



# Do'stlik



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## United States Embassy Salutes Alumni with "Spring Fling" Reunion

More than 150 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored educational exchange programs participated in the Embassy's "Spring Fling" Reunion on April 28. Hosted by Ambassador Purnell, the evening brought together alumni of educational programs such as the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, the Edmund S. Muskie / Freedom Support Act (FSA) Graduate Fellowship Program, the Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD) and the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) as well as alum-



U.S. Ambassador Jon Purnell and Public Affairs Officer Deborah Jones greet alumni of U.S. Government programs at the first annual "Spring Fling" Alumni Reunion held recently at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent.

ni of the State Department's International **Continued on back page**

**U.S. Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher: "The United States very much values the independence and sovereignty of Uzbekistan."**

U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher visited Uzbekistan on August 8-10. His visit included meetings with representatives of NGO, business and human rights communities and media. He also had extensive meetings with President Islam Karimov and Foreign Minister V. Norov. Below is the transcript of the Assistant Secretary's press conference at the U.S. Embassy.

**Ambassador Purnell:** Thank you all for coming out this evening. We apologize for being a few minutes late. But it is a great pleasure for me to be able to introduce to you this evening Assistant Sec-

retary of State Richard Boucher. He is, I am sure, no stranger to you. He has dealt with the press and public issues for many years in his distinguished career. This is his first visit to Uzbekistan in his new capacity. And I know that he looks forward to taking your questions this evening.

**Assistant Secretary Boucher:** Thank you, Jon. If I can, I would like to say a few words to start. This is my third visit to Uzbekistan. I came here before with Secretary of State Albright and then with Secretary of State Powell.

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## Боғбон яхши бўлса боғ кўкаради

This month's column is by a guest writer who recently spoke with Ambassador Jon Purnell.

Маданият, фан, таълим ва тарбия энг олий мавжудот бўлмиш инсонни маънавий таназулга юз тутишдан сақловчи муҳим омиллардан ҳисобланади. Мутафаккирлардан бири башарият келажагини башорат қила туриб, шундай деган экан: «Илм-фан тараққий этган сари инсоннинг ўзлигига содиқлик аста-секин инқирозга учрай бошлайди. Лекин, таълим-тарбия, одоб-ахлоқ ва маданиятга ҳурмат Одам болаларини очиқ ҳалокатдан сақлаб қолиши мумкин бўлган ягона кучдир». Ахборот асридатараққийнинг залворлиғилдираги Оламгултожи— инсоннинг айнан шу сифатларини шиддат билан янчиб кетаётгандек гўё. Ўз даврида тараққийнинг чўққисига кўтарилган Атлантида, майялар, Рим империяси ва эллин цивилизацияси энг оддий ахлоқий меъёрлардан воз кечиши оқибатида даҳшатли ҳалокатга дучор бўлган. Ҳеч ким ва ҳеч бир жамият нуқсонлардан холи бўлмаганидек, бугунги кунда ҳам турлича дунёқараш ва нуқтаи назарга эга халқлар орасида инсоний қадриятларнинг маълум даражада камситилаётгани кўзга ташланмоқда. Ўзаро ҳурмат, ишонч, диёнат, садоқат ва вафо устунларининг дарз кетиши, ҳирс ва ҳайвоний нафснинг сабр-тоқатдан ғолиб келиши баъзи жамиятларда анъанага айлангани кишини чуқур ўйга толдиради. Қадим замонлардан ота-боболаримиз бизга инсон деган номнинг қандай шарафли экани, унга муносиб бўлиш амалларини, ҳурмат, иззат, одоб ва ахлоқ ҳақида бой маданий мерос қолдирган. Шунинг учун бўлса керакки, сайёрамизнинг турли нуқталаридан мамлакатимизгаташрифбуяраётган хорижликлар бизнинг урф-одатларимиз, анъаналаримиз ва маданиятимиз олдида лол бўлиб қолганларини ошқора айтишмоқда.

Бугун биз турли маданият ва қадриятлар уйғунлашиб кетган жамиятга эга давлат билан мамлакатимиз ўртасида фан-таълим, маданий ва инсоний ресурслар алмашинуви борасидаги ҳамкорлик хусусида фикр юритмоқчимиз. Сухбатдошимиз АҚШнинг Ўзбекистондаги Фавқуллода ва Мухтор элчиси Жон Пурнелл жанобларидир.

—Америка Қўшма Штатлари ва Ўзбекистон ўртасидаги алоқалар Ўзбекистон мустақилликни қўлга киритган илк кунлардан оқ бошланган. Яъни Америка Ўзбекистон мустақиллигини биринчилардан бўлиб тан олиб, Тошкентда ўз расмий дипломатик ваколатхонасини очди. Икки давлат ўртасидаги алоқалар хусусида гапирар эканман, маданий ва таълим соҳаларидаги ҳамкорлигимиз эътироф этадиган даражада эканини алоҳида таъкидламоқчиман. Яқинда Американинг «Кулранг Ғоз» номли мусикали гуруҳи Ўзбекистоннинг Самарқанд, Бухоро ва Навоий вилоятларига ижодий сафар уюштирди. Ушбу чиқишлар аҳоли томонидан илиқ қарши олиниб, гуруҳнинг ижодий фаолиятига юқори баҳо берилгани америкалик санъаткорларни жуда ҳам руҳлантириб юборди. Бундан ташқари, ҳозирги пайтда америкалик уч актёр Ўзбекистонда самарали ижодий фаолият билан банд. Улар «Илҳом» театри жамоасида

ўзбек ҳамкасблари билан бир оила фарзандидек машғулот ўтказишмоқда. Ушбу актёрлар билан учрашганимда улар менга жуда ҳам бахтиёр эканликларини, бу ерда профессионал ижодкорлар билан ишлаш натижасида қатта сабоқ олаётганликларини айтишди. Мен маданий соҳадаги ҳамкорлигимизни ўзбек ва америка халқларини бир-бирига яқинлаштирувчи кўприк деб баҳолайман. Ишонаманки, бундан кейин ҳам бу икки халқ ўртасидаги маданий алоқалар янада юксак босқичга кўтарилади.

—Элчи Жаноблари, таълим соҳасидаги ҳамкорлик хусусида ҳам фикрларингизни билишни истардик?

—Ўзбекистон ва АҚШ ўртасидаги алоқаларнинг энг муҳим қирраларидан бири ҳам айнан ушбу соҳадаги ҳамкорлик саналади. Ҳозирги кунда кўплаб ўзбекистонлик талабалар Америкада таълим олмоқда. Улардан 100 нафари айнан элчихонамизнинг махсус грантларига сазовор бўлиб, океан ортидаги энг нуфузли таълим даргоҳларида таҳсил олиш ҳуқуқини қўлга киритган. Ушбу талабаларнинг АҚШдаги ўқув жараёнлари, суғурта ва бошқа харажатлари тўлиқ элчихона ҳисобидан қопланади. Биз ўзбекистонлик талабалар учун бир неча грант лойиҳаларини ташкил этганмиз. Мазкур лойиҳаларда Ўзбекистоннинг нафақат марказий худудларидан, балки барча вилоятларидан келган талабалар иштирок этиши мумкин. Талабалар бир неча босқичдан иборат соф илмий рақобатга асосланган конкурсга тақлиф этилади ва ғолиблар ўзлари танлаган соҳа йўналиши бўйича Америкада ўқишни давом эттириш имкониятига эга бўлади. Таълим соҳасидаги ҳамкорлик ҳақида гапирар эканман, соҳага доир яна бир муҳим янгиликни айтиб ўтсам. Бугунги ахборот асрида юқори технологиялар ва ахборот-коммуникация илмини пухта эгаллаган малакали кадрлар ҳар бир давлат учун сув ва ҳаводек зарур. Шундан келиб чиққан ҳолда, биз мазкур соҳа ривожига учун хизмат қиладиган ўзбекистонлик талабаларга ҳам эътибор бермоқдамиз. Ҳозирда 15 нафар талаба Америкада юқори технология ва ахборот-коммуникация соҳаси бўйича илм олмоқда. Келажақда ушбу йўналиш бўйича ўқишни хоҳлаган талабаларга кўшимча имконият ва имтиёз беришни режалаштирганмиз.

Айни пайтда, АҚШлик талабалар, ўқитувчи ва олимларнинг Ўзбекистонга ташрифи, бу ердаги фаолият хусусида ҳам илиқ гапларни айтиш мумкин. Жумладан бу ерда таълим олаётган америкаликлар асосан ўзбек тили, тарих, маданиятшунослик ва этнография бўйича ўз билимларини бойитмоқда. Улар маҳаллий аҳолининг ўзига хос характери, бетакрор урф-одатларини тадқиқ қилиш ва шу тадқиқот асосида мақолалар, илмий қўлланмалар ёзишга ҳаракат қилмоқда.

Мен фурсатдан фойдаланиб, ўзбекистонлик ёшлар тўғрисида муҳим эътирофимни айтмоқчиман. Албатта, дипломат сифатида кўплаб учрашув ва анжуманларда қатнашимизга тўғри келади. Ана шундай учрашувларда ўзбек йигит-қизларининг соф инглиз тилида бурро гапиришлари, ўз фикрларини профессионал тарзда

муфассал етказа билишлари мени хайрон қолдиради. Айниқса, уларнинг турли иқтисодий-сиёсий ва бошқа атамаларга тўлиб-тошган нутқларни қийналмасдан беҳато таржима қилиши ҳавасимни келтиради. Албатта, ташрифдан сўнг мен улар билан учрашишга ҳаракат қиламан, инглиз тилини бунчалик чиройли ва маромига етказиб гапиришни қаерда ўрганганликларини сўрайман. Шунда мен америкалик эканлигимдан фахрланиб кетаман ва уларга инглизчани инглизлардан-да аълороқ гапиришларини айтаман. Бу билан мен ўзбек ёшларини илмга чанқоклигини, ўз устида кунт билан ишлашларини ва истеъдодли, тийрак, ўткир зехнга эга эканликларини алоҳида таъкидламоқчиман. Ўзбекистоннинг мана шундай малакали ёш кадрларга бойлиги аввало, халқнинг қолаверса давлатнинг келажаги порлоқлигидан далолат беради.

