

JA Chicago Staffers Visit Kenya

A love for travel and Junior Achievement was the reason two members of the JA Chicago office recently introduced more than 400 Kenyan students to the power of JA programs. Amy Fisher and Jenna Saric were presented with the travel opportunity by Dr. Mwendu Ntarangwi, director of anthropological studies at their alma mater, Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Fisher and Saric signed up for Dr. Ntarangwi's Harambee 2007, meaning "to come together," to continue the mission to rebuild the region. Incorporating JA programs into the trip was a perfect fit. Barclays Bank funded JA materials for the students, and in the United States, McDonald's, Rotary, and Enterprise Rent-a-Car facilities provided supplies for each Kenyan student.

"We were able to connect with these students while providing them with an economic education that they grew genuinely interested in," says Saric. "There's no question that JA programs left an incredible impression on them."

"JA Kenya was pleased to work with the team from JA Chicago, and we are grateful for the impact that they made on the kids," says John Wali, executive director of JA Kenya.



Students in Kenya enjoy their JA experience. Nearly 400 students in the region were introduced to the concepts of work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

MetLife Foundation Recognizes Operations for Innovation

Six JA operations in the United States and two international operations recently received the 2007 MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award. First presented in 2001, the \$25,000 award recognizes JA offices that demonstrate entrepreneurship and innovation.

The eight award-winning offices and their initiatives are:

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin

The *JA Business Challenge* is a mission-driven event that tangibly demonstrates JA's vision and purpose to board members, supporters, educators, parents, and students.

Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland

Its *Partnership with Christo Rey Academy* places student workers armed with the skills and knowledge to

be productive and efficient employees, into participating Corporate Work Study Program companies.

Junior Achievement of Hong Kong

The *New Leaders Programme* cultivates ethical leadership among students ages 11 to 19, developing them into successful leaders.

Junior Achievement of Washington

The *Motivating Incarcerated Youth* program targets incarcerated youth, helping prepare them for lifelong success.

Junior Achievement of South Dakota

The *Advocate to the South Dakota Department of Education* is a multi-year, multi-tiered approach to collaborate with educational stakeholders in the creation of K-12 personal finance, business, economics, and entrepreneurship content standards.

Junior Achievement of Bulgaria

The *Financing Student Company Graduates* program gives graduates financial and mentoring support to develop their Student Company product into an actual company.

Junior Achievement of Central Massachusetts

Its *Community Partnership for At-Risk Students* educates nonprofit colleagues about the critical need to include components of financial literacy and work-readiness in its programs to reach vulnerable and at-risk teenagers.

Junior Achievement of Central Florida

The *CEO-Creating Educational Opportunities* program is designed to open up a new world of educational and life opportunities to at-risk middle school students.

Marty Lee Inducted into Staff Hall of Fame

The Junior Achievement Professional Staff Hall of Fame inducted Marty Lee during a special ceremony on July 12, 2007. Awarded at JA's Worldwide Leadership Conference, the Professional Staff Hall of Fame recognizes former leaders of JA for being consummate professionals and exemplary role models.

During his 30 years with JA, Marty Lee was a rare leader, combining compassion, ethics, vision, and the courage to make tough decisions. Lee began his career in 1970 as the program director for JA in Atlanta. He was named the CSO for Jackson, Mississippi, in 1973, where his success helped identify him as one of the organization's upcoming leaders.

In 1977, Lee joined the JA Headquarters office, where he helped develop, launch,

and grow JA's first in-school program, *Project Business*. Following his role at Headquarters, Lee returned to the field in 1982; first as president in Orlando, then as vice president of operations in New York City.

Returning to Headquarters in 1986, Lee became the organization's first vice president of training. During his 10 years heading the Human Resources functions of the organization, Lee transformed the department. In 1998, he was named executive vice president and COO of Junior Achievement, a position he held until his retirement in 2003. Marty's calm and wise demeanor helped lead the organization into the 21st century, where the number of students reached doubled to more than 4 million.



