



**Ashgabat hosted Regional Counter-narcotics Coordination Conference**  
On March 29-30, 2005, the Government of Turkmenistan and the U.N. Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC) held a Regional Counternarcotics Coordination Conference in Ashgabat, which was supported by the U.S. Embassy. *...cont'd on p. 2*

**Editor of "Science" Magazine Visits Turkmenistan**



Richard Stone with a Turkmen scientist

Richard Stone - an editor of the weekly magazine "Science," currently participating in a Fulbright Visiting program in Kazakhstan, paid a visit to Turkmenistan on April 8-17, 2005. During his visit, Mr. Stone gave presentations on environmental journalism for students of Turkmen State University, participated in an online journalism forum established with support from *...cont'd on p. 3*

**Social partnership results in safer neighborhoods and new playground**  
USAID partner Counterpart International recently helped residents of Ashgabat's Navoi Street to build a new playground in cooperation with local authorities. Before the playground was constructed, the children of the neighborhood had no place to play and often ran across *...cont'd on p. 5*

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**THE SPOTLIGHT**

**The First National Fulbright Conference on Interdisciplinary Studies of the United States**



On March 18-19, 2005, the Embassy of the United States of America hosted the First National Fulbright Conference on Interdisciplinary Studies of the United States at the Sheraton Four Points Ak Altyn hotel. About 200 representatives of various educational establishments, scholars and former participants of the Fulbright Program were present.

*...continued on p. 2*

**IN THE NEWS**

**2-3 Embassy:**  
Official visitors, PAS seminar presentation and more...

**3-4 U.S. Agencies:**  
USAID, Peace Corps...

**4-9 Alumni Beat:**  
Project Smile Grant, CI alumni in the news, Tashkent conference



Pages 3-4  
Featured: Earth Day 2005 pictures

## American Literature Travels Across Turkmenistan

Since the beginning of March, alumni and Peace Corps Volunteers at the American Corner in Turkmenbashi in western Turkmenistan have led a cross-country book club for alumni and American Corner visitors throughout the country. The Embassy Alumni Small Grants Program is supporting the program order to advance local knowledge of American Literature, English language, and U.S. culture, society, and values. Groups around the country are currently reading "The Circuit," "Death of a Salesman," "Anne Frank's Diary," "Animal Farm," and "Lord of the Flies." FLEX alumni, Peace Corps Volunteers, advanced English students, and teachers are actively involved in book clubs in each of Turkmenistan's five regions. The book clubs provide forums for English teachers and advanced English students to learn about American literature through reading, discussion, and writing assignments.

## Department of Justice Officer Visits Turkmenistan

From March 23-25, Christopher Lehman, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) for Eurasia program visited Turkmenistan. During his time in Ashgabat, Mr. Lehman met with Ministry of Justice, Parliament (Mejlis), and Ministry of Education officials to discuss expanding training and technical assistance programs. Mr. Lehman also discussed furthering cooperation between the DOJ, State Department, and Government of Turkmenistan on Turkmenistan's criminal code reforms. DOJ law enforcement assistance to Turkmenistan has identified corruption and improved law enforcement training for public officials as top priorities. DOJ assistance initiatives have increased bilateral engagement between the USG and Turkmenistan. They also have expanded security cooperation, a primary U.S. Mission goal.

## Ashgabat hosted Regional Counternarcotics Coordination Conference

*...continued from p. 1*

Law enforcement officers in charge of counternarcotic programs from the Governments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, the United States and Uzbekistan participated in the conference.

The Turkmen State Counternarcotic Commission Chief, the Deputy Regional UNODC Representative and the U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan all presented opening.

Addressing the conference participants, Ambassador Jacobson said: "It is crucial for law enforcement agencies to work against criminal narcotics rings. International cooperation is the key to successfully fighting the scourge of drug trafficking."

The forum focused on coordinating regional counternarcotic efforts and developing recommendations for further cooperation.

## The First National Fulbright Conference on Interdisciplinary Studies of the United States

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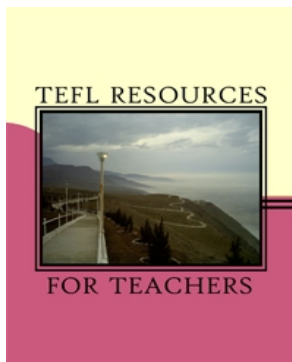
The Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government's flagship program in international educational exchange, was proposed in 1945 by Senator William J. Fulbright of Arkansas. In the aftermath of World War II, Senator Fulbright viewed exchange programs as much-needed vehicles for promoting "mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries of the world." His vision was approved by Congress and the program signed into law by President Truman in 1946.

