

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER



Annual Report
2004

The President of the Senate
The Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

It is my pleasure to submit to you, on behalf of the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees, the Center's annual report for 2004.

When Congress authorized Open World in 1999 (then called the Russian Leadership Program), our immediate task was to launch a large-scale exchange program that would bring emerging political and civic leaders from Russia to the United States on visits (preferably for the first time) to observe and experience our democracy, market economy, and civil society. With broad bipartisan support, led by Senator Ted Stevens, Congress created a unique pilot program, which was given independent status as the Open World Leadership Center in 2000.

In 2003, Congress extended the reach of Open World professional and community-based exchange programs beyond Russia. The Board then selected Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Lithuania as its first pilot expansion countries. At the same time, Open World's focus on Russia has continued: the program welcomed 8,800 current and future decision makers from all 89 regions of the Russian Federation from 1999 to 2004.

Congress has used Open World both to combat negatively manipulated images of America and to help the development of democracy in the countries in which it operates. The participants and American hosts profiled in our 2004 report to Congress testify to the value of the professional and personal ties fostered by Open World.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I express our gratitude for Congress's support and for the generosity and warmth of our volunteer American hosts in more than 1,400 communities. They represent the best of American public participation in a foreign policy initiative of great long-term value.

I thank retiring board members Representative Amo Houghton, George Soros, and James W. Symington for their guidance on and interest in Open World since its inception. As we mark our fifth anniversary, we look forward to working with the leadership of Congress and its designees on the Board of Trustees to determine our future direction.

Respectfully,



James H. Billington
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Leadership

The Open World Leadership Center is an independent entity in the Legislative Branch governed by a board of trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2004

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¹ By appointment of the Congressional leadership

² Citizen member appointed by Dr. Billington

Program History

The U.S. Congress established the Open World Program in 1999 to bring emerging Russian political and civic leaders to the United States to meet their American counterparts and see American-style democracy and free enterprise in action. The initiative grew out of discussions between Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and Members of Congress, led by Senator Ted Stevens (AK), on ways to increase mutual understanding between the two countries and support Russians' efforts to create a civil society. In December 2000, Congress established a perma-

nent, independent agency to house the program: the Open World Leadership Center. Public Law 108-7, enacted in February 2003, made the 11 other Freedom Support Act countries and the three Baltic republics eligible for Open World, and authorized a new initiative for Russian cultural leaders.

In December 2004, Congress in Public Law 108-447 added two seats to the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees and authorized the Board to determine country eligibility for the program.

Open World Legislative History

Public Law 108-447

The Open World Leadership Center received funding to continue its activities and was authorized to expand to any other country as designated by the Open World Board of Trustees through Public Law 108-447, the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2005, which was signed into law on December 8, 2004.

Public Law 108-7

The Open World Leadership Center received funding to expand its activities through Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution 2003, which was signed into law on February 20, 2003.

Public Law 107-68

The Center for Russian Leadership Development received funding in support of its activities through Public Law 107-68, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002, which was signed into law on November 12, 2001.

Public Law 106-554

The Center for Russian Leadership Development was established in Public Law 106-554 in December 2000 for the purpose of enabling emerging leaders of Russia to gain significant, firsthand exposure to the American system of democracy through visits to governments and communities in the United States.

Public Law 106-113

Russian Leadership Program Open World 2000 received its funding in Public Law 106-113, commonly referred to as the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2000, which became public law on November 29, 1999.

Public Law 106-31

The Library of Congress Russian Leadership Program Open World 1999 was authorized by the United States Congress (Public Law 106-31) in May 1999 to promote mutual understanding among U.S. and Russian public policy decision makers, political leaders, and citizens.



Program Objectives

Open World enables emerging leaders from participating countries to:

- ▶ **Build** mutual understanding with their U.S. counterparts.
- ▶ **Observe** U.S. government, business, volunteer, and community leaders carrying out their daily responsibilities.
- ▶ **Experience** how the separation of powers, checks and balances, freedom of the press, and other key elements of America's democratic system make the government and society more accountable and transparent.
- ▶ **Develop** an understanding of the U.S. free enterprise system.
- ▶ **Learn** how U.S. citizens organize and take initiative to address social and civic needs.
- ▶ **Share** approaches to common challenges with their U.S. counterparts.
- ▶ **Participate** in American family and community activities.
- ▶ **Establish** lasting personal and professional ties with their U.S. hosts and counterparts.

Open World exchanges are:

Selective

Participation is targeted to current and future political and civic leaders, who must be nominated by designated U.S., international, or participating-country organizations, or by Open World alumni or regional alumni coordinators. The U.S. Embassy and Open World staff review nominations and make final recommendations on participants.

Open to Non-English Speakers

English is not required, thus extending the scope of Open World to a different and untapped pool of leaders. Open World's grants allow a significant investment in professional interpretation for the delegates' programs.

Intensive

Open World exchanges typically last 10 days, beginning with an orientation program in a major U.S. city. The core of the exchange is a working visit conducted by a host organization in a U.S. community.

High-Quality

Visits are overseen by competitively selected U.S. NGOs and institutions with experience hosting foreign leaders. Program staff review and finalize proposed agendas and monitor visits.

Theme-Based

Open World organizes delegations in thematic groups in order to respond dynamically to each participating country's challenges.

Individualized

Programs provide interaction with professional counterparts, and hands-on activities and high-level meetings that directly relate to delegates' interests. Most participants stay in private homes, allowing them to experience American family and community life, and to build personal as well as professional relationships in the United States.

Open World co-founders Senator Ted Stevens (AK) and Dr. James H. Billington.





Open World Welcomes 9,000th Participant

The Open World Program brought its 9,000th participant to the United States in November.



Open World Program Marks Fifth Anniversary

On May 21 the Open World Leadership Center marked the program's fifth anniversary with a reunion of dignitaries and staff involved in launching the original pilot in 1999. Among the attendees were Open World co-founder Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress and Open World board chairman, and two fellow board members: former Representative James W. Symington, who chaired the pilot program's advisory committee, and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia James F. Collins.



Russian and Ukrainian Delegations Witness U.S. Campaigns, Election Day

Thirty-eight Russian political and civic leaders had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit campaign headquarters, polling places and newsrooms throughout the United States during election week on a special Open World program. Other highlights of their visits included participating in a question-and-answer session with Representative Louise M. Slaughter in Rochester, New York; attending Representative Anne Northrup's victory celebration in Louisville, Kentucky; and meeting with Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley.

Ahead of their own national elections, 50 Ukrainian participants traveled to the United States in August to observe the American campaign season as part of their Open World program. The delegations included elections experts, journalists, municipal officials and NGO leaders from across Ukraine. While in the United States, they explored the American electoral process with politicians, members of the media, elections officials, voter education organizations and advocacy groups.



Open World Launches Lithuanian Exchange Program

Prominent mayors, newspaper editors and youth activists from across Lithuania arrived in Washington, D.C., in February on Open World's newest pilot program, followed by a community development, education, environmental and rural issues, mass media, NGO development, and youth issues. Highlights of the inaugural program included a discussion of Fort Collins, Colorado youth programs with Mayor Ray Martinez; a roundtable at Colorado's Court Appointed Special Advocates Organization; briefings at the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*; attendance at an Omaha City Council meeting; and visits with U.S.-Lithuanian organizations.



Open World Program With Uzbekistan Completes Second Successful Year

Journalists, agricultural experts, women entrepreneurs, judges, and health advocates traveled on the second Uzbek exchange in October 2004. The 50 participants visited eight host communities and took part in local programs on economic development, health, media, and rule of law. Highlights of the Uzbeks' visits included exploring rural health care delivery at a community/migrant health center outside Tampa; meeting with top executives of CNN International and CNN en Español in Atlanta; and witnessing jury selection at the Volusia County Courthouse in Florida.

