2014 IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS STRENGTHEN ALUMNI NETWORK IN SOCHI

JANUARY

The first Russian Professional Fellows Program (PFP) Alumni Accelerator, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, was held in the Olympic venue of Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi. The project focused on strengthening PFP's alumni network.

FLEX ALUMNAE FEATURED AS TEDx YEREVAN SPEAKERS

FEBRUARY

Two alumnae of the FLEX program — Irina Ghaplanyan ('99) and Lilit Asatryan ('07) — presented during separate sessions at TEDxYerevan, with the theme Entrepreneurship of Big Dreams.

AC OFFICES SUPPORT GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

APRIL

2014 Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day partnered with 18 American Councils offices in support of the annual and worldwide event, which focuses on community service and service-learning projects.

STUDENTS FROM 19 COUNTRIES ATTEND TEACHING ENGLISH WORKSHOP

APRIL

Convening in Washington, D.C., 28 students from A-SMYLE, FLEX, and YES programs from 19 countries attended the second annual Workshop for Youth Leaders in Teaching English (WYLTE).

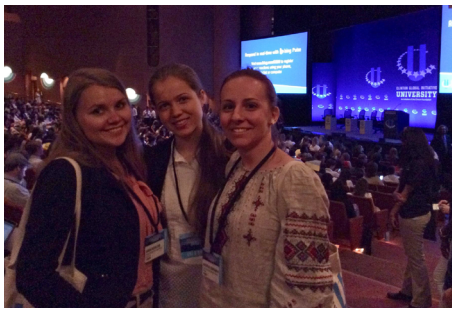
U.S.-CAEF PUBLISHES ESSAYS ON BEST PRACTICES IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

MAY

The U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (U.S.-CAEF) released *Business Education in Central Asia: Best Practices in Integrative Study and Teaching*, a collection of groundbreaking essays exploring innovative approaches to business education in Central Asia.

FLEX ALUMNAE JOIN CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY

JUNE



Two FLEX alumnae participated in the 2014 Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) in March — hosted by former U.S. President Bill Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton — because of a volunteer project the duo created in Central Ukraine.

USRIC SELECTS RUSSIAN STARTUPS FOR U.S. RESIDENCIES

JUNE

US - RUSSIA INNOVATION

Following a competitive selection process, four startups joined the U.S.-Russia Innovation Corridor, an initiative that advances research-to-market collaboration through renewable three-month residencies.

SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE EXCEL GRADUATES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JULY

Friends and supporters congratulated ExCEL program graduates during a reception at the Embassy of Lithuania. Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S. Žygimantas Pavilionis and Former U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania and ExCEL founder Anne E. Derse attended.

JAPANESE STUDENTS ARRIVE IN D.C. FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE

AUGUST

Six Japanese students and an educator from Tokyo's Keio SFC High School travelled to Washington, D.C. as part of the TOMODACHI U.S.-Japan Youth Exchange Program.

AC STUDY ABROAD ALUMNI REUNITE AND RECONNECT

AUGUST

AC study abroad alumni from 2000-2014 gathered for a reunion and networking event in Washington, D.C. featuring award-winning singer-songwriter and FLEX '94 alumna Marina V., who performed tracks from her latest album, Superhero.

YSEL ETHIOPIA HOSTS CLOSING CEREMONY WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

AUGUST

U.S. Ambassador Patricia Haslach, Cultural Affairs Officer Learned Dees of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, and local partners honored the Youth Solidarity and English Language (YSEL) Ethiopia participants at a closing ceremony. YSEL brings together teens from 11 regions across Ethiopia.

YES ALUMNA PRESENTS TED TALK "DARE TO EDUCATE AFGHAN GIRLS"

SEPTEMBER

An alumna of the YES program, Shabana Basij-Rasikh ('05) presented *Dare to Educate Afghan Girls* at a TedxWomen Talk. Shabana is a founder and managing director of SOLA, an educational nonprofit that creates educational opportunities for Afghan girls and women.

AC PARTNERS WITH THE 100,000 STRONG FOUNDATION

OCTOBER

AC announced its partnership with The 100,000 Strong Foundation to increase and diversify study abroad opportunities for American students in China and to fortify U.S.-China relations.

BOSNIAN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT U.S. COLLEGES AT EDUCATIONUSA FAIR

OCTOBER

American Councils hosted the third annual EducationUSA Fair for over 180 prospective students and visitors at the Bosnian Cultural Center in Sarajevo.

KOSOVO AMERICAN EDUCATION FUND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

OCTOBER

The Kosovo American Education Fund (KAEF) celebrated its 10th year in supporting the economic development of Kosovo through the education of its people.

AC JOINS U.S.-POLAND INNOVATION COUNCIL

NOVEMBER

AC joined the newly launched U.S.-Poland Innovation Council, which seeks to foster stronger ties between the U.S. and Poland through research and development, innovation, and privatization.

NEW AC PARTNERSHIP OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ARMENIANS

DECEMBER

=Armenian students are granted access to a new scholarship opportunity through The Opportunity Fund, thanks to a partnership between the U.S. Department of State, EducationUSA, and AC.

AC PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

DECEMBER

AC President Dr. Dan E. Davidson received a iifetime service award from the American Council for Teachers of Russian (ACTR) at a special reception to celebrate ACTR's 40th anniversary award.