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# June 2005

## FLEX Alumni Report

### Armenia

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#### Yerevan

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**The second group of FLEX Alumni 2005:** The second group of 2005 alumni arrived on June 22 in Yerevan. Elizabeth L. Winship, American Councils country director, Stella Matevosyan '00, FLEX coordinator, and Sona Gabrielyan '04, FLEX alumni assistant, greeted the new FLEX alumni in the airport and welcomed them back home. Lusine Danielyan '00 assisted the American Councils staff with supporting the flight leader, Mada McGill.

**Alumni Panel at Pre-departure Orientation (PDO):** Pre-departure orientation took place in one of the camps in Lusakert, Armenia from June 29 through July 6. Since PDO was held in two cycles, two alumni panels were organized for each cycle. Overall 25 alumni participated in the alumni panels. During the alumni panel session, alumni shared their U.S. experience, talked about their host-families and American high school, friendship, small town life, church and religion, American community, and volunteerism and its vital importance. At the end of the alumni panel, the alumni talked about "Youth For Achievements" alumni association and its activities. Then they joined the FLEX finalists for lunch. As in previous years, alumni performed the traditional and beloved skit "American Dream." During the first cycle the program finalists and alumni had snacks and organized a party to mark those who had June birthdays. During the second cycle, as before, the alumni panel session was held and "American Dream" was performed. Afterwards alumni returned to Yerevan.

**Central European University Presentation:** On June 17, 20 FLEX alumni, together with the Country Director Elizabeth Winship, Undergraduate Program Fellow Meri Kosyan, and FLEX Alumni Assistant Sona Gabrielyan, took part in the Central European University presentation at the Armenia Marriott Hotel.

**Movie Night:** FLEX alumni gathered at the American Councils office to watch a movie organized by the Education Advising Center on June 24. They watched *The Shawshank Redemption*.

**University Presentations:** FLEX alumni gathered at American Councils office to take part in a presentation on Pepperdine University and University of Pennsylvania on June 30.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Alumni Monthly Meeting** will be held in mid-July.
- **English Language Teaching for volunteers of *The Future is Yours* Organization** is planned for July.
- **Re-Entry Seminar 2005** will be held in August.

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## Azerbaijan

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#### Baku

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**Online Forum:** Ten FLEX alumni participated in the online chat forum entitled "Volunteering and Development of Civil Society" on June 1. Peace Corps volunteers, FLEX alumni, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and university students participated in the event. The discussions at the forum were focused on sharing ideas and experiences regarding volunteerism with university students.

**Public Speaking/Presentation Skills Seminar:** Kheyri Alekperov '98 conducted a seminar on public speaking for 12 FLEX alumni on June 4 as part of Professional Development Month. Kheyri created a PowerPoint presentation to share his knowledge and skills with alumni.

**Roundtable Discussion:** Twenty-five FLEX alumni met former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and Close Up Foundation Program Instructor Robert (Bob) Zimmerman on June 6 at the U.S.-Azerbaijan Education Center. Alumni spoke with Bob about the development of civil society in their country and expressed their desire to write essays on their FLEX



experience, which will be included in the book Bob is editing.

**Meeting New FLEX Alumni:** FLEX Program Officer Nigina Abbaszadeh, FLEX Alumni Coordinator Nargiz Hajiyeva '99, Khalida Nurmetova '00, and Samir Mammadli '00 met the 25 new FLEX alumni arriving at the airport on June 21.

**Visual Aids Seminar:** Kheyri Alekperov '98 gave a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of using visual aids when making presentations for 11 FLEX alumni on June 25.

**2005 Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO):** The first cycle of PDO took place June 27-29 and the second cycle was held July 1-3. Alumni from various years participated in the alumni panel and "American Dream" skit. They answered a lot of questions from the new FLEXers, socialized with them, and helped them to get ready for life in the U.S. The alumni and new FLEX students had a disco party after the orientation. Twenty FLEX alumni participated. Samir Mammadli '00 and Khalida Nurmetova '00 were teaching assistants.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Job Fair** is planned for mid-July.
- **Seminar on Volunteerism** will be held in mid-July.
- **New FLEX Alumni Welcome Party** is scheduled for July 17.

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**Belarus**

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**Minsk**

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**Movie Night:** The monthly movie night (*10 Things I Hate About You*) took place at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy on June 21. Fourteen FLEX alumni attended the event. Along with enjoying the movie, they got a chance to share plans for summer and suggest new projects aimed at including 2005 alumni into the community.

**Alumni Panel:** The alumni panel of the pre-departure orientation took place in St. Petersburg, Russia on June 30. Four FLEX alumni, including Dmitriy Dybovskiy '02, Margarita Kuleshova '03, Anastassiia Tarassiouk '03, and Anton Zamoiski '04, took part in the event. Apart from speaking on several relevant issues (preparing for the U.S., volunteerism and community service, religion, clothing, and hygiene), the alumni enjoyed interpersonal communication with the finalists during the evening activities. On July 1 the alumni assisted the American Councils staff in conducting a tour of St. Petersburg for the finalists. Upon getting to Minsk on July 2, the alumni helped with logistics tasks, including taking the finalists to the bus stations.

**Upcoming events:**

- **Re-entry Seminar** is planned for July 28.
- **Movie Night** will be held on July 28.
- **Picnic at the Ambassador's Residence** is scheduled for July 29.

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**Georgia**

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**Tbilisi**

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**Alumni on the Air:** Ketii Botchorishvili '98, Bakur Kvaratskhelia '99, and Irina Rekhviashvili '03 were invited to appear on Channel 1 of Georgian Television on June 1 to talk about the FLEX program, what they gained from this program, and different ways to study abroad.

**American Dream and Alumni Panel Final Rehearsal:** Natia Berianidze '04, Megi Gogishvili '03, Shota Gvaramadze '04, Bakur Kvaratskhelia '99, Irina Kvlividze '03, Sophie Machablashvili '03, and Nini Panjikidze '03 attended the final rehearsal of the "American Dream" skit and alumni panel on June 7 for pre-departure orientation. The same group of people participated in the pre-departure orientation on June 10-13.

## FLEX June 2005 Report

**Trip to Kojori Orphanage:** Fifteen alumni went to the Kojori Orphanage on June 9 to deliver goods purchased using the 1300 GEL gathered at the car wash event. The goods included shirts, shorts, tennis shoes, shampoo, soap, and canned food. The alumni also played various icebreakers and teambuilding games with the orphans throughout the day.

**Meeting with Bob Zimmerman:** Former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and current Close Up Foundation program instructor Robert (Bob) Zimmerman met 13 FLEX alumni on June 16. Bob Zimmerman talked to the alumni about their opinions of the FLEX Program and what has changed in their lives since their U.S. experience. He also recorded everyone's comments on video.

**Second American Dream and Alumni Panel Rehearsals:** A second group of students started rehearsing the "American Dream" skit and alumni panel on June 17 for the second pre-departure orientation cycle. The alumni who participated in this event were Nino Abralava '03, Nino Bakhsoliani '04, Lana Ckhartishvili '04, Giorgi Datiashvili '03, Bakur Kvaratskhelia '99, Irina Kvlividze '03, Maka Meshveliani '04, and Giorgi Nadareishvili '04.

**Meeting with Samuel Eisen:** Twenty alumni attended a meeting with Samuel Eisen, a representative of the U.S. State Department Democracy Programs, on June 24. Mr. Eisen talked about the outcomes of the Rose Revolution and the changes that have been come to pass after it. He also wanted to find out the alumni's views on the subject, so they had the chance to share their ideas on what has been going on in the country since the revolution and what can be done in the future.

**Independence Day Picnic:** A U.S. Independence Day picnic was held on June 26. FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni gathered at Lasha Chkhartishvili's '02 house and made a Georgian "mstvadi" (barbeque). They reminisced about their U.S. experiences and talked about ideas for networking. The alumni also played various teambuilding games and American football.

**Second New FLEX Alumni Arrival:** Giorgi Datiashvili '03, Bakur Kvaratskhelia '98, Tamta Muradashvili '01, Irina Rekhviashvili '03, and Salome Tsereteli '00 greeted the new group of '05 FLEX participants at the airport when they arrived in Tbilisi on June 28.

**FLEX Alumni Reception:** 2005 FLEX alumni and new FLEX finalists attended a reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence on June 30. The alumni shared their U.S. experience with Ambassador Miles and his wife, and the finalists were able to ask questions and get to know the alumni. Other guests in attendance included Deputy Minister of Georgian Ministry of Education and Science Ms. Bella Tsipuria and representatives from American Councils, IREX, and Project Harmony.



### Upcoming Events:

- **Pre-Departure Orientation** in Bakuriani is planned for July 1-4.
- **Soccer Tournament** will be held on July 13.

