Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees, I am pleased to submit to you the Center’s 2007 annual report on the Open World exchange program. Through Open World, Congress has linked 13,966 emerging leaders from countries of the former Soviet Union to transparent and accountable governance as practiced in communities throughout the United States. Some six thousand American volunteers in all fifty states have hosted these leaders. We see their impact in many areas, from the fight against human trafficking to the slow march to judicial independence.

This 2007 annual report illustrates the different types of results our participants produce using the ideas, experiences, and professional contacts they gain through Open World. These results are by now too numerous for all to appear in this report (the Center identifies on average one hundred results per month). Three representative examples illustrate the variety of impacts. One alumna started a distance learning course on ethics for government officials across Ukraine after seeing a model for such a program in Pittsburgh. A journalist from the Russian Far East produced a four-part documentary on Alaska that aired on a Russian television channel with eight million viewers, giving a seldom-seen positive view of our countries’ relations. A city council member in Ufa, after visiting a legal services organization in Chicago, began a program offering free legal consultations to low-income residents across the Russian republic of Bashkortostan.

Among the most lasting and productive outcomes of the Open World Program are a growing number of binational projects and partnerships. In all, our alumni have been collaborating on 361 projects and 127 partnerships, thanks in part to the many American hosts who make follow-on return visits to alumni in program countries. In 2007, seventy-one American host judges and legal professionals made such visits to Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia to work with alumni of the dynamic Open World rule of law program.

Ten percent of the Russian Duma deputies elected in December 2007 are Open World alumni, as are three new Russian governors and two justices in the Russian and the Ukrainian Supreme Courts. As Open World expands its geographic reach into Central Asia and the Caucasus, program alumni are assuming positions of senior leadership there as well.

As an organization created by, and housed in, the legislative branch, the Open World Leadership Center will continue to serve Congress and the American people by promoting productive relationships with the new generation of Eurasian leaders.

Sincerely,

James H. Billington
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Message from the Executive Director

We at the Open World Leadership Center see every day that the Open World Program benefits all participating countries. From U.S. judges extolling how their association with judges from Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and elsewhere has helped them appreciate and improve judicial practices in the United States, to Moldovan viniculturalists advising North Carolina vintners converting tobacco fields to vineyards, to National Park volunteers from Colorado customizing an electronic information system for a Russian national park, Open World is bringing about positive change.

I am pleased to present the Open World Annual Report for 2007, a year in which we launched a sophisticated web-based client management system in order to catalogue, share, and monitor the program’s successes more efficiently than ever before. With this improved technology, we are tracking, among other things, how the U.S. visit creates a multiplier effect, such as the alumni-designed health conferences you will read about later in this report. Open World produces many other types of results, examples of which are illustrated in the following pages.

We are also continuing to work on other technological improvements to provide you, our partners and supporters, with resources and timely information. Our new Digital Directory serves as a gateway to list serves, contests, and outside grant opportunities; it also allows registered users to find other Open World hosts and alumni.

In 2006 the Open World Board of Trustees directed the program to expand its focus by ensuring that, by the year 2010, at least one-third of our delegates come from countries other than Russia each year. I am pleased to report that Open World met this goal two years early. In addition to conducting a robust program with Ukraine, which has been a participating country since 2003, Open World now hosts exchanges for emerging leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan. The Center will welcome its inaugural delegation from Turkmenistan in October 2008, bringing the total number of expansion countries to eight.

In all, 2007 was an important year for this valuable public diplomacy program. I personally thank the Open World Board of Trustees, Members of Congress, national grantees, and our thousands of local American hosts for contributing so much to Open World’s success. I hope you enjoy this report.

Sincerely,

John O’Keefe
Executive Director
The Open World Leadership Center Yields Results

Why do we highlight results?

To demonstrate the long-term effectiveness of Open World abroad and its benefits to Americans, we began, in early 2007, to systematically track and follow up on the projects, partnerships, and professional advancement linked to the program. Open World is now structured to identify delegates and American hosts and professionals who are likely to sustain projects and partnerships that last well beyond the ten-day Open World hosting experience. We use the lessons learned each year to further refine the program and build networks of political and civic leaders.

Open World sorts its results into eight categories: Benefits to Americans, Partnerships, Projects, Multipliers, Reciprocal Visits, Press, Professional Advancement, and Contributions. You will read the definition of and discover 2007 highlights for each category in the following pages of this report.

Mission Statement

To enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and its free-market system.
EXAMPLES:

Estimated number of people in the audience for presentations made by Open World delegates, number of presentations. “Reverse success stories” of how Americans adopted ideas from Open World delegates.

Beslan Counselors Share Expertise in Treating Trauma

Four Russian mental health experts who counseled children and families affected by the 2004 Beslan school attack spent the evening of December 20 in a Lancaster County, Pa. home sharing experiences and strategies for healing with Amish community members who had suffered from the 2006 Nickel Mines school shootings. Grandparents of one of the Nickel Mines victims were among those who took part in the profoundly moving session organized by the Mennonite Central Committee. The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., hosted the delegation. (National grantee: National Peace Foundation)

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was the focus of a second Russian team hosted at the same time by the University of Massachusetts Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Mass. Three of the Worcester delegates had assisted Beslan survivors and continue to specialize in crisis counseling; the fourth treats military veterans of the conflict in Chechnya. During their Massachusetts visit, the delegates worked with some of America’s leading academic and clinical experts in PTSD, including several Veterans Administration specialists, and shared their own professional experiences in the North Caucasus. (National grantee: National Peace Foundation)
information from Open World delegates. Local hosts often benefit from the community outreach and publicity resulting from delegation visits, and some communities receive economic benefits from ongoing partnerships.

