



January 2009

Monthly Newsletter

KOSOVO NATIONAL BROADCASTER HIGHLIGHTS AMBASSADOR KAIDANOW'S MESSAGE AS ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE NEARS



RTK anchor Shkumbin Ahmetxhekaj interviews Ambassador Tina Kaidanow.
Photo: Arbnor Haxhibeqiri,
U.S. Embassy Pristina

On Wednesday, January 28, Ambassador to Kosovo Tina Kaidanow gave a 15 minute interview to national broadcaster Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK). Anchor and Editor Shkumbin Ahmetxhekaj conducted a wide-ranging conversation with the Ambassador, who stressed Kosovo's many accomplishments during the past year, and also covered such substantive issues as Kosovo's upcoming one year anniversary as a state, the country's new protection corps -- the Kosovo Security Force -- the deployment of EULEX, possible elections, and the hope for ethnic reconciliation and cooperation. Broadcast in its entirety and seen nationwide by a prime time audience, excerpts were featured on the

front and inside pages of most dailies the next day. In fact, several newspapers included the entire transcript.

U.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Wearing their "KUSA MEMBER" T-Shirts, the newly-elected Board poses for their first photo at the Grand Hotel in Pristina
Photo: Arbnor Haxhibeqiri,
U.S. Embassy Pristina

Kosovo U.S. Alumni (KUSA) held its second General Assembly on January 17, 2009. Over 100 former participants in USG educational exchange programs (International Visitors, Fulbright, Ron Brown, Humphrey, Hope Fellowship, Ben Franklin, among many others) gathered at Hotel Grand Pristina to network, review KUSA's activities over the last year, and learn about the financial status of KUSA. Dozens of candidates were running for the Board positions, and smoothly and efficiently, the votes were cast and counted, resulting in the second operational Board of Directors. PAO Posner-Mullen addressed the group, stressing their roles as leaders in Kosovo's development, and the excellent opportunity for