
April 2005

FLEX Alumni Report

Armenia

Yerevan

Colorful Faces Project: Eight FLEX alumni visited the Zeitun Orphanage for a day of fun with the children there on April 9 after their classes. They continued the “Colorful Faces” charitable activities tradition, which alumni have carried out for several years in a row. Children at orphanages usually lack sufficient live communication, attention and care from people. Alumni took all necessary materials for making masks and shared several hours of their time playing, painting, and simply socializing with children. Arthur Grigoryan '04, Lilit Grigoryan '04, Zara Harutyunyan '04, Lida Ter-Khachatryan '04, Konstantin Ter-Nakalyan '04, Lusine Danielyan '00, Christina Grigoryan '00 and Liana Tadevosyan '99 did their best to make their visit to the orphanage an unforgettable day for the children. When every child's beautiful face was covered under a self-made colorful masquerade mask, everyone enjoyed the party organized by alumni at the end of this colorful day.

April 24 Movie Night: More than 10 FLEX alumni gathered at the American Councils office to watch *Hitch's Method* and have a discussion.

Notification Meeting for FLEX finalists 2004-05: On April 27, 13 FLEX alumni participated in the 2005-2006 FLEX notification meeting organized by American Councils for 54 scholarship winners and their parents. Among guests were Kimberly Hargan, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Armenia, and Elizabeth L. Winship, American Councils Country Director. All the guests welcomed and congratulated the FLEX finalists and winners and their parents. Stella Matevosyan, FLEX Program Coordinator, facilitated the meeting. At the end of the notification meeting, alumni answered parents' and finalists' questions. They shared their U.S. high school and host family experiences. The following alumni participated in the alumni panel: Sonya Armaghanyan '04, Lusine Danielyan '00, Sona Gabrielyan '04, Hrachya Ghazaryan '03, Mariam Grigoryan '03, Lilit Hovsepian '04, Gevorg Manucharyan '03, Nerses Nersisyan '03, Meline Sargsyan '04, Zaruhi Sargsyan '98, Vahe Soghomonian '04, Lilit Ter-Azaryan '04, and Souren Vardanyants '03.

Global Youth Service Day Events: In an effort to join the world youth in celebration of Global Youth Service Day April 16-30, the FLEX alumni of Armenia undertook numerous initiatives and implemented many projects.

American Jazz Festival Concert: On April 16, FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate program alumni accompanied 10 blind school pupils and two blind university students to an American jazz festival concert at the Philharmonic. Some of the guests listened to jazz music for the first time and asked many questions of alumni about the music and the concert hall. The event was very effective and as a result some of the alumni continue to communicate with the children. The pupils also wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador John Evans to thank him for the opportunity to attend the concert.

Coordinating Committee Meeting: American Councils for International Education Armenia held the first monthly coordinating committee meeting with 10 organizations present (local and international NGOs) on April 19 to discuss plans for a year-long calendar of youth service activities. As a follow up meeting, alumni met to continue planning on April 21. Zara Sargsyan '98 IATP/IREX alumni coordinator; Anna Matinyan '01 Youth For Achievements members affairs officer; and Liana Tadevosyan, FLEX alumni assistant, discussed the upcoming alumni events connected to GYSD and the possibilities of how the three organizations could unite their efforts to make the activities more effective.

Earth Day: FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate program alumni, together with children from a special boarding school celebrated Earth Day on April 23. They repaired and painted two gazebos, cleaned the garden, and had lunch together with the elderly. Victoria Aleksanyan '04, Mari Barseghyan '02, Narek Gevorgyan '03, Artur Grigoryan '04, Lilit Karapetyan '04, Lida Ter-Khachatryan '04, and Konstantin Ter-Nakalyan '04 participated.

Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: On April 23, FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate program alumni, together with several other non-governmental organizations, organized a march to the Tsitsernakaberd memorial, which commemorates the Armenian Genocide. Participants carried lighted torches on the 15-kilometer march.

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Seminar about Current Environmental Issues in Armenia: FLEX alumni negotiated with the president of the student councils of Yerevan State Institute of Economy and gained his support to conduct a seminar with Muskie alumni guest speakers for the Institute's students. The Muskie alumni speakers included Marina Aghavelyan, who graduated from the Evergreen State College in Washington State and presently works as deputy director at the Center of Information Technologies; Tigran Tovmasyan, graduate of the University of Massachusetts, and lecturer at the Armenian – Russian Institute of Ecology, Economy and Law; and Gohar Hovhannnisyanyan, who graduated from Ohio University, and currently works at the National Academy of Sciences.

Clean-up and Tree Planting Event in the Botanical Garden: In conjunction with the student councils of the Yerevan State Institute of Economy, FLEX alumni organized and held a clean-up and a tree planting event at the Botanical Garden in Yerevan on April 30. Sonya Armaghanyan '04, Sona Gabrielyan '04, Hrachya Ghazaryan '03, Cristina Grigoryan '00 and Liana Tadevosyan '99 took part in the event.

Upcoming Events:

- Orphanage Visit to the Yerevan State Circus is planned for May 1.
- Movie Night for raising awareness about disability issues will be held on May 7.
- FLEX Alumni Meeting at the American Councils office to discuss future projects will be held on May 10.

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Azerbaijan

Baku

Baku Jazz Festival: Twelve FLEX alumni volunteered as interpreters at the Baku Jazz Festival on April 5-12. The alumni interpreted for famous jazz performers from all over the world.

Roundtable Discussion: The alumni association (AAA) organized a meeting with the Chair of the State Testing Committee Ms. Maleyka Abbaszadeh and Chair of the Parliamentary Education Committee Mr. Shahlar Askerov on April 13 at the U.S.-Azerbaijan Education Center. The guest speakers talked with 15 FLEX alumni about corruption in education, the testing system, education technologies, and education quality. Subsequent questions from the alumni led to an active discussion.

FLEX Alumni Planning Meeting and Movie Night: On April 17 20 alumni gathered for movie night and a planning meeting. They discussed the upcoming charity drama performance and Earth clean-up day, ways of attracting new attendees, and event advertising. The alumni then enjoyed a comedy film.

Presentation of Central European University Programs: Two professors from Central European University presented their undergraduate and graduate business administration programs. Professor Heather Elms presented the graduate program to 10 FLEX alumni on April 18, and Eurasia Undergraduate Program Manager Tibor Toka presented the undergraduate program to 10 FLEX alumni on April 19. Farruh Mahmudov '99, who is a graduate student at Central European University, helped Professor Elms with her presentation.

New AAA Alumni Association Office Opening: On April 28 the new AAA office celebrated its opening on the fifth floor of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Education Center. Attendees included representatives from the U.S. Embassy and various NGOs as well as 20 FLEX alumni.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminar: Gadir Aliyev '04, Kamran Aliyev '04, Nargiz Hajiyeva '99, Aygun Huseynova '04, and Govhar Yagublu '04 held an HIV/AIDS seminar at high school #164 on April 29. Fifty tenth-grade high school students gathered for the seminar, which started with a PowerPoint presentation on AIDS and was followed by a speech by UN-certified Representative Rasim Khalilov. Mr. Khalilov presented ways to prevent AIDS in people's lives.

State Alumni Website Presentation: Aysel Allahverdiyeva '04 presented the State Alumni Website (<https://alumni.state.gov>) to 10 FLEX alumni at the U.S.-Azerbaijan Education Center on April 29. Aysel

explained that the site can be used to find a job around the world or to find alumni friends in Eurasia. All 10 of the participants signed up for the site following the presentation.

Earth Clean-up Day: In connection with Global Youth Service Week and Earth Day, 16 FLEX alumni decided to help clean up the environment in Azerbaijan and protect it from future harm. On April 30 FLEX alumni cleaned the roadsides in the Primorsk area since they are extremely littered with trash thrown from passing cars. Alumni also cleaned up a beach.

Drama Rehearsals: Rishad Aliyev '04, Aysel Allahverdiyeva '04, Gunel Babazada '04, Sevinj Bilandarli '00, Mukhtar Gardaghi '04, Vugar Mammadov '04, and Taghi Taghizada '02 met three times a week throughout March to rehearse the play *The Trysting Place*, which they will perform in mid-May.

Upcoming Events:

- **HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminar** will be held on May 13.
- ***The Trysting Place* Rehearsals** are scheduled for two weeks in May.
- **Alumni Planning Meeting and Movie Night** will be held in mid-May.
- **Alumni Database Project** will continue until May 15.
- **Play Performance** is scheduled for May 21.
- **Professional Development Month** will take place throughout May.

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Belarus

Minsk

Earth Day Project: Yulia Gladikova '04, Yulia Ivaniuk '03, Olga Kopylova '04, Aliaksei Kudzin '04, Mariya Porada '04, Evgeniya Sadovnikova '04, and Anna Tretiakova '01 participated in the joint Earth Day project started by FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni in April. Each participant was given a flower purchased from the Botanical Garden to take care of for a month until the flower blossomed. In the beginning of May, the alumni will donate the flowers to a group of elderly individuals, the contact information for whom was provided by the Social Help Center. The volunteers thought this project would be a great opportunity both to learn to care for nature and show gratitude to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

Global Youth Service Day: More than 20 FLEX alumni participated in the "Save the Libraries" project held for Global Youth Service Day. National Library Representative Olga Sobolevskaya, head of the Public Relations Department, helped alumni contact interested libraries, and the more than 200 books collected were donated to libraries in Dzerzinsk, Zhodino, and Novosely village. Ekaterina Apet '04, Evgeniya Sadovnikova '04, Anastassiiia Tarassiouk '03, and Pavel Vorotilin '01 took some of the books to the library in Zhodino on April 16 and gave a presentation to 25 visitors on volunteerism and Global Youth Service Day. The head of the library, Tamara Chernova, also introduced the alumni to a local youth organization, "Kastaliya," which works to promote community service. Yulia Gladikova '04, Mariya Porada '04, and Anastassiiia Tarassiouk '03 visited the Dzerzinsk library on April 17, and Irina Mikhailova '96 visited the library in Novosely village on April 26. Irina introduced the idea of volunteerism to elementary school children who were invited to the presentation.

Movie Night: Fourteen alumni attended the monthly movie night at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy on April 28 to watch *The Natural*. The alumni took a quiz on sports history prepared by Alexander Shlyk and FLEX Alumni Assistant Anastassiiia Tarassiouk. The event was the last movie night with Mr. Tanner, Assistant Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy, who has worked with the alumni for two years and helped sponsor a total of 22 movie nights. The alumni showed their appreciation and gratitude by presenting Mr. Tanner flowers. After this the alumni welcomed James Rodriguez, who will be replacing Mr. Tanner.

Volunteering at the Animal Shelter: Olga Kolbik '03, Aleksandr Kovalev '03, and Margarita Kuleshova '03 volunteered at Ratavanne, which is a center for homeless animals and a member of the Royal Society for Preventing Cruelty to Animals. The alumni helped the head of Ratavanne, Ludmila Alekseevna Atrashkevich, translate international correspondences with similar NGOs abroad. They met with her three times in April and discussed the possibility of alumni working with the center in the future.

Upcoming Events:

- **Earth Day** will be celebrated on May 5-9.
- **Movie Night** will be held on May 19.

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Georgia

Tbilisi

Central European University (CEU) Presentations: On April 20, 35 FLEX alumni attended presentations about undergraduate business and economics degrees from CEU in Budapest, Hungary and Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. The alumni had the chance to ask CEU Recruitment Manager Tibor Toka questions following the presentations.

Monthly Alumni Advisory Group Meeting: Fifteen FLEX alumni attended the Alumni Advisory Group meeting held on April 25. The alumni planned the upcoming Easter and summer activities and discussed the new American Councils website (www.americancouncils.ge). The meeting was later followed by a movie night.

Easter Egg Hunt: An Easter egg hunt was held at the Telavi orphanage on April 30. About 20 FLEX alumni and 10 Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni went to the orphanage, which houses children aged 4 to 15 years old, with eggs to paint, Easter cakes, chocolates, fruit, and soft drinks. The alumni hid the eggs in the front yard of the orphanage for the children to find, and prizes were awarded to those who found the most eggs. They also played various icebreaker activities and games. This is the fifth time the FLEX alumni have held this event at the orphanage.

Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Councils Meeting** will be held on May 5.
- **Seminar on Presentation Skills** is scheduled for May 13.

