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Monthly Newsletter

Issue N. 24

August-September 2003

Inside this issue:

- 2** Ambassador Jacobson Gets Acquainted with Turkmenistan
- 4** Ambassador Jacobson's September 11 Statement to the Turkmen People
- 5** Concert in Honor of September 11 Victims
- 5** Alumni Form an Association at the First National Conference
- 6** Civil Society Expert Visits Ashgabat
- 6** Local Specialists Undergo Training by a U.S. Immigration Officer
- 7** Exchange Programs for Next Year Announced
- 7** Celebration of 10th anniversary of FLEX Program
- 7** Alumni Charity Ball a Smashing Success
- 8** Two Turkmen-Language Websites Appear in Ashgabat

Ambassador Jacobson Arrives to Turkmenistan



U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Tracey Ann Jacobson

The new U.S. relationship with Turkmenistan that is as bright and tightly woven as a Turkmen carpet and as vibrant and warm as the people of Turkmenistan," Secretary Powell noted in his comments.

Tracey A. Jacobson arrived in Ashgabat and took up her duties on August 25. She met with President Niyazov on her first working day to present credentials and began making introductory calls on governmental officials, other diplomats and community leaders. "I am very pleased that President Niyazov received me on my first day in Ashgabat. I told the President that I want to work closely with him and the officials of his government to build on our cooperation in the areas of exchanges, development, and security," said Ambassador Jacobson after her meeting with the President of Turkmenistan.

Ambassador Jacobson most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia. Prior to her three-year assignment in Riga, Ambassador Jacobson served as Deputy Executive Secretary at the National Security Council in the White House. Her Foreign Service overseas assignments include Seoul, Korea; Nassau, Bahamas; and Moscow, Russia. Her domestic assignments include the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and the Office of the Under Secretary for Management. Ambassador Jacobson received her BA from John Hopkins University (JHU), and her MA from the JHU Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. Ambassador Jacobson's foreign languages include Russian, Spanish, French and Korean. She is married to Lars Anders Johansson and has one stepdaughter, Emmelie Johansson.

In an August 8th ceremony at the Department of State, Secretary of State Colin Powell officially swore in Ambassador Jacobson and expressed his confidence in her ability to broaden American-Turkmen relations. "President Bush and I look to Ambassador Tracey Jacobson to help us weave a

Speeches by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Ambassador Jacobson made at the Swearing-In Ceremony on August 8th are available in English and Russian on the website of the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan: www.usemb-ashgabat.rpo.at.

U.S. Ambassador to OSCE Discusses Human Rights in Ashgabat

U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Stephan M. Minikes visited Ashgabat September 17, 2003, as part of his tour of Central Asia. He met with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Education, the Council on Religious Affairs, the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, and representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss human rights issues in Turkmenistan of concern to the OSCE. These included exit controls, lack of religious freedoms, and lack of international access to prisoners.



Ambassador Minikes during a roundtable with media representatives.

(Continued on page 3)

Ambassador Jacobson Gets Acquainted with Turkmenistan

Meetings with Alumni

On August 27, two days after taking up her duties, the new U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Tracy Jacobson participated in a roundtable discussion with alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs. During the roundtable, hosted by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Jacobson learned about successes and accomplishments of alumni in sharing their experience and integrating their knowledge of America in Turkmenistan. Discussion of community oriented projects and other volunteer activities by alumni were of particular interest for the Ambassador, who was impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and dedication of alumni to their goal of developing Turkmenistan. "I think many of the alumni have found that service to a community is a great source of personal satisfaction, and I think the best jobs always have an element of service," Ambassador Jacobson wrote in her statement for the Alumni Newsletter a few days later.

At another roundtable, held on September 2 at the American Center, Ambassador Jacobson met with more alumni of U.S. exchange programs and followed up her previous discussion about alumni's community activities in more detail.



Ambassador Jacobson and alumni discuss community service projects.

Visit to Turkmenbashi City

September 9-10, 2003, Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson visited the port city of Turkmenbashi, her first visit in Turkmenistan outside the capital city of Ashgabat. During her visit, Ambassador Jacobson highlighted the U.S. Government's continuing support for health programs, the development of non-governmental organizations, and the activities of the alumni of U.S. exchange programs.

During her meetings with NGOs and alumni of U.S. exchange programs, the Ambassador emphasized that "our top priority is democracy and human rights. For example, the people of Turkmenistan should be allowed to travel freely." The Ambassador admired the hard work of the people and organizations working to make their voices heard in Turkmenistan, and working to improve their communities. "From what I have seen in Turkmenistan, the people here have unlimited potential," she noted.



