



## Coordinator meets alumni, launches new chapter in Nairobi

“What wonderful weather!” Alumni coordinator for Africa and the Near East Mallory Kirsh exclaimed as she stepped off the plane in Nairobi March 1, a far cry from the blizzard conditions in DC. It was nearly the last free breath she took for the next four days as Post guided her on a whirlwind program to meet our alumni of all stripes (not a zebra pun), ages and programs.



*Mallory Kirsh pins the brand new State Alumni lapel pin on former VP– Hon. Moody Awori’s jacket*

Luckily Mallory brought a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the task and was undeterred since on Monday morning, she hit the road running with a meeting at the embassy with the Cultural Affairs staff responsible for sending all these Kenyans to the US over the past 20+ years and then a visit to one of our earliest IV alumni, the former vice president of the republic before a lunch with our 10 most recent alumni, students in the Study of United States Institute (SUSI) and the Bold Leaders Program.

Mallory was completely engaged with the young students who eagerly shared their experiences in the US. The two high schoolers from the Bold Leaders program were clearly



*Mallory joins SUSI and Bold Leaders alumni for lunch*

anxious, anticipating the results of their Form Four exams which would give them national university placements. The results reported the next day showed both had attained all A’s, and one had been placed in the top 10 in Coast province. Talk about immediate results!!

On Tuesday, Mallory spent the morning sharing her experiences with the Kenyan Alumni coordinator and the Somalia FSN in charge of PD/alumni activities.



*A bold leader and SUSI alumni admire their State Alumni lapel pins*

She later had lunch with Eisenhower fellows before spending the afternoon with leaders of the various chapters already launched and those in their formative stages. Although we let her have a free (!) day on Wednesday, we pulled her back into the alumni string that evening at a reception for another group of 20 alumni from various programs including a majority of

Humphreys and IVs. She congratulated them for having been chosen to go on such prestigious programs that add so much to their own societies. She also reminded them what a special band of brothers and sisters they belonged to, sharing membership in an alumni community that encompassed the leaders of the



*Mallory conducted a workshop on forming chapters for leaders of the various alumni chapters*

world including the Kenyan president and vice-president and bestowed on them some of the brand new State Alumni lapel pins.

Thursday was Fulbright Day, and Mallory was hosted first with a luncheon by the recently established Kenyatta University alumni chapter, and then as chief guest at the launch of University of Nairobi Alumni chapter.



*Kenyatta University chapter members*



Having barely completed the round of introduction, Mallory was whisked off to the airport for the long flight home to chilly Washington. We were delighted to share the warmth of the Kenyan sun and alumni with Mallory and basked in the sun she brought with her, however short the stay.



*The newly launched University of Nairobi Chapter toasted Mallory’s visit*

### Coming Up

Alumni Peace Corps Partnership. More information in the next issue of the Ameri-Ken.

Are you a member of the global alumni community?