—Муҳтарам Пурнелл жаноблари, мавзудан узоқлашмаган ҳолда бир савол берсам. Дунёнинг кўплаб сиёсатшунослари томонидан ҳозирда тамаддунларо тўқнашувлар ва техника, илм-фан тараққиёти оқибатида инсоний кадриятларга жиддий путур етиб, бу кадриятлар ҳалокат жариёқасидатургани ҳақида турли фикрларилгари сурилмоқда. Сизнинг ушбу фикрларга муносабатингиз?

—Қайси маданиятга ёхуд тамаддунга мансублигимиздан қатъий назар, биз аввало, инсон эканлигимизни унутмаслигимиз керак. Бундай бузғунчи ғояларни илгари суриб, турли эътиқод вакилларини бир-бирига қарши қўйиш катта сиёсий хатодир. Радикализм ва экстремизм қандай кўринишда бўлмасин, унинг келажаги йўқ ва мен бари бир уларнинг охир-оқибат инсоният томонидан мағлуб этилишига ишонаман. Шу ўринда саволингизга Ўзбекистон мисолида жавоб берсам. Ўзбекистонда иш бошлаганимдан кейин бу мамлакатнинг кўп миллатли, 130 дан ортиқ турли миллат вакиллари, турли диний конфессияларни ўзида мужассамлаштирган жамиятини ўргана бошладим.. Ҳали бирор маротаба ҳам миллий ёки конфессияларо қарама-қаршилик ва тўқнашувни кўрганим йўқ. Бу ерда турли миллатлар ва динларнинг бир-бирига ўзаро ҳурматни саклаган ҳолда муносабатда бўлиши ҳамда бу муносабатларда ҳамиша толерантлик устун бўлишига гувоҳман. Масалан, ислом намояндалари билан кўп маротаба учрашдим ва уларнинг фаолиятини кузатдим. Кузатувларим натижасида ўзбекистонлик мусулмонлар жуда хушфёъл, ўзаро муомалада одоб-ахлоқ меъёрларига қатъий риоя этиши аён бўлди. Бу жиҳатдан олиб қараганда, Ўзбекистон, дунёда тамаддунларо тўқнашувлар содир бўлмоқда деб ўзича фалсафа сўкиётган «даҳо»ларнинг ғояларини пучга чиқариш учун яхшигина мисол ва экстремистик кайфиятдагилар учун дин экстремизмга қарши эканлигида ўрناق бўлишга қодир мамлакатдир.

Инсоний кадриятларнинг тараққиёт авж палласида унутилиши масаласига келсак, бу фикрга шундай жавоб бермоқчиман. Мана, ҳар қандай шахснинг улғайишида оила, муҳит ва тарбия алоҳида ўрин тутати. Агар у оилада инсоний кадриятларга ҳурмат ва эзгулик руҳида тарбияланса, атрофдагиларнинг унга муносабати ҳам шунга яраша бўлса, унда бу шахс ҳеч қачон инсонийликка хиёнат қилмайди. Балки, асрлар оша етиб келган кадриятларни кейинги авлод учун ҳам асраб-авайлайди.

Ҳамма нарса тарбияга боғлиқ. Боғбон яхши бўлса, ниҳол баравж ўсади, оила, тарбия ва муҳит мукамал бўлса, шахс тўғри шаклланади. Қадимда инсоният ёзиш учун пат-қаламдан фойдаланди. Бугун унинг ўрнини оддий ручка эгаллади. Шакл мутлақо ўзгариб кетди, лекин моҳият умуман ўзгармади. Замоनावий шахс ҳам бурунгилардан шаклан ва фикран фарқ қилар, лекин у моҳиятан доимо инсон бўлиб қолаверади. Яна бир бор таъкидлаб ўтсам, ҳамма нарса тарбияга, оилага, муҳитга ва ўзаро муносабатларга боғлиқ.

—Одатда халқларнинг ўзаро яқинлашувига маданий ва маънавий ҳамкорлик катта роль ўйнайди. Мамлакатларимиз ўртасидаги туризм истиқболлари хусусида нима дея оласиз?

—Ўзбекистоннинг бу борадаги имкониятлари жуда катта. Менимча, Самарқанд, Бухоро, Хива ва Термиздаги осори-атиқаларни эшитмаган киши бўлмаса керак. АҚШдан ҳар йили кўплаб сайёҳлар бу ерга ташриф буюради ва аминманки, уларнинг барчаси Ўзбекистоннинг бой тарихий-маданий ёдгорликларини кўриб, улардан олам-олам таассуротлар олиб қайтади. Лекин бизнинг бу соҳадаги ҳамкорлигимиз имконият даражасида, деб айтаолмайман. Мен икки давлат ҳамкорлигининг юксалишига хизмат қилувчи туризмнинг янада ривожланишига катта ишонч билан қарайман.

—Муҳтарам Элчи жаноблари, суҳбат якунида халқимиз ва муштарийларимизга тилақларингиз?

—Барча ўзбекистонликларга бахт-саодат ва омад тилайман. Осмонингиз ҳамиша мусаффо, мустақиллигингиз абадий бўлсин.

**Мулкдор газетаси муҳбири**

## Muslim Outreach Key for Promoting Understanding, Integration

“The [American] Muslim community realizes today they are part of the fabric of society, and they have a responsibility and opportunity to bridge the gap between the two cultures,” said Khalil Jassemm in an April 11 webchat.

Jassemm serves as chief executive officer of the nonprofit, nongovernmental organization Life For Relief and Development (LIFE), which has provided more than \$100 million in humanitarian assistance to ten countries around the world.

Jassemm said the attacks of September 11, 2001, served as a “wakeup call” for American Muslims. The subsequent war in Iraq and the War on Terror “forced them to become more proactive, and do more outreach in the community, educate, and explain to the general public what Islam is really about,” he said.

He estimated that 6-8 million Muslims reside in the United States, and noted that every city with a population of more than 30,000 has a mosque or place to pray.

Negative media perception “is probably the biggest challenge facing Muslims today,” Jassemm said.

“Only through hard work, positive engagement, a good outreach plan, and help from good citizens, this problem can be overcome.” For example, even though many non-Muslims stereotype the Muslim world as harboring negative feelings toward Americans, Jassemm said, “I don’t think Muslims hate the U.S. at all. Islam never preaches hate against anyone.” He pointed out that no single aya (verse) in the Quran uses the word “hate.”

Although some Muslims may disagree with certain U.S. policies, government policy is only “one element of the relationship” -- with factors such as culture, economy, and human interaction also serving to shape Muslim views about America and Americans, he said.

Outreach is necessary on both sides because many Muslims around the world foster misconceptions about Americans as well, Jassemm added. Jassemm said he considers American society quite welcoming to both Muslims, and has found that “the average American citizen is very open-minded and fair and willing to listen and engage in positive dialogue.”

For Muslims in America, Jassemm credited the combi-

nation of American laws and values as helping to expedite the otherwise “long gradual process” of integration. He describes Muslim integration in American society as “smooth and without any major obstacles.” “American Muslims are among the most educated of American society. They contribute in every element and aspect of American life. No, they are not harassed by the police,” he told one of his correspondents during the webchat.

Jassemm attributed Muslims’ success in America to the country’s foundation on the rule of law and its celebration of the work ethic. “[T]here are no limits on success level. Your

nationality and background are irrelevant. Islam strongly emphasizes self-discipline, and America provides endless opportunities.”

Jassemm used his own experience to illustrate the point: “I feel that I am no different than anyone else. In fact, I feel that I have more at stake in this country, more than most of the other citizens. I have nine children, aged 1 year to 26 years, all of them Americans, and all Muslims, and all part of the fabric of this society. There is no contradiction in being American and Muslim. A good Muslim is a good citizen.”

Life for Relief and Development, Jassemm’s organization, was founded in 1992 by a group of Iraqi-American professionals and is dedicated to providing health, education, social and economic services to victims of hunger, natural disasters, wars and other catastrophes. To learn more about its mission and humanitarian assistance visit the LIFE Web site at <http://www.lifeusa.org/>.



The staff of a new online magazine called, “CommUnity Magazine,” sits around the home computer of editor Yaser El-Menshawy, left, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The magazine was launched by a group of young Muslims who wanted to see more of their world in the news, said El-Menshawy. (AP Photo/Mike Derer)

## U.S. Muslim Group Launches Education Effort on Islam's Prophet

A prominent American Muslim civic group is launching a campaign to educate the public in the United States and Canada about the life of Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of Islam, in response to the controversy caused by insulting cartoons published in several European countries.

"We wanted to turn this controversy of misunderstanding and confrontation into an opportunity of education and learning about Prophet Muhammad," the executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Nihad Awad said.

CAIR and its independent sister organization in Canada -- CAIR-CAN -- are distributing free-of-charge copies of a book chronicling the life of Muhammad and a documentary film, Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet, about the prophet's life and how his teachings affect people's lives today, Awad said.

The CAIR materials are intended to help Muslim communities hold public discussions, open mosque events, panel discussions, essay contests and interfaith gatherings to increase understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. The CAIR Web site (<http://www.cair.com>) carries information on ordering the book and documentary and planning outreach activities.

"We decided to declare the year 2006 the year of learning about Prophet Muhammad and his life," Awad said. "Hopefully through this effort we will reduce the possibility of future conflict and confrontation over cartoons that might be seen as innocuous to some people but can be seen as deeply offensive to 1.5 billion Muslims over the world," Awad said. He said the campaign is not intended to convert, evangelize or proselytize, but rather to spread understanding and information about Islam.

CAIR is trying to develop a "consensus that religious symbols and beliefs should not be the target of satire and cartoons that offend people," Awad said.

Courtney Erwin of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington endorsed the CAIR initiative.

"It is hoped that this campaign will help soothe tensions and redirect energy away from outrage and violence and toward understanding and respect," Erwin said. "It will hopefully be a step in the direction of creating a beloved community, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., creating a just society where people celebrate the differences because people understand each other and find unity in that understanding," she added.

Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, representing the coordinating council of Muslim organizations in Washington and the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in suburban Washington, said his council is working to initiate discussions with members of different faiths.