Moldovan Wine Experts to Share Skills with North Carolina Vintners

North Carolina state Representative Larry Brown arranged for a delegation of newly elected Moldovan mayors to meet with the North Carolina Wine and Grape Council in Raleigh during a December 2007 accountable governance exchange. The U.S. hosts and delegates agreed that many of North Carolina’s smaller wineries would benefit from Moldovan expertise in winemaking. As a result of the meeting, the Continuing Education Division of Forsyth Tech Community College, the Moldovans’ host organization, plans to launch a distance-learning course in late 2008 for small North Carolina vintners that will be taught by Moldovan wine experts. As host Suzanne Stafford of Forsyth Tech observed, “The Moldovans get recognized and reimbursed for their expertise and the North Carolina winemakers improve their vintage. Everybody wins.” (National grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.)

Alumnus’s Award-Winning War Memoir Available to English Readers

Arkady Babchenko’s One Soldier’s War, an autobiographical account of his harrowing experience as a young soldier in Russia’s Chechen wars, was published in English in fall 2007. Critics have compared the book to All Quiet on the Western Front and Michael Herr’s Dispatches. Babchenko participated in a fall 2006 writers residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sponsored by the Open World Russian Cultural Leaders Program. During his Open World program, he also met with two American war veterans, National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia (below), and then-U.S. Poet Laureate Donald Hall. A winner of an English PEN Writers in Translation award (for One Soldier’s War) and two prestigious Russian literary prizes, Babchenko is a special correspondent for the oppositionist Moscow-based newspaper Novaya Gazeta. (National grantee: CEC ArtsLink)
Partnerships – An American organization partners with an Open World–country organization on a joint project or starts an affiliate in that country.

EXAMPLES:

University-to-university partnerships on distance learning, sister-court relationships, community-to-community interactions between local governmental entities.

Open World Exchange Leads to North Caucasus Social Services Project

Four Open World alumni hosted by Keystone Human Services in 2005 serve as key personnel for a new Keystone project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to establish two comprehensive systems of care for youth in Russia’s troubled North Caucasus region. Keystone attributes its success in winning the USAID grant in large part to the alumni’s exposure to its Harrisburg, Pa.–area programs for children with disabilities during their Open World visit. The alumni—who had all provided mental health services to survivors of the 2004 Beslan school attack—developed the idea for the project after their Open World trip. Keystone reports that their winning proposal, which is aimed at addressing the health and emotional needs of North Caucasus youth in order to help break the region’s cycle of violence, successfully adapted American best practices to local mental health needs and cultural traditions.
One of Open World’s earliest exchanges from the Republic of Georgia produced a new sister-city relationship. During a June 2007 accountable governance visit to Bluefield, W.Va., hosted by Dr. Sudhakar R. Jamkhandi and the Center for International Understanding, Inc., Municipal Council Chair Giorgi Kharchilava of Tsalenjikha proposed to Bluefield officials that their two communities become sister cities. Shortly after the Georgians’ departure, Bluefield Mayor Garry D. Moore issued a proclamation supporting an agreement of friendship and cooperation between the two towns. Just weeks later, while visiting Georgia as part of an official West Virginia delegation, Bluefield Board of Directors member Ronald Crabtree and Dr. Jamkhandi personally delivered the proclamation to Tsalenjikha Mayor Giorgi Mebonia and Council Chair Kharchilava, who both officially signed it in Tbilisi on June 26.

Despite Mayor Mebonia’s untimely death in 2008, Dr. Jamkhandi and others involved in establishing the new sister-city relationship remain committed to further developing ties between Bluefield and Tsalenjikha and working on mutually beneficial activities and events. (National grantee: Academy for Educational Development)

**Russian Rotary Club Chartered Thanks to Open World Alumna and Host**

Open World host Robert Noe briefed Center staff on July 17 on his June 2007 trip to Angarsk, near Russia’s Lake Baikal, to assist in chartering a new Rotary club at the invitation of Open World alumna and Angarsk Deputy Mayor Irina Tsypenko. Noe and fellow members of the Rotary Club of Leesburg, Va., hosted Tsypenko and seven other Russian government and community leaders on a National Peace Foundation–administered local governance exchange in 2005. (Noe has considerable local governance experience of his own, having served as a city manager of Herndon, Va., Leesburg, Va., Hollywood, Fla., and Tamarac, Fla., and as county executive of Prince William County, Va.) Tsypenko learned about Rotary from talking to Noe and other club members, and from attending a club meeting. Impressed by what she had seen and heard, Tsypenko soon began working to found a club in her city—a process that culminated in early June, when Noe and two colleagues participated in the formal chartering ceremony in Angarsk. Among the projects the club has helped undertake is conducting environmental education classes at a school for orphans. Noe’s delegation also chartered a second Rotary club during their Angarsk visit.
Projects – An Open World delegate returns home and implements an idea inspired by the Open World experience.

EXAMPLES:
Opening an after-school activity center; using retired citizens as volunteers in a school; writing and distributing pamphlets on HIV prevention; opening city council meetings to the public.