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Kazakhstan

Almaty

Global Youth Service Day Committee Meeting: Thirteen FLEX alumni made final preparations for the Global Youth Service Day event at the Alumni Resource Center on April 10. As they decided at the previous meeting, the Almaty GYSD-2005 was to take place at Gorkiy Central Park. Gorkiy Park is the largest park in the city and one of the most popular recreation spots. Alumni, in cooperation with the park administration, reviewed the park map carefully, dividing it into clean-up zones. They made copies for all participants. At the meeting, they packed the GYSD T-shirts, and all equipment necessary for the clean-up. FLEX alumni present were Aslan Abzhakov '02, Assel Baltabayeva '04, Bogdana Gavrilenko '04, Zhibek Karamanova '03, Ainur Kuttumuratova '02, Damir Kukanov '02, Mariyam Montayeva '03, Lena Norakidze '99, Alexander Parfyonov '04, Ayazhan Seitkazina '03, Marzhan Serekova '04, Yelena Sotnikova '04, and Gulnur Yessenbayeva '04.

Almaty Global Youth Service Day: In an effort to develop more volunteer activities and to better promote volunteerism across the country, Almaty FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Program alumni, in partnership with Association of Young Leaders of Kazakhstan and members of the Student Actions Committees administered by IFES (International Foundation for Election Systems), conducted the second annual FLEX ROCKS (Renewal of City-centers for Kazakhstani Society) in celebration of Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). They held this year's event at Almaty Gorkiy Central Park. While this popular recreation spot is under the maintenance of the city administration, the park is not as clean as it could be, mainly due to the large numbers of visitors who do not clean up after themselves. Thirty-one FLEX alumni and partners recruited more than 180 people to join the clean-up. Participants, divided into several teams and collected trash in the most polluted parts of the park. The FLEX alumni team cleaned the abandoned island on the Central Pond, once a popular spot, situated right in the middle of the Central Pond. While years ago it boasted cafes, tree-lined paths and a pier for docking boats, it

had long been abandoned, the cafes were in ruins, and the territory of the island was covered with trash. FLEX alumni collected more than 70 trash bags, changing the look of the island. Volunteers collected more than 200 bags of trash and finished the day with a deeper understanding and respect for their native environment. FLEX alumni present were Alfiya Abdrakhmanova '04, Aziz Abdurkarimov '00, Aslan Abzhakov '02, Diana Azhikova '04, Dias Baimagulov '04, Assel Baltabayeva '04, Renat Bekturov '02, Indiana Bissenova '04, Bogdana Gavrilenko '04, Svetlana Kashtanova '04, Damir Kukanov '02, Ainur Kuttumuratova '02, Lena Norakidze '99, Sholpan Makhambetova '02, Altai Omarov '04, Ainur Ordabekova '02, Alexander Parfyonov '04, Nailya Sabirova '04, Shakhida Sadyrova '02, Ayazhan Seitkazina '03, Marzhan Serekova '04, Mariya Shafigova '03, Marina Sharbakova '02, Yelena Sotnikova '04, Veronica Syrlybayeva '04, Yegor Syo '04, Mariya Telitsina '03, Gulnur Yessenbayeva '04, Marat Yelemessov '03, Gulnaz Ukasova '03, and Dinara Urazova '04 .

Astana

Astana Global Youth Service Day: Six Astana alumni combined Global Youth Service Day with Earth Day and for the second year in a row, worked in the Central Park under the direction of Park Director Irina Vladimirova. They picked up trash, repaired benches, and did other small jobs. Their efforts were covered by local TV channels and added to a special report on "Clean Week," an initiative of the city administration. They joined others in Astana in an effort to improve their city. City leader Mr. Shukeyev appealed to all citizens to participate in this action. Alumni did their best to contribute to the local community and successfully completed the GYSD Project in Astana. FLEX alumni present were Yerbol Alshynbaev '04, Anastasiya Chechel '04, Sayera Iskakova '02, Zhanna Musakhanova '03, Sabdinov Alibek '04, and Tatyana Son '03.

Uralsk

Uralsk Global Youth Service Day: On April 23, Uralsk alumni Damira Davletyarova '04, and Taisiya Komantnatnaya '04 led a Global Youth Service Day initiative with 20 students from the West Kazakhstan State University. Damira Davletyarova, who is head of the Key Club, gathered the group at the Regional Orphanage House to plant trees. First they picked up all the trash that had accumulated during the fall and winter and then planted new trees. The Orphanage House residents and FLEX alumni worked together all day. Children of the orphanage were happy and promised to care for the newly planted trees. The most active children received certificates of accomplishment and T-shirts. The director of the Orphanage House wrote a letter of gratitude to all participants of the action.

Ust-Kamenogorsk

Global Youth Service Day: On April 14 and 15, 22 alumni of the FLEX, Teaching Excellence Awards, and Secondary School Exchange Program conducted the Ust-Kamenogorsk Global Youth Service Day. This year alumni and Ust-Kamenogorsk Regional Representative Saule Bakibaeva decided to conduct Global Youth Service Day in a clean-up. Alumni cleaned Komsomolsky Island, one of the most popular places of recreation of Ust-Kamenogorsk residents. FLEX alumni present were Ilyas Gelendzhayev '00, Natalya Kotova '04, Ardak Nurazkhanov '99, and Artyom Yugov '02.

Upcoming Events:

- **Charity trip to Karakestek Orphanage** is planned for May 15.
- **Civic Education Instructor Robert Zimmerman** will lead a workshop on May 21.

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Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek

Career Week: On April 13-15, FLEX alumni participated in the career week organized by the American University-Central Asia alumni office. Throughout the week alumni learned how to effectively construct their resumes and cover letters. They also received interview tips and talked to actual employees about what professions are currently in demand on the market. Boris Pilipenko '99 led a section about educational opportunities via exchange programs and Sergey Firsov '00 led a session on resume writing. Twenty FLEX alumni were involved in organizing the event.

Hip-Hop Festival: Sergey Firsov '00, Dmitriy Pak '04, and Kemel Toktomushev '04 helped organize the April 16 Hip Hop Festival fundraiser, the proceeds of which will go to HIV/AIDS infection victims in the Kyrgyz

Republic. The festival was organized in coordination with Kyrgyzstan Red Cross representatives and was supported by major businesses. The FLEX alumni convinced major sponsors to support the event. Various hip-hop, rap, R&B, and break dance groups performed at the event and encouraged young people to stay off drugs and practice safe sex. The alumni also performed their own musical compositions. More than 300 young people attended the Hip-Hop Festival and over \$2000 was raised.

Girls Leadership Seminar: Aliya Suranova '04 took part in the Girls Leadership Seminar for high school students on April 16. The seminar presented contemporary issues women face and encouraged the girls to actively participate in all spheres of life. The issue of bride kidnapping and family violence was particularly emphasized. Joshua Mankiew, a sociology scholar from the American University – Central Asia, was invited to present his research on bride kidnapping in nomadic cultures. He declared that this marriage ritual has been misinterpreted and abused, and stressed that violence towards women was never acceptable in nomadic cultures. The seminar participants were then encouraged to organize similar meetings and spread the word about women's issues.

Global Youth Service Day Project: On April 15-17, FLEX alumni and various other youth organizations, clubs, environmental NGOs, Peace Corps volunteers, and local authorities contributed their time and effort to the "Youth for a Clean and Healthy Environment" project. The alumni divided into groups and traveled to various towns and villages throughout Kyrgyzstan, where they cleaned up city streets. The event attracted much attention, and the alumni encouraged people to be attentive to the environment and not litter. Over 700 volunteers participated in this event.

Charity Concert: Vladimir Inozemtsev '02, Eleonora Nam '04, and Ksenia Tsoy '04 served as leaders of the World Club event on April 20. The club encourages cultural exchange and tolerance among international students in Bishkek, and conducted a charity concert at the American University – Central Asia concert hall for the Bishkek Children Rehabilitation Center. Children from the center performed dances, sang, acted, and presented arts and crafts at the event. FLEX alumni also performed in an adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. The concert raised \$200, which will be used to support summer activities for children from the Rehabilitation Center.

Guitar Concert: Askar Sheraliev '03 and Maksat Tynaev '99 organized a guitar concert at the American University-Central Asia to raise money for the Bishkek Krasnaya Rechka orphanage on April 22. The alumni invited their own bands and performed well-known folk and modern guitar pieces, as well as their own compositions. The concert was specifically organized for an older audience, and was attended by senior citizens and representatives from major businesses and international organizations. They raised \$310 and found potential sponsors for the Krasnaya Rechka orphanage.

Upcoming Events:

- **Victory Day Trip** to Retirement Home is planned for May 9.
- **Successful Minds Workshop** will take place on May 21.
- **Monthly Alumni Meeting** will be held on May 14.
- **Trips to Orphanages** on International Children's Day are scheduled for June 1.

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Moldova

Chisinau

Spring Arts Festival Poster Making: On April 1, four FLEX alumni made a poster on the topic of Civic Participation: Role of Alumni in Moldova's Democracy. Valentina Brega '04 prepared all the materials necessary for the event, and alumni discussed the sketch of the poster. Cristina Gutu '04 provided needed photos.

Trainers' Planning Meeting: On April 5, Tatiana Jardan '02 met with American Councils trainers, who will be leading professional development seminars for the International Migration Organization. Organizers have gone once again through the materials and agenda before the training's start. Liudmila Bilevski '00 will lead the

training on “How to behave and prepare for an Interview,” and Tatiana Sorocan, American Language Center teacher, will lead the training on “How to write a CV and Cover Letter.”

European Union Security, Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Seminar: Liudmila Ceban '03 and Maria Andronache '03 organized a seminar at the Alumni Resource Center on security issues within the European Union on April 6. Alumni invited students from the department of International Relations from State University of Moldova and Institute of International Relations from Moldova. The participants were assigned various countries, some of which are members and others non-members of EU, and must represent their interests in future seminars that are to be organized.

International Migration Organization (IOM) professional development training “How to Write a CV, a Resume”: On April 9, Tatiana Sorocan, American Language Center teacher, conducted the first training on how to write a CV and a resume. IOM volunteers had been assigned to prepare draft CVs, which would be reviewed and critiqued. They will also be looking for job descriptions of potential employment, which will be part of their final exam. Volunteers received valuable information on how to write a CV, resume, and have gone one step further in preparing a job application.

Model United Nations 2005: The fourth annual Model United Nations 2005 took place for 90 children from regions all over the country. Children represented United Nations member countries. The conference started with opening remarks from Peace Corps volunteers in Moldova; Bruno Pouezet, UN Resident Coordinator in Moldova; Jeff Kelley-Clarke, Country Director, United States Peace Corps; Olivier Jacquot, director of the French Alliance in Moldova; and Igor Garabajiv, FLEX alumni assistant, American Councils in Moldova. The country fair was the next activity that was on the agenda, during which participants have presented their homework related to the countries they represented. Subcommittee sessions followed, and participants presented country position papers. Participants worked in six subcommittees: Security Council, Nuclear Proliferation, HIV/AIDS, Environment, Drug Trafficking, and Terrorism. They developed six resolutions and received awards in accordance with the categories that have been developed previously. Organizers Igor Wight and Dan Walsh will soon start preparing for the Model United Nations 2006.

Bridges Between Us (BBU) Monthly Training TOT Democracy Manual: On April 16, 12 BBU interns participated in the “Democracy Manual” training of trainers event. Active alumni in Moldova held this training as a Global Youth Service Day event, and plan to organize similar trainings on democracy issues in their regions. Lila Fusa '04 and Katherine Correll explained the purpose of the activities included in the Democracy Manual. Then Lilia Fusa '04 led alumni in an activity "What is democracy?" BBU interns later divided into groups, so as to simulate presentations of some of the activities listed in the Democracy manual. Maxim Semionov '04 and Valentina Brega '04 chose the Shipwrecked activity, which was based on finding the best way to for shipwreck victims to establish an effective government and write a constitution for the island where they settled after they lost their ship in a storm. Natalia Ionel '04, Cristina Gutu '04 and Nadejda Gnevaseva '04 worked on the “Shipwrecked 2” activity, where the participants have to find solutions to some of the problems, based on the already established rules and constitution. Igor Garabajiv '03, Irina Arhire '04, and Diana Gonta '04 conducted training on Behavior vs. Self-Esteem, and Alina Graur '04 together with Anastasia Leanca '04 presented a conflict resolution activity.

IOM Professional Development Training: How to Prepare and Behave during an Interview: Liudmila Bilevschi '00 conducted training at the International Migration Organization on How to prepare and behave during an interview on April 16. These volunteers received the training and materials needed to prepare for their final examination.

Odyssey of the Mind Euro Festival: FLEX alumni were proud to be among the hosts of the European festival “Odyssey of the Mind” in Chisinau on April 20. Thirty-seven teams -- about 300 participants -- from Moldova, China, Hungary, Belarus, Germany, Russia, Poland and Slovakia took part in this colorful event. Seven FLEX alumni were among the organizers and judges for the competition. Presenting student teams described solutions to one of five long-term problems in front of the judges. Judges evaluated the teams according to their creativity,



style, and how well the team members worked together. Many of the FLEX alumni had previously served as judges during the Moldova National Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. For this event, Liudmila Bilevschi '00, Ludmila Ceban '04, and Ala Ursu '00 served as Problem Judges. Marina Poneatovschi '94 helped as a timekeeper and announcer. Olga Starus '00 volunteered as a Style Judge, while Ana Ciudnaia '01 was a Spontaneous Judge. Natalia Graur '00 was the event organizer and Long Term Problem Judge Coordinator.