"I would ask every local community -- Christians, and Muslims and Jews -- to spend an evening together, watch the film, organize discussions groups, so that at the end of the day, we can say that we have come to know each other," the imam said.

CAIR says the U.S. government and media have

dealt with the issue in a balanced and mature manner.

"Our government responded in a very balanced way, supporting freedom of expression, but also calling for responsible actions by journalists. The media have been very good in the United States" largely by refraining from reprinting the cartoons, said CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper. "The administration's response in this particular instance was quite helpful," he added.

Awad said CAIR has been working to mediate the crisis between the Danish government and Danish Muslim groups.

"When we met with the Danish ambassador, we proposed an initiative by American Muslims, a goodwill initiative to have some breakthrough in this crisis," Awad said.

Awad said that the Danish government, while lacking the power to force a newspaper to issue an apology, could show respect for Muslims worldwide by expressing its condemnation of the cartoons.

CAIR also offered to send a delegation to Denmark to meet with Danish Muslim groups and media and share the experience of American Muslims in dealing with defamation and stereotyping, Awad said. "We've dealt with them in a diplomatic way," he said.



Since its establishment in 1994, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Through media relations, lobbying, education and advocacy, CAIR puts forth an Islamic perspective to ensure the Muslim voice is represented. In offering this perspective, CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage their participation in political and social activism.

In the above photo CAIR members, Nazek Habatfha, left, Jamwelah Munim, left center, Feroze Munim, right center, and Firdos Abdul-Munim, right, prepare a registration table for people attending the CAIR conference to discuss the role of Muslims in the 2004 U.S. elections, New York. (AP Photo/Jennifer Szymaszek)

## Uzbekistan Plays Important Role in Securing Dangerous Nuclear Materials

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced on April 20 that 63 kilograms (139 pounds) of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in spent nuclear fuel were safely and securely returned to Russia from Uzbekistan.

Four secret shipments under NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) program have been conducted jointly by the United States, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The fourth and final shipment of the material, which could be used in a nuclear device or as part of a "dirty bomb," was completed on April 19. Most of the HEU spent fuel was enriched to 90 percent.

The shipments are part of a prioritized, accelerated schedule implementing a key element of a 2005 agreement between President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"These shipments of highly enriched uranium spent fuel are part of NNSA's efforts to make sure this type of material doesn't fall into the wrong hands. We will continue working hard with the international community to reduce stockpiles of high-risk, vulnerable material worldwide," NNSA Administrator Linton F. Brooks said. "It was only with the cooperation of Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and the IAEA that we were able to successfully complete this important international nonproliferation mission."

Beginning in January, the shipments of HEU spent fuel from Uzbekistan have taken place under tight security. During each of the shipments, HEU spent fuel was packaged into Russian TK-19 spent fuel transportation casks and then trucked under guard from the Uzbekistan Institute of Nuclear Physics to a railroad station near the capital city Tashkent. At the railroad station, the secure casks were loaded into special railroad cars and shipped through Kazakhstan to a secure Russian facility near Chelyabinsk where the spent fuel will be reprocessed over the next several years.

Uzbekistan is the first country from which Russian-origin HEU spent fuel has been returned to Russia under the 2005 Presidential Joint Statement between Presidents Bush and Putin agreed to in Bratislava, Slovakia. The agreement helped enhance and accelerate nuclear site and material security work between the U.S. and Russia. A prioritized schedule was developed for the completion of all shipments of Russian-origin fresh and spent fuel currently stored outside of research reactor cores by 2006 and 2010 respectively.

Previously, eight successful shipments to return Russian-origin highly enriched uranium fresh fuel were conducted under NNSA's GTRI program. To date, approximately 186 kilograms (410 pounds) of HEU have been repatriated to Russia from Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Libya, Uzbekistan, Latvia, the Czech Republic, and Uzbekistan.

The four shipments of HEU spent fuel from Uzbekistan



TK-19 cask is loaded into the special cradle in preparation for transportation to a railroad station, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Photo courtesy of NNSA)

have been conducted in the last four months as follows: 9.5 kilograms (64 assemblies) in January, 12.6 kilograms (64 assemblies) in February, 14.8 kilograms (64 assemblies) in March, and 25.6 kilograms (60 assemblies) in April.

The HEU, originally supplied to Uzbekistan by the Soviet Union, was used as fuel for the WWR-SM research reactor of the Institute of Nuclear Physics. Because the material was cooling for a long period of time it no longer emitted an immediate lethal dose of radiation as other spent fuel does, making it easier to handle and therefore vulnerable to theft or diversion.

The mission of GTRI is to identify, secure, recover and/or facilitate the final disposition of high-risk vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials around the world as quickly as possible.

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, reliability and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing; works to reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Official press release of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

## U.N. Agency Highlights Economic Integration Need in Central Asia

Regional economic integration is the key to human development in the five Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis said that integration of the economies of the five Central Asian republics is an uphill task.

Dervis addressed a conference on the U.N. 2005 Central Asia human development report at the Brookings Institution in Washington March 27 that featured panels with U.S. government officials, Central Asian diplomats, multilateral bank representatives and academics.

Dervis said that before gaining their independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, the Central Asian countries were totally dependent on the Soviet economy. When independence came, he said, all "suffered a contraction of their economies" ranging from 70 percent for Tajikistan to 30 percent for Kazakhstan, with only Uzbekistan losing marginally. The UNDP issued its Central Asia human development report in December 2005. It examined the challenges the region faces and offered suggestions for how to deal with them.

Dervis, who wrote the foreword to the report, said that Central Asia's bid to become linked to the world economy is complicated because of the different needs of each country. He said that a general development policy framework for the region will not work.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Liqun Jin told the conference the formation of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program in 1997 has provided benefits to the region by opening transport corridors to South Asia.

The CAREC program also includes Afghanistan, Mongolia and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China, facilitating contacts of the Central Asian republics with their neighbors. However, Turkmenistan is not a member, and Russia is considering an invitation to participate.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank and the UNDP, in addition to the ADB, support CAREC.

Jin said the combined assistance of the multilateral institutions to the Central Asian republics in the areas of transport, energy and trade is expected to exceed \$1.5 billion during 2006-2007.

One of the principal concerns raised in the UNDP report involves "border barriers" such as uneven custom duties and high transport costs that hinder the movement of goods among the five countries.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has programs to facilitate trade between the five countries through customs and financial sector reforms.

USAID's acting Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Drew W. Luten III said accountants are being trained and the groundwork is being laid for "a new regional business environment" in Central Asia.

### WORKER MIGRATION, ENERGY RESOURCES, WATER MANAGEMENT

Another important challenge raised in the report deals with the migration of workers from the poorer countries to those that relatively are richer. Roughly 2 million laborers and small goods traders from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan earn their living in Russia and Kazakhstan. The remittances of these migrant workers and traders form an important segment of the underground economy in Central Asia, according to the report. However, many of these migrant workers are undocumented and have to bribe their way across borders.

Cassandra Cavanaugh, Open Society Institute's regional director for Central Eurasia/Caucasus, urged the Central Asian governments to issue proper travel documentation to the migrants so that they could travel legally to other countries in search of work.

The report recognized that the vast energy resources of the region -- hydrocarbon and hydroelectric -- have the potential to be engines of growth, but said that those resources must be used more efficiently and shared more equitably.

The transit route for oil and gas exports from the region still is monopolized by Russia and alternative routes through Afghanistan, China and Iran have yet to be developed.

The report said the core of the region's natural resource challenge is in better management of its water resources. The mountainous countries of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which control the upstreams of Central Asia's two main rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, have multiple disagreements with the downstream countries, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, over issues such as payment for use of the water resources and the maintenance of dams and reservoirs.

The Aral Sea, the largest body of water in Central Asia, has shrunk drastically because of diversion of water from the rivers that feed into it. The report estimates that Central Asia is losing around \$1.7 billion every year -- or 3 percent of its GDP -- from poor water management that lowers agricultural yields.

Martha Brill Olcott of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said it is important for the international community to support Central Asia's development, but external support cannot extend beyond the limits set by the individual republics. She said that projects that demand regional coordination cannot be implemented until the leaders of the individual republics are convinced of their value.

The UNDP report is available in English and Russian at [http://hdr.undp.org/reports/detail\\_reports.cfm?view=924](http://hdr.undp.org/reports/detail_reports.cfm?view=924).

## Students Quiz U.S. Ambassador on U.S. Policy and Culture

On April 6, Ambassador Purnell visited the historic 16th century Kukeldash Madrassa in Tashkent. Except for a 60-year period during the Soviet era, the Madrassa is one of the oldest, continuously functioning Islamic educational facilities in the region.

It is also one of only ten institutions of secondary educa-



Ambassador Purnell (fourth from right) observing a computer class at the Kukeldash Madrassa in Tashkent, April 6, 2006.

tion in Uzbekistan that teaches both secular and religious subjects and whose graduates receive a diploma acceptable to any institution of higher education in the country. Its students range in age from approximately 13 to 18.

During his visit, the Ambassador met with Director Abdihakim Matqulov, other administrators, teachers and students. He observed two classes where students were being taught about the principles of Islam and listened to two international award-winning students recite from the Qur'an. He also participated in a one-hour question and answer session with students and teachers. Their questions covered a wide range of topics. One, for example, asked about the U.S. response to the cartoons depicting the Prophet that were recently printed in a Danish newspaper. Ambassador Purnell responded that "the United States recognizes the importance of free speech but also understands that all are obligated, both legally and morally, to ensure that it is used responsibly."

The Ambassador presented the Madrassa with a set of English language teaching materials, including readings on U.S. culture and society.

## Muslim Leaders Visit U.S. Embassy

*Ambassador escorts visitors on private tour followed by tea and discussion*

Recently the American Embassy hosted three of Uzbekistan's most honored religious leaders, each of whom received a personalized tour of the U.S. Embassy by Ambassador Purnell. In welcoming these religious leaders, the Ambassador extended his warm regards and demonstrated the utmost respect to the leaders, including praising them for the spiritual guidance they provide to Muslims throughout Uzbekistan. The Ambassador noted their extraordi-



Ambassador Purnell together with the former Muftiy Shaykh Muhammad Sidiq Muhammad Yusuf.