Ambassador Jacobson checks out a binocular microscope at the Turkmenbashi TB Hospital.

Ambassador Jacobson also visited the Tuberculosis Hospital with USAID Country Director Bradford Camp. The TB Hospital has had good success in treating this highly infectious disease, and the Ambassador expressed her

hope that Hospital staff would share their strategy for success with other hospitals in Turkmenistan.

Ambassador Jacobson looks forward to continuing to meet the people of Turkmenistan by continuing her travels around the country.

Award Ceremony for Turkmen Paralympics

U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Tracey A. Jacobson attended the Turkmen National Paralympics Awards Ceremony on September 16 in Gokdere, formerly Chuli, and awarded twelve rounds of medals to the winners of that day's competition. The national competition among sportsmen with disabilities was held in the resort settlement outside Ashgabat from September 14-21. Winners will participate in regional competitions; and top finalists will compete in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.



Ambassador Jacobson presenting awards to winners of the Turkmen Paralympic Games

The Ambassador was invited to the ceremony by the Director of the Turkmen Paralympics Committee Bayrammuhammet Seyitlikov. "The United States places much value on the Paralympics and Special Olympics for providing educational and social opportunities for disabled citizens in Turkmenistan," said the U.S. Ambassador addressing Paralympics

participants. Mr. Seyitlikov spoke very highly of the U.S. support for the disabled of Turkmenistan and stated that the attention of the U.S. Embassy was very much appreciated.

After the Awards Ceremony, Ambassador Jacobson was invited to a nearby camp for the mentally and physically disabled. The Ambassador spoke with the residents of the camp and praised their self-determination and strong will to achieve excellence. All of the camp residents came out to talk with her.

The U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan seeks opportunities to support disabled people in various ways and believes that providing equal opportunities for the disabled is an important aspect of promoting human rights.

Welcoming New Peace Corps Volunteers

U.S. Ambassador Tracey A. Jacobson welcomed a new group of Peace Corps Volunteers to Turkmenistan on September 19, 2003. Ambassador Jacobson met the volunteers in the Gokdere (formerly Chuli) resort settlement, outside of Ashgabat, and wished them success in their two-year assignment in Turkmenistan.

"Peace Corps Volunteers touch many lives. Every year Peace Corps Education Volunteers in Turkmenistan support hundreds of teachers and students. Health Volunteers reach out to hundreds of pregnant women and children in their communities," said the U.S. Ambassador stressing the importance of the Peace Corps mission for the people of Turkmenistan.

The new group of 58 Peace Corps volunteers arrived in Turkmenistan on September 11 and will have a two-month orientation course in communities near Ashgabat. After the swearing-in ceremony, to be held in mid-November, the volunteers will work in all five welayats of Turkmenistan. Thirty-one Education Volunteers will co-teach English with local teachers and conduct regular seminars on English teaching methods. Twenty-seven Community Health Volunteers will work with medical establishments under the Ministry of Health to provide training in healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, and nutrition to community members.

Among the newly arrived volunteers are the Bardons,

U.S. Ambassador to OSCE Discusses Human Rights in Turkmenistan

(continued from page 1)

He also had the opportunity to hear about developments in the field of education and expressed U.S. Government interest in assisting this critical sphere both directly and through academic exchange programs. Ambassador Minikes emphasized the need for Turkmenistan to remain engaged with multilateral organizations such as the OSCE and to honor its commitments to international conventions. Ambassador Minikes stressed that while the United States wants to cooperate with Turkmenistan over a broad range of areas, progress in human rights is necessary.

Edward, 70, and Jane, 68, who received President Bush's best wishes and appreciation for their service before they departed for Turkmenistan. On August 26, the U.S. President met them during his visit to St. Paul, Minnesota, where the Bardons had lived for many years. The Bardons had an opportunity to speak privately with the President of the United States about their family, Peace Corps service for older Americans and their upcoming assignment in Turkmenistan.



President Bush posing for a picture with Edward and Jane Bardon at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

President Bush was very interested in the Bardons' decision to serve the people of Turkmenistan as Peace Corps volunteers. "The President was very responsive, pleased and appreciative that we were going to Turkmenistan," said Jane Bardon recalling her impressions of her conversation with the U.S. President.