Alumni Expand Social Services After Wisconsin Visits

Open World exchanges hosted by national grantee World Services of La Crosse, Inc., typically wrap up with action-planning workshops that encourage participants to identify specific ways to apply their new knowledge and experiences back home. Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities,* which is part of the World Services network of Open World hosts, can point to several projects that have evolved from its action-planning workshops and other program activities.

Alumna Alla Vladimirova, a consulting psychologist for a government-sponsored crisis hotline at the time of her 2004 visit to Appleton, Wisc., partnered with other Open World alumni to expand services provided by a youth crisis center in her hometown of Kurgan, Russia. Called My Home, the public center serves as a resource for youth endangered by domestic violence, and also provides counseling and support to parents. Vladimirova’s work on the project grew out of the time she spent studying the services and facilities of Appleton’s Harbor House domestic violence center.

Other Kurgan Open World alumni founded the New Life Center for youth after a 2002 Wisconsin visit and continue to expand their services. One alumna created a women’s council to empower and provide support to women with children with disabilities. A second participant started a database tracking families at risk in order to better serve their needs, and a third now coordinates a Healthy Family school program for teachers, parents, students, and civic organizations.

Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities members literally go the extra mile to follow up with their alumni. In April, seven members of the organization traveled to Kurgan to meet with alumni, get updated on their progress, consult with them on further actions, and identify joint initiatives. One team member, Dr. Montgomery “Monk” Elmer (pictured, right) of ThedaCare Physicians in Kimberly, Wisc., has devoted more than 500 hours of service to the U.S.-Russian partnership on maternal-child and prenatal care programs.

*The Fox Cities are a group of cities, towns, and villages located in northeast Wisconsin.
Disability Activist Impacts Publication’s Hiring Practices

After taking part in a September 2007 Open World visit to Tucson, Ariz., focused on disability issues, Russian delegate Ekaterina Demina persuaded the management of the magazine where she works to hire more people with disabilities. (Demina herself is a wheelchair user who was selected for Open World because of her community work on behalf of people with disabilities.) Demina reports that by the end of 2007, 50 percent of the staff handling data collection for the magazine, Otdykh v Nizhnm (Recreation in Nizhny Novgorod), were people with special needs, who were able to work from home. Barriers to the employment of people with disabilities remain high in Russia, so Demina feels that her company is setting an important example for other businesses.

The host organization for Demina’s visit, International Training & Consulting, arranged for Demina and her fellow delegates to learn about workplace accommodation—in law and practice—from the directors of an independent living center and a legal advocacy organization, a state vocational rehabilitation official, representatives of employment and job-training agencies that serve people with disabilities, and employees with disabilities. Demina and the six other delegates, all of whom have physical disabilities, were also impressed and inspired by the general accessibility of their host community and the welcoming response they received from everyone from ordinary citizens to Mayor Bob Walkup, who kicked off their professional program with an official meeting at City Hall. (National grantee: Academy for Educational Development)

Alumnus Translates Omaha Experience into Small Business Fund

Businessman and local legislator Vladislav Karimov of Oktyabrsky, Bashkortostan, Russia, arrived in Omaha, Neb., especially interested in learning how government supports small businesses there. One of the highlights of his exchange was listening to retired businessmen who volunteer with the nonprofit organization SCORE (“Counselors to America’s Small Business”) describe how they mentor new entrepreneurs. As a result of this and other program sessions, Karimov concluded that local government should support small business through actions and advice rather than direct funding. When he returned home he spearheaded the creation of the Municipal Fund of Small Business Support. The Fund does not directly finance small businesses, but instead provides consultant services and technical assistance in developing high-quality business plans, reports, and projects. The local business community applauded this new initiative. As a next step, Karimov and his city government colleagues are actively pursuing a grant from the Russian Federation Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to open a business incubator in Oktyabrsky that would provide start-ups with office space and legal, accounting, and marketing support.

Karimov’s visit was hosted by the Friendship Force of Eastern Nebraska. (National grantee: Friendship Force International)
Multipliers – A delegate returns home and shares his/her new knowledge with others, thereby “multiplying” the Open World experience.

EXAMPLES:

Number of presentations and number of people in the audience; delegate websites launched or expanded with information gleaned during the Open World visit.

Alumni Stage Health Conferences All Over Russia

Less than two months after Dr. Elmira Zorina returned to Udmurtia from her October 2007 visit to Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was hosted by the Izhevsk–Salt Lake City Partnership, she convened a republic-wide medical conference. A neurologist and the administrator of Udmurtia’s Republican Diagnostic and Treatment Center in the capital city of Izhevsk, Dr. Zorina drew more than 2,000 physicians and nurses to her December 2007 conference. At the event, Dr. Zorina shared with attendees the professional knowledge she had acquired during her Utah visit as well as her personal experience in neurological medicine. The conference attracted significant interest in the medical community. (National grantee: Academy for Educational Development)

Dr. Natalya Izhboldina, head of the Udmurt Republican Infectious Diseases Hospital’s emergency room, spoke about her October 2006 Open World health exchange at a 2007 conference at Izhevsk’s City Hospital #8. She told the audience about public health emergency preparedness in the United States and the work of the emergency room at Inova Alexandria Hospital in Virginia. Dr. Izhboldina continues to share information from her Open World visit, hosted by the Rotary Club of Alexandria, Va., in newspaper and broadcast interviews. (National grantee: Rotary International)

