
October 2007

FLEX Alumni Report

SUBMITTED BY AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: ACTR/ACCELS

Armenia

Yerevan

She Stoops to Conquer Play Auditions: On October 9 and 11, 50 alumni and local university students auditioned for the annual charity play at the American University of Armenia. The play by Oliver Goldsmith *She Stoops to Conquer* will take place on December 6-8 and all proceeds from the event will be donated to the International Child Development Center for autistic children.

Alumni Meeting: Twenty alumni attended a meeting at the Educational Advising Center on October 16. They discussed plans for the upcoming charity Halloween party and brainstormed ideas for future events.

Education Fair: On October 19, Stella Matevosyan '00 and Arshak Papazyan '07 advertised the FLEX program at an education fair at the American University of Armenia. Alumni talked to interested students about the program and answered their questions.

Charity Halloween Party: Twenty alumni organized a charity Halloween party at the Cyclone Club on October 27. Together with Canadian volunteers from the Birthright Armenia Organization, alumni were able to raise over \$800 via ticket sales at the event. The well-known Armenian rock band Bambir played at the event and the 150 guests listened to music and participated in Halloween contests. The event was such a success due to the in-kind support of the Cyclone Club, which donated the venue for the event and Bambir who volunteered his talents for the event. Eduard Kankanyan '04 designed posters, tickets, and flyers for the event, which alumni distributed in local cafes and posted on youth oriented web sites. Proceeds for the event will be donated to the Gyumri Informational Technologies Center to offer partial scholarships for financially needy students.



FLEX Recruitment: During October 12 alumni made presentations about the FLEX program at local high schools and education centers. Alumni talked about their on-program experience and encouraged eligible students to participate in the first round of testing.

Upcoming Events:

- **Orphanage Visit** is scheduled for November 10.
 - **Alumni Meeting** is planned for November 16 and 23.
- Charity Play Rehearsals** will take place on a bi-weekly basis.

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Azerbaijan

Baku

Alumni Meeting: Vusal Babayev '07 Nijat Garayev '06, Aytan Mamedli '07, Aysel Mamedova '07, Tatyana Rodina '06, Lala Safarali '06, and Dilara Tomtiyeva '06 attended an alumni meeting on October 22. Participants planned the schedule for a project with local orphanages and brainstormed ideas for future events.

Movie Night: On October 29, 20 alumni watched director Brett Ratner's movie *Rush Hour 3*. Following the movie, recently returned alumni were introduced to alumni of different years.

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Roundtable Discussion: Twelve alumni and 15 university students participated in a discussion with famous Azeri writer Chingiz Abdullayev on October 30 at the American Center. The writer talked about some of his most famous works and where he finds his inspiration. Following the discussion, alumni asked Mr. Abdullayev questions.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting** to discuss the Digital Video Conference Project will be held on November 3.
- **Roundtable Discussion** with Farkhad Badalbeyli is scheduled for November 9.
- **Orphanage Project** will begin in late November.
- **Fundraising Campaign** planning meetings will begin in late November.

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Georgia

Tbilisi

FLEX Presentations: On October 5, 17 recently returned alumni made presentations at high schools and educational centers. Alumni talked about their on-program experiences and distributed information about the FLEX program to eligible students.

Grant Writing Seminar: Sixteen FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange program alumni attended a grant writing seminar at the Alumni Resource Center on October 9. Kathy Starostka, former host mother of Anna Megrelishvili's '05 (Gori), conducted the seminar and gave participants grant writing tips and provided them with ideas for grant proposals. Ms. Starostka is a professional grant writer and has vast experience in grant and proposal writing. Following the seminar, alumni brainstormed ideas for projects.

Movie Night: On October 12, 25 FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange program alumni watched David Frankel's newest film *The Devil Wears Prada*. Irene Rekvashvili '03 initiated the event to meet up with other FLEX alumni after completing her studies at the Central European University (CEU). In addition, Mikheil Benidze '06 encouraged alumni to attend the Disability Awareness Seminar on October 17.

Georgia vs. Scotland Soccer Game: Forty-three alumni cheered on the Georgian soccer team at the game against Scotland on October 17. Bakur Kvaratskhelia '99 and Maia Giorgadze '05 organized the event, sent out mass mailings, and called alumni. Alumni made posters, painted their faces before the game, and cheered their team on to a 2-0 victory.

FLEX Testing: Twenty-nine alumni assisted with the first round of testing on October 19 at School #55. Over 2,000 students participated in the first round of testing and alumni greatly assisted by registering participants and serving as proctors.

Disability Awareness Symposium: Alumni together with the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) Internet Access Training Program (IATP) Center and other partner organizations launched a Disability Awareness Campaign with the objective of raising public awareness regarding disability issues on October 30. The campaign is split up into three portions: a public awareness project, a training program, and the My Special Friend integration project. Within the public awareness portion of the project, FLEX alumni together with project organizer Mikheil Benidze '06 held a Disability and Public Awareness seminar at the Tbilisi State University. Forty university students, alumni, and representatives of NGOs working on disability issues attended the event. Speakers for the event included Co-Director of Institute for Policy Studies Nana Sumbadze, Mariam Mikiashvili '05, Tatia Pachkoria, Inclusive Learning program coordinator from the Ministry of Education, Psychologist Liana Barabadze '02, Mikheil Benidze '06, Eka Rostomashvili '06, and Giorgi Gvishiani from the Rustavi 2 Broadcasting Corporation.



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Seminar on Abkhazia: On October 23, 20 FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange program alumni attended a discussion with Austrian Broadcasting Corporation reporter and expert on Georgian-Abkhazian relations Anna-Katharina Laggner on the current situation in Abkhazia. Ms Laggner talked about the atmosphere in Abkhazia, their reaction to Georgia, and means for conflict resolution. Due to the positive response to this event, alumni decided to conduct regular discussions at the Alumni Resource Center, which will cover current issues in Georgia and the world.

Halloween Planning Meeting: The 22 members of the Halloween organizing committee met twice a week in October to plan activities, games, and contests for the Halloween reunion masquerade, which was held on November 10 at the Meidani Club.

Education Fair Planning Meeting: On October 31, Lana Chkhartishvili '04 attended a meeting at the U.S. Embassy organized by Sophie Bzishvili from the Cultural Affairs Office to discuss plans for the sixth annual education fair. American Councils and alumni traditionally assist the U.S. Embassy Culture Affairs Office with logistics for the event. Alumni helped with registration and organizing stands at the fair on November 16.

Upcoming Events:

- **FLEX Television Presentation** will be shown on the Kedeli Show on November 2.
- **Job Search Skills Seminar** is scheduled for November 8.
- **Halloween Masquerade** will take place on November 10.
- **Sixth Annual U.S. Education Fair** is planned for November 16.
- **We Do Remember Charity Event** is scheduled for November 23.

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Kazakhstan

Aktobe

English Club: On October 6, the English Club held its official opening at the American Corner. The 30 student participants learned about the purpose of the club and activities that organizers plan to conduct. Club organizers will hold discussions, debates, presentations by native speakers, and holiday celebrations at the weekly events. The events focus on helping participants improve their English language speaking and comprehension skills. Nurlan Akhmadova '07, Samal Muskabayeva '07, Alena Rokitenets '07 (Lisakovsk), Kirill Samaray '07, and Yekaterina Savgildeyeva '06 are the club organizers.

Movie Nights: Samal Muskabayeva '07, Alena Rokitenets '07 (Lisakovsk), Kirill Samaray '07, and Yekaterina Savgildeyeva '06 watched director Marc Lawrence's movie *Music and Lyrics* at the American Corner on October 12 and the movie *He Came with Wheels* by director Gary Thomas on October 26. In addition to alumni, students from local high schools also attended the events. Following the movies, alumni discussed upcoming events and alumni successes.

Literature Evening: On October 19, English Club organizers Nurlan Akhmadova '07, Samal Muskabayeva '07, Alena Rokitenets '07 (Lisakovsk), Kirill Samaray '07, and Yekaterina Savgildeyeva '06 held a literature evening at the American Corner. The 15 participants discussed the pros and cons of modern literature, presented pieces from their favorite literature, and explained their choices.

Halloween Party: Twenty American Corner visitors attended a Halloween celebration organized by FLEX alumni on October 31. Alumni shared their experiences of celebrating Halloween in the U.S. and organized games and contests for the participants. Nurlan Akhmadova '07, Samal Muskabayeva '07, Alena Rokitenets '07 (Lisakovsk), Kirill Samaray '07, and Yekaterina Savgildeyeva '06 organized the event.

Almaty

Alumni Meeting: On October 6, 17 alumni attended an alumni meeting to discuss upcoming events and make suggestions for future activities. Additionally, the alumni updated their contact information and shared alumni successes.

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FLEX Testing: Fourteen alumni assisted with the first round of FLEX testing on October 13. The alumni helped with crowd control and registration.

Republic Day Celebration: On October 25, Alisher Imyarov '05, Bota Akynbayeva '07, Nellya Khairova '05, Vladimir Li '07, Tatyana Shadrina '05 (Taldikorgan), and Adel Suleimanova '07 celebrated Republic Day by going ice-skating at the Medeo Ice Rink.

Astana

Museum Tour: In celebration of Republic Day, Asiya Abitova '07, Dinara Datbayeva '07, Natalya Lee '07, and Aida Zhurgenbayeva '07 visited the National Museum on October 22. The alumni learned more about their country and talked about upcoming events.

Kyzylorda

Halloween Party: On October 31, Saniya Kaliyeva '07 (Kyzyl-Orda), Aizhan Primbetova '07, and Yekaterina Sadiyeva '07 organized a Halloween party for the children at School # 23. The 20 children that attended the event learned about the U.S. holiday and played games.

Pavlodar

Alumni Meeting: On October 23, Ilona Stelvaga '07 organized an alumni meeting at School #10. Asem Aubakirova '07, Adel Iglkova '07, Gulfairuz Malikova '07, and Ilona Stelvaga '07 brainstormed ideas for future events and talked about their on-program experiences.

Uralsk

Certificate Ceremony: On October 13, Tamara Abilova '07, Darya Fedorenko '05, Roman Lushakov '06, and Alibek Makhmudov '07 organized a recognition ceremony for the most active members of the American Corner. Forty-five community members attended the event where active participants of the American Corner were recognized for their participation in and organization of activities. Winners received certificates and prizes from the U.S. Embassy, who sponsored the event. Following the ceremony, participants updated their contact information and gave suggestions about activities in which they would like to participate at the center.

Zodiac Signs Class: Tamara Abilova '07, Darya Fedorenko '05, Roman Lushakov '06, and Alibek Makhmudov '07 held a zodiac class at the American Corner on October 20. The 25 participants discussed astrological signs and discussed the validity of the science. The event gave participants an opportunity to discuss topics in English.

Teenagers Club: On October 27, Tamara Abilova '07, Darya Fedorenko '05, Roman Lushakov '06, and Alibek Makhmudov '07 held a discussion at the American Corner American Club meeting on the life and problems that teenagers face. Thirty young people attended the event and practiced speaking English.

