



THE GUIVY ZALDASTANISHVILI AMERICAN ACADEMY IN TBILISI

Alumni

Monthly Newsletter

New School Is No Longer A Dream

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Finally, the American Academy started the process of applying to [OPIC](#) (Overseas Private Investment Company) for a new school construction loan at Lisi Lake. The application review process will take 3 to 6 months.

Architects.ge is the Georgian-based company that will work on the design of the school together with UK architects.

In this regard, the Academy hosted the London-based architects, Andrew Mulroy and Antonia Bromehead, who have extensive experience in school design and have designed several schools in the UK. They

presented their portfolios and talked about the new school. Their presentation was interactive with lots of involvement by Academy students.

During their visit several meetings took place – one at the Academy, where we provided detailed information about the school requirements. Another brainstorming meeting took place with the Georgian architects. The Academy also conducted a survey among students and alumni regarding the new school design. The survey indicated that students would love to see cleaner toilets, a better student lounge, a

bigger cafeteria, and better computers and printing facilities. As soon as we have the plan completed, it will be posted to all of you.



Gaga Kiknadze, Tamar Gvaramadze, Richard Lussen, and Antonia Bromehead at Architects.ge



Antonia Bromehead, Andrew Mulroy, Daniel Multon, and Richard Lussen (from left to right)

AAT Students to Receive Gold and Silver Medals

This year for the first time the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia issued Gold and Silver medals. Silver medals received the students who earned GPA of 9.0-9.9, and Gold medal was issued to the students with straight 10. Ultimately, 7 Gold and 18 Silver medals were issued to Class of 2009.



Sample Medals

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Mr. Guivy Zaldastanishvili, Founder of the AAT



At the grave of Mr. Guivy Zaldastanishvili



Tamar Mikaberidze, Natia Kvachantiradze, Ninutsa Bibileishvili, and Ketevan Khukhunashvili at the Founder's Day

The Founder's Day

In keeping with the tradition established last year, the Academy paid tribute to its founder Guivy Zaldastanishvili. The Dean of Students, Tamuna Mikaberidze together with the Student Life Committee, organized an event to commemorate this day which was attended by not only the students and school staff but the AAT parents and alumni. The first speaker, Richard Lus- sen, the Academy Direc- tor, was joined by the

Science and Math teach- ers Nia Chachiashvili and Nana Gogiberidze as well as an AAT stu- dent's parent who had known Mr Zaldastanish- vili well.

Former students, Natia Kvachantiradze and Ketevan Khukhunash- vili came to pay their tribute to the Academy's founder and shared their recollections from Mr. Zaldastanishvili's live. Last year, a student dedicated a photo album to this day and this year was no exception, Mik-

heil Jinjikhashvili, com- posed an album compris- ing pictures of Mr Zal- dastanishvili's life as well as his passing. This album is on display in the American Academy Library.

After, paying tributes, the AAT students and faculty visited Mr Zal- dastanishvili's grave and laid fresh flowers.

Mock Trial

To improve the basic skills of students, such as listening, public speaking, and critical thinking, AAT teachers often conduct Mock Trails during classes. Mock Trails are a simulation of a judicial proceeding with all its necessary characteristics. This time, Irine Chkheidze from the Russian Language Department and Anthony Schierman from the English Language Department introduced the trial process to their fresh- men and senior classes, respectively.

The English department judged the Roman Polanski's case about an Oscar winning director charged with drugging and raping a 13 -year old girl in the 1970s. In both cases, the trial was well organized. The invited guest, Hans Gotbrod, the Regional Director of the Caucasus Research Resource Center, acted as judge for the Mock Trial.

The debated issue at the Russian class Mock Trial was whether a school makes or breaks personalities. The judge seemed to favor arguments suggesting that a school's patronizing attitude does affect a stu- dent's character. The group arguing that schools can break student personalities was awarded the victory.

New Minister of Education and Science of Georgia to Visit the GZAAT

On December 9, on a very first day of the appointment, the new Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Dimitri Shashkin, visited the American Academy in Tbilisi. This visit was planned some time ago, while Dimitri Shashkin was still the Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance, although he visited the Academy in his new capacity as Minister of Education.

Richard Lussen, Director of the Academy introduced the school's faculty and talked about teaching methods. Mr. Shashkin was very impressed with the Academy and in his interview said that his goal was to make all public schools be similar to the American Academy. The Ministry of Education and Science plans to use the AAT's best practices to improve the public schools in Tbilisi.



Dimitri Shashkin, Minister of Education and Science of Georgia and Richard Lussen, Director of GZAAT

Watch video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZocwojwC0s&feature=player_embedded#

US University Presentations at AAT

Representatives of Mount Union, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University visited the academy to present their universities. For Kristi Marchesani and Ann Gogerty from Iowa State University, it was a second visit. We hosted them in May during the CIS fair. The visit by Scott A. Slabaugh - the Mount Union representative was his first to Tbilisi.

The advantages found at these universities include a quality education, low tuition, and merit and need-based scholarships for international students.

Juniors to Buy a Tennis Table for the AAT

Juniors continue the bake-sale for charity purposes. This time the proceedings totaled to 400 GEL. It was decided to buy a tennis table with relevant equipment for the Academy use.

During the breaks student enjoy playing table tennis.

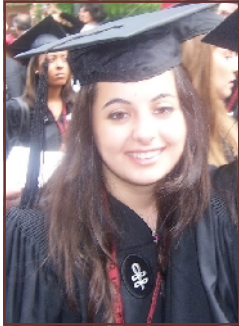


Juniors during the Bake-sale



ALUMNI COLUMN

Writer's Profile



Natia Kvachantiradze, Harvard University '09 graduate and a valedictorian of her high school graduate class of AAT '05, currently resides in Tbilisi, Georgia. Having completed a double major in International Politics and English and American Literature, her spheres of interests are current sociopolitical issues, journalism and writing.

Natia Kvachantiradze contributed to the official Harvard student daily publication [the Crimson](#). Her articles focused on social welfare and charity as well as on the Global news of political nature.

Broad Foundation Starts New USC Stem Cell Center

By Natia Kvachantiradze, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Published: Thursday, March 02, 2006

The Broad Foundation, created by philanthropists Eli and Edythe L. Broad who are supporters of advancing medical knowledge and research, has donated \$25 million to fund the creation of a new stem cell research center at the University of Southern California (USC).

“There are two areas that are the most promising: human genomics, and stem cell research,” said Eli Broad, who donated a total of \$200 million for the foundation of a genome research center at Harvard and MIT, at a press conference announcing the USC Broad Institute last week.

The Institute, which will be the largest stem cell research center in California, plans to revolutionize medical care by looking for cure for diseases like Parkinson's, diabetes, Alzheimer's and spinal cord injuries, Eli Broad said at the press conference. [Read full article...](#)

Roth Denounces Legalizing Torture

Human Rights Watch executive director says torture may create more terrorists

By Natia Kvachantiradze, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Published: Tuesday, April 18, 2006

The executive director of Human Rights Watch, an organization which investigates and reports on human rights abuses worldwide, said yesterday that the United States should not legalize torture at a talk in Winthrop House yesterday.

“Are we stopping and arresting more terrorists than we generate?” Kenneth Roth asked, paraphrasing the words of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Roth told an audience of around 20 students that this particular question should shape U.S. policy-making about torture and terrorism.

He said that if the United States allowed torture in certain circumstances it would generate the need to keep a torture squad in the country which overtime would try to become more active. Roth added that courts, which would make rulings on torture cases, could make “reckless” decisions. [Read full article...](#)