Interview Exam at IOM: On April 23, Igor Garabajiv '03 conducted an Interview exam for volunteers from IOM. Thirteen volunteers have been assigned to pass the exam that day. He gave the participants feedback on their overall performance and suggested further cooperation with American Councils.

English Summer Camp Counselors Meeting: Ten FLEX alumni took part in the English Summer Camp Counselors meeting on April 24. Alumni have been working in groups together with their Peace Corps coordinators and continued developing the working materials for the classes. Stacia Wentworth, Peace Corps volunteer, set the deadline for presenting the materials to be used in teaching the summer courses.

“United States vs. European Union” Seminar: Liudmila Ceban '03 and Maria Andronache '03 organized a seminar, in which participants discussed the relations between United States and European Union on April 27. Martin MacDowell, representative of the Political-Economic Section of U.S. Embassy in Moldova, was the guest speaker. Participants enjoyed the chance to discuss the main issues that concern relations between European Union and the U.S., as well as state the country's position that they were representing in the diplomacy with the European Union.

Urgheni

Bridges Between Us, Ungheni Team Project: Irina Arhire '04, Lilia Fusa '04, and Elena Mutovchina '04 held a community service seminar at the Regional Youth Resource Center in Ungheni on April 23. They began by explaining to their audience of ten teenagers about community service ideas and benefits, as well as the rights and responsibilities of a volunteer. They played an interactive activity about gender roles, which demonstrated that both men and women can be very successful volunteers. After this short game, all participants created their Declaration of Mission for a successful volunteering career. The project leaders encouraged the audience to form a help team and assist “Casa Pentru Toti” in organizing different events to benefit children.

Upcoming Events:

- **Group Leadership Seminar** will be held on May 14.
- **Balti Team Bridges Between Us Project** will hold a “Higher Education Opportunities” seminar on **May 16**.
- **BBU Monthly training “Professional Translation”** will take place on May 21.
- **English Summer Camp Counselors Meeting** is planned for May 21.

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Russia

Kirov

Building Material Drive: Vladimir Gordeev '98 initiated a materials drive to repair a building belonging to the WW2 Veteran's Hospital situated near the main building of Kirov State Medical Academy (KSMA). The administration of KSMA approved the idea and provided the necessary materials to repair the building. KSMA also provided workers to help the alumni make the repairs.

Human Rights Presentations: Anna Milyutina '01 and six Vyatka State University students organized presentations on human rights for ninth and tenth graders in Kirov School #21, Novo-Vyatskaya School, School #37, School #22, School #10, School #28, and School #52, April 20-23. Based on knowledge gained during human rights and law studies and in cooperation with faculty members, the university students designed short but useful presentations on youth human rights and privileges. In addition, the students visited schoolchildren from second and third grades. Volunteers suggested creating congratulation cards for veterans of WW2; afterwards schoolchildren posted greeting and congratulation cards in buses and trolleys and on the walls at entrance halls.

Social Work Practice: Vladimir Gordeev '98, who works at Kirov State Medical Academy, helped organize practical training for 50 fourth year students from the Social Work Department from April 18 to 30. The students put their skills to use at the local rehabilitation center, local orphanages, shelters, and by assisting lonely people. All the students also attended a number of workshops and training courses held by highly qualified psychotherapists and psychologists. During the practice sessions, the students worked with elderly people and helped them solve their problems. While visiting the orphanages, the students played different games and conducted simple workshops for the orphans. They calculated that they helped more than 300 lonely people and orphans.

University Cleanup Activities: Elena Bakulina '98 and second-year students participated in cleanup activities held at Vyatka State University on April 23. Elena managed to recruit more than 30 students from her English language classes to participate in the event.

Clinic Cleanup: Vladimir Gordeev '98 organized a cleanup day at the infectious diseases clinic on April 28. Five groups of 11 senior students studying infectious diseases, doctors, and nurses participated. The groups spent an entire day cleaning up rooms, stairwells, hallways, streets, and lawns.

Penza

Free Legal Consultations: FLEX City Representative Alla Chichikina '01 conducted a debate tournament for students studying in the law department at the Institute of History and Law, Penza State Pedagogical University on March 28. She introduced the topic "Is there a future for jury trial in Russia?" She impressed fellow students and teachers with the format and explanation of how to compose one's arguments and object to the opponent's statements. The debate tournament introduced a completely new teaching technique, which the teachers and staff members decided to hold in English on a regular basis among the teams of all the courses of the law department starting in fall 2005 semester. As a follow-up, Alla conducted a creative writing workshop on April 4 for 12 students. Several teachers from the English Department and staff members observed. Alla used materials and techniques, which Kore Gleason, American Councils FLEX Moscow Program hub director, used during her presentation at the City Representatives Training Conference held in Kirov in December 2004. Then on April 11, Alla Chichikina '01 started a long-term project at Penza State Pedagogical University to provide free legal consultations for pensioners and other people. University teachers and students organized free legal consultations for the public April 20-30.

Cheboksary

Orphanage Visit: Nikolay Mizurov '03, Ksenia Semyonova '02, and seven eighth-grade Esperanto Club members visited a local orphanage on April 22. The alumni and student volunteers performed a play about foreign cultures called *A Journey Around the World* and performed dances and songs in Esperanto and Russian. They also presented the Russian "Snow Fairy" fairytale. The alumni and students then held games and competitions for the orphans and gave all the active participants prizes.

Upcoming Events:

Kirov

- **Congratulation Cards for WW2 Veterans** will be made in the beginning of May.
- **Alumni Meeting, Movie Night, and Workshops** are scheduled for May 21.

Penza

- **Free Legal Consultation Project** will continue in May.

Kazan

- **English Teaching training sessions** for the Youth Summer Camps in Kazan and Ufa will be held for students from U.S.-government exchange programs on May 1-2.

Contact: Kirov Alumni Assistant Vladimir Gordeev '98, uppervolgaflex@mail.ru

Moscow

Debate Training Sessions: Evgeny Yankovoy '01 continued debate training sessions on April 4, 11, 18, and 25. The participants learned how to plan a well-structured speech and present it convincingly. They also learned how to find and use different facts to support their arguments. Evgeny also asked the participants to

develop arguments to prove an unusual topic, such as “Fans should be sold on the South Pole.” Alumni present at the event were Evgenia Bourilova '01, Ekaterina Isinova '03, Anton Khokholov '98, Yulia Makarova '02, Tatyana Maksatova '03, and Darya Zolotova '03.

Computer Literacy for Orphans Project: FLEX alumni designed and implemented the new “Computer Literacy for Orphans” project in cooperation with American Councils and the Moscow Alumni IATP Center. The project was for teenagers at Moscow orphanage #50 and was part of FLEX alumni’s Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) project. The training sessions were held on April 7 and 8 and taught the 14 teenagers in attendance how to find information on the Internet and manage e-mail accounts. Ekaterina Isinova '03 and Tatyana Maksatova '03 were project leaders, and Yulia Makarova '02, Alexandra Markova '03, Yulia Tell '02, and Darya Zolotova '03 were the facilitators. Similar training sessions are planned for May.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Project: Evgenia Bourilova '01, Ekaterina Isinova '03, Yulia Molodtsova '98, and Yulia Tell '02 conducted an HIV/AIDS Awareness Project for approximately 20 teenagers from orphanage #50 on April 9. The alumni provided general information about the HIV/AIDS problem, explained the difference between HIV and AIDS, and emphasized the growth of the problem in Russia today. The alumni also discussed how HIV is transmitted and ways to prevent becoming infected. Following the presentation Yulia Molodtsova '98 led a role-play exercise with the teenagers in which they received prizes for correctly answering questions. The alumni answered the orphans’ questions, distributed informative booklets about HIV/AIDS, and collected evaluation forms.

Eighth Annual FLEX Alumni Career Day: The Eighth Annual FLEX Alumni Career Day was held on April 16 and was attended by over 100 Moscow FLEX alumni. FLEX Alumni Coordinator Mary Shea opened the event, and Russian Regional Director Joel Ericson and U.S. Embassy Economic Officer Nathan Lane also gave welcoming remarks. Moscow FLEX Alumni Assistant Yulia Tell then introduced the keynote speaker, Editor-in-Chief of Russian *Newsweek* Leonid Parfenov. Mr. Parfenov began his presentation by showing video clips of his work at NTV, Russia’s first independent television station. The alumni then asked him questions regarding the state of the press in Russia and his advice on starting a career. Various informational and professional training sessions on specific careers were then held for the alumni. The speakers gave information about beginning careers in these fields and provided information about vacancies in their companies. Representatives from 21 companies spoke at the event, including representatives from Baker & McKenzie CIS Limited, White & Case LLC, the Center for Business Skills Development, Deloitte & Touche CIS, Ernst & Young Valuation LLC, IMS Group, L'Oreal Russia, Procter & Gamble LLC, Pro-Vision Communications, Red Bull LLC, Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS, the U.S. Embassy, and the World Bank. The following organizations sponsored the event: The Russian State University for the Humanities, Baker & McKenzie CIS, Limited, Procter & Gamble LLC, White & Case LLC, and Red Bull.

Movie Night: Fifteen alumni attended the movie night held at the IATP Center on April 23 to watch *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and socialize.

International Debate Tournament: Aleksey Rumyantsev '95, Yulia Tell '02, and Evgeny Yankovoy '01 attended the Third Annual International Debate Tournament in Kyiv, Ukraine. Twenty-four teams from various Ukrainian cities, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ryazan, and Riga participated in the event. Four preliminary rounds were held, followed by semi-finals, and ultimately the final round. Yulia Tell and Evgeny Yankovoy made it to the semi-finals, and Evgeny was among the top 4 speakers. A team from Riga, Latvia ultimately won the tournament.

Yaroslavl

“The Days of Foreign Languages in Yaroslavl”: The Days of Foreign Languages in Yaroslavl were held on April 4-14. This event was organized by the International University of Business and New Technologies and the Center of German Language in Yaroslavl, and was financed by the administration of Yaroslavl, the Goethe Institute, and British Council. There were speakers from American Councils, the German Institute of Academic Exchanges (DAAD), the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Servantess French Cultural Center. American Councils Russian Regional Director Joel Ericson gave a seminar entitled “Psychological Aspects of Leadership,” and Alexey Gvozdev '01 and Marina Zavodchikova '02 gave a presentation about their exchange experience in the U.S.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly Meeting** is to be held on May 13.
- **Debate Training** will be continued by Evgeny Yankovoy '01 on May 16, 23, and 30.
- **Job Tour to L'Oreal Russia** is scheduled for mid-May.
- **PR Seminar** is planned for late May.

Contact: Moscow Alumni Assistant Yulia Tell '02, fsaalumni@actr.ru, 7(095) 230-4544.

Novosibirsk

Alumni Meeting: Eleven alumni met on April 4 to work out the details of their Global Youth Service Day project and discussed plans for the coming months. Alumni present were Darya Afonasova '01, Anna Demidchik '01, Natalya Gashko '04, Maxim Lobatii '03, Valerii Mun '04, Alexandr Nozdrin '01, Tamuna Otifshvili '04, Anastasia Parfenova '04, Alexey Poleshuk '02, Tatyana Popova '03, and Bella Struminski '02.

First Place in “Russians in America” Contest: Eight FLEX alumni who study at Novosibirsk State University participated in the contest “Russians in America” among the Novosibirsk university-student teams on April 8. Alumni showed great winning spirit in solving different tasks and great artistic performance of the play they prepared, for which they were awarded first place. Darya Afonasova '01, Igor Babichev '01, Anna Demidchik '01, Natalya Gashko '04, Maxim Lobatii '03, Valerii Mun '04, Tatyana Popova '03, and Bella Struminski '02 participated.

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Seminars: Novosibirsk alumni gave lectures in four schools on the theme “Helping Humanity Starts with Helping the Community.” Alumni told about their volunteer experience in the U.S. and in Russia, talked to the children about volunteering and doing good deeds in their neighborhood, and made plans to hold a clean-up and flower-planting near the schools when it is warmer. Darya Afonasova '01, Anna Demidchik '01, Natalya Gashko '04, Valerii Mun '04, and Anastasia Parfenova '04 participated.

Kemerovo

USA-Russia-Kuzbass Contest. FLEX alumni helped organize the contest “U.S.A. – Russia – Kuzbass” for high school students held by the Kemerovo Alumni Club, and even were a part of the finals jury.