Halloween Party: On October 31, seven Peace Corp volunteers together with Tamara Abilova '07, Darya Fedorenko '05, Roman Lushakov '06, Alibek Makhmudov '07, and Aliya Nurgaziyeva '07 organized a Halloween party for 85 community members at the American Center. Participants had the chance to take part in Halloween style competitions and games, while learning more about U.S. culture. A local television station covered this event and two newspapers wrote articles.

Upcoming Events:

- **Aktobe Movie Nights** are scheduled for November 10 and 24.
- **Pavlodar Alumni Meeting** is planned for November 15.
- **Movie Night** will take place on November 18.
- **Astana Alumni Meeting** will take place on November 20.
- **Kyzylorda Alumni Meeting** is scheduled for November 25.
- **Children's Rights Seminar** will be held on November 25.
- **Grant Writing Seminar** is scheduled for November 29.
- **Uralsk American Club Discussions** will be conducted weekly.

- **Aktobe English Club Meetings** will be held on a weekly basis.
- **Alumni Reunion** will take place in late November.

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Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek

Alumni Meeting: On October 5, 36 alumni attended a meeting at the Slavonic University. Alumni discussed upcoming projects and created a schedule to make FLEX presentations at local schools. Alumni meetings will be held in various large universities around the city to encourage alumni from all universities to participate in events.

FLEX Recruiting: From October 1-13, alumni visited over 25 schools to promote the FLEX program. Alumni shared their on-program experiences with high school students and teachers and encouraged eligible students to take part in the first round of testing. Munara Akmatova '07 greatly assisted in organizing this series of events. Thanks to the presentations, more than 2,000 high school students participated in the first round of testing, the largest number in recent years.

FLEX Testing: Twelve alumni assisted recruiters with the first round of FLEX testing on October 15. Alumni assisted with registration and answered students' and teachers' questions.

International Volunteers' Day (IVD) Meeting: On October 19, Munara Akmatova '07 and Gulnisa Asymova '05 participated in the IVD Committee planning meeting. Representatives of the UN Volunteers, UN Development Program Youth Project, and a number of other youth and volunteer organizations discussed plans for the upcoming IVD celebrations. Organizers will meet for a follow-up meeting on November 9.

Brownie Night: Twenty alumni made brownies for the upcoming charity brownie sale at Sergey Firsov '00's apartment on October 26. Alumni worked in teams and made over 200 brownies for the bake sale at the ECA charity soccer game.



ECA Charity Soccer: On October 27, Nargiza Ajimatova '05, Akmaral Arzybaeva '07 (Tashkumyr), Gulnisa Asymova '05, Daniyar Chambylov '07, and Aikanysh Syrgak kzyzy '07 sold brownies, tea, and coffee at the annual ECA charity soccer game. The event in whole raised more than \$1000 for the children at the Chonkurgon Orphanage and the \$150 proceeds from the brownie sales went to assist those children as well. Additionally, the alumni cheered on their fellow FLEX alumni Boris Pilipenko '99, Askar Sheraliev '03, and Otabek Umarov '04 (Bukhara, Uzbekistan) as they played on the ECA team.

Movement of Young People with Disabilities (AKAK) Center English Club: Asel Sherimkulova '07 (Shopokov), Aijan Temiralieva '06 (Osh), Artyom Zinchenko '06 (Bukhara, Uzbekistan), and local volunteer Aikanysh Maratova conducted bi-weekly English language lessons for physically disabled students in October. This club was organized in August 2006 and alumni plan to continue teaching the children throughout the academic year.

Milkyway Drama Club: During October, Natalya Zaharchenko '07 (Karabalta) conducted bi-weekly theater rehearsals for alumni and interested members of the Children's Theatre of School #9. Participants rehearsed for Halloween and Thanksgiving performances. On November 19, the Drama Club will perform for the children from the Sokuluk Orphanage at the American University of Central Asia. Munara Akmatova '07, Akmaral Arzybaeva '07 (Tashkumyr), Aikanysh Atakanova '07 (Talas), Daniyar Chambylov '07, Maksat Ismailova '07 (Barskoon), Azat Orozbaev '07, Asel Sherimkulova '07 (Shopokov), Aliya Suranova '04, and Natalya Zaharchenko '07 (Karabalta) are members of the club.

Smile Grant: Throughout October grant leader Munara Akmatova '07 together with Gulnisa Asymova '05 and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange program (UGRAD) alumna Kanykei Latipova wrote a grant proposal for a joint FLEX/UGRAD New Year's celebration with the residents of a local nursing home and orphanages. The alumni wrote a proposal for the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) Smile Grant.

Kochkor

Leadership Seminar: Karlygach Nurmanbetova '07 organized a leadership skills seminar for 15 high school students on October 16-17. During the seminar, participants learned about the role of youth in leadership positions and took part in games and exercises to develop their leadership skills.

Osh

Re-entry Seminar: On October 19, Chyngyz Amanbaev '07, Jibek Nurueva '07, Liliya Salahutdinova '07 and Timur Tilenov '07 participated in a re-entry seminar at Osh National University. Alumni talked about their on-program experience and learned about the FLEX alumni program. This event resulted in an increased interest among alumni in Osh to participate in alumni activities. Following the seminar, Liliya Salahutdinova '07 submitted an application to become the City Representative for Osh.

Movie Night: Chyngyz Amanbaev '07, Gulnisa Asymova '05, Jibek Nurueva '07, Liliya Salahutdinova '07, and Timur Tilenov '07 watched movies together on October 20. Additionally they talked about their on-program experience and shared alumni successes.

FLEX Presentations: From October 22-30, Chyngyz Amanbaev '07, Jibek Nurueva '07, Liliya Salahutdinova '07, Darya Stulova '06, and Timur Tilenov '07 made school presentations at six schools in the city. They answered high school students' and teachers' questions about the U.S., shared their on-program experience, and encouraged eligible students to participate in FLEX testing.

Alumni Meeting: On October 29, Chyngyz Amanbaev '07, Jibek Nurueva '07, Liliya Salahutdinova '07, Darya Stulova '06, Timur Tilenov '07, and Aijamal Umarova '06 attended a meeting to brainstorm ideas for upcoming alumni events and talk about various opportunities available to alumni.

Voенno-Antonovka

Soccer Game: Eleven alumni played soccer with the children from the Voенno-Antonovka Orphanage on October 28. Asel Sherimkulova '07 (Shopokov) organized the game and arranged transportation for alumni to the event. Alumni played soccer with the children and gave them a new ball.

Upcoming Events:

- **Education Fair** is scheduled for November 3.
- **Osh Clothing Drive** is scheduled for November 5-20.
- **Education Seminar** will take place on November 7.
- **Alumni Meeting** is planned for November 9 and 30.
- **International Volunteers' Day (IVD) Meeting** will be held on November 9.
- **Grant Writing Seminar** is planned for November 10.
- **Osh Student Day Festival** will be held on November 15.
- **Osh Polite Day** event is scheduled for November 17.
- **Christmas Tree Project Planning Meeting** will be held on November 17 and 19.
- **Orphanage Visit** will be organized on November 18.
- **Milkyway Drama Performance** is scheduled for November 19.
- **Fundraising Event** will begin on November 20.
- **Osh Thanksgiving Celebration** will take place on November 22.
- **Book Drive** will start on November 23.
- **Movie Nights** will be held throughout November.
- **Osh Grant Writing Seminar** will take place in late November.

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Moldova

Balti

FLEX Testing: On October 1, Cristina Burlacu '07, Vadim Capcelea '07, Olga Ivasina '07, Vladimir Sestacov '06, and Alexandra Vatetco '07 assisted FLEX recruiters at the first round of testing. Alumni assisted with registration and crowd control.

Chisinau

FLEX Presentations: From October 1-5, Ana Ceachirova '07 made presentation about her on-program experience and the FLEX program to different classes at the Gaudeamus Lyceum. The alumna also trained 25 students to give similar presentations about the FLEX program and encourage eligible students to participate. Due to the alumna's efforts, more than 400 students and teachers learned about this opportunity for high school students to study in the U.S.

FLEX Registration: Natalia Andreev '07 (Straseni), Olga Brega '07, Ana Ceachirova '07, Irina Cerepova '07 (Balti), Ecaterina Rusnac '07 (Cricova), and Stefan Vangheli '07 assisted with FLEX program registration from October 8-17. Alumni helped participants with registration and gave them directions to the test center.

Preparation for Alumni Congress Meeting: On October 16, Natalia Andreev '07 (Straseni), Olga Brega '07, and Ana Ceachirova '07 volunteered at the U.S. Embassy Alumni Resource center and put together binders for the upcoming Alumni Congress.

FLEX Testing: Natalia Andreev '07 (Straseni), Olga Brega '07, Ana Ceachirova '07, Irina Cerepova '07 (Balti), Ecaterina Rusnac '07 (Cricova), and Stefan Vangheli '07 helped recruiters during the first and second rounds of FLEX testing on October 19 and 21.



Alumni Congress: On October 20, 68 FLEX alumni together with 300 alumni of various U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs attended the fifth annual Alumni Congress at the Leograd Convention Center. The event was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and organized by the Moldova Alumni Board and Victoria Tataru '01, acting director of the Alumni Resource Center. The plenary session of the congress included welcoming remarks by U.S. Ambassador Michael Kirby, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer John Balian, and current Mayor Dorin Chirtoaca. During the event, alumni summarized activities, which they have conducted and talked about

events being planned for the upcoming year. Those alumni nominated for positions on the Alumni Board gave speeches about their views of the alumni community and their plans of future development prior to the elections. The congress concluded with a reception where alumni viewed a slide show presentation of activities from the previous years and networked. In addition to the 68 alumni participants, 12 alumni assisted with registration and logistics for the event.

Resume and Cover Letter Writing Training: On October 27, ten recently returned alumni attended a resume and cover letter writing training. Trainer Lilia Fusa '04 presented different styles of resumes and discussed the advantage of each. The alumna also reviewed the purpose and advantage of writing a cover letter.

International Education Week (IEW) Planning Meeting: Twelve alumni attended a planning meeting to brainstorm ideas for IEW on October 27. Elena Plesco '06 described events that have been held throughout Eurasia in previous years and moderated the discussion. Alumni decided to conduct a project in five regions of Moldova and determined where they could find the necessary equipment for the activities.

Straseni

Halloween Fundraising Event: Natalia Andreev '07 (Straseni) organized a Halloween fundraising event at the Straseni Lyceum on October 26. Together with a group of students, the alumna held various Halloween contests and sold candy. The proceeds of the fundraising event, which exceeded \$30, will be used to hold future volunteer activities in the city.