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## Kazakhstan

### Almaty

**Alumni Planning Meeting:** On June 5, 18 FLEX alumni gathered for a monthly planning meeting at the Alumni Resource Center of the Almaty American Councils Office. The group planned alumni activities for the summer. They discussed the upcoming elections of the Alumni Association and the 7<sup>th</sup> AWESome Day clean-up. Before starting the planning of these activities, alumni shared their news and success stories. Then alumni chose the most convenient dates for upcoming events. They decided to hold elections for Alumni Association President on Sunday, June 12. They moved the AWESome Day clean-up to June 25 at the suggestion of Elena Norakidze '99, who proposed to conduct it with the help of the returning Kazakhstan and Tajikistan '05 FLEX alumni. FLEX alumni present were Alfia Abdрахmanova '04, Aziz Abdukarimov '00, Aslan Abzhakov '02,

Assel Baltabayeva '04, Zhibek Karamanova '03, Diana Kudaibergenova '04, Damir Kukanov '02, Aliya Moldakhanova '04, Galina Nevernaya '04, Lena Norakidze '99, Shakhida Sadyrova '02, Mariya Shafigova '03, Alexander Parfyonov '04, Marzhan Serekova '04, Yelena Sotnikova '04, Yegor Syo '04, Gulnaz Ukasova '03, and Gulnur Yessenbayeva '04.

**FLEX Alumni Association Presidential Elections:** This spring Alumni Association President Elena Norakidze '99 received an Open Society Institute full scholarship to study for a Master's degree at Columbia University. Elena Norakidze has been one of the most active and dedicated alumni since she returned from the U.S. in 1999. She is one of Kazakhstan's FLEX grant-winners and the first female president of Kazakhstan FLEX Alumni Association. After being notified about the scholarship, Elena announced her resignation at the May 20 alumni meeting, and asked alumni to choose a date for election of a new Alumni Association president. On June 12, 15 alumni took part in the elections. Four candidates competed, though the main battle for the presidency was between Kazakhstan Alumni Assistant Aslan Abzhakov '02 and the leader of '04 alumni Yegor Syo. By results of the secret vote, Aslan Abzhakov '02 received a majority of votes, and became the new president of the Kazakhstan Alumni Association. Yegor Syo '04 became the vice-president of the Association. Elena solemnly handed down the seal, sign and official documentation of the Association to the new president of the Association, and Aslan Abzhakov '02 was sworn in.

**AWESome Day – 2005:** On June 25, 19 Almaty alumni, five Kazakhstani and 26 new Tajikistani FLEX alumni participated in the American Councils' 7<sup>th</sup> annual AWESome (Almaty World Environment) Day Clean-up. This year's clean-up took place at the Turgen Falls National Park, which is famous for its seven waterfalls. This location, one of the most popular sites of recreation for Almaty residents and tourists, attracts many people who come to enjoy a picnic in a beautiful natural setting. Unfortunately, many such visitors do not clean after themselves, leaving garbage along the banks and paths. The territory, though considered a national park, has no regular maintenance. For this reason, Almaty alumni decided to conduct the AWESome Day Clean up there this year. They collected trash not only near the tourist stops, but also along the banks and the routes. Most other visitors were surprised to see a huge group of FLEX alumni collecting the garbage and carrying trash bags. Overall, alumni collected around 50 bags full of trash during the clean-up. Though it was not easy to carry the bags to the bus station along the narrow, rocky paths, they took turns and managed to bring all the trash bags to the trash containers area near the bus stop. Then, after taking a short break and snacks, alumni played soccer, volleyball and badminton. The clean-up team included Aslan Abzhakov '02, Dina Astayeva '04, Diana Azhikova '04, Assel Baltabayeva '04, Zhibek Karamanova '03, Dina Karibayeva '04, Gaukhar Kenzhaliyeva '99, Diana Kudaibergenova '04, Damir Kukanov '02, Ainur Kuttumuratova '02, Marzhan Serekova '04, Lena Norakidze '99, Alexander Parfyonov '04, Ayazhan Seitkazina '03, Yekaterina Serebryannaya '04, Marzhan Serekova '04, Mariya Shafigova '03, Yegor Syo '04, and Veronica Syrlybayeva '04.

### Upcoming events:

- **Alumni Meeting** will be held on July 3.
- **First Pre-departure Orientation** begins on July 10.
- **Second Pre-departure Orientation** begins on July 17.
- **Charity Event** will be held at the Oblast Orphanage #1 on July 29.

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## Kyrgyzstan

### Bishkek

**FLEX Pre-departure Orientation (PDO) for Kyrgyzstani Finalists:** Askar Sheraliev '03 and Elnura Adylova '02 participated in organizing and running the pre-departure orientation for FLEX finalists in Kashka–Suu camp from June 24-July 3. Working as teaching assistants, they teamed up with Peace Corps Volunteers Erik Fritz and Rebecca Painter to teach this year's FLEX finalists about cultural differences and strategies for problem solving as exchange students. Throughout the PDO many FLEX alumni helped with logistics. Also during the teaching sessions, alumni have shared their experiences and helped to picture possible differences and difficulties that could be faced by the future alumni. Participants included Azamat Alibaev '04, Mir-Aziz Baihadjaev '04, Jyldiz Beishenalieva '02, Elena Haromova '04, Eleonora Nam '04, Joldoshbek Osmonov '04, Aleksandra Sidorenko '04, Nargiza Sultanova '04, Aliya Suranova '04, Mirbek Sydykov '04, Maya Toktorbaeva '04, and Kseniya Tsoy '04.

## FLEX June 2005 Report

**Soccer Game at Juvenile Detention Center:** On June 12, under the leadership of Boris Pilipenko '99 and Sergey Firsov '00, in cooperation with IATP/IREX undergraduate exchange program and the DAAD German educational center, FLEX alumni visited a juvenile detention center. Alumni responded to the call of the juvenile detention center administration in their attempt to restore a positive attitude in youths' behavior by initiating guest visits if the detainees comply with the center's rules. Alumni played a friendly soccer match with the teens, which to everyone's amazement turned out to be very difficult for both teams. Alumni won by only one goal, after a penalty kick. After the game alumni gave out soccer T-shirts, sports shoes, balls, drinks, and sweets. In return, the boys presented alumni their hand-made souvenirs and promised to keep up their excellent behavior in order to participate in a rematch set for early fall.

### Upcoming events:

- **Partnership for Learning (PL4) Youth Exchange Study (YES) Pre-Departure Orientation** begins July 3.
- **Alumni Monthly Meeting** is scheduled for August 10.
- **Summer Leadership Camp** will begin August 13.
- **Technology and Leadership Project** is being developed to take place September 5-16.

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## Moldova

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### Chisinau

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**Bridges Between Us (BBU) Monthly Training:** Nine FLEX alumni attended the BBU training session on portfolio development held by Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program Alumna Veronica Cacean '03 on June 11. Veronica discussed the general definition of a portfolio, guidelines to follow when organizing a portfolio, and also administered four tests intended to help the alumni better understand their personalities and abilities when seeking employment.

**Group Leadership Training:** Ana Ciudnaia '01, Igor Garabajiv '03, Tatiana Jordan '01, and Nadejda Terente '99 attended the second group leadership training session on June 25. Peace Corps Volunteer Knowles Wentworth held the workshop, which was dedicated to the concept of "I" and different sub-personalities. The concept of sub-personalities was first explained, as were the benefits of such, often subconscious, behavioral changes. The alumni were given tips on how to be a good listener and practiced this skill by sharing stories with other group members. Overall, the alumni became more aware of different aspects of their personality and how to take advantage of them.

### Ungheni

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**Bridges Between Us (BBU) Ungheni Team Project:** Lilia Fusa '04 conducted the "Rediscovering Gender Roles" event on June 14 at the Regional Youth Center in Ungheni for ten teenagers as the second BBU team project. The event was meant to discuss gender-related problems, increase the participants' ability to overcome such problems, teach the difference between sex and gender, and explain the concept of stereotypes. Different activities were held to illustrate issues such as common gender-based attitudes towards household chores and situations when gender-related problems arise.

### Soroca

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**Bridges Between Us (BBU) Soroca Team Project:** Ana Ceban '04, Alina Graur '04, and Cristina Gutu '04 held their "Fourth of July Cards" project at the ICAR daycare center in Soroca on June 30. The alumni talked about the importance and history of Independence Day in the U.S. and compared it to Independence Day in Moldova. The children then made Fourth of July cards, which were sent to various organizations that work with youth.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Second Cahul Bridges Between Us Team Project** is planned for July 2.
- **Pre-Departure Orientation Program** is scheduled for July 5-8/12-15.
- **FLEX English as a Foreign Language Alumni Panel** will be held on July 14.
- **Professional Development Portfolio Project, Part II** is planned for July 16.

- **English Summer Camp** will take place on July 23-30.

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## Russia

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### Kirov

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**Kazan Alumni Volunteer for Operation Smile Mission:** Operation Smile is a volunteer project to provide facial surgery to disadvantaged children who are born with deformities. Kazan FLEX alumni worked as translators and guides for doctors from Operation Smile June 23-July 1. During those days, five FLEX alumni became an indivisible part of the Operation Smile team. They are Yuliana Amanova '03, Lilya Bikbaeva '03, Gulnar Gilfanova '96, Lilya Mukhamedzhanova '00, and Adel Salekhova '01.

#### Upcoming Events:

- FLEX alumni will work at two **Summer English Language Camps** for youth in Kazan, June 27-July 15.
- **Re-entry Seminar** for 2005 FLEX alumni and alumni meeting is planned for July 29.