After leaving behind a magnificent legacy at JA, Lee became president of TelecomPioneers, the largest industry-specific nonprofit in the world, and a major partner of JA.

On Board

JA Worldwide Board of Directors Profile



Michael Towers
Director
Duckhorn Wine Co.

Achievement over the years make him a true champion of the organization.

Since joining the board of Junior Achievement of Washington in 1992, his impact on the organization has been significant. Towers has chaired many successful fundraising campaigns for JA in the area, and, as a result of his leadership, Washington Mutual raised an average of \$600,000 per year over the

past 10 years and is a major source of volunteers for JA.

Continuing his support for the organization, Towers joined the JA Worldwide board of directors in 2002 and is an active member of the Development Committee. As a member of the JA Heritage Society, he and his wife Pamela's generosity will help to ensure JA Worldwide's vision is clear and effective well into the future.

To express their thoughts about JA Worldwide, the Towers summed it up this way: "We believe the best way to repay the help we were given in our early years is by helping the next generation of young people. Junior Achievement has long been a special focus for us, and it is our hope that the support will help ensure young people are equipped with the skills they need for success in life."

2007 Teacher of the Year



Mita Doncheva Georgieva of the National High School of Business and Finance in Sofia, Bulgaria, was recently named JA Worldwide's 2007 Teacher of the Year. Her support includes helping build the relationship between JA and the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, as well as raising awareness in the local media to help promote Junior Achievement's innovative work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy programs. Ms. Georgieva has taught JA programs in her classes since 1997, reaching an estimated 1,000 students, and works with JA Bulgaria to recruit volunteers by sharing her experiences. JA Worldwide thanks the Little Family Foundation for its continue sponsorship of this award.

JA Heritage Society Founding Members Profile



Jim and Carol
Horstmann

The JA Heritage Society recognizes JA supporters that have included the organization in their estate planning.

Jim Horstmann and his wife, Carol, are tireless leaders and role models for Junior Achievement

in the Quad Cities area. "Our future gift will hopefully leave a lasting legacy and help to provide funding for the teaching of the free enterprise system to students today and in the future. Our provision enables us to give back to others in appreciation for our own success, and there is no better way than through Junior Achievement."



Howard and Sue
Carver

Howard Carver has been an active member of the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England since 1999.

He is retired managing partner of Ernst & Young's Hartford office. His wife, Sue, has been an active volunteer for the organization for many years. They recently revised their wills, naming JA as a beneficiary. "Sue and I feel strongly that helping children and families improve their financial independence is not enough. Providing an understanding of personal and business finances and how to maintain and maximize financial resources once attained is critical. This is what JA does so very well for so many people."

More information on the JA Heritage Society can be found in the *Donors* section of www.ja.org.



Futures

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From the President's Desk



Gerald M. Czarniecki
President and Chief Executive Officer

JA Worldwide programs help students prepare for the future. A future that ensures their potential not only is met, but exceeded. While showing students the power of believing in themselves and teaching the crucial skills of work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy, fair and honest competition is an essential element of our programs.

I have witnessed firsthand the excitement and intensity of our competitions. When groups of students from different backgrounds, with different interests and goals, band together over the course of a semester as a result of a JA experience, it shows how vital this organization is. Beginning with what they believe to be just another way to pass time in class, the students soon become so engaged they may not even realize they are gaining critical knowledge that will last a lifetime. They are able to expand their critical-thinking skills, develop strategies, and use the knowledge they have gained through their JA program. That's what makes our competitions so unique! And with these newly acquired skills, the mentoring of their volunteer, and the encouragement of their teacher, many of these young people travel to faraway places to compete, meet new people, and experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. JA's "real world" programs become all the more real.

Never is our impact more apparent than when it unites young people from all corners of the earth around the ideals of teamwork, belief, and success.

JA in the Americas Stresses Economic Prosperity

The summer of 2007 was a busy one for JA in the Americas region. Linda Claffin, senior vice president of the Asia/Pacific and Americas region, was invited to represent JA Worldwide at two high-profile conferences.