Ambassador Purnell welcomes the Head of Muslim Board of Uzbekistan Abdurashid qori Bahromov to the New U.S. Embassy Compound in Tashkent.

nary dedication to the principles of Islam. Among the topics that the leaders discussed were the role of Islam in America and how Muslims practice their faith in the United States. In addition to visiting several offices located in the Embassy, the guests reviewed the art work collection displayed throughout the building. Also of note was the Information Resource Center (IRC), which includes books on world religions. The internet is available to IRC visitors.

## Prominent Ceramist Receives Recognition for Preserving Uzbek Tradition

Akbar Rakhimov, an honored artist of Uzbekistan, academician, and master of ceramics, together with his son, Alisher Rakhimov, opened the Usta-Shogird Ceramics School on April 20, 2006. The school, the first of its kind in Tashkent, is dedicated to Uzbek and regional ceramics. It houses a museum, library, classrooms and several workshops. The facility is devoted to researching and preserving traditional forms of ceramics as well as exploring the use of new media and technology.

In his opening remarks, Akbar Rakhimov referred to his family, which includes some of the most famous ceramic masters in the country. He noted that this “dynasty has more than six generation of masters and it was a dream to establish such a school for all of us.”

As part of its efforts to recreate lost techniques, the school needed highly specialized equipment, including special kilns to fire the pottery. In 2003, the school received \$16,000 from the United States Government’s Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation Program. Ambassador Purnell participated in the opening ceremony of the ceramics school. Using a brush and glaze, the Ambassador signed a special pot commemorates the event.



Ambassador Purnell (right) signs a pot to commemorate the opening ceremony of the ceramics school.

## Health Ministry Welcomes Support for Uzbek Citizens

*Zarafshan-Newmont Joint Venture, Project HOPE and U.S. Government respond to requests*

On May 29, the First Deputy Minister of Health, Abduhakim Muminovich Hadjibayev, Ambassador Jon Purnell, the Director for External Relations and Governmental Affairs of Zarafshan-Newmont JV, Bakhram Salakhitdinov, and the Regional Director of the American NGO Project HOPE, Doug Palmer, participated in a ceremony marking the delivery of medical aid to Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Health. The donation, valued at more than \$12.6 million, is the result of a cooperative effort by the U.S. Government, Zarafshan-Newmont JV and Project HOPE. The shipment consists of medicines and medical supplies essential for the proper health care of women and children. The donation includes a large quantity of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine.

The ceremony took place at the Urban Clinical Pediatric Hospital in Tashkent’s Yunusobod district, one of the recipients of this largesse. Hospitals and clinics in the Navoi, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Djizzak, Syrdarya, Khorezm regions and Tashkent City will also be receiving a share of the donation. Since 1996, the United States Government, Project HOPE and Zarafshan-Newmont have supplied more than \$69 million in medical supplies and medicines to Uzbekistan.

Of particular importance in this shipment was the Hepatitis B vaccine. Hepatitis B is a highly infectious virus from which more than two billion people suffer world-wide; most were infected as children. Fortunately, infection is preventable with

a vaccine. This shipment of vaccine, along with other deliveries planned for the future, will greatly support the Ministry of Health in its efforts to vaccinate every child in Uzbekistan.



Ambassador Purnell gets acquainted with conditions at the Urban Clinical Pediatric Hospital in Tashkent, May 29, 2006.

## Uzbekistan's Regional English Language Office Supports

The English language is the most widely taught foreign language in the world, chosen most often as the first foreign language of study. It is the main language of the internet, science and technology, business, the international media and diplomacy. It is estimated that one fifth of the world's population speaks English fluently, and that a third are currently learning it. Knowing English means access to information, to alternative ideas, to a better education and to better jobs. Those who know English are also able to share their own ideas with a global audience.



RELO David Fay is doing a methodology workshop for English teachers at Kokand branch of Uzbekistan Teachers of English Association.

The Regional English Language Office at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent opened in 1995 to support English language teaching and learning throughout Central Asia. The Regional English Language Officer (RELO), David Fay, and his RELO Assistant work with teachers, administrators, teacher trainers and students to ensure that teaching techniques, materials, assessment systems and curricula are all based on a modern understanding of how we learn languages. The RELO supports these initiatives by sponsoring English language teaching and training projects and by providing materials for teachers and trainers. The office also offers a variety of academic exchange opportunities for English teaching professionals who are citizens of the United States and Uzbekistan. Through these projects, materials and exchange opportunities, the RELO promotes an understanding of English language and American society and culture.

### Materials

The English Teaching Forum is probably the best known product of the Office of English Programs in Washington D.C., the office that supports the activities of the RELO. The quarterly magazine, with articles by and for practicing English teachers, is the most widely distributed publication of its kind in the world. Uzbekistan currently receives over a thousand copies, most of which are distributed at workshops and conferences around the country. The magazine offers new ideas on how to teach English as well as articles, exercises and activities based on different aspects of Ameri-

can culture. Forum articles are also available online at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/eal-foru.htm>.

The RELO and RELO Assistant help distribute over 80 different titles of books to a wide variety of institutions and teacher associations. The online catalogue, <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/pubs/>, provides a full list of available titles. There are classroom textbooks that focus on building basic language skills, teacher reference and resource materials, and American literature titles through which students can better understand American culture. The wide range of formats, content, and levels offer language teachers and trainers a number of options in selecting materials for their programs. There are also a number of audio and videocassettes to supplement coursework and training agendas.

### Exchange Programs

Opportunities for U.S. experts include the English Language Fellows program and the English Language Specialists program. Fellows typically stay one to two years at institutions, mainly universities with teacher training faculties, while Specialists visit for between two and six weeks. Both work on specific projects such as textbook preparation, curriculum development, or teacher training. If you work at an institution that is interested in hosting a Fellow or Specialist, you should contact the RELO or RELO Assistant at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent.

English language teachers who are citizens of Uzbekistan also have opportunities to study, teach or do research in the United States. There are currently several English teaching professionals teaching Uzbek and Russian at American universities, supported by Fulbright's Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program. Another program, the Awards for Excellence in Teaching, or TEA, recognizes dozens of teachers for outstanding achievement in English language teaching. Finalists receive public recognition, materials and a professional development opportunity in the U.S. Teachers should visit the U.S. Embassy website, <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov/>, to find out more about these and other opportunities.

### Educational Programs, Projects and Events

One of the better-known U.S. Embassy-supported programs is the English Access Microscholarship Program. It is a new initiative for youth in secondary schools that offers two years of after-school English instruction, along with transportation and materials. In its second year in Tashkent, it currently provides education to over 60 students. Next year, other cities in Uzbekistan will begin hosting this program.

Other programs and projects in Uzbekistan that are supported by the RELO include:

- an English language teaching series on Uzbek national television, created, acted and filmed by secondary students

## Teachers and Students

- the Village Teachers Training Project in which trainers from the cities provide teaching tips and techniques to teachers in rural areas

- a “Best Practices” conference for TEA alumni in which teachers and trainers share their most successful techniques, then return to their cities to share them with their colleagues

- a series of support workshops at the country’s leading English teaching faculty in which a core of 6 trainers share their expertise with over 100 other faculty

- a university textbook project that will provide nearly 10,000 English language textbooks to the next generation of English teachers in the country

The RELO and RELO Assistant accept proposals on an on-going basis for other projects that add to the quality of English language teaching in the country.

Conferences are also a key aspect of RELO programming. Throughout the year the RELO cooperates with teachers and teacher associations to deliver high quality workshops, seminars and conferences. These serve as professional development opportunities as well as important networking events. The RELO supported two major conferences in spring 2006: the Forum Conference on May 18 and 19 in Tashkent and the Central Asian Teachers of English Conference (CATEC) on June 30 and July 1 in Ashgabat. The Forum Conference, celebrating over 40 years of English Teaching Forum, was focused on music, song and movement. CATEC’s theme was “English Without Borders” and was built on the idea of academic and cultural cooperation throughout South and Central Asia and the Caucasus.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the RELO or RELO Assistant at the U.S. Embassy, Tashkent or check our web site at: <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov>

### RELO Events

#### September

- Regional teacher training workshops
- Start of E-Teacher Online Distance Education Program with U.S. universities
- Start of English Access Microscholarship Program
- Arrival of English Language Fellow (ELF) at Bukhara State University

#### October

- Regional teacher training workshops
- Start of 9-month Professional Development Program at National University
- Workshops for Access instructors with English Language Specialist Marilyn Bohne

#### November

- National Conference of English Language Teachers of Uzbekistan with English Language Specialist Carol Marsh
- Regional teacher training workshops

#### December

- Launch of UZTV 4 English Language Program for Youth
- Global Issues English Language Essay Competition

#### January

- Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA) interviews and assessment

#### February

- Start of 5-month IELTE Effective Teacher Training Program at the University of World Languages
- English for Business Project by ELF with various Tashkent English clubs
- Art in Embassies Project with Access teachers and students

#### March

- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference in Tampa, Florida with 2 grantees from Uzbekistan
- Visit to U.S. universities to discuss programming and cooperation with universities in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

#### April

- National Association of Teachers of English in Kazakhstan (NATEK) Conference with Uzbekistan ELF

#### May

- English Teaching Forum Conference Jazzing Up the Classroom: Song, Music and Movement with English Language Specialist Carolyn Graham, author of Jazz Chants
- English Language Essay Competition Award Ceremony
- E-Teacher participant Award Ceremony

#### June

- Pre-Departure Orientation for FLTA participants
- 5th Annual Central Asian Teachers of English Conference (CATEC) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

## American Tradition of Press Freedom

Protecting freedom of the press is an American ideal older than the United States itself.

The John Peter Zenger case of 1735 set the precedent for American press freedom as a watchdog against oppressive government. In that case, a Colonial jury broke with the English legal tradition and decided that Zenger, a printer, could not be guilty of sedition because his newspaper's criticism of the British government was, in fact, true.