Cultural Leaders Initiative Selects First Jazz and Creative Writing Delegates

Open World welcomed its first Russian jazz artists and creative writers in 2004. One of the jazz delegations put on a show-stopping performance at the Monterey Jazz Festival in California; the other played live on a Louisville, Kentucky morning television show. The visiting Russian writers read from their works to appreciative audiences in Iowa City, Iowa, and New York City.

Open World Publishes Russian Edition of Congressional History Text

The Open World Leadership Center issued a multimedia Russian version of the Library of Congress publication *'To Make All Laws': The Congress of the United States, 1789-1989*. Published in 1989 to commemorate the 200th birthday of the U.S. Congress, the book accompanied a major exhibition at the Library that later toured 30 U.S. cities. Open World's translation provides Russian participants with a compelling guide to the workings and accomplishments of the U.S. Legislative Branch. The Russian edition is available at http://www.openworld.gov/docs/all_laws.swf and as a CD-ROM.

Russian Library Leaders Attend Premier Gathering of U.S. Librarians

Russian library managers and administrators joined thousands of their counterparts from across the United States in Orlando, Florida, in June for the American Library Association Annual Conference. Before heading for Florida, the delegates participated in an orientation program at the world's largest library, the Library of Congress. Following the conference, the Russians traveled to seven different U.S. communities for specialized programs conducted by local library systems, universities, and civic organizations.





TNK-BP Supports Open World Events in Russia and Ukraine

The availability of private funds supported a more robust program to offer professional development for alumni in Russia in 2004, and also supported predeparture activities for Open World's new Ukrainian exchange. Several TNK-BP executives also took part in major program events, including Vice President Alistair Ferguson, who delivered opening remarks at an Open World alumni conference in Irkutsk on corporate responsibility, and Chief Operating Officer Larry McVay, who joined U.S. Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow at a December reception in Moscow honoring Open World alumni.

The Russell Family Foundation Opens New Horizons for Environmental Leaders

In 2004, Open World received the first installment of a multiyear donation from The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF), a Washington state-based organization founded by financier-philanthropists George and Jane Russell. In consultation with TRFF, Open World used the 2004 donation to support programming on the environment, one of TRFF's principal grant-making areas. TRFF's gift enabled Open World to host eight delegations of Russian environmental leaders, including one group of indigenous leaders, in Alaska, California, Georgia, Missouri, and Vermont. Their innovative local programs focused on watershed and wastewater management, alternative energy and recycling, nuclear safety, national park management, environmental education, oil spill prevention and response, and sustainable resource use.



2004 National Grantees

Open World competitively awards grants to nongovernmental and governmental organizations across the United States to administer the program's community visits.

- Academy for Educational Development (AED)
- American International Health Alliance (AIHA)
- Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific
- CEC ArtsLink
- Center for Safe Energy (CSE)
- CONNECT/US-RUSSIA (CONNECT)
- DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy of the Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University
- Foundation for International Arts & Education (FIAE)
- Friendship Force International (FFI)
- Independent Television Service (ITVS)
- International Institute of the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture (GS-USDA)
- International Writing Program at the University of Iowa (IWP)
- ISAR: Resources for Environmental Activists
- Lionel Hampton Center at the University of Idaho
- Magee Womancare International (MWI)
- Meridian International Center
- National Peace Foundation (NPF)
- Rotary International
- Russian American Rule of Law Consortium (RAROLC)
- Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz
- Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at American University (TraCCC)
- University of Louisville School of Music
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- Women & Politics Institute at American University
- World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

“America showed me our different attitudes in our relations between man and government and man and society. I learned from my host that she believes that her participation in the life of her country, community, and government matters and that the future of America depends on the actions of every American. This lesson allowed me to take a fresh look at my work for the past ten years . . . I now teach specialists how to teach the learning disabled. Never before was there such a demand for all my talents . . . I now know that I can change my country for the better.”

— Russian NGO administrator and psychologist hosted in Akron, Ohio

“While visiting the United States on the Open World Program I became aware of the genuinely constructive interaction that can exist between government bodies and the community. Upon my return home, I decided to take action. I told the people of Voronezh how they can protect their right to adequate accommodations, and prevent unsuitable living conditions resulting from the inaction of local government. The ‘Citizen Inspection’ project was born.”

— Russian city council member hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Over the last five years, this highly successful leadership exchange program has sponsored visits by nearly 9,000 Russian participants, drawn from all of Russia's 89 regions, to all 50 U.S. states. This is an impressive achievement indeed. Having met with hundreds of Open World alumni in my travels across Russia, I can say that they provide a unique insight into the U.S.-Russian relationship because of their experiences in the United States. They have not only exchanged professional expertise with American counterparts; they have also become true "cultural ambassadors," able to explain Russia and Russians to Americans, and to contribute to a better understanding of America in Russia.

*— U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation
Alexander Vershbow*

Russia

The Open World Program completed its sixth successful year in 2004. Open World's core program — its exchange with the Russian Federation — brought 1,567 young leaders to the United States in calendar year 2004. As in past years, the program achieved wide regional representation (87 of the 89 Russian regions), diverse hosting experiences throughout the United States (44 states), a high rate of participation by women delegates (58 percent), and multiethnic participation. The selected themes for the year — economic and social development, environment, health, rule of law, women as leaders, and youth issues — represent key areas essential to democracy building.

In 2004, Open World programs emphasized the elections process and media campaign coverage. Participants in all themes who traveled during the months leading up to the elections came away with unique election-year experiences, such as watching the presidential debates with their host families, seeing candidate campaign signs posted on

front lawns, and observing volunteers of all ages as they worked for their candidates at campaign headquarters and in the field.

Eight Russian delegations got an insider's view into Election Day in the United States. Three delegations of regional and local government officials and aides traveled to Baltimore, Maryland; Moorhead, Minnesota; and Saratoga Springs, New York. There they visited polling stations and voter advocacy organizations, met with candidates and political party officials, and witnessed firsthand the reactions of individual citizens as they watched television coverage of the election results. Five delegations of print and television media professionals had special election programs in Atlanta, Georgia; Louisville, Kentucky; Portland, Oregon; Reno, Nevada; and Rochester, New York. These groups visited local news outlets to discuss and watch election coverage, interviewed election workers and voters at polling places, and even wrote on-the-spot news articles for publication in Russia.

2004 Civic Themes (Russia)

- ▶ Economic and Social Development
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Rule of Law
- ▶ Women as Leaders
- ▶ Youth Issues





Denver, Colorado – Health

Health care professionals discussed public health care in Colorado and health maintenance organizations with physicians at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group; toured University of Colorado Hospital's intensive care, emergency treatment, and ambulance units; reviewed services for patients with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries with the director of Craig Hospital in Englewood. (Hosts: FFI/Friendship Force of Greater Denver.)

Palm Springs, California – Economic and Social Development

NGO leaders discussed land use issues with state Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia; studied the Sunline Transit Agency's municipal bus clean-air program; met with Palm Springs' economic development director; toured a local windmill farm. (Hosts: Rotary/Rotary Club of Palm Springs.)

Los Angeles, California – Rule of Law

Russian judges sat in on a jury trial; held discussions with their judicial host, U.S. District Judge Dickran Tevzian; met with lawyers of the U.S. Attorney's Office; took part in seminars with U.S. District Judge Ronald S.W. Lew and other judges, court staff, public defenders, attorneys, and law enforcement officials; toured the Metropolitan Detention Center. (Hosts: U.S. District Court for the Central District of California/AED/International Visitors Council of Los Angeles.)