Fulbright grants are given to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Since the program's inception, more than 250,000 participants – chosen for their leadership potential – have had the opportunity to observe each

**U.S. Embassy Activities in Turkmenistan and U.S. Agencies**

**Public Affairs Section Sponsors New TEFL Publication**

From April 1-3, Public Affairs Section (PAS) Ashgabat, Turkmenistan Peace Corps volunteers, American Councils, and local English teachers hosted a trainer-of-trainer's conference to introduce a new TEFL publication, designed to teach American English using Turkmen cultural history, proverbs, and stories. The Embassy sponsored the workbook through English Book Recycling Program revenues. Peace Corps also contributed



financial and organizational support to the publication, which will benefit English students and teachers across Turkmenistan.

PAS, Peace Corps, and American Councils are introducing the book to as many schools as possible around Turkmenistan, as well as offering it to the Ministry of Education for potential adoption into the Standard English teaching curriculum.

**Editor of Science Magazine Visits Turkmenistan** ...continued from p. 1

IATP Turkmenistan, and met with USG exchange alumni to discuss community environmental awareness.

As an envoy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mr. Stone conducted round-tables with Turkmen specialists in the natural and social sciences. His goal was to learn more about the development of science in Turkmenistan, as well as examine possible opportunities for international and

regional collaboration.

Mr. Stone also met with four recently returned Turkmen Fulbright participants to discuss forming a Fulbright Association. Turkmen State News Service interviewed Mr. Stone and two national dailies carried front page articles on his visit. Mr. Stone plans to return to Turkmenistan in September to continue research and collaboration with his Turkmen colleagues.

**Enterprise Development Project Facilitates \$175,000 Trade Deal with Afghan Buyer** EDP's Regional Trade Promotion (RTP) component, implemented by The Pragma Corporation, identified the potential for this deal during a trade mission to Herat, Afghanistan last summer. Ashgabat-based RTP Trade Specialist, Vladislav Erniyazov worked with Pragma's Afghan Trade Task Force Advisor Khushavkhat Rakhmukudoev to facilitate the deal for 200 tons of tomato paste and nearly 20 tons of lump sugar between a Turkmen entrepreneur and the Kabul firm, Bashir Navid. It is anticipated that this deal could be the first of many between these two parties.

**Turkmenistan Librarians Learn to Search Online** Embassy Ashgabat's Alumni Coordinator, who holds a degree in library and information science, put her education to good use on March 30, hosting a workshop on "Effective Internet Search Strategies" for librarians from the National Library of Turkmenistan. Participants learned how to find information quickly and efficiently through various search engines, portals, and directories, as well as how to find images and video and audio files online, and how to evaluate information after locating it. The training seminar introduced librarians to advanced methods for finding information through online resources, which they can now use in addition to their traditional data searches using print materials.

**IREX Earth Day Visit to the Zoo with Hearing Impaired Children** On April 19, IREX Turkmenistan organized a visit to the Ashgabat Zoo for 40 kids from the Hearing Impaired Children's School. Prior to starting the tour, the IREX Turkmenistan Country Director congratulated the children and their teachers on the occasion of Earth Day and introduced the goals of the environmental holiday. Moreover,

a basket ball hoop and balls were given to the school as gifts from IREX Turkmenistan. After the general instructions regarding feeding the animals were explained, the children toured the zoo, and with the permission of its administration, fed the animals vegetables provided. The children thoroughly enjoyed the two hours they spent at the zoo, and learned about the importance of ecological preservation.



**U.S. Embassy Activities in Turkmenistan and U.S. Agencies**

**The Earth Day Clean up in Gokdere, Turkmenistan**

On April 23, 70 US Government sponsored program alumni, local students and representatives of various international organizations participated in the Alumni Earth Day Clean Up in Gokdere, Turkmenistan. Bahar Agayeva, FLEX 02, received an alumni grant from the US Embassy in Turkmenistan for the project, which was organized together with IREX, and with the assistance of the Turkmen Ministry of Nature Protection. All participants wore Earth Day t-shirts, gloves and carried trash

bags. After receiving work and basic safety instructions, participants divided into groups of eight and for 90 minutes cleaning up the dirtiest areas of Gokdere and the Chulinka River, kindly requesting visiting picnickers to clean up after themselves. By the end of the afternoon, the participants managed to completely fill the garbage truck provided by the local administration with nearly 1000 kg of trash!