The American Revolutionary War was triggered in no small part by the Stamp Act of 1765, intended to tax independent newspapers out of existence. In an era when news traveled no faster than horses could run or ships could sail, when opinions could be broadcast only as loud as a man could shout, newspapers were the primary way for revolutionaries and royalists to get their messages to a wider audience.

"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (1791), elegant in its simplicity, enshrines one of the most basic beliefs of the nation: the importance of the press in nurturing democratic government by allowing a forum for free speech.

The First Amendment was the result of a lengthy political debate conducted through newspapers, and its authors knew exactly what kind of freedom they were letting loose. The press of their day was highly opinionated, partisan, and filled with vicious personal attacks. For example, the Gazette of the United States, backing the government of the first president, George Washington (1789-97), proclaimed that its mission was to oppose the "raging madness" of those who criticized administration policies. Opposition papers accused Washington, a war hero, of "incompetent soldiering."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, strongly supported press freedom even though he had few kind words for the newspapers themselves. "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," Jefferson once wrote, "I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." Yet, he also said, "I deplore... the putrid state into which our newspapers have passed and the malignity, the vulgarity, and mendacious spirit of those who write for them."

Decades later, political polarization during the Civil War resulted in a barrage of press criticism against President Abraham Lincoln. In 1863, an editorial in a Chicago newspaper said Union soldiers were "indignant at the imbecility that has devoted them to slaughter for purposes with which they have no sympathy." When an angry Union general closed down the newspaper, Lincoln ordered it reopened.

More than a century later, the U.S. government in 1971 obtained a federal court order to halt the New York Times from its ongoing publication of the Pentagon Papers, citing a risk to national security. These documents, prepared by the Department of Defense, analyzed the history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and had been classified as top secret.

Within days the case reached the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the Times. Following in footsteps of the Zenger case, the court ruled that freedom of the press from "prior restraint," is nearly absolute. The court ruled that the government had not proved that publication would inflict "direct, immediate, and irreparable harm to the national interest."

Today, even though U.S. government officials sometimes seek to prevent sensitive information from being discovered by the press, American journalists and editors for the most part use their own ethical guidelines to determine whether a story would harm national security. Foreign visitors often are surprised to discover that more than 100 accredited journalists freely roam the corridors of the Pentagon in search of news, unescorted even in time of war.

### Statement of State Secretary Condoleezza Rice on Sixteenth World Press Freedom Day

Washington, DC  
May 3, 2006

As the United States celebrates World Press Freedom Day, we hail the courageous sacrifices made by journalists around the world to report the facts, even at the cost of their lives and their freedom. Every day brave men and women risk harassment, beatings, detention, imprisonment and even death simply for seeking to share the truth with others around the world. In other countries, the crack down on press freedoms include: tightening libel laws, a concentration of media ownership, restricted Internet search engines and diminishing independent press outlets.

In China, 62 cyber dissidents are being held in prison. Zhao Yan, a New York Times researcher, was also charged with revealing state secrets in connection with a 2004 New York Times story on leadership changes in China. Despite the charges recently being dropped, he has still not been released. In Zimbabwe, security forces selectively harassed, beat and arbitrarily arrested members of the media.

In Venezuela, the combination of new laws governing libel and broadcast media content, legal harassment against journalists, and physical intimidation has resulted in limitations on press freedoms and a climate of self-censorship. In Russia, the government continued to weaken media independence, particularly of the major television networks. In Iran, press freedom has eroded. In addition to harassing and imprisoning journalists, the Iranian culture ministry ordered the daily newspaper Asia to be closed, and banned a planned women's publication, Nour-e Banovan, from being published.

While the United States will continue working to advocate for greater global press freedom, all free societies carry the responsibility to press restrictive governments to allow an open press. Independent media empowers people, exposes corruption, encourages transparency and prompts participation in the political process. Without it, society as a whole suffers.

# World Community Aiding Victims of Indonesia Earthquake

## *U.S. military, USAID personnel on the ground providing assistance*

More than 100 personnel from the U.S. military and the U.S. Agency for International Assistance (USAID) are now on the ground in Indonesia aiding victims of the May 27 earthquake that has killed more than 5,700 people and injured at least 36,000.

This powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces on the island of Java. The Indonesian government estimates that more than 343,000 have been made homeless.

The U.S. military has set up a 20-bed field hospital on a football field in Bantul district. The U.S. Marine Corps Fleet Surgical Company hospital is fully operational and providing care that ranges from basic clinical services to surgery. Hospital staff has been augmented by additional personnel from USS Essex and USNS Mercy, a military hospital ship.

USAID has committed a total of \$5 million to support relief operations. These funds are being provided through the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Indonesian Red Cross and other relief organizations.

In addition, USAID is airlifting relief supplies from its emergency stockpiles, including plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, water containers, hygiene kits and medical supplies.

The United States is among at least 22 governments that have responded with financial and material assistance and relief personnel. According to the Pacific Disaster Management Information Network, the Indonesian government has welcomed such help, although it has not made a formal call for international assistance.

More than 50 international and indigenous relief nongovernmental organizations are also working in the earthquake-ravaged area.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is working with Indonesia's Ministry of Health to provide booster doses of tetanus-diphtheria vaccine to 15 million people living in the earthquake-affected areas. This is critical because many people, in their attempts to clear rubble from damaged houses, have sustained minor cuts and wounds and possible exposure to tetanus. Tetanus is an acute, often fatal disease characterized by generalized rigidity and convulsive spasms of skeletal muscles.

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

#### *USAID Assistance*

- USAID/OFDA has pledged \$5 million for earthquake response activities. To date, emergency assistance provided by USAID totals more than \$3.5 million, including airlifts and distribution of relief commodities, support for humanitarian coordination efforts, and emergency health, shelter, and water and sanitation activities.

- On June 12, USAID/OFDA provided \$249,993 to

the MENTOR Initiative for emergency health activities in the earthquake-affected areas, including the dissemination of disease prevention information and distribution of insecticide-treated plastic sheeting.

- On June 9, USAID/OFDA provided \$300,000 to the International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency health activities.

- On June 9, USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$998,091 to USAID/Indonesia to support shelter, water and sanitation, and humanitarian information activities through two implementing partners.

- On June 7, USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency health activities to strengthen disease surveillance and the disease early warning system in earthquake-affected areas.

- On June 2, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for mobile health services and transport of patients to the U.S. military field hospital in Bantul District for treatment.

- On June 2, USAID/OFDA provided \$75,000 to OCHA for humanitarian coordination activities.

- Through 3 airlifts, USAID/OFDA has provided 8 emergency medical kits (each serving the medical needs of 10,000 people for 3 months), 150 rolls of plastic sheeting, 10,200 ten-liter water containers, and 5,004 hygiene kits. The value of these relief supplies, including transport, is \$361,682.

- USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to support relief activities through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Emergency Appeal on May 28.

- On May 27, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia B. Lynn Pascoe declared a disaster due to the impact of the earthquake. The same day, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through IFRC to support the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) relief operations to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake.

#### *Department of Defense (DOD) Assistance*

- U.S. military personnel were deployed to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in response to the May 27 earthquake. On June 1, the U.S. Marine Corps Fleet 3rd Surgical Company set up a field hospital in Bantul District. As of June 10, the field hospital had provided more than 2,200 immunizations, conducted 828 outreach patient visits, provided primary care treatment to 1,700 patients, and conducted 60 surgeries. Four U.S. military medical teams also conducted health assessments in Bantul and Klaten districts.

- As of June 14, DOD reports that expenditures for earthquake relief are approximately \$3.5 million.

Continued from front page

I have had sufficient opportunity now to meet with the people in our Embassy who are doing a terrific job. I have met with people from Uzbekistan who are working on democracy, civil society and other development matters.

I have had a chance to meet with some of the partners who help us carry out our programs that help the people of Uzbekistan. They work in areas like health, water and civil society. I have also had an opportunity to have extensive meetings with some of the leadership here: about an hour and a half with the Foreign Minister and about two and a half hours this evening with President Karimov. I have told everybody here that the United States very much values the independence and sovereignty of Uzbekistan. We congratulate Uzbekistan as it approaches its fifteenth year of independence. So our interest in cooperating with Uzbekistan is to help it find new opportunities to move forward with its independence. We are not here to play games. We are not here to try to contend with any other powers.

We expect Uzbekistan to maintain all its ties with Russia, with China, with Europe, with Turkey and other nations. We think we can help Uzbekistan to find other opportunities and other choices as well. And the more choices this nation or any nation has the more independence it has. I also said that we want to establish a new basis for cooperation. The areas that we identified in our strategic partnership statement of 2002 indeed remain valid. We agreed that we do have common interests in security issues, fighting terrorism, drugs, proliferation and things like that. We have interests in economic and business cooperation and all of the things that go with such cooperation. And we have an interest in the economic and political development of a healthy society here. We obviously have very strong differences about the events in Andijon and the human rights situation. But we think that if we are going to establish the basis for cooperation then we can discuss some of these issues as well. So, we talked about these areas of common interests in practical ways. And we also talked in a practical way about the actions that are needed to try to rebuild trust, to try to achieve real cooperation in these areas. These were good discussions, these were thorough discussions. But I cannot tell you at this moment what will happen next. It will depend on what both sides actually do to pursue and develop this cooperation. For our part, we are willing to try. But we have to see what happens. With that, let me take your questions.

**RIA Novosti:** The signing of an agreement creating a Central Asian nuclear free zone is planned for September 8 in Semipalatinsk. This is an initiative of Uzbekistan and it is the result of longtime cooperation. This nuclear free zone is considered to be one part of a reliable and effective system of regional security. Mr. Boucher, how does America evaluate the prospect of this nuclear free zone in Central Asia?

**A/S:** I have not actually focused on this nuclear free zone and I do not have any particular comment about that. But in that connection, I would say that the achievements in this region on non-proliferation have been quite good. There are indeed countries in this region which have gotten rid of nuclear weapons, gotten rid of nuclear facilities, gotten rid of nuclear waste to try to keep it out of the hands of terrorists and other people

who would do ill. So non-proliferation has been an area where the United States has cooperated with the countries of this region and we would hope and expect to do so in the future.

