



# United States Mission in Turkmenistan

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### A Festival of American Films, 1930s - 1990s Ak-Altyn Four Points Sheraton Hotel Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, May 20-23, 2001

**sunday, May 20**  
Reception 5:00 p.m. Ambassador Mann to make opening remarks. Cash bar available. *The Wizard of Oz*, 6:00 p.m. Appropriate for all ages.



**Monday, May 21**  
*Woman of the Year*, 5:00 p.m. Appropriate for all ages.



**Tuesday, May 22**  
*Music Man*, 5:00 p.m. Appropriate for all ages.  
**Wednesday, May 23**  
*Rocky*, 8:00 p.m. Appropriate for over 13 years old.  
*Tombstone*, 5:00 p.m.. Appropriate for over 17 years old.

BBQ on the patio, live music. Tickets for BBQ 160,000 manat, available at the American Center and the Ak-Altyn and Grand Turkmen Hotels. *The Shining*, 8:30 p.m. Appropriate for over 17 years old.

A charity collection will be taken at all showings to benefit the Bezmeim Orphanage. Admission tickets to all movies are free of charge, but we encourage guests to donate the cost of a movie ticket to the orphanage. **Seating is limited to 100. Please contact the American center at 35 00 45 for admission tickets.** We also encourage guests to avail themselves of the Saree Indian Restaurant on the mezzanine floor of the Ak-Altyn Hotel. Please contact the American Center, the Ak-Altyn at 51-21-81, or the Grand Turkmen at 51-20-50 for tickets to the patio BBQ on Wednesday, May 23rd.

### U.S. Humanitarian Assistance Arrives for Dashoguz Medical Institutions

On April 1, 2001, a 40-foot container of medical supplies and equipment, valued at more than \$107,500, arrived in Turkmenistan. The U.S. Government has donated this humanitarian assistance as part of its on-going initiative to support the local population and to upgrade the provision of health care services in Turkmenistan.

This project is being administered for the U.S. State Department by Counterpart International Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP), in collaboration with CHAP's distribution partner - Dashoguz Velayat Department of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan.

Dashoguz Velayat Department of Health and Medical Industry will distribute the medical supplies and equipment (including sterilization bags, instrument trays, traction apparatuses, nebulizer-manifold assemblies, and clinical chart folders) to the hospitals and clinics of Dashoguz Velayat.

In collaboration with Dashoguz Velayat Department of Health and Medical Industry, CHAP has previously distributed \$465,087

worth of medical assistance from the U.S. Government, with the faculty members to conduct research and lecture in the United States for one semester. For fifty years, the Fulbright Program intent of upgrading patient care services in hospitals and clinics

of Dashoguz Velayat.

### **U.S. Embassy Holds a Presentation of Two New Academic Exchange Programs for Citizens of Turkmenistan**

On March 28, the U.S. Embassy held a presentation of two new academic exchange programs for citizens of Turkmenistan, the Fulbright Program and the Junior Faculty Development Program. Representatives of the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, higher educational institutions, as well as a number of journalists representing Turkmen and foreign accredited media attended this presentation.



The Junior Faculty Development Program provides training in curriculum development and teaching methodology for university instructors from Turkmenistan in the United States for one academic year. This program is designed for teachers from higher education institutions in Turkmenistan with two or more years of professional experience as a university lecturer or administrator.

The Fulbright Program in Turkmenistan provides opportunities for outstanding Turkmen scholars and



has provided American faculty and professionals the opportunity to teach and do research in universities throughout the world, and scholars from 135 countries the chance to lecture and conduct research in the United States.

Deadline for the submission of applications is June 1. Please contact Anjela Begjanova at 35-00-45 for an application form.

### **American and Turkmen Governments Honor English Teachers of Turkmenistan**

Twenty-seven English teachers of secondary schools from throughout Turkmenistan were honored as semifinalists of the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA) program in a special award ceremony on April 25, 2001. The ceremony was organized by ACCELS, an American non-profit organization which administers this program on behalf of the U.S. government, and held in the National Manuscripts Institute of Turkmenistan.



Eric T. Schultz, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission in Turkmenistan, and Nury Bairamov, Head of the International Relations Department of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Education, congratulated the semi-finalists and awarded them with special certificates.

The semifinalists' schools will all receive awards valued at \$2,000 each, which may be used to buy equipment and teaching materials for these schools. The program is fully funded by the U.S. Government.

Five teachers out of the twenty-seven will be selected as finalists (national winners), and will attend a professional development seminar on teaching methodologies in the United States. During two months in America, they will share their experience and teaching methodologies with their American colleagues and attend various cultural events.

Last year, five English teachers of Turkmenistan were selected as winners in this program and traveled successfully for two months to the United States. Two American teachers of English who were the winners of the same program traveled to Turkmenistan and talked about their teaching experiences with their Turkmen colleagues.

### **American Diplomats Speak About U.S. Education with Journalists**

The Embassy's Public Diplomacy Officer Michelle Ulrich and Vice-Consul Alexander Kasanof met with journalists on April 25 for a roundtable discussion about education in the United States. The journalists represented major Turkmen newspapers and magazines as well as foreign accredited media.