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

### Moscow

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**Meeting with Representatives of Houston's Junior Chamber of Commerce:** Eight FLEX alumni and Mary Shea, FLEX alumni coordinator, met seven representatives of Houston's Junior Chamber of Commerce on June 3. Mary Shea talked about the FLEX program, its aims, and value. Alumni continued by speaking about their U.S. experience and how they use it back at home. Alan Luedemann, the chief of the visiting team, told about the goal of their visit, which was running a project known as the Consular Forum, each year honoring a country. This is the 54<sup>th</sup> year of their project, and they are honoring Russia. Alumni also discussed the opportunity to have an online forum devoted to certain issues with students from Texas universities, where some of the guests work. Alumni who came to the meeting were Maria Chizhnikova '99, Tatyana Florya '95, Oleg Koninin '99, Anton Melnikov '98, Aleksey Rumyantsev '95, Yulia Tell '02, Yegor Tsarev '96, and Anna Yermakova '02.

**Senior FLEX Alumni Reunion:** More than 60 senior FLEX alumni of years '94-'98 participated in this event, which took place at the U.S. Embassy Dacha on June 4. The Senior Alumni Reunion was the initiative of senior FLEX alumni, who were interested in finding lost friends, renew their communication, and plan new projects together. The reunion started with a traditional icebreaker, to acquaint everyone. Then Tatyana Karpova '96 and



Ekaterina Ivanova '96, the two main organizers from the senior initiative group, greeted everyone and told about the aims of this senior meeting. Alumni had a chance to work in small groups, brainstorm their ideas, and then make presentations on several topics. Alumni discussed possibilities for professional development and business communication, charity projects with junior alumni, and future social events. Each group, after discussing possible ideas, presented the ones that gained support among them. Alumni planned to hold a series of professional development seminars and lectures, as well as meetings with interesting people this fall. They thought about the possibility of doing this together with Eurasia Undergraduate

alumni. As for charity projects, alumni got very inspired by the idea of renewing the Annual Spring Ball that used to be held each year. They said that they really miss this event and are ready to work as a team with junior alumni and the alumni office to make it happen in the coming spring. After the group presentations alumni played volleyball and badminton, had a picnic, and socialized. More than 60 alumni from Moscow and other cities attended the event.

**Alumni Panels and Presentation of the "American Dream":** FLEX alumni came to share their experience with the FLEX finalists at pre-departure orientations, which took place on June 22 and 27. Alumni talked on the topics such as small-town life, male-female roles in American society, the role of religion in the U.S., importance of volunteerism, gave advice about clothing, how to prepare, and what to take to the states. After the panel alumni continued communicating with FLEX finalists in informal atmosphere. Alumni staged "Vasya's

American Dream,” the main goal of which is to explain that the reality is neither horrible, nor perfect. Alumni who worked as teaching assistants and logistics assistants during the PDOs were Yelena Intsertova '02 (Ryazan), Elena Kim '00 (Tambov), Andrey Konyaev '00, Anna Shishkova '99 (Vladimir), and Yelizaveta Slyusareva '02 (Kaliningrad). Alumni who came specifically for alumni panels and the skit were Ksenia Alekseyeva '04, Nina Batiashvili '01, Natalya Butakova '01, Vladimir Ivanov '01, Roman Khudaleev '04, Dmitry Mironenko '98, Alisa Oleyarnik '01, and Yulia Tell '02.

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## Ryazan

**Ryazan IATP Center Opening and Monthly Meeting:** Ryazan alumni of different U.S. Government-sponsored programs attended the IATP opening on June 15. Vyacheslav Zaychikov, coordinator of Ryazan IATP Center, welcomed everyone and spoke about the goals of the Internet Access and Training Program. Dmitriy Polyakov '98, an official Project Harmony representative, who is currently Regional IATP Coordinator for Central and Northwestern regions of Russia, continued his speech. Tatiana Kolosnitsyna represented American Councils and met with the Ryazan FLEX alumni. Deborah Sisbarro, Public Affairs Section representative from the U.S. Embassy, also gave welcoming remarks and together with Vyacheslav Zaychikov and Dmitry Polyakov officially opened the IATP Center. Representatives of Ryazan city administration also gave a speech at the event. Alumni who participated in the event were Yulia Bondarenko '04, Lena Intsertova '02 and Dmitriy Polyakov '98.

### Upcoming events:

- **U.S. Independence Day Celebration** will take place July 2 at Kuskovo estate (organized by American Chamber of Commerce).
- **Alumni Panels and Presentation of the “American Dream”** at pre-departure orientations will continue on July 4 and 9.
- **Tolerance Theatre Performance** will be shown on July 12 in All-Russia Foreign Languages Library.
- **Re-entry Seminar #1** for alumni 2005 is scheduled for July 27.

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## Novosibirsk

**Preparations for PDO.** During June, Darya Afonasyova '01, Alexander Nozdrin '01, and Alexandra Moironova '00 met several times at the American Councils office to assist the PDO teaching assistants Bella Struminskaya '02 and Tatiana Popova '03 to prepare PDO materials. These alumni helped to make flip charts and worked out many organizational issues. They also prepared for the group of alumni volunteers to travel with finalists to the PDO in Yekaterinburg. They plan to escort the FLEX finalists by train to and from Yekaterinburg by train. Alumni participating were Darya Afonasyova '01, Elene Khruleva '01, Alexandra Mironova '00, Valery Mun '03, Alex Nozdrin '01, Alexey Poleshchuk '02, and Tanya Veretennikova '00 (Omsk).

### Upcoming events:

- **Yekaterinburg Pre-departure Orientation** will take place July 5-13.
- **Re-entry Seminar** is planned for August.

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## St. Petersburg

**Tolerance Theater Performance:** On July 25, FLEX alumni attended a performance of *The Laramie Project* by the Tolerance Theater. The play focused on tolerance to various types of minorities and was based on an event that happened in the state of Wyoming and is performed by a group of Eurasia Undergraduate and FLEX program alumni. The alumni and actors had a long discussion afterwards, during which they considered possible changes in the play. They also talked about the preparation process and the experiences the alumni actors have had performing the play in different regions of Russia. Pavel Fyodorov '01, Ekaterina Gavrilenko '03, Igor Gots '01, Nadezhda Ilyina '00, Natalia Makarova '99, and Natalia Martikainen '99 attended and discussed the play.

**Alumni Panel at Belarus Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO):** Ekaterina Gavrilenko '03, Igor Gots '01, Rimma Lesheva '02, Rifat Muratov '01, Roza Vasilieva '04, and Maria Zolotokrylina '02 joined three Belarus FLEX alumni and Belarus FLEX Alumni Assistant Anastasiya Tarassiouk '03 on the alumni panel held during the Belarus PDO held in Zelenogorsk on June 30. The alumni shared their U.S. experience with the new participants and answered questions. They then performed the traditional "American Dream" play before having an informal conversation and bonfire on the beach.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Fourth of July Celebration with American Students** will be held on July 6.
- **Alumni Panel** at the North-West Russia Pre-Departure Orientation is scheduled for July 12.

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**Samara**

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**Human Rights Discussion:** Representatives of the administration of Samara Oblast were invited to give a lecture on the implementation of the world human rights standards in Russia for alumni of various U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs on June 7 at the American Corner. The audience was excited to discuss various elements of the regional administration's politics regarding various nationalities residing in the territory in the Oblast. FLEX alumni Valeria Baburina '99, Valentina Dolgikh '02, Elena Pastukhova '00 and Olga Shakhova '00 were attentive listeners and active participants of the discussion.

**Monthly Alumni Meeting:** Valentina Dolgikh '02, Ekaterina Gafarova '03, Irina Malakhovskaya '98, Elena Pastukhova '00, Olga Shakhova '00, Anna Shegurova '04, and Alexandra Visloguzova '04 met on June 6 at the Samara Municipal Institute of Management to discuss the upcoming visit to the Children's Orphanage in Bogdanovka and share the project duties among the interested alumni.

**Psychological Trainings:** Workshops with Marina Nikonova continued at Samara State University on June 15 and 23. Valentina Dolgikh '02, Ekaterina Gafarova '03, Elena Pastukhova '00, Elizaveta Spiridonova '03, Alexandra Visloguzova '04 and several of their friends participated in exercises and tests offered by the trainer. Ms. Nikonova helped alumni become more interested in examining their personalities and further developing their knowledge of psychology. During the training they analyzed their personal interests, habits and professional plans.

**Orphanage Visit:** Irina Malakhovskaya '98 and American Alumni Club member Leonid Volpin teamed up to arrange for the delivery of toys and clothes to the orphanage in Bogdanovka, Samarskaya Oblast on June 17. Leonid Volpin provided a car and Anna Shegurova '04 and Olga Shakhova '00 delivered the presents to the orphanage and took part in a small party organized by the staff of the orphanage.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Independence Day** will be celebrated in alliance with the American Alumni Club and the Foreign Club of Samara on June 8.
- **Monthly Alumni Meeting** will take place at the IATP Center at the end of July. Alumni will discuss their summer plans and schedule the re-entry seminar for the new members of the alumni community.
- **Training at the IATP Center**, originally scheduled for June, will be held in July. Alumni will continue to study Excel and select another topic for the next workshops.

