

## Scholarship Programs

### Scholarship Programs Newsletter Spring 2007 – Issue 1

Welcome to the Open Society Institute's Network Scholarship Programs (NSP) first newsletter.

You have received this newsletter because we thought you might be interested in it as a result of your affiliation with NSP. Newsletters will be sent out periodically. Via the newsletter, we will keep you up-to-date on our activities; including coverage of conferences, interviews with grantees, job announcements, grant opportunities, alumni news and highlights, and articles on subjects of interest to the NSP community.

*(If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please \*unsubscribe\* by visiting the following site: <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/scholarship>)*

This inaugural issue covers the recent UEP conference in New York City, the CNOUS mid-year conference in Paris, France, and the UK Programs conference in Durham, UK. Additionally, it highlights NSP alumni in the news, provides information on Open Access resources, lists job and grant opportunities, and links to four organizations with interesting summer volunteer opportunities.

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## Grantee Profile: Shaima Hussein



A human rights scholar from Amman, Jordan, reflects on her experience as an OSI Scholarship Programs participant in the UK. [more](#)

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## UK Programs Debate Sessions Conference Report



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*(A debate session at the UK Programs conference in April 2007)*

Day 2 of the UK Programs conference featured a series of debates on an array of subjects including, "Should 3rd World Countries Help Themselves Out of Poverty?" and "Do Employers Have the Right to Discriminate?" Simulating a parliamentary debate, grantees played the role of experts presenting before Parliament. The opening debate began with the words, "Madame Speaker..." Questions by the audience began with, "Honorary Speaker..." When teams questioned each other, they addressed their counterpart as, "Honorary Opposition..."



*(A debate session at the UK Programs conference in April 2007)*

The UK scholars prepared for these debates after receiving intensive debate training from Ms. Katalin Molnar and Ms. Rozalia Bako, two teachers based in Hungary and Romania respectively. Broken into 2 teams, each team member gave a small speech, which was followed by comment and questions. As the debate moved forward, participants often scrapped their prepared speeches and responded to the opposing team's comments and answered audience concerns. This led to a lively and competitive environment where the scholars honed their debate skills. Intensive scrutiny from the opposing teams and audience alike assured that any arguments made without sound analytical backing would be questioned. The debates were vibrant, engaging the full range of participants during the Q&A sessions. Participants argued forcefully, and cited supporting sources with ease. Drawing on a wide array of facts and seamlessly integrating them into the debate, the event was not only a functional training but also an academic learning experience for all in attendance.

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## **Undergraduate Exchange Program Spring Conference Report**

On March 9th and 10th, Undergraduate Exchange Program (UEP) grantees gathered in New York City for their annual spring conference. The main topic of discussion was the grantees' Home Country Project (HCP). At the fall conference in Vermont, UEP grantees brainstormed ideas for their HCP. Over the intervening five months, they have been refining their proposals, seeking funding, and preparing to hit the ground running once they return home this summer.

A Home Country Project is a community service internship undertaken in the grantee's home country that has been planned over the course of their one year of studies in the U.S. Grantees came to the New York conference prepared to discuss their goals for their HCP.

Initiated three years ago by UEP Program Manager Anne Campbell, the Home Country Project is designed to give grantees practical experience in the development of a community service project. From the initial proposal to planning the project to its final implementation, the grantee plays the lead role.

Home Country Projects have ranged from local tutoring initiatives to regional conferences focused on EU integration. OSI provides an initial start-up funding of \$100 (USD) though a few grantees have raised thousands of Euro. Such fundraising is, of course, encouraged but it is not necessary. Many UEP scholars pull off innovative and effective HCPs without outside financial support.

This year's cohort has planned a fascinating set of Home Country Projects. Over lunch at the conference, they broke into groups to discuss and present their HCP proposals. One by one the grantees explained their goals for their Home Country Project. Project ideas ranged from leadership training sessions and conferences to environmental issue awareness and LGBT rights advocacy. Some of the HCPs will be one day events, such as a conference or a panel, while others may result in the formation of an NGO or be the pathway to a job. Of course, we won't know the results of this group's HCPs until next year. After returning home this summer, the grantees will spend the rest of the year working on their HCPs. Stay tuned to a future newsletter for more information on the journey of these HCPs from idea to reality.

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## **CNOUS Mid-Year Conference Report**

In March, the 2006-2007 CNOUS-OSI fellows, professors from the University of Lyon, and representatives from CNOUS and OSI gathered in Paris, France for the mid-year conference. This annual event brings current grantees together to share the challenges and accomplishments they have experienced during their year at universities in Lyon, Strasbourg, Clermont-Ferrand, and

Bordeaux. It was an excellent opportunity for grantees to meet and network with CNOUS staff and French professors. Additionally, it gave OSI the opportunity to introduce fellowship programs available to them following graduation, such as the Alumni Grant Program and the Higher Education Support Program.



