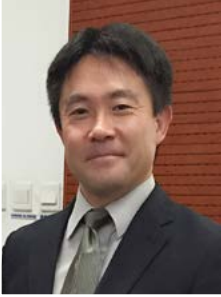


2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS



From the Executive Director



As we celebrate our 55th anniversary this year, I am constantly reminded of the extraordinary people who have been part of VIA over the years. Since I took the executive director's position in the summer of 2016, I had the opportunity to join over a dozen

VIA events and meet over 250 alumni in person. While I greatly enjoy meeting our alumni to hear about their VIA experiences and stories of how VIA touched their lives and shaped who they are today, I always wish there were more time to learn more from them.

One opportunity that allows me to know about the fascinating accomplishments by our alumni is through books that they have published. Some of them introduced in this report include Dr. Eric Larson who writes about how to grow old with resilience and foresight in his book titled "Enlightened Aging." Dr. Aiko Takeuchi-Demirci shares her dissertation research in "Contraceptive Diplomacy" which discusses the different ambitions of the US and Japan through the spread of the birth control movement, while Martti Vallila shares stories including his VIA experience in the Philippines through his "Bannana Book" series. (More publications by our alumni can be found on our website at viaprograms.org/our-community/alumni/publications.)

Knowing how VIA played a critical role in so many of our lives, I am inspired to continue providing transformative experiences to individuals that would nurture cross-cultural empathy and empower them with the mindset and skills to bring positive change to society. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all our donors, funders, alumni, and friends who support VIA and enable us to continue our work. Sustaining our established programs and developing new ones for future generations will not be possible without the generous support by you. Doomo arigato gozaimasu!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kazutoh Ishida".

Kazutoh Ishida, PhD
Executive Director

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Priscilla Winslow

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Historical Highlights

“ VIA—a step to expand our personal universe and gain a sense of what we might become.”

—Dwight Clark
VIA Founder

“ I went to Hong Kong in '64, and my summer at the Haven of Hope TB san. was transformative in both my professional and personal lives. So indebted to Dwight, Tom Fox and others who started it all in '63!”

—Blaine Sayre



1963
VIA's first volunteers spend a summer in Hong Kong, serving Chinese refugees



1977
VIA launches the American Language & Culture (ALC) program at Stanford for students from Japan (now includes students from mainland China, Macau, and Taiwan)



1980
VIA starts mainland China program, quickly expanding to many provinces



1966-68
VIA incorporates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit; sends first volunteers to Vietnam ('66) and Indonesia ('68)



1970's
VIA enters Taiwan, remains in Taiwan for nearly 24 years; also sends volunteers to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for several years



1996
VIA launches first Exploring Health Care program in collaboration with Tokyo Medical and Tokyo Women's Medical Universities



2010's
VIA hosts first Exploring Social Innovation program at Stanford ('10); launches summer medical and social innovation programs in Silicon Valley ('12)