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**Vladivostok**

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**"We are Together" Charity Rock Festival:** American Councils and the Primorskiy Krai Youth Parliament organized the "We are Together" charity rock festival to raise money for the Children Oncology Department of the Vladivostok Children's Hospital. Five popular bands agreed to play at the concert, which was advertised for free on well-known local radio stations. American Councils Office Director Denis Boyle, Youth Parliament Chairman Alexander Maltsev, Children Oncology Department Head Ludmila Mikhailovna Minkina, and FLEX Alumni Assistant Polina Zavyalova held a press conference on May 31 for the mass media where they talked about the rock festival and International Day of Children Protection. American Councils and Youth Parliament

representatives presented gifts from *Novosti* newspaper to the Children's Oncology Department on June 1 before the festival began. Ekaterina Mullinova and Polina Zavyalova '00 were the masters of ceremonies at the concert, and various contests were held with prizes donated from a popular clothing store. An auction was held between the musical acts. Overall, more than 250 people attended the rock festival, and over 20,690 rubles (approximately \$750) were raised. Anna Garshina '99, Pavel Khizhnyak '96, Anna Koneva '99, Valentina Yurenok '98, and Polina Zavyalova '00 were present at the event

**The Laramie Project in Vladivostok:** On June 9, FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program alumni arrived in Vladivostok as a part of the well-known Tolerance Theater. Vladivostok alumni gathered at the American Councils Office to greet the guests and take part in the "Social Youth Problems in European Russia" and "Differences in the Perception of the Tolerance Issue between Western and Eastern Russia" discussions. On June 10, Vladivostok alumni, their friends and relatives, and also people who simply heard about the project attended the play *The Laramie Project* that was performed at Pushkinskiy Theater. After the play everybody discussed tolerance and talked about better ways of promoting tolerance in our society. Alumni present: Anastasia Aleshkina '04, Olga Bukach '04, Liliya Doronina '95, Anna Garshina '99, Artem Myachin '05, Ekaterina Pavlova '03, Anastasia Prokonich '02, Dmitriy Shatokhin '02, and Polina Zavyalova '00.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Pre-Departure Orientation** for FLEX Finalists is scheduled for June 25-July 7.
- **American Culture Night** will be held on July 12.

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

## Volgograd

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**New Alumni Assistant:** Natalia Bochkareva '01, the new alumni assistant for southern Russia, made preparations for the monthly alumni meeting. She talked to Natalia Kozinchuk, the coordinator of Russian American Center in Volgograd, to set the date and time for the meeting. She also sent out the introduction letter with a questionnaire for alumni to fill in, so that she'd have the information about the most suitable time for them to attend the meeting.

**Invitations to the Disability Symposium:** Natalia Bochkareva called the disabled alumni in southern Russia to invite them to the Disability Symposium that will be held in Moscow in September. She reached Nadezhda Silkina '98 (Rostov-on-Don), Vladimir Tereschenko '99 (Volgograd), and Yegor Solopov '98 (Volgograd), who expressed interest in participating.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly Alumni Meeting** will be held on July 1.
- **Seminar on Full Text Databases** is scheduled for July 14.

**Contact:** Volgograd Alumni Natalia Bochkareva '01 [southernflex@mail.ru](mailto:southernflex@mail.ru).

## Yekaterinburg

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**Alumni Meetings:** Alumni meetings were held on June 12 and 25 in order to prepare for pre-departure orientations. Yelizaveta Gladkovskaya '95, Antonina Ivanova '04, Ilya Korobeinikov '04, Mariya Rostovtseva '04, Natalya Shipulina '03, and Mariya Yelovikova '04 were in attendance. American Councils staff members Yelena Grischchenko and Stephen Houtsma attended both meetings as well.

**Pre-Departure Orientation Alumni Panel:** Vera Aminova '03, Yelizaveta Gladkovskaya '95, Antonina Ivanova '04, Yelena Khruleva '02, Ilya Korobeinikov '04, Ruslan Nechay '02, Mariya Rostovtseva '04, Svetlana Shammassova '99, Natalya Shipulina '03, and Yelizaveta Zyryanova '04 assisted during the pre-departure orientation alumni panel on June 29. They talked to FLEX finalists and presented the "American Dream" skit. Yelena Khruleva '02 and Svetlana Shammassova '99 were chosen to work as teaching assistants during Pre-Departure Orientation.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Pre-Departure Orientation** in Yekaterinburg will be held on June 28-July 9.
- **“Welcome Home” Picnic** is planned for the end of July.

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

**Tajikistan**

**Dushanbe**

**International Children’s Day in Khujand:** On June 1, 10 FLEX and Undergraduate Program alumni from the Sugd region visited orphanage *Dom Malyutki* in Khujand. Alumni brought cakes, soft drinks, and toys for 40 children (from newborn to the age of seven). Alumni visited all four groups, divided by age, played various games, and talked with children and with the people who work there. Alumni found out that the orphanage is supported not only by government, but also some organizations and some families support the orphans. Especially orphans receive attention on the children’s day and on the religious holidays *Idi Ramadan* and *Kurban*. Alumni felt that they were very welcomed by children and that such orphans indeed need more attention and support. Naimjon Avezov '00 expressed the idea to make such visits more regular and to organize fundraisers for them. Naimjon Avezov '00, Bahrom Babajanov '04, Alibek Djumankulov '04, Mehrangez Ismailova '03, Shakhnoza Nazimova '03, Sheroz Negmatov '04, Lola Usmanova '04, and Takhmina Yusupova '04 participated.

**Meet New Alumni:** On June 1, Dan Stanley, program officer of American Councils, Alisher Akilov '04, Nadejda Tretyakova '95, and Khurshed Isamov '04 welcomed back 16 alumni of 2005. The new alumni arrived from Kazakhstan early in the morning.

**International Children’s Day in Dushanbe:** In advance of a June 3 International Children's Day celebration, FLEX and Undergraduate Program alumni organized a fundraiser on May 29 to cover the expenses for the upcoming event. The alumni raised money by selling movie tickets, which is a quick and proven method among alumni in Dushanbe. Fifteen FLEX alumni participated in the June 3 celebration. One group of alumni decorated the local cinema with balloons and flowers. Another group of alumni drove to orphanages #1 and #2 to escort the children to the cinema. The alumni distributed colored T-shirts to orphans in order to differentiate which children came from each orphanage. That morning alumni met the children at the cinema with smiles and balloons. Most children, who were between the ages of 7-12, enjoyed playing games such as “Dragon, Prince and Princes,” “Tom & Jerry,” and “Pantomime.” The children liked drawing on the ground. One child drew a flower for his mom, which touched the hearts of alumni. The best drawings were awarded prizes, and the rest of the orphans received gifts such as miniature cars, jump ropes, toy cell phones, teddy bears, water pistols, etc. After lunch the children watched the cartoon "Spirit." In addition to the funds raised by selling movie tickets, the event was made possible by donations from alumni and other private sources. Jennifer Washeleski, public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy, Dan Stanley, American Councils program officer, and Matluba Mamajanova, American Councils country director joined the alumni in the celebration.

**Pre-departure Orientation (PDO) Alumni Panel:** On June 28, 14 alumni participated in the alumni panel of the first group of finalist of 2006. Alumni discussed such issues such as religion, hygiene and clothing, life in a small town, friendship, male and female roles, volunteering, alumni association, packing, etc. During the panel, finalists asked different questions concerning these topics. Alumni encouraged the students to be active from the first day of their visit to the U.S. and always take a first step in order to make friends. After the panel alumni performed the skit “American Dream,” where they showed the finalists not to expect that everything will be perfect in the U.S.: big houses, big schools, fame, etc. Later, after the skit, alumni and finalists had American hamburgers and ice-cream and chatted with Jennifer Washeleski, Public Affairs officer from the U.S. Embassy, and Evan McCarthy, Counsel, U.S. Embassy.



**Central Park Visit with Orphans from Orphanage #2:** On June 30, seven FLEX and Undergraduate Program alumni escorted 12 children from orphanage #1 with mental disabilities to Central Park. The orphans, who were five and six years old, especially enjoyed the ride in a carriage around the park. Before lunch alumni asked the orphans to read poems or sing their favorite songs. All the children were awarded prizes brought by alumni such as teddy bears and dolls. Then they visited the children's café *Mishutka* for lunch. The orphans had an opportunity to play with balloons and small balls while waiting for their lunch. After in a while, alumni and the kids started to dance. Alumni created a very friendly atmosphere that made the orphans feel happy. Then, when the lunch was over, the alumni took them for the walk. These children were eager to share their impressions with alumni, talking and laughing all the way to the orphanage. Alumni included Miskola Abdulloeva '02, Inomjon Igamov '05, Farhonda Mirboboeva '05, Shahnoza Nazimova '03, Parvina Odilova '05, Faridun Sharipov '05, and Munisa Usmanova '04.

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## **Khujand**

**Educational System of the U.S. Lecture:** On June 16, Alibek Djumankulov '04 conducted a lecture for 10 high school students in Khujand about the systems of education in the U.S. and Tajikistan. During the lecture high school students asked many questions related to the topic and possibilities to attend high school in the United States. Alibek shared information about FLEX program.

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## **Khorog**

**Career Development Seminar in Khorog:** On June 21, Khirad Kargasov '99 organized a Career Development Seminar for six graduate students of Khorog University. Khirad decided to organize the event, when he found out that many of the students had problems finding jobs upon graduation, though they were good students. They simply they didn't know how to apply and what to do next. Khirad Kargasov '99 put together a presentation, which covered many of the key elements of seeking, finding, and securing a job. He talked to them about job search methods, resume writing, interviewing, and then negotiating and accepting an offer.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **University Research Workshop for '05 Alumni** will be held on July 9.
- **Summer Immersion Leadership Camp** will take place July 22-27.
- **"Wonderland" Project** implementation are planned for July 28-31.

