

UKRAINIAN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Traditions are Still Alive Benefit Evening - 20 March 2004

FLEX alumni are tremendously pleased with the successful outcome of the Fourth Annual Benefit Evening. The event which gathered over 200 people was held on Saturday, 20 March 2004. This year's Benefit Evening was organized in support of Zhytomyr Regional Tuberculosis Hospital, which serves as a home for 60 children of 1 to 15 years who are afflicted with this disease. Over 70% of all the children who receive treatment in this medical establishment are orphans, or come from single-parent and poor



From right to left: John Herbst, US Ambassador to Ukraine, Ruslana, a popular Ukrainian singer, Maryna Yaroshchuk, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, FLEX 1997, and Kateryna Nalyvayko, Ugrad 2000.

families. Funds raised during the Fourth Annual Benefit Evening will help to purchase much needed medical equipment and furniture for the children's department

The First, Second and Third Benefit Evenings were very successful and raised over \$10,000 for Kyiv Internat #14, Kyiv Regional Oncology Center and Kyiv Orphanage "Malyatko". These funds were used for purchasing furniture, medical equipment, and medicine.

The new U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, served as the Honorary Chairman of the Benefit Evening this year maintaining the tradition established by the former Ambassador of the United States

to Ukraine, Carlos Pascual, who served as the Honorary Chairman of the Second and Third Annual Benefit Evenings and supported alumni in their endeavors to help more vulnerable members of our society.

This year the FLEX alumni were supported by British Airways, AeroSvit, Ukraine International Airlines, KLM, restaurants Tokio, Mirovaya Karta, Lipsky osobnyak, Avalon, Peschera, Time Out, Carribean Club, Mars company, Bowling Club "Strike", ProCredit Bank, Raffeisen-Ukraine AG, Unilever, AVIS, UNIAN, ULTRA-design, Etalon, Domina Voyage, Syndbad, VneshExpoBusiness, Gala Radio, ARDO, Vitamax, Limousine Service, Kyiv Sports Club, Cinema «Kyiv», football club «Dynamo-Kyiv», Mustang Jeans, Music TV, Stella Artois, Vinodel, Odesa campaign factory, Rosinka, Kulky po-Kievski, agency «Flibon». And the exclusive English language media partner was the magazine What's On. The organizers



Maryna Yaroshchuk, the Head of the Organizing Committee, at the Benefit Evening.

Alumni Take Initiative Essay Writing Workshop in Zaporizhzhya 12 February 2004

A one-day workshop on essay writing was held for secondary school teachers of English (15 alumni and 15 non-alumni from Zaporizhzhya city and oblast). The workshop was initiated and conducted by Larysa Lyuta, PiE alumna from Zaporizhzhya, and Tamara Kasha, TEA alumna from Zaporizhzhya.

The topic was crucial for teachers of English as they frequently encounter the problem of students not writing well-structured and clear papers. Although students have well-developed spelling and grammar skills, they find it difficult to gather their ideas and write clearly. Methods of teaching writing are well developed in America and unfortunately are almost unknown here in Ukraine. This event was a great opportunity to train teachers of English to use innovative methods. In developing the workshop alumni-trainers used the materials they received on this topic at iEARN on-line courses, and at a workshop conducted by Dr. Yi-Lee Wong (Civic Education Project Fellow from Belarus), which was held at the Kyiv Alumni Resource Center on September 8, 2003.



The band «Druha Rika» performs at the Benefit Evening.

would also like to recognize contributions from the band «Druha Rika», Caprice-Classic Quartet, Yana Klochkova, Volodymyr and Vitaliy Klychko, Oleksandr Klymenko, DJ Pasha (Gala Radio), Kai Prescher, and Ruslana.

This year the Evening was well attended by alumni of all programs.

Voter Education: Citizenship Awareness Program

National Training of Trainers

13-14 March 2004

Twenty-eight alumni of various programs gathered in Kyiv on March 13-14 for the beginning of a cross-program alumni project dedicated to voter education in the expectation of the Ukrainian presidential election scheduled for October 2004.

The event began with an address from Lisa Heller, Cultural Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Kyiv. Mrs. Heller reminded the alumni about comments that former Secretary of State Madeline Albright made while in Kyiv a few weeks ago; that democracy is not an end, but a process. Mrs. Heller also reminded the alumni of the special place that elections hold in that process and encouraged them in their efforts to promote voter education.

The program of the first day consisted of four hour-long trainings on four topics crucial to voter education, which alumni visited in groups divided by program. The topics were: why to vote and how to choose a candidate, the process of voting, the secrecy of the ballot, and recognizing and reporting irregularities. Christina Pendzola-Vitovych and Jennifer Wilson, both of American Councils, conducted the session on the reasons for voting and how to choose a candidate. Christina and Jennifer covered topics such as the importance of each vote and the methods to use to evaluate one's own priorities and match them to a candidate's platform. Oleksandr Chernenko, of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, addressed alumni



The Eastern Ukraine delegation works out the details of their regional training. (From left to right) Office director Jennifer Wilson, Kseniya Isayenko, FLEX '01, Dmytro Hryhorenko, Ugrad '03.

on the topic of the voting process explaining how ballots are distributed, marked and cast. Volodymyr Kovtunets,

an expert in elections working for Development Associates, Inc., covered the concept of the secrecy of the ballot and explained the various ways in which citizens have in the past been convinced that their vote can be checked by someone in authority. Mr. Kovtunets reassured the alumni that the law is on their side in any questions of the secrecy of the ballot. The topic of recognizing and reporting



Ivan Vlasyuk, Ugrad '01 and Ruslan Suvorov, Ugrad '02 (front row) listen attentively to a session about how to choose a candidate as American Councils Office Directors Michael Hnatyshyn and Cassandra Payton look on.

irregularities was taught by Harald Jepsen, Election Expert from the Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe. Mr. Jepsen not only explained the nuances of irregularities and violations in the election process, but also contributed examples from his own experience as an international election observer in Ukraine.

