

CIEE at 60

celebrating

sixty years of international
educational exchange



from 1947 to 2007: much to celebrate

From our beginnings at a meeting of assorted educational organizations in the spring of 1947, we at the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) have worked to promote international understanding and trust between nations with an evolving and expanding set of programs and efforts. Sixty years later, we pause to celebrate what we've accomplished, reflect on what we've learned through experience and from our peers, and consider the road ahead.

The world is a different place than it was in 1947, but our needs as global citizens have remained constant. We at CIEE still work each day, whether in Portland, Maine or Sevilla, Spain, to bring intercultural appreciation to a world that can never have enough. In the course of doing that, we have the privilege of being a part of, and even transforming, the lives of many: students, educators, host families, and institutions in the U.S. and abroad, and all those that our many participants come into contact with today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Since the world dreamed of improving post-war international relations, CIEE programs have been part of the answer:

Over 130,000 Americans have experienced another culture through CIEE study, teach, work, and volunteer programs in more than 50 countries abroad

Over 300,000 people from 60 nations have become a part of the U.S. for a time through our inbound work, trainee, and volunteer programs

Over 100,000 high school students and their teachers and families have become lifelong citizens of the world through our inbound and outbound secondary school exchange programs

Over 20,000 U.S. families and employers have been enriched by CIEE-sponsored international visitors



*At 60, we still bring knowledge of other ways and other peoples
to the students and educators we serve*





At 60, we still educate people about the nature of the world in which they live and awaken their concern for all groups and each individual on the planet earth



60 years of work

The CIEE mission is one shared by many in international education: to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. To fulfill that mission, CIEE provides international educational experiences for U.S. university students, faculty, and administrators and students and professionals from other nations. CIEE is active in countless initiatives on these three fronts, enabling more than 50,000 people to have meaningful new experiences each year:

Programs: creating and administering programs that allow U.S. students and educators to study and teach abroad, and international students and professionals to study, work, and intern in the U.S.

Advocacy: supporting initiatives, viewpoints, and policies that are conducive to advancing international education. We champion the cause by working with government officials, collaborating with other advocacy groups, and raising public awareness.

Knowledge: promoting the advancement of understanding among educators and practitioners in the field through CIEE-funded and -conducted research projects, international faculty development seminars, the CIEE Annual Conference, and a variety of publications.

60 years of principled action

There is nothing more important to us than our values. As a longstanding institution, we recognize that our goals—while inspiring—take careful work and time to attain. We know we must evolve to meet changing circumstances, but never must we forget who we are as an organization. These are the principles with which we face the 21st century:

Our focus is on **outcomes, not inputs**. While destination, programming, and enrichment activities are certainly important, managing the outcome of these factors is what makes programs achieve their goals.

Quality must be built into programs, not added on. There are hundreds of choices that affect program quality. The only way to build good programs is to make these choices based on quality rather than on economics or popularity.

Many of our participants are at a developmental stage of their lives and we provide what is often a transformational experience. We therefore have a special responsibility to **facilitate learning as well as assure health, safety, and welfare**.

Large enclaves of students crowded together in study and living environments do not promote learning. Programs should **provide local integration into the host culture** to maximize program value.

2007

There is no substitute for experienced, qualified, and committed staff. CIEE, through its recruitment, management, and ongoing development efforts guarantees that its people are simply the best, whatever their role.

Programs are a partnership between many stakeholders. Honest, forthright, and ongoing communication between all parties is essential to program success.

Evaluation of programs must be independent of management, consistently conducted, and publicly available to all interested parties. Anything else is a whitewash. The systematic CIEE approach to evaluation, and the transparency of the process, results in programs that work rather than programs that promise to work.

We are a mission-driven company. Our goal is not to profit but to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. Everything we do advances that cause in one way or another.

what will your story be?

On a day-to-day basis, CIEE work is about much more than meeting milestones or manifesting principles. We have the privilege of providing others with the opportunity to write their own stories, whether they study, work, or teach in the United States or in any of the countries in which we labor around the globe. We are truly inspired by the profound impact international educational exchange has had on the lives of our participants, members, and supporters.

listen to their stories

understanding the world, finding the truth about yourself

“The sweet relief of the evening breeze lures me to the front stoop of the house where members of my host family congregate...The women, in boisterous Wolof, tell lively stories about the latest neighborhood gossip. The men sit quietly, extending the formal greetings of respect to friends and passersby alike. I love the way *salaamaalekum* (peace be upon you) floats off my host father’s lips so unaffectedly. On the street, I can just make out my favorite peanut vendor...I imagine the fruit stand around the corner is busy swapping change for ripe mangos and swelled grapefruits. Unlike the heat, the taxis have not surrendered their efforts. The continuous honks and rumbling engines fade in and out of the conversational background, only overwhelmed by the shrill and faithful evening call to prayer from the nearby mosque.