**Contact:** Dushanbe FLEX Alumni Assistant Miskola Abdulloeva '02, [flexalum@americancouncils.tj](mailto:flexalum@americancouncils.tj) +992 72) 21-21-03

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## **Turkmenistan**

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### **Ashgabat**

**FLEX Alumni Host Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in Ashgabat:** On June 11, FLEX alumni Maxat Annamuradov '05, Yusup Ashirov '03, Nadejda Li '04, Bahar Nuriyeva '02, Ahmed Tagiyev '04, and Kristina Razahova '04 hosted the first Ultimate Frisbee Tournament at *Kopetdag* Stadium. More than 80 people came to watch the game between two Ashgabat co-ed teams. The girls from the "Dance Team" demonstrated their dances and cheerleading techniques for the competing teams. Ultimate Frisbee is an exciting, non-contact team sport, played by thousands all over the world. FLEX alumni continue bringing new elements of American culture to Turkmen society.

**Alumni Reunion 2005:** More than 15 FLEX alumni took part in the nationwide Alumni Reunion June 17-19 on the shore of the Caspian Sea near the city Turkmenbashi. The U.S. Embassy, American Councils for International Education, and IREX collaborated to organize this event. From more than 60 alumni representing U. S. Government-sponsored programs, the majority were FLEX alumni from all the regions of Turkmenistan. Sergey Atliyev '01 led a session entitled "Community Projects" and talked about his organizing experience and his upcoming trip to Scotland, where he will represent Turkmenistan at the World Youth Congress 2005. FLEX alumni participated in all sessions, and also served as facilitators. For example, Bahar Agayeva '02, who works as an administrative assistant at IREX, facilitated the Fundraising session; Bahar Nuriyeva '02 and Kristina Razahova '04, who work for American Councils, talked about team building and facilitated different games and exercises. Alumni from different regions of Turkmenistan shared ideas on alumni activities and creating an alumni network. The reunion motivated alumni to conduct activities and become more involved in the alumni association.

**FLEX Alumni Meeting:** On June 6, new FLEX alumni were greeted by the American Councils staff and introduced to FLEX alumni community. They learned about alumni events and opportunities. Serdar Karliev '04, Nadejda Li '04, and Mariya Papina '04 highlighted the year's best alumni activities. During the meeting the '05 alumni talked about building their alumni network. They also discussed upcoming events.

## **Turkmenabat**

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**Door to Turkmen-American Friendship:** On June 5, U.S. Peace Corps volunteers Matthew Smiggs, Leo Dion, Kelly Good, Carmen Drickey, together with Sabina Huseyinova '03 and Jeyran Babajanova '04, tested children for the Lebap Children's Camp at the American Corner. FLEX alumni took an active part in helping to organize the testing. About 80 Lebap secondary school students, from both remote regions as well as nearby areas, competed for places in the camp. Organizers were pleased with the high level of interest in the program, and concluded that it is a good indicator of the increased awareness of the importance of English language in today's world. Information on each applicant's English speaking abilities and personal skills was gathered for further evaluation.

**FLEX Alumni Run World Environmental Day: Local Action For A Global Solution:** The American Corner hosted an ecology awareness alumni event for 11 people on June 6. Dovlet Babajanov '04, Sabina Huseyinova '03, Nazira Jorayeva '04, Roman Kurbnov '04, and Serdar Yoldashev '04 gave the presentation. Sabina introduced basic concepts, defined terms, and explained global environmental conditions and their long term potential effects. The alumni then facilitated a discussion in which they asked the audience to express their views and identify local needs. At the close of the presentation, alumni suggested 60 ways to contribute to a globally safe environment. The group considered them, and after some debate and revision, chose ideas that they could apply in the local community. Eleven people learned about the history, nature and importance of World Environmental Day, and made individual and group plans for action.

**Father's Day Celebration:** Twelve eighth and ninth graders participated in a Father's Day celebration on June 17 at the American Corner. Anna Jorayeva '02 told about the history of this holiday and highlighted its importance in American culture. Participants held a discussion on the possibility of adapting this American practice into Turkmenistan's social life. Then the group made Father's Day cards.

**World Refugee Day Celebration by TEA Alumnus and FLEX Alumni:** On June 20, TEA alumnus '00 Mars Hasanov, Dovlet Babajanov '04, Sabina Huseyinova '03, and Farhad Yagmurov '04 made a presentation about World Refugee Day at the American Corner Turkmenabat. Ten Afghan refugees attended the event. Sabina Huseyinova '03 and Farhad Yagmurov '04 introduced participants to the historical background of the holiday and led a brief discussion about the role of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) in the region. Then participants shared their experiences of abandoning their homes and relatives, as well as the hardships they faced in the first years. At the end of the activity, the participants treated attendees with national Afghan food. The attendees learned about Afghan culture and expanded their knowledge of the global issue of refugees. The goal of this discussion was to help people become more tolerant.

**Alumni Meeting:** On June 24, Sabina Huseyinova '03 held an alumni meeting at the American Corner for ten alumni. Sabina welcomed FLEX 2005 alumni and explained the role of American Corner and alumni for them. Then participants shared their ideas about activities of the center for the upcoming month. The purpose of the meeting was to motivate the alumni to take an active part in community life of the region. New alumni were encouraged to initiate and take part in community development activities and drafted the activity calendar for the next month.

## **Turkmenbashi**

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**Summer Camp in Akdash:** Jahan Allaberdiyeva '02 and Irada Abbasova '02 served as summer camp counselors at a camp run by Peace Corps volunteers of the Balkan Region in the village of Akdash. They taught the children about team building, leadership skills, and the basics of health care. Summer camp, which ran from June 6 – 9, consisted of sessions on health care/nutrition, English classes, healthy living, sport activities, drama, and geography. During the camp, Jahan and Irada also helped to improve participants' understanding of American culture.

**Environment Day:** Minara Ismailova '04 led an Environment Day meeting for ten students and visitors of the American Corner on June 6. At the beginning of the meeting, Minara Ismailova presented the background and the mission of Environment Day around the world. She invited the participants to discuss environmental issues in different parts of the world and specifically in Turkmenistan. The group met a second time and watched the film *The Day After Tomorrow*. This movie showed examples of environmental problems that human beings face in the world. In conclusion, participants talked over the topic and share their ideas regarding possibilities to protect surrounded us environment.

**English Classes for Doctors:** Each Tuesday in June, Arzuv Talapova '04 assisted Peace Corps volunteer Laura Myerburg in teaching English to doctors from the Turkmenbashi hospital and health public organizations at the American Corner. Fourteen doctors attended the English language classes. During the lesson participants reviewed the material and learned vocabulary relating to anatomy. The doctors take these classes because they understand that English will allow them to communicate and develop cooperation with local organizations, foreigners, and coworkers.

**Father's Day in America Presentation:** Aleksandr Slabousov '05 conducted a presentation about Father's Day in America on June 17. He spoke to a group of ten about how American people celebrate Father's Day. Aleksandr explained how Americans try to make this day special for their fathers. The goal of the presentation was to introduce American culture and traditions to local people. Moreover, he was talking about how his host family celebrated this holiday.

**Cultural Exchange of Knowledge Regarding the Pollution of the Caspian Sea:** Minara Ismailova '04 organized a beach clean-up on the coast of the Caspian Sea on June 18. Twenty-one people, including students and their parents, divided into four teams to clean specific areas. Iyera Askerova '04 also participated in this beach clean-up project. After the clean-up the team relaxed together. They organized different contests and games during the day. Participants watched American movies and listened to music as well. In the middle of the day, Minara Ismailova organized a small discussion (with games and tests about the Caspian Sea) about the project on which she had been working throughout the year. Students were honest and open to sharing their knowledge and ideas about future plans on ecology and other environmental issues. At the closing ceremony, volunteers were awarded certificates and presents for their active participation through the year.

**Summer School "Bring Light into the Lives of Disabled Children":** Olga Rodionova '03 organized a summer school from June 22 to June 25 for the local orphanage. For three days Olga and other counselors played different sports and did crafts with orphans. The first day was full of games and activities that made the children and memorize new things. Activities included puzzles, crosswords, and games requiring remembering and analyzing. On the second day they worked on arts and crafts. The children enjoyed expressing themselves through fun activities. On the last day the children played different sports games, which were both entertaining and challenging. For instance, children had to bob for apricots or eat apples in the best record time. In addition, they competed in running races and played games a ball.

**Alumni Monthly Meeting:** On June 24, ten alumni gathered at the American Corner for discussion and planning for next month. During the meeting alumni talked about their American experiences. Older alumni talked about the roles in the alumni association and about the project that they have done and are planning to realize. New alumni spoke up with fresh ideas in order to improve the alumni network among the regions. At the end they held a welcome party for the new alumni. New alumni introduced themselves to alumni as well as to the Peace Corps volunteers. Alumni who attended the meeting were Irada Abbasova '02, Jahan Allaberdiyeva '02, Myahri Annayeva '05, Iyera Askerova '04, Mammet Dovgeldiyev '05, Yulia Hayrutdinova '04, Alina Penjjeva '04, Kristina Razahova '04, Aleksandr Slabousov '05, and Arzuv Talapova '04.