Upcoming Events:

- **Movie Night** will take place on November 12.
- **Causeni Business Presentation** is scheduled for November 12.
- **Balti FLEX and Transatlantic Scholarship Presentations** are scheduled for November 13.
- **Balti Education Roundtable** will take place on November 14.
- **FLEX Presentation** is scheduled for November 15.
- **Nursing Home Visit** is planned for November 16.
- **Ungheni Debate Tournament** will be held on November 17.
- **Public Speaking Courses** will be conducted on November 19.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** will take place on November 22.
- **Grant Writing Training** will be organized on November 24.

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Russia

Kazan

Alumni Meeting: On October 12, 10 alumni attended a meeting at Kazan State University of Architecture and Engineering (KSUAE) with American Councils Regional Director for the Russian Federation Joel Ericson, Eurasia FLEX Alumni Program Officer Lauren Hurley, and Director of the International Department of KSUAE Vera Alekseeva. Alumni discussed plans for upcoming events and created the annual calendar for Kazan.

Architecture Skills for Orphans Training Seminar: On October 17, seven alumni and 30 non-alumni guest attended a training seminar for the Architecture Skills for Orphans program at Kazan State University of Architecture and Engineering. The purpose of this project is to develop various skills among orphaned children to give them more opportunities in life. St. Petersburg Pediatrician Slava Dovbny talked about common psychological issues orphans face and described effective means of communication with this group. Follow-up seminars will be held on a bi-monthly basis to train volunteers to successfully work with orphans. Yuliana Amanova '03, Kirill Fedorov '07, Aliya Khaybullina '07, Alina Nasyrova '07, Anton Petrov '03, Daliya Safiullina '04, and Anna Strom '07 attended the event.

FLEX Presentations: Ten recently returned alumni made presentations at local high schools and education centers from October 15-19 to promote the first round of FLEX testing on October 20. Alumni talked about their on-program experience and encouraged eligible students to participate.

Alumni Meeting: On October 20, Vladimir Emmer '07, Kirill Fedorov '07, Oleg Fedotov '05, Natalya Kuznetsova '07, Alina Nasyrova '07, and Yuliya Ponomareva '05 met with FLEX Senior Program Officer Gabriel Coleman. Over pizza, participants discussed upcoming events and offered to help recruiters with the first round of FLEX testing the following day.

Dayrskaya Orphanage Halloween Party: Twelve alumni celebrated Halloween with the children from Dayrskaya Orphanage on October 27. Alumni told them how the holiday is celebrated in the U.S. and played Halloween games with them. All of the children learned about American culture by carving pumpkins and trick-or-treating.

Nizhniy Novgorod

Alumni Meeting: On October 2, City Representative Tatyana Movshevich '04 (Dzerzhinsk) organized an alumni meeting for recently returned alumni. The 11 alumni in attendance talked about their on-program experience and shared successes. Additionally, they learned about opportunities available to FLEX alumni and upcoming competitions.

Penza

Halloween Celebration: On September 29, Olesya Palibina '06, Kirill Plotnikov '04, and City Representative Lyubov Ryzhakova '06 held a Halloween celebration for a fourth grade class at Gymnasium #6. Alumni told the children how they celebrated Halloween in the U.S. and played games with them.

Upcoming Events:

- **Meeting with American Corner Administration** will take place on November 7.
- **Orphanage Visit** is scheduled for November 10.
- **Grant Writing Seminar** will be conducted on November 16.
- **Nizhniy Novgorod Grant Writing Seminar** will be conducted on November 16.
- **Sport Event** will take place on November 23.
- **Nizhniy Novgorod Thanksgiving Celebration** will take place on November 24.
- **Penza Thanksgiving Celebration** is scheduled for November 25.
- **Nizhniy Novgorod Alumni Meeting** will be held in late November.
- **Penza Grant Writing Seminar** will be conducted in November.
- **Thanksgiving Card Event** will begin in early November.
- **Architecture Skills for Orphans Training Seminar** will be held in late November.

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Moscow

Alumni Meeting: On October 10, Roman Khudaleev '04, Aleksey Klyavlin '03, Mariya Shishkina '07, Olga Tomilina '05, and Pavel Trofimov '04 discussed alumni events for the upcoming month. Alumni brainstormed ideas for charity events and winter projects and distributed responsibilities for the upcoming Halloween celebration.

Recently Returned Alumni Meeting: Tatyana Artemyeva '07 (Syzran), Yekaterina Belova '07, Sergey Denisov '07 (Orel), Vladimir Golubev '07 (Novomoskovsk), and Olga Prosvirina '07 (Tambov) attended a meeting for recently returned alumni living in Moscow on October 13. Alumni talked about their on-program and volunteer experiences on the FLEX program and talked about ways to use their understanding for the betterment of Moscow.

Debates Training for Trainers: On October 21, alumni and students from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) discussed the possibility of creating a Debate Club. Yekaterina Belova '07, Aleksandr Gafarov '06, Roman Khudaleev '04, Olga Prosvirina '07 (Tambov), Natalya Volkova '02, and ten university students listened to a presentation by the founder of the oldest Debate Club in Moscow Evgeniy Akulich. Mr. Akulich covered the history, rules, and methods of debates, showed extracts from international debate competitions, and monitored a round of debates.

Halloween Celebration: Vladimir Golubev '07 (Novomoskovsk), Mariya Gracheva '06, Roman Khudaleev '04, Aleksey Klyavlin '03, Yekaterina Kosheleva '05, Olga Tomilina '05, Pavel Trofimov '04, and Shamil Valiev '04 held a Halloween celebration with the children from Orphanage #50. Alumni and the 15 children that participated in the event decorated the room, carved pumpkins, and learned how the holiday is celebrated in the U.S. Additionally, the children had their faces painted and had a chance to dress up in costumes. This is the first of a series of events that alumni will hold with these children. Alumni also plan to hold English classes and other holiday events at the orphanage.

Alumni Halloween Party: Eleven alumni and American students studying on American Councils' Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies program (RLASP) celebrated Halloween at a local café on October 31.

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Those in attendance talked about their exchange experiences and discussed current political issues in Russia. They also participated in Halloween style games and face painting competitions.

Upcoming Events:

- **Roberta Posta Clown Show** with the children from Orphanage #50 will be held on November 8.
- **Interview Skills Training** is planned for November 13.
- **International Education Week Meeting with U.S. Ambassador William J. Burns** will be held on November 14.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** at Orphanage #50 is planned for November 25.
- **Legal Career Development Roundtable** event is scheduled for November 27.

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Novosibirsk

International Education Week Conference: On October 17, a conference dedicated to International Education Week was held at the Novosibirsk Library. This annual event, organized by American Councils, gives alumni of various U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs the opportunity to talk about their on-program experience. Alumni Coordinator Tamuna Otiashvili '04 made a PowerPoint presentation about the FLEX Alumni Program. Following the conference, those in attendance voted for their favorite photographs at the IEW Photo Contest. The submissions can be seen at <http://americancenter.rstlib.nsc.ru/index.shtml?arh>. Over 15 alumni entered pictures for the competition, but Irina Sherstneva '07 (Aleysk) was named winner with Yaroslava Chernusenko '04 (Kazakhstan) and Victoria Guskova '03 (Kazakhstan) coming in third. Additionally, Tamuna Otiashvili '04, Olesya Petrenko '07, Olga Pinigina '04, and Darya Velikoivanenko '06 (Iskitim) participated in the conference and the organization of the event.

Upcoming Events:

- **Operation Smile Mission** will take place on November 9-15.

Contact: Novosibirsk Alumni Coordinator Tamuna Otiashvili '04, alumflex@ieie.nsc.ru, novosibirskflex@gmail.com + (383) 330 9294

St. Petersburg

FLEX Recruiting: More than 10 alumni assisted FLEX recruiters to conduct the first and second rounds of testing at the Mayakovsky Library on October 7. Alumni also helped to promote the program by calling schools and making presentations throughout September and October.

Halloween Celebration: Over 30 alumni and local community members celebrated Halloween on October 30. All participants dressed in costumes, took part in contests, and joined in the Halloween spirit. In addition to the celebration, alumni held a candy drive at the event. The 15 bags of candy that were collected will be donated to the children at the Nikolskiy Orphanage. Local television channel *MIR* showed the event and an interview with Alumni Coordinator Inna Kuznetsova '04 on the local news that evening.

Theatre Club: Anna Abramishvili '06 and Alena Sorokina '06 (Kirovsk) organized a Theater Club meeting in October. The alumni organizers together with 10 other alumni that are interested in taking part in performances chose a play and held rehearsals in October. Additionally, they would like to include university students and children from local orphanages to perform in the rehearsals to develop their acting skills. The first performance is scheduled for late December and the actors will perform in a play dedicated to Charles Dickens's story *A Christmas Carol*. In October rehearsals were held on Mondays and Saturdays.

Upcoming Events:

- **Orphanage Visit** is planned for November 8.
- **Movie Night** is scheduled for November 9.

- **Theater Club Performance** will be held on November 22.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** will take place on November 24.

Contact: St. Petersburg Alumni Coordinator Inna Kuznetsova '04, flexalum@americancouncils.spb.ru, st.petersburgflex@gmail.com +7 (812) 571-76-55

Vladivostok

Alumni Meeting and Legislative Education and Practice (LEAP) Program Presentation: On October 4, Nvard Khachatryan '00 made a presentation about her on-program experience while on the LEAP program. The 12 alumni in attendance were eager to learn about the program and eligibility requirements. Additionally, alumni discussed plans for the upcoming charity event and watched director Robert Rodriguez's movie *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*.

Planning Meeting: Marina Bendenko '07 (Ussuriysk), Alexandra Korneyeva '05, Mikhail Korolev '07 (Ussuriysk), Alexandra Kulik '05, Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Nikulina '07, Anastasiya Prokonich '02, Kseniya Sergeyeva '07, and Kseniya Sidorova '07 attended an alumni planning meeting on October 11. During the meeting, alumni brainstormed ideas for charity events and distributed responsibilities for a charity film project.

Orphanage Visit: Alumni Alexandra Korneyeva '05, Alexandra Kulik '05, Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Nikulina '07, Kseniya Sergeyeva '07, and Kseniya Sidorova '07 visited the children at the Noviy Orphanage on October 14. Alumni played games and sang songs with the orphans. Additionally, they learned the song Happy Birthday and sang it to Alumni Coordinator Maksim Matyunin. Following that visit, alumni reached an agreement with the orphanage administration to hold weekly guitar classes for the children.

Planning Meeting: On October 18, Anastasiya Aleshkina '04, Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Nikulina '07, Anastasiya Prokonich '02, Dmitry Shatokhin '02, and Polina Zavyalova '00 planned events and created a schedule for charity concerts that will be held in November and December. Alumni brainstormed ideas for low-cost media coverage for the event and distributed posters to hang around the city.

Guitar Lessons: On Mondays in October Maksim Matyunin '06 and Kseniya Sidorova '07 taught guitar lessons to the children at Noviy Orphanage. In an attempt to create long-lasting personal relationships with the children, alumni plan to hold more events with the children at the orphanage such as art and music classes.