Upcoming Events:

- **Lectures in two Novosibirsk orphanages** with a joint clean-up by children and alumni are planned for May.
- **Creative Thinking Seminar**, led by Anna Demidchik '01 based on the career training she participated in, will be held in late May.

Contact: Novosibirsk Alumni Assistant Daria Afonasova '01, alumflex@ieie.nsc.ru +7 (3832) [34-42-93](tel:34-42-93)

St. Petersburg

“Unknown America” Presentations at the Young Leader’s Library: Alumni completed the “Unknown America” presentation series in April with two final presentations on Youth in America and Russian-American relations. At the first presentation held on April 2, the alumni had a lot to tell about the freedoms that U.S. youth have and the laws they have to respect, the choices they make, and their everyday lifestyle. They also discussed issues of education, community life, and sports. The final presentation on April 9 turned out to be the least formal, as alumni shared personal life stories on how they were accepted in the U.S. and how their views of the U.S. changed after their year abroad. To give the auditorium “a look from the other side”, the alumni also invited the Director of American Councils in St. Petersburg, Terrence Graham, to talk about his experience of living in Russia as an exchange student. Ekaterina Gavrilenko '03, Aleksandra Moiseeva '04 and Natalia Martikainen '99 took part in April presentations. The alumni and the students who attended presentations and the Young Leader’s Library Coordinator all expressed willingness to hold and attend similar events in future.

Petrozavodsk

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Preparation Meeting in Petrozavodsk: On April 17, the alumni organization in Petrozavodsk held a meeting devoted to their GYSD project. The alumni developed a series of

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seminars aimed on professional orientation of students from boarding schools and orphanages, showing them the variety of education opportunities. At the meeting the alumni worked on a more specific project schedule, based on orphanage schedule changes, distributed some responsibilities on project preparation, and reported to the St. Petersburg alumni staff.

English Language Movie Series: The weekly Movie series continued in April as the alumni watched and discussed *Super Size Me*, *American Splendor*, and *Saved*.

Weekend Sports: Every Sunday the FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate alumni met to play basketball and volleyball. The alumni rented a gym for two hours and play an hour of each sport. About ten FLEX alumni attended each of the weekend sport events in April. Ekaterina Gavrilenko '03, Nadezhda Ilyina '00 and Natalia Makarova '99 attended almost every game.

Gatchina Park Clean-up: On April 30, the FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate alumni traveled to Gatchina for a park clean-up at the local City Park. The alumni cleaned up a whole island in the center of the park by the famous Gatchina Palace. The event attracted a number of senior alumni, including Pavel Silvestrov '94, Andrey Yakovlev '95, and Mikhail Stukolkin '96 who joined Ekaterina Gavrilenko '03, Natalya Martikainen '99, and FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Alumni Assistants Igor Gots and Konstantin Polyakov. The weather didn't favor the team, so the alumni held their planned picnic at Natalya Martikainen's '99 house. Still the alumni enjoyed a fun and productive weekend.

Upcoming Events:

- **Weekly Sports** (volleyball/basketball) for alumni.
- **Weekly American Movie Club.**
- **Global Youth Service Day** events in Petrozavodsk will be held in May.

Contact: Igor Gots '01, FLEX Alumni Assistant, St. Petersburg flexalum@americancouncils.spb.ru (812) 117-76-55

Samara

Monthly Alumni Meeting: Ilya Brezhnev '02, Ekaterina Gafarova '03, Tatyana Lebakina '03, Elena Pastukhova '00, Anastasia Pechkurova '03, Anna Shegurova '04, and Alexandra Visloguzova '04 met at the IATP Center at Samara State University on April 14 to prepare for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD.) The alumni discussed their plans for GYSD and the National Russian Week of Kindness. They distributed tasks and defined the expected outcomes of the project, contacted future partners, and made agreements.

Earth Day: Continuing an alumni tradition, eight FLEX alumni joined the Samara American Alumni Club for Earth Day on April 24 at the Barbeque Hill. All members of the American Alumni Club carried out a clean-up, and painted the fences, tables and benches, preparing them for the summer season. Zagorodniy Park and the Barbeque Hill playground is one of the favorite places of the Samara citizens, who like to organize picnics on the bank of the Volga River. After work alumni had a nice time talking, eating, and playing volleyball. The following alumni took part at the Earth Day activity: Pavel Alashev '01, Valeria Baburina '99, Tatyana Lebakina '03, Elena Pastukhova '00, Anastasia Pechkurova '03, Veronika Pestova '03, Elizaveta Spiridonova '03, and Maria Soutchkova '02.

Global Youth Service Day Project: On April 23, Samara alumni joined the local authorities (Samara Youth Affairs Committee) in organizing the "*Obshegorodskoy subbotnik*" - a massive clean-up event, which takes place every year. This time alumni decided to dedicate the event to the Victory Day and to take care of an important city place of interest - the memorial to the Samara airplane and rocket plant "Progress," which produced airplanes for use in World War II. FLEX alumni also involved several alumni of the Eurasia Undergraduate Program and 50 students of the Samara Municipal Institute of Management to carry out this clean-up event. The local authorities provided the alumni and students with spades, brooms, and plastic bags. Alumni found musical equipment and loudspeakers, which helped attract attention to youth event, and other young people also joined them during the clean-up. By combining the efforts with other organizations, alumni managed to clean up a vast territory around the memorial and leave this part of the city nice looking and clean. Ten alumni took part in the event: Valentina Dolgikh '02, Ekaterina Gafarova '03, Timur Kurmaev '02, Tatyana

Lebakina '03, Elena Pastukhova '00, Anastasia Pechkurova '03, Olga Shakhova '00, Elizaveta Spiridonova '03, Anna Shegurova '04, and Alexandra Visloguzova '04.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly Alumni Meeting** will take place at the IATP Center on May 6. Alumni will share their successes and impressions after the annual student conferences at their universities.
- **Training at the IATP Center** will be provided for alumni by Project Harmony. Alumni are welcome to choose any topics of interest.
- **Discussion on International Trade Law** at the American Corner will be organized on May 19. Professor Franklin Gill of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque will lead the discussion. Prof. Gill will discuss recent views on the problems of transition of the societies of Mexico and Russia to a market economy.

Contact: Samara Alumni Assistant Elena Pastukhova '00, samaraflexalumni@rambler.ru

Vladivostok

Debate Tournament: Seventeen FLEX alumni and alumni from other U.S. programs took part in the Fourth Annual Parliamentary Debate Tournament on April 1-2. On the first day alumni discussed their projects. Alyona Zhulanova '02 talked about activities conducted in Khabarovsk and her work as the city representative, and Polina Zavyalova '00 presented Vladivostok activities. After these two presentations, Polina Kushnareva '01 decided to become a city representative in Blagoveshensk. In the first session FLEX alumni Aleksander Novak '03 and Aleksandra Perchina '02, and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program Alumnus Ivan Pechorin '02 gave a presentation about the development of youth governance in the Russian Far East. Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumna Evgeniya Egupova '04 conducted the second session, a workshop entitled "Speaking to Persuade." A training session on parliamentary debates and a practice round were then held. Anna Koneva '99 led a seminar on "Persuasion," and distributed handouts. The actual debate tournament took place the second day, and ended in the final round when Anna Garshina '99 and Polina Zavyalova '00 debated against Alexander Novak '03 and Evgeniya Vlasova '02 regarding whether the Russian higher education system should have a means for students to demote or dismiss university presidents who are derelict in their duties or act irresponsibly, immorally, or illegally. The event helped alumni from different regions meet and improve their debate skills.

American Culture Movie Night: Anastasia Aleshkina '04, Yana Boroday '02, Marina Kaurova '99, Anna Koneva '99, Dmitriy Shatokhin '02, and Polina Zavyalova '00 watched the movie *Hours* at the American Councils office on April 8. After the movie the alumni discussed how certain events can affect a person throughout his/her entire life and how outward appearances can be deceiving.

Toy and Children's Book Drive: Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored programs held a toy and children's book drive throughout April for an orphanage in Noviy. On April 17, Anastasia Aleshkina '04, Olga Bukach '04, Darya Urchenko '04, and Polina Zavyalova '00 went to the orphanage with six bags full of toys, books, and clothing. The alumni spoke with the children about the benefits of reading and how books helped them become who they are now. The alumni promised to come back to the orphanage to play outdoor games with the children and bring them photos.

Botanical Garden Cleanup: On April 23, FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni cleaned up the Primorskiy Krai Botanical Gardens as part of Global Youth Service Day and Earth Day. The alumni gathered three large bags of garbage and decided to return for another cleanup in May. Anastasia Aleshkina '04, Veronika Azarova '04, Yana Boroday '02, Olga Bukach '04, Marina Kaurova '99, Anna Koneva '99, Polina Sergienko '04, Dmitriy Shatokhin '02, and Polina Zavyalova '00 attended.

Upcoming Events:

- **American Culture Movie Night** will be held on May 6.
- **Alumni Planning Meeting** is scheduled for May 13.
- **Project Management Seminar** by Vyacheslav Shirokov will take place on May 20.

Contact: Vladivostok Alumni Assistant Polina Zavyalova '00, flexalum@vlad.ru +7 (4232) 22-37-98

Volgograd

Abortions Seminar: Elena Gladkova '99 conducted a seminar about the problem of abortions and its meaning in a woman's life. The seminar was held on April 23 in Volzhsky, Volgograd region for the members of the organization *Pervie Lastochki*. About 20 girls were present at this activity. Elena, a student of the fifth year in the Volgograd State Medical University, department of gynecology, told the girls what are the best ways to prevent an unwanted pregnancy and what consequences might an abortion have on a woman's body.

Upcoming Events:

- **Meeting with Dr. Carol Nechemias**, visiting professor from Penn State University, is scheduled for May 14.

Contact: Volgograd Alumni Assistant Nelli Khachaturian '03 nellyi-volgograd@yandex.ru

Yekaterinburg

“Future First” Contest: On April 9, Yelizaveta Gladkovskaya '95 and American Councils Office Director Stephen Houtsma participated in the third round of the contest organized for high school students by “Future First” English language courses and American Councils. The students wrote an essay about foreign languages and answered questions about U.S. history in the first two rounds. The top 10 contestants were invited to the third round. Yulia Rybina from Yekaterinburg School #38 won the main prize, which was three months of free English courses, a certificate from American Councils, and an advanced English dictionary.

Group Activity Meeting: Yelizaveta Gladkovskaya '95, Ilya Korobeinikov '04, Yekaterina Noskova '04, Natalya Shipulina '03, and Mariya Trofimova '03 had a group meeting at the American Councils Office on April 23. The alumni discussed upcoming plans, such as a visit to an orphanage scheduled for early May. The alumni also decided to participate in the Victory Day celebration being held on May 6 at the Youth Palace.

Orenburg

Orenburg Group Activity Meeting: Galima Ahmadullina '04, Lidiya Grazhevichus '04, Anton Solovyev '03, Marina Sheinina '03, and Alexandra Shestakova '03 attended a meeting organized by Orenburg local representative Lidiya Grazhevichus '04 on April 15 at the IATP Center. Lidiya shared information she received at the local representative seminar in Yekaterinburg, and the alumni planned their next meeting. They also discussed plans to organize a special activity for World War II veterans.

Upcoming Events:

- **Meeting with FLEX Finalists' Parents** will take place on May 15.
- **Easter Party with Orphans** is scheduled for May 24.
- **Cleanup** in Yekaterinburg will take place on May 12.
- **Victory Day Celebration** in Orenburg is planned for May 6.

Contact: Yekaterinburg FLEX Alumni Assistant Yelizaveta Gladkovskaya '95 flexalum@ural.actr.ru + (343) 257-82-05

Tajikistan

Dushanbe

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Fundraising: On April 9, alumni organized a movie night at *Molodezhnyy* movie theater. The money received from ticket sales went to support the GYSD project. The alumni sold 300 tickets at \$1 a piece, which raised \$100 dollars for the GYSD project after the theater received its share of the ticket sales. Miskola Abdulloeva '02, Nodira Aminova '02, Khurshed Isamov '04, and Malika Khakimova '04 distributed the tickets.

Computer and Internet Training in Khorog: Khirad Kargasov '99 finished his week-long computer and Internet training course for Khorog high school students on April 19. Khirad currently works as an Internet Computer Training coordinator at Aga Khan Health Service. Nine junior and senior-class students from different Khorog high schools attended the training sessions, which focused on basic computer and Internet skills. Other topics included modems and web browsers.