In Turkmenistan, the Bardons will work in the field of preventive health education. "I have a lot of medical knowledge, Jane has the skills to organize great programs. We'll be looking for ways to use these in Turkmenistan," said Edward Bardon, a doctor, psychiatrist and professor of medicine, outlining his and his wife's professional plans for the next two years. The couple is also excited about living with a Turkmen family and learning the Turkmen culture and language.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Turkmenistan, which began its work here in 1993. Since then at least 350 volunteers have served here. The mission of the Peace Corps is to help interested countries meet their needs for skilled professional men and women and to promote better mutual understanding between Americans and citizens of other countries.

Stephan Minikes assumed his role as U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE on December 4, 2001. Prior to his appointment as U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Minikes held management positions in a number of major law firms. Mr. Minikes has served as senior vice president and a member of the management committee of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He is a 1961 graduate of Cornell University and a 1964 graduate of the Yale Law School. Mr. Minikes was born in Berlin, Germany in 1938, and immigrated to the United States in 1949.

Ambassador Jacobson's Statement to the Turkmen People on the Second Anniversary of September 11, 2001

The violence that struck the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 two years ago was an attack on America's freedom, but it also delivered a powerful blow to the world's hopes for peace.

Innocent citizens of 87 countries were killed in the attacks of September 11 -- more than 3,000 men and women of every continent, culture, creed, race and religion. Citizens of countries from Antigua to Zimbabwe, including predominantly Muslim countries from Bangladesh to Yemen, died two years ago.

Mothers were snatched from their daughters, and fathers from their sons. Couples were ripped apart, friends forever separated. New York lost part of its famous skyline, but not its great spirit.

As tragic and horrific as the attacks were to my fellow citizens, they changed more than America - they changed the world. The attacks' real impact lies beyond the pain suffered by survivors' and victims' families; beyond even the threat to the security of the United States.

The attacks on September 11 made us aware that terror threatens us all.

Earlier this week, President Bush reminded all of us of the stakes in fighting terrorism. "The triumph of democracy and tolerance in Iraq, in Afghanistan and beyond would be a grave setback for international terrorism. The terrorists thrive on the support of tyrants and the resentments of oppressed peoples. When tyrants fall, and resentment gives way to hope, men and women in every culture reject the ideologies of terror, and turn to the pursuits of peace. Everywhere that freedom takes hold, terror will retreat."

Since we are all potential victims of the ideology of hatred, and because terrorists believe all lives are expendable in their drive for chaos, my nation and yours must continue to condemn the murder of innocents and reject the hatred that feeds this violence. As Secretary Powell noted last week "In recent months, terrorist attacks have made far too many headlines, in far too many places. In a resort in Bali. In a bus full of children in Jerusalem. In a Bombay marketplace. At the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad. In front of a Sacred Mosque in Najaf, Iraq."

President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell have built a worldwide coalition for the war against terrorism.

President Bush has met with leaders from more than 90 countries to build support for and coordinate the war on terrorism. More than 170 nations have contributed to this effort by arresting terrorists, freezing their assets, and providing military forces. Turkmenistan has played an important role in facilitating the transit of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Worldwide efforts have lead to the capture of 65 percent of senior Al Qaida leaders, operational managers, and key facilitators. Counterterrorism

activities have splintered the group's leadership, so its ability to plan and carry out attacks has been compromised. Many Middle East and North African nations have arrested Al Qaida members. European nations have contributed forces to Operation Enduring Freedom, disrupted Al Qaida cells and are vigorously pursuing other terrorist leads. Southeast Asian countries have arrested terrorist leaders.

Al Qaida is not destroyed, but it is wounded and we are unrelenting.

With the support of many nations, we have also pursued the war on terror in Iraq. America and the Coalition removed a regime that built and used weapons of mass destruction, sponsored terror, and persecuted its people. Our military coalition destroyed the Iraqi regime, while taking extraordinary measures to spare innocent life.

Catastrophic weapons will no longer be in the hands of a ruthless dictator. Middle Eastern countries no longer fear subversion and attack by Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq will no longer be a source of funding for suicide bombers in the Middle East. The torture chambers in Iraq are closed, the prison cells for children are empty. We see new mass demonstrations, rather than new mass graves.

Our work in Iraq goes on, and our efforts to internationalize the renewal of that country continue in the face of difficulty. The remnants of Saddam's regime are dangerous, and terrorists are gathering in Iraq to undermine reconstruction. Al Qaida and the other global terror networks recognize that a democratic Iraq in the heart of the Middle East would be a grave defeat for their ideology of terror.