Alumni Meeting: Alumni discussed the annual calendar for the Vladivostok hub at a meeting on October 25. They made plans to hold a debate tournament and charity events in Khabarovsk and brainstormed ways to assist alumni in other cities organize events. Additionally, they discussed ideas for joint projects together with the Rotract Club at the Library for the Visually Impaired and for International Education Week presentations. Anastasiya Aleshkina '04, Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Nikulina '07, Anastasiya Prokonich '02, Dmitry Shatokhin '02, and Polina Zavyalova '00 attended the event.

Education Fair: On October 26, Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Prokonich '02, Kseniya Sergeyeva '07, and Kseniya Sidorova '07 learned about international education opportunities at an education fair. Additionally, Maksim Matyunin '06 made a presentation about the FLEX program and encouraged eligible high school students to participate in the first round of testing.

Orphanage Visit: On October 28, 10 alumni and three members of the Rotract Club visited the children at the Noviy Orphanage. Rotract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. The Rotract volunteers suggested holding joint weekly activities with FLEX alumni at the orphanage.

Halloween Celebration: Mikhail Korolev '07 (Ussuriysk), Maksim Matyunin '06, Anastasiya Prokonich '02, and Kseniya Sergeyeva '07 celebrated Halloween on October 31. Alumni dressed up in costumes and went to a Halloween party at a local café.

Upcoming Events:

- **Planning Meetings and Movie Nights** will take place on November 8, 15, 22, and 29.

- **Orphanage Visits** will be held on November 11 and 25.
- **International Education Week Presentations** will be conducted on November 12-16. \
- **Charity Concert** at the Yellow Submarine Club is scheduled for November 25.
- **Guitar Lessons** will be taught on Mondays at Noviy Orphanage.
- **Art Classes** will be organized on Saturdays at Noviy Orphanage.

Contact: Vladivostok Alumni Coordinator Maxim Matyunin '06, flexalum@vlad.ru,
vladivostokflex@gmail.com + 42 32 40 69 68

Rostov-na-Donu

Education Fair: Irina Chekmezova '07, Yelena Dorofeyeva '04, Yekaterina Kuznetsova '07, Mariya Stoyeva '04, and Mariya Yasko '07 promoted the FLEX program at an education fair at the American Center on October 7. American Center Alumni Assistant Margarita Bondareva gave visitors information on American, British, and German exchange programs and international testing systems. Alumni assisted in organizing the fair, made presentation about their on-program experiences, and answered questions about the FLEX program.

Personal Rights Seminar: On October 21, Yekaterina Kuznetsova '07 and Mariya Yasko '07 attended a seminar at the American Center on personal rights. American Center Alumni Assistant Margarita Bondareva welcomed the participants, who included students, representatives from the Center for Disabled Youth, and alumni of U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs. Participants learned about the Russian judicial system and received useful advice on how to file a claim. They also discussed articles of the code of law and took part in an interactive court game, where participants acted out an imaginary court case and found solutions to the problems. Following the seminar, participants listened to a lecture on psychological protection.

Alumni Meeting: On October 28, Tatyana Radchenko '07 met with American Center Alumni Assistant Margarita Bondareva to discuss ways to promote and advertise the FLEX program and upcoming testing. The alumna then called other active alumni in the area and encouraged them to make presentations at schools and to hand out flyers about the FLEX program to eligible students and teachers.

Volgograd

Meeting with U.S. Embassy Representative: On October 4, Assistant Cultural Attaché at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy Geoffrey Anisman attended a meeting with 11 alumni and participants of the Discovering the USA Together Summer Camp. Mr. Anisman discussed ways of improving the work of the American Corner in Volgograd and asked participants about the activities and summer camps that they have conducted and in which they have participated. Following the meeting, all participants watched director Mike Nichols's movie *The Graduate*.

Riverbank Clean Up Activity: Andrey Arkhipov '03 (Volzhsky), Anna Bogdanova '06, Elena Fomenko '03, (Volzhsky), Darya Karpenko '01, Marina Kornikhina '07, and Irina Rets '07 picked up trash on the banks of the Volga River on October 6. Following the clean up activity, alumni had a picnic.

British Movie Festival: On October 13, Anna Bogdanova '06, Elena Fomenko '03 (Volzhsky), Marina Kornikhina '07, Vekoslav Koshkni '06 (Volzhsky), Irina Rets '07, and Nataliya Yemelyanova '07 attended the British Movie Festival and watched director Stephen Frears's movie *The Queen*.

With Love To A Book Project: On October 24, over 30 students attended the opening ceremony for the With Love To A Book Project at the Volgograd State Library. Olga Melnikova '03 (Volzhsky) created this project with the support of the FLEX Alumni Grants Project. The project includes a series of presentations, movie days, an online role-play, and drawing and essay contests and aims to get children excited about reading. Anna Bakumova '02, Olga Chervonceva '06, Anton Chupin '03 (Ilovlya), Elena Fomenko '03 (Volzhsky), and Marina Kornikhina '07 helped to organize the event.

Roundtable Discussion on Tolerance: Andrey Arkhipov '03 (Volzhsky), Nadezhda Biryukova '07, Anna Bogdanova '06, Anton Chupin '03 (Ilovlya), Elena Fomenko '03 (Volzhsky), Marina Kornikhina '07, Vekoslav Koshkin '06 (Volzhsky), Sergey Malivanov '07 (Volzhsky), and Olga Naumova '07 participated in a roundtable discussion on tolerance, organized by the Youth Human Rights Organization on October 25. Participants

watched director Tony Kaye's film *American History X* and discussed issues related to tolerance in Russia and throughout the world.

Orphanage Halloween Celebration: Nadezhda Biryukova '07, Elena Fomenko '03 (Volzhsky), Marina Kornikhina '07, Olga Naumova '07, Irina Rets '07, and Natalya Yemelyanova '07 celebrated Halloween with the children from the Podrostok Social Rehabilitation Center on October 31. Alumni told the children about the history of the holiday, organized contests and games, and gave them candy.

FLEX Presentations: During October 16 alumni gave presentations to promote the FLEX program at local high schools and education centers in Volgograd, Volzhsky, and the surrounding regions. They shared their on-program experience with the students, answered questions about life in the U.S., and encouraged them to participate in the first round of testing.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting with FLEX Recruiters** is scheduled for November 2.
- **Elections Role-play Event** will take place on November 10, 17, 19, and 24.
- **Resume-writing Seminar** is scheduled for November 13.
- **International Tolerance Day Celebration** will be held on November 16.
- **Grant Writing Seminar** will take place on November 17.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** is planned for November 22.

Contact: Volgograd Alumni Coordinator Elena Fomenko '03, southrussiaflex@mail.ru, volgogradflex@gmail.com +(927) 523 1220 or + (8443) 298 385

Perm

Alumni Meeting: On October 19, Aleksey Burov '07, Yelena Dyldina '02, Natalya Racheva '01, Irina Goldberg '96, Anna Vereshchagina '04, and Aleksandra Vinnichuk '02 attended an alumni meeting together with FLEX recruiters Svetlana Norayeva and Emily Danyluk at the Presto Pizza Café. City Representative Natalya Rachyova talked to alumni about the upcoming FLEX Alumni Grants program and other upcoming events.

Yekaterinburg

Alumni Meeting: On October 4, Antonina Ivanova '04, Darya Koltushkina '06, Kseniya Momot '06, and Vladimir Nasretdinov '05 planned upcoming events and brainstormed ideas for future events. The alumni also distributed responsibilities for Halloween events and the re-entry seminar.

Re-entry Seminar: Vasilina Afanasyeva '07 (Snezhinsk), Vasiliy Belyavin '07, Ksenya Ibragimova '07 (Kirovgrad), Yelena Kapshutar '07, and Varvara Vozchikova '07, alumni from the northern and middle Ural regions, attended a re-entry seminar on October 14. The recently returned alumni worked together with older alumni Darya Koltushkina '06, Ilya Korobeynikov '04, Pavel Kuznetsov '06, Natalya Medvedeva '05, Kseniya Momot '06, Vladimir Nasretdinov '05, and Darya Rostovtseva '06 to brainstorm ideas for useful activities in their cities. Additionally, they talked about their on-program experience and ways to overcome reverse culture shock.

FLEX Presentation: On October 16, Yelena Kapshutar '07, Pavel Kuznetsov '06, and Darya Rostovtseva '06 helped FLEX recruiter Joshua Lamb organize a FLEX program presentation at the American Information Center. The alumni talked to the 50 students in attendance about their on-program experience and answered their questions.

FLEX Recruiting: Antonina Ivanova '04, Yelena Kapshutar '07, Ilya Korobeynikov '04, Darya Rostovtseva '06, Aleksandr Rumyantsev '02 (Verkhnyaya Pishma), and Yevgeniya Zakharova '06 assisted with the first round of FLEX testing on October 20. Alumni helped with crowd control and registration and answered participants' and parents' questions.

FLEX October 2007 Report

Movie Night: On October 25, Darya Chernysh '07, Antonina Ivanova '04, Natalya Medvedeva '05, and Varvara Vozchikova '07 watched the 1952 comedy musical *Singing in the Rain*. FLEX recruiter Emily Danyluk told alumni about the historical and cultural background of the movie. Additionally, alumni made decorations for the Halloween party at the event.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting** will take place on November 2.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** will be held on November 22.
- **U.S. Presentation** is scheduled for mid-November.

Contact: Yekaterinburg Alumni Coordinator Antonina Ivanova '04, flexalum@ural.actr.ru, yekaterinburgflex@gmail.com + (343) 376 5662

Dushanbe

Orphanage Visit: Rustam Abidov '07, Parvina Adyilova '05, Bahrom Ismoilov '05, Sitora Kasimova '06, Malika Khakimova '04, Farhunda Mirboboeva '05, and Alisher Rusulzoda '07 together with student volunteers from Slovonc University visited the children at the Leninski Orphanage on October 8. Alumni and the volunteers held an art workshop for the children.

International Educational Fair: Twenty alumni participated in the International Educational Fair at the Lohuti Theater on October 10. The event, which was organized by the Open Society Institute and Soros Foundation Undergraduate Exchange program, American Councils, and IREX, included representatives from various international organizations who presented material on their ongoing projects and scholarship and grant opportunities. More than 2000 students, teachers, and NGO representatives attended the fair. The 20 alumni volunteers talked to participants about the FLEX program and other available education opportunities. In addition, American Councils Country Director Matluba Mamadjanova and Educational Adviser Zarrina Muhiddinova made a presentation on American Councils projects and programs. From October 11-14 the International Educational Fair was also held in Khujand and Kurgan-Tube. FLEX alumni from those regions also promoted the FLEX program and talked about their on-program experience.



Ozodi Radio Interview: The Ozodi radio station interviewed Sitora Kasimova '06 and American Councils Educational Adviser Zarrina Muhiddinova on October 11. They talked about the programs that American Councils administers and the alumna talked about her on-program experience and encouraged eligible students to participate. The interview can be found on the site www.ozodi.org.