**VOA Uzbek Service:** Mr. Boucher, the last visit of an official representative of the U.S. Government happened in September of 2005 when Mr. Daniel Fried visited Uzbekistan. He had a meeting with the President of Uzbekistan. Can you tell us what is the difference between these two meetings – the one you had today and the one that took place last year – given the fact that even after last year's meeting of a U.S. official and the Uzbek President there has been no real warming of Uzbek-U.S. relations?

**A/S:** You are right. Dan Fried came here and addressed many of the same issues last fall. I read the reports about his visit and talked to him about his visit. I do not know if I have done anything much differently than he. And indeed there have been some continuing problems in our relationship and in the work we do here since he was here. I suppose I came because I have to get to know the country, the people and the leaders for myself. I think I owe them the decency of listening to them before we have to make whatever decisions we do about the relationship. I believe and they believe that there still remains a sound basis for us to find common interest and that we should continue to try to find it. But we have been prepared in the past to take serious steps if the relationship deteriorates. And we may have to do that in the future. But I think if both sides want to do it, we do have a basis in common security issues, finding economic opportunities and working together for the political and economic development of this society – a basis grounded on those common interests could lead to cooperation. For our part we are ready to try. And that is why I am here.

**Deutsche Welle:** Considering that you have touched upon the issue of economic cooperation, I would like to ask the following: As you may be aware, the joint venture Zerafshan-Newmont has faced certain problems – they say that the U.S. side is ready to sell its share to third parties. Have you discussed issues of economic cooperation in general and the Zerafshan-Newmont JV in particular? And can you provide us with more specific details about these discussions?

**A/S:** We keep in very close touch with American companies here. But I am afraid it would not be appropriate for me to discuss the affairs of any particular company. I think the only thing I would say is that there are companies that are finding it increasingly difficult to do their business here. We did discuss these issues today. And I expect we will continue to discuss them in the future. The actions that are taken with regard to some of these particular situations I think will lead other investors to draw their own conclusions. Therefore, I would say that it is important that they be able to handle the situation carefully and fairly. But in terms of public discussions I think I have to leave it at that.

**Radio Tashkent:** There are a number of Islamic organizations that are trying to strengthen their presence in the country through participation in various social and economic projects, for instance, Akramiyas. Why does the U.S. Government characterize some Islamic organizations as fundamentalists or terrorists and other organizations as not terrorist organizations? Do you



*“...I came because I have to get to know the country, the people and the leaders for myself. I think I owe them the decency of listening to them before we have to make whatever decisions we do about the relationship. I believe and they believe that there still remains a sound basis for us to find common interest and that we should continue to try to find it.”*

- U.S. Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher,  
Tashkent,  
August 9, 2006

Richard A. Boucher was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs on February 21, 2006. The Bureau of South Asian Affairs was expanded to include the nations of Central Asia shortly before his confirmation.

Over the course of his career, Ambassador Boucher served as the Department of State’s Spokesman or Deputy Spokesman under six Secretaries of State (Secretaries Rice, Powell, Albright, Christopher, Eagleburger and Baker). He has also served as Chief of Mission twice overseas, first as U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus (1993 to 1996), and then as Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong (1996 to 1999). Ambassador Boucher’s early career focused on economic affairs, China and Europe.

Ambassador Boucher was born in Bethesda, Maryland in 1951. He obtained his Bachelor’s degree in 1973 from Tufts University and did graduate work in economics at George Washington University.

not think that some kind of dual standard is being applied?

**A/S:** The standard is violence. If people are violent, we need to call them what they are. If they are setting bombs to kill innocent people, we need to call them terrorists. At the same time, there needs to be a place for Islamic believers in the political process. Believing in Islam and even conservative Islam is not a barrier to participating in society. We feel we should welcome peaceful believers to participate in society and to participate in politics.

**Journalist:** “Even an animal cries when beaten” said a young Uzbek man who was accused of membership in a banned Islamic group. He said this at his trial while explaining why he signed a confession and how he was tortured. A sixty-six year old musician is on trial for writing a song about the Andijon violence. What is your opinion of the never ending string of trials of peaceful Muslims, [human] rights defenders and dissidents in Uzbekistan? I guess it is difficult to lose a diplomatic mask, but try to imagine we are having a round of beers in a bar on E Street.

**A/S:** Well, we are not, are we? I do not have a problem giving you a frank answer to that. The United States has been and continues to be profoundly concerned about the human rights situation here. The government here knows that and we report on it in our human rights report. The question is whether we can move forward to improve the situation; whether we can have a dialogue; whether we can try to improve the situation for the people who have been victimized by human rights violations; and whether we can find a way to move forward – for this government to find a way to move forward here in the area of human rights. They say they are.

So we are going to see what we can do in that area. But it is a very important area to the United States and the people of the United States. And it will continue to be an area that we want to work with the people here in Uzbekistan to improve. I’m sorry, I have got to go, so we are going to do one last question.

**Journalist:** In 2001, on October 3, my colleague and I were present in a press conference that you gave for American journalists. A few days later, you arranged a similar press conference for journalists from Central Asia. And I remember that you quite effectively managed to avoid direct questions. I understand that this is the art of diplomacy and Mr. Purnell has mentioned a number of times at different conferences that this is a diplomatic art and you are successfully demonstrating this art. So I would like to ask this direct question for which I would like to receive a direct reply. During the last months, a number of American [non-governmental] organizations had to shut down their operations in Uzbekistan, except maybe for one, the National Democratic Institute. So here is a question: Have you discussed the issue of to what extent these organizations will re-establish their operations here in the future or we should expect some kind of new organizations in Uzbekistan. Have you discussed this issue with the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs?

**A/S:** Yes. That is the direct answer.

**Journalist:** What steps will the United States take if relations between the two countries worsen?

**A/S:** If relations get worse? I do not know. We will decide at that time. Is that direct enough? Thank you. Sorry, I have to go, I have things I have to do. Thank you.

## Top Young International Football Players Meet President Bush



President George W. Bush hosting participants of the World Cup Youth Delegation Program in the White House (*White House photo/Paul Morse*)

### *Middle- and secondary-school players from 13 countries visit White House*

Washington – Standing on the steps of the White House, 30 young football players from middle and secondary schools around the globe had an opportunity on June 12 for an experience not shared by most Americans: They met President Bush.

The players were posing on the steps for a photo when Bush came up and put his arms around the shoulders of Gustavo, a midfielder from Bolivia, and asked the group what they were doing.

“It was really great to visit the White House, but an even more unbelievable experience to get to meet and shake the hand of the president of the United States,” said Anna, a top defensive football player from Uzbekistan. “I don’t even want to wash my hand after he shook it,” she said with a grin.

Anna and the other players were photographed with the president, who shook hands and signed autographs. They presented Bush with a team jersey emblazoned with his name and the number 1. Anna is one of the young athletes from 13 countries who are taking part of the World Cup Sports Initiative, a partnership between the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Soccer Foundation, U.S. Soccer Federation and Major League Soccer (MLS).

During the visit, the young players will learn how the game of football is structured and played in the United States (where the sport is known as soccer), including the important roles of women as players, referees and coaches at all levels. They will attend games and practices by male and female professional teams in the United States before heading to Nuremberg, Germany, to attend the FIFA World Cup match between Ghana and the United States on June 22.

Ibrahim, a midfielder who is making his first trip outside of Nigeria, said he is having a great experience meeting Americans and playing football in the United States.

“I am having a great time,” he said. “It was amazing to get to

go to the White House. I am so happy to meet with the president of the United States.”

The boys and girls, aged between 13 and 18, are from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bolivia, China, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda and Uzbekistan.

Basit, a midfielder from Pakistan, also was excited about meeting President Bush, but his highest praise was for the White House itself. “I really liked going into the White House,” he said, “there was a lot of beautiful woodwork there.”

Earlier in the day, the athletes visited the U.S. Department of State to meet with Secretary of State Con-



President George W. Bush talks with Imane Sallah from Morocco of the World Cup Soccer Youth Delegation on the North Portico steps of the White House Monday, June 12, 2006. (*White House photo by Paul Morse*)

doleezza Rice and Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes.

Hughes, who will accompany the young players to Germany, said the World Cup Sports Initiative was established to show “young people across the world Americans as we really are” and to help combat “misunderstandings” about the United States.

For more information, see World Cup 2006, the U.S. Embassy in Berlin’s World Cup Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

## Chess Spreads Through Schools Across America



Members of the Calcutt Middle School chess club strategize over their chess boards. (© AP Images)

The children, aged 5 through 11, crowd around tables or lie on their bellies on the floor, talking, laughing and letting their legs bounce in that jittery way kids have. The noise and energy levels in the large room are close to what you might expect from kids on recess or having a classroom party.

The nearly 60 kids, who have stayed after school to crowd into the library of Raleigh Park Elementary School near Portland, Oregon, are members of the school's chess club. Few of the club members will be winning, or even entering, any tournaments. But these kids -- 15 percent of the school's 400 students -- are becoming better students, learning something about themselves and having fun.

Formerly the refuge of nerds, dweebs, wonks and misfits, chess has become one of the hottest activities in schools across the United States. The chess programs, however, are not designed to turn out more grand masters or produce a new American world chess champion. Educators promote chess for the impressive academic gains it brings to students.

Playing chess improves mathematics and problem-solving skills of even the youngest players while developing their ability to make difficult choices, think logically and plan ahead. Academic progress in one California school district improved measurably within 20 days of introducing chess into the classroom. A Seattle school official has said, "Chess is the single most powerful educational tool we have at the moment."

### LOCAL PROGRAMS

Other programs are more local. One of the most successful is New York City's Chess in the Schools, which brings chess instruction to tens of thousands of children from kindergarten to eighth grade in 120 schools in low-income neighborhoods. The program provides each child with a chess set and a chess booklet published by the organization. But its most important contribution might be its 40 teachers, who visit each of the schools once a week, providing in-class instruction and often staying long after the last school bell has rung to help strengthen school chess clubs. Chess in the

Schools also organizes weekly citywide tournaments that draw upwards of 500 children, some as young as 5 years old.