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Meet New American Councils Program Officer: On April 15, 12 FLEX alumni met with the new American Councils program officer, Dan Stanley. Having arrived in Tajikistan a week before, this was a good opportunity to get introduced to some of the Tajik alumni. After the official part of the meeting, the alumni began work on the Global Youth Service Day project, A Meal for Elderly People.

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD): On April 16, 32 FLEX alumni conducted the “A Meal for Elderly People” project in four cities in Tajikistan as part of GYSD. The project sponsors were the ISP Babilon-T, Alpine Fund, and the Holland-Tajik Joint Venture M&P.



Botanical Garden Clean-up: Fifteen FLEX alumni and other volunteers held a clean-up at the Dushanbe Botanical Garden on April 16 after the A Meal for Elderly People project. The alumni spent three hours gathering over 30 bags of garbage.

Earth Day Celebration: On April 23, 11 alumni and their friends celebrated Earth Day in the Varzob Mountains. Two professional trainers and Program Officer Dan Stanley accompanied the alumni on their walking tour to the Varzob canyon. Everyone admired the majestic mountain scenery and waterfalls. The Earth Day celebration gave the alumni the opportunity to meet with each other and have a wonderful day enjoying nature.

Upcoming Events:

- **Mobile Services Seminar** will be held on May 5.
- **Sixtieth Great Patriotic War Anniversary Celebration** is scheduled for May 6.
- **American Slang Seminar** will take place on May 11.
- **Domestic Violence Seminar** is scheduled for May 13.

Contact: Dushanbe FLEX Alumni Assistant Miskola Abdulloeva '02, flexalum@americancouncils.tj +992 (372) 21-21-03

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat

Be a Change!!! “Global Youth Service Day” (GYSD) Presentation: On April 12, Serdar Karliyev '04 and Bahar Nuriyeva '02 made a presentation for visitors to the Educational Advising Center at American Councils for International Education. Sixteen visitors attended the presentation to learn about this global movement. Serdar talked about millions of young people in different countries who work on action projects and community service events in their communities. GYSD in Turkmenistan was introduced to the participants. They showed photos from the past events, and everyone had an opportunity to learn more about activities that FLEX alumni were working on this year all over Turkmenistan. Visitors were encouraged to volunteer and share their ideas.

Beauty is a Beast Production by FLEX Alumni and Peace Corps Volunteers: On April 15, Bahar Agayeva '02, Myahri Gurbanniyazova '04, Serdar Karliyev '04, Nadejda Lee '04, and Bahar Nuriyeva '02 initiated the *Beauty is a Beast* play performance, which was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section. There were two performances at the Turkish Cultural Center in Ashgabat. This event brought together 140 people in the afternoon and 160 came to the evening performance. Bahar Nuriyeva and Bahar Agayeva directed the play. Peace Corps volunteers Shawn Baxter and Christina Tam worked on stage choreography. Jennifer Shin and Dovlet Hojaev accompanied with music. The play was advertised in local schools and businesses. Alumni of different programs helped in distributing tickets. The goals of this project were to introduce Turkmen community to American culture and practice their language and acting skills. They raised \$200 from ticket sales, which will be donated to the Ashgabat Retirement House.

Dashoguz

Alumni meeting: On April, 7, 13, and 21 Mehrijemal Altybayeva '04, Jalal Bekchanov '02, Laziz Hudaybergenov '02, Leila Ischanova '03, Maral Ilyasova '04, Irina Kletchuk '04, Dariko Mkrtyumyan '04 and Viktoriya Orazova '04 attended alumni meetings. Alumni talked about activities for students, youth, adults and

teachers. In addition, they planned community projects for April and developed an American Corner schedule for the coming month.

Chat with Editor of the U.S. Magazine *Science*: On April 13, Myahrijemal Altybayeva '04, Jalal Bekchanov '02, Laziz Hudaybergenov '02, Leila Ischanova '03, and Viktoriya Orazova '04 participated in a chat organized by the IATP Center in Dashoguz. The main idea of the chat was to discuss global problems of the 21st century with an Mr. Stone, an editor of the U.S. magazine *Science*. During the chat FLEX alumni all over Turkmenistan asked questions concerning environment protection, to which Mr. Stone responded. In addition, chat participants discussed other problems like the fate of the Aral Sea and how salt harms the natural environment in the countries of Central Asia. Attendees came up with some ways to protect the environment.

Global Youth Service Day Presentation: Irina Kletchuk '04 conducted a presentation at the Dashoguz American Corner on April 15. Twelve interested visitors attended the event. The main topic of the presentation was volunteerism and Global Youth Service Day. Irina presented volunteerism as a good opportunity to develop the community of Dashoguz region by helping people and organizations. She gave examples of volunteer work that alumni do at the American Corner and for the Dashoguz community, like charity actions in orphanages and elderly people house, etc. Organizers showed some pictures of FLEX alumni in action during their community service projects. In addition, Irina shared her U.S. volunteer experience as an exchange student.

Global Youth Service Day Celebration: On April 20, Irina Kletchuk '04 and Viktoriya Orazova '04 organized a carnival for Dashoguz youth devoted to the Global Youth Service Day. More than 150 people attended the event at the Youth Union Dance Club. FLEX alumni started the activity with a presentation about volunteerism and its role in the modern society. Later they continued the event with painting faces of attendees and decorating costumes. Contests like "Star of the Dance Floor," "The Best Mask," etc. were conducted for attendees.

Sample Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) in Koneurgench: On April 10, Irina Kletchuk '04 and Viktoriya Orazova '04 organized a sample TOEFL test for students of secondary school #2 in the Koneurgench region. Seven high school students were introduced to TOEFL, its purpose, and structure. Irina explained the rules of the test to attendees and prepared handouts with information about TOEFL. After the introduction organizers started the test. Students experienced taking all four sections of TOEFL: listening, structure, reading, and essay. Peace Corps Volunteer Kenyon Weaver cooperated in conducting the test and helped to score it.

Spoken English for Disabled People: Myahrijemal Altybayeva '04 conducted a spoken grammar class for disabled people in the Dashoguz community. The class was held every Tuesday and Thursday of April at the Dashoguz American Corner. The main purpose of the class was to help disabled people in Dashoguz city develop correct English speaking, writing, and listening skills. More than seven people attended each class.

Three-day Camp for Disabled People: On April 5-7, Myahrijemal Altybayeva '04, Irina Kletchuk '04 and Dariko Mkrtumyan '04 organized a three-day camp for disabled people in Dashoguz community. The main goal of the camp was to develop leadership skills of the eight participants. The camp was organized at the Dashoguz American Corner. Curriculum of the camp included spoken English, art classes, and computer training. On the first day of the camp, attendees introduced themselves and played ice-breakers. Team building and leadership development activities were conducted during the camp. In addition, attendees made a collage "How We See America." Attendees cut different pictures from different American magazines and newspapers and glued them onto the map of the United States of America. The second day of the camp was devoted to health care. Peace Corps volunteer Natacha Chough and Mehri Altybayeva '04 organized a yoga class for participants. The group also debated the topic of the environmental protection of Turkmenistan, after making a poster "Save our Motherland." On the third day of the camp, devoted to friendship, campers played role games and discussed relationships between friends. At the end of the camp participants signed a poster with all the best wishes to each other and thank you letters to organizers of the camp.

"Young People in Changing Societies": Myahrijemal Altybayeva '04 conducted a class for youth called Young People in Changing Societies. Twenty-seven visitors to the Dashoguz American Corner attended each class. Classes were held every Tuesday and Thursday of April. During the class Mehri Altybayeva '04 gave presentations about the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Convention on

the Rights of a Child, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition, attendees learned about opportunities to become volunteers in Dashoguz, learned about their rights, and received information about youth organizations such as Youth Union, UNICEF, etc.

World Health Day Activity: On April 7, the American Corner celebrated World Health Day. Mehrijemal Altybaeva '04 made a presentation about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse on the human body and brain. During her class "Young people in a changing society," she asked students to express their ideas about a healthy lifestyle. Later students continued with debates on the topic "Healthy Generation is the Wealth of a Nation." In another World Health Day event, American Corner visitors and Peace Corps volunteers organized two teams and played basketball against each other at school #24 of Dashoguz city.

Turkmenabat

World Health Day Reaches Turkmenabat Youth: On April 7, Sabina Huseyinova '03, Selbi Esedova '04, and Farhad Yagmurov '04 organized a World Health Day celebration at the American Corner in Turkmenabat for ten people. First, Sabina Huseyinova presented the historical background of the holiday and offered basic information about United Nations World Health Program. Selbi and Farhad read some poems related to the topic. Participants had an opportunity to test their knowledge about the human body and health by answering questions. Then they played various thematic games. Elnara Yunusova, American Corner manager, emphasized the importance of the personal health care, as well as helping those who are in need, and concluded the activity. Elnara said that there are millions of people who need health care, medicine, and warm words to battle their diseases.

Global Youth Service Day Inspires FLEX Alumni: On April 11, Jeyran Babajanova '04 initiated a poster club at the American Corner in Turkmenabat. Sabina Huseyinova '03, Dovlet Babajanov '04, Guncha Jumakuliyeva '04, and Nazira Jorayeva '04 demonstrated their creativeness by preparing posters for Global Youth Service Day. Every participant presented his own draft of the future poster and mottos for it. Nazira's idea turned out to be the most interesting and related to the topic. She suggested drawing a globe surrounded by youth of different races standing hand in hand. The Turkmenabat American Corner celebrated Global Youth Service Day with the motto "The World Is In Our Hands," and it was decided to use this motto for the poster. Alumni had an opportunity to strengthen their team work skills and prepare visual aids for GYSD.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Class by FLEX Alumni: On April 13, Serdar Yoldashev '04 conducted a TOEFL class at the American Corner in Turkmenabat for eight high school students. During the hour-long class, participants had the opportunity to test their comprehension ability. After they completed each section, Serdar analyzed their mistakes and shared ideas about how to improve their listening skills. He suggested they attend the center's movie club; listen to English dialogues and songs; follow their texts in the books from the center's library; and keep on practicing the listening section of the test. Participants tested their listening skills and received valuable hints for their development.

Learning About the Lifestyle of American Teenagers through Movies: On April 14, Farhad Yagmurov '04 and Dovlet Babajano '04 hosted a movie event at the American Corner in Turkmenabat. A week in advance, alumni posted announcements about the event at the information board of two Language Centers and at the American Corner. Fourteen people came to see *Coyote Ugly* about a persistent teenager, who despite difficulties becomes a successful singer. The activity started with a ten-minute vocabulary presentation, followed by one hour of the movie. The group then discussed the content of the film. Participants answered questions that Farhad and Dovlet prepared for them and were invited to watch the continuation of the movie the next week.

Mastering English Skills, Discussing Future Career Plans: On April 15, Sabina Huseyinova '03 initiated a new conversational club at the American Corner in Turkmenabat for six visitors. The topic of the class was "My future career plans and steps I undertake to achieve my goals." At the beginning of the activity, participants composed a list of rules they want to follow during the club and the list of "punishments," such as singing an English song, reciting a poem, or demonstrating other talents for those who break the rules. As it turned out, none of the participants had clear ideas about their careers. Sabina proposed that they decide what they want to discuss. The purpose of the event was to help participants set career plans. She emphasized that a person should constantly work to reach his goals. She mentioned the possibility of entering American University – Central Asia and described the selection process and the academic program.

Global Youth Service Day Celebration: On April 16, Sabina Huseyinova '03 conducted a Global Youth Day celebration at the American Corner in Turkmenabat. Ten alumni joined 10 high school pupils, 15 disabled children and their parents, three representatives of the non-governmental organization Lebab sport club for disabled people, and two volunteers of the corner for this event. First, Elnara Yunusova, American Corner manager, and Sabina Huseyinova '03 presented Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). Then the students of high school #11 performed the skit "Mother's Heart." After that Roman Kurbanov '04 sang two songs, and then the visitors were invited to watch the cartoon *Ice Age* and enjoy the sweets table. In addition to learning more about GYSD, the disabled children were encouraged to learn English and to apply for FLEX the program.

Turkmenbashy

Easter Celebration With ACCESS Students: On April 2, Kristina Razahova '04, Iyera Askerova '04, and Peace Corps volunteers conducted an Easter celebration for ACCESS students at the American Corner in Turkmenbashy. The eight participants learned about the American traditions for Easter. FLEX alumni and Peace Corps volunteers introduced songs and games to all the students. They also shared their American experiences with the visitors at the American Corner. Each participant made a holiday egg, and after that played Easter egg hunt.

Computer Classes for Orphans: On April 4, 11, 18, 25, 14 children from the local orphanage attended computer classes headed by Alina Penjiyeva '04. Children practiced their typing skills at the beginning of the class and learned new functions of Microsoft Word in the second part of the lesson. The students were encouraged to take notes for future review. Alina Penjiyeva explained the importance of computer programs in our lives. She helped the orphanage children develop basic computer skills, which will be important to them in the future.