FLEX Presentation: On October 16, Rustam Abidov '07, Sitora Kasimova '06, Rukhshona Mirzoartikova '07 (Isfara), Gulrukhsor Nazirova '06 (Kanibadam), and Farangisi Nozimzoda '07 (Kairakkum) made presentations about the FLEX program at the American Corner. The alumni encouraged students to participate in the first round of testing and told them about the opportunities available at the American Center and through the Tajik Alumni Association. On October 17-25, more than 20 recently returned alumni and other active alumni made presentations at local high schools and education centers. Alumni talked about their on-program experience, answered students' questions, and handed out flyers.

Fundraising Event: Rustam Abidov '07, Sitora Kasimova '06, Malika Khakimova '04, Farhunda Mirboboeva '05, Farangisi Nozimzoda '07 (Kairakkum), and Olga Zavyalova '07 took part in a fundraising event on October 17. The alumni sold 200 cookies to staff members at the American Center, Aga Khan Humanity Project (AKHP), Relief International Organization, and Tojikmatlubot Swiss organization. Alumni raised over \$150 during this fundraising event, which will be used to hold a Halloween party for the children at the Dushanbe Orphanage for physically disabled children.

FLEX October 2007 Report

Alumni Meeting: On October 23, 12 alumni attended an alumni meeting at the American Center. Alumni discussed future activities, distributed responsibilities for the upcoming Halloween party, and made plans for International Education Week.

International Education Week Roundtable Discussion with U.S. Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson: In celebration of International Education Week, U.S. Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson held a roundtable discussion at the American Corner on the importance of education and opportunities for higher education in the U.S. on October 24. The 16 alumni who participated in the event learned about educational opportunities in the U.S. and asked questions about the Ambassadors' educational background and hobbies. Alumni talked to other participants about the FLEX program and their on-program experience. Ambassador Jacobson and Cultural Affairs Officer Anne Benjaminson encouraged university and high school students to study in U.S. universities and discussed the prospects of establishing Peace Corps and opening an American university in Tajikistan.

FLEX Recruiting: On October 27, 18 alumni assisted FLEX recruiters with the first round of testing at School # 20. The alumni assisted with crowd control and student registration.

Halloween Celebration: Alumni organized a Halloween celebration at the American Center on October 27. Over 20 alumni organized games and contests, handed out candy, and decorated the center for the holiday.

Khujand

FLEX Presentation: On October 2, Daler Mirzoboev '07 and Omina Sanginova '07 made a presentation about American culture, traditions, and the FLEX program at the American Corner. The ten student participants asked questions about the alumni's on-program experience and life in the U.S.

Kulob

FLEX Presentation: Mehrogiddin Pirnazarov '07 conducted FLEX presentations at Kulob city schools for over 60 students and teachers on October 12. The alumnus encouraged eligible students to participate in the competition and talked about his on-program experience.

FLEX Recruiting: On October 20, Mehrogiddin Pirnazarov '07 and Shifo Sharifzoda '07 assisted FLEX recruiters with the first round of testing. Alumni helped with crowd control and answered parents' and students' questions.

Vahdat

Nursing Home Visit: Fifteen alumni together with local university students visited the residents of the Vahdat Nursing Home on October 21. The volunteers made lunch for the 94 elderly residents and visited with them while they enjoyed lunch. Additionally, each resident received a small gift from the volunteers. Alumni made a promise to the residents to visit them more often and plan to start an Adopt a Grandparent Project.

Upcoming Events:

- **Habitat for Humanity Event** with U.S. Embassy Officials will take place on November 3.
- **Movie Night** is planned on November 6.
- **International Education Week Opening Ceremony** is scheduled for November 12.
- **Grant Proposal Writing Workshop** will take place on November 13.
- **Resume-writing Seminar** is planned on November 14.
- **Orphanage Visit** is scheduled for November 17.
- **Halloween and Thanksgiving Celebration** will be organized on November 17.
- **Alumni Meeting** will take place on November 20.

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Turkmenistan

Ashgabat

Women's Suffrage Presentation: On October 25, Diana Chariyeva '06 made a presentation on women's suffrage at the American Center. The 13 participants learned about the 1915 New York women's suffrage march and the history of women's suffrage in the U.S. and other countries. Following the presentation, participants discussed the role of women in Turkmenistan.

Alumni Meeting: Thirteen alumni attended alumni meetings on October 25 and 29. Alumni discussed plans for the upcoming Halloween celebration and Ashgabat Boarding School presentation.

Halloween Celebration: On October 30, alumni created a haunted house at the American Councils office to celebrate the holiday. Thirteen alumni decorated for the event and manned their spooky stations. At the end of the haunted house, participants entered a terrace decorated with candles, carved pumpkins, and different Halloween posters. Those in attendance then took part in Halloween competitions, tick or treated, and learned about the history of the holiday. More than 70 community members attended the event.

Ashgabat Boarding School Halloween Celebration: Thirteen alumni celebrated Halloween with 18 children from the Ashgabat Boarding School on October 31. Alumni organized games and contests for the children and brought them candy. They also decorated the playground for the children to create a holiday atmosphere.

Art Club: On Mondays at the American Center 15 community members attended Art Club meetings organized by Peace Corps volunteer James Johnson and Alexandra Hasanova '07. Participants learned about art history and various artists and created their own masterpieces.

Women's Club: Diana Chariyeva '06 and Leila Ishchanova '03 held Women's Club meetings every Wednesday in October. The club aims to increase awareness on issues related to sexual discrimination and sexual equality. Every month the 15 members of the club listen to presentations about outstanding women in history. This month they learned about Nefertiti, (1370-1330 BC) the royal wife of the Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten.

FLEX Presentations: Throughout October 12 alumni made presentations about the FLEX program and their on-program experience at the American Center, local high schools, and education centers. Alumni encouraged eligible students to participate in the first round of testing.

Dashoguz

Headway Class: On October 2, 9, 16, and 23, Yekaterina Sultanova '06 conducted Headway classes for 20 students at the American Corner. The alumna introduced participants to American idioms, new grammar, and vocabulary. In addition, participants played intellectual games to develop their English.

FLEX Presentations: Javlonbek Abdalov '07 (Keneurgench), Alyssa Ilyasova '07, Enahan Shamuratova '06, and Yekaterina Sultanova '06 made presentations at local schools on October 3 and 15. Alumni introduced hundreds of students and teachers to the FLEX program, talked to them about their on-program experience, and encouraged the students to participate in the testing.

Movie Night: On October 4, Yekaterina Sultanova '06 organized a movie night for 11 community members at the American Corner. Attendees watched Peter Jackson's movie *The Lords of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring*. Following the movie, participants discussed unfamiliar words and their favorite American movies.

Orphanage Visit: Yekaterina Sultanova '06 and four volunteers from the American Corner visited the children at a local orphanage on October 8. The volunteers read books, played games, and made the children lunch.

Drama Club: The 15 participants of the Drama Club took part in rehearsals and meetings on October 9, 13, 16, 19, 23, 27, and 28 at the American Corner. Yekaterina Sultanova '06 introduced participants to theater art and developed their theatrical skills. In the upcoming month, club members will give four performances in English to interested American Corner visitors.

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Essay Class: On October 11, Peace Corps volunteer Nicole Adelstein and Yekaterina Sultanova '06 conducted an essay writing class at the American Corner. Organizers aimed to develop the 19 participants' English writing and essay writing skills.

Speaking Class: On October 23, Alyssa Ilyasova '07 conducted an English class at the American Corner for ten students. Participants practiced their English by working on group projects and taking part in interactive language games.

Halloween Celebration: Javlonbek Abdalov '07 (Keneurgench), Alyssa Ilyasova '07, and Yekaterina Sultanova '06 organized a Halloween celebration at the American Corner for 63 interested visitors on October 31. Alumni introduced local community members to the U.S. holiday by involving them in costume and other Halloween contests. Following the event at the center, all participants and 14 alumni went to the Ak-Altyn Club for its Halloween celebration.

Gorogly

Beginner English Class: Ogulsoltan Ashyrova '05 conducted English classes for beginners at the American Center on October 9-12. The 10 participants learned basic grammar structures and improved their vocabulary by reading texts and taking part in interactive exercises.

Speaking Class: On October 23, Alyssa Ilyasova '07 (Dashoguz) conducted an English class at the American Corner for 10 students. Participants practiced their English by working on group projects and taking part in interactive language games.

Halloween Celebration: On October 27, Ogulsoltan Ashyrova '05 organized a Halloween party at the American Center for 17 high school students. The event aimed to introduce local youth to American culture and holidays. Participants took part in various Halloween contests and learned about the history of the holiday.

Basketball Practices: Ogulsoltan Ashyrova '05 conducted bi-weekly basketball practices at School # 7. The 12 student participants developed their basketball skills and practiced for upcoming competitions. The alumnus hopes to create constructive after school activities for students and teach them the value of teamwork.

A-Z English Class: During October Ogulsoltan Ashyrova '05 held elementary English classes for nine pupils who study in the first through fourth grades at the American Center. The children learned the alphabet and basic phrases and words by playing games and singing songs.

Mary

Nursing Home Visit: On October 1, Bahar Nokerova '07 and 25 members of the Volunteer Club visited the residents of a Mary nursing home. Prior to the visit, club members held a candy drive for the residents and were able to collect enough candy for everybody. At the event, the volunteers put on a number of skits for the residents and visited with them.

Power Writing Club: Lusine Mkrtychyan '07 led a Power Writing Club class for 19 American Corner visitors on October 4. The alumna made presentations on effective writing styles and worked with other participants to develop their written English skills.

Columbus Day Presentation: On October 10, Bahar Nokerova '07 together with American Corner visitors conducted a presentation on Columbus Day for about 26 students. Organizers aimed to teach the students about the U.S. holiday and Christopher Columbus.

Alumni Roundtable: Bahar Nokerova '07 held an alumni roundtable on October 15. Merjen Agayeva '07 (Bayramali), Dovran Balyshov '07 (Turkmenabat), Serdar Mommadov '06, Rustam Muhamedov '07 (Turkmenabat), and Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows program alumnus Sheker Muradova attended the event. The meeting began with alumni sharing their on-program experience and talking about their exchange year. Alumni also talked about the community service projects that they participated in while in the U.S. and brainstormed ideas for projects in their city. By the end of the meeting, they made plans for a number of

projects. This event was successful in bringing together alumni of various U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs.

Reading Week: On October 18, Irina Grigoryants '07 organized the Book Craft Day event for 19 American Corner visitors. Participants talked about the types of books that they like to read and the importance of literacy. They also learned how to make braided bookmarks and other crafts.

Health Education Club: Bahar Nokerova '07 conducted a Health Education Club meeting for eight American Corner visitors on October 18. Participants discussed ideas for grant proposals to increase awareness of health and safety issues. The groups determined the most pressing health issues and distributed tasks to learn more about local organizations that work with these issues.