Oxford, Mississippi – Economic and Social Development

City economic and finance officials learned about the impact of the University of Mississippi on local economic development; discussed the retirement industry with members of the Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation; met with Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth, Tupelo Mayor Larry Otis, and state Representative Noal Akins. (Hosts: NPF/Oxford Mississippi Collaborative Branch of NPF.)

Chicago, Illinois – Rule of Law

Russian judges hosted by Chief U.S. District Judge Charles P. Kocoras received an in-depth introduction to jury selection and jury duty from the district court jury administrator; toured Cook County Jail and learned about the "impact incarceration" program aimed at nonviolent offenders who might otherwise be sent to prison; observed change of plea and sentencing hearings. (Hosts: U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois/Rotary/Chicago Rotary One Club.)

Cincinnati, Ohio – Youth Issues

Journalists covering youth issues examined a model for career development services for at-risk youth and toured the facilities at Cincinnati Job Corps; brainstormed strategies for antismoking campaigns aimed at teenagers with staff at the Northlich advertising agency; compared American and Russian systems for caring for orphans at Beech Acres, a parenting resource center. (Hosts: Meridian/International Visitors Council of Greater Cincinnati.)



New Programs

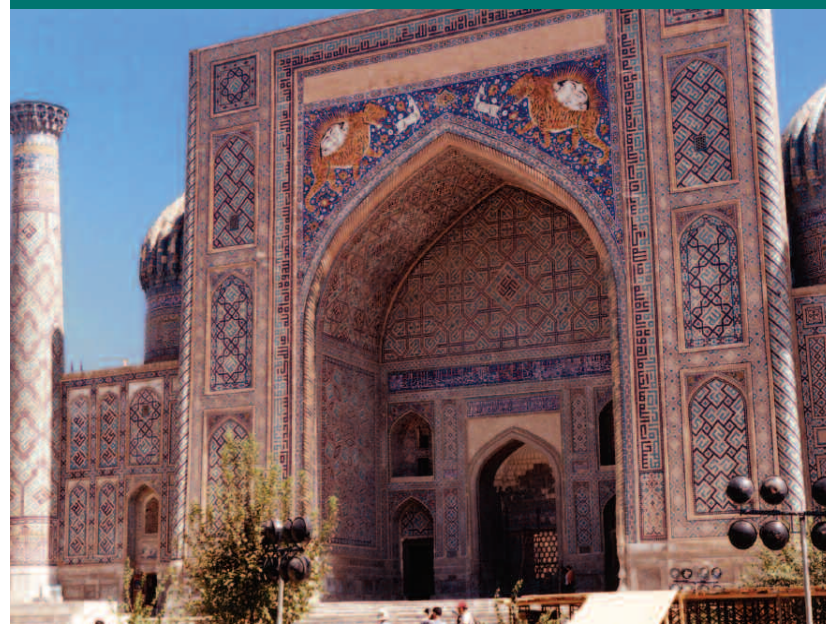
The Open World Leadership Center continued its exchanges with Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Russian cultural leaders in 2004. Open World also launched its exchange with Lithuania, which was enthusiastically received by both the U.S. ambassador to Lithuania and his Lithuanian counterpart in Washington, D.C. The Center initiated all four programs in response to 2003 Congressional legislation expanding Open World's focus and geographic scope. Working with its U.S. Embassy partners, the Center has customized the Open World model for emerging leaders in each pilot expansion country, selecting themes and developing local programs that address each country's challenges in building democracy. Adding cultural leaders to the original focus on emerging Russian political leaders has opened up new avenues of cultural communication, a key new element in building mutual understanding between Russia and the United States.



Lithuania



Ukraine



Uzbekistan



The Open World Program is a splendid opportunity for emerging leaders from Lithuania to meet their American counterparts, exchange views on current world affairs topics, share experience and make contacts. Today we count almost one hundred program alumni in Lithuania. Open World participants from Lithuania, many of whom came to the U.S. from smaller rural towns of Lithuania, returned home with many good impressions and new ideas.

Lithuania aims to share the gained experience of building of civil society, functioning democracy and free market with its immediate neighbors in the region. I have enjoyed hosting Open World participants at the Embassy of Lithuania in Washington, D.C., and look forward to greeting future Open World delegations.

– Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Vygaudas Usackas



Lithuania

Open World launched its Lithuania pilot program in 2004, bringing two groups of mayors, journalists, business and NGO leaders, environmental experts, and youth activists from nine of the country's 10 administrative districts to the United States. Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas held receptions for both travel groups during their Washington, D.C. orientations. Individual delegations focused on business development, community development, education, environmental and rural issues, mass media, NGO development, and youth issues.

Open World's newest program received high marks from the 100 Lithuanians who participated. Higher education, lobbying, business associations, health care, Social Security, and citizen participation in local government were rated among the most useful topics studied. In a representative comment, a leading rural development consultant said of his environmental visit to Middlebury, Vermont, "Local grassroots [environmental] initiatives really left a big impression on me. I have both learned how to better communicate with city and village communities and realized the need to consult with them more regularly on policy issues."



Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas (center) joins Lithuanian municipal executives participating in Open World during one of the receptions he hosted for program delegates at his embassy in Washington, D.C., in 2004.

Detroit, Michigan – Business Development

Business managers and business association leaders took part in a seminar on lobbying at the Quick Connect USA telecommunications company; learned about the business-support programs offered by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce; discussed workforce development strategies at the University of Michigan–Dearborn. (Hosts: AED/Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Michigan.)

Tucson, Arizona – Community Development

Lithuanian mayors reviewed the operations of the Casa Grande, Arizona city government with the mayor, city manager, and other officials; visited the Tucson Office of Economic Development to learn how it promotes local business-to-business activity; explored business and NGO involvement in social services delivery at the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. (Hosts: AED/International Training and Consulting, Inc.)

Cleveland, Ohio – Youth Issues

Municipal youth-program officials visited the Cuyahoga County Family and Children First Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland; studied business philanthropy and volunteerism at the Business Volunteers Unlimited organization and the Eaton Corporation; explored the role of nonprofits in promoting social values at the Southeast YMCA. (Hosts: AED/Cleveland Council on World Affairs.)

Chicago, Illinois – NGO Development

NGO leaders took a fundraising workshop at the Donors Forum that included online searches for potential funders; visited the Community Media Workshop to learn how it trains NGOs to work with the media more effectively; examined the technical support and one-on-one training provided to nonprofit personnel by the IT Resource Center. (Hosts: GS-USDA/International Visitors Center of Chicago.)



Rural development expert Virgilijus Skulskis of Vilnius (gesturing) makes a point to the executive director of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, Spence Putnam (far left), during a meeting at ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's South Burlington, Vermont headquarters, where Putnam's organization has its offices.



Lithuanian journalists visit the studio of NBC's Washington, D.C. affiliate, WRC-TV, for a behind-the-scenes look at the evening news team at work.



U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania Stephen Mull speaks at an Open World pre-departure orientation in Vilnius.



Ukraine

Elections formed a central focus for the Open World Program's 2004 Ukrainian exchange, which took place in August, when both the American and Ukrainian presidential campaigns were in full swing. The 50 Ukrainian participants came from 19 of the country's 27 regions and represented a wide range of political views. Two delegations of Ukrainian government officials, NGO election monitors, and campaign experts focused on electoral processes, and three delegations of print and broadcast journalists focused on independent media, which included a concentration on political and election coverage. Five Ukrainian delegations examined NGO development in the United States.