Balkan Region Book-of-the-Month Club: During April, Kristina Razahova '04 continued developing the Balkan Region Book-of-the-Month Club in the Balkan region and other regions of Turkmenistan. Peace Corps volunteers Alex Minier and Katie Decker led classes run every Tuesday and Thursday at the American Corner in Turkmenbashy using the book *The Circuit*. At the local Balkanabat school, they led discussions on *Death of a Salesman*. Seventy-two students in Turkmenbashy and 136 students and teachers in Balkanabat attended the class regularly during April. In addition, Peace Corps volunteers used the books *Anne Frank's Diary: Dairy of Young Girl* and *Animal Farm* for discussions at the American Corner in Dashoguz. The literature clubs at the Turkmenabat American Corner used copies of the book *Lord of the Flies* for their reading and discussions. FLEX alumni and advanced English students and their teachers in each region are actively involved in the Balkan Region Book-of-the-Month Club project. Club members receive handouts on each chapter, which help develop readers' ideas regarding the social life. The project has brought together local people from different regions of Turkmenistan to enlarge their outlook and to develop a deeper understanding of American culture.

Internet Training for Local Students: On April 6 and 13, Kristina Razahova '04, Minara Ismailova '04, and Peace Corps volunteer Becky Bowman led Internet training for 14 high school students from local school #2. They familiarized the students with basics of Internet and e-mail. During the class Becky and Minara explained the main goals of Internet access and provided all participants with handouts for further review. Participants were given a chance to practice by doing some research and learning how to use personal e-mail account.

Round Table with Alumni and Peace Corps Volunteers: On April 8, Yuliya Hayrutdinova '04, Iyera Iskerova '04, Minara Ismailova '04, Alina Penjiyeva '04, and Arzu Talapova '04 discussed upcoming events in detail: the workshop "Educational Opportunities in Balkan Region" for students from Balkanabat City; fundraising Talent Show; Clean-up Day; and the project for Global Youth Service Day. FLEX alumni and Peace Corps volunteers shared their thoughts and suggested some additional ideas to these events. Participants also spoke about the American Corner work and activities. They offered new ideas and changes for the near future to increase visitors' interest in the events of the American Corner. They reviewed the work plan for April. Participants shared their opinions and ideas in a supportive environment.

Educational Opportunities in Balkan Region Seminar: On April 10, Kristina Razahova '04, Minara Ismailova '04, and Ilona Tumina '04 led the seminar Educational Opportunities in the Balkan Region for 20 students at the American Corner. They introduced participants to the American Corner activities and services and told about educational opportunities. American Corner manager, Yazgul Ishanova, opened the seminar with a powerpoint presentation about the Turkmenbashy American Corner. Minara Ismailova continued the seminar

with the lecture about education in the U.S. She talked about the U.S. educational system, highlighting differences with the Turkmenistan system, and shared with attendees her own experience in the U.S. Kristina Razahova headed the session Internet Training. During the second part of the seminar, alumni invited students to participate in the alumni project "Pollution of the Caspian Sea" by participating in the essay contest. The best works were recognized at the end of the event, and participants received prizes and certificates.

Global Youth Service Day Presentation: On April 14, Kristina Razahova '04 showed a powerpoint presentation to 15 local people in Turkmenbashi City. Students from local schools and members of the youth group of the Red Cross were informed about GYSD around the world. Kristina Razahova presented possible individual and group projects for their community. She showed them photos and offered short descriptions of the big 2004 Global Youth Service Day in Turkmenistan. Participants were invited to sign up for the Clean-up Day. During the presentation local students learned more about the community projects of different countries in order to have ideas to develop their own. Kristina encouraged them to do more volunteer services around the town, in public places, schools, at home, etc.

Clean-Up Day Project Global Youth Service Day: on April 17, Kristina Razahova '04 and Arzu Talapova '04 led the Environmental project Clean-up Day in Turkmenbashi City. With support from a Global Youth Service Day FLEX Alumni Grant and EACOR Environmental Services Middle East company, 35 people planted trees and flowers and cleaned up the seaside parks and other public places. Minara Ismailova '04 and Alina Penjiyeva '04 provided lead support during the project. They increased community awareness about the existence of environmental problems regarding the coast of the Caspian Sea, as well as Turkmenbashi City. Students of different ages were divided into teams, and each team was assigned a specific place in the city that they had to clean. Organizers held a contest among teams to encourage participants to work productively. After completing their work, all teams gathered together to plant the trees and flowers around the town. At the end of the project, the best participant of each team was recognized with a prize and a certificate of achievement and appreciation.

Visit to Local Orphanage: On April 19, Kristina Razahova '04, Alina Penjiyeva '04, and Peace Corps volunteers visited a local orphanage to present the donations they had collected. Fifty children received gifts. The visit was also part of the Global Youth Service Day project in Turkmenbashi City. Kristina Razahova explained to the children and teachers the importance of the Global Youth Service Day in the community. FLEX alumni and Peace Corps volunteers met the children and presented them with art supplies as gifts.

Earth Day Celebration: On April 22, Alina Penjiyeva '04 made a presentation on Earth Day for 16 students of English at the American Corner. She invited the students to read a story about the history of Earth Day, and then gave them writing assignments in order to review the lecture and share ideas about possible events and community projects that could be conducted for Earth Day. At the end of the presentation, Alina drew a tree and asked students to write on this Magic tree what they will do in the future to protect the environment.

The Right to Have Rights Seminar: Arzu Talapova '04 conducted a seminar on human rights in different societies on April 23. The event brought together 13 people. Kristina Razahova '04 helped logistically to organize the event. Alina Penjiyeva '04 took an active part in the seminar with other high school students, ACCESS students, and 2005 FLEX finalists. Arzu Talapova encouraged the audience to learn more about the constitutions of the U.S. and Turkmenistan. Then they participated in several artistic activities, such as writing small skits, and rights. Participants learned about the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and their role in improving living conditions in their country.

Meeting with U.S. Ambassador: On April 25, Iyera Askerova '04, Yuliya Hayrutdinova '04, Minara Ismailova '04, Kristina Razahova '04, Alina Penjiyeva '04, and Arzu Talapova '04, as well as local high school students and 2005 FLEX finalists, met U.S. Ambassador Tracy Jacobson at the American Corner. They discussed future development of the alumni association, as well as educational opportunities for international students. Ambassador Tracy Jacobson explained that the main mission of U.S. Embassy is to develop effective cooperation with local people that help to achieve the important goals of Turkmenistan. As a result, local people of Turkmenbashi received useful information about the U.S. Embassy work in Turkmenistan. FLEX alumni were encouraged to use the support and opportunities provided by the U.S. Embassy in order to obtain degrees and grow professionally.

Alumni Monthly Meeting: On April 26, Kristina Razahova '04 led a meeting with Yulia Hayrutdinova '04, Alina Penjiyeva '04, and Arzu Talapova '04 at the Turkmenbashi American Corner. Peace Corps volunteers Alex Minier, Becky Bowman, Laura Myerburg, and Allen Park joined the meeting as well to add their ideas regarding the coming month's activities. All alumni were invited to share their personal successes and achievements within the group.

Mary

Teachers Computer Training: Every Tuesday in April Magtymguly Geldyyev '04 conducted a computer training class for five local English teachers. He prepared handouts. The first part of the class the attendees got introduced to the computer parts and basic computer programs. Also that training helped local teachers to explore more computer programs and use them properly. At the end of the class the participants got a chance to practice what they had learned and worked on a written test which highlighted all skills that had been taught.

Community Children Learn about Peace Corps Volunteer's Book *Saglyk* (HEALTH): On April 6, Rejep Abdyev '04, Bahar Aydogdyeva '04, Magtym Geldyyev '04 and Ahmed Tagiev '04, in an outreach effort to school #15, made a presentation on the book *Saglyk* (Health) written by Peace Corps volunteers Orion Harris and Liz Fullerton to 36 third grade children. Bahar Aydogdyeva also helped with the Turkmen language in making this book. The organizers provided the children with a few copies for the class library. They reminded the children of general rules how to care of their body, teeth, and how to avoid smoking and drugs. Alumni acted out a role-play taken from a real life situation. The children enjoyed receiving information in an interactive way and the chance to communicate.

World Health Day "Healthy Smile" Project for Children: On April 7, Rejep Abdyev '04, Bahar Aydogdyeva '04, Magtym Geldyyev '04, and Ahmed Tagiev '04 developed the project "Healthy Smile" for 40 children from kindergarten #37. In an interactive way they showed how to take care of their teeth. They demonstrated how to brush correctly. The activity was followed by a skit "At the Dentist." Each child received a toothbrush and practiced brushing.

Making a Difference in Disabled Children's Life in the Hospital: On April 12, Rejep Abdyev '04, Bahar Aydogdyeva '04, Tatiyana Mendikovskaya '03, Ahmed Tagiyev '04, and Regional Representative of the Mary American Corner Albina Burashnikova along with four active visitors of the American Corner visited the Neurological Children's House in Yoloten. They delivered toys and clothing collected earlier during a drive organized by the American Corner. The group also used the visit to launch a new grant project led by Ahmed Tagiyev. He had recently received a grant to organize a charity event for children. He and his team invited the children to play Frisbee and to participate in arts and crafts projects. They made American flags, drew colorful pictures and played some educational games. This visit helped to build more relationships and communication between healthy and disabled children and introduced them to American culture.

Global Youth Service Day Sport Event: On April 14, Rejep Abdyev '04, Magtymguly Geldyyev '04, and Ahmed Tagiev '04, along with Peace Corps volunteers Liz Fullerton, Maria Acosta, and CI alumna '04 Nuria Ibragimova held a sport competition for almost 150 children from two schools. The activities included Frisbee, volleyball, and basketball competitions. Alumni were the judges and the instructors for the events. The children who participated in the activities received prizes and diplomas for their efforts.

FLEX Alumni and Peace Corps Volunteers Get Acquainted with the History of the Place They Live in: On April 15, International visitor alumni '97 Yevgenia Golubeva held a three-day seminar for 18 people, including Rejep Abdyev '04, Bahar Aydogdyeva '04, Tatiana Mendikovskaya '03, Ahmed Tagiyev '04, Peace Corps volunteers Orion Harris, Ashley Gilbert, Heidi Pierce, Liz Fullerton, Ben Graham, Trevor Capon and a few active visitors of the Mary American Corner. U.S. Embassy representatives Ilya D. Levin, Public Affairs Officer and Gulyalek Soltanova, Alumni Coordinator also attended the seminar. On the first day, she presented the ancient civilization Margush, which was accompanied by a documentary movie. She explained the historical heritage of the Merv Oasis as a part of world heritage, and encouraged participants to think about its protection. The group visited Margush, Ancient Merv, a local museum, and held a meeting with Mary region artists. During the visit, FLEX alumni made a documentary film movie on the ancient civilization of Margush.

Upcoming Events:

Ashgabat

- **Visit to the Local Retirement House** is planned for May 9.
- **Searching Scholarships Online Presentation** will be made by Bahar Nuriyeva'02 on May 18.

Dashoguz

- **ACCESS Class** will be held every Wednesday in May.
- **American Movie Club** will continue every Tuesday and Thursday in May.
- **Newsletter Class** will take place every Friday in May.
- **Spoken English Grammar for Disabled Children** will take place every Tuesday and Thursday in May.
- **Young People in Changing Societies** will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in May.

Turkmenabat

- **American History Club** will be held once a week.
- **Book Club** will be held once a week.
- **TOEFL Class** will be held twice a day, once a week.
- **Movie Club** will be held every Thursday.
- **Conversational Club** will be held every Friday.
- **Poetry Night** will be held in the middle of the month.
- **Alumni Meeting** will be held once each week.
- **Internet Trainings for FLEX Finalists' Families** will be held three times a week for two months.
- **Camp S.E.R.D.A.R. meetings with Peace Corps Volunteers, FLEX alumni and teachers** will be held once a week.
- **Computer Skills Trainings for FLEX finalists** will be held once a week.
- **Celebration of May 9th** will be held on May 9.
- **Camp for Disabled Children Meetings** will be held once a week.

Turkmenbashy

- **Computer Classes for Disabled Children** are scheduled for May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Alina Penjiyeva'04 and Minara'04 will continue computer classes for children from the local orphanage.
- **Balkan Region Book-of-the-Month Club Meetings** will be held on May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, and 31. Book clubs will read *Little House on the Prairie* in Balkanabat, and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and *Of Mice and Men* in Turkmenbashy.
- **English Classes for Doctors** will be offered on May 3. Arzu Talapova '04 and Peace Corps volunteer Laura Myerberg will lead English classes for local doctors at the American Corner Turkmenbashy.
- **Meeting with ACCESS students** will take place on May 14. FLEX alumni and Peace Corps volunteers will organize a meeting for ACCESS students dedicated to the end of the year.
- **Internet Training for Adults** will be held on May 17, 18, 19, and 20. Regional FLEX alumni assistant Kristina Razahova '04 and Becky Bowman will hold Internet training for parents whose children are the students or the future students of USG programs.
- **Alumni and PCVs Monthly Meeting** will take place at the American Corner on May 27.