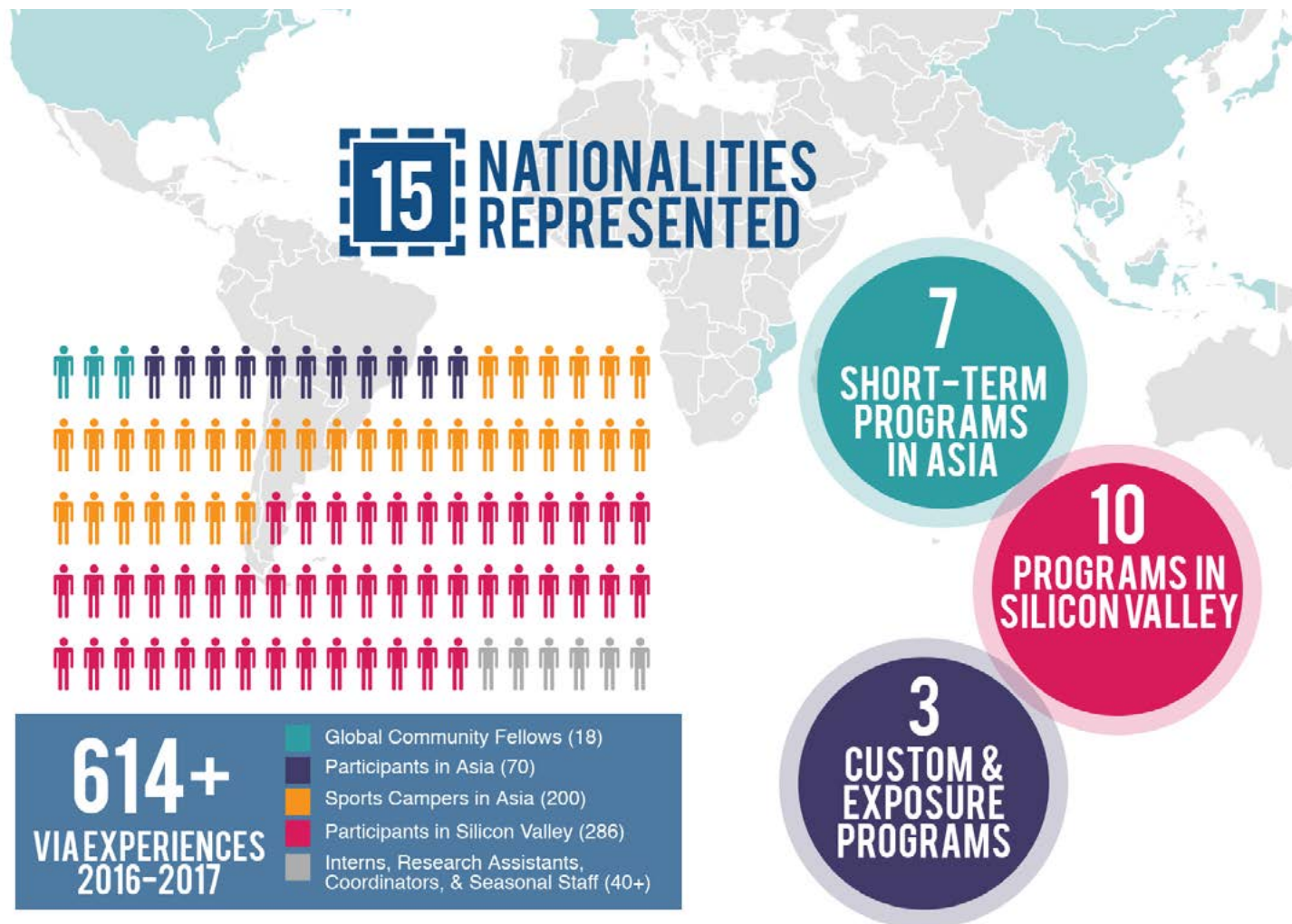


2006
VIA enters Myanmar and continues to grow its network of local partners there

“ We spent the summer of 1969 in Hong Kong, teaching English at United College, caring for children in the rooftop schools of the high rise refugee area, and teaching typing to high school girls. Although we volunteered for VIA as a couple, one of us lived on the Island of Hong Kong and one of us lived in Kowloon; but sometimes we worked together, and we saw each other often, sharing days of life-changing experiences. We saw families living on the street; we saw the US moon landing on a TV in a shop window; we saw colonized people living under British rule. We realized how privileged we were; we wanted to give what we had to better the world; and we experienced how that would better our lives as well.”

—Tricia and Steve Trainer

Programs July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017



Indonesia Spotlight

In fiscal year 2017 we expanded our programming in Indonesia with two new January programs for US university students.