Dr. Svetlana Shevchenko, head doctor at Vyborg Maternity Hospital, gave a presentation at the December 2007 Leningrad Region Medical Scientific Conference on medical knowledge she gained on a fall 2007 exchange to Clifton Park, N.Y., hosted by the Shenendehowa Rotary Club. Dr. Shevchenko showed photos of and discussed procedures used by the Albany Medical Center to care for infants with very low birth weight. Her presentation was of particular interest to her audience because a Russian law setting forth new regulations and standards for the medical treatment of such infants takes effect on January 1, 2009. (National grantee: Rotary International)
Alumnus Shares U.S. Anti–Human Trafficking Methods with Russian Audiences

On November 8, a television station in Khabarovsk, Russia, interviewed Far Eastern Law Institute professor Konstantin Volkov about his study of U.S. anti–human trafficking initiatives during an October Open World exchange to the Washington, D.C. area. Volkov, who researches and lectures on human trafficking, also discussed his U.S. experience during a December 5 interuniversity roundtable and in a published report. During his Open World visit, hosted by the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University, Volkov and his fellow delegates had practical sessions on human-trafficking prevention and prosecution with staff of Representative Frank Wolf (Va.), Montgomery County (Md.) vice squad detectives, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children staff, and officials at the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Justice Department.

Ukrainian Alumni Conduct Sessions on Women’s Leadership, Child Protection

On June 1, eight 2006 Ukrainian Open World alumni joined the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and a Ukrainian child welfare NGO in conducting information sessions on child abuse prevention and women’s leadership in the western Ukrainian city of Khmelnitskiy. The day’s activities included trainings for adoptive parents and adopted children, and a roundtable on “Women and the Future of the Region” for women leaders of Khmelnitskiy Region and other parts of Ukraine. The alumni also spoke about U.S. women’s organizations they had visited during their Open World trips. Among the Open World alumni attendees were a mayor, the head of a municipal family and youth department, and an advisor to a Constitutional Court judge. The U.S. host organization for the eight participating alumni was Vital Voices Global Partnership in Washington, D.C.
Reciprocal Visits – Americans associated with the Open World hosting experience visit the delegates’ home country and meet with Open World alumni or work on an Open World–inspired project.

Host Organization Furthers Partnerships with Reciprocal Visits

The Los Alamos–Sarov Sister Cities Initiative (LASSCI), a regular Open World host organization, coordinated two reciprocal visits from Los Alamos, N.Mex., to the closed Russian nuclear city of Sarov during the summer of 2007 as part of ongoing projects between the “twinned” cities on health, education, and the environment. Four Los Alamos fire and police officials traveled to Sarov in June to see how their counterparts there work; in July, two LASSCI board members and three area high schoolers visited Sarov. LASSCI hosted another Sarov delegation for Open World in the fall; future academic exchanges and distance-learning projects were among the partnership plans discussed during the visit. (National grantee: Academy for Educational Development)

Above and below left and right, Los Alamos, N.Mex. public safety officials observe how their counterparts in Sarov, Russia, work during a reciprocal visit sponsored by the Los Alamos Sarov Sister City Initiative, an Open World host organization.
Oklahoma Judge Visits Judicial Alumni, Accompanies New Group to U.S.

U.S. District Judge and program host Stephen P. Friot of Oklahoma City met with more than 20 Open World judicial alumni in Pskov and Vologda during an October reciprocal visit to Russia sponsored by the nonprofit Institute for Law and Public Policy. Judge Friot held roundtables with alumni judges on judicial independence and the status of judges, and also visited two of his own 2006 Open World judicial guests in their courthouses and homes. Judge Friot concluded his trip by participating in a Moscow predeparture orientation for Open World judicial delegates about to leave for the United States—including a delegation he would be hosting in Oklahoma City—to help prepare them to get the most out of their U.S. visit. (National grantee: Rotary International)

In all, 71 American jurists involved with Open World’s rule of law program made reciprocal working visits to Russia and Ukraine in 2007.

Montana and Utah Hosts Visit Kyrgyzstan

Montana and Utah have each built a sister-state partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic since it became independent in 1992. Open World exchanges have helped strengthen the two partnerships, which focus on economic development, education, and the rule of law. For its inaugural exchange from Kyrgyzstan, Open World in June 2007 sponsored a visit by members of the Kyrgyz Parliament to Bozeman and Helena, Mont. During this historic visit, then-Vice Speaker Erkinbek Aymbekov invited state Senate Majority Leader Carol Williams, a veteran Open World host coordinator, to visit Kyrgyzstan. Three months later, Kyrgyzstani jurists traveled on an Open World exchange to Orem, Utah, where they participated in a mock session of the Utah Senate presided over by state Senate President John Valentine. Shortly afterward, Senators Williams and Valentine were on their way to Kyrgyzstan, accompanied by Open World local host coordinator Rusty Butler of Utah Valley University.

