

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter

C O L L A G E



Global articles for your interest

Issue 2

February 1 - February 15, 2009

Contents:

1. Americans Need Swift, Bold, Wise Action on Economy, Obama Says

President Obama outlines his economic recovery plan in an op-ed published in the Washington Post February 5, 2009. ...

2. Obama Aims to Help Faith-Based Organizations Help Those in Need

Many faith-based organizations are authorized to receive assistance from the federal government under presidential orders that some Americans find controversial. America.gov looks at recent actions by the Obama administration to continue this practice and at what supporters and critics are saying. ...

3. College Wins Award for Innovative Global Classroom Linkages

Champlain College, a small liberal arts school in Vermont, won a prestigious award for developing online discussion programs with 14 universities in 12 countries as part of its internationalization efforts. "We are interested in dialogue — in opening the eyes of our students to a bigger world." ...

4. Abraham Lincoln "Made My Own Story Possible," Obama Says

Marking the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth February 12, President Obama, in ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol, says he feels "a special gratitude to this singular figure who in so many ways made my own story possible, and in so many ways made America's story possible." ...

5. Historian Links Roles of Lincoln, Douglass in Advancing Racial ...

The development of President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionist Frederick Douglass from lowly beginnings to greatness was similar and their joint effect on history profound. Harvard historian John Stauffer says that Lincoln and Douglass are "the two pre-eminent self-made men in American history." ...

6. Web Site Contest Open to American, International Students

The Doors to Diplomacy competition challenges students worldwide to create Web sites that teach the importance of global issues and diplomacy. It is sponsored by the State Department and Global SchoolNet. Each year teams of students from the United States and another country share the grand prize.

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In case you missed it:



APAO Amy Storrow's Interview with Lajm

[APAO Amy Storrow on the Obama Presidency with Lajm](#)

February 11, 2009

In an Interview with *Lajm* daily in the Albanian language, Assistant Public Affairs Officer Amy Storrow spoke about President Obama's first 100 days in office and his commitment to working closely with Muslims from all nations, the significance of the executive order to close Guantanamo Bay, President Obama's first foreign press interview with Al Arabiya TV, and the appointment of George Mitchell as Special Envoy to the Middle East. She also emphasized that the Obama administration will continue to have very strong relationships with all of the countries in the region and that we will continue to work to secure the best possible future for all who live in the Balkans. To see a transcript of the interview, please [click here](#).



Navratil discusses how telemedicine makes the most of available resources for both small and large countries
(Photo Credit: Borka Taneska)/(LP)

Chargé d'Affaires Navratil Speaks at Third Annual Balkans Telemedicine Conference

February 6, 2009

February 6—To a crowd of physicians, academics, and other healthcare professionals, Chargé Thomas Navratil gave opening remarks at the Third Annual Balkans Telemedicine Conference. This conference, supported by a grant from the Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Bureau of the Department of State, and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Health, focused in part in training doctors in the use of cutting-edge technology. As part of the project over 45 medical professionals, including doctors, nurses and telemedicine specialists, have traveled to Alaska and Arizona for exchanges that have provided an opportunity for Americans, Kosovars, Montenegrins, Albanians and Macedonians to share their professional expertise, experiences and cultures with each other. "The creation of a telemedicine network will have significant impact for Macedonia and the region, where the patient will become a true and full partner in his or her care and where these technologies will bring health care to every citizen no matter where they live," said Navratil.



*Ambassador Reeker in Thunderbird
Video*

[Ambassador Reeker on Investing in Macedonia](#)

February 4th, 2009

In a research piece about investment opportunities in Macedonia posted on Thunderbird School of Global Management website on February 4, Ambassador Reeker speaks about opportunities that the Republic of Macedonia offers to potential foreign investors. “It’s a small corner of Europe that remains largely undiscovered by a lot of people. But they’re moving forward, sometimes with stops and starts. I think the 21st century will be good for Macedonia,” the Ambassador says. To read the full story, please [click here](#).

◇ [Video: Ambassador Philip Reeker \(2:08\)](#).

◇ [Video: President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia \(1:29\)](#).



*Amy jokes about Westerns with the hosts
(LP)/  video - (WMV/size 5.6MB)*

APAO Amy Storror on ALSAT TV: Actions Speak Louder Than Words

February 4, 2009

February 4—ALSAT TV’s morning show hosted Assistant Public Affairs Officer Amy Storror, who spoke in Albanian about President Obama’s first few weeks in office and his commitment to working closely with Muslims from all nations. She discussed the significance of the executive order to close Guantanamo Bay, President Obama’s first foreign press interview with Al Arabiya TV, and the appointment of George Mitchell as Special Envoy to the Middle East, all deeds that underscore his plans to create productive and close working relationships. Amy also touched upon the importance of rule of law and emphasized that there should be just “one person, one vote” for the upcoming elections here in Macedonia. Viewers also learned about upcoming cultural programs, including a film festival in partnership with Macedonian Cinematheque that will feature American Westerns.

◇ To see a short video sequence of the show (WMV/size 5.6MB), please [click here](#).



Chargé d’Affaires Thomas Navratil (left) and MOST Executive Director Darko Aleksov (right) at a press conference on the occasion of the Global Elections Day.(LP)

[Chargé d’Affaires Navratil Marks Global Elections Day with MOST](#)

February 5, 2009

At a press conference on February 5, on the occasion of Global Elections Day organized by Civic Association MOST and attended by all major media, Chargé d’Affaires Thomas Navratil underlined the importance of the election process and the act of choosing political leaders as the essence of democracy. Navratil said the U.S. wants to see Macedonia as a full member of the Euro-Atlantic community, also

emphasizing efforts of the US Government to support democracy in the country. To see the full text of the address, please [click here](#).



Valentine cookies prepared especially for this event

Valentine’s Day Celebration at American Corner Tetovo

February 11, 2009

What tastes better than a cookie? A cookie shaped like a heart! Thanks to Cynthia Praszcalek, an officer at the US Embassy, a group of third grade students ate those cookies; made valentines for their sweethearts, friends and family members; and learned about Valentine’s Day traditions around the world. They also played some word games provided by the Embassy’s Regional English Language Officer. American Corner Tetovo expects to make this event an annual tradition.

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>