**Roundtable - American Bar Association Guest Speaker:** On June 28, Jennet Myalikgulyeva, Program Assistant, Law Initiative from the American Bar Association, led a roundtable with people from Turkmenbashi to discuss gender issues in modern society. Irada Abbasova '02, Myahri Annayeva '05, Mammet Dovgeldiyev '05, and Diana Martirosova '05 participated. At the opening the audience was asked to complete some exercises in order to get to know each other better. During the event Jennet Malikgulyeva talked about the issues of men's and women's rights, referring to the constitution of Turkmenistan. Participants had a chance to speak up and share their opinions and thoughts.

**How to Prepare a Presentation Discussion:** On June 29, Kristina Razahova '04 trained five new FLEX alumni on how to make an effective presentation. Kristina talked about topics such as presentation skills, listening techniques, planning, and important verbal and non-verbal behaviors. Some practical tasks were accomplished during the lecture. At the end of the event, participants had a chance to ask questions. She offered them important tips for giving an effective presentation and encouraged them to use these skills as they organize future alumni projects.

## **Mary**

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**World Environment Day:** On June 3, Ahmed Tagiyev '04 conducted a discussion about World Environment Day at the American Corner. During the presentation Ahmed introduced 15 attendees to environmental and ecological problems, as well as new resources. Also he prepared special handouts where students could find out more specific information and learn about new resources. Students talked about global ecological problems. Ahmed encouraged participants to brainstorm what should be changed by humans to protect the environment. In addition to learning about World Environment Day, they practiced their English language skills.

**Community High School Students Participate in Debates:** On June 8, Vladimir Inozemtsev '01 conducted a debate club for 12 high school students at the American Corner. The attendees enjoyed participating in debates on the topic "The younger generation knows best." First, Vladimir asked the participants who would like to argue "pro" and who would be "con." Ahmed Tagiyev '04 and Bahar Aydogdyeva '04 were the captains of the teams. The teams were allowed 15 minutes to prepare their arguments. Then everyone from the team gave a one-minute presentation. When the subject was exhausted, the debates ended. That time the "pro" team was more impressive, although all agreed that the older generation has more experience and wisdom. The participants had a chance to represent their thoughts, polish debating skills and practice English.

**Presenting Flag Day to American Corner Visitors:** On June 14, Ahmed Tagiyev '04 made a presentation on Flag Day for 15 high school students and postgraduates. The event was conducted mostly in an interactive way. First, he told the history of the flag, described what the stars and stripes stand for, explained flag ritual, and discussed the attitudes of Americans to the "Stars and Stripes." He also discussed with the audience the Pledge of Allegiance and its author Francis Bellamy. It was an opportunity to talk about patriotic outlook with participants, and let them widen their knowledge about American symbols.

**FLEX Alumni Share Their U.S. Experience with the Local Community:** On June 28, FLEX alumni Anastasiya Kuznetsova '05, Shahirov Serdar '05, and Leyla Yagdyeva '05 visited the Summer Health and English Camp in Yoloten. The aim of the visit was to work cooperatively with Peace Corps volunteers and share the experience of being exchange students. They participated in different classes, talked about host families, high school study, and people and social life in the U.S. to a group of 50 students. During the drama session FLEX alumni proposed making a talent show, during which they helped the participants of the camp prepare performances. The participants of the camp got a chance to hear about the challenging experiences of the new FLEX alumni, worked in groups, and participated in interactive games.

**FLEX Alumni Discuss Upcoming Activities:** On June 29, FLEX alumni Bahar Aydogdyeva '04, Anastasiya Kuznetsova '05, Tatiyana Mendikovskaya '03, Serdar Shahirov '05, and Ahmed Tagiyev '04 had a roundtable on upcoming events. During the discussion alumni planned and discussed activities. Ahmed Tagiyev '05 presented an idea to conduct Open-Up Day at the American Corner on Independence Day to highlight new FLEX alumni's experiences in the U.S. by making posters. Also it was suggested to take part in summer projects and help TASP students run and do some activities for their projects.

## **Upcoming events:**

### **Ashgabat:**

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- **Summer School for Community Teenagers: Class Of Outstanding Leaders (COOL) in Turkmenistan:** From July 16 to July 20 alumni will organize one week summer school for high school students. The selection process will be merit-based.

### **Turkmenabat:**

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- **American History Club** will be held once a week and run by new FLEX alumni.

- **Movie Club** will be held every Thursday by Farhad Yagmurov FLEX '04.
- **Conversational Club** will be held every Friday by Sabina Huseyinova FLEX '03.
- **Independence Day Celebration** will be held on July 5.
- **Alumni Meetings** will be held every week.
- **English Courses for Afghan Refugees** will be held twice weekly.

## **Turkmenbashy:**

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- **Computer Science for Adults:** On July 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Jahan Allaberdiyeva '02 will hold computer science classes for adults.
- **American Independence Day** celebration with children from the Balkanabat Orphanage on July 3 will be organized by FLEX alumni.
- **The U.S. Club-Summer Camp:** On July 6-9, alumni will organize a summer camp dedicated to the U.S club annual project in Turkmenbashy City.
- **English Classes for Doctors:** On July 5, 12, 19, and 29, Arzu Talapova'04 and Peace Corps volunteer Laura Myerberg will head English classes for local doctors at the American Corner Turkmenbashy.
- **“United Stand Alumni” Presentation:** New alumni of Turkmenbashy City will lead the presentation on July 6 in order to share their American experience with local citizens.
- **Do You Want to be a Diplomat?** On July 13 and 28, Jahan Allaberdiyeva '02 will conduct a series of presentations about the structure of democracy and policy.
- **Designing a Website Training:** On July 15, 22, and 29 new FLEX alumni will lead classes on website research and knowledge.
- **Volunteer Work in Community:** On July 18, Alexander Slabousov '05 will talk about the possibilities and advantages of volunteer work in the community.
- **Grant Writing Training:** On July 23-24, the American Corner with the support of Oleg Guchgeldiyev, a Muskie alumnus, will organize a grant writing training for alumni in order to encourage them to use available funds.
- **Alumni and Peace Corps Volunteers Monthly Meeting** will take place at the American Corner on July 27 with all alumni to discuss the following up events and holidays and to set up a schedule for the next month.

## **Mary:**

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- **Movie Nights** will be hosted by Ahmed Tagiyev '04 every Wednesday.
- **Independence Day and American Corner Open Day** will be held on July 4.
- **Newspaper Club** will be held every Friday.
- **Debate Club** will be held every Thursday by Vladimir Inozemsev '01 for the visitors of the American Corner.

**Contact:** Ashgabat Alumni Assistant Bahar Nuriyeva '02, [flexalum@online.tm](mailto:flexalum@online.tm) (+99312) 34-26-34

## **Ukraine**

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### **Kharkiv**

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**English Speaking Club:** Language sessions were held every Tuesday in June. Peace Corps Volunteer Arnab Synha organizes this for alumni and members of the local community at School #4. Alumni and other participants gathered to have a discussion on a chosen topic. Anton Borisov '02, Kyrlyo Orach '04, Anna Smirnova '03, Oleksandra Tsymbal'04, and Viktorya Vasylyeva '03 usually attend club sessions.

**Circus Outing for Orphans:** Alumni took a group of 30 children to the circus on June 12, 2005. During the past year Kharkiv alumni have been developing a close friendship with local orphanage #4. FLEX and Eurasia Undergraduate Program alumni have gone to orphanage #4 to play leadership games with children and teach them basic computer skills and English. Some of the children had never been to the circus before. Anton Borisov '02, Yevhen Bobyk '03, Iryna Horb'04, Svetlana Semko '02, and Oleksandra Tsymbal '04 participated in the event.

**Monthly Alumni Planning Meeting:** Anton Borisov '02, Yevhen Bobyk '03, and Ksenyia Isaenko'01 met on June 17 to discuss the details of a trip to Carpathians in July. They brainstormed about the most necessary things to take, divided responsibilities, and discussed the social activities they would organize while on the trip.

## Luhansk

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**English Speaking Club:** Olha Samarska '03 held the English-speaking club every week in June for students of Luhansk National University of Internal Affairs. The Club is very successful and about 30 people usually participate in discussion sessions. As well, every Tuesday Anna Yablonska '03 and Olha Samarska '03, Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) Center coordinator, held the Business English class in 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 opportunities for alumni, students and members of the local community to practice English; and provide information about business correspondence and special vocabulary.

### Upcoming Events:

- **All-Ukrainian trip to Carpathians will be held July 5-15, 2005.** In July alumni from various cities of Ukraine will come together for a trip to the Carpathians region.
- **English Speaking Club in Kharkiv** will be held every week at School # 4.
- **English Speaking Club in Luhansk** will be held every week at Luhansk National University of Internal Affairs.
- **Alumni Reunion** will be held on July 4 in Kharkiv to welcome newly returned alumni.

**Contact:** Kharkiv Alumni Assistant Yevhen Bobyk '03, [flexalumni@americancouncils-kharkiv.org.ua](mailto:flexalumni@americancouncils-kharkiv.org.ua) +380 (572) 45-62-78.

## Kyiv

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**Pre-departure Orientation (PDO):** Yuliya Pukhalska '01, Anna Yablonska '02, Lyudmyla Suprun '98, Olha Lebedyna '03, and Volodymyr Bilay '02 worked as teacher's assistants at the PDO, which began June 17. During the three-day cycles, alumni and teachers taught new FLEX participants about the American ways of life, culture, high school and difficulties that students may encounter during their exchange year. Olena Karchova '01 and Oleksandra Zhestova '02, working as logistics assistants, helped with meeting and transporting students to the PDO site and dealing with organizational problems.

