

Meet the Exchange Students

Each year the Vernonia community hosts a large group of exchange students. This year nineteen students from all over the world will make their home in Vernonia for the school year. Over the next several issues, Vernonia's Voice will help introduce these students to our community.

Ruth Aim is living with the Baska family. Ruth is from Stuttgart, Germany. She is running cross country and will try out for basketball and softball later this

Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Germany; this is his first time visiting the United States. Sam is a junior in school this year and will return to finish his last year of high school and then go to university to study finance.

Maria Alvarez is from the north of Spain in the city of Gijon. She is staying with Nicole Whiteman and says she is friends with Alejandro Rubiera who was an exchange student in Vernonia last

Maria says her favorite American food is Subway. Maria is a sophomore this year and says in the future she might like to study languages. She likes the people in Vernonia but says it's too far away from places to shop.

Davide Bomboi is staying with Kathy and Reggie Ward. "David" is from the small town of Nuoro on the coast of the island of Sardinia in Italy. David says he loves traveling, learning about new cultures, and loves meeting new people. He has traveled to France, Spain, Denmark,

and to London, England where he says he would like to live someday. David is running cross country this year; he says he never did any running before but has learned since he came here that he likes it and is good at it. He says he will try out for basketball this winter and go out for track in the spring. David says American food is not like Italian food, but he does like cheese cake and also cheese burgers. He is a junior this year and will return to Italy to finish high school. He says he would like to work in the film industry making movies.



L to R: Ruth Aim, Cecilie Burkelund, Sergei Kavaleryan, Maria Alvarez and Davide Bomboi.

year. Ruth says the problem with America is "...you have too much good food!" Ruth is a junior this year and says she is not sure what she wants to do in her future, but knows she wants to travel all over the world. Ruth says Vernonia is "really awesome." She says she doesn't like that there is little public transportation.

Cecilie Birkelund is from a small town in southern Denmark. Cecilie is a senior who is running cross country and is also on the cheer squad this fall. She is staying with Jeana and Justin Gump and their family. Cecilie says she may try track in the spring. She enjoys Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Cecilie says next year she will finish school in Denmark and then study journalism. She says she likes Vernonia but says it's too far away from the city.

Sergei Kavaleryan is from eastern Georgia and is living with Kathy and Reggie Ward. "Sam" is playing football this fall and is a defensive lineman and tight end. He says he would like to try basketball or wrestling this winter and baseball in the spring. Sam says he likes Subway sandwiches.

He has traveled in the past to

year. Maria is running cross country and says she would like to play basketball in the winter and run track in the spring.

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Creating Private Sector Jobs

- Sponsored bill to help businesses quickly navigate rules and regulations and access resources they need to create jobs. (2014 SB1563)
- Supported bills to create good paying jobs by helping communities rebuild aging infrastructure and strengthening local economies. (2014 HB4015, HB4111, HB4005)
- Sponsored "Buy America" bill that would require certain building materials on large public projects to be made in America. (2013 HB3473)

Investing in Education

- Helped secure funding for the new Vernonia school after it was devastated by severe floods in 2007.
- In 2014, secured an additional \$212,000 to fill a budget gap for the Vernonia School. (2014 budget allocation)
- Fought for \$11 million in funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to bring shop classes back to our schools and meet the needs of local employers. (2011 HB3362, 2013 HB2913, SB498)

Protecting our Natural Landscape and Rural Heritage

- Protected our gun rights by helping to defeat onerous anti-gun legislation.
- Sponsored bills to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Oregon's waterways. (2007 SB644)
- Chief architect of flood recovery legislation to help Vernonia families after the devastating floods of 2007.



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