

Making a Difference

COSTA MESA, CA – Open World Trustee Ambassador **George Argyros**, and the **Argyros Family Foundation**, generously committed \$500,000 to the Open World Alumni Program, for expenditure over a three-year period starting June 2008. The **Argyros Fund** will be used, among other things, to launch a new Open World grant program to facilitate follow-up projects and partnerships between American hosts and the Eurasian leaders they welcomed into their communities. To date, such partnerships have included sister courts, sister universities, and other institutional and peer-to-peer relationships.

Ambassador Argyros is currently chairman and chief executive officer of **Arnel & Affiliates**, a prominent West Coast diversified investment company with corporate offices located in Costa Mesa, CA. He is also a general partner in **Westar Capital**, a private investment company. He sits on the boards of both the California Institute of Technology and Chapman University. Ambassador Argyros served as the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra from November 2001 to November 2004. From 1981 to 1987, he was co-owner of AirCal, and from 1981 to 1989 he was owner of the Seattle Mariners Baseball Club.



Open World Trustee Ambassador George Argyros, donor of the Argyros Fund for the Open World Alumni Program.

In the Field



U.S. District Judge Stephen Friot (left) of Oklahoma City speaks at the rule of law alumni workshop held in Ulyanovsk in May. Oklahoma state judge Douglas Gabbard is at right.

ULYANOVSK, RUSSIA – On May 12, 30 Open World alumni judges gathered in the Volga port city of Ulyanovsk for a workshop on "Contemporary Aspects of Administration of Justice in Russia and the United States." Held at Ulyanovsk State University, the event was cosponsored by the Open World

Alumni Program and the Council of Judges of Ulyanovsk Region.

The Russian attendees included judges from Ulyanovsk, Samara, and Penza Regions and Tatarstan. Presenting the U.S. perspective were Open World host U.S. District Judge **Stephen Friot** of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Civil Court of Appeals Judge **Douglas Gabbard**, and attorney **Pethi Hayes-Gabbard**, Judge Gabbard's wife.

The workshop was highly interactive, with comparative discussions of the Russian and the American judicial systems. Moderated sessions covered the adversarial process, judicial ethics, norms of international law and national legal procedure, and international judicial exchanges. This last session focused on how Open World can promote professional partnerships—with several alumni giving concrete examples.

Ulyanovsk was chosen to host the workshop after Judge Friot and **Rotary International** conducted a successful 2007 exchange in Oklahoma for several Ulyanovsk judges. During the workshop, follow-on plans were made to pursue a sister-court partnership between Oklahoma and Ulyanovsk.

The Oklahomans also addressed Ulyanovsk State University law students and toured the main Ulyanovsk regional courthouse with the head of the Ulyanovsk Council of Judges, alumnus Judge **Pavel Maslyukov**. Judge Maslyukov pointed out the court's videoconferencing equipment and public information kiosks, mentioning that the adoption of these and other electronic technologies was inspired by his 2000 Open World/Rotary trip to Denver. The Americans also visited the courthouse museum, which has a display devoted to Open World and the court's other international contacts.

Hosting Corner

DES MOINES, IOWA – Five Ukrainian NGO managers arrived in flood-ravaged Des Moines June 21 to find their local hosting organization, **ITEBS & Associates, LLC**, ready, willing and able to offer them a full program and welcoming home hosts. "We pushed ahead with plans because we knew that local government officials' response would be positive and that we would be able to have all the

planned programs in spite of the flooding threat," says ITEBS associate **Robert Mickle**. The Des Moines delegation, which focused on NGO management and HIV/AIDS prevention, was one of Open World's first 2008 Ukrainian groups. A tour of the **Polk County In-terim Jail** was among the trip highlights: the delegates particularly noted the professional attitude of the correctional fa-

cility staff toward the inmates. The group visited the on-site drug treatment center and spoke with inmates and officials about the jail's rehab program. Facilitator **Olha Tykhonova** reported at the end of the visit that "everybody was deeply impressed by the extreme hospitality of their hosts."