Sitting there on the stone stoop, it strikes me how at ease I feel. Just over a month ago, I was sitting on this same stoop wondering how much longer I would have to last before I could excuse myself and retire to my room. I couldn’t understand the language. I couldn’t understand how anyone could sit for so long doing seemingly nothing productive. I was more concerned that I would never understand, that I had erroneously assessed my own capacities and it was only a matter of time before I would break. Africa had always been my dream, but the glossy images of safaris and savanna sunsets in *National Geographic* had left this American girl disillusioned amidst the bustling markets and congested traffic of Dakar. At that point of breaking, if someone had handed me a ticket, I would have gladly boarded a plane and flown back to the familiar.

But no one handed me a ticket and I didn’t break. However, I was right in that I had erroneously assessed my capacity. I was actually capable of so much more than I ever envisioned.”

—heather rice *ciee study center participant dakar, senegal*



different backgrounds, shared dreams

“I write this after a year of non-stop excitement and tons of incredible yet funny stories...a year which changed my approach towards everything, which matured me as a friend, as a son, as a brother, and much more importantly as a human being. I am honored to share my tale [of leaving my native Pakistan for a year to attend high school in the United States].

I never knew participating could change one’s perspective on life as much as it did mine. Tolerance, respect for others, and appreciation of pluralism—of living in a society and a world where people are different and where we appreciate people for their differences—is what creates peace in our world. That’s what I learned in the U.S. One thing I really like about this great country is the fact that one can call oneself anything he wants, like a Pakistani American or a Chinese American. That’s the beauty of this country. This is very rare in other parts of the world.

[My host family] is diverse in itself. Papa, my host grandpa, came to the U.S. about 45 years ago from Iran, so he is a Middle Eastern Jew. My host brother, Ryan Cummings, died in Iraq a month before I came here. He was a Marine and serving in the Iraq War. May his soul rest in peace. We all shared the sorrow and grief equally and watched his video every third of the month, as that was the date he died.

Apart from all this, they accepted me as their own son. Never did I feel like I was a stranger. We discussed, shared, and made fun of each other just like a real family would. The thing I really learned was that one should not judge someone based on their religion or place of origin. This is what I saw in my host family. I have learned that all of us have the same fears and the same dreams. Of course no one can be like your real family, but my love for my host family is the same as for my real family.

Now starts our responsibility to make a difference. [I am going to] connect with others [online], be a good influence, and lead by example. What about you?”

—waleed nasir u.s.a. high school student crystal lake, illinois

appreciating good fortune

“Waleed moved in with us in August, a little more than two months after [our oldest son] Ryan was killed [in Iraq]. We were in such a state of shock and mourning. I just didn’t think we were the best place for him. But our worries subsided when we saw Waleed’s smiling face at the airport. He was so excited about everything that it made us all value how lucky we are.

Waleed has become best friends with his host brother Jason. They studied together when they had the same classes at Crystal Lake Central High School. They commiserated together when they both were sore from soccer and football practice. They tried new foods together. Jason has really changed since Waleed came. He signed up for wrestling and track after Waleed’s encouragement...he has gained a lot of confidence because of Waleed. It’s the best of both worlds: they are friends and brothers.”

—melissa cummings u.s.a. high school host mother crystal lake, illinois



the privilege of guiding

“I have the unique opportunity to work every semester with wonderful young college students who help me revisit my own international experience in so many different ways, appreciating even more the lovely city I live in and understanding the cultural challenges they (and I) face on a daily basis. Our students challenge themselves in many ways simply by studying abroad. They develop and mature as their experiences outside the United States truly prepare them to be responsible global citizens. I am privileged and honored to be able to work with and for them as a CIEE Resident Director. Learning from them makes me a better person.

Transparency in our mission forces us to work hard to realize our goals as a team with the highest standards of quality and academic rigor one can find in the field. This philosophy of transparency has inspired me to make sure that what we offer in Sevilla is innovative, academically challenging, and culturally stimulating for our students.

Long-distance leadership and management are real challenges despite today’s technologically interconnected world. Yet CIEE always makes possible those important face-to-face meetings through training sessions, staff exchanges, and conference attendance. When I meet other resident staff from different areas of the world, I am always impressed with how they manage their programs, and I always come away with new ideas for my own.