The first was the inaugural Americas Competitiveness Forum, held June 10-13 in Atlanta. The forum attracted more than 900 attendees, representing 30 countries from the Western Hemisphere. Leaders from the private and public sectors, the academic community, and non-government organizations engaged government officials on a wide range of issues that are key to enhancing economic prosperity and the quality of life for the citizens of the region.

On July 9, 2007, Claffin attended the White House Conference on the Americas, an event hosted by the President and Mrs. Bush. The conference included discussions on the vast array of societal interactions between the United States and its neighbors to better the lives of the region's citizens. JA Worldwide was



The White House Conference on the Americas (left to right): Tom Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State; Liliana Montenegro, Dominican Republic, Pontificia Universidad; Garry Delice, Haiti HELP; Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education; Linda Claffin; and Luis Javier Castro, Costa Rica Asociacion Empresarial para el Desarrollo.

the only nonprofit asked to speak at the event.

The participation of JA Worldwide at each of these conferences allowed the organization to demonstrate its position as an effective solution-provider for the economic issues plaguing many in the Americas and around the world.

JA Worldwide Receives Highest Rating from Charity Navigator



For the second consecutive year, JA Worldwide has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. Receiving four out of a possible four stars two years running is yet another example of JA Worldwide's vitality in the nonprofit sector, and speaks to the level of commitment by staff and supporters to ensure JA's vision and purpose are met with integrity, respect, and excellence.



Futures And the Winners Are...Everyone

Competition is a cornerstone of the global economy. And, as JA Worldwide® strives to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy, the element of competition in our programs is significant. As demonstrated by recent global competitions, these events are massive in size and appeal, and unite members of the JA community from around the world with an impact that reaches far beyond prizes and first-place finishers.

In July, Citi Foundation sponsored the first annual *JA Banks in Action* North American Competition. Eleven teams from the United States and Canada gathered in New York City for an exhilarating game of financial know-how and skill, where good money management instincts were the key to survival. Just days before this engaging event, the *JA Titan* National Championship, sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation, was held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The contest was the result of a year-long online competition in which hundreds of students from around the country had the opportunity to flex their entrepreneurial muscles by running an online company of the future. After a year of learning, growing, and adapting, and with the support of their teachers and volunteers, the finalists from each of these respective competitions were able to meet face to face, forming bonds and friendships that will last beyond New York and Orlando.



The winning JA Titan team is pictured here along with Dan Cockerell, general manager of merchandise operations at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom (left), JA Worldwide Board Member William Freeman (right), and the legendary Mickey Mouse.



JA Worldwide instills a sense of belief: A recent winner of the JA Banks in Action competition said, "If I can be the best JA Banker in North America, I think I can open my own web design business and be successful."

August was the month of choice for two, high-profile global JA competitions. The first stop was Prague, Czech Republic, for the Hewlett Packard Global Business Challenge that took place August 21 and 22. Nearly 1,000 students participated over the last several months to secure a spot in the Prague finals. The Business Challenge uses *JA Titan* as its competition platform and is one of the most intense among JA competitions. Then onto Hong Kong where a partnership between JA Worldwide and FedEx Express brought together students from Hong Kong, Korea, and Australia. It was the International Trade Challenge, an event that gave students the opportunity to network with peers from around the world and make a world-class product presentation to a panel of industry experts.

In the end, JA Worldwide's competitions are not about winners, prizes, trophies, or even bragging rights. The competitions bring students from around the world together to celebrate a passion for success and unlimited potential. It's the excitement and drive shown by the thousands of young participants each year that truly demonstrates JA Worldwide's relevance to the present and impact on the future.

Competitions Coming This Fall..

- **Laws of Life Essay Competition** – offered through *JA Careers with a Purpose*; sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation and HCA.
- **JA Business Ethics Challenge** – offered through the newly revised *JA Business Ethics* program; sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation and Deloitte.

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