“I think it [the Open World visit] will expand all of my horizons, as well as everyone else’s. I also have ambitions at some time in the future to help draft legislation for my country. I think these experiences will help that as well.”

– Ukrainian judge hosted in Corvallis, Oregon

“The important thing about this program is that it will bring about change – change in the participants personally – and that it will serve as a stimulus for greater effort in Ukraine.”

– Ukrainian NGO program coordinator hosted in Washington, D.C.



Portland, Oregon – Electoral Processes

NGO election monitors and experts met with state and county elections directors; visited “get-out-the-vote” booths at the Oregon State Fair; observed phone bank operations at Multnomah County Republican Party campaign headquarters; discussed issue advocacy with officials of the League of Women Voters of Portland and Oregon Common Cause. (Hosts: GS-USDA/World Affairs Council of Oregon.)

Huntsville, Alabama – Independent Media

Ukrainian media professionals met with the vice president of CNN International in Atlanta; sat in on a *Decatur Daily* editorial meeting; attended a panel discussion with Huntsville print and broadcast journalists; gave a live interview on the *Valley Happenings* community news television show. (Hosts: AED/Office of International Programs, University of Alabama in Huntsville.)

Cincinnati, Ohio – NGO Development

Leaders in business-development organizations examined the operations of the Hamilton County business incubator; reviewed job-training programs for people with disabilities at Goodwill Industries; learned about public/private partnerships for urban revitalization at the Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., nonprofit organization. (Hosts: AED/Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project.)



In full accordance with its name, Open World is a striking example of how a government-funded program can open doors to the world for many current and future decision-makers in transition countries. The program gave dozens of Ukrainian citizens a precious opportunity to see the real face of America and to learn from its success. The 145 Ukrainian participants who have been invited to the United States through the last three years brought home not only new knowledge, but also the feeling that the United States is a friend and partner. In the breakthrough time which Ukraine is experiencing now this support is especially valuable. We hope that Open World remains active and expands its activities in such spheres as educating the government elite, training judges, supporting free journalists. Ukraine is grateful for your effort and wishes you much success.

– Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States
Mykhailo B. Reznik



Ukrainian facilitator Hanna V. Opanasyuk looks on as Hamilton County, Ohio election official Tony Reissig demonstrates an electronic voting machine.



Open World delegate Tetyana V. Skrypyn (seated, third from left), President of the Geneva Center in Ivano-Frankivsk, shares her experiences as the leader of a Ukrainian youth organization at the NGO Living Laboratory at Vital Voices in Washington, D.C.



John Williams (second from right), Director of the Hamilton County, Ohio Board of Elections, explains how voting booths are stored to (from left) Oleksandr V. Murakhovsky, Volodymyr M. Kondzolka, Hanna V. Opanasyuk, Tetyana P. Kulyk, and interpreter Alexander Etlin.



Uzbekistan

Open World hosted its second Uzbek exchange in October 2004. The 50-person group included senior representatives from Uzbekistan's ministries of economics, finance, and public health; Central Bank officials; judges; prominent journalists; agricultural experts; women entrepreneurs; and health advocates. Delegates came from 10 of Uzbekistan's 14 political subdivisions and participated in programs focused on the rule of law, health, economic development, and the media.

Open World has received numerous reports on how participants have used the knowledge they



We have found the Open World Program particularly helpful since it partners small groups of Uzbek professionals with their American counterparts. It also allows the Uzbek delegates to build a rapport with each other that continues long after they have returned home. Many of the participants came from the regions in Uzbekistan where there is little access to modern methodology. For some of them the program was the first time that they had access

gained while in the United States. A business consultant running for the Nukus City Council campaigned on themes inspired by her U.S. visit: creating favorable conditions for private business through legislation and defending the rights of female entrepreneurs. The head of the Agro-Industrial Stock Exchange in Tashkent reports that, as a result of his visit to the Kansas City Board of Trade, his exchange has now introduced electronic trading. A doctor who practices in the populous Ferghana Valley conducted a workshop on premature infant care for 45 of her colleagues to share the neonatal techniques she had seen at Tampa General Hospital. And a Tashkent newspaper reporter is publishing two long articles,

"Two-Story America" and "The White Stele [Monument] of Washington," that describe how his impressions of America and Americans changed for the better as a result of his Open World visit to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.

"I have unforgettable impressions of the Open World Program. My understanding of America as a country . . . has completely changed. Before my trip, I had a very vague insight of what it is. My comprehension now: it is a great country, which is as it is owing to its free, honest and direct people."

– Uzbek business leader hosted in the Greater Kansas City area

to world-class training in their native language. Alumni have continued to use what they learned, be it in the areas of journalism, health, rule-of-law, or economic development. The American Embassy is supporting their efforts to form an alumni association to continue to build on their experiences.

– U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Jon Purnell

"It wasn't just a trip to America; it was a trip to the future, the future that I thought I would never see in my lifetime or in my country. Owing to this opportunity, I now know what it is, and I will try to bring something from the future that I saw back home to Uzbekistan."

– Uzbek journalist hosted in Chattanooga, Tennessee



DeLand, Florida – Rule of Law

Uzbek judges witnessed jury selection at the Volusia County Courthouse; discussed police recruitment and training and toured the new DeLand Police Department facilities with the department chief; sat in on a plea-bargaining hearing conducted by Judge James G. Glazebrook in federal court in Orlando; held an extended Q-and-A session on the U.S. judicial system with Seventh Circuit Court Judge C. McFerrin Smith III. (Hosts: AED/Stetson University.)



Uzbek health delegates take turns working with a patient simulator during their visit to the Clinical Assessment Suite at the University of South Florida Health Sciences Center, their host organization in Tampa.

Cape Cod, Massachusetts – Economic Development

Women business leaders discussed business startup with the founder and former CEO of Christmas Tree Shops; got pointers on networking for women business owners at the Cape Cod Women's Organization; visited the Cape Cod Commission, a regional planning and regulatory agency, to learn about its role in community planning and economic development. (Hosts: AED/Cape Cod Community College.)



Women business leaders from Uzbekistan meet with Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey (center, in white) at the state capitol building in Boston. Accompanying the delegates is their host, Cape Cod Community College President Kathleen Schatzberg (second from right).

Tampa, Florida – Health

Health professionals explored rural health care delivery at a community/migrant health center outside Tampa; attended a community health fair staffed by medical-student volunteers; participated in a panel discussion with Hillsborough County officials on the county's nationally recognized managed care plan for uninsured indigent residents; learned how Community Health Workers (CHWs) provide health education to hard-to-reach populations. (Hosts: AIHA/University of South Florida Health Sciences Center.)



Uzbek health practitioners teach traditional dance steps to their Tampa hosts during the delegation's farewell celebration.

Chattanooga, Tennessee – Media

Journalists met with top executives of CNN International and CNN en Español in Atlanta; observed news gathering and editorial decision-making at WTVC NewsChannel 9 and the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*; and gave a live interview on talk radio WGOW. (Hosts: AED/Sister City Association of Chattanooga and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Department of Communication.)



Sister City Association of Chattanooga President Bill Prince (center) and his Uzbek journalist guests cap a week of media visits with a dinner at the faculty club of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the delegation's co-host.



Cultural Leaders

An award-winning jazz drummer, a Russian folk music composer-conductor, and an up-and-coming playwright were among the 44 participants in Open World's 2004 cultural leaders program. This two-year-old program aims to forge better understanding between the United States and Russia by enabling Russian cultural leaders to experience American cultural and community life, and to share their talents with American artists and audiences. In 2004, Open World continued its federal partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), whose financial support enabled the cultural leaders program to invite a wide variety of arts professionals to the United States for two-week working visits. The jazz musicians, creative writers, managers of folk arts institutions, and arts administrators who took part in the 2004 program were hosted by prominent arts organizations and educational institutions in five American communities. Each host community selected by Open World boasts rich cultural institutions and is the center of a flourishing arts scene.



