New AAFSW Book!

Every day, somewhere in the world, Foreign Service community members are in the midst of moving. Some have moved a dozen times or more, and lived to tell about it! They tell their tales in this book, a collection of advice, stories and entertaining anecdotes to serve as your "companion" along the way.

Whether you are a veteran of many Foreign Service moves or a brandnew officer or family member preparing for your first packout, there is surely something in this book that you can use--or at that will at least give you a laugh when you most need one!

Available now in paperback or Kindle e-book format from Amazon.com!



Welcome to Our New Board Secretary

Laura Casey, originally from Richmond, Virginia, never imagined traveling the world until she met her husband in 2009. Five months later she picked up and moved to Northern Virginia to start Chinese language training as an EFM. Her first post in Beijing, China was initially a culture shock, but she thrived in the large Embassy, finding employment



as a Family Member Employment Coordinator for Mission China. She was elected as the Secretary to the American

Employees Association board in 2011 and served until she left post. Returning to DC for their second tour in 2012, Laura decided to start her own art and photography business, Chameleon Photography and Design. She named the company "Chameleon" to describe our desire to continually adapt and blend with new cultures and surroundings as a Foreign Service family. She launched her Etsy site, CreativeChameleon, in 2013 and has been successful from the start. To fulfill her new love of cooking, she is also a Pampered Chef consultant holding bi-monthly shows at Oakwood Falls Church. Future posts for her family include an unaccompanied tour in Islamabad in 2014 and a family move to Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

Congratulations to Our Merit Scholarship Winner!

AAFSW has instituted a new Merit Award of \$2000, awarded to a high school senior or gap year student who stands out in academic performance, extracurricular activities and community service.

This year's winner is Geoffrey Odlum, chosen in an anonymous review process by our Scholarship Committee, chaired by Anne Cekuta.



Geoffrey Odlum, son of Geoff and Jennifer Odlum, is a recent graduate of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia, where he excelled in both academics and extra-curricular activities. In addition to being class valedictorian, he also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, served as president of the Washington-Lee Model United Nations club, was active in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Mentor Program, and ran for the Varsity Cross Country team.

Geoffrey's previous posts include Istanbul, Turkey, and Vienna, Austria. He will be attending Virginia Tech this fall to study Engineering, and hopes to keep travel a permanent part of his life.