

Making a Difference

WASHINGTON, DC – On Aug. 14, Open World bid a heartfelt farewell to **Inga Todria**, a lawyer and former judge from the Republic of Georgia who had interned at the Open World Leadership Center this summer after completing a Master of Law degree at Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law while on an **Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship**. Todria's return to Georgia was delayed for several days by the hostilities with Russia, but she was finally able to fly home to Tbilisi late this week. She plans to resume her position at the **Georgian Communications Commission** and continue her work drafting agency decisions, reviewing claims, and representing the Commission in court.

During her three-month summer internship at Open World, Todria provided valuable guidance on international adoption law, reviewed international agreements, conducted a detailed site visit and evaluation of a local rule of law exchange in Philadelphia held for Russian judges from her alma mater of Kaliningrad (Russia) State University, created informational texts in Georgian for Open World's website, and contributed to other Open World informational materials.

Open World thanks Todria for all her work on behalf of the program, which she carried out with grace and effectiveness. All of us at the Center wish her well—and look for-

ward to her becoming an active member of Open World's family of alumni and friends in Georgia.



Open World summer intern Inga Todria of Tbilisi, Georgia, with Executive Director John O'Keefe at the Library of Congress on July 25.

Hosting Corner



During a 2005 ceremony in Chisinau, Moldova, President Vladimir Voronin (left) honors Dr. Gregory Spirakis for his humanitarian work in the country. Dr. Spirakis is hosting a Moldovan Open World delegation in Florida in late September.

LAKELAND, FL – Florida audiologist and humanitarian **Dr. Gregory Spirakis** is busy getting ready for his first-ever Open World exchange—a September visit by community and health leaders from the northern Moldovan city of Balti. But while Dr. Spirakis is new to Open World, he is a familiar and beloved face in his

delegates' hometown, where he and his wife, **Dr. Susan Spirakis**, set up Moldova's first nonprofit audiology clinic. Dr. Gregory Spirakis's work on the clinic and other health projects in Moldova earned him the country's **Civic Merit medal**, bestowed by Moldovan President **Vladimir Voronin**, and the U.S. Agency for International Development's **Outstanding Citizenship Achievement Award**. The doctor's interest in the small Eastern European nation dates from 1997, when a Moldovan visitor to his Lakeland medical office told him about the high incidence of meningitis-related hearing loss among Moldovan children. Since then Dr. Spirakis has made 11 trips to the country to treat hearing-impaired children and adults and to establish and then expand the Balti hearing clinic, which today also offers free medical services, hearing aids and a veterans' feeding program.

Another important bond between Balti and Lakeland that the Florida doctor helped forge is a sister-city relationship that dates from 1997. It is through the **Balti-Lakeland sister-city organization** that Dr. Spirakis will host his Open World delegates, who will look at Lakeland's community services and work with local civic, medical, and legal leaders. "Many of our United Way and Veterans Affairs officials will meet with the Moldovans to show them American styles of community outreach," says Spirakis. "And the doctors at All Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Children's Hospital are eager to exchange ideas with their Moldovan counterparts."

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Announcement

WASHINGTON, DC – The Center on Aug. 20 published combined grant guidelines for the **Russia and Ukraine Civic Hosting Programs**. Interested organizations may apply to host for just one or both of the programs. The deadline for proposals is Monday, **Oct. 27, 2008**. The Center decided to publish the guidelines much earlier in

the grants cycle than usual and to lengthen the application period to give potential grantees more time to identify partnerships and projects that can be enhanced through Open World hostings. Accountable governance, rule of law, and child welfare/adoption issues will be themes under both programs; the Russia program will also

offer social issues as a theme, while the Ukraine program will also offer education and NGO development as themes. The Center anticipates hosting 250 Ukrainian participants and up to 900 Russian participants, but actual hosting levels will depend on available funding. To view the Grant Guidelines document, please [click here](#).