**Pictures from Gokdere**



■ **USAID and partners celebrate World Health Day with equipment donations** On April 7, USAID and its partners ZdravPlus and American International Health Alliance (AIHA) joined a Students' Conference celebrating World Health Day, organized by WHO and the Medical Institute of Turkmenistan. This year, the Medical Institute will incorporate an Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) strategy into its training course for students. This is the result of three years of implementing pilot projects supported and monitored by ZdravPlus and WHO. To commemorate the occasion, ZdravPlus presented the Medical Institute with five TV/video sets for teaching IMCI and AIHA presented ten sets of computer equipment and office furniture for the Health Managers' Training Centre that will open in September 2005.

■ **Peace Corps Volunteer Starts TOEFL Classes for US Government Program Alumni** On April 20, ten US Government program alumni began a TOEFL course at the IREX office organized by Christina Tam, a Peace Corps volunteer serving in Turkmenistan. The preparatory course lasted for two months and comprised 12 lessons. During the lessons, Christina introduced alumni to the different test sections and had them complete exercises and practice model tests.

**U.S. Agencies and Alumni Beat**

**■ Initiative and persistence sustain NGOs**

**during registration process** After the adoption of a restrictive new NGO law in October 2003, many Turkmen NGOs suspended their activities due to the law's re-registration requirements. Despite these difficulties, many NGOs demonstrated their strong interest to legalize their public activities through registration. USAID immediately responded to this challenge by providing these NGOs technical assistance that included legal support and consultations.

USAID partners Counterpart and International Center for Non-profit Law (ICNL) researched the new NGO procedures and rules, and the Lebap Civil Society Support Center (CSSC) developed a set of documents on the registration rules for both the Ministry of Justice (organizations) and Specialized Agency for Foreign Investments (SAFI) grants. As a result of this work, eight civil society organizations applied for registration with the Ministry of Justice. Although most of the applications were refused after the first review with minor technical comments, several organizations, like the NGOs "Servi", "Bilgushak" and "Altyn Nesil", have persisted and submitted second and third applications. With this new basis for dialogue with the Ministry, these NGOs now better understand how to lobby their interests and are optimistic about ultimately being registered.

**■ Alumnus Conducts Online Debate Class in Ashgabat**

On March 4, Azat Shamuradov, UGRAD '04, conducted a one-hour online chat on debate skills for seven participants from Dashoguz and Ashgabat. The course introduced participants to different styles and procedures of debate and emphasized the importance of critical thinking, structure, eloquence, creativity, logic and respect for an opponent. Azat plans to continue teaching online debate classes to the same group of students and later to arrange an online debate between participants at two IATP access sites. After Ashgabat and Dashoguz participants complete the online debate course, classes will be made available to students in Mary and Turkmenabat, culminating in a countrywide online debate tournament.

**■ Awards Ceremony for "Turkmen Student English Essay Contest"**

On Saturday, May 14, the US Peace Corp Turkmenistan held an awards ceremony celebrating the first annual "Turkmen Student English Essay Contest." Students from all over Turkmenistan participated in the contest with the help of their Peace Corps volunteer teachers. Essay topics included "my family," "my hobbies," and "my future plans." Over 300 essays were submitted and 12 winners were selected. The winning students were then invited to the ceremony, along with their families, school directors and Peace Corps Volunteers. Prizes and certificates were awarded and followed by a small reception. All students who wrote essays received certificates as well. US Peace Corps in Turkmenistan plans to make the essay contest an annual event.

**■ Government of Turkmenistan Approves National HIV/AIDS Strategy**

On April 27, the Government of Turkmenistan approved a National HIV/AIDS Strategy for 2005-2009. USAID provided support in drafting this strategy through grants to the UNAIDS project. The strategy openly discusses the sensitive issue of HIV/AIDS in the country and focuses on prevention. The Government of Turkmenistan also signaled its intention to submit an application to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for funding to strengthen its diagnostic capacity and to support preventative measures.