Organizers plan to double the program's size in the coming academic year, according to Marley Kaplan, the program's president and chief executive officer. One of the newer chess organizations, First Move, founded in Seattle in 2000, takes a different approach. Instead of bringing chess instructors from the outside into the classroom, First Move trains the teachers to play chess well enough to teach it to their students, according to Wendi Fischer, a vice president of First Move. First Move has designed a curriculum to make the game a part of the formal program of instruction for second- and third-graders.

First Move has been adopted by a number of large school districts across the country, including Seattle, Philadelphia and San Diego.

### LIFE LESSONS

This rapid growth no doubt pleases First Move's founder, the entrepreneur and philanthropist Erik Anderson, who believes that the lessons learned from chess as a child have helped him throughout his life. Anderson's belief in the character-building aspects of chess is shared with many of those who promote chess in the schools. Jerry Nash of the USCF talks of how the game raises self-esteem and helps young kids mature. "The players must shake hands, be courteous to their opponents. They have to learn to persevere," he says.

Some even see a democratizing element in the great game. First Move's Wendi Fischer says, "Chess has a way of leveling the playing field. Kids who don't interact with each other very often will play chess with each other."

The "A" student will play with the top athlete. The child from a poor family will play the child from a rich family. "This is especially important," Fischer says, "in schools with lots of non-English speakers. They don't have to communicate verbally." Kaplan of Chess in the Schools adds, "It doesn't matter what age or gender or religion you are. Players are equals when they face each other across the board."

Meanwhile, back among the kids at Raleigh Park Grade School near Portland, Brian Enneking, a businessman, volunteers his time as the club's chess instructor. He is one of thousands of men and women who are not part of any national organization, but simply want to help kids play chess. He talks about his days with a local high school team that went on to win the national championship, and asks himself, "What can I do for society? What can I do to give back a bit?"

In fact, he has found his answer among the dozens of kids sitting at the grade school library tables or lying on the floor playing chess, becoming, though they would probably not realize it, better students and better citizens.



## The State of Georgia - The Empire State of the South

Georgia is an original. As one of the original 13 colonies, its place in American history is rich, storied and proud.

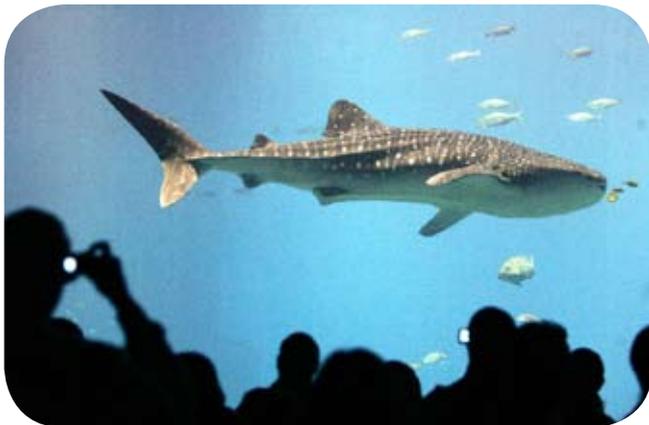
Founded in 1733 when British General James Oglethorpe landed on its coast, Georgia was established to provide a military buffer between the Spanish in Florida and the King of England's South Carolina territory. Oglethorpe honored King George II by naming the new colony "Georgia." On a bluff overlooking a river, Oglethorpe also established what would be America's first planned city, Savannah.

Few states were as impacted by the Civil War as Georgia, losing many lives and suffering immense destruction. Reminders of that historic time can be found all across the state, telling the tales of both sides of the conflict. Andersonville, site of the Confederacy's largest Union prison camp, is now home to the National Prisoner of War Museum.

The soul of Georgia can also be found in its rich African American heritage and culture. This is where the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born, where he preached from the pulpit and where his memorial continues to project freedom and justice today. Another inspiring Civil Rights landmark is Macon's Tubman African American Museum, a must-see destination that you'll never forget.

### Modern History

Georgia's historic past is filled with stories of courage, perseverance and triumph. Visit Georgia today and you'll find those same traits throughout our modern history as well. Discover the impact Georgia is making on the world and marvel at its many successes.



One of two whale sharks at the new Georgia Aquarium swims past a viewing window. The nearly \$300 million-dollar aquarium is considered the world's largest. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

One Georgian who is making a difference is former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Committed to improving human rights and alleviating human suffering around the world, Carter has created numerous programs and initiatives that are changing lives - globally. At the heart of his mission is The Carter Presidential Center, located just two miles from downtown Atlanta. This center serves as

headquarters to many international programs and hosts numerous events and conferences throughout the year.

Another attraction making modern history is Georgia's newest addition - the Georgia Aquarium. It is one of the largest aquariums in the world, featuring over 100,000 animals from 500 different species. This exciting addition to downtown Atlanta is courtesy of a generous gift from Bernie Marcus, co-founder of The Home Depot.

Anticipation is building for the opening of the new World of Coca-Cola, which will be connected to the aquarium by a garden plaza and lake. This museum will tell its visitors about the immense influence The Coca-Cola Company, headquartered in Atlanta, has had on the world - from its early days of being sold at a local pharmacy to becoming a global brand, enjoyed in over 200 countries.



The performers are seen forming the Olympic rings and the 100 symbol to mark the Centennial Olympics during the opening ceremony of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Friday, July 19, 1996. (AP Photo/Michel Lipchitz)

One of the greatest events in Georgia's recent history was the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Atlanta was placed in the world spotlight as it hosted a record 197 nations for the competition.

CNN is another of Georgia's highly influential, international newsmakers - literally. Founded in 1980 by Ted Turner, CNN introduced the concept of 24-hour news coverage and has changed the way the world views current events.

Speaking of the news, Georgia musicians have been making headlines and history for generations. From music legends like Ray Charles and James Brown to the present day superstars like OutKast and Usher, you'll find an impressive list of innovative artists in Georgia. Travel to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in Macon and experience the impact Georgia artists have made on the music industry and their fans.

### Economy

Georgia has a strong, vibrant business environment that's on the move globally. It is at the center of a progressive, ever-growing region and serves as an international gateway to the world.



The Coca-Cola sign in downtown Atlanta. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

Georgia is home to some of the world's most recognized corporations including homegrown companies such as Coca-Cola, CNN and The Home Depot, as well as these other well recognized names:

- Delta Air Lines (World Headquarters)
- AFLAC Insurance (World Headquarters)
- InterContinental Hotels (Americas Headquarters)
- Newell Rubbermaid (World Headquarters)
- Philips Electronics (North American Headquarters)
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC (Headquarters)
- Gulfstream Aerospace (World Headquarters)
- CARE (World Headquarters)
- Siemens Energy & Automation
- Porsche Cars (North American Headquarters)
- Pirelli Tire (North American Headquarters)
- CIBA Vision (World Headquarters)

### Atlanta

A fast-paced urban environment mixes with welcome smiles in Atlanta, creating an experience you won't find anywhere else. Georgia's capital city offers a sophisticated mix of arts and cultural destinations, world-class shopping and some of the best professional sports in the country.

Art lovers discover a rich and varied cultural tapestry in Atlanta. From exhibits in the High Museum of Art's collection of more than 11,000 works, to hundreds of independent galleries featuring both well-known and up-and-coming artists, the city broadly supports all types of visual arts, photography and sculpture. The Woodruff Arts Center, which opened its doors in 1968, is the largest performing and visual arts center in the country and serves as host to Broadway-caliber performances, classical music and experimental theater. The Center includes the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta College of Art, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse. To stretch your imagination, the Center for Puppetry Arts is a unique and internationally renowned destination that offers entertaining shows for children and adults.

Come Thanksgiving, you can tour the new \$300 million Georgia Aquarium. This magnificent destination features more than 100,000 animals from 500 different species in more than 8 million gallons of water. Then, visit the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where rare plants from all over the world are cultivated and conserved. And you'll thrill to the giant pandas, Lun Lun and Yang Yang, and 1,000 other animals at Zoo Atlanta.

Sports fans have year-round options in Atlanta. In the summer months, baseball fans can head to Turner Field to watch the perennially dominant Atlanta Braves, and in the fall and winter you can watch in awe as Michael Vick and the dynamic Atlanta Falcons light up the Georgia Dome. Hockey and basketball fans flock to Philips Arena, where they'll find the up-and-coming Atlanta Thrashers and Atlanta Hawks.



U.S. Map, courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau.

### Quick Facts

**Abbreviation:** GA

**Capital City:** Atlanta

**Governor:** Sonny Perdue

**Date of Statehood:** January 2, 1788

**Population:** 8,186,453

**Area:** 59441 sq.mi

**Origin of State's Name:** Named for King George II of England

**Largest Cities:** Atlanta Augusta Columbus Savannah Athens  
Macon Roswell Albany Marietta Warner Robins

**Economy:** Agriculture: Poultry and eggs, peanuts, cattle, hogs, dairy products, vegetables.

**Industry:** Textiles and apparel, transportation equipment, food processing, paper products, chemical products, electric equipment, tourism.

## President Bush Honors Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery



President Bush pauses and bows his head after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns Monday, May 29, 2006 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you all. Laura and I are honored to join you today. Thank you for coming. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your kind words. Members of my Cabinet, General Pace, Members of Congress, members of the United States military, veterans, honored guests and the loved ones of the fallen: A few moments ago, I placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I was honored to do so on behalf of the American people, as a sign of our solemn gratitude and our deep respect. The names of those buried there are known only to God, yet their souls have entered into the spirit of America, and they will never be forgotten by our nation.

In this place where valor sleeps, we acknowledge our responsibility as Americans to preserve the memory of the fallen. On this Memorial Day, we look out on quiet hills, and rows of white headstones -- and we know that we are in the presence of greatness. The markers here record the names of more than 296,000 men and women. Each of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines buried here answered the call to serve, and stepped forward to protect the nation they loved.

All who are buried here understood their duty. They saw a dark shadow on the horizon, and went to meet it. They understood that tyranny must be met with resolve, and that liberty is always the achievement of courage. Here, in the presence of veterans they fought with and loved ones whose pictures they carried, the fallen give silent witness to the price of our

liberty -- and our nation honors them, this day and every day.