Omaha, Nebraska – Arts Administration

Arts managers discussed marketing with the director of marketing and public relations at the Joslyn Art Museum; learned about membership and fundraising at the Omaha Community Playhouse. (Hosts: FIAE/Nebraska Arts Council.)



Stockton, California – Jazz Performance

Jazz musicians took master classes with NEA Jazz Master saxophonist Jimmy Heath; performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival; recorded three original tracks. (Host: Brubeck Institute.)



Iowa City, Iowa; New York City, New York – Creative Writing

Russian authors participated in translation workshops with University of Iowa faculty; read from their own works at the Iowa City Public Library and the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City. (Hosts: IWP/PEN American Center with CEC ArtsLink.)



Louisville, Kentucky – Jazz Performance

Jazz artists participated in master classes with jazz education icon Jamey Aebersold; opened for the legendary Heath Brothers and performed at the Jazz Factory; recorded and mixed 13 tracks, including jazz standards, originals, and a traditional Russian song. (Host: University of Louisville School of Music.)



Nashville, Tennessee – Folk Arts Management

Folk arts managers met Professor of Dulcimer David Schnauffer and learned the origins and evolution of the instrument; discussed development and fundraising with administrators from the Frist Center for the Visual Arts; learned about the history of the Grand Ole Opry. (Hosts: NPF/Vanderbilt University.)





Uzbekistan: Umida Karimova



At a reception for Open World participants at the Uzbek Embassy in Washington, D.C., Umida Karimova greets Uzbek Ambassador Abdulaziz Komilov.



Open World alumna Umida Karimova.

"Many doors that were once locked opened for me after I returned from Open World," says Umida Karimova, a senior editor with Uzbekistan's state-run Radio Yoshlar. Karimova participated in Open World's first delegation from Uzbekistan, traveling to Seattle, Washington, where she and her delegation focused on the topic of human and legal rights issues in the media. Karimova credits her 2003 Open World trip with giving her the confidence to focus on the topic that had always interested her, human trafficking.

Upon her return to Uzbekistan, Karimova dedicated herself to her part-time work as a media coordinator for a new USAID-funded antitrafficking initiative conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She recently conducted an informational session for more than 500 high school students on trafficking and co-organized an international conference that brought together U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Jon Purnell, officials from Uzbekistan's ministries of foreign affairs and internal affairs and prosecutor general's office, and Uzbek diplomats stationed in countries affected by trafficking. During this groundbreaking forum, participants discussed establishing effective ways to

work together to improve victim repatriation and assistance.

As media coordinator, and through Radio Yoshlar, Karimova has brought national attention to the trafficking issue in Uzbekistan. She has produced popular television and radio features and has even written several newspaper articles on the subject. In 2005, her broadcast work on trafficking will gain international exposure when she presents some of her radio and TV programs at a major conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and addresses a United Nations Development Program-sponsored conference in Bukhara.

In addition to working to combat trafficking, Karimova entered the race for Tashkent's city council last year. She says her Open World experience encouraged her to take this step, with newly found confidence to enter politics in a traditionally male-dominated society. Although she knew that she faced an uphill battle, Karimova entered the race with the aim to meet voters and to learn about their concerns. Campaigning on the slogan "Believe in Protecting Your Own Rights," Karimova lost the election, but she notes that she learned valuable lessons for her next race, which she is already planning.

Host community: Seattle, WA
Hosts: AED/Seattle-Tashkent
Sister City Association



Russia: Aleksey A. Stukanov

"Our go-to guy in Tomsk" is how Open World alumni coordinator Vera DeBuchanne describes Open World 1999 alumnus Aleksey A. Stukanov, an associate professor of international politics at Tomsk State University and a former Open World regional alumni coordinator. The gregarious academic seems to know all "the best and the brightest" emerging leaders in this Siberian city, and he has successfully nominated participants for Open World.

Asked why he thinks Open World is valuable, Stukanov responds that Tomsk has a rising generation of leaders who are open to new ideas and to the wider world, and the program is an excellent vehicle for exposing them to "best practices" in their fields. "Open World candidates are not nominated just to pay tribute to their position," he adds. They are "young, energetic professionals at the beginning of promising careers, and other nominators and I expect them to make good use of their Open World experience."

For examples of the insights Open World gives, Stukanov points to a 2004 alumna's recent

article in the online government newspaper *Tomsk News* about her election-week visit to Baltimore. The author, a top aide to a regional deputy governor and a veteran of several political campaigns, shared her positive impressions about the role that organizations like the League of Women Voters play in voter education in America. She also brought back the relatively novel idea, for Russia, of using candidate bumper stickers, yard signs, and other personal expressions of political support in campaigns.

Stukanov stresses that his Open World candidates do not passively observe; they carefully evaluate how what they see might work in a Russian context. In late 2004 the professor was doing the same sort of on-the-ground research himself as a Fulbright-Kennan Institute Research Scholar in Washington, D.C. His farewell lecture on "American Localities and the Challenges of Globalism: What Can Russia Borrow?" will no doubt be of interest to his fellow Open World alumni back in Tomsk.

Host community: Hays, KS
Hosts: Rotary/Hays Rotary Club



Aleksey A. Stukanov, Open World 1999 alumnus and former Open World regional alumni coordinator for Tomsk.



Stukanov gives his farewell lecture at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, where he was a Fulbright-Kennan Institute Research Scholar in 2004.



Ukraine: Dariya I. Kulchytska



Dariya I. Kulchytska working at a Lviv polling station.



Dariya I. Kulchytska holds samples of voter advocacy brochures distributed by the Greater Pittsburgh chapter of the League of Women Voters. With her is League official Dorothy Wriedt.



The Ukrainian delegation to Pittsburgh visits St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Two of their host families' children join them.

On Sept. 12, Pittsburgh listeners to *The Ukrainian Program* on talk radio WPIT heard an on-the-ground overview of the upcoming Ukrainian presidential election from an Open World delegate who would be in the thick of the race: Lviv National University math and IT instructor Dariya I. Kulchytska. As head of the Lviv branch of the Ukrainian League of Women Voters, Kulchytska was already involved in voter education efforts. And as one of Viktor A. Yushchenko's representatives on the election commission in charge of a local polling station in Lviv, she would soon be on the front lines of the Ukrainian electoral process.

Kulchytska visited Pittsburgh to study U.S. approaches to NGO development. Looking back on her trip, she says she is especially grateful for a session that her host organization arranged for her at the local League of Women Voters chapter. "I was very glad to know that across the ocean there is an organization that is not only similar to mine in name, but also in interests and goals," she explains. Kulchytska and her Pittsburgh counterparts shared ideas on educational activities, training programs, and

publications, and made plans to stay in touch. But it would be the League's information on voting procedures and voter education that would prove most immediately useful.

Kulchytska reports that she drew on this material when helping conduct training sessions and meetings for other election commission members before the Oct. 31, Nov. 21, and Dec. 26 ballots, and when answering voter questions. She also took inspiration from an Open World lecture that covered elections transparency while she braved the cold at the history-making opposition rallies held in Lviv and Kyiv before the Dec. 26 revote.

Helping students tackle challenging math and IT concepts is all in a day's work for Kulchytska. Helping her fellow citizens as they tackle the challenge of building a democracy is her life's work, and she says she appreciates the lessons on "the spirit of freedom and civic responsibility" that she learned through Open World.