**■ Contemporary Issues Alumna Conducts First Aid Training for School Students**



Oguljahan Orazova RSEP 01 finished her First-Aid Training for Schoolchildren project that she conducted with the Project Smile grant she received from IREX. Oguljahan's project was aimed at promoting the importance of first aid and training students, interested parents, and teachers

of schools on first aid principles and techniques. Training was conducted at the Turkmen-Russian school. The course was interactive and featured role-plays and situational games. Important information was summarized on colorful handouts that were distributed to the students. Moreover, Oguljahan gave a detailed explanation of the contents of a first aid kit.

**Social Partnership Results in Safer Neighborhoods and New Playground** ...continued from p. 1

the busy Navoi Street to a nearby park. Counterpart supported the community by providing trainings on grant writing, advocacy, social partnership and fundraising, which helped its members request support and funding from local officials and businessmen. Community members also managed the construction

process and will be responsible for maintenance work. Local officials, inspired by the community's enthusiasm and success, have offered to construct an additional playground for the expanding neighborhood.

U.S. Agencies and Alumni Beat

Enterprise Development Project Offers Training of Trainers (TOT) Course

To promote the exchange of experiences between Certified International Professional Accountant-Examination Network (CIPA-EN) programs region-wide, EDP/Turkmenistan invited two of the more popular and effective trainers of EDP/Uzbekistan to offer a week-long Training of Trainers (TOT) course in Ashgabat on Management Accounting 1 (MA1) and Financial Accounting 1 (FA1). Trainers Natalya Katkova (MA1) and Elena Shefer (FA1) held a series of interactive, participatory sessions to the Turkmen CIPA-EN trainers from February 3-9. Overall, the series of trainings and evaluations were deemed "highly effective" in the eyes of the Uzbek and Turkmen participants.

Over the course of the TOT, Ms. Katkova and Ms. Shefer focused on the current teaching methodologies of each and every Turkmen trainer (current and potential trainers), offering positive

criticism, suggestions and praise for each TOT participant. In addition to focusing upon certain methodologies to further increase teaching effectiveness, both Uzbek trainers offered new teaching and training materials found useful by students and trainers alike. Deemed a huge success by all 11 FA1 and 7 MA1 participant trainers involved, EDP/Turkmenistan would like to offer its thanks and appreciation to both Natalya Katkova and Elena Shefer for their leading roles in the event.

In addition to Natalya Katkova's responsibilities as a trainer on Management Accounting 1 (MA1), she serves as Coordinator of CIPA programs within the National Accounting and Auditors Association of Uzbekistan. Having taught MA1 since August 2003 and MA2 since early 2004, Ms. Katkova is well-positioned to retain her CIPA accreditation and respective certificate by mid-2005.

■ Contemporary Issues Finalist Meets with Mayor of West Lafayette, Indiana

Osman Seyidov, Contemporary Issues alum '05, who pursued his research at Purdue University, recently met with Jan H. Mills, the Mayor of West Lafayette City, Indiana. They discussed local government policies towards disadvantaged youth and how authorities may encourage young people to become more actively involved in their communities. Osman also par-



Osman with Jan H. Mills, Mayor of West Lafayette City

ticipated in several activities organized by the Lafayette School Corporation, where he learned psychological approaches used to help young people overcome addictions. The same week, Osman gave a presentation entitled "The Education System in Turkmenistan" at Purdue University.

■ Turkmen Alumni Participate in Regional Conference in Tashkent

Eurasian Undergraduate Program alumni of Central Asia gathered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for a conference entitled "Mass Media in Central Asia," held on March 10-13. Turkmenistan UGRAD alumni attended the conference and participated in lectures, workshops and discussions devoted to media development in Central Asia. Professional journalists and experts shared their knowledge and experience in broadcasting, interviewing, managing news reports, and other issues. Media specialists also moderated panel discussions on the contribution of mass media to public opinion and the influence of foreign media. Alumni had a chance to develop their journalism skills by creating their own TV reports on topics such as volunteering, working with youth and educational opportunities. Alumni were encouraged to create follow-up projects specific to their home regions to implement after the conference. Participants also enjoyed the unique opportunity to tour Tashkent and Samarkand.