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Ukraine

Kharkiv

English Speaking Club sessions were held every Tuesday in April. Arnab Synha organizes an English speaking club for alumni and members of the local community that takes place regularly in School #4. Alumni and other participants gathered to have a discussion on a chosen topic. The club is open to public. Anna Smirnova '03, Viktorya Vasylyeva '03, Sasha Tsymbal '04, Kyrylo Orach '04, and Anton Borisov '02 usually attend the club's sessions.

Citizen of the World City-wide Orator Contest: Anton Borisov '02, Yevhen Bobyk '03, Natalya Kasyanenko '04, Iryna Shpak '04, and Iryna Horb '04 participated in organizing a public speaking contest for 9th and 10th graders of all Kharkiv city schools on April 29. Seventy pupils submitted essays. The alumni working group evaluated and graded the essays, in order to choose the 10 best essay writers to participate in the final competition. The jury included many of the city's educational leaders, as well as representatives of different

cultural centers and organizations. Special guests of the contest were Mykola Andreyev, the head of Kharkiv Ministry of Education, and Lyubiv Myekinnikova, the head of the Kharkiv Ministry of Culture. The official part of the contest consisted of a semi-final and final contest, which were determined by an academic quiz. The winners of the quiz received prizes prepared by the organizers. After an exciting and interesting competition, the jury selected the winner. Marina Shkuratova received the title of best orator, with her magnificent speech that was very highly graded by the jury.

Myths and Realities Roundtable: Alumni held a discussion on April 11 to share experiences on going abroad. Alumni and members of the local community expressed different opinions and talked about personal experience to try to separate myths from reality about going abroad. Sasha Tsymbal '04, Anton Borisov '02, Yevhen Bobyk '03, Anastasya Gerets '04, Natalya Kasyanenko '04, Iryna Horb '04, and Iryna Shpak '04 attended the event.

Computer Class in Kharkiv Orphanage #4: Yevhen Bobyk '03, Iryna Shpak '04, Iryna Horb '04, and Anastasya Gerets '04 spent three hours teaching orphanage children how to use simple applications on the computers on April 16.

Luhansk

English Speaking Club: Olha Samarska '03 leads this club, which meets every week by for students of Luhansk National University of Internal Affairs. The club is very popular, gathering about 30 people in discussion sessions.

Business English Class: Anna Yablonska, IATP Center coordinator, holds classes every Tuesday at the Luhansk IATP Center. Alumni and other participants practice writing business letters and learn about correspondence ethics. The class is organized to achieve certain goals: develop communication and public speaking skills among young people; provide opportunity for alumni, students, and members of the local community to practice English; provide information about business correspondence and special vocabulary.

Upcoming Events:

- **English Speaking Club in Kharkiv** will be held weekly at School #4.
- **English Speaking Club in Luhansk** will be held weekly at Luhansk National University of Internal Affairs
- **Alumni Planning Meeting** will be held on May 6.
- **Clean-up activity** will be held on May 27.

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Kyiv

April Fool's Day: On April 1, the members of the Fifth Annual Benefit Evening Organizing Committee celebrated April Fool's Day together. Roman Tryzub '01 organized a karaoke contest.

Roundtable on Security Tendencies: On April 7, Khrystyna Kushnir '02 organized a discussion on the entry of Ukraine into the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), the missions of NATO in Afghanistan and the Mediterranean region, and possible involvement in Middle East processes. The event partners were the All-Ukrainian NGO Consortium Civic League, NATO-Ukraine (International Relations Department), and the Euroclub NGO. FLEX alumni contributed to the discussion.

Global Youth Service Day: Members of the Benefit Evening Organizing Committee performed the play *The Little Prince* for children from Kyiv Psycho-Neurological Hospital #1 on April 18. The alumni also purchased much-needed furniture for children's department #11. Cultural Affairs Officer Lisa Heller and Cultural Affairs Assistant Vira Maksymova from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy attended the event.

Zhytomyr Clean-up: Lyubov Blin '02, Illya Dyadyk '01, and Serhiy Topachevskiy '01 cleaned up the territory near the Monument to Victory in Zhytomer on April 23. Afterwards the alumni planted trees in the same area.

FLEX April 2005 Report

“How to be an Effective Facilitator” Training: Oksana Nesterenko '00 conducted a training session for ten FLEX and two Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni on April 25. Oksana shared the experience she acquired from participating in numerous European Youth Parliament sessions. At the end of the training, the alumni practiced their new skills.

Upcoming Events:

- **Magellano Project Presentation** by AEGEE members will be held on May 3.
- **Hospital Furniture Purchase** for Children’s Department #11 of Kyiv Psycho-Neurological Hospital #1 using the proceeds from the Fifth Annual Benefit Evening, which will take place in May.
- **Preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary Eurovision Song Contest** are planned for May.
- **Transparency in Education Training of Teachers** will take place on May 28.
- **NATO Simulation Preparations** are planned for the end of June.
- **Fourth Annual Youth Leadership Program Preparations** will take place leading up to the July 24-30 event.

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Lviv

Alumni Meeting: On April 13, the Lviv IATP Center hosted a workshop on legislation regarding non-governmental organization (NGO) registration. Mykola Pekh '00 moderated the discussion. Alumni learned about the peculiarities of registering a non-governmental organization according to the new legislation and about the major differences introduced this year. Then a regular FLEX alumni meeting took place. The alumni addressed events for the upcoming Easter celebration. They also agreed to implement the Easter for Children project to raise funds for the children from the Pidhirtsi boarding school for children with visual limitations.



Sexual Health Seminar: Seven FLEX alumni trainers and 24 participants joined together for a two-day seminar entitled Sound Mind, Sound Body. The participants learned about the basics of healthy sexual behavior, learned about sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, and methods to prevent them. The participants gave active feedback and declared that they would be willing and eager to attend similar seminars conducted by Lviv alumni.

Easter for Children Project: The Lviv alumni association and the Young Diplomacy Centre raised funds and collected toys for 35 children from the Pidhirtsi boarding school for children with visual handicaps on April 27. The Lviv Children of Christ NGO found a van to transport the supplies to Pirhirtsi. The children from the boarding school prepared a talent show for the alumni to thank them for the presents, and the teachers cordially welcomed the guests. They talked about the problems the boarding schools encounters and the reality of life inside it.

Upcoming Events:

- **Regular Alumni Meeting** at the IATP Center is scheduled for May 12.
- **Celebration of Europe Day** will take place on May 14.
- **Creation of Lviv Hub Yahoo Group** is planned for May 20.
- **Alumni Meeting** to discuss and adopt a code for the Lviv FLEX NGO and elect its board will take place on May 25.
- **Database Update and Radio Announcement** of FLEX activities is planned for May.

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Odesa

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Meeting: On April 8, Dmytro Aver'yanov '04, Tea Bebia '04, Nina Borysova '02, and Kateryna Komarova '02 gathered at the American Advising Center to discuss the upcoming

GYSD project. Alumni discussed certain difficulties with organizing an excursion to the ice-cream factory and then proposed possible solutions.

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Project: FLEX alumni arranged a visit to the Odesa City Circus for 20 third graders from Odesa Orphanage #4 as part of GYSD on April 30 instead of the excursion to an ice-cream factory they had previously planned. The organization committee consisted of Dmytro Aver'yanov '04, Nina Borysova '02, Mariya Hontar '04, and Kateryna Komarova '02. The FLEX alumni rented a bus at a significant discount and purchased tickets to the show.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly Meeting** is planned for May 13 at the American Advising Center.
- **Civil Society Training** will be held at the American Advising Center in May.

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Uzbekistan

Tashkent

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) Events: FLEX alumni held activities throughout April with local and international organizations and businesses to commemorate GYSD. Eighty-five FLEX alumni helped organize 33 large projects throughout Uzbekistan for which 7,950 students and teachers volunteered. These events included environmental clean-ups, fundraising events, tree planting, lectures, computer training seminars, visits to retirement homes and orphanages, and community repair projects. Among the volunteers' accomplishments is the \$4,200 raised for the fight against children's cancer and the three tons of paper collected for recycling. The GYSD events received local and national press coverage, which the alumni used to stress the importance of volunteerism. The GYSD motto was "The World is in Our Hands."



Psychology of Success Seminar: Akmal Abdullayev '98, Bahadir Diyarov '96, Jamshid Jalalov '00, Nurhon Mashrabova '04, and Sergey Shirov '94 attended the Psychology of Success seminar held by Mr. Michail Hadaev on April 10. Mr. Hadaev, a professional trainer, asked the participants to depict their major aims in life, and explained that the clearer one's aims are, the easier it is to build strategies to achieve them. Mr. Hadaev also stressed being successful is subjective, as everyone has a different understanding of success. After a long discussion and several presentations, the alumni were given some final tips on overcoming their problems and developing strategies.

Bureau of International Information Programs Presentation: On April 20, 14 FLEX alumni had the chance to meet with Tim Receveur, website manager for International Information Programs at the U.S. State Department. The Bureau of International Information Programs informs, engages, and influences international audiences about U.S. society, policy, and life. Mr. Receveur talked about the numerous free electronic journals that give information on essentially all aspects of American life.

Seventh Annual U.S. Education Fair: Emiliya Asadova '02, Javlon Jahanov '02, Mastura Maradjapova '04, Guzal Sulthonhodjaeva '04, and Evgeniya Tsoy '04 helped organize the Seventh Annual U.S. Education Fair hosted by the Educational Advising Center on April 22. Visitors received informational material, applications, and individual consultations, and were able to watch videos about different universities. Representatives from the U.S. Embassy and various educational institutions also attended the fair. A guest speaker gave advice on the application and interview process, and the FLEX alumni discussed their U.S. experiences.

Mountain Excursion: On April 24, 17 FLEX alumni took a trip to the mountains with Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni to discuss future joint activities and analyze funding sources. During the day in the mountains the alumni discussed the importance of alumni cooperation and shared what projects they would like to see in the future

Business Ethics Seminar: The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy organized a training seminar on business ethics on April 23. Dr. Russel Kleinbach, professor of sociology at Philadelphia University, led the event for 10 FLEX alumni. Dr. Kleinbach defined ethics and the main concepts of political and economic democracy. He then discussed the connection between ethical business practices and sustainable development using examples from Central Asia. Dr. Kleinbach also used the film *The Mondragon Experiment* in his presentation, as well as another film about employee ownership and management in the U.S. Training certificates issued by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy were awarded to the participants at the end of the seminar.

Upcoming Events:

- **Movie Night** organized by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy will be held on May 3.
- **Guest Lecture by Dr. Roger Kangas** is scheduled for May 6.
- **Victory Day Celebration** with senior citizens from the Blind Society will be held on May 15.
- **Medical Equipment Purchase and Delivery** to the Oncological Center in Tashkent is planned for May.
- **Annual Mountain Cleanup** will take place on May 21-22.
- **Summer Camp Planning Meetings** will be held throughout May.

Contact: Tashkent Alumni Assistant Emilia Asadova '02 alumni@flex.bcc.com.uz, tel: +998 (71) 152-12-81.

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

Armenia

Lusine Arakelyan '04 is employed by Youth For Achievements as an administrative assistant.

Gevorg Avetikayn '04 is employed by Youth For Achievements as an administrative assistant.

Lilit Avoyan '01, Sona Baghdasaryan '01, Anna Matinayan '01 (Vanadzor), Marianna Shiroyan '01, and Arevik Stepanyan '01 were recognized for their high grade point averages and excellent class participation. As a result, the European Regional Academy of Caucasus has offered them the following internships in France: *Lilit Avoyan '01* – Nice, Real Estate Agency; *Sona Baghdasaryan '01* – City Hall of Cannes, Department of European Law; *Anna Matinayan '01 (Vanadzor)* – Palm Beach Casino Enterprise, Marketing and Commerce Department, Cannes; *Marianna Shiroyan '01* – Marseille, France Telecom Company; and *Arevik Stepanyan '01* – Nice, Law Office.

Liana Tadevosyan '99 was invited as a rotating moderator to the Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program Alumni Regional Conference “Higher Education Reforms – a Path to a Successful Caucasus.”

Azerbaijan

Vusala Ahmadova '02 is working as a project translator for the Capacity Building for the State Social Protection Fund of the United Nations Development Program.