In Kyrgyzstan, the American delegation enjoyed a warm reunion with members of the Open World delegation that Senator Valentine had hosted in the Utah Senate chamber. Vice Speaker Aymbekov also accompanied Senators Valentine and Williams to meetings with then-Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev, the Speaker of Parliament and many other federal legislators, the minister of education, mayors, county officials, educators, and students. The Americans felt that the visit truly cemented mutually beneficial ties between our nations. (National grantees: International Institute, Graduate School, USDA; Academy for Educational Development)
Return of First Tajikistani Delegates Covered in Dushanbe Press

Digest Press, a widely circulated newspaper published in Tajikistan’s capital of Dushanbe; Sadoi Dushanbe, a regional radio station; and Omuzgor (Teacher) newspaper all covered the return of Open World’s first two Tajikistani delegations from their June 2007 travel to Gainesville, Fla., and Bozeman, Mont. Digest Press’s July 5 story highlighted Open World’s legislative branch origins and connections, while Sadoi Dushanbe provided a brief historical overview of the program in a June 29 broadcast. Omuzgor, a publication geared toward academics and teachers, ran a story on July 6 that focused on the insights gained by the Tajikistani environmental officials hosted in Bozeman, including their positive impressions of the role of universities in addressing environmental issues and the availability of environmental education in Montana secondary schools. (National grantees: National Peace Foundation; International Institute, Graduate School, USDA)

Open World Media Delegates Prepare Reports on Alaska

Eight Russian media professionals visited Alaska in July/August 2007 on a special exchange marking 200 years of U.S.-Russian diplomatic ties. The delegates recorded interviews, took photographs, and filmed for future broadcasts on Alaska’s past and present. The delegation also explored current affairs in Alaska with the mayor of Kenai and other local officials, and with the general manager and the news director of Anchorage’s KTUU-TV.

Listeners to Radio Russia in St. Petersburg heard several reports from delegate and radio show host Natalia Savoshchik while she was in the field in Alaska. In September, an exhibit of photos taken during the trip by delegate Svetlana Landysheva opened in Vladivostok. The following month, delegate Anastasiya Dolgosheva published a series of positive articles on her Alaska visit in the newspaper Sankt-Petersburgskie Vedomosti, for which she writes a regular column called “Discovering America.” And in November, a documentary shot on location in Alaska by delegates Sergei Maximonov and Yana Podzyuban from St. Petersburg TV-100 premiered on the widely watched television station.

Vladivostok delegate Andrey Kolesnikov wrote and produced a four-part documentary called Alaska: At the Edge of Land and Night that aired in October on a regional television channel with over eight million viewers. Roman Karmanov, a well-known Vladivostok journalist and the general director of the regional editions of two leading Russian publications, Argumenty i Fakty and Izvestiya, published three full-page articles on his Alaska trip in both newspapers in December.

Local Rotary clubs hosted the Russians throughout their Alaska trip, which took them to Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak, Sitka, and Soldotna. (National grantees: Rotary International)
In April, Sholban Kara-Ool became the first Open World alumnus to head one of Russia’s 21 republics (Tuva). Chairman Kara-Ool traveled on Open World in 1999, when he was the chair of the Great Khural, Tuva’s legislature. One of his initiatives as head of the Tuvan Republic is rebuilding an architecturally significant Buddhist temple compound located in an area considered to be the cradle of Tuvan statehood. Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C., hosted Chairman Kara-Ool’s Open World exchange.

The legislature of the Buryat Republic on June 15 approved Open World alumnus Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn’s nomination as president of the republic. President Nagovitsyn previously served as deputy governor of Tomsk Region. Looking toward Buryatia’s future, the new president holds instant-messaging chats with university students, covering topics such as employment and housing for young professionals. He was a member of a 2000 Open World delegation that studied budget issues on an exchange hosted by the Sacramento (Calif.) Council for International Visitors. (National grantee: Meridian International Center)

Sergey Antufyev became governor of Smolensk Region in December. One of his first tasks as governor was to review the region’s priorities and inspect a federal medical center under construction that will eventually serve five regions.

U.S. Representative Todd Tiahrt hosted Governor Antufyev in Wichita, Kans., in 1999 with assistance from the American Foreign Policy Council.

In 2007, three Russian Open World alumni were appointed to positions equivalent to that of a governor in the United States. (The president of the Russian Federation nominates a regional government head and the regional legislature confirms the appointment before the individual is sworn in.)

In 2007, forty-five Open World participants from all over Russia were elected as Duma deputies. One notable alumni newcomer to Russia’s lower house was Vladimir Matkhanov, who was hosted in 2005 by the League of Women Voters in Duluth, Minn. At the time of his Open World visit he was the youngest member of the Buryat Republic’s regional legislature (the Khural) and the chair of the Khural’s Youth Chamber.

Matkhanov has supported environmentally friendly business and wants to attract tourist enterprises to Lake Baikal to boost the economy of eastern Siberia. His Duluth home-host, Marnie Lonsdale, told the Center, “He absorbed and analyzed what he saw: everything from the Tribal experience to the stores, to the Waste Treatment Plant and the EPA laboratories. He was interested in the social, technical and managerial aspects. It was clear that he was applying his observations to his Russian experiences. He also was very proud of the progress and changes in Russia.” (National grantee: League of Women Voters)
In 2007, the Center initiated a cost-share reporting requirement for all grantees in an effort to more accurately report on the generous in-kind support that they and local hosts provide to Open World. The program received an estimated $1.8 million in donated goods and services from hosts and grantees in 2007—the equivalent of 13 percent of the Center’s fiscal year 2007 appropriation. The chart below summarizes cost shares by major category.