*(Joldocheva Ainazik, Baratashvili Gulyandar, Abdurakhmanov Talgat, and Safarov Hassan)*

For the first time in 2007, OSI and CNOUS organized an interactive training with Trouvée Créée, a French NGO to encourage fellows to develop more focused approaches when making academic, professional, and personal decisions. The students found the training useful, and will apply their skills when searching for internships, grant opportunities, and jobs at home.

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### **Job and Grant Postings**

USAID funded Community Connections is hosting ten women to attend the Community Connections Program for Young Women Leaders in Khatlon Oblast. You can find application instructions on the [Community Connections website](#). Please note that the application deadline is: May 25, 2007

The [UN Commission on Human Rights](#) has links to organizations that offer Human Rights Scholarships.

There is an opening for an [International Consultant to the UNDP](#) in Baku.

[OSI](#) has several positions open.

There are several positions open at [EURASIANET](#).

[Global Voices Online](#) is seeking a co-Managing Editor.

[Eisenhower Fellowships](#).

[Alcoa Foundation's Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Program](#) is accepting applications until May 31, 2007.

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### **Volunteer Opportunities**

If you are looking for a summer volunteer opportunity, you may want to take

a look at the following organizations and websites:

- [Universal Giving](#)
  - [The Global Volunteer Network Foundation](#)
  - [Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition](#)
  - [Global Citizens Network](#)
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### **Resources: Open Access**

Below is a collection of links to Open Access websites assembled by OSI staff member Melissa Hagemann. For those of you who have been to an NSP conference this spring, you've probably heard about Open Access. For those of you unfamiliar with Open Access, please read through the following websites to learn more about this growing movement.

### **General Information about Open Access (OA)**

- [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#)
- [Open Access Overview](#)
- [Blog for OA News](#)
- [Podcast on OA](#)

### **Open Access Directories**

- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)
  - [Directory of Open Access Repositories](#)
  - [Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#)
  - [Connexions \(Open Access to learning materials\)](#)
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### **Alumni Updates**

With the assistance of an NSP Alumni grant, **Buajar Bekova** (Social Work Fellowship 2001) recently initiated a "Food for Education" program at the Janaliev Abdrahkman School in the Naryn Oblast region of Kyrgyzstan. Aimed at increasing both school enrollment and providing a nutritious meal, the program provided hot lunches 5 days a week. Over the course of a year, the program successfully increased hard factors such as school enrollment and soft factors such as increased attentiveness in class. While OSI funding got the project off the ground, Buajar intends to continue the project through additional foundation funding as well as through engagement with UNICEF.

For her Home Country Project, **Elena Stavrevska** (UEP, 2005) raised over 45,000 Euro for a regional conference entitled "SEE the Future: First Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament for Southeastern Europe." The conference was held December 8-15, 2006 and brought in over 120 students from 11 countries. The conference included teambuilding, committee work on

specific policy topics, and general assembly debates. Elena's hope is that this initiative will develop further and bolster the existing national committees of European Youth Parliament. To learn more, please visit the [SEE the Future website](#).

**Fariz Ismailzade** (Social Work Fellowship, 2000) publishes frequently at the *Eurasia Daily Monitor*. You can read Fariz's most recent article, "[Azerbaijan Moves to Shape Image of Islamic World](#)," by visiting the Eurasia Daily Monitor website.

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### **Scholarship Program Update**

In 2007, OSI in conjunction with the French Embassies in Central Asia will organize the *first* CNOUS Academic Summer School in Issyk kul, Kyrgyzstan. The purpose of this event is to provide students preparing to study in a 1-year Masters Program in France with intensive academic writing courses as well as pre-departure orientation. Program alumni, French professionals, and Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan representatives will participate in this 10-day school to enrich the students' understanding of the French university system, how to live and study in France, and how to benefit from their program after graduation.

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### **Annual Spring Conferences**

Conference agendas can be found at the [NSP website](#).

#### **March 9-10**

CNOUS Program (Paris, France)

#### **March 9-10**

Undergraduate Exchange Program (New York, NY)

#### **March 16-17**

Palestinian Rule of Law (New York, NY)

#### **March 29-30**

Global Supplementary Grant Program (New York, NY)

#### **March 29-30**

Social Work (St. Louis, MO)

#### **April 2-5**

UK Programs (Durham, UK)

#### **April 17-18**

Georgia Education Program (Cambridge, MA)

**April 20-22**

DAAD-OSI Alumni Regional Conference for the Caucasus (Tbilisi, Georgia)

**April 26-27**

Burma Program (New York, NY)

**April 27-29**

Palestinian Faculty Development Program (Boston, MA)

**April 30-May 1**

Faculty Development & Social Work Faculty Program (New Brunswick, NJ)

**May 17-20**

DAAD-OSI Program (Fulda, Germany)

**June 6-10**

Network Scholarship Programs Coordinators Conference (Varna, Bulgaria)

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We hope you have enjoyed this inaugural NSP Newsletter. Please send us any ideas and suggestions for future content. Website links, job postings, personal and professional updates, event announcements, and grant opportunities are all appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Network Scholarship Programs](#)

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