We continued our partnership with George Mason University to design and run a 10-day Gender and conflict program, co-led by Dr. Leslie Dwyer and VIA staff. We also initiated a new partnership with State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland. The SUNY Arts and Social Movements ran for three weeks and included language instruction, site visits in Yogyakarta and Bali, and hands-on music and arts workshops. The program was co-led by VIA staff, Pat Hunsinger of Ithaca College, and VIA Indonesia alumna Mary Schlarb who also serves as Director of the International Programs Office at SUNY Cortland. Mary shared a reflection of her experience returning to Indonesia in a very different role than as a VIA volunteer.



“Visiting Indonesia for the first time since I completed my VIA tenure in 1996 was profoundly rewarding. That I was once again working with VIA Programs, this time bringing students who were close to my age when I first landed in Jakarta so many years ago,

made the experience all the more meaningful. As before, the VIA team was there to guide us in our initial adjustment and orientation to the country, our engagement with local artists and activists, and our reflections on what we were seeing and learning. Even as I was enjoying my own reintroduction to Indonesia, its culture, and its people, I was able to observe our students undergoing the same aha! moments I had when I was 23. So many feelings and memories came rushing back. VIA put together a fascinating program that allowed us to learn from artists across generations to learn how they used their art to advocate for social change.



My time as a VIA volunteer in Indonesia led me directly into a fulfilling career in international education. As director of international programs at SUNY Cortland, I have been guided by the VIA model for transformative, meaningful intercultural exchange. For me, VIA is the gold standard in this field, and I am delighted we will continue to work with VIA to offer this special program to SUNY students. As an education abroad administrator, I have utmost confidence that VIA will always take good care of our students and faculty and work with us to design academically and culturally enriching programs.

While in Indonesia, I had heartwarming reunions with several of my former students from the Academy of Foreign Languages - ABA Bhakti Pertiwi in Jember, East Java. I had not met Yayuk, Yenni, and Yoseph for over 20 years, but it was as if no time had passed. We had been connected through social media—and in fact, there is an ABA Facebook group with many friends from that era—but meeting in person gave us a special opportunity to rekindle our friendships and reflect on our earlier time together. It was wonderful to catch up on our lives, our families, and our careers, while also remember old times, when we had forged lifelong connections-- thanks to VIA!"

Alumni Spotlight

We recently had the opportunity to talk with a few alumni who are in the news because of their recent published books. Here's what they had to say:



Dr. Eric Larson joined VIA's volunteer program in Hong Kong in 1968. This international service

experience was the beginning of a rich career in medicine and medical research. This year, Dr. Larson released his book, *Enlightened Aging: Building Resilience for a Long, Active Life*. We contacted Dr. Larson to catch up, learn more about his journey from Hong Kong to Harvard and the medical profession, and how his experiences have influenced his work.



How did your VIA experience change your perspective, as well as your personal and professional goals?

I taught in a rooftop school which served children who lived in a resettlement block building. I also taught medical English to a highly diverse group of physicians. It gave me a keen interest in Asia as a region and in Asian cultures. I also saw the powerful effect that a single individual could have on other individuals through service. I think it mostly confirmed my interest in service to others, the importance of how we affect others in close contacts and my desire to combine service and science in pursuing a medical (and eventually research) career.

You recently published a book, "Enlightened Aging", where you provide advice for growing old with resilience and foresight. What was the impetus or inspiration for this work?

I had long wanted to write something for a lay audience about our work and advances in what we know about aging. I never had time but I was able to carve out a sabbatical in Cambridge University. I thought that because of my 40 or so years of primary care practice and our research findings and advances in aging science, I wanted to write a book that offered people the knowledge and skills that would allow them to develop a realistic and proactive approach to how they approach aging.



We also spoke with **Aiko Takeuchi-Demirci**, PhD, who joined VIA's American Culture & Society program at Stanford University in 2001. Her interest in cross-cultural learning and the US

led her to return for a graduate degree and ultimately influenced the evolution of her PhD research.

What inspired you to be a VIA program participant?

I was always determined to study in the US in the future. (I lived in North Carolina for some years as a child.) When I heard about the VIA program, I thought it was a perfect way for me to experience American college life before fully committing to a full-year or degree program.