**EXAMPLES:**

Tickets for cultural events such as plays and concerts; volunteer time to plan and conduct exchanges; and private-sector donations to support Open World events.
Open World Advances U.S.-Russian Sister-Parks Volunteer Project

A trip highlight for an accountable governance delegation from Saratov Region hosted in Wyoming by the Kemmerer Rotary Club September 22–30 was working with two National Park Service (NPS) volunteers who had customized an Electronic Ranger™ program for the visitors’ center at Saratov’s Khvalynsky National Park. Two of the Open World delegates are senior staff at the park, while their lead host, David McGinnis, is the superintendent of Fossil Butte National Monument, Khvalynsky’s U.S. sister park. The Electronic Ranger™ is a touch-screen computer program that presents information on a park’s features to the public. Its designers, NPS volunteers Bill and Sandy Hood, spent more than 700 hours helping build Khvalynsky’s customized Russian/English version, which McGinnis delivered during a 2006 trip to Saratov. The Hoods traveled to Wyoming from their Colorado home to work with the September Open World delegates on refining Khvalynsky’s Electronic Ranger™, and the couple plans to visit the Russian park in late 2008 to make any final adjustments needed to the program. Historically, Russia’s national parks have not encouraged the public to visit, so the installation of this education tool is a real innovation. (National grantee: Rotary International)

Center Teams Up with Russian and U.S. Institutions on Federalism Exchange

Open World and the U.S. nonprofit Supporters of Civil Society in Russia (SCSR) cofunded an October 18–28 federalism exchange for 23 Russian leaders nominated by the highly regarded independent Moscow School of Political Studies and cohosted by SCSR and the University of Missouri - St. Louis. The delegates were mainly regional and local lawmakers, NGO managers, and business leaders. Highlights of their Washington, D.C. orientation program included meetings with the National Security Council’s current and preceding senior director for Russia. In St. Louis, the Russians explored all aspects of regional and municipal management, with special emphasis on agency coordination and services for the needy.
In fiscal year 2007, the Open World Leadership Center received $13,860,000 in appropriated funds, $500,000 in interagency transfers, and $200,200 in direct private donations.

The Open World Leadership Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2007 to the independent public accounting firm of Kearney & Company for a full audit. For the Center’s second full audit, Kearney & Company again issued an unqualified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements and reported no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in Open World’s internal control, and no instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations affecting the financial statements. The table to the right (with accompanying notes) and the one immediately below present the fiscal year 2007 financial highlights from the Center’s Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Net Costs. The Financial Statements document (with notes) and Kearney & Company’s Independent Auditor’s Report are available on the Open World website at www.openworld.gov.

**DISTRIBUTION OF SELECT OBLIGATIONS CATEGORIES, FY2007**

Note: “Contracts” includes, but is not limited to, the costs of applicant and participant processing, travel planning, participant airfare, and database management and other expert services. “Grants” covers payments to hosting organizations.

**OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER OBLIGATIONS FY 2007**

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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>4,132,181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL – FY07 Obligations</td>
<td>$13,032,591</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Center administrative costs equal $919,593 or 7 percent of total obligations.
PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM HISTORY

Congress launched Open World exchanges for emerging Russian leaders in May 1999, in response to a speech that Librarian of Congress James H. Billington had recently given to senior Members of Congress on the future of Russia. In 2000, Congress created a separate legislative branch entity with a public-private board of trustees to manage the exchange program. The new administering agency, the Open World Leadership Center, opened its doors at the Library of Congress in October 2001. Congress made the other post-Soviet states, as well as Russian cultural leaders, eligible for Open World in 2003, and one year later extended program eligibility to any other country designated by the Center’s board. In July 2006, the board approved new exchanges for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan, and continued the original exchange with Russia and a program with Ukraine that had begun in 2003. The board in 2006 also approved a Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007–2011. In 2007, Open World began to track results and meet other goals laid out in the plan, including launching exchange programs for the five expansion countries approved by the board in 2006.

STATISTICS

Open World has brought 13,069 current and future leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to the United States since 1999.

More than 7,700 federal, regional, and local government officials have participated in Open World.

The average age of Open World delegates is 38.

51 percent of Open World delegates are women.

More than 1,650 communities in all 50 U.S. states have hosted Open World participants.

Statistics are as of December 31, 2007.
Each year the Open World Leadership Center competitively selects organizations across the United States to carry out its community-based professional exchanges. These “national host organizations” conduct the visits themselves or recruit and oversee a network of local affiliates and partners that do so. The Center gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for serving as national hosts for Open World delegations in 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy for Educational Development</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battelle</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific</td>
<td>Stockton, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEC ArtsLink</td>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Safe Energy</td>
<td>Berkeley, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia College Chicago</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Force International</td>
<td>Atlanta, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Institute, Graduate School, USDA</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Writing Program at the University of Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa City, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keystone Human Services International</td>
<td>Harrisburg, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>League of Women Voters</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lionel Hampton Center at the University of Idaho</td>
<td>Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magee Womancare International</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council for the Traditional Arts</td>
<td>Silver Spring, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners for Community Solutions</td>
<td>Arlington, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary International</td>
<td>Evanston, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian American Rule of Law Consortium</td>
<td>Burlington, Vt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University</td>
<td>Arlington, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Louisville School of Music</td>
<td>Louisville, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.-Ukraine Foundation</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vital Voices Global Partnership</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women &amp; Politics Institute at American University</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Services of La Crosse, Inc.</td>
<td>La Crosse, Wisc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Open World Leadership Center would like to acknowledge the agencies and organizations that worked so effectively with Center staff to carry out program operations and specialized programming in 2007, and the donors that so generously supported the Center’s alumni program:

**General Program Support**

The [LIBRARY OF CONGRESS](http://www.loc.gov) provided the Open World Leadership Center with financial-management services, administrative support, and office space through an interagency agreement. The Library was also the site of most delegations’ U.S. arrival orientations.