Rishad Aliyev '04, Gunel Babazada '04, Gulnar Hajiyeva '04, Taniel Khalilov '04, Leyla Mammadli '04, Vugar Mammadov '04, and Farid Zeynalov '00 volunteered as interpreters at the Baku Jazz Festival.

Raisa Azizova '04 is working as an office assistant at the AAA Alumni Association.

Aysel Seidova '00 represented Azerbaijan at the European Conference on Youth Participation in Germany.

Belarus

Ekaterina Borushko '02 participated in the Youth Parliament Conference held in Poland to discuss various humanitarian issues.

Margarita Kuleshova '03 represented the tourism department of Belarusian State Economics University in the annual student competition Student Spring 2005. She took part in directing a skit for the competition, as well as organizing a group for departmental support.

Evgeniya Sadovnikova '04 and *Anton Zamoiski '04* were awarded scholarships to American University in Bulgaria.

Anastassia Tarassiouk '03 attended an international business conference that took place at Belarusian State University Lyceum on April 27.

Vladislav Zubanov '98 was chosen to represent the Steelcase company, where he is currently employed as manager, at a conference in Jordan. About 30 professionals from Europe, Asia, and North America attended the conference.

Georgia

Nino Abzalava '03 is doing an internship at Penal Reform International.

Matuta Bzhalava '98 attended a course on office management/administration at the Center for Training and Consultancy with Vocational Training and Job Center in Tbilisi, and now works for CARE International at Guria Adolescent's Health Project.

Natia Bzhalava '99 started work as a program-operating manager at CHF International Zugdidi Program Operating Center.

Sophie Machablashvili '03 started work as an assistant for Mr. David Hardy, who is an expert in education, as part of the European Commission-funded European Studies Center project.

Nino Makatsaria '00 was selected to participate in Global Village for future business and industry leaders and was awarded a full-tuition scholarship.

Sandro Rtveladze '01 began work at the Jacob's Center for Lifelong Learning at the International University in Bremen, Germany as a statistics teaching assistant.

Kazakhstan

Baurzhan Amirzhanov '02 works as an analyst in the Business Development Department at Agip Kazakhstan North Caspian Operating Company N.V.

Gaukhar Kenzhagaliyeva '99 successfully completed the AIESEC Program in Poland, where she gave a number of seminars and held workshops about volunteerism and community service to high school and first year university students over a three-month period.

Ainur Kuttumuratova '02 works as an assistant of General Director at Kazakhstan-China Pipeline LLP.

Kyrgyzstan

Nurjan Kasygulova '01 was accepted to the 2005 International Summer Program at the University of Vienna.

Kaarmanbek Kuluev '04 currently works as a journalist at Kyrgyz Radio Azattyk.

Asel Murzatova '02 was accepted to the American Institute for Political and Economic Systems summer school program in Prague.

Moldova

Lilia Fusa '04 took second place in the Municipal Conference Munca, Talent, Cutezanta, psychology section. Lilia made a presentation of her research paper "Leadership and its Qualities." She also took fourth place in the municipal contest in geography.

Igor Garabajiv '03 took part in the TV program European Union and Us.

Russia

Kirov

Elena Bakulina '98 started work for the Kirov Government.

Vladimir Gordeev '98 was a member of group L #601 from Kirov State Medical Academy, which was selected as the best group in the academy on April 2.

Maksim Isaykin '04 participated in the Kirov Law Economics Lyceum Scientific-Practical Conference and won a first-degree diploma for his research work on April 4. Maksim also received a thank-you letter from the principal of the Kirov Law Economics Lyceum for participating in the Regional Seminar held as part of the Civil Law Mosaic exchange program.

Maksim Isaykin '04 participated in the Kirov Law Economics Lyceum Scientific-Practical Conference on April 5 and was awarded a first-degree diploma for his research work on April 4.

Cheboksary

Ksenia Semyonova '02 was accepted to work as a camp counselor at Camp Counselors USA.

Dzerzhinsk

Tatyana Movshevich '04 was a regional winner at the Nizhny Novgorod Education non-governmental school Olympiad and then participated in the third All-Russia non-governmental Olympiad. She took first place in the Dzerzhinsk Russian Language Olympiad and the English Language Olympiad. She also took second place in the Dzerzhinsk Literature Olympiad. On April 13, Tatyana published the third installment of her "American Diary" article in the Dzerzhinets newspaper.

Moscow

Tatyana Maksatova '03 won the Lomonosov Readings finals held at Moscow State University. She gave a speech on the topic of time management.

Aleksandra Markova '03 won best speaker at the British Parliamentary Debate tournament that took place on April 2-3 at Tula State University.

Evgeny Yankovoy '01 and his teammate took third place at Tula State University's British Parliamentary Debate tournament.

Darya Zolotova '03 took first place in the scientific conference held at Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas on April 12-13. The title of her work was "Organization of the Negotiation Process: Pre-contract Work." Darya based her work on the practical example of the multinational energy and petrochemical Shell group.

Novosibirsk

Darya Afonasova '01 came in second place in the city English Olympiad for university students.

Anya Demidchik '01 participated in career day training sessions.

Maxim Lobatii '03 was awarded second place in a city Japanese speech contest and went to the regional speech contest.

Valerii Mun '04 took third place in the city English speech contest for university students.

Alexandr Nozdrin '01 had two scientific articles included in a book published once a year by his university.

St. Petersburg

Darya Amosova '02 (Petrozavodsk) received a scholarship to study at the American University in Bulgaria.

Natalia Martikainen '99 was selected as a facilitator for the Open World Program.

Maria Zolotokrylina '02 and *Rimma Lesheva '02* traveled to the Netherlands to attend the European Week in Eindhoven. The alumni attended a number of lectures and seminars evolving around one big theme “How big is your Europe? Explore its dimensions.”

Samara

Irina Malakhovskaya '98 became an Open World facilitator and will escort the participants of the Open World program to the U.S.

Elena Pastukhova '00 began working as a researcher at the personnel agency Senat at the end of April.

Anastasia Pechkurova '03 was accepted to the Work and Travel program and will spend the summer of 2005 in the U.S.

Volgograd

Elena Gladkova '99 received a visa to participate in the Work and Travel 2005 program.

Anna Romasheva '04 received a diploma from the Ministry of Education and Science for the best research paper on the conference Youth, Science and Culture, department of Linguistics and Multicultural Communication.

Yekaterinburg

Vera Aminova '03 and *Polina Rogozhina '04* came in third place at the All Russian English Language Olympiad in Pyatigorsk on April 7-12.

Alissa Klots '99 and *Kseniya Zemlyanova '00* were chosen to participate in the Open World Program as facilitators.

Ilya Korobeinikov '04 worked as an interpreter for Gerard Lenard (a furniture expert in Holland). Ilya accompanied Mr. Lenard during his visits to factories from April 5-15.

Polina Rogozhina '04 received a scholarship to study business administration in Toronto, Canada. Polina also works for the Dobry Club, which visited a local orphanage and performed a skit based on a famous Russian fairy tale this spring.

Natalya Shipulina '03 was chosen to participate in the 2005 Intercultural Encounters Program, which is going to be held in Belgrade this summer. Natalya was among three university students who received a scholarship to participate in the program. The Intercultural Encounters is an accredited comprehensive four-week program that is open to undergraduate students from all over the world and is taught in English. Natalya has also defended her term paper on “Immigration Legislature in the U.S.” and received an “A.”

Darya Tkachyova '04 taught country studies to elementary school students in Perm for two weeks.

Tajikistan

Parvina Gafurova '01 received a \$1,400 travel grant from the U.S. Embassy. This will cover her expenses for the finance and management training event she will attend in London and Brussels from June 26 through July 10.

Turkmenistan

Bahar Aydogdyeva '04 (Mary) received a grant for purchasing videotapes for Mary American Corner American movie club.

Anna Jorayeva '02 (Turkmenabat), who is a student at American University –Central Asia, became a finalist of the Eurasia Undergraduate program and will go to America for a year to study in college.

Ahmed Tagiyev '04 (Mary) received two grants from the U.S. Embassy. The first grant will allow him to carry out a charity event at the Yoloten House for the Disabled, and the second one allows for the purchase of books and audiotapes for the Mary American Corner conversation club.

Arzu Talapova '04 (Turkmenbashy) received a FLEX alumni Global Youth Service Day project grant in the amount of \$100 to involve local Turkmenbashy community volunteers in the environmental project “Clean-up” Day. Arzu also received a grant from the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section to conduct a professional development project and obtain advising, test preparation, and other materials for the American Corner Library.

Arzu Talapova '04 (Turkmenbashy) and *Kristina Razahova '04 (Turkmenbashy)* received a Global Youth Service Day 2005 grant in the amount of \$150 and 30 plastic bags as a support from the EACOR Environmental Services Middle East Ltd to conduct the Clean-up day in Turkmenbashy City.

Ukraine

Kharkiv

Yevhen Bobyk '03 was selected to represent Kharkiv oblast during an international AEGEE event in Enschede, the Netherlands, in order to sign the convention that will legally allow Kharkiv to be the part of European Youth organization AEGEE. For further information please see: www.aegge.org

Anton Borisov '02 won first prize in the “Web-site of the month” contest organized by Kharkiv Regional IATP Center.

Ihor Murashko '04 participated in an all-Ukraine contest of English speakers among high school students and won the second prize.

Anna Smirnova '03 was selected to be a member of Kharkiv National Law Academy team that will represent Kharkiv during a European Court competition that will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia on May 5-8.

Kyiv

Maryna Gaydak '04, Alin Girs '03, Dmytro Miroshnychenko '04, Olena Rybak '02, and Iryna Tokatly '01 are interning at CFC Consulting.

Oleksandr Sineutskiy '97 is the promotional manager for Green Jolly Band, which is Ukraine’s entry in the Eurovision Song Contest. Oleksandr accompanied the band during their promo tour through eight countries, arranged meetings with the Ukrainian Embassies in all the respective countries, interpreted during live shows on national television and radio stations, and answered questions regarding preparations for the 2005 Eurovision contest.

Maryna Skomorokhova '99 is an account manager at the CFC Consulting, which is the official PR partner for Eurovision 2005. Maryna provides various kinds of consultations to government agencies, Honorary Consuls, and helps promote Ukrainian singer Ruslana in Ukraine and worldwide. Maryna also served as a project and logistics manager for the Investment Conference organized by CFC Consulting and PwC Ukraine/Germany on April 28 in Frankfurt, Germany. At the moment, Maryna is pursuing a Master's degree in corporate management at Kyiv National Economic University.

Viktoriya Volkova '99 received a full scholarship to study international law at Harvard University.

Maryna Yaroshchuk '02 is a project manager at CFC Consulting and is coordinating the supporting events for the 2005 Eurovision Song Contest.

Lviv

Lilia Furman '02 successfully completed the Joint European Project Tempus-Tacis at Leeds Business School and has developed a course in International Business that she is now teaching at the Ternopil Academy of National Economy.

Tetiana Keyvan '03 won a scholarship to participate in the International Student Exchange in Wroclaw, Poland.

Maryana Khokhla '04 won the “Miss Pronunciation” title in the Pedagogical College of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Anton Podilchak '03 won a scholarship to participate in the International Forum in Stockholm, Sweden.

Odesa

Kateryna Komarova '02 took first place at the all-Ukrainian Student English Language Olympiad held in Kyiv in April.

Yulia Nikolayenko '02 works as a consultant for the Investment Promotion Bureau (Odesa State Administration).

Uzbekistan

Hurshida Abdullaeva '04 was awarded an honorary diploma by the director of the Urgench Orphanage for her excellent organization of a concert for orphans. She was also interviewed by the *Khorezmskaya Pravda* newspaper about her U.S. experience.

Bakhodir Akhmedov '97 is working as a marketing manager at the Kelajak ilmi international business school.

Emiliya Asadova '02 and *Olga Li '03* will participate in the Third World Youth Congress in Stirling, Scotland.

Sherzod Atabaev '98 is going to Spain this May to improve his Spanish skills.

Zaripbai Khojaniyazov '03 made a presentation on the U.S. education and small business system in his Theory of Economics class at Karakalpak State University. He explained the differences between U.S. and Uzbekistani education and small business development systems.

Sanjar Khudayberdiev '02 became the general secretary of Westminster International University's student government.

Nargiza Mahkamova '00 is working as a training coordinator at the Markaziy Hotel.

Azim Musaev '95 is working as a visa/consular assistant at the British Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Shahnoza Urunbaeva '03 started work as a receptionist at Le Meridien Tashkent Hotel.

Ilkin Yusibov '03 was accepted as a delegate for the 2005 International Student Festival in Ilmenau, Germany this summer.

Odil Zaripov '03 began work as an interpreter for the Zarafshan Newmont company.