

GREETINGS FROM MEG MOULTON

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

If my sampling of ASSIST alumni in Cambridge (MA) last spring is any indicator, I know that I am in for a treat and my cause and yours is a worthy one.

I can think of nothing more energizing and gratifying than to give young scholars the opportunity to broaden their horizons through study at one of our member schools and to become leaders and contributors to their countries upon return. Likewise for ASSIST member school communities to learn, enjoy, and grow from the shared experience as well!

My position is newly created. As Vice President for Advancement, my primary responsibilities revolve around friend- and fundraising for ASSIST. I look forward to generating a network of enthusiasts and contributors so that we can continue our support of Excalibur students and investing in new geographic areas. Orientation for the Class of 2009/10 took place in mid-August. As the newcomer to the team, I had the happy task of experiencing firsthand the experience as our new class unfolded their first chapter with ASSIST. As you read these words, Bob and I have returned from our travels to South Africa, the latest addition to our country roster, and from Germany, where we met with our friends, alumni, and colleagues.

I look forward to a more personal introduction with each of you as the months move along.

Warmly and with great anticipation, **Meg**

GREETINGS FROM MARTIN MILNE

Dear Colleagues,

After accepting my position at ASSIST last spring, I was invited to the spring Board dinner where I had the opportunity to meet some of the 2008/09 ASSIST scholars and listen to their reflections on their year in the U.S. Each of the students gave truly moving and inspiring speeches about their year and how it had impacted them. It was just 4 months later that I was greeting the ASSIST Class of 2009/10 at Logan airport as they stepped off the plane, many tired and jet-lagged, seemingly unsure of what lay ahead. Yet it became clear during our orientation that each of these scholars was so willing to take risks, accept the challenges, and make the most of this experience.

I have just returned from some of my first school visits, during which I had the opportunity to meet with Heads of School, Directors of Admission, and ASSIST students. The students with whom I visited are all very content and are navigating through the many challenges of being an international student and a new student, taking all of their classes for the first time in English, living with a host family or in a dormitory, and adjusting to a new culture that they will be immersed in for 10 months away from their families. As I visited these students, I thought back to the students who spoke at the Board dinner last spring, and wondered what stories and unique reflections these students would be able to share this May as they look back on their year.

It has been wonderful to already experience the ASSIST mission at work during our orientation, amongst host families, and at the member schools that I have visited. I look forward to playing my part in carrying forward ASSIST's mission of bringing future leaders together to promote mutual understanding and furthering the cause of world peace.

Martín