Turkmen UGRAD team at the conference

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## U.S. Agencies and Alumni Beat

### Contemporary Issues and Regional Scholars Exchange Program Alumni Receive Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Small Grants

Djaneta Tachkuliyeva, Contemporary Issues '02, received an ECA small grant to organize and conduct a series of 43 workshops that focus on HIV/AIDS, health education, and drug prevention for 860 youth living in Ashgabat and 34 other rural locations. The workshops aim at increasing people's knowledge of crucial health issues and promoting principles of healthy living.

RSEP '02 alumnus Dovlet Jumakuliev also received Embassy support to lead a project for young men in rural areas in Turkmenistan who are interested in starting their own business in the field of animal husbandry. They are invited to attend semi-

nars that increase their knowledge in management, marketing, law, and business organization. In addition, the project will teach young men how to use the Internet, email, and listservs to find relevant information in their fields. The project will also connect young businessmen with faculty from agricultural universities of the world for the purpose of consultations. The dates for both grants are April 1, 2005-January 31, 2006.

The ECA Alumni Small Grants Program (ASGP) is a professional and community development program open to all alumni of ECA-sponsored exchange programs.

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### Alumni Discuss Gender Issues with UN Representatives

On March 22, over 20 alumni, students, and professionals of different fields celebrated Women's History Month by gathering at the IREX office to discuss international gender issues. The event was hosted by Program Officer for Social Policy Shohrat Orazov and Assistant to the UN Resident Coordinator Jahan Saparmamedova. Mr. Orazov opened the event by defining the terms "gender" and "sex". Mrs. Jahan Saparmamedova then presented information on gender statistics, recent resolutions, and other policies and issues concerning gender. She also remarked that in 1995 Turkmenistan rati-

fied the convention on eliminating all kinds of discrimination against women that was discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. Later, participants asked experts questions about tradition gender roles in Turkmenistan.

In answer to these questions, Jahan noted that the UN is currently working on a joint project with government officials aimed to educate women from traditional families about their rights. In the end, the roundtable served to raise awareness

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### Residents of Turkmenistan Celebrate Constitution Day at IATP Access Sites

On May 11, Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) access sites in five cities across Turkmenistan hosted a 90-minute online discussion for local residents to mark Turkmenistan's Constitution Day. IATP invited Dr. Murad Haitov, Fulbright '04, to lead the discussion about the Turkmen constitution and rights of citizens. Dr. Haitov began the discussion by explaining the importance of constitutions, noting that they are the bodies of doctrines which form the fundamental organizing principle of political states. Azat Shamuradov, UGRAD '04, asked if any new amendments had been introduced to the Turkmen Constitution within the last 13 years. Professor Haitov replied that the Turkmen Constitution was modified three times: "... in 1995 as Turkmenistan was recog-

nized as a neutral state by the United Nations; in 1999 due to the abolition of death penalty in the country and declaration of a life-long term for the president; and in 2003, when the *Halk Maslahaty* (People's Council) received authority to sentence people to life imprisonment for attempting to overthrow current government officials." Participants further asked Dr. Haitov questions regarding the role of the constitution in the adoption of state laws; the operation of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches; and economic, cultural and social rights of citizens. The online discussion promoted a greater understanding of constitutional systems and enabled participants to learn more about the structure of the Turkmen constitution and government.

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### Alumni Celebrate Constitution Day with Hearing-Impaired Children

On May 20, with support from IREX Turkmenistan, six USG program alumni visited the Ashgabat school for Hearing-Impaired children to celebrate Turkmenistan's Constitution Day and deliver presents. As with previous visits, alumni conducted an educational activity with 30 children of various ages. The children were provided with colored paper and worked with alumni volunteers to make their own paper lotus flowers, which they attached to blue sheets of paper, that

symbolized water. It was a very challenging contest for the kids and their counselors. The project was a learning experience for the alumni as well, as they had to use sign language to communicate with the children. The first two words that the alumni learned were "lotus" and "water." After the activity was completed, the children were treated to cakes and fruit.

## U.S. Agencies and Alumni Beat

### ■ Red Crescent Volunteers Create Websites in Dashoguz, Turkmenistan

Four Red Crescent (RC) volunteers posted Turkmen websites to IATP's server after completing a web design course conducted by IATP Assistant Administrator Jennet Orayeva in Dashoguz. The course, conducted on April 9-13, introduced trainees to the basic features of Web design and taught them how to create a website using HTML, links, images and a user-friendly layout. Volunteer Nargiza Yuldashova created a website (<http://www.iatp.edu.tm/redcrescent/>) on RC and its work in Turkmenistan, including information on RC volunteers, the RC healthcare department and RC support for refugees. Djennet Djumabayeva and Nikolay Orehov created a website (<http://www.iatp.edu.tm/stopaids/>) on AIDS and avoiding infection. Aynura Doschanova created a third website (<http://www.iatp.edu.tm/ilkingikomek/>) on first aid, containing information on how to help people who are experiencing an asthma attack, snake bite or who are losing consciousness. With the addition of these three websites, the IATP server in Turkmenistan now hosts 114 websites, constituting the majority of websites hosted in the country.