**Alumni Panel:** On June 18 and 22, Iryna Tokatly '01, Maryna Gaydak '04, Lyudmyla Suprun '98, Roman Tryzub '01, and Zoya Monakhova '03 shared their unique exchange experiences and talked about the advantages of living in small as well as in bigger U.S. cities. During the pizza party, which followed the alumni panel, new FLEX participants had an opportunity to ask alumni questions and receive more thorough answers.

**Farewell Evening for Kyiv Alumni Assistant Maryna Yaroshchuk '02:** Alumni gathered at O'Brians Irish Pub to say good-bye to Maryna, a bright and extremely active alumni assistant, who has worked for two years in the Kyiv FLEX office.

### Upcoming Events:

- **FLEX Alumni will help with the Pre-departure Orientations** for the finalists of the FLEX program.
- **Ukraine Alumni Assistants meeting** is scheduled for July 28.
- **Farewell Evening** for the FLEX program coordinator Paige Willan will take place in late July.

**Contact:** Kyiv Alumni Assistant Maryna Yaroshchuk '02, [flexalumni@americancouncilskyiv.org.ua](mailto:flexalumni@americancouncilskyiv.org.ua) +380 (44) 246-82-82

## Lviv

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**Transparency in Higher Education Seminar:** Thirteen FLEX alumni attended a seminar on problems of transparency in higher education conducted by Inna Marynina from the Merydian NGO analytical center on June 4. Inna introduced the concept of self-governance and its role in achieving transparency in higher education. Mykola Pekh '00 shared his knowledge of the Bologna process, and the benefits that will be gained after Ukraine becomes fully integrated into the Bologna system. The participants discussed existing problems in Ukrainian higher education and possible solutions.

**Movie Night:** Oleh Harmatiy '01, Alla Myshalova '03, Mykola Pekh '00, Nadiya Ratushniak '03, and Nataliya Salo '01 gathered to watch the movie *The Notebook* on June 17. They also discussed upcoming plans for the summer.

**Meeting with Bob Zimmerman:** On June 23, Lviv alumni met with former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and current Close Up Foundation program instructor Robert Zimmerman. The alumni discussed the impact their exchange experience has had on their futures, and they learned more about the book Mr. Zimmerman is undertaking with alumni of U.S. exchange programs in Eurasia. The alumni pledged to contribute to the development of this project.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Pre-Departure Orientation Alumni Panel** will be held on July 16.
- **Lake Zadorozhnie Clean-up and Alumni Meeting** will take place on July 20.

**Contact:** Lviv Alumni Assistant, Nataliya Salo '01 [alumni@americancouncils.lviv.ua](mailto:alumni@americancouncils.lviv.ua) +380 (032) 22 93 78.

**Odesa**

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**General Meeting:** On June 20, Tea Bebia '04, Nina Borysova '02, Tina Goloborodko '95, Kateryna Komarova '02, Yuliya Nikolayenko '02, and Gennadiy Starostin '02 gathered at the American Advising Center in Odesa to discuss remarkable events from 2003-2005 and to brainstorm new ideas for alumni events and how to involve older alumni. Tina Goloborodko '95 came up with valuable suggestions and ideas, such as offering more professional development events and inviting older alumni to share their work experiences in a casual atmosphere.

**Monthly Meeting:** Tea Bebia '04, Nina Borysova '02, Tina Goloborodko '95, Kateryna Komarova '02, Nataliya Kovytkina '04, Iryna Lysenko '03, Yulia Nikolayenko '02, and Gennadiy Starostin '02 gathered at the American Advising Center in Odesa on June 27 to discuss their plans for July and August. Alumni Assistant Kateryna Komarova '02 presented a report on the events conducted by Mykolaiv alumni and encouraged the Odesa hub to stay active the upcoming year. She also named the most active alumni for the years 2003-2005. After the meeting, alumni stayed to look through the Mykolaiv events report presented by Iryna Lysenko '03.

**Mykolaiv**

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**Student Republic in Mykolaiv:** Three FLEX alumni participated in the Student Republic on June 25-26. Student Republic is a yearly event organized by the People's Democratic Youth League to illustrate the voting process on a local and national level, teaching young people all over Ukraine the principles of democratic and fair elections. This year Evheniy Dorfman '02 was a PSI party member, Olga Khomyak '03 was a *Spetsnaz* party member, and Iryna Lysenko '03 was head of the P.Kontakt party. Olga Khomyak and her team won for best political drawing, and Evheniy Dorfman '02 received special recognition for developing the "NOS" revolutionary newspaper. Iryna Sysenko '03 was chosen as a member of the Mykolayiv Student Magistrate and will be going to the State Student Republic Festival in Yevpatoria.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **General Meeting** is scheduled for July 18. Kateryna Komarova '02 will introduce the new Alumni Assistant 2005-2006 to the alumni community of Odesa.
- **Monthly meeting** will be held on July 27, when FLEX Alumni will gather in American Advising Center to discuss past alumni events and meetings and make plans for August and September.

**Contact:** Odesa Alumni Assistant Ekaterina Komarova '02, [flexalumni@americancouncilsodesa.org.ua](mailto:flexalumni@americancouncilsodesa.org.ua) Tel: +380 (48) 222-90-77.

**Uzbekistan**

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**Tashkent**

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**Alumni Celebrate with Children at the Cancer Hospital:** Twelve FLEX alumni, armed with cakes, sweets, fruits and drinks, visited the children at the Oncology Center in Tashkent on June 16. Earlier in the spring, alumni had made the decision to use the funds raised through the Spring Swing charity ball to purchase medical equipment for this department. A week before the visit, alumni purchased five types of medical equipment

needed in the children's department of this Oncology Center, where 35 children are currently undergoing treatment. Recognizing that the children need special treats to cheer them up, alumni decided to have a party for them as well. At first, the young patients were surprised that these "strangers" came to visit them with all the things children like. Later on after they had some cake and fruits and introduced themselves to the alumni, the children started reciting poems, singing songs and playing games with alumni. As always, the creative and energetic alumni initiated playing games and sang songs with the children. Alumni also delivered cake, fruits and drinks, wishing health to those children who had just undergone surgery and couldn't join the celebration.

**Uzbek FLEX Alumnus Organizes Book Drive for Chechen Students:** Kamol Dustmuhamedov '03 organized a book drive for students from Grozny University of Chechnya at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. On learning that Russian troops had burned down a Grozny library, which housed 2.5 million books, and destroyed half of Grozny University along with its library, Kamol spoke at Wartburg College on several occasions about these shocking facts. After gaining the necessary approval from the student body, the bookstore, and the college pastor, he hung posters everywhere around campus about the book drive. He organized the drive to coincide with the end of the academic year, when many students throw away their books. He collected and shipped 144 books, valued at \$4,831.99.

**FLEX Alumna Organizes Drug Awareness Campaign:** Semruh Uvraimova '05 organized a project dedicated to the United Nations International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is held on June 26. Semruh and her friends decided to make a presentation about drugs and all the possible dangerous consequences. She talked about drugs and their influence on people's lives, "so that maybe kids will think about it and not make such bad decisions in their lives." In order to achieve better understanding, Semruh organized translation for the children that don't speak Russian or Uzbek. Semruh's idea came from the U.S. where she participated in an activity D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Effort). She and some other senior girls were role models for the middle school students and talked about drugs and how it's important to keep a healthy life style. The IATP Alumni Center in Chirchik sponsored her idea.

**Gulnora Isaeva '97 Organizes a Book Drive for Uzbek Schools:** Gulnora Isaeva '97, who is currently working on a master's degree in Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she received a scholarship for academic achievements, still continues to stay busy helping her community. When Gulnora arrived in the U.S., she began fundraising activities for a book drive to help the schools of Uzbekistan. With help from her friends and professors in Omaha, she raised about \$400, which she used to purchase over 150 new books from Scholastic Publishing Warehouse Sales (<http://teacher.scholastic.com/fairs/>), including almanacs, encyclopedias, chapter books, and more. These items were shipped through the School Connectivity Project, which helped delivering them to the regions of Uzbekistan.

**Alumni Meet with Robert Zimmerman:** On June 5, Emiliya Asadova '02, Saida Anvari '01, Mastura Maradjapova '04, Amirbek Musaev '04, Roza Safarova '99, Evgeniya Tsoy '04, and Dilyara Yusupova '04 attended a meeting with former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and current Close Up Foundation program instructor Robert (Bob) Zimmerman, who is preparing a book of FLEX essays to be published in the U.S. During the meeting Mr. Zimmermann explained his idea about the book and as an experienced FLEX mentor had a conversation with alumni about their U.S. experience, future career plans, dreams, and thoughts about present and future alumni activities.

**United Nations Children's Fund Donates Computers through FLEX Alumni:** On June 16, Emiliya Asadova '02 and Shavkat Sattikulov (SSEP) received two computers from United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF donated these computers for the children at the Republican Oncological Center in order to organize their leisure time and to give a chance for the children to learn how to operate modern equipment. This effort was done in addition to the Charity Ball, through which FLEX alumni raised \$3500 in April. Before children can use the computers, alumni need to install some programs and spend time with the children explaining how to use these machines.