In this place where valor sleeps, we are reminded why America has always gone to war reluctantly, because we know the costs of war. We have seen those costs in the war on terror we fight today. These grounds are the final resting place for more than 270 men and women who have given their lives in freedom's cause since the attacks of September the 11th, 2001. With us here are veterans who fought alongside them -- and who have come today to pay their respects. They are joined by veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts across the globe, whose friends and comrades also lie in this sacred ground. As we pray for their fallen friends, we also remember those who went to war and are still missing, and we are determined to account for them all.

In this place where valor sleeps, we find strength in knowing that those serving freedom's cause have acted with principle and steadfast faith. Second Lieutenant Jack Lundberg was killed two weeks after D-Day, at the end of World War II. He wrote his Mom and Dad a letter to be opened in the event he did not come home. He wrote, "I am sorry to add to your grief ... but we of the United States have something to fight for -- never more fully have I realized that. The United States of America is worth the sacrifice."

That same feeling moves those who are now fighting the war on terror. First Lieutenant Mark Dooley was killed by a terrorist bomb last September in the Iraqi city of Ramadi. Before he left for his tour, he gave his parents a last letter, just in case. He wrote: "Remember that my leaving was in the service of something that we loved, and be proud. The best way to pay respect is to value why a sacrifice was made."

Last week, the family of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Fenty, Junior, gathered here at Arlington to pay their last respects to the husband, son, and father they loved. Colonel Fenty was killed with nine of his fellow soldiers in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan earlier this month. Hours before that crash, he had spoken to his wife Kristen about their newborn daughter he was waiting to meet. Some day she will learn about her dad from the men with whom she served -- he served. And one of them said this about her father: "We all wanted to be more like Joe Fenty. We were all in awe of him." I am in awe of the men and women who sacrifice for the freedom of the United States of America.

Our nation is free because of brave Americans like these, who volunteer to confront our adversaries abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. Our nation mourns the loss of our men and women in uniform; we will honor them by completing the mission for which they gave their lives -- by defeating the terrorists, by advancing the cause of liberty, and by laying the foundation of peace for a generation of young Americans. Today we pray that those who lie here have found peace with their Creator, and we resolve that their sacrifice will always be remembered by a grateful nation.

May God Bless the United States of America.

## Fulbright Program Scholarship for 2007-2008 Academic Year

The Embassy of the United States of America is pleased to announce the competition for Fulbright Scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year.

The goal of this program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and thus assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries of the world.

For more than 50 years, the Fulbright Scholarship program has offered grants to college and university faculty and independent scholars from around the globe to lecture and conduct research in the United States. And for 60 years, the program has permitted thousands of American scholars to teach and conduct research in foreign countries.

The Fulbright Scholar Program is open to university professors, career professionals and others who wish to conduct research in the U.S. for periods between four and twelve months during the 2007-2008 academic year. Academic fields are as follows:

- Justice
- Health Care System Administration
- Library Science
- Journalism
- Political Science
- Business
- Finance

Those interested may apply for this program if they are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan and are fluent in English. They must also be candidates for or have a doctoral degree, or are professionals with at least 15 years work experience at the time of application. Additionally, all candidates must be in good health.

You can download application for Fulbright program from the U.S. Embassy website at

<http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov>.

Questions about the program can be directed to the Public Affairs Section at

(371) – 120-54-50.

Completed application forms along with scanned copies of diploma and other documents should BE SENT BY E-MAIL to

[program@usembassy.uz](mailto:program@usembassy.uz)

no later than November 1, 2006. The Embassy is accepting applications, effective immediately. Applicants may submit their applications now. Applicants who successfully pass the preliminary screening process will be invited for an interview.

### About the Fulbright Program

#### Program History

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Approximately 273,500 "Fulbrighters," 102,900 from the United States and 170,600 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its inception sixty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 6,000 new grants annually.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 150 countries worldwide.

#### Program Administration

The Fulbright Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) and in cooperation with a number of private organizations.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs develops policies to assure fulfillment of the purposes of the Fulbright Program and administers it with the assistance of binational commissions and foundations in 50 countries, United States Embassies in 89 other countries and a number of cooperating agencies in the United States.

The J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board, composed of twelve educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policy for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates, and approves candidates nominated for awards.

Binational commissions and foundations abroad propose the annual country programs, which establish the numbers and categories of grants based on requests from local institutions. In a country without a commission or foundation, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy develops and supervises the Fulbright Program. Currently, 50 commissions are active, 48 of which are funded jointly by the United States and respective governments. Each commission or foundation has a board, which is composed of an equal number of Americans and citizens of the participating nation.

Some Fulbright programs are administered directly by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Others are administered with the assistance of cooperating agencies. Foreign citizens interested in the Fulbright Program should contact the Fulbright Commission or Foundation in their home country or, where no commission exists, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.

## Bob Perilla's Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band

More than 325 Uzbeks spent a lovely June evening sitting under the stars listening to American bluegrass music. The performers were *Bob Perilla's Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* and the event was held on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy in



Hundreds of Uzbeks enjoy music of Bob Perilla's Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent.

Tashkent. This June 7th performance was also the Band's last performance in Uzbekistan. Its tour had been a smashing success and the band played



Ambassador Purnell dances with Elizabeth Day, the lead vocalist of the Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band during the Band's performance at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent.

for hours, seemingly reluctant to let its final and, as typical, greatly appreciative Uzbek audience leave. It was a great show.

Bluegrass is a modern American musical genre, having emerged from its country and "hillbilly" music roots following World War II. The Grand Ole Opry star, Bill Monroe – the "Father of Bluegrass" – is credited with originating and defining the style. Influenced by jazz and blues (and, more recently, rock and roll), bluegrass is known for its driving, syncopated rhythms, high-pitched tenor lead vocals, and tight harmonies.

A bluegrass band relies mostly on acoustic stringed instruments and often features a banjo, fiddle, mandolin, acoustic guitar and upright bass. Generally, band members "switch off" – each one playing an improvised solo while the others take their turns playing back-up. Repertoires include traditional square-dance tunes, religious pieces and ballads.

*Bob Perilla's Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* has been playing together for several years. The band members are:

**Bob Perilla** as master of ceremonies, vocalist and guitar-player;

**Elizabeth Day** as lead vocalist;



From left to right, Tad Marks, Bob Perilla, Merl Johnson and Mike Munford play at Ambassador Purnell's residence.

**Merl Johnson**, who plays the bass and mandolin;

**Tad Marks** on the fiddle, and

**Mike Munford** on the banjo.

The band's week-long tour in Uzbekistan was the last leg of a three-country tour (first Georgia, and then Tajikistan) sponsored by the United States Department of State. The State Department regularly sponsors concert tours and other cultural events in order to promote mutual understanding. And by that measure also, the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band's* tour was a smashing success!

Indeed, mutual understanding – as well as rapt appreciation and great enthusiasm – could not have been better demonstrated than at three of the band's four concerts in Tashkent. At each of these concerts, the band first wooed the local audience with its repertoire of top-tapping instrumental pieces, plaintive ballads and upbeat songs. It then invited a local musical group on-stage for a jam session.

At the first two concerts, which were held at Ambassador Purnell's residence, the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* jammed

## a Smashing Success!

with *Sogdiana*, the renowned Uzbek National Music Orchestra. Perhaps for the first time, the banjo and the tambur, the fiddle and the gijjak, the dulcimer and the chang, harmonized and improvised together. The audience was ecstatic, soaking up this musical fusion. For many, the highlight of this most memorable evening was when the two groups performed a rousing version of *Andijoncha*. The audience was so moved by the performances, that one guest – the famous folksinger, Munojat Yolshieva – volunteered to sing. After she finished, a noted journalist grabbed the microphone. He thanked the Ambassador for hosting the event and spoke eloquently about the evening, using the musical fusion of the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* and *Sogdiana* as a metaphor for closer relations between the United States and Uzbekistan.

The cross-cultural theme was also evident at the large concert held on the Embassy grounds. After playing for nearly two hours to this huge crowd, the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* invited the popular Tashkent band, *Gulfstream*, to perform with them. The two groups – one American, one Uzbek – were seamlessly united by their music.

Not all of the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass*

positive and buoyed by the warmth of their audience, the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* played for nearly four hours.

When not touring overseas, *Bob Perilla's Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* performs regularly at a popular Washington, D.C., club. They have also appeared at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and were in residence at the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival. Featured in Chris Rock's 2003 movie "Head of State," the *Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band* has also appeared on television and has released a CD.



The Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band and Sogdiana Uzbek National Music Orchestra perform *Andijoncha*, popular Uzbek traditional tune, at Ambassador Purnell's residence.



Banjo man Mike Munford of the Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band (left) watches member of Sogdiana Uzbek National Music Orchestra play the chang during the two bands' jam.

*Band's* performances were formal affairs. The band, for example, had a free evening in Samarkand. So these intrepid troupers decided to take their instruments down to the restaurant at their hotel, the Afrosiob, and play for whomever was there – local families enjoying a night out, off-duty hotel workers, tourists tired after their day of sightseeing and shopping. The reception was overwhelmingly



The Big HillBilly Bluegrass Band and the popular Tashkent band, *Gulfstream*, play together on the U.S. Embassy grounds in Tashkent.

## U.S. Embassy Salutes Alumni with “Spring Fling” Reunion

Continued from front page

Visitor’s program and Community Connections. The alumni were as varied as their programs: some were university students, others were professors; there were journalists, scientists, philosophers and librarians. They came from virtually every region of Uzbekistan.

Ambassador Purnell greeted the alumni and then answered their questions. They discussed, among other topics, U.S.-Uzbek relations, the absence of indepen-



Ambassador Purnell with a group of alumni at the “Spring Fling” Alumni Reunion, Tashkent, April 28, 2006.



Alumni enjoying disco at the “Spring Fling” Alumni Reunion, U.S. Embassy, Tashkent, April 28, 2006.

dent sources of information about the West and the future of U.S. government-sponsored educational programs.

The Ambassador also presented four alumni with certificates of appreciation for their contributions in furthering mutual understanding between Uzbekistan and the United States.

After completing the formal part of the program, the Ambassador turned the evening over to DJ Artur, the very popular Tashkent DJ and party host from Katakomba Club. His music was enjoyed by all.



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