Host community: Pittsburgh, PA
Host: Magee Womancare International



Russia: Petr B. Talalay

For award-winning drummer Petr B. Talalay, visiting the country where jazz was born was essential to his understanding of the music that is his lifelong passion. The young Muscovite was one of eight promising musicians who traveled from Russia to the United States in September 2004 to participate in the first Open World cultural leaders program focused on jazz – an art form that was once banned by the Soviets.

Talalay's delegation spent two-and-a-half weeks in Stockton, California, at the University of the Pacific's Brubeck Institute, named for jazz icon Dave Brubeck. During his residency at the institute, Talalay developed close musical relationships with Executive Director J.B. Dyas and Artistic Director Christian McBride, both bassists, and the American students there on fellowships. He also took a master class in improvisation with NEA Jazz Master Jimmy Heath, the legendary saxophonist.

"Working with such outstanding and talented musicians was a great experience and very valuable," Talalay reports. A graduate student at the Maimonides State

Classical Academy in Moscow, Talalay is himself a multitalented musician who also plays piano, composes music, and writes lyrics. While Talalay noted the American students' strong sense of rhythm and instinct for technical performance, he saw that they master new music in much the same way that he and his Russian colleagues do: by making and correcting mistakes until the piece is flawless.

Delegates unanimously cited playing at the Monterey Jazz Festival as one of the highlights of their California visit. The energetic performance by Talalay and the other members of the "Open World Octet" drew a sizable crowd even though well-known jazz artists were simultaneously appearing on other stages.

Talalay reunited with three of his fellow Brubeck delegates in December 2004, when the chief editor of Russia's premier jazz website, Jazz.ru, invited them to headline a Moscow concert celebrating the site's seventh anniversary. The group played to an enthusiastic crowd under the name Open World All-Stars.

Host community: Stockton, CA
Host: Brubeck Institute



Petr B. Talalay performs on stage at the Monterey Jazz Festival.



Lithuania: Ilona Osipova

Journalist-poet Ilona Osipova's title for her forthcoming book of poetry, *Half-Speaking, Half-Singing*, echoes her role as a journalist in northern Lithuania. Osipova covers both local politics and culture for *Sidabre*, a regional newspaper published in Joniskis, a small town just across the border from Latvia. In September 2004, Osipova was one of four Lithuanian journalists who traveled to Washington, D.C., for an Open World program on the media's role in a democratic society.

Osipova enjoyed the give-and-take with Representative John Shimkus (IL), a fourth-generation Lithuanian-American, as well as Charles W. Johnson, Parliamentarian Emeritus of the House, and John Feehery, press secretary to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (IL). The delegation also gained insights on political coverage from former Senator Dale Bumpers (AR) and former Representative and Open World board member James Symington (MO).

Among the other trip highlights was a visit to the Voice of America, where the former director of the Lithuania program shared stories from his broadcasting work before the Soviet breakup. And delegates were fascinated by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nick Kotz's account of his investigations into homelessness — a growing public policy issue in Lithuania.

On her return home, Osipova published a two-page story on her trip in *Sidabre*. "The local community was very interested in it," she says. For the journalist from a small Lithuanian town, the 10 days in America's capital provided an eye-opening opportunity to explore the role of the media in the United States.

Host community: Washington, DC
Host: NPF



Ilona Osipova (far right) and other Lithuanian journalists visit the U.S. Capitol for discussions on government-media relations in the United States.



WorldSpace Satellite Radio Vice President Ray Boyd (far right) shows Ilona Osipova (third from left) and the other members of her delegation around one of the radio network's Washington, D.C. studios.

Osipova's delegation met with journalists, public officials, and corporate and nonprofit representatives, who provided a comprehensive picture of the media's role in America. The delegates held discussions with such distinguished members of the press as public radio talk show host Diane Rehm, *Washington Post* publisher Boisfeuillet Jones, and ABC News' Claire Shipman. The Open World participants were particularly interested in learning about ethics in American journalism and the importance of verifying facts and information using multiple sources. And Osipova looked for parallels between Lithuanian and American coverage of political issues.

The American campaign season was reaching its peak when the Lithuanians arrived, giving them plenty of topics for conversation.



Open World Hosts

Open World's 939 local host coordinators are the heart and soul of the stateside program. By profession, many are judges, teachers, doctors, city officials, or business owners. By design, their professions match those of the Open World delegates they host. And in their role as host coordinators, they not only plan their delegates' high-level professional programs on behalf of the local host organization, but they also recruit host families, organize meals and transportation, and arrange social and cultural activities to introduce their Open World guests to American life. It is an assignment that requires commitment, flexibility, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and, most of all, an abiding interest in building mutual understanding with other peoples – traits exemplified by the two veteran Open World hosts profiled here.



Open World hosts for the cultural leaders program attend an orientation for new grantees held at the Library of Congress in June 2004.





Judge Jonathan E. Silbert

Connecticut Superior Court Judge

Host community: New Haven, CT

Delegations hosted: 6

Host since: 2001



During a working visit to Pskov, Judge Silbert (center) and fellow Superior Court Judge Michael R. Sheldon (second from left) take in the city's Trinity Cathedral with three local judges previously hosted in Connecticut by Judge Silbert through Open World.



Judge Silbert (third from right) joins his October 2002 Pskov Open World delegates during their orientation at the Library of Congress. Connecticut and Pskov have a sister-judiciary relationship through the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium, an Open World grantee.



At the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford (left to right): Judge Sheldon, Pskov Regional Court Judge Vyacheslav F. Surov, state Appellate Court Judge Thomas A. Bishop, Pskov Regional Court Judge Nikolay S. Kolesnikov, and Judge Silbert.

A scuba diver, amateur entomologist, and *Jeopardy!* champion, the Honorable Jonathan E. Silbert might not match the stereotypical profile of a sitting judge.

But the Russian-speaking Connecticut Superior Court jurist fits right in with his Open World guests and alumni from the northwestern Russian region of Pskov, which has a thriving judicial partnership with Connecticut thanks in large part to Open World's specialized rule of law program. Says Judge Silbert of the Pskov legal leaders he has hosted and subsequently visited in Russia, "We have quickly gone from strangers to colleagues to friends to family."

Judge Silbert's participants have included some of Pskov's most forward-thinking judges, attorneys, prosecutors, and legal scholars. As the chair of the Connecticut-Pskov Rule of Law Project, Judge Silbert has recruited the Russians' counterparts from throughout his state's judicial and legal community to take part in the visits. For many of the Pskov jurists, their Open World trip to Connecticut provided their first opportunity to see a jury trial unfold; for many it also offered a chance to take a crash

course in plea bargaining or private-property law, both still new concepts in Russia.

Judge Silbert is especially proud of the role these exchanges have played in the development of Pskov's fledgling bar association, called Skyway. One of his Open World delegates, a regional court judge, spearheaded the creation of the group after she watched judges and lawyers interact at events sponsored by the New Haven County Bar Association and the New Haven Inn of Court. Skyway's monthly meetings offer a nonadversarial setting in which members of the Pskov bench and bar can discuss the many new and evolving legal issues they are encountering. "The growth of Skyway is the direct result of our delegates seeing for themselves the role bar associations play in the lives of their communities," says Judge Silbert. "It is another example of the way Open World opens doors to new ideas."



Mary Thompson

Director, Clinical Safety/Infection Control, North Country Health Services

Host community: Bemidji, MN

Delegations hosted: 6

Host since: 2002

As a nurse and hospital administrator, Mary Thompson "speaks the same language" as the health officials and professionals she hosts for Open World in Bemidji, Minnesota. Besides relevant expertise, Thompson also brings a high level of commitment to her hosting. Through her employer, North Country Health Services, she belongs to the volunteer network of community-to-community U.S./Russian health partnerships organized by Open World grantee the American International Health Alliance (AIHA).