Unfortunately, the more progress we make in Iraq, the more desperate the terrorists will become. But we will prevail. The world has learned some important lessons. In the words of Secretary Powell, "[T]he President set us on the task not just to get the killers of September 11, but to instead lead a global campaign against all terrorism, against all terrorists. He did this because he understood that terrorism is not just America's problem; it is everyone's problem, it is a problem for the civilized world..."

As President Bush told America nearly two years ago, terrorism will be defeated. But for this to happen, it will take a strong United States and our freedom-loving neighbors around the world.

"Freedom and fear are at war," he told the American Congress. "The advance of human freedom - the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time - now depends on us. Our nation - this generation - will list a dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

**Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson
Ambassador of the United States of America to
Turkmenistan**

Ashgabat Residents Attend Concert in Honor of Victims of September 11 Attacks

Over 600 residents of Ashgabat attended a concert entitled "Sounds of the World" on September 11, 2003, to honor victims of terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania two years ago. The U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat and the National Cultural Center jointly organized the commemorative event.

Addressing visitors, U.S. Ambassador Tracey Jacobson thanked them for joining and sharing America's memory of those lost two years ago. "I believe that it is important for us to remember the



Honored Artist of Turkmenistan Atageldi Garyagdyev performs Frantz Schubert's "Ave Maria".

lives of the victims of September 11, and to remember the wonderful relationships they shared with their families and friends. It is in the spirit of remembering the human bonds and relationships among us all that I hope you enjoy this concert," the Ambassador said opening the concert.

The National Cultural Center orchestra and other musicians and singers performed classical and contemporary pieces from all over the world, including the works of Franz Schubert, Frank Sinatra, Ennio Morricone and Turkmen composer Nury Khalmammedov, both to commemorate the fact that the victims of September 11 came from all over the world, and to symbolize the international unity that we have forged in fighting terrorism.

The commemorative event also featured an exhibition entitled "Origami Peace Tree". The exhibit included origami animals and birds made by disabled children from several schools with the help of alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs.

After the concert, local spectators expressed their sympathy to Ambassador Jacobson and other Americans on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Turkmen Alumni Form an Association at their First National Conference

On September 9-10, 2003, 70 alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs participated in the First National Alumni Conference in Turkmenistan. Alumni of Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey Fellowships, International Visitors (IV), Contemporary Issues (CI), Regional Scholars Exchange (RSEP), Teachers Excellence Awards (TEA), Junior Faculty Development (JFDP), Muskie Graduate, Freedom Support Act Undergraduate (FSAU) and Future Leaders (FLEX) exchange programs were represented at the forum, held at the Ak Altyn Hotel in Ashgabat.

During the conference, participants discussed opportunities for contributing to the social and democratic development of Turkmenistan by applying their knowledge and experience from the United States. Alumni shared information and their experiences in conducting social projects in Turkmenistan, as well as evaluated potential community service projects. In this context, conference participants discussed the advantages of forming a national alumni association, which would unite and coordinate alumni efforts in serving their communities. On the second day of the conference, the alumni adopted a charter for their association and elected a board of directors.

The conference featured a guest-speaker from the United States Peter Goldberg, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance for Children and Families, an NGO, which serves and advocates for children, families and communities in the U.S. As an experienced commu-

nity service activist, Mr. Goldberg spoke about elements of civil society development and the role of nonprofit organizations. He strongly encouraged alumni to form their own association. "I can't overstate the importance of forming the alumni association to help you do what you do in your communities," said Mr. Goldberg. (Read more on Mr. Goldberg's visit on page 6.)

Alumni and other conference participants representing American and international organizations in town attended a reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Tracey Jacobson, to honor alumni outreach efforts and the establishment of the National Alumni Association. The reception was an opportunity for alumni to meet the new Ambassador, make new contacts and discuss prospects for new community projects.



UGRAD program alumni discuss a draft of their future association's charter during one of the conference sessions.

Peter Goldberg: "Development of civil society is up to the society's citizens."

Such was the slogan of Mr. Peter Goldberg, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance for Children and Families, during his visit to Ashgabat as part of the U.S. Department of State Speaker program from September 8-11, 2003. A major goal of Mr. Goldberg's program in Ashgabat was coaching alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored programs to establish their nationwide association in Turkmenistan (see article on p. 5). But Mr. Goldberg also engaged in a number of other activities and, as a prominent community service activist in the U.S., he shared his knowledge and experience with leaders of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civic activists, journalists and representatives of religious and ethnic minority groups.