[U.S. EMBASSY STAFF IN AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, TAJIKISTAN, and UKRAINE](http://www.usembassy.gov) made recommendations on nominating organizations and themes for Open World’s 2007 programs; participated in nominating and selecting candidates; hosted candidate vetting sessions; and took part in predeparture orientation sessions and alumni events. Embassy staff also served as the Center’s liaison with government and nongovernmental entities.

The nonprofit [AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION](http://www.americancouncils.org) provided administrative and logistical support to Open World on a contractual basis. American Councils staff in Washington, D.C., assisted with planning and record keeping, made participants’ travel arrangements, organized Washington, D.C. arrival orientations, and advised hosts on local program content, procedures, and cross-cultural issues. Overseas staff assisted with forming and placing delegations, obtained participants’ visas, organized predeparture orientations, managed program databases, and hired and trained the English-speaking facilitators who accompanied delegations.

**Cultural Leaders Program**

Major support for Open World’s Cultural Leaders Program was provided through partnership and funding from the [NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS](http://www.nea.gov) (NEA), which works with Open World to find opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between Russian artists and arts managers and their U.S. counterparts. The NEA also provided guidance on program design and content.

[CEC ARTSLINK](http://www.cecartslink.org) staff in New York and St. Petersburg, Russia, administered the Cultural Leaders Program nominations process, coordinated preprogram communication between hosts and selected participants, and provided program evaluation and additional program support as requested by the Center.

**Rule of Law Program**

The [U.S. JUDICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL RELATIONS](http://www.usjudiciary.gov) (UJC) coordinates the U.S. federal judiciary’s relations with foreign judiciaries and serves as an international resource on the rule of law. The UJC helped develop Open World’s rule of law programming for Russia and Ukraine and organized federal court participation in the program, recruiting federal host judges and providing general program guidance. In its capacity as the U.S. federal judiciary’s administrative arm, the [ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS](http://www.uscourts.gov) provides staff support to the UJC. Committee staff assisted Open World federal host judges and organized the Washington orientations for Open World rule of law delegations.

**Alumni Outreach Program**


[AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION](http://www.americancouncils.org) began managing the Open World alumni outreach program on May 29, 2007. The program was redesigned to systematically track Open World’s results and to network participating leaders.

[THE RUSSELL FAMILY FOUNDATION](http://www.russellfoundation.org) in Gig Harbor, Wash.; [TNK-BP](http://www.tnk-bp.com) oil company, headquartered in Moscow; and former U.S. ambassador to Russia and current Open World trustee [JAMES F. COLLINS](http://www.openworld.gov/alumni/bulletin) provided funding in 2007 to make possible Open World’s alumni outreach program.

**Web Tools and Database Design and Maintenance**

[AH COMPUTER CONSULTING](http://www.ahcc.com) (AHCC), is a minority-owned international IT service provider based in Rockville, Md., that has provided the Open World Leadership Center with an enterprise application system to meet the Center’s growing IT needs and to fulfill the program’s mission of networking community leaders. To this end, AHCC developed a Client Management System (CMS) that allows the Center to systematically track results and share them in a timely manner. AHCC also redesigned the Center’s intranet document management system.
2007 LOCAL HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Open World would like to thank the following organizations and institutions for hosting our delegations in 2007:

Alabama
Friendship Force of Birmingham*
Friendship Force of Huntsville Area
University of Alabama in Huntsville, Office of International Programs and Services*
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama

Arkansas
American Association of University Women, North Little Rock Chapter
Arkansas Council for International Visitors*
Sebastian County Bar Association
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Arkansas
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas

Arizona
Friendship Force of Central Arizona
International Training and Consulting, Inc.*

California
Independent Peace and Justice Center
Citizen Diplomacy Council of San Diego
Congress of Russian Americans
Friendship Force of Kern County
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles
Long Beach/Sochi Sister City Association
Northern California International Visitors Center
Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Rotary Club of Paso Robles
San Diego-Vladivostok Sister City Society
Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support Stanford University
University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies
University of California, Los Angeles, Office of International Programs and Services*
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Colorado
Colorado Springs Office of International Visitors
Colorado Springs Sister Cities International
Institute of International Education-Rocky Mountain Regional Center*
Rotary Club of Longmont
Rotary Club of Parker
Smoky Hill Rotary Club
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
Vail Rotary Club

Connecticut
Connecticut/Pskov Rule of Law Partnership Committee

District of Columbia
Center for Law and Social Policy
Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
League of Women Voters of the United States
Vital Voices Global Partnership*
Women & Politics Institute at American University

Florida
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
Friendship Force of Greater Orlando
International Visitor Corps of Jacksonville, Inc.*
Miami Council for International Visitors
Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Georgia
Claus M. Halie Institute for Global Learning, Emory University
Emory University School of Law
Friendship Force of Decatur
Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta
Future of Russia Foundation
Rotary Club of Atlanta

Idaho
Lionel Hampton Center at the University of Idaho

Illinois
International Visitors Center of Chicago*
League of Women Voters of McLean County
RotaryOne, Rotary Club of Chicago
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Organization of Bloomington/Normal