As a wrap-up to the first day of the training, Oleksiy Koshel of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine addressed the assembled alumni on the topic of voter education programs. Mr. Koshel explained some of the useful methods of informing voters of their rights, using examples from his experiences in Ukraine and abroad. His remarks allowed alumni to begin thinking about ways in which to promote their own trainings and outreach activities in the field of voter education.

At the end of the first day Kseniya Isayenko, FLEX '01, stated in her evaluation, "The trainers did their best to make us believe WE CAN CHANGE

something. This is the method I am willing to use in peer voter education, to persuade youth that WE CAN!"

On March 14, alumni gathered in their regional groups, facilitated by the directors of American Councils' regional offices and planned their regional trainings, which will be held in April and May of 2004.

To bring the training to a close and answer any remaining questions on the topic of elections and voters' rights, alumni were addressed on Sunday afternoon by Vadym Galaychuk, an alumnus of the Muskie program of 2002, who currently serves as a legal counsel for the campaign headquarters of a political bloc. Vadym explained the way in which an average citizen can become an election observer for a political party and answered questions on a variety of topics.

Together with the regional office directors, alumni planned the regional trainings where alumni of all programs who were not present at the national training of trainers will take part and will discuss the issues that the participants of this event got acquainted with. The trainings will be held in April in Kharkiv and Lviv hubs and in May in Kyiv and Odesa.

For more information, please see announcements on alumni list-serves.

MANAGING SOCIAL PROJECTS – BRINGING AWARENESS TO COMMUNITY CRIMEA

After the outbreaks of AIDS in Crimea in summer 2003, active Sevastopol alumni decided to implement an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in the city. The community action project “AIDS is a Reality” developed by FLEX ‘02 alumnus Vladimir Bilay and Peace Corps Volunteer Amitabh Sheth was conducted at the Sevastopol Humanitarian University from September 2003 till December 2003. The project was developed within the framework of the United Nations program «UN Millennium Development Goals» (MDGs), and based on materials published by the UN and former Peace Corps volunteer Helen Petrozzola. The main goals of this project were: to help educate the community about AIDS, break stereotypes about HIV infection among youth, promote a healthy lifestyle, and teach young people how to make a difference. The project included a set of workshops, a meeting with HIV-positive people, an Internet training on AIDS web resources, a carnival, two movie nights, one community action project and a round table with city administration representatives.

As a result of the project, participants (approximately 40 students) became acquainted with the HIV/AIDS problem from both the international and Ukrainian points of view. Moreover, all of the participants learned how to organize and coordinate small informational projects. At the end of the training the entire project - publications, pictures and materials - were posted on a specially created website devoted to this event. http://global.iatp.org.ua/v2/index.php?s=content&p=aids_project



During the implementation of the project “Aids is a Reality” project leaders collaborated with a variety of city organizations: Sevastopol group of Peace Corps volunteers, the IATP site in Sevastopol, Sevastopol University of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Social Help for Youth Center, and the Sevastopol AIDS center.

The very first meeting “Your Health – What It is All about” was held on September 11th. Students discussed common problems among modern youth and acted out a few thematical skits in order to define sexually healthy behavior. Trainers helped the participants through their initial shyness, to find the right words and terms in order to actively discuss the main concepts of sexually healthy behavior. This helped to break their information and English-language barriers. During the meetings students also showed interest in social initiatives and expressed a desire to find out more about youth associations and organizations working on the same issues in the region.

One of the most exciting sessions was held on October 2, with the topic “Safer Sex”. The guest speaker, head gynaecologist from the Family Planning Center, Tatiana Valentinovna Kucher, participated in the seminar. Ms. Kucher presented the most up-to-date information on different available types of contraception, the specifics of using different medicine, and practical and theoretical aspects of adolescent sexual trends. Students had the opportunity to discuss existing myths and prejudices on the issue of “Sex and youth.”

On December 1, the Internet Access and Training Center (IATP/IREX) hosted a round table devoted to the AIDS information campaign in the city. The round table was conducted by representatives of the city administration and moderated by the chief of the local Sevastopol Health Care Department, Victor Igorevich Pologov, who has done research in this field for more than 10 years and has participated in training workshops in the USA and Moscow. The focus of the round table was a presentation of the social project «AIDS is a Reality». Dr. Pologov provided information about contemporary HIV/AIDS treatment and preventive maintenance methodology. The head of the Centralized network of children libraries, Svetlana Kapranova, displayed examples of informational books and bulletins developed within the UN MDGs program. The project team presented the implementation, goals, objectives and final evaluation of the project. The roundtable concluded with an Internet chat between participants and an American doctor, Dr. Oppenheimer, a specialist in HIV/AIDS treatment.

Information shared by Svitlana Buko, FLEX 1997

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