At a roundtable with 15 local NGO leaders on the day of his arrival, Mr. Goldberg was introduced to the civil society development environment in Turkmenistan. Participants were interested in hearing Mr. Goldberg's perspectives on what an NGO should be like in Turkmenistan and what it can do to strengthen its organizational capacities and earn more respect from local communities and the government.

Thirty representatives from various initiative groups and NGOs of Ashgabat City and Akhal welayat participated in Mr. Goldberg's daylong workshop on Successful Nonprofit Organizations at the Counterpart Consortium Resource Center on September 10. Participants highly valued Mr. Goldberg's ability to intelligibly explain such issues as NGO identity and diversity, mission and values, source of growth and relations with the government, as well as organizational development and community activism issues. "We need such teachers as Mr. Goldberg; please, invite more visitors like him," said civil society activists after the workshop to representatives of the U.S. Embassy.

Mr. Goldberg also met with managers of grant programs offered by various American and international organizations, as well as by foreign Embassies in Turkmenistan. The American guest speaker and grant coordinators discussed NGO organizational development and sustainability issues and shared their vision and strategies for support of local non-government initiatives.

Mr. Goldberg rounded out his program in Ashgabat by hosting a roundtable with local journalists and educators on September 11. The participants discussed community activism issues, as well as Mr. Goldberg's impressions of Ashgabat. Journalists and educators expressed their sympathy to Mr. Goldberg and the American people on the 2nd anniversary of September 11 attacks.

The Alliance for Children and Families, headed by Mr. Goldberg, was founded in 1998. The Alliance, an international nonprofit association, represents more than 350 child- and family-serving organizations. Alliance members serve more than 5 million individuals annually in more than 2,000 communities, providing a vast array of services ranging from residential care for children to community centered prevention and intervention programs. Before working with family service organizations, Mr. Goldberg held a variety of positions in the corporate and philanthropic field and in the public sector. He was President of the Prudential Foundation and head of Primerica's social responsibility programs. He was Project Director of the New York State Heroin and Alcohol Abuse Study and Special Assistant to the Director of the U.S. government's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. A graduate of the State University of New York at Albany, Mr. Goldberg has authored numerous articles on corporate social responsibility issues. Mr. Goldberg has diverse experience in working with non-profit, service organizations.



Mr. Goldberg making a presentation on elements of civil society development at the National Alumni Conference.

Immigration Officer from U.S. Conducts Training for Turkmen Government Agencies

September 23 and 24, the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy hosted Laura Hutson, an Immigration Officer with the Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Hutson conducted a two-day training at the American Center, on travel documents with 30 representatives from Turkmenistan's State Border Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Turkmenhowayollary, the Turkmen National Airline. Ms. Hutson covered such important themes as security features on visas and passports, identifying fraudulent travel documents, spotting imposters, and border entry requirements for visitors to and returning residents of the United States.

Expanding cooperation on security issues with

the Government of Turkmenistan is a high priority for the Government of the United States. In her opening remarks at the training, Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson commented how pleased she was that the governments of the United States and Turkmenistan were able to work together to conduct this valuable training. Drawing on her own experience as a Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, Korea, Ambassador Jacobson emphasized the important role training participants play in protecting our countries. "You all play an important role in protecting our borders. Your decisions, your efforts to detect fraudulent passports and visas, and the time you spend interviewing visa travelers, are all extremely important elements of protecting our countries from dishonest travelers."

U.S. Embassy Announces 2004-2005 Academic Exchange Programs

The U.S. Embassy announced the opening of recruitment season for eight academic exchange programs for citizens of Turkmenistan for the 2004-2005 academic year. U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Tracey A. Jacobson, along with representatives of the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS), the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and the Embassy's Public Affairs Section, presented these programs during a press conference at the American Center on September 15, 2003. All of these programs are fully sponsored by the United States Government and are available for high school students, undergraduate students, graduate-level students seeking a Master's degree, high school English teachers, academicians, new and experienced professors of higher educational institutions, as well as professionals in various fields.

Ambassador Jacobson expressed her strong belief in the importance of these programs for U.S.-Turkmenistan relations: "I am extremely proud of our exchange programs and of their mutual contribution to both the United States and Turkmenistan. I firmly believe that one of the best ways to build better international relationships is to promote international exchanges."