Indiana
Indiana Judicial Center
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Marion Superior Court
Rotary Club of Vincennes
Sister Cities of Richmond Indiana
Tippecanoe Superior Court

Iowa
Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
International Training, Education & Business Services (ITeBS) and Associates, LLC
International Writing Program at the University of Iowa
Iowa Sister States*
Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc.
Southeastern Community College

Kansas
League of Women Voters of Wichita
Rotary Club of West Wichita

Kentucky
Kentucky Community & Technical College System
Sister Cities of Louisville
University of Louisville School of Music
World Affairs Council of Kentucky & Southern Indiana*

Louisiana
New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy

Maryland
League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County
Leisure of Women Voters of Montgomery County
Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Maryland Sister States Program
Rotary Club of Annapolis
Rotary Club of Columbia
Rotary Club of Frederick
Rotary Club of Parole

Massachusetts
International Center of Worcester*
Massachusetts/Tomsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Rotary District 7950
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts
U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

Michigan
Colleagues International, Inc.*
Friendship Force of Greater Lansing
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Office

Minnesota
Duluth Sister Cities International, Inc.
Lake Superior Medical Society
League of Women Voters of Duluth
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

Mississippi
University of Mississippi Department of English

Missouri
Friendship Force of St. Louis
International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City
Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club
St. Louis-Samara Sister Cities Committee
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.
University of Missouri - St. Louis
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri

Montana
Advisory Commission on International Relationships
Montana Center for International Visitors*

Nebraska
Applied Information Management (AIM) Institute
Friendship Force of Eastern Nebraska
Friendship Force of Lincoln

Nevada
Northern Nevada International Center*
Rotary Club of Las Vegas Fremont
U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

New Hampshire
New Hampshire/Vologda Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Portsmouth/Severodvinsk Connection

New Jersey
Montclair State University - Global Education Center
Rutgers University School of Law - Camden
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

New Mexico
Los Alamos-Sarov Sister Cities Initiative
Santa Fe Council on International Relations*

New York
Albany-Tula Alliance
American Association of University Women Greater Rochester Area Branch
Buffalo-Tver Sister Cities, Inc.
CEC ArtsLink*
Friends of the Chester Library International Center of Syracuse International Film Seminars, Inc.
International Institute of Buffalo League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area
League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area
Linkages of Rochester
Multicultural Resource Center
Rotary Club of Shenendehowa
Saratoga Springs/Chekhov Sister City, Inc.
Touro Law Center
Town of Johnstown Library
Western New York/Novgorod Rule of Law Partnership Committee

North Carolina
Addiction Recovery Institute
American Dance Festival
Asheville Sister Cities
Charlotte Sister Cities*
Forsyth Technical Community College
Friendship Force of Central North Carolina
Friendship Force of Western North Carolina
International Affairs Council of Research Triangle Region*
Kostroma Committee, Sister Cities of Durham
National Peace Foundation
People for World Change
SCI-AN-Institute for Scientific Policy Analysis*
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

North Dakota
Peace Lutheran Church

Ohio
Athens Center for Film and Video
Cincinnati-Ukraine Partnership*
Cleveland Council on World Affairs*
International Visitors Council, Columbus
Supreme Court of Ohio
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

Oklahoma
American Association of University Women Tahlequah Branch
Habitat for Humanity, Tahlequah
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Redlands Community College
Rotary Club of Oklahoma City
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

Oregon
Blooming Hill Vineyard
Grants Pass Sister City Committee
League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties
League of Women Voters of Portland
Oregon/Sakhalin Rule of Law Partnership Committee
Umpqua Community College
Zonta Club of Roseburg Area

Pennsylvania
Alvernia College
Greenville Rotary Club
Keystone Human Services International*
Magee Womancare International*
Northampton Community College
Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors*
Rotary Club of Blue Bell
State College Rotary Evening Club
Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Reading Division

South Carolina
Hilton Head Island Rotary Club
League of Women Voters of the Bluffton Area

Tennessee
Blount County Sister City Organization*
Friendship Force of Memphis
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization
Southwest Tennessee Community College
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture International Programs

Texas
Houston Baku Sister Cities Association
Rotary Club of Frisco Noon
Rotary Club of San Antonio North Central

Utah
International Hosting*
Izhevsk-Salt Lake City Partnership
U.S. District Court for the District of Utah
Utah Tooele Sister City Committee

Utah Valley State College (now Utah Valley University), Office of International Affairs*

Vermont
Vermont Council on World Affairs*
Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project, Inc.

Virginia
Eastern Mennonite University Center for Justice and Peacebuilding
Norfolk Sister City Association*
Partners for Community Solutions
Rotary Club of James City County
Rotary Club of Lynchburg
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University*
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

Washington
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Rotary Club of Lewis River
Rotary Club of Tacoma #8
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
World Affairs Council of Seattle*

West Virginia
Center for International Understanding, Inc.

Wisconsin
Appleton Area School District, Volunteer Services
Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities Program, Inc.
Fox Valley Technical College
Green Bay West Rotary Club
Madison Area Technical College
Rotary Club of Hudson Daybreak
Western Technical College

Wyoming
Rotary Club of Casper
Rotary Club of Kemmerer
U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming
Wyoming Global Leadership Exchange

*This organization hosted two or more local Open World exchanges in 2007.