

UKRAINIAN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

10 December 2003

The First Newsletter for Ukrainian Alumni

Issue No. 2

Administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Alumni!

This October we started a new Ukrainian alumni newsletter to keep you updated on all the work we do in Ukraine and on alumni issues that you might face.

Thank you for your warm replies and constructive suggestions as to what you would like to see in the issue. It is always good to have some feedback.

In the second issue of the newsletter you will find the events held for alumni and by alumni in November and also announcements for grants you are eligible for.

The huge event, the International Education Week on November 17-21, was a great success due to your efforts and active participation. And I would like to thank everyone who put a lot of work into it.

As for upcoming events, the six-month plan has been recently submitted to Washington, DC and it is awaiting authorization. Please watch the news on the alumni listserves and you will be notified about future events shortly.

Yours,

Kateryna Nalyvayko

Higher Education Programs Alumni Coordinator

School of Responsible Citizenship October - December, 2003

The School «Responsible Citizenship» in cooperation with the Young Women



Lobby and FLEX Alumni educates and encourages young people to deal with issues like social work, gender, peace education, etc, and prepares students for leading positions in various fields.

(to be continued in the next issue)

Second Model United Nations Conference in Odesa November 29-30, 2003

Model United Nations conference is a simulation of the work of the United Nations Organization. This is a role-playing game, during which participants assume the roles of the envoys of different countries to the United Nations.



Honourable guests of the Model United Nations give warm welcome to the participants at the Assembly Hall of Odesa National Economic University.

«Odesa National University Model United Nations 2003» was a conference for university students interested in international relations and concerned about the world's problems. The Participants of ONU MUN 2003 stepped into the shoes of ambassadors to the United Nations and debated to protect the interests of the countries they represented.

During the conference the participants simulated the debate happening in UN bodies, such as the Security Council (situation in Liberia), the Counter-Terrorism Committee of Security Council (cooperation between the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations), European Council (1. The upcoming EU enlargement; 2. Turkey: Outside the Union or In It?; 3. EU Constitution: moving towards a common stand), and the UN's role on today's international arena.

Each committee was to work out the resolution, resolving the above mentioned problems. The resolutions, written by participants were passed on to a representative of the UN office in Kyiv, Tetyana Poladko, to be forwarded further to the heads of the UN agencies.

The event itself was opened with the Opening Ceremony. The opening speeches were given by Khadzhypanzov Konstantyn Strahilov, Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria; Dovzhenok Fyeliks Kondratovyc, Consul General of the Russian Federation; Yashar Pynar, Consul General of Turkey; Andzhey Sobak, Consul General of the Republic of Poland; Smintina Valentyn Andriyovych, Head of Odesa National University. Other honorable guests were Kateryna Nalyvayko, Alumni Coordinator, American Councils, Kyiv; Kseniya Isayenko, Flex Alumni Coordinator, American Councils, Kharkiv; Tatiana Poladko, UN Focal Point for Youth at UN Office in Ukraine.

After the opening words all the participants left for a sightseeing tour of Odesa.

The second half of the day was dedicated to the two introductory sessions which covered basic information about the UN, Model UN and the UN session procedure. Then all the participants had a dinner at «Till



A heated discussion in the unmoderated caucus takes place in the Security Council.

Ulenshpigel» restaurant.

The second day was full of workshops, sometimes paused for coffee breaks. The Closing Ceremony summed up all the achievements and results of the conference. All participants were awarded certificates for their active participation.

Regional Western NIS Event: Round Table on Factors of Economic Growth in Ukraine and Neighboring Countries November 21-22, 2003

Vasyl Horbachuck (Muskie Program and Contemporary Issues alumnus) from Cybernetics Institute and Valentyn Zelenyuk (Muskie alumnus 2000) from Economics Education & Research Consortium initiated a round table on the topic «Factors of Economic Growth in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries». The call for papers was launched in early October. Organizers were able to bring together alumni and experts in the field to discuss the issues related to the topic and came up with ideas for improvement of the current situation. Government representatives were also invited, and representatives of the National Bank of Ukraine and Ministry of Economics of Ukraine attended the Round Table. The Presidential Administration received a copy of the publication compiled from the papers of the speakers and discussants.



Official opening of the Round Table on 21 November 2003 at the «Crystal Hall» of the Hotel Kyiv.