Participating in Open World has helped Thompson and her associates expose a core contingent of the health care leadership in Tomsk Region (Bemidji's 2001–2004 partner community) to a range of new ideas and practices. "The Soviet health care system emphasized curing disease over preventing it, and did not encourage people to take responsibility or advocate for their own health," Thompson explains. "Our Tomsk partners want to change this model, and so we provided strategies that Bemidji found effective for health promotion and disease prevention, as well as community and patient involvement."

Thompson can cite example after example of how her delegates have applied what they learned in Minnesota. After observing infection control practices in Bemidji, several Tomsk nurse leaders launched successful initiatives to promote handwashing and protect health workers from bloodborne diseases. These same delegates helped establish a regional nursing association that now has 300 members. Several trips to Tomsk on partnership business have allowed Thompson to see these and other results firsthand. Thompson also used her time there to work with her scheduled Open World delegations on plans for their Bemidji visits.

Says Thompson of her Open World experience, "In a world that seems to be focusing more on differences and distrust, this has given me an opportunity to forge friendships and understanding with people from the other side of the globe and to enable our community in Minnesota to develop a broader meaning of whom they call neighbors."



Host Mary Thompson (center), her Open World guest Dr. Valeriy Y. Plykin of Saratov Region (left), and AIHA Executive Director James Smith (right) share a light moment at a November reception for Open World participants at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C.



While visiting health facilities in the town of Molchanovo in Tomsk Region, Mary Thompson (second from left) stops by a school lunchroom with local official and Open World alumnus Vladimir G. Tyabin.



- Arkhangelsk
- Barnaul
- Blagoveshchensk
- Bryansk
- Cheboksary
- Chelyabinsk
- Elista
- Irkutsk
- Izhevsk
- Kaliningrad
- Kazan
- Kemerovo
- Khabarovsk
- Khasavyurt
- Krasnodar
- Krasnoyarsk
- Makhachkala
- Nalchik
- Nizhniy Novgorod
- Novgorod
- Novosibirsk
- Omsk
- Orenburg
- Perm
- Petrozavodsk
- Rostov-on-Don
- Samara
- Saransk
- Saratov
- St. Petersburg
- Tomsk
- Tula
- Tver
- Ulan-Ude
- Vladikavkaz
- Vladivostok
- Volgograd
- Voronezh
- Yakutsk
- Yaroslavl
- Yekaterinburg
- Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk



Sustaining the Partnership: Open World Alumni

The 10-day visit to the United States is just the beginning of a Russian delegate's association with the Open World Program. Open World encourages continued contact with U.S. hosts and provides opportunities for participants to develop professionally and meet one another. In 2004 alone, alumni participated in 255 conferences, professional development workshops, meetings, and seminars. An alumni bulletin and web forums are available to all 8,800 Russian past participants.

Open World's 2004 alumni conferences focused on judicial administration, youth policy, corporate social responsibility, women's leadership, and NGO development. The gatherings generated significant local and even national press coverage. Workshops emphasized how to build partnerships within the community.

Many of Russia's larger cities now also boast Open World alumni associations and clubs organized by the alumni themselves. Some take on special projects, including fundraising drives for orphanages or environmental causes; others sponsor career development seminars, computer training, and English classes. Alumni-led activities in 2004 included a youth health fair in Tver and a seminar for Novgorod Region educators on how to encourage volunteerism among high school students.





Open World alumni gather in the Tom Conference Center outside Tomsk for the opening session of February's conference on women's leadership.

Tomsk Women's Leadership

With support from Tomsk's regional administration, Open World in February conducted the conference "Women's Leadership – Bringing Development and Prosperity to Russian Society" in Tomsk city. Twenty-six Open World alumnae from 11 regions gathered to discuss their work and to brainstorm how to collaborate on promoting women's issues. During the conference, the alumnae decided to focus on working together to support increasing women's representation in the upper echelons of government. Participants wrote and signed letters to President Vladimir Putin, the Federation Council, and the Russian State Duma that called for upholding federal guarantees on equal rights for men and women in the workplace and for amending the Duma election law to introduce a gender quota for the body.

Tatyana M. Dmitriyeva, the head of Tomsk city's international department, addresses fellow alumnae at the women's leadership conference. Flanking her are conference speakers Vladimir I. Podkatov, Deputy Mayor of Tomsk, and alumna Irina M. Rukina, a member of the Moscow City Duma.



Conference attendees sign up for a breakout session on socially responsible businesses.



Saratov Judicial Administration

Open World hosted a major legal conference for alumni of its rule of law program last April in the Volga River city of Saratov. The highly publicized event drew 53 prominent judges, lawyers, and law professors from across western Russia, as well as three leading Open World host judges: U.S. District Judges Michael M. Mihm of Peoria, Illinois, and Paul A. Magnuson of St. Paul, Minnesota, and U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sidney B. Brooks of Denver, Colorado. Entitled "Contemporary Aspects of Judicial Administration in Russia and the United States," the conference focused on both practical and philosophical judicial issues. Alumni explored topics ranging from case management to ethics in plenary sessions, roundtables, and workshops, and also discussed judicial practices they have adopted since returning from the United States.



Open World alumni and U.S. host judges gather at the Sokol conference center in Saratov for April's rule of law conference.



Open World host judges Paul A. Magnuson (far left), Michael M. Mihm (third from left) and Sidney B. Brooks (far right) share a panel with their Russian counterparts to discuss judicial administration in the United States and Russia.



Saratov Commercial Court Chair Aleksandr Y. Baranov (Open World 2002) presents a ceremonial gavel to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sidney B. Brooks at the April alumni conference.

Alumni
conferences



Viktor I. Bezruchenkov (second from right), Deputy Chair of the Altay Republic Council and Open World alumnus, invites Open World alumni and staff to the Altay Republic administration building.



Barnaul Deputy Mayor Nikolay P. Cherepanov (standing) opens the conference with a commitment to meeting the needs of the region's youth.



Forum attendees listen as students from the cities of Novoaltaysk and Aleysk debate whether youth parliaments serve a useful role as local advisory bodies.

Gorny-Altay Youth Policy

Thirty-three Siberian Open World alumni hit the road in the scenic Altay territory July 30–Aug. 2 for a “caravan conference” on youth issues. Billed as the “Youth: Real-Life Impact Forum,” the event attracted alumni from youth-focused NGOs, regional and municipal youth committees, and universities. The traveling conference started in Barnaul, the regional capital, then took the alumni, other attendees, and Open World staff to Biysk and Katun. At each venue, local youth leaders and experts joined the participants for presentations, workshops, and brainstorming sessions on such timely topics as civic education and substance abuse prevention.

Alumni Conferences



Irkutsk Corporate Social Responsibility

The historic Siberian city of Irkutsk hosted an interregional alumni conference on "Corporate Social Responsibility, Reputation, and Philanthropy" in August. Alistair Ferguson, Vice President of TNK-BP, which helps support Open World programs and alumni activities, joined the Irkutsk governor's chief of staff and Open World representatives from Washington and Moscow in welcoming the 60 participants. The conference was constructed as a dialogue among business representatives, Irkutsk regional authorities, and NGO alumni, with attendees working to find common ground on such as issues as how to better prioritize social needs and more effectively evaluate donor projects in the region. Alumni from NGOs throughout Russia also made presentations on their proposed and ongoing social initiatives.