## **Urgench**

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**Learning about AIDS.** Shahnoza Kurbaniyazova '04 held a meeting for schoolchildren and explained to them the ways of protecting oneself from AIDS. About 40 children attended the meeting, which was held in the IATP Center in Urgench.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **U.S. Independence Day Celebration** at the Ambassador's residence will be held on July 4.
- **Re-entry Seminar** for new 2005 alumni will take place at the end of August.
- **Summer Camp** for 18 children from religious district of Tashkent done by FLEX alumni funded through Micro ACCESS scholarships of the U.S. Embassy will take place in August.
- **Monthly Alumni Meetings and Movie Nights** will be held each month.

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

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## ALUMNI SUCCESSES

### Armenia

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*Anush Babajanyan '00* works as a reporter for [www.ArmeniaNow.com](http://www.ArmeniaNow.com).

*Christina Grigoryan '00* works as a professor of Armenian Language at Birthright Armenia and has been awarded a FLEX alumni grant.

*Varya Meroujanyan '00* works as a Customer Care coordinator for Lycos.

*Zaruhi Sargsyan '98* is the new project assistant for the IREX Media Program.

### Azerbaijan

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*Gulnar Hajiyeva '04* participated in the international student congress series in management and economics, organized by Bogazici University, Turkey.

*Fariz Ismailzade '96* visited Belgium as part of a delegation of young opinion makers from Baku, participated in a workshop at NATO headquarters and met with many NATO officials.

*Minai Massimova '96* and *Hanum Azizova '98* attended the annual Rotaract conference on June 24-26 in Antalya, Turkey to represent the Rotaract Club of Baku of which Hanum is the President and Minai is the Vice President (2004-2005). ([www.rotaract.az](http://www.rotaract.az))

*Azad Rafiyev '03* was hired by BP as a summer intern.

### Belarus

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*Margarita Gurtsevich '03* is currently employed as a cook at a local camp in Minsk region.

*Aliaksei Kudzin '04* got an internship as an assistant manager at his father's dairy firm.

*Polina Smykovskaya '03* got accepted to a youth camp in Switzerland, hosted by YMCA. The participants of the event will study various ways of promoting healthy lifestyle and HIV/AIDS awareness in their home countries.

*Pavel Vorotilin '01* got accepted to a journalists' camp in Switzerland. The event will last for two weeks and will gather youth, specializing in journalism from a number of European countries. Pavel also accepted the position of logistics assistant during the annual Belarusian music festival *Slavyansky Bazar*. The event will take place in Vitebsk at the end of July.

### Georgia

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*Giorgi Akhalkatsi '01*, *Giorgi Aladashvili '02*, *Irina Arabidze '03*, *Kate Chemia '03*, *Nini Panjikidze '03*, *Irina Rekhviashvili '03*, and *Tatia Vashakidze '01* were all accepted to the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems in Prague and were given scholarships of \$2900.

*Ann Jinjolava '01* graduated from the *Studienkolleg München* (a one-year preparatory college for foreigners) in Munich, Germany. She also enrolled in the Liberal Arts Education Summer School in Tbilisi conducted by John Hopkins University.

## **Kazakhstan**

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*Elena Norakidze '99* will be attending Columbia University in the fall of 2005 on a scholarship from the Open Society Institute.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

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*Elnura Adylova '02* serves as an intern in the Bishkek office of the International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES).

*Karina Madylova '03* and *Askar Sheraliev '03* are working for Partnership for Education Youth Study and Exchange, which is a specially designed exchange program between the U.S. and the Muslim world.

## **Russia**

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### **Kirov**

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*Vladimir Gordeev '98* worked as a Logistics Assistant during the third and fourth cycles of pre-departure orientation in Moscow. He graduated from Kirov State Medical Academy with honors and was accepted to the clinical residency program at Kirov State Medical Academy.

*Evgenia Lyamina '03* graduated from Vyatka Humanitarian Gymnasia with honors.

*Ludmila Rossinskaya '99* worked as a teacher's assistant during the fourth cycle of pre-departure orientation in Moscow.

*Mariya Kochetkova '02* (Nizhniy Novgorod) was accepted to Work and Travel program and will work during summer in U.S.

*Ekaterina Smayeva '99* (Nizhniy Novgorod) graduated from Nizhniy Novgorod State Linguistic University with honors.

### **Moscow**

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*Ilya Brovin '97* is a summer associate in the investment banking division of Morgan Stanley in London, doing his internship.

*Maria Chizhmakova '99* volunteered to lead a tour around Moscow for the representatives of Houston's Junior Chamber of Commerce.

*Sofiya Gorya '04* participated to the Contemporary British Drama Translating Seminar on June 11-19 in Pushkinskie Gory near Pskov. The British Council organized the seminar. The translators have worked in groups before the seminar and now presented their plays and edited texts. The participants have translated the following plays: *Cripple of Inishman*, *Mouth to Mouth*, *Brokenville* and *Under the Blue Sky*. These plays will be presented at the New Drama Festival in September.

*Anna Khlebnikova '01* and *Evgeny Yankovoy '01* participated as trainers in the international leadership camp *Golden Hearts* in Slovakia. They led a number of seminars and trainings on interpersonal communication, team-building, and leadership skills. At the end of classes, they staged a small performance, to show what children learned during the classes.

*Evgeny Yankovoy '01* has been promoted to Program Associate at Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS.

### **St. Petersburg**

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*Darya Amosova '04*, *Anna Pomorjanskaya '04*, and *Nikita Vorobyov '03* qualified to participate in the All-Russia English Olympiad after winning at the school, city, and regional levels. Darya took the fourth place and

Nikita took third place in Russia, which automatically won him a place at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations.

*Anna Yershova '04* was accepted to Li Po Chun United World College in Shanghai, China.

## **Samara**

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*Elena Pastukhova '00* successfully defended a graduate thesis (*diplomnaya rabota*) about the cooperation of the Local Authorities with U.S. Non-governmental Organizations (American Councils, IREX and Project Harmony.)

*Alexandra Vislogusova '04* and *Anna Shegurova '04* were accepted to study at the American University in Bulgaria. Anna Shegurova was offered a partial scholarship to participate in the program.

## **Vladivostok**

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*Anastasia Aleshkina '04* graduated from Vladivostok school # 57 with a gold medal.

*Stanislav Anikin '02* works for Leica Microsystems, which is a leading manufacturer of high precision optical solutions based on microscopes and related instruments.

*Julia Efremova '01* is a sophomore at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, ID, where she is studying design.

## **Volgograd**

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*Oksana Panfilova '04* (Gorodische) received an FLEX alumni grant to conduct a language camp for students at her school.

*Natalia Bochkareva '01* helped to organize a conference for teachers of southern Russia on using IT in teaching. She received the certificate from Project Harmony as one of the participants.

## **Yekaterinburg**

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*Vera Aminova '03* took third place at the All-Russian Olympiad in English and was accepted to the Moscow State University Faculty of Linguistics.

*Natalia Davidson '95* is currently working as an English teacher at Ural State Technical University.

*Yury Davy '95* and his wife just had a daughter, whom they named Olga.

*Ilya Korobeinikov, Maria Rostovtseva '04, and Yelizaveta Zyryanova '04* all received gold medals for academic achievement. *Maria Rostovtseva '04* was also chosen to present a speech on behalf of all the graduates in front of the regional governor, E. Rossel.

*Alina Shammassova '04* was offered financial support to study at American University in Bulgaria.

*Natalia Shipulina '03* successfully passed all her university exams with "A"s.

*Yelizaveta Vorokhobova '05* passed all her school exams and got a gold medal.

## **Tajikistan**

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*Alfiya Kulmamadova '03* won a FLEX alumni grant for her project "Make it a Better Place."

*Malika Khakimova '04* was chosen as the new FLEX alumni assistant for Tajikistan.

*Shahnoza Nazimova '03* received a \$2250 scholarship to participate in courses conducted by Global Leadership Program in Argentina. She will take courses such as the philosophies of leadership, special topics in

international relations, human rights, and conflict resolution. The course will run July 28-August 26 in Cordoba, Argentina, at Blas Pascal University. To cover her expenses, she also received a \$ 2870 travel grant from the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe.

*Firuz Ganieva '03* also received a \$2840 travel grant from the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe to participate in this Global Leadership Program in Argentina.

## **Ukraine**

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### **Kharkiv**

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*Julia Salata '05* received a scholarship to a Boston-area university.

*Anton Borisov '02* was competitively selected to be an intern at Philip Morris Ukraine Co.

### **Kyiv**

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*Maryna Yaroshchuk '02* works as a project manager at CFC Consulting Company.

*Karina Makarenko '98* graduated from Kyiv Medical University.

### **Lviv**

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*Olha Dehtyarova '01* was elected to National Branding Team of the international student organization AIESEC of Ukraine.

*Nataliya Salo '01* was selected to participate in the National Economy and International Interests Conference in Mariupol, Ukraine.

## **Uzbekistan**

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*Shehroz Narzikulov '00* was accepted to work as assistant to the Uzbekistan Flour Fortification Project at UNICEF.

*Maria Pak '04* worked as translator and assistant to the manager of the non-governmental organization "Ecological and Economical Restructuring of the Soil and Water Consumption" in Khorezm.

*Abdulaziz Valiev '04* served as an assistant to the adviser and a librarian at the Educational Advising Center.

*Ilkin Yusibov '03* was accepted for this summer American Institution for Political and Economical Studies (AIPES 2005), Prague, Czech Republic.

*Diora Ziyaeva '00* is interning at the American Enterprise Institute, a prominent think tank in Washington, D.C.