### ■ Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society and American Corner Fight Tuberculosis

On March 16, FLEX alumni Rejep Abdyev '04, Bahar Aydogyeva '04, Tatiana Mandikovskaya '03 and Ahmed Tagiyev '04 helped the Red Crescent Society to initiate a "Walk Against Tuberculosis" in Mary. In order to educate students about the importance of good hygiene habits in preventing the spread of tuberculosis, the alumni made and distributed booklets and posters during presentations at local schools throughout the region. They also distributed approximately 150 handouts and invited students to participate in American Corner activities. Through these activities, FLEX alumni have helped educate hundreds of students about the dangers of tuberculosis.

### ■ Alumni Conduct Workshop on AIDS and Drug Abuse

On March 23, Tachnabat Amannazarova, International Visitors '04, delivered a two-hour presentation on AIDS and drug abuse for 10 participants, including alumni of US-government sponsored exchange programs. Tachnabat discussed the relationship between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, noting that drug addicts are one of the groups that are most easily infected. Later, she provided identified some of the signs and symptoms of drug addicts such as euphoria, somnolence and injection marks on the hands and legs. She also explained that piercing and tattooing can be dangerous if done in an unsanitary fashion. Tachnabat stressed the importance of health education for youth and suggested that awareness could be raised by integrating HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention programs into secondary school curricula.

### ■ Alumni Discuss Global Environmental Issues with US Government Official Online

On May 17, ten alumni at IATP access sites in Ashgabat, Mary, Dashoguz, and Turkmenabat joined alumni fellows from more than 12 countries, including Canada, India, Costa Rica, Russia, Ukraine, and Ecuador, online for a live discussion with John Turner, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) to discuss oceans, environment, and science issues. Through the State Alumni website ([www.state.alumni.gov](http://www.state.alumni.gov)), which is an online community that helps alumni stay in contact with one another and with ECA, the alumni united for an hour-long chat that featured Mr. Turner. Over the course of the online chat, Mr. Turner shared some of his ideas with alumni from around the world about ecological problems that the entire world faces, such as global warming, climate changing, and the decline of fish stocks. Thanks to the ECA online discussion, alumni enjoyed the unique opportunity to meet Mr. John Turner online and discuss the Bureau's broad global mission. ECA conducts online chats with US government officials.

### ■ Two Contemporary Issues Alumni Outreach Projects

Djaneta Tachkuliyyeva, Contemporary Issues 02, and Gochmurat Kutliyev, Contemporary Issues '04, recently led popular local activities with U.S. Embassy participation.

Djaneta organized an event commemorating Victory Day for 500 veterans and guests on April 30, 2005 at the National Library of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat. The event coincided with the opening of a four-day photo and picture exhibition. Turkmenistan, as a former Soviet republic, is home to about 4000 veterans of World War II.

Gochmurat organized a project to clean up a remote area of the Serhedabat district in Mary Welayat. The clean up was followed by educational lectures on wildlife, environmental protection and ethnographic tourism. The goal of the project was to educate people about the importance of protecting areas with unique fauna and flora.

### ■ Turkmenistan Alumni Examine Employee and Consumer Rights

On March 5 at the IREX/IATP Alumni Resource Center in Ashgabat, Nabat Babayeva (IV '03) and Zoya Prous (IV '04) conducted a workshop on "Employment Agreements and Rights of Consumers" for six participants, including alumni of USG programs. Nabat, a lawyer at the National Center of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan, discussed various provisions of Turkmenistan's labor law, and compared it with U.S. practices. Zoya, an economist and private consultant in Ashgabat, advocated the importance of consumer rights and referred to consumer rights issues in the United States. The workshop leaders also donated a copy of the *Collection of Normative Documents Regulating the Trade System in Turkmenistan* to the IREX/IATP Alumni Resource Center library.