This event was held as a Regional event for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus at the Crystal Hall of the hotel “Kyiv” on 21st and 22nd of November.

There were 9 sessions total within 2 days of the Round Table. Each session had a specific topic and included 10-15 minute presentations by the invited

speakers, followed by the 25-30 minute round table discussion among participants on the same topic.

Suggested topics for discussion were as follows: long-run factors of economic growth/depression; technological changes and innovations; capital flow and accumulation; demographic changes; efficiency changes; knowledge and social capital; monetary/fiscal/trade/regulation/labor policy; infrastructure organization of sustainable growth; investment climate and business practices; measures of economic growth; legislative environment of post-industrial and information societies; and accountability of government institutions and employees.

On the whole the event was a great success and will be followed by a full publication of the works/research papers presented at the Round Table.

All-Ukrainian Volunteer and NGO Fair (dedicated to International Education Week 2003) November 8, 2003



Participants perform a crazy dance «Funky Chicken», a part of presentation of the national youth NGO «Youth CAN».

The All-Ukrainian Volunteer and NGO Fair was a follow-up activity on Legal Status of Volunteers and NGO activity. The original Youth Volunteer Fair was held during the week of 30th June - 5th July 2003 in the European Youth Centre Budapest, Budapest, Hungary. Kateryna Nalyvayko and Yuliya Kobets both attended the Fair and represented American Councils for International

Education: ACTR/ACCELS and several alumni NGOs established in Ukraine. The fair was divided into several sessions. The first session included presentations on the volunteer law functioning in Ukraine and alumni NGO work and later the fair of about twenty selected local, national and international alumni NGOs from all over Ukraine was held. The invited speakers were from PAS, US Embassy (Lisa Heller,

CAO, and Natalya Yeremeyeva), UN Focal Point for Youth, UN Volunteers in Ukraine, and representatives of international NGOs working in Ukraine (e.g. NYIN, a network of nine youth international NGOs in Ukraine; AEGEE, AIESEC, European Youth Parliament, etc). There was a total of about 80 participants, including alumni of FSA Undergraduate, PIE, JFDP, Muskie Graduate Fellowship program, alumni of FSA FLEX Program, alumni of Community Connections and Contemporary Issues, representatives of local and national NGOs, and experts. The event was a great success. And the new large exhibition center «KyivExpoPlaza» offered organizers to hold socially oriented events at their premises free of charge. The active youth has already taken this initiative and in May 2004 our alumni and just active youth are planning to organize an HIV/AIDS Commemoration Day, the program of which will include a press-conference, a peer education training and an HIV/AIDS organizations exhibition which will take place at the exhibition center «KyivExpoPlaza».

International Education Week (IEW)

17-21 November 2003

IEW Workshop Training for Trainers

14-15 November, 2003

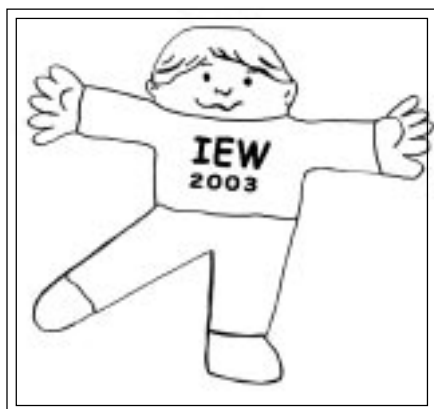
Twenty-one alumni of different programs received a two-day training of trainers conducted by professional Counterpart Creative Centre trainers. This training covered such topics as personality of a professional trainer, provision of training services, and problems and solutions in the education process. The provided information will allow alumni to apply more effectively the skills and knowledge they acquired during the program and later during participation in various alumni seminars and trainings. The sessions were interactive and included a lot of creative tasks. There was even a video session of participants giving presentations, in order to see their mistakes.



Valentyna Smal, JFDP alumna of 2001, presents the group work on the components of training cycle.

International Education Week (IEW)

17-21 November 2003



*Flat Stanley
mascot of the IEW 2003*

On-line Course «Leadership and Management»

17-21 November, 2003

Online courses in Team-building and Leadership were launched for alumni on November 17. These courses will allow alumni not only to learn new and necessary information but also effectively apply their computer and communication skills acquired during their international experience in the USA.

If you have not signed up yet, please do because of the limited spaces and time of the courses.