TNK-BP Vice President Alistair Ferguson (right), Head of the Administration of the Governor of the Irkutsk Region Aleksandr G. Veledeyev and Open World's Britta Bjornlund listen as Yelena V. Yefremova (left) of Open World-Moscow makes her opening remarks at the Irkutsk alumni conference on corporate responsibility.



Irkutsk Regional Alumni Coordinator Nikolay A. Potorochenko (center) notes his team's ideas on regional economic development during a breakout session at the August alumni conference.



Four Open World alumni make recommendations on community projects at the Irkutsk conference.

Alumni
References



Moscow NGO Development



Jennifer Andelin, Executive Director of International Hosting and Open World host, leads the discussion on NGOs and youth issues.



Open World alumna Marina V. Rodkevich of the Moscow Region-based Same As You organization makes a point at the December alumni conference on NGO development.



From left: Oleg L. Leikind, Open World Regional Alumni Coordinator; Yelena V. Yefremova, Deputy Program Coordinator for Open World in Moscow; Geraldine M. Otremba, Open World Executive Director; and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia James F. Collins, Open World board member.

"Prospects and Perspectives of the NGO Sector in Russia and the United States" provided the theme for the final 2004 Open World alumni conference, held outside Moscow in December. The event, which was covered by the *Moscow Times*, brought together 48 NGO and government alumni from eight regions, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia and current Open World trustee James F. Collins, Open World Executive Director Geraldine M. Otremba and staff, and members of six Open World host organizations. U.S. Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow hosted a reception at the U.S. Embassy for the conference attendees. TNK-BP Chief Operating Officer Larry McVay attended the reception to meet the Open World alumni. Russian and American experts discussed sessions on social services, health, women's leadership, and youth issues. The U.S.-based host organizations represented were

International Hosting of West Jordan, Utah, the Long Beach-Sochi Sister Cities Committee, the National Peace Foundation, Rotary International, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Services of La Crosse.

"It is the nonprofit, nongovernmental side that has as its goal, essentially, the making of a better life for every citizen. That is what our NGO alumni are about. They both conduct their day-to-day business and work for that goal directly, but they also often serve as a facilitator between the private, profit-making sector and the governmental sector for the people who cannot do so effectively alone."

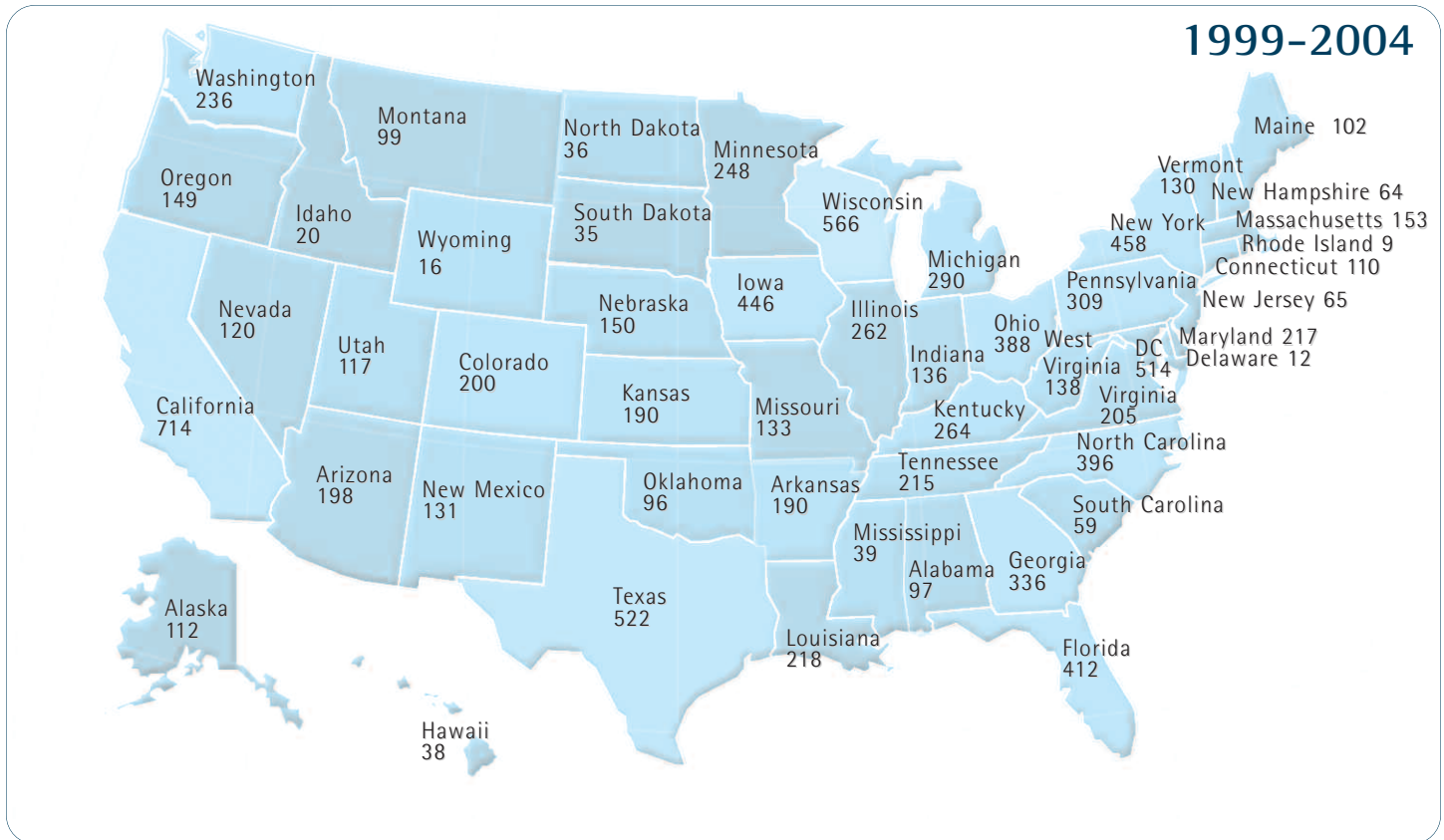
– Ambassador James F. Collins
on the Moscow conference



Open World alumnus Yevgeniy N. Golubev of the Naro-Fominsk Provincial District Public Health Committee outlines the role of NGOs in Russia's health care system.



Open World Participants Hosted by State



Open World Participants by Russian Administrative District





OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

Facts and Statistics for the Life of the Program

- Since 1999 Open World has hosted more than **8,800 leaders** from all of the Russian Federation's 89 regions.
- Total funding appropriated for the Open World Program from 1999 through fiscal year 2004 is **\$64.5 million**.
- More than half of Open World delegates have been federal, regional or local government officials.
- The average age of Open World participants is **38**.
- Open World has brought **153** members of the **Russian Federation Council** and **State Duma** to the United States.
- **1,092 Russian judges and legal professionals** have been hosted in U.S. courts and communities as part of Open World visits focused on the rule of law.
- **86 U.S. federal and state judges** have hosted their Russian counterparts.
- **51 U.S. senators, representatives and state governors** have hosted Open World participants.
- Over **3,600 families** in **1,400** host communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia have welcomed Open World participants.
- **California, Texas and Wisconsin** have each welcomed over **500** Open World participants.
- Open World has sponsored **36 major alumni events** throughout Russia.
- Since November 2003 over **100 cultural leaders** from Russia have participated in Open World's new cultural initiative.
- Open World hosted **285 leaders** from **Lithuania, Ukraine and Uzbekistan** on new pilot programs in 2003 and 2004.
- In 2004 the Open World website www.openworld.gov received **3.4 million** hits.