Meeting with the Ambassador of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): On October 20, OSCE Ambassador Julie Finler met with alumni at the American Corner. Ambassador Finler and alumni discussed national events and ways that alumni can assist in the development of their country. Ms Finler talked about the mission work of the OSCE and its projects in Turkmenistan. Alumni asked the Ambassador her opinion on the Turkmen government and the likelihood of the new government's promises of free elections and democratic, educational, and healthcare reforms. Merjen Agayeva '07, Narmina Gasanova '06, Lyubov Lakomova '06, Lusine Mkrtychyan '07, Serdar Mommadov '06, Bahar Nokerova '07, and Shahnaz Rafeyeva '07 (Yoloten) attended the event.



Halloween Celebration: On October 31, American Corner staff together with Merjen Agayeva '07, Lusine Mkrtychyan '07, Serdar Mommadov '06, and Shahnaz Rafeyeva '07 (Yoloten) hosted a Halloween celebration for 120 American Corner visitors.

Attendees and organizers dressed up in costumes for the event and participated in holiday games and competitions. Alumni decorated the corner with Halloween decorations and put on a skit for the participants.

Turkmenabat

Columbus Day Presentation: On October 9, Dovran Balyshov '07 made a PowerPoint presentation on Columbus Day for 20 visitors of the American Corner. The alumna introduced Christopher Columbus's biography and talked about ways the holiday is observed in the U.S.

Eyes on Turkmenistan and America Photography Exhibition: Seven alumni received awards for their excellence in photography at the Eyes on Turkmenistan and America Photography Exhibition on October 11. American Corner representative Albina Burashnikova and Peace Corps volunteer Chris Shirm organized the event and encouraged Turkmen youth to submit original pictures of Turkmenistan or the U.S. to be shown in a photo exhibition. Organizers made a presentation on photography and awarded small prizes to those youth with winning photographs. Alumni Sabina Hojakuliyeva '05 and Fatima Kubatayeva '07 won first place prizes and Dovran Balyshov '07, Azat Beshimov '07, Leyla Kerimova '07, Rustam Muhammedov '07, and Zuleyha Tohtayeva '07 received honorable mention certificates.

U.S. States Class: Dovran Balyshov '07 and Sabina Hojakuliyeva '05 held an American geography class for 20 American Corner attendees on October 18. Via research and presentations, participants learned about the geography, history, and cultural nuances of five U.S. states. This class aims to develop participants' knowledge of the U.S. and English language.

Higher Education Seminar: On October 24, Lyudmila Mansurova '00 made a video presentation about the American University in Central Asia, Central European University, and Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research for 25 students. The alumna talked about the universities, the application processes, and scholarship and grant opportunities.

Turkmenbashy

U.S. History Club: On October 2, Kristina Safarova '06 and Maksat Velniyazov '07 organized a U.S. History Club meeting aimed to teach children about American history, culture, and traditions through games, songs, and pictures at the Blind and Deaf Resource Center. The 13 participants learned about the American flag, the first president, and the acquisition of Alaska. In addition to learning more about the U.S., the children developed their English language skills.

White House Presentation: On October 10, Maksat Velniyazov '07 organized a U.S. Club meeting on the topic of the White House for seven students at the Blind and Deaf Resource Center. The alumnus presented material on the history of the White House and talked about some of the presidents who have lived there. Additionally, he showed participants pictures from his visit and told them about the tour of the White House.

Columbus Day Presentation: Maksat Velniyazov '07 made a presentation about Columbus Day at the Blind and Deaf Resource Center on October 12. The six students who attended the event learned about the origin of the holiday and Christopher Columbus's famed expedition to the West.

Orphanage Halloween Celebration: American Corner Regional Representative Nurbibi Nuryagdiyeva together with Kristina Safarova '06 and Maksat Velniyazov '07 organized a Halloween party at a local orphanage on October 28. The 50 children that attended the event learned about the holiday and how it is celebrated in the U.S. The children took part in various Halloween contests and received candy.

Halloween Celebration: On October 30, American Corner Regional Representative Nurbibi Nuryagdiyeva together with Kristina Safarova '06 and four Peace Corps volunteers celebrated Halloween by holding a costume party with 25 members of the English Language Club at a local café. Organizers made presentations on Halloween as a traditional American holiday and described how it is celebrated in the U.S. Participants took part in various Halloween contests and learned about a new aspect of U.S. culture.

Upcoming Events:**Ashgabat**

- **FLEX Roundtable Discussion** dedicated to International Education Week is scheduled for November 13.
- **U.S. Quiz** dedicated to International Education Week will be conducted on November 15.
- **Thanksgiving Presentation** will take place on November 19.
- **Orphanage Thanksgiving Celebration** is scheduled for November 24.
- **FLEX Presentations** will take place throughout November.

Dashoguz

- **Oscar Night Presentation** will take place on November 8.
- **Veterans' Day Presentation** is scheduled for November 9.
- **Alumni Meeting** will be organized on November 19.
- **Orphanage Visit** will take place on November 22.
- **Talent Show** will be held on November 23.
- **FLEX Presentations** will take place throughout November in schools and education centers.
- **English Speaking Classes** will be taught on Tuesdays.
- **Headway Class** will be conducted on Tuesdays.
- **Movie Nights** will be held on Thursdays.
- **Essay Writing Class** will be held on a weekly basis in November.

Gorogly

- **English Classes** will be taught on a weekly basis in November.
- **Spanish Classes** will be organized on Tuesdays.
- **Soccer and Basketball Practices** will be held on Monday through Friday.
- **Debate Classes** will continue throughout November.

Mary

- **Alumni Roundtable** will take place on November 8.
- **Orphanage Visit** is scheduled for November 22.
- **Beginner English Classes** will take place on Tuesdays.
- **Problem Solving Club** meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays.
- **Volunteer Club** meetings will be organized on Wednesdays.
- **Health Education Club** classes will be conducted on Thursdays.
- **Power Writing Club** meetings will be taught on Thursdays.
- **Newsletter Club** meetings will take place on Fridays.
- **Brain Ring** classes will be held on Fridays.
- **Music Club** meetings are scheduled for Fridays in November.

Turkmenabat

- **Halloween Celebration** will be held on November 4.
- **Nursing Home Thanksgiving Celebration** is scheduled for November 22.
- **SAT Classes** will be held twice a week.
- **Music Club** meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **TOEFL Class** will be taught on a bi-weekly basis.
- **American Government and History Club** meetings will take place on Mondays.
- **Interview Skills** classes are scheduled for Wednesdays in November.
- **Movie Nights** will be conducted weekly.

Turkmenbashy

- **Thanksgiving Celebration** is scheduled for November 22.
- **English Classes** will take place on Tuesdays.
- **American Football Practices** will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- **U.S. Club** meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Contact: Ashgabat Alumni Coordinator Diana Chariyeva '06, flexalum@online.tm, turkmenistanflex@gmail.com +993 12 341015/16

Ukraine

Kharkiv

Legislative Education and Practice (LEAP) Program Recruitment: From September 21-October 5, Maryna Khorunzha '02, Svetlana Semko '02, and Artem Sokolskyy '05 called alumni to inform them about the LEAP program and encourage them to participate. Alumni called, made presentations, and sent out mass mailings to promote the program.

Alumni Meeting: Ten alumni participated in a meeting and movie night on October 5. Alumni discussed plans for upcoming activities, updated their contact information, and shared their successes. Following the meeting, alumni watched recent episodes of the Emmy-award winning animated series *South Park*.

Public Speaking Training: On October 6, Oleksiy Tsymbal, psychologist and consultant at the NGO Communications Without Borders, led a public speaking training for seven alumni. They learned techniques of successful public speaking and practiced their skills. Participants also received information on the upcoming FLEX testing and were encouraged to use their new public speaking skills to make presentations about the program in high schools. Iryna Horb '04, Maryna Khorunzha '02, Tetyana Ostroverkh '06, Yuliya Samolylina '07, Artem Sokolskyy '05, and Oleksandra Tsymbal '04 attended this event, which took place at School #162. The school donated the venue for the event.

FLEX Testing: FLEX recruiters Kim Smyth and Myroslava Antonovych held the first and second round of FLEX testing on October 11-13. Kostyantyn Achkasov '06, Valentyna Brysina '07, Nataliya Kolisnyk '07, Artem Sokolskyy '05, Oleksiy Suprun '06, Oleksandra Tsymbal '04, and Olha Vitkovska '06 assisted the recruiters with crowd control and registration and served as proctors during the testing.

FLEX Presentations: Throughout September and October, Anastasiya Herets '04, Tetyana Ostroverkh '06, and Artem Sokolskyy '05 made presentations at schools to advertise the FLEX program. Alumni reached over 400 students and teachers and told them about their on-program experience and eligibility requirements for the program.

Luhansk

Alumni Meeting: On October 20, Pavlo Avetytsyan '06 and Bachana Biblaya '07 assisted FLEX recruiters Amy Heasley and Olena Pashnina with the first round of testing at School #36. Alumni helped with registration and crowd control.

Sumy

Alumni Meeting: On October 25, FLEX recruiters Kim Smith and Myroslava Antonovych held an alumni meeting at the center bowling alley. Yakiv Akulov '07 and Yana Denysenko '07 attended the event. Besides perfecting their bowling skills, they discussed ways to conduct activities with small numbers of alumni in the city. The following day, alumni talked to the parents of students participating in the third round of testing about their on-program experience and answered questions.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Representative Conference** is planned for October 3-4.
- **DVD Club Presentation** is scheduled for October 4
- **International Education Week Presentations** will be held on November 12-16.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration** will take place on November 22.
- **Professional Development Event** is planned for November 25.
- **Movie Night** will take place on November 30.

Contact: Kharkiv Alumni Coordinator Artem Sokolskyy '05, flexalumni@americancouncils-kharkiv.org.ua, easternflex@gmail.com +(38050) 7766155

Chybynske

Meeting with Dzhhereltse Orphanage Administration: On October 30, Mariya Komarova '07 and Mariya Moskovko '05 met with the administration of the Dzhhereltse Orphanage to plan alumni activities with the children at the orphanage. Orphanage director Nataliya Kostenko '02 and on-site psychologist Mykola Tsylyk talked to the visiting alumni about best practices in communicating and working with orphans and discussed successful events and projects that they have conducted with the children at the Dzhhereltse Orphanage.

Chernivtsi

Alumni Meeting: Maksym Balanyuk '07, Volodymyr Bezrebryy '07 (Mankivka), Iryna Bursuk '07 (Vyzhnytsya), Alina Domenko '07, Svitlana Matso '07, and Oleksandr Stefanyk '07 attended an alumni meeting with FLEX recruiters before the third round of testing on October 2. Alumni updated their contact information and brainstormed community service and professional development events for alumni with FLEX recruiters Jessica Fisher and Khrystyna Kuksova.