To sign up, please send your full name and email to:
alumni@americancouncilskyiv.org.ua

Kyiv All-Alumni Meeting

20 November, 2003

Hotel «Bratislava»
6 PM - 9 PM

The first Kyiv all-alumni meeting was held in Hotel «Bratislava» on 20 November 2003. The event gathered over 150 alumni of Muskie, JFDP, RSEP, PIE and TEA, FLEX and Undergraduate programs. The representatives of PAS, US Embassy in Ukraine, namely Lisa Heller, CAO, Marta Pereyma, Natalya Yeremeyeva, and Vira Maxymova, and Civic Education Project Director in Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Serhiy Zaytsev, came to welcome alumni and provide them with information on grant and education opportunities.

Christina Pendzola-Vitovych, Director of American Councils in Ukraine, Kateryna Nalyvayko, Higher Education Programs Alumni Coordinator, and Maryna Yaroschuk, FLEX Alumni Assistant in Kyiv hub, reviewed alumni programming issues and ideas implemented during the International Education Week 2003. During the meeting alumni were asked to fill out the Needs Assessment form for the American Councils staff to determine the actual needs of alumni.

Practical Psychology Seminar at the «Ways of the World Club»

November 18, 2003

Yevhen Medresh who is PIE'99 alumnus, Kharkiv «Ochag» School Director, and Moscow Institute of Gestalt Therapy trainer, held a practical training on the dynamic methods of effective communication. There were many goals set forth for this event. Some of them were as follows: to give alumni and community representatives theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on effective communication, to improve communication, and create new connections between alumni of different programs, to help alumni to find friends and colleagues who share common interests, to increase awareness of different ways of self-realization in the world, to expose alumni and the Kharkiv community to new ideas, topics and activities, to promote independence, self-reliance, independent thinking, community action and a new understanding of citizenship.

Participants asked that the practical psychology trainings be conducted on a regular basis. They also suggested more publicity so that more people could attend such trainings.

Alumni Meetings Organized by Lviv Office

Uzhhorod

November 3, 2003

Lviv Office Director, Michael Hnatyshyn, greeted alumni and presented them with grant opportunities and explained in detail future alumni events. Alumni discussed possible ideas for grants. The floor was then given to Kateryna Popadyuk (PIE alumna and IATP Center coordinator in Uzhhorod) who explained the services provided by the IATP center and encouraged present FLEX alumni to be more active and to make use of the experience and contacts of older alumni from other programs. Alumni were also invited to take part in a seminar entitled «The Volunteer Law in Ukraine: Creation of A Network of Local Alumni and non-alumni NGOs».

Ivano-Frankivsk

November 12, 2003

Alumni discussed possible ideas for grants as well. They were also encouraged to work together as a community as opposed to simply working with alumni of their own program. The alumni who were present decided upon a project for a grant and discussed taking part in several events for the community such as visiting secondary schools and informing students about programs and organizing summer exchange camps between children in Ivano-Frankivsk and children in the Crimea. Alumni decided upon several concrete courses of action and expressed a desire to take part in a grant-writing seminar. As a result of this alumni meeting Lviv office included a grant writing seminar for the Ivano-Frankivsk alumni in this years alumni events with left over money from previous events.

Rivne

November 28, 2003

The alumni who were present discussed many ideas for co-operation on various projects. Among the projects discussed were the creation of an on-line advice center for young people concerning their rights as well as information about elections and candidates. They also discussed forming a social club where they could get together and alumni of programs that have weaker English skills could have an opportunity to improve their English. The idea of putting together an event for the on-line advice center is welcomed and given consideration.

International Educational Organizations Round Table in Kharkiv

November 21, 2003

Representatives of more than ten international organizations (American Councils, British Council, French



Lyudmyla Belova, the Head of City Council of Education in Kharkiv, is giving a plenary speech at the New Strategy in Education Planning Meeting on December 6, 2003.

Cultural Center, Polish Council, Jewish Cultural Center, Korean Cultural Center etc.) were invited for a round table discussion. Every organization made a short presentation about their activities and plans. They were informed in advance about the goals of the event and were asked to come up with their ideas and thoughts about the possibility of a common project. Representatives of the Kharkiv office of American Councils made suggestions for a joint project based on the ideas of alumni proposed at the “Ways of the World” club meeting on September 12, 2003.