How did your experience change your perspective as well as influence your professional goals?

The experience really made me want to challenge myself and pursue a graduate degree in the US. It used to be a vague dream, but after the program I was convinced that this would be my future path. I also continued to keep in touch with VIA's founder Dwight Clark, who inspired me in so many ways and supported me through the graduate school application process as well.

You recently published the book entitled *Contraceptive Diplomacy*, which discusses the different ambitions of the US and Japan through the spread of the birth control movement. How did this project come about?

It was originally my dissertation project for my PhD degree. I was studying US-Japan relations, Asian American history, and women's studies.



Then we spoke with **Martti Vallila**, who joined VIA's Philippines program in 1971. He was interested in international issues because of his past (born in Prague, Czech mother, Finnish father and emigrated to the US at age 7).

How did your VIA experience change your perspective as well as influence your professional goals?

It was a fantastic learning experience in many ways. I got to see Asia from the perspective of a teacher, an experience that proved to be a great first step into a life of adventure. VIA Founder, Dwight's gift was providing a great entre, at the start of my professional life, into a society I have now decided to return to, at the other end of my professional life, when I believe I have things to teach.



My "Bannana books" are attempts to share experiences vicariously with readers, saving them the trouble of living through what it has been my good fortune to have survived. I wrote my first "Bannana book" to try to bring attention to Pomytkin's Alzheimer's work and to other potentially transformational technologies with Russian roots.

To read their full interviews and learn more about their publications, please visit our website at: viaprograms.org/category/blog

If you have published a book or an article, please let us know by contacting us at brian@viaprograms.org. We would like to include it among the growing list of publications from our alumni.