Kirovohrad

Alumni Meeting: On October 5, Mariya Lobur '07 met with FLEX recruiters Mary Ann Radebach and Halyna Kokhan for an alumni meeting before the third round of testing. The recruiters made a small presentation on resume-writing skills and assisted Mariya in improving her resume. Additionally, they gave the alumna City Representative Kateryna Vdovychenko '05's contact information and information about alumni programs and activities.

Kyiv

Movie Night: On October 1, 20 alumni watched the documentary film by former Vice President Al Gore *An Inconvenient Truth* at the Alumni Resource Center. The film, which brings up issues such as [climate change](#) and [global warming](#), led to a follow-up discussion on the current environmental situation in Ukraine.

Flat Stanley Project: Olena Zhuk '07 (Mykolayiv) and her host father Kevin Palmer began the Flat Stanley Project in January 2007, when she was still in the U.S. The project is based on the book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown and is an international literacy and communication activity for young students, teachers, and families. The main character of the book is so thin that he can travel from country to country in envelopes. While in the U.S., the alumna gave a presentation to 25 elementary school students who then made their own Flat Stanleys and wrote letters of introduction to their Ukrainian peers. On October 1, the alumna made a similar presentation at her school for young students learning English. These students also made Flat Stanleys and these were sent back to the young students in the U.S. The goal of the project is to help American and Ukrainian schoolchildren learn about each other's cultures and practice foreign languages. The alumna's English teacher Maryna Pervova took the initiative to continue the international project in the future. More information about the project can be found at <http://www.flatstanley.com>.

Blood Drive Meeting: On October 2, Nataliya Horban '06 (Lubni) organized a meeting for 12 alumni interested in participating in the blood drive project at the Alumni Resource Center. Nataliya Voynarovska '00, representative of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, shared her experience of organizing blood drives, and Maksym Kostenko from the St. John's Brotherhood explained the current situation with blood donations in Ukraine. Yana Savchuck and Ludmyla Pelykh, psychologists from the Association of Young Donors of Ukraine, spoke about the critical need for blood donation worldwide and Mykhail Statkevych, a donor, described the process of blood donation and showed a movie about the children that alumni would be helping by donating blood. Alumni organizers hoped to increase the number of blood donors among young people to help children suffering from cancer.

Alumni Meeting: Sixteen alumni evaluated September events and planned future activities at the alumni meeting on October 3. Nataliya Horban '06 updated alumni on the progress of the blood drive project and guest speaker Mykhail Statkevych described the process of blood donation and showed a movie about the children who alumni would be helping by donating blood. Oksana Potapenko '97 told junior alumni about her involvement in FLEX alumni activities in the past and gave them ideas about possible future activities.

Forum of Young Leaders Workshop: Olena Rybak '02 organized a workshop for community members interested in youth leadership and conflict resolution at the Alumni Resource Center on October 7. Twenty-one community members together with Nataliya Horban '06 and Iryna Shvartsblat '04 (Zhitomir) took part in the workshop.



Alumni Meeting: On October 15, 11 alumni planned activities for an upcoming Halloween celebration. They also made decorations for the event and distributed responsibilities.

Alumni Coordinator Meeting: On October 17, FLEX Program Associate Brad Miller and American Councils Country Director Christina Pendzola-Vitovych held a meeting with the Alumni Coordinators from Ukraine. Mariya Moskovko '05, Anton Podilchak '03, and Artem Sokolskyy '05 reviewed weekly, monthly, and financial reporting, learned about the database update contest, and created their annual calendar.

Blood Drive Project: On October 19, Yelyzaveta Arbuzova '06, Bogdana Depo '03, Ivan Dyachok '05 (Obukhiv), Nataliya Horban '06, Mariya Komarova '07, and Mariya Moskovko '05 together with community members and representatives of the Association of Young Donors of Ukraine donated blood at the Blood Transfusion Center. The blood was specifically donated to children suffering from cancer. After the procedure, donors visited the Kyiv Regional Clinic, which cares for children suffering from cancer. As a follow-up activity to this project, alumni will hold a campaign together with the Association of Young Donors of Ukraine to increase awareness of the need to donate blood.

U.S. Educational Opportunities Seminar: Olena Vazhynska '05, member of the Kyiv National Shevchenko University student council, organized a presentation at her university devoted to education opportunities in the U.S. on October 29. Assistant Educational Adviser from Education Advising Center Tetyana Kotko answered participants' questions and gave them further information. More than 30 students and alumni Nina Kondratenko '06 (Nikolaev), Anastasiya Mykhaylova '07 (Oleksandriya), and Olena Zhuk '07 (Mykolayiv) attended the event. Olena Vazhynska plans to organize similar events in universities throughout Kyiv.

Novoguvivinsk

Halloween Party: On October 31, City Representative Ivan Severenchuk '07 organized a Halloween party at his school with the hope of introducing fellow classmates to different aspects of American culture. Participants learned about the history of the holiday and played Halloween games.

Ternopil

Alumni Meeting: On October 6, FLEX recruiters Amy Heasley and Olena Pashnina held an alumni meeting and bowling evening for alumni before the start of the third round of testing on October 6. Maksym Doroshenko '03, Myron Kokhanovskyy '07, Victor Pilyarchuk '02, and City Representative Yana Smakula '03 bowled and talked about projects that alumni would like to conduct in their city. Alumni decided to hold an event for orphans in December. Pictures from this event and other events in Ternopil can be found at <http://www.letroductus.te.ua/?p=98>.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting** will take place on November 5.
- **Cross Cultural Event** is planned for November 13.
- **FLEX Alumni Networking Event** is scheduled for November 14.
- **Stop Violence against Women Day** event is planned for November 25.
- **Clothing and Toys Drive** will begin in late November.
- **City Representatives Meeting** is tentatively planned for November.

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Lutsk

Alumni Meeting: FLEX recruiters Jessica Fisher and Khrystyna Kuksova held an alumni meeting at the Humanitarian Gymnasium #18 on October 12. Volodymyr Kobrin '07, Alina Mykytyuk '07, and Bohdan Sydoruk '07 talked to the recruiters about their on-program experience and received information about opportunities available to FLEX alumni. The following day, alumni helped recruiters at the first round of testing.

Lviv

Re-entry Seminar: On October 1, 26 recently returned and 10 junior and senior alumni attended a re-entry seminar. U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Assistant Vira Maksymova opened the seminar and gave a presentation on alumni opportunities. During the seminar, alumni shared their experiences of overcoming reverse cultural shock and other issues that they faced when returning home. Alumni Coordinator Anton Podilchak '03 talked to alumni about current and previous alumni activities and encouraged them to participate.

Invest Ukraine Forum: Over 300 participants from Europe and 200 officials from the national and local government of Ukraine participated in Invest Ukraine Forum on October 2-5. Conference speakers and guest included President Yushchenko and five Ukrainian Cabinet Ministers. Alumni together with students from the Lviv National University volunteered at the event and assisted with logistics issues, translation, and as official escorts. Natalya Bak '01, Anton Podilchak '03, and Yaryna Ravlyk '04 assisted with the forum.

Human Trafficking Seminar: On October 6-7, alumni organized a seminar to raise awareness of the threat of human trafficking for 25 high school and university students. Participants learned about human trafficking and ways to combat traffickers. European Voluntary Service volunteer Tomek Gabor and Andriy Bryn '05 led the seminars. On the second day, Olga Luhova '03 and Olga Panchak '03 (Novy Rozdil) led a session on civil

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responsibility, democracy, and the importance of volunteerism. Additionally, Anton Podilchak '03, president of the Young Diplomacy Center, spoke on youth leadership organizations and ways to participate in community development.

Effective Presentation Seminar: The Young Diplomacy Center hosted a presentation on effective presentation skills on October 8. Anton Podilchak '03 led the seminar for 13 young leaders including Yuliya Mazurenko '05.

Alumni Meeting: FLEX Program Associate Brad Miller and FLEX recruiter Inna Hlotova held an alumni meeting on October 19. The fifteen alumni in attendance talked about upcoming activities and learned about the Faces of FLEX photography contest and the upcoming FLEX Alumni Grants program. These alumni assisted recruiters the following day with the first round of FLEX testing.

Resume-writing and Cover Letter Training: On October 24, at the Ivan Franko National University Anton Podilchak '06 together with representatives from local NGOs conducted a professional development training for local students. Participants learned how to write a resume and a cover letter.

Rivne

Alumni Meeting: On October 19, FLEX recruiters Jessica Fisher and Khrystyna Kuksova held an alumni meeting at School #15. Nataliya Chelyada '07, Zoryana Felonyuk '07 (Zdolbuniv), Olha Mykhalchuk '07, and Oleksandr Peryk '04 (Lutsk) talked to the recruiters about their on-program experience and offered to assist with the first round of FLEX testing on the following day.

Solonka

FLEX Presentation: On October 16, Yuliya Mazurenko '05 and Anton Podilchak '03 made presentations about the FLEX program at local high schools. The alumni talked about their on-program experience and took students' and teachers' questions. The alumni promoted the program to over 50 people.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting** will take place on November 6.
- **Resume-writing Seminar** will be held on November 7.
- **Fundraising Training** is scheduled for November 8.
- **Alumni Meeting and City Representative Introduction Meeting** is planned for November 9.
- **Professional Development Training Sessions** will take place on November 10-11.
- **HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign** will be conducted on November 26-30 in Lviv and the surrounding regions.

Contact: Lviv Alumni Coordinator Anton Podilchak '03, alumni@americancouncils.lviv.ua, westernflex@gmail.com + 380 632 457853

Kherson

Cheerleading Fundraising Event: On October 7, Alina Manuilova '05 and the cheerleading squad she founded at Kherson National Technical University held the first of a series of fundraising events to sponsor activities at a local orphanage. The cheerleading squad was asked to cheer for regional soccer games every weekend and they decided to use the money that they earn to hold professional development workshops and holiday events for the children at the Kherson Orphanage. The alumna hopes to raise awareness for the need to support orphaned children and promote philanthropy.

Alumni Meeting: On October 12, FLEX recruiters John Silver and Lena Morozova held an alumni meeting before the first round of testing. Tetyana Bezrodnya '07, City Representative Alina Manuilova '05, Kseniya Melchenko '05, Mariya Osolodkina '01, and Olha Tsoy '07 talked to the recruiters about their on-program experience, updated their contact information, and played intellectual games. The following day, alumni helped recruiters with crowd control during the first round of testing.

Mykolayiv

Alumni Meeting: On October 12, Olena Horbatenko '07 met with FLEX recruiters Amy Heasley and Olena Pashnina. The alumna and recruiters talked about community service projects, which could be conducted in Mykolayiv and alumni successes.

Meeting the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine: At the Petro Mohyla University on October 31 Vladlena Chopa '04 (Nikolaev), Elena Gorelova '01 (Nikolaev), Daniela Pashko '06 (Nikolaev), Olha Shapovalova '06 (Nikolaev), and Alina Senchuk '06 (Nikolaev) together with Fulbright scholars, Harvard Summer Research Program alumni, representatives of local government, and students participated in a question and answer session with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor. Following a brief introduction, the Ambassador addressed all alumni and spoke about the great contributions of FLEX alumni in Ukraine. Alumni shared memorable moments about their on-program experience with the Ambassador and later discussed current international and local issues with him.