Representatives of five international organizations: Jennifer L. Wilson (Director of the Kharkiv office of American Councils for international education: ACTR/ACCELS), Vyacheslav Kurinnyy (Regional manager of British Council in Kharkiv), Frederic Viyom (Kharkiv office Director of French Cultural Center), Kyong Ja Kang (Coordinator in Ukraine of the Korean Pioneers in Overseas NGO “KOPION”), Yuzefa Chernichenko (Director of Polish Cultural Center in Kharkiv), Oleksandr Ilchuk (Kharkiv American Councils Program Assistant), and Andriy Chystyakov (Project coordinator, NGO “Club RodDom”) met at the Kharkiv City NGO “Club RodDom”. They shared information about cultural and

educational activities they do in Kharkiv. American Councils organized the Round table and “Club RodDom” offered to initiate a common cultural public project in Kharkiv.

The representatives of the international organizations were highly interested in such a project and gave their own ideas about the type of project that would be more effective. Yuzefa Chernichenko offered to do the International Conference “European Club” where representatives from different countries could gather in Kharkiv and discuss and share ideas about international integration. Frederic Viyom suggested that the organizations should join efforts to organize the International Cultural Festival in Kharkiv in June 2004 using the experience of the annual French



Yevhen Medresh (PIE alumnus), the director of private Kharkiv gymnasium «Ochag», is giving a plenary speech at the New Strategy in Education Planning Meeting on December 6, 2003.

Culture festival in Kharkiv. Vyacheslav Kurinnyy reminded everyone about the experience of the Kharkiv Assembly Annual Festival. The representatives of the international organizations agreed to work together in collecting ideas and preparing the International Event in Kharkiv during the next 12 months.

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Round Table on Tax Reform in Ukraine

November 03, 2003

The round table, initiated by Mykola Orlov, attorney at law, Shevchenko Didkovskyy & Partners, Yuriy Zabara, editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper «Yuridicheskaya Praktika», and American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, was held in Kyiv on November 03, 2003.

The round table is a continuation of a series of round table discussions that are popular with alumni. Together with alumni, representatives from both the public and private sectors, and experts discussed issues related to the topic and came up with solutions for development



Mykola Orlov gives a general overview of the current situation with a new tax legislation in Ukraine and a new perception of the law by residents and non-residents in Ukraine.

and improvement of the situation with a new tax reform in Ukraine.

Those findings will be formed into a resolution and sent to the appropriate institutions. «Yuridicheskaya praktika» is going to publish materials and information about the roundtable and its outcomes within the week after the round table.

Volunteer Internship Program with American Councils

During the International Education Week 2003 American Councils for International Education announced a volunteer internship program to be launched soon. Within a few weeks the announcement will be put on the web-site www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua.

There are already two interns who are working at the US Education Information Center.

The process of the selection will be as follows: candidates will be invited for the orientation session followed by an interview. The interview will include questions concerning candidate's experience and knowledge of American Councils work and policies.

Computer and Internet Usage Seminar in Dnipropetrovsk

22 November 2003

The Computer and Internet Usage training was conducted in Dnipropetrovsk IATP centre by the regional representative Yuriy Seliverstov. At the beginning of the training he gave a short presentation on the work of IATP



Dnipropetrovsk Office Assistant Serhiy Kyrychenko helps Olga Romanenko, a TEA 2003 semi-finalist, with a difficult task.

centres in Ukraine, their goals and objectives.

The trainer began by explaining basic computer notions. The trainees obtained basic information on a system block, operation system and a monitor. Then the trainer explained how to work with a mouse and a mouse pointer, how to work with windows and a keyboard and how to use "drag and drop" technology, and the trainees had a possibility to practice the taught skills afterwards.

English Language Internet Olympiad Preparation in Kharkiv

November 5, 2003

Our PIE alumnus Mr. Ohurtsov conducted a series of small-group training for teachers and students from schools throughout Kharkiv oblast. Kharkiv School #26 offered their computer lab as a venue free of charge. The training focused on the preparation of students for participation in the English Language Internet Olympiad. Each district was provided with a set of CDs (\$30 per set) for training and participation in the Olympiad.

The participants have been provided with resources for participation in the Olympiad and acquired the necessary skills needed for successful participation. Each participant got 3 CD's with the training program and the manual with instructions.