2016–2017 By The Numbers

FUNDING SOURCES

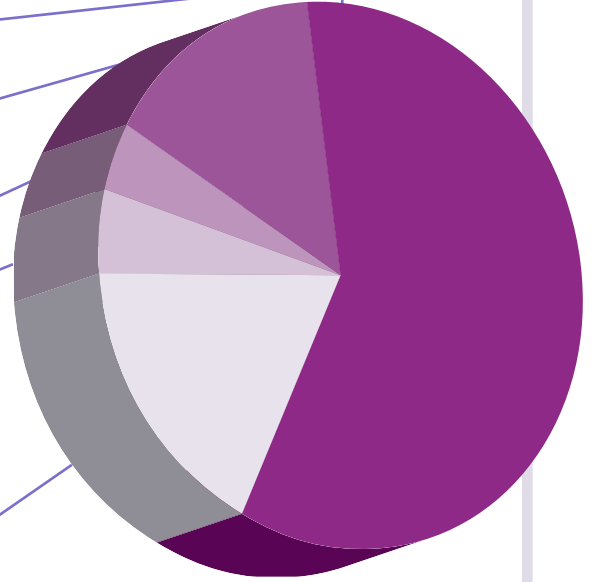
59% PROGRAM INCOME
\$1,869,701

17% FOUNDATIONS
\$540,980

5% INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
\$172,785

4% IN-KIND
\$118,330

15% REVENUE FROM ENDOWMENT
\$471,130



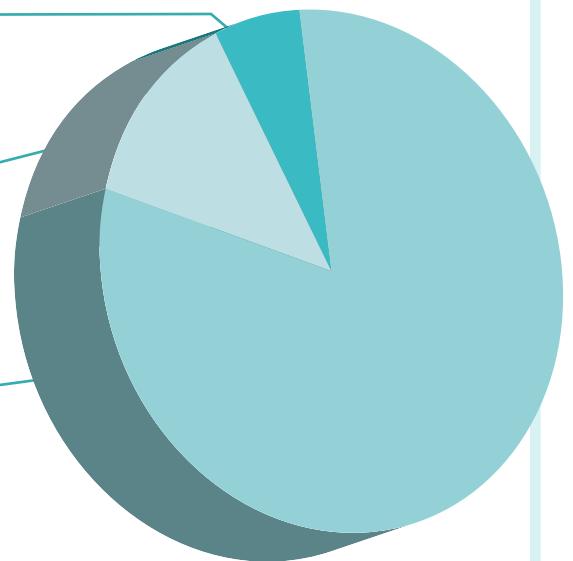
\$3,172,926

EXPENSES

81% PROGRAMS
\$2,373,684

13% ADMINISTRATION
\$366,297

6% FUNDRAISING
\$176,537



\$2,916,518

Contributors

July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017

Foundations, Corporations & Organizations

BelleJAR
Dr. CJ Huang Foundation
Enlight Foundation
Henry Luce Foundation
The Japan Foundation Center
for Global Partnership
Pacific Links

Orchid (\$10,000+)

Thomas Bowers
Grant Cox & Elizabeth Sager
Michael Moradzadeh

Mark Nelson & Margrit Benton

The day I wandered into the VIA office led me to Dwight, Buzz and Indonesia, a life-enhancing trifecta. Thanks, VIA!

Priscilla Winslow

Peony (\$2,500 - \$9,999)

Howdy Bouis & Cristina Sison

Spending three years in the Philippines with VIA has led to a career working to reduce under-nutrition in developing countries. The experience changed how I saw myself.

Dwight Clark

Katie and Randy Chilton

Paul & Marion Goldman

My VIA 1966 Vietnam experience came at just the right time. It taught me how much I assumed and how much I didn't know. I've spent the last five decades working on both challenges!

Jon Hecht & Lora Sabin

Sukie Jackson & Bob Tanabe

Joan Karlin & Paul Resnick

Every choice changes one's life and view of the world. News of fighting in Marawi City brought memories of my summer there, nearly 50 years ago.

Your contributions add miles to each participant's journey. For that, we thank you.

John & Sherry Shoch
Denise Strojny-Hall & Bill Hall
Timothy Thornton, Jr.
Gay Urness & Deborah Achor

Cherry Blossom (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Mark Wagner
Clay Wertheimer

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Jack Bailey
Dan Bedford
Michael Benefiel
Judy Birk Kridle
Tom Brida
John & Nancy Cassidy
David Cline

Laura Coleman

VIA continually enriches my life by offering community, fun and a vibrant, vital lens on the world—with career, friends, family wonderfully impacted!

Lafcadio Cortesi & JoAnne Welsch
William Craig
Samantha Davidson Green
Kate Dunham
Jon Eichelberger
Erin Fassio
Kevin Gaw
John & Deborah Gittelsohn
Mary Greenley
Cliff Halverson & Laurie Hedden
Martha & John Kauffman
Helena Kolenda
Jiro Kokuryo

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Steve Saxenian & Stacey Lennard
Nick & Maya Selby
Bob Simons
Gina Smith
James Stuebner
Alan Teo
Steve & Tricia Trainer
Bing Tso & Janet Gwilym

My two years in China over 25 years ago was an amazing adventure back then. Now, I find it shapes my understanding of the wider world in much deeper ways. Xie xie, VIA!

Gerald & Kathryn Underdal
Linda Warren
Edwin Wells
Kelly Windsor

Azaleas (\$100 - \$249)

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Dave Beard & Jean O'Neil
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Greg Duda
Sally Edwards
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June Gordon
Katherine Hallaran
Stevan Harrell
Stephanie Hou
Calvin Jenn
Marcus Magallanes

Amanda Meier

Because of VIA, I discovered my love and talent for teaching. I am so fortunate to have had that experience.

Mark Meierding
Ben Palmquist
Stephanie Parker
Robert Quinn
Neil & Sandra Rudo
Ron Sax
Sara Skinner & Javier De Ana
Kevin Smith
Sarah Spiros
Ellen Steiker
Patricia & Michael Sullivan
Mari Tanabe
Steve Thomas & Carol Dreselly
Bill Tiffany
David Wells
Aaron Wertheimer



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