Odesa

Comparative Government Workshop: Fourteen alumni attended a workshop on comparative government at the Educational Advising Center on October 13. The workshop consisted of three main sessions during which participants presented information on and discussed U.S. and Ukrainian government systems. Fulbright scholars Robert Zimmerman and Linda Grey delivered speeches on the U.S. electoral process and Anna Solodova '03 presented on the system of government in Ukraine. The participants then compared the differences and similarities of the two countries. Participants later took part in interactive seminars led by Yulia Nikolayenko '02 where they lobbied bills and worked on mechanisms to make new laws fit into their personal and political agendas.

Sevastopol

Alumni Meeting: On October 28, Miraculous Christmas Tree project organizers Volodymyr Bilay '03, Valeriya Fedosova '06, Olha Kalyuzhna '05, Irina Ogay '04 (Urgench, Uzbekistan), Andrey Poteryakhyn '01, and Dmytro Savchenko '03 (Kerch) met to plan the event, which will begin in December. Alumni discussed the overall concept of the project and brainstormed ideas to improve on the structure and increase project efficiency. In addition, Fulbright scholar Patrick Lenihan gave alumni ideas for future fundraising and charity projects.

Simferopol

Alumni Meeting: On October 19, FLEX recruiters Mary Ann Radebach and Halyna Kokhan held an alumni meeting at Gymnasia #9. Usyein Hafarov '07, Darya Tomsykh '07, Artem Tytarenko '07, and Ganna Zarichna '03 learned about upcoming alumni contests, competitions, and the Heidelberg Center in Simferopol. The organization works with disabled students and is currently searching for an English speaker who would volunteer to teach English lessons. The following day, alumni acted as proctors during the first round of FLEX testing.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Meeting** is scheduled for November 1.
- **Kherson Fundraising Activity and Orphanage Visit** will take place on November 11.
- **Mykolayiv Grant Planning Meeting and Workshop** will be held on November 17.
- **Orphanage Visit** is scheduled for November 18.
- **Thanksgiving Celebration for the Parents of FLEX Finalists** will be held on November 24.

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ALUMNI SUCCESSES

Armenia

Davit Avetisyan '06 and Nicolay Hovhannisyan '07 (Sevan) were recently hired as phone call operators at CarShield Inc.

Azerbaijan

Elmira Akhmadova '07 was accepted at the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic.

Vusal Babayev '07 is an intern at the American Councils office.

Jeyhun Karamov '99, in recent Azerbaijan Alumni Association elections, was voted in as the new chairman of the association.

Georgia

Nana Aburjanidze '96 is the managing director at the AGB Nielsen Media Research Group in Georgia.

Anna Koiava '00 is a Senior Auditor at the Global Financial Services Group in the department of Assurance and Advisory Business Services of Ernst & Young based in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Maia Otarashvili '05 received a scholarship from Goldey Beacom College in Wilmington, Delaware.

Irene Rekviasvili '03 received a Masters of Arts in International Relations at the Central European University in Hungary.

Maka Shioshvili '03 is the Administrative and HR Assistant at the Philip Morris Representative Office in Georgia.

Kyrgyzstan

Karina Burundukova '07 works as a librarian at the International Business School in Bishkek.

Asel Djaparova '06, Andrey Ligay '05, and Nargiza Sydykova '06 (Aravan) were elected Student Senators at American University of Central Asia.

Aleksandra Solomatova '05 was chosen to be a part of the Street Law, Law Teaching Team Project, which works with homeless children.

Moldova

Natalia Graur '00 enrolled in a two-year Master's degree program in International Relations in collaboration with Humboldt University in Berlin, Free University of Berlin, and Potsdam University. She received a scholarship from the German Services Academic Exchange (DAAD) to study on the program. As part of her studies, she will take part in a six-month internship at the Europe and Central Asia Branch of Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin. Additionally, continuing her Moldova involvement in the Odyssey of the Mind Program, she will serve as a judge for the Odyssey of the Mind program in Germany. The Odyssey of the Mind competition is an international education event, which puts the creative problem-solving skills of students from kindergarten through college to the test. She will hold a training for the spontaneous problems portion of the event in the near future.

Diana Lebediuc '06 (Balti) was elected Alumni Representative for the North Region at the Alumni Congress.

Victoria Mihalachi '06 was elected Secretary of the Alumni Board.

Ileana Partachi '06 won the position of Alumni Representative for the Center Region at the Alumni Congress.

Elena Plesco '06 was invited by Moldova State University to serve as an interpreter at a conference opening for an academic center for people with visual impairments.

Marina Poneatovschi '95 was chosen to be the Media Representative at the Alumni Congress.

Russia

Vadim Baykov '95 traveled to the U.S. as an Open World facilitator for the eighth time. On this trip his delegation was hosted in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

Vladimir Gordeev '98 won the 2007 Catharina Pijls Incentive Price Award from the Catharina Pijls Foundation for his Master's thesis entitled "The Role of the Contextual Factors in Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis." This alumnus graduated cum laude from the department of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences with a specialization in Health Policy from Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Additionally, he received a one-year fellowship from the department of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences at the university to work as scientific researcher.

Anton Khokholov '98, as a representative of Chery Automobile in Russia, participated in the first ever Russia-China Automobile Conference.

Olga Krylova '02 traveled to the U.S. as an Open World facilitator.

Gaukkhar Romazanova '05 is the University Relation Assistant at TNK-BP Ltd.

Yekaterina Ros '96 worked as an Open World facilitator in Appleton, WI.

Darya Afonasova '01 worked as a medical recorder for the Operation Smile Mission. Additionally, she translated for a U.S. professor during his visit to Russia in October.

Valeriy Mun '03 was accepted at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Inna Kuznetsova '04 showed American actor James Cooke around St. Petersburg on his most recent trip to Russia.

Daria Chechushkina '05 (Tolyatti) is the administrator of the TOEFL Test Center.

Leyla Nasibova '05 (Azerbaijan) is the Alumni Assistant at the American Corner

Anastisiya Aleshkina '04, Anastasya Prokonich '02, and Dmitry Shatokhin '02 successfully completed the Work & Travel Program.

Yevgeniya Gorovaya '03 (Khorol) recently graduated from the Economics department of the University of Sydney in Australia.

Nvard Khachatryan '00 is a lawyer for the Vladivostok City Administration and defends their interests in court.

Yana Zabanova '99 (Ulan-Ude), upon completion of her studies at the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin, Germany, began her studies to receive a Master's degree in Public Policy at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

Elena Fomenko '03 (Volzhsky) organized an Exhibition of Election Law in the Russian Federation together with NGO Golos on October 28. Together with other active youth, the alumna gave away stickers and calendars, which included information on changes in Russia election laws. More than 500 people received information about the upcoming elections in December and the changes in the law.

Marina Kornikhina '07 organized a Halloween celebration at Volgograd Pedagogical University.

Vekoslav Koshkin '06 (Volzhsky) received the City Mayor's Scholarship award for excellence in academics at the City Ball.

Olga Naumova '07 and *Nataliya Yemelyanova '07* passed auditions for the Volgograd State University KVN team. KVN is a Eurasian youth improvisation and drama competition.

Oksana Panfilova '04 (Gorodishe) made the basketball team at Volgograd Technical University.

Tajikistan

Daler Khakimov '04 is the Finance Manager at Project Sino, a health sector reform and family medicine project.

Malika Khakimova '04 was recently hired by American Councils as the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (US-CAEF) Program Assistant. The Enterprise Undergraduate Business Fellowship program is an academic scholarship program of the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation administered by American Councils. The foundation provides scholarships to qualified students that due to low family income may otherwise not have the opportunity to receive a university degree. This program is made available with the support of the American University of Central Asia and the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research.

Turkmenistan

Kristina Safarova '06 (Turkmenbashy) received scholarship from Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation.

Abdul-Samed Ablezenov '07 (Abadan), *Kristina Fateyeva '07* (Abadan), *Leila Ischanova '03* (Dashoguz), and *Serdar Ovezov '07* received scholarships from the 2007-2008 Opportunity Initiative program administrated by the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan to take the TOEFL Test.

Ukraine

Kostyantyn Achkasov '06 participated in the *Kastanovyi Dim* International Poetry Festival on September 26-29 in Kyiv. He and his team won the drama and poetry portion of the contest. The team's poems were published in the book *Physicists' Lyrics*.

Daryna Hulyk '06 (Krivoy Rog) is a first year student at the University of Windsor in Canada.

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Tetyana Bogdanova '01 graduated from the Kiev International Christian University with a degree in Business Administration and Management. Before graduation, she was asked to take a position at the Regional Civic Organization (RCO) in Defense of Democratic Rights and Freedoms, a leading Russian election monitoring NGO. She is currently the Project Manager of the Transparent Elections 2007-2008 Project in Moscow, Russia. The project includes long-term election monitoring and Election Day mobile observation during State Duma and Presidential elections in the 40 regions of the Russian Federation.

Mariya Lobur '07 (Kirovohrad) attends Krok University and studies in the International Relations and Business departments.

Nataliya Shturkhetska '03 participated in a fellowship program sponsored by the StartingBloc Global Institute for Social Innovation at the London Business School. Over 100 fellows from 25 different countries discussed corporate social responsibility, cross-sector collaboration, and social entrepreneurship during the four-day conference. Currently the alumna is pursuing a Master's degree in International Business in London and plans to explore further the topic of global collaboration across public, private, and social sectors.

Oleh Zadoretskyy '03 (Striy) was accepted into the Law department of Pearson United World College of the Pacific in Canada.

Volodymyr Kobrin '07 (Lutsk) worked as an interpreter for a group of Jewish missionaries from Canada who visited Lutsk for two weeks.

Alina Mykytyuk '07 (Lutsk) was accepted at Volyn National University in the Department of Media and Publishing.

Alla Myshalova '03, Oksana Nos '03, and Iryna Odrekhivska '02 (Drohbych) worked as translators and observers for the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations for initial Parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Yuliya Mazurenko '05 was elected to the position of Head of External Affairs Committee in the Young Diplomacy Center NGO.

Anton Podilchak '03 worked as an official representative for local Ballot Commission # 13 for the Ukrainian Parliamentary elections on September 25-October 1. He assisted with pre-registration and facilitated the voting process for members of the community with disabilities. More than 1,000 people voted at the ballot commission where the alumnus worked.

Iryna Lysenko '03 (Nikolaev) was selected to participate in Volunteer School in Luxemburg in September.

Elena Rabtsun '02 (Nikolaev) attended the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) in Prague from July-August 2007.

Anna Solodova '03 (Odesa) worked as a translator for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) delegation in the Odesa region during Parliamentary elections.