I am privileged to be a part of this team, one which, in a very significant way, helps facilitate international understanding in an increasingly complicated world.”

*—maritheresa fraire director, ciee study center director
sevilla, spain*



teaching understanding, learning a new perspective

“When I first visited the CIEE website several months prior to graduating from college, I was enticed by their slogan, “what will your story be?” I knew I didn't want to be another recent graduate yawning pleasantries about “another day” or “another dollar,” so I seized an alluring opportunity to serve as an ambassador of Western culture while teaching English in Thailand. Now, a proud CIEE Teach alumnus, I'm beginning to tell my story, and it goes something like this.

Being primarily Buddhist, Thais tend not to celebrate Christmas. So, when the headmistress, principal, and owner of our school suggested “Christmas at KVS,” I knew it would be an interesting holiday. The Thai teachers began to talk about having Santa Claus come to school; their eyes shifted toward me and I caught a glimpse of the inevitable. Being one of two male teachers in our tiny school, it was me or the English lad with a surly disposition. On Christmas morning, I slipped into the suit, sweating like a person wearing a Santa costume in Thailand, and marched into the halls of Krungthep Vited Suksa School.

And so, for the first time in my life, I worked on Christmas day far, far away from home, in the affectionate embrace of 180 awe-inspiring students and colleagues. I didn't receive holiday pay, but none of that mattered; this was my job, and it never once felt like work. It was not an “American Christmas,” but I'll never forget the faces of all those children as I waddled through the halls sending well-wishes.

Though this story will forever be my favorite, it is one of many from Thailand that continue to shape my life and influence the direction it takes. As I journey further into the professional world, I'll remember this “land of smiles” and live by the expression *mai pen rai* (never mind), which portrays the notion that life is to be appreciated and lived in the moment—not for holiday pay or overtime, but simply for the task at hand. I've returned home radiant with a distinct worldliness, ready to accept challenges strange and unknown—and to always do so with a smile and a grain of salt (or rice).”

—marshall johnson *teach in thailand* participant don muang, bangkok, thailand



developing knowledge, insight, herself



“At this moment, I’m digging out my notes from the Amsterdam International Faculty Development Seminar (IFDS) for a discussion of prostitution and pornography in my Contemporary Social Problems classes. I have pictures and notes from Costa Rica on hold for later considerations of economic development and environmental issues. And, having finally mastered some basic digital technology, I’m using a PowerPoint of my pictures from Senegal and India to enhance presentations on cultural relativity, identity, religious traditions, families, and social change in my Principles of Sociology classes.

While such an account of integrating previous IFDS experiences into my courses demonstrates development of an increasingly global perspective, the actual effect of relating first-hand knowledge is more difficult to communicate. Dozing students wake up: “Imagine Dr. Lord drinking tea at the Prostitute Information Center!” Shy students ask questions: “How do multiple wives in Senegal get along with each other?” Pencil pushers stop to think, consider, and ponder: “How could outsourcing be managed to benefit both Indian and American workers?” Students tell me that personal stories and insights bring the subject matter alive; some who have never traveled farther than Pittsburgh ask me about possibilities for studying abroad. Not only do International Faculty Development Seminars put me in touch with the world, but they also enable me to keep actively in touch with successive generations.

Resisting my sixty-something peers’ talk about marking time toward retirement, I’m bent on gathering new information, raising new questions, and sharing new insights. Each IFDS experience whets my appetite for more.”

—jane lord *international faculty development seminar participant*
netherlands, costa rica, senegal, india, ireland

shared goals, shared successes

“Internationalization is one of several primary presidential initiatives at Portland State University. We are proud to count our alignment with CIEE as one way we meet our goals. CIEE staff, domestic and international, are consummate professionals. Each takes great care and pride in contributing to knowledge in the field and providing tools—from their user-friendly website to their effective, thorough promotional materials—that enable us to better advise our students.

Our faculty and staff have on many occasions benefited from site visits and Academic Consortium Board reviews. PSU and CIEE recently supported a language professor’s visit to several CIEE Study Centers in Spain. She was able to review programs in action objectively, interact with resident directors, program coordinators, students, and faculty, and contemplate how CIEE programs relate to the teaching pedagogy and internationalization agenda at PSU. She is now much better equipped to speak to students and faculty about the excellence of CIEE programs—and has become a torch-bearer for international opportunities for both students and the institution.

Similarly, the CIEE annual conference is a wonderful way to network, learn about hot topics, and become familiar with CIEE as an organization. Conferences always have high participation from leaders in the field—a testament to the quality that CIEE pursues in all their endeavors. CIEE also plays a pivotal role in professional development for our advisors and faculty, which officially includes continuing education through CIEE International Faculty Development Seminars.