Teacher participants will keep preparing their students for the Internet English Language Olympiads that will be conducted in Kharkiv oblast, using the CD's with the training program they got during the seminar.

The following part of the training was devoted to the basic operations with a text. The teachers were shown how to type, copy, paste and delete a text in MS Word. Further, the trainer explained to the trainees the foundations of the Windows file system, how to save, copy, paste, create, rename, delete and find a file. In order to practice, the participants were asked to find a Word file, which they had created and saved just recently, and do all the above-mentioned operations with it.

The teachers also familiarized themselves with the "Start" button and its properties.

In the second part of the training the participants got acquainted with the Internet and Internet Explorer, learned what hyperlinks are and what they are used for. They were also shown how to search for certain information on the Internet. After the explanations, the trainees visited www.yandex.ru and searched for the word "school".

Thus, the event gave them an opportunity to get acquainted with the computer and obtain the basic skills of working with the Internet. The seminar on Computer and Internet Usage was especially timely because on the 26th of November teachers were to receive school technical prizes.

Video in Teaching English University Award Project

Fall 2003

Oleksandra Skrypnyk, Ugrad 2002 alumna from Kharkiv, received a University Award for her project this Fall. She is undertaking the creation of a new film and language course for the English Department at Kharkiv Skovoroda Pedagogical University. The course is



aimed to train the future English teachers from the university in better language-learning techniques and substantive discussions related to U.S. culture and themes of the films. Oleksandra (on your right at the picture) is an active alumna and took part in a Film Forum at her U.S. University.

Alumni Development Grants

Alumni Grants sponsored by American Councils

Alumni Local Initiative Grants Program (LIGP)

The Alumni Local Initiative Grants Program (LIGP) provides ECA program alumni with grants in amounts up to \$5000 to initiate social, economic, and political development projects of their own design in Eurasia and the Baltic Republics. Since the program began in 1999, 81 grants have been awarded to alumni in each of the 15 eligible countries. Alumni of the Junior Faculty Development, Regional Scholar Exchange Program, Freedom Support Act Undergraduate, Muskie/FSA Graduate and Partners in Education programs are eligible to participate. The program has an annual deadline in February 27 of each year. Applicants learn in early July about the status of their applications and grants are awarded in August. Grants are for 6 months of activity and run from August through January. For more information, contact ligp@americancouncils.org

2003 TEA TRC Alumni Grant

American Councils is pleased to announce the TEA Teacher Resource Center Program, which will assist alumni of the TEA program who are citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to establish resource centers for education professionals in their local community. The TEA Teacher Resource Center Program was established under the aegis of the U.S.-Eurasia Awards for Excellence in Teaching Program (TEA), a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Applicants may apply for funds up to \$8,000. At least 25% of the total budget submitted should be cost-shared (funded by other sources).

2003 FSA FLEX Alumni Grant

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State is pleased to announce an Alumni Grants Program, established to assist former participants of the Freedom Support Act Future Leaders Exchange Program (1994-2003) to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of their countries.

For more information, contact fsaalumni@actr.ru

Other Grant Opportunities

Support for Community Outreach and University Teaching - Grants for Muskie/FSA Graduate Alumni

This Program provides a follow-on support to alumni of Edmund S. Muskie/Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program of all years and fields of study from the Baltic States and Eurasia. The SCOUT Full Time Teaching, Part Time Teaching and Special Projects Grant Programs offer financial, methodological, institutional and informational support to Muskie/FSA alumni who are interested in teaching in institutions of higher education and professional training, or in local communities; in developing projects that promote learning and exchange among students, faculty, and communities; or in facilitating exchange between higher education and professional public and private sector, government, NGOs and other academic and community organizations. Candidates are recruited through merit-based competition. More information: scout@cep.kiev.ua

ECA Alumni Small Grants Program

The ECA Alumni Small Grants Program provides grants for professional development activities to alumni of the Freedom Support Act Undergraduate, Regional Scholar Exchange, and Contemporary Issues Programs. Administered by IREX. www.irex.org

IATP Small Internet Grants Competition

The competition provides the opportunity for targeted audiences to develop Internet resources in local languages; organize training programs or distance-learning initiatives; and/or conduct any other projects judged - by a local selection committee and/or ECA and the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassies - to be in the interest of the program's goals.

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**AMERICAN
COUNCILS**

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