaginable.

From Lima we went to Iquitos where we spent two days in the Amazon Jungle. What an experience! We saw wild monkeys, huge, colorful butterflies and birds, pink dolphins and flora and fauna that certainly are not found in Rochester. We toured jungle villages and were serenaded by children in a one room village school. The school goes through to 6th grade and the children must move away from the village if they want to continue their education.

I spent the next day training the new Iquitos liaisons, Helga Henderson and Libertad Ruiz Perdiz. They are energetic, enthusiastic and committed to our program. Iquitos is the largest city in the world that cannot be reached by car—it is only accessible by boat or plane. It is exotic and completely different from any other place that I have visited. Helga and Libertad took me on a tour of all the neighborhoods of Iquitos. We took the local mode of transportation, the motor taxi. It is like a rickshaw pulled by a motorbike. There are very few cars in Iquitos since they would have to come by plane or boat. I feel very comfortable that these two women will choose excellent students to come to Rochester and will take very good care of our students who go to Iquitos. Libertad, who is the principal of a school, has good experience for this role. Her daughter was an exchange student in Rochester and Libertad has been a host mother for us. Helga is a teacher and educates people about preserving the rain forest. She is Libertad's close friend and speaks fluent English.

Our next stop on this adventure was the ancient Inca capital of Cusco. At an altitude of 12000 feet we toured Inca ruins and Spanish churches, explored the incredible Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, and went on a tour of the Sacred Valley. The Andes Mountains are spectacular. This is an amazingly colorful country where many people wear traditional dress and houses are made of adobe. Llamas and alpacas are a common sight and young children are everywhere selling crafts or offering themselves for pictures.

We next flew to Arequipa, our other exchange city, and Eduardo met us at the air-

port. Gachy was not able to travel to Arequipa due to her health. Eduardo had arranged for us to visit three schools in Arequipa and to meet with the principals and English language directors. These are schools that potential ATAD students attend and that our American students may attend when they are on an ATAD exchange. The schools are each different and all seemed to have excellent English programs. In the evening I gave a speech to 25 interested parents and students at one of the schools. The schools are now more committed to ATAD and are looking for their top students to come here for our second semester.

We had one more wonderful day in Arequipa. We toured a huge old monastery that Eduardo restored when he was a builder. This is one of the main tourist sites in Arequipa. We had a personal tour by the expert. We then went on a tour of many sights in the countryside around Arequipa and admired the beautiful scenery in this highlands area of Peru. This is the winter in Peru but every day in Arequipa the temperature reached the mid 70s and the sun was shining. Always in view is at least one of the three beautiful, snow capped volcanic mountains that help to form the skyline of Arequipa.

On our last day we flew with Eduardo back to Lima and, in the evening, said good bye to our wonderful hosts, and to this very interesting, diverse and beautiful country.

Marian Kobrin
President, ATAD

ATAD Welcomes New Students for 2004-2005

Six new ATAD exchange students are now living and studying in the Rochester area. Two are from Novgorod, Russia; two are from Krakow, Poland; and two are from Caltanissetta, Italy. From Novgorod come Daria Konstantinovna, who is living with the Richard and Linda Luitich family in Honeoye Falls, and Maria Gorneva, who is living with the Linn family in Fairport. Szymon Pastuszczak, from Krakow, is living with Charlie and Nancy Frey and their children in Brighton. Mariusz Biegaj, also from Krakow, is being hosted by Roger and Jody Upton, of Pittsford. The two students from Caltanissetta are Federica Maria Pagano, who is living with the Marsocci family of Pittsford, and Laura Tirrito, who is being hosted by the Pisaturo family of Gates.

ATAD appreciates the generous hospitality of the host families and wishes to announce that four students are expected from Peru in January. They will stay here until the end of the school year in June. Host families are needed for these students. Families considering hosting a student may contact Karen Grover at 385-3639.



New exchange students to the Rochester area are from left: Mariusz Biegaj, from Krakow, Poland; Laura Tirrito, from Caltanissetta, Italy; Federica Pagano also from Caltanissetta; Maria Gorneva, from Novgorod, Russia; Daria Konstantinovna, also from Novgorod; and Szymon Pastuszczak, from Krakow, Poland.



French and American students meet at Charles DeGaulle Airport in Paris. They are from left to right: Katie Park, from Fairport; Pauline Bodin, from Rennes; Julie Heneghen, from Pittsford; Tristan Gouaillier, Rennes; Leetha Phonharath, Rochester; Millie Cambalik, Honeoye Falls; Olivier Menard and Raphael Laval, from Rennes.

French Exchange Summer 2004

ATAD welcomed four students from Rennes, France, this summer. They are Pauline Bodin, who was hosted by the Waldman family of Penfield, as well as the Susan Hartman family of Honeoye Falls; Tristan Gouaillier, who was hosted by Gail Drew and her family of Pittsford, N.Y., as well as by the Dolly Parker family, also of Pittsford; Raphael Laval, who was hosted by Ken and Kimberlie Greene and their children, of Pittsford; and Oliver Menard, whose hosts were the Cambalik family, of Mendon, NY. ATAD extends its gratitude to the host families who made an international living experience possible for the four French students who were part of our community this past summer.

ATAD Seeks Host Families

Please Call:

**Karen Grover at 385-3639
or Judy Zettek at 461-3317.**

ATAD

*Check us out on the web!
www.atad.org*

Association for Teen-Age Diplomats

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