



Alumni Newsletter

Welcoming International Students

Issue No 2 Spring 2016

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS



We are delighted to announce Helena Somerville (top) as the winner of this year's Photo Competition. Helena will receive a traditional hamper, HOST apron and a certificate signed by HOST's Chairman, Mark Pelew, CVO. Congratulations!

Commended prizes go to Sergey Tsay (Out and About), Gerelmaa Myagmarsuren (Festive Fun), and Eucharia Nwaichi (Cooking Capers). They will each receive a HOST apron and a certificate.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos. With over 400 entries, this was not an easy Competition to judge.

Office Move

The HOST Head Office has now moved. Please update your records, using the address below, and ensure all postal correspondence is sent to this new address.

Send us your updates

We'd love to know what alumni HOST students are doing now. Please contact HOST with an update, and let us know your best memories of your HOST visit.

Sylvia Adams House
24 The Common
Hatfield
Hertfordshire
AL10 0NB
Telephone: 020 7739 6292
www.hostuk.org
info@hostuk.org



Reg Charity 327592
Reg Company 2179430

A Family for Life, by Oluwaseun Sunday Bamgbopa, Nigeria



Graduation, Jan 2016. From left to right: student Oluwaseun with hosts Trevor and Sue, and father, Olusoji.

During my Masters' degree in the United Kingdom, the desire to experience British culture filled my thoughts.

I was fortunate to go on a HOST visit, where I met an amazing family in Edinburgh. They were very nice and hospitable; they fulfilled all my expectations of a typical British family by showing me much love and friendliness.

I was exposed to the beauty of Scotland and the ancient cities. I visited several interesting sites within Scotland which were relevant to structural and engineering geology. They knew that was my field of study and thought to motivate me. We had a wonderful road trip, had dinner together, played several games together.

I completely felt like part of their family; it was really an honour, and gave me lovely memories to smile about.

My HOST visit made it possible for me to associate with this family. Up until now we still communicate like family. They inspired me about life and what comes next, and I motivated and inspired their son about my university degree. I am proud to say that he will be heading to university soon. I have made a family for life.

This winter, they joyfully graced my graduation ceremony at Newcastle University with their presence. I was so happy to see my British family. Thank you, HOST, for giving me an experience of a lifetime.

HOST'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2017, HOST will be celebrating 30 years of building international friendships and facilitating cultural understanding, and we'd like for you to be a part of it.

HOST would not be possible without its wonderful volunteer hosts, who are so generous and friendly, and who welcome hundreds of international students into their homes every year. We would like to say a special thank you to the hosts by creating a Bumper Book of Thanks with your stories and photos. Any host mentioned in your story will also get a copy of the Book.

If you would like to join in, please send your story and/or photo, full name, date of your visit, home-country, and the name of your host(s) to [Kimberley](#). If you can't remember some information, don't worry. Please send your stories and photos in anyway.

MARGARET BAGGED THE MARILYNS

In our last issue, we introduced you to Margaret Hancox, who was climbing 7 Marilyn's (hills with at least 500 feet of ascent on all sides) for her 70th birthday, all to raise money for HOST.

We are delighted to announce that Margaret completed her challenge in October, raising a fantastic £2,146.

Thank you, Margaret, and congratulations on your achievement.



YOUR COMMENTS

"I completed a HOST weekend in 2010. Since then, I graduated from Syracuse University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in history, policy studies, and political science. From there, I returned to London to complete my Master's in Public Administration at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). I graduated from LSE in 2014. Since then, I have been working in Las Vegas, USA for the Clark County - County Manager's Office." **Katie Walpole, USA, visited Oct 2010**

"I always appreciate the initiative from HOST which enable me to enjoy one of my most memorable weekends in UK. Reading the memories shared by other alumni made me nostalgic." **Debasish Paul, Bangladesh visited Apr 2010**

How you can help

If you would like to give back, so that the HOST scheme can continue to help international students, as it helped you, please consider offering your support in one of the following ways.

Friend of HOST

Become a Friend of HOST and give a regular donation. Find out more on the [HOST website](#).

One-off Donation

Make a one-off donation at [HOST's Big Give page](#) or by sending a cheque to HOST's office.

Challenge Yourself

Run, swim, jump and more. Raise money while completing a challenge. Set up a fundraising page with [Virgin Money Giving](#).

Host

If you have graduated and now live in the UK, sign up to invite international students to your home for a day or a weekend.

Tell us your stories

We want to hear your HOST memories, see your photos, and know what you're doing now. Please get in touch with HOST with your details.

THANK YOU

Thank you for helping to make the world a friendlier place by supporting HOST.