These professional, educational and research exchange programs are designed to build better understanding between students, teachers, scholars and citizens of Turkmenistan and the U.S. Since 1992, these programs have helped Turkmenistan's citizens explore American society,

culture and traditions. Alumni of these programs are now successfully working or continuing their education in many industries such as business, law, education and public policy.

Competition for all programs is merit-based and open to all citizens of Turkmenistan. Selection will be made on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, knowledge of English and the designated fields of study and preparedness for study in the United States. This is the eleventh year of these programs in Turkmenistan. During the past ten years, more than 1,100 Turkmen citizens have successfully completed their studies via these programs in the United States.

Contact the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy for more information (Tel: 350045).



TEA Program Coordinator Anna Grekhova presents the program for high school English teachers.

Turkmenistan Celebrates 10 Years of FLEX Program

The Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), an academic and exchange program for secondary school students funded by the U.S. Government, turned ten in Turkmenistan. On August 7, the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat and American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) celebrated the 10th anniversary of this program as a group of fifty 8th and 9th-grade girls and boys from various parts of Turkmenistan prepared to depart for a year of study in American high schools. Over the past ten years, more than 300 students from Turkmenistan have studied in the U.S. within the framework of this program. Returned FLEX students have entered higher educational institutions of Turkmenistan, as well as found positions with the Turkmen government, international organizations and private businesses. Speaking at the occasion, Charge d'Affaires Robert Tansey praised the students and commended the support of President Niyazov for contributing to the success of the program. A representative from the Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs Batyr Annanurov was also present to congratulate the students and echoed the Chargé's encouragement that these young future leaders were Ambassadors of Turkmenistan and important to future cooperation between American and Turkmen citizens.

Alumni Charity Ball a Smashing Success

Alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs hosted a Charity Ball at the Sheraton Ak Altyn Hotel in Ashgabat on August 9th to benefit the children of families undergoing treatment at the Ashgabat Hospital for Maternity and Child Health Care. Proceeds from the Ball, which included a Fashion Show, Art Auction, and Raffle, will go to build a playground and sports complex on the hospital grounds. The artwork was created by children who are current or former patients of the hospital, ranging in age from 8 to 14 years old. Raffle prizes were donated by foreign Embassies and local businesses. The Ball raised nearly \$2000 toward this goal and alumni can be very proud of their efforts!

This kind of charity event has become a tradition for Turkmen alumni. Two years ago alumni held a similar charity ball and raised funds to build a playground at a school for hearing impaired children. Last year, two FLEX alumni received a grant and organized an art auction in order to raise funds to improve a heating system at the Abadan Orphanage.

Two Turkmen-Language Websites Appear in Ashgabat

Gulyalek Amannazarova, alumna of the Undergraduate exchange program, posted an informational website about Turkmen cuisine to the server of the Internet Access Training Program (IATP) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on September 11. The website, entitled "Türkmen Tagamlary" (Turkmen Tastes), contains essays and photos dedicated to Turkmenistan's three most popular national dishes: palow, a rice-based dish with meat and vegetables, shishkebab, a meat dish grilled on skewers, and tamdyrlama, a pastry. Located at www.iatp.edu.tm/turkmentagamlary, the website also contains recipes and a photo gallery depicting Turkmenistan's countryside.

On September 18, Bayram Kuliiev, IATP Mobile Trainer, posted an educational website about the basic rules and principles of formal logic to IATP's server. The website, entitled "Logika", located at www.iatp.edu.tm/logik, was designed for high school students as an online primer to logic, which is important in formal study of philosophy and law, among other subjects. The full texts of both websites are written in the Turkmen language, and make an important contribution to the development of online content accessible to the general population in Turkmenistan.

IATP's server hosts websites designed by alumni of U.S. Government exchange programs. The IATP office holds regular computer trainings, including trainings on Web Design, for the general public. In November, the IATP office in Turkmenistan plans to launch a new website about its activities and services in Turkmenistan. Currently, there are three public Internet access sites administered by IATP in Turkmenistan - one in Dashoguz and two in Ashgabat. For more information about IATP activities and services, contact IATP Country Coordinator **Dovlet Jumakuliev** (djumakuliev@iatp.edu.tm) or Alumni Coordinator **Aysenem Tuylieva** (atuylieva@iatp.edu.tm).



Gulyalek Amannazarova's website at www.iatp.edu.tm/turkmentagamlary is dedicated to Turkmen cuisine.