Today, PSU has over 130 memorandums of understanding with overseas universities, and partners with NGOs, institutions, foundations, and governments worldwide. Since 1999, our international enrollment has increased 50 percent, with students from 94 countries attending PSU. We host 100 researchers and scholars who contribute their expertise to our community. The number of PSU students studying abroad has increased 58 percent since 1999, and continues to increase each year. CIEE is one of the premier study abroad organizations, and PSU looks forward to working with CIEE in the decades to come.”

—ron witzak ciee and academic consortium member portland, oregon



teaching and learning while working

“This is my fifth time in the U.S. as a Work and Travel student. (If I hadn’t liked it, of course I wouldn’t have come back so many times!) Frankly speaking, it is the best way to spend your summer: you can explore new places, improve your English, and gain professional experience all at the same time. I spent three summers at a casino in Atlantic City and two in the CIEE Boston office in the customer service group. The CIEE job is my favorite: it’s challenging and multicultural, and gives me an important perspective on my education, which to this point includes an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree in public administration. I plan to get a second master’s degree in international marketing when I return home.

My first time here was a little bit frightening, though exciting. I was on my own and had to take care of everything—finding housing, getting familiar with my new neighborhood, learning my new job. It was a very demanding experience, but Americans are very friendly and helpful. They never treated me as a stranger, and I managed to overcome all hindrances and meet new friends who were eager to learn about Polish culture.

Many Americans have the impression that Poland is still as it was during the 1980s—a communist country obsessed with Lech Walesa. The reality is different. We like to think of ourselves as Central, not Eastern Europeans. Warsaw is full of well-educated, young people. In fact, many international companies have opened offices there to take advantage of our labor force.

The U.S. is like a salad bowl: you will find Belgian endive, Greek feta cheese, and Indian spices. Since it’s so multicultural, we can benefit from each other, begin to understand different cultures and religions, and become more open-minded. Here, I became more self-confident and independent and I know that I will be able to handle every situation the future brings. It was the best experience of my life.”

*—katarzyna goździkowska work & travel u.s.a. participant
boston, massachusetts*



international experiences close to home

“At Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA, we have the pleasure of hosting approximately 900 international students every year. These students make up 15% of our seasonal work force and add so much to our parks for both our employees and our guests. Besides being highly motivated, hardworking, and well-educated, the students provide a worldwide cultural experience for each person they come in contact with, sharing their language, their customs, and themselves, bringing the world closer to those who have never had the opportunity to travel outside of the U.S.

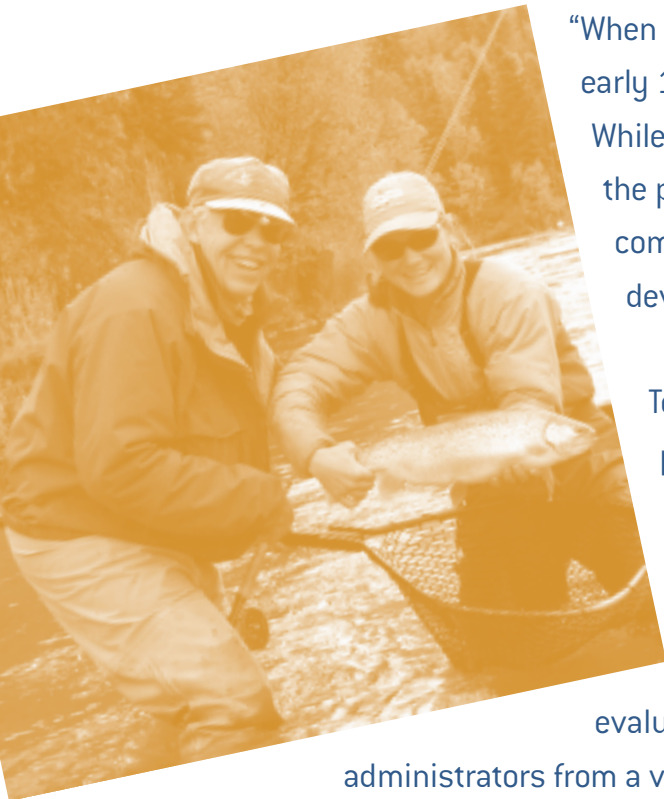
Every year, we receive comments from our guests and employees related to their individual positive experiences with our international students. It could be a simple smile, a service interaction, or a friendship that develops, but in every case, it bridges the distance between the student’s homeland and the U.S.

We are proud to be associated with the CIEE Work & Travel program, offering the students, our employees, and our guests a different type of cultural experience and exposure right here in Williamsburg, Virginia. It is a great marriage and a winning experience for all.”

—dave spencer work & travel u.s.a. employer williamsburg, virginia



institutionalizing improvement



“When the CIEE Board of Directors reorganized and formed the Academic Consortium Board (ACB) in the early 1990s, one of the Board's principal charges to the ACB was evaluation of the academic programs. While at the University of Colorado at Boulder, I was privileged to chair a subcommittee that formulated the plan. We met first in 1994 and struggled for three years to devise a process that would be rigorous, comprehensive, transparent, ongoing, affordable, and involve all of the stakeholders. The committee devised a methodology which, with a few tweaks, is still in place.

Ten years on, annual monitoring of all programs and full evaluation every three to seven years has become part of the culture of CIEE Study Centers. Without doubt, students and the institutions which send them are getting a better product: high academic quality and, in many instances, better cross-cultural offerings. Involving faculty from sending schools as part of review teams, publishing the results of evaluations (warts included), monitoring programs annually to determine progress on suggested improvements—all demonstrate the CIEE commitment to quality and transparency. But I also suspect that the CIEE evaluation process has made study abroad better as a whole. The review process has involved faculty and administrators from a very large number of institutions. They cannot help but take that experience home and look with a more critical eye at their own programs or at the programs they host.

Anniversaries are a time to look both backward and forward. The 60 of the baby boomers isn't the 60 of our grandparents. We're out there remaking ourselves, starting new careers, feeling healthy and youthful. Just so with the Council on International Educational Exchange, which has recreated itself in the last ten years to meet quite different challenges than the world presented in 1947. I believe that the whole process of creating program review—now institutionalized—is emblematic of an evolution in the culture of CIEE. CIEE at 60 is a mission-driven organization: open, inclusive, focused. So in wishing CIEE a happy 60th, it is with high confidence in its future that I add my best wishes for many more youthful years.”

—*michael delaney academic consortium member (retired) boulder, colorado*

at home everywhere

“I am one-quarter Russian and always wanted to learn more about my heritage. I had also studied Russian in college but wanted some real-world experience. My CIEE experience did both of those things. I spent a semester in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1994, living in a dormitory with Russian students and taking classes at the Gornyi [Mining] Institute, also the alma mater of Russian President Putin. I learned many things, including: how to function in a foreign language when you don't know the words for “street” or “towel;” how important intercultural exchange is in removing stereotypes about our culture and theirs; that cold weather is a small price to pay for White Nights; and, especially, that I wanted to be part of the international community.

My Russia experience convinced me that I wanted to find a career where I could live long enough in a foreign country that, in the end, it ceased being foreign and became home. It convinced me that my love of languages could intersect with my desire to make a difference in my world. It led me to choose a career in international relations, where I worked in Moldova and Ghana. And, in 2004, I came full circle. I was assigned to St. Petersburg, where when I visited the Gornyi I got the VIP treatment, and was welcomed as an alumna. CIEE changed my world.”

—abby rupp *ciee study center participant st. petersburg, russia*



forward to the future

We often ask students “what will your story be?” At CIEE, we want our story to be service to our mission. In a world with changing political, social, and economic dynamics, all intertwined, the need for citizens with experience beyond the borders of their own countries will greatly increase. CIEE can contribute to filling that need. Today, we work with almost 50,000 students, young professionals, and faculty each year. Tomorrow, who knows?

What we do know from the crucible of experience is that international study and work programs change people’s lives—sometimes dramatically, sometimes in more subtle ways. Whether in political diplomacy, social betterment, or economic growth and prosperity, CIEE programs can play a crucial role in the world for many years to come. As we celebrate our history, we look forward with excitement and expectation to the future and the contributions we can make.

At 60, our overriding goal is still to enable our world's peoples to work and live together

At 60, we are still adjusting and changing to meet the challenges of our chosen field

At 60, we still sense the need for a cooperative, constituency-based approach to developing exchanges

At 60, we still successfully serve the interests of U.S. foreign policy by promoting the best values of American society in the international arena

At 60, we still open minds and break down barriers

At 60, we are proud of our legacy in student study and travel, but focus our greater energies on what remains to be done in the erratic human march toward understanding and peace

At 60, we are looking forward to the year 2008...
and to a future of limitless international understanding and trust

Each "At 60" statement that appears in this piece contains language taken directly from historical documents such as essays, speeches, and annual reports that were written at varying moments during our history. We include them because each and every one could just as easily have been written today, and we are proud of this evidence of our unwavering commitment to our purpose.