They described the system of U.S. secondary education, public and private schools, and the voucher system which some cities have introduced to allow families to choose which schools they wish to attend.



The Embassy is planning to conduct a number of such roundtables with journalists on various topics.



On higher education, which includes studies for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees, they discussed the high cost and its place in the market economy.

They said that many U.S. students get a comparatively inexpensive education through scholarships and fellowships. Many colleges and universities offer such arrangements to foreign students as well. They stressed the importance of higher education in the United States, as it offers good employment opportunities.

During this meeting, the journalists asked numerous questions on various aspects of U.S. education, tuition fees for U.S. and foreign citizens, top U.S. universities and others.

### **ABA Conducts a 3-day Seminar on Family Law**

On April 16-18, with the cooperation of the Womens' Union, the American Bar Association held a conference on gender-issues and law at the Four Points Ak-Altin. In attendance were nearly 70 representatives from both governmental agencies and NGOs, including the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and ADALAT (the student bar association). Deputy Chief of Mission Eric Schultz made the opening and closing remarks. Counterpart Consortium and Pragma Corporation also contributed to the seminar.

The event was the first of its kind for ABA's Turkmen program. "We didn't know what to expect from the participants," noted Brian Gill, the liaison to Ashgabat, "and we were pleasantly surprised by their high level of involvement." "The delegates openly discussed the challenges and opportunities they confront, and as a result we have a concrete blueprint for better promoting the rule of law." Participants identified domestic violence and reproductive health as the primary areas in need of reform. In other Central Asian nations, ABA has consistently found that women are the initiators of socioeconomic reform, and the local office expects that pattern to hold in Turkmenistan.

Day one of the seminar focused on substantive areas of the law, including a contrast between the American and Turkmen systems and the Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Turkmenistan has ratified. The "train the trainers" portion on the second day prepared attendees to counsel victims of

sexual assault and domestic violence. Day three served to plan for the future.

Follow-up seminars are under consideration. Organizations interested in participating or contributing are encouraged to contact ABA at aba@online.tm.

### **Business and Economic Education Project**

ACCELS is seeking partner institutions for its new USAID-funded Business and Economic Education Project. For those institutions willing to participate in this project, there will be access to numerous benefits that will contribute to business and economic educational development in Central Asia. These benefits include:

- The opportunity to publish research and present Turkmenistan's perspective on business and economic education in an international forum;
- Participation in conferences and seminars to improve the level of intellectual exchange on the regional and global level;
- Access to the Internet that will make all information on the RCBEE web site available. It will also allow publishing educational materials and downloading computer files with course outlines, lectures and essays;
- Establishing links to other institutions through the regional network of universities, permitting an on-going web-based intellectual exchange;
- The possibility of receiving scholarships to study, conduct research, or attend seminars abroad;
- Sharing information on curricula, course syllabi, and business and economics case studies that draw upon Central Asian experience.

Interested parties should contact ACCELS at 39-90-66.

### **Regional English Language Officer Visits Cities of Turkmenistan**

The Regional English Language Officer Ruth Petzold, who is based at the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan, made her visit to Turkmenistan on April 4-14, 2001 to assist the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy staff with its support for English language study development.

Ruth Petzold's program included official meetings, university and school visits, and workshops in Ashgabat, Mary, Bayramali and Turkmenabat. She visited 17 schools, language centers, institutes and universities to observe lessons, talk to teachers and directors, and to lead discussions with students. As a result of her visit, the

Embassy is working with the Ministry of Education to introduce a new program that will support teachers of English in Turkmenistan with low-cost teaching materials.

### **Information Resources Specialist Showcases the American Center in Regional Cities**

The Embassy's Information Resources Specialist (IRS) Guvanch Melebayev traveled to Mary and Bayramali on April 10-11 to showcase the resources of the American Center. At Mary School # 5 and the Bayramali American Center, he explained that the Resources Center of the American Embassy has numerous reference books available to the public including encyclopaedias, textbooks on business and economics, as well as books about American history and geography. He said that those interested in learning English may use special textbooks and videotapes offered by the Center. Mr. Melebayev described the IATP (Internet Access Training Program) Center located in the American Center in Ashgabat where alumni of all U.S. Government sponsored programs have free access to the Internet. He also said that he could perform searches on the Internet for information on the United States in response to public inquiries.

Mr. Melebayev detailed 10 academic exchange programs offered by the Embassy for Turkmen citizens, including programs for secondary school students, students of higher educational institutions, as well as teachers of English and professionals in different fields.

As Information Resources Specialist, Mr. Melebayev plans to conduct more seminars in the future in Ashgabat and other regions of Turkmenistan.

### **Upcoming Events in May:**

- During the month of May, CHAP will ship 5 containers of aid to the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan.
- On May 14, a U.S.-Turkmen Family Medicine Center will open in the House of Health # 1 in Ashgabat.
- On May 20-23 an American Film Festival will be held in the Ak Altyn Hotel.
- May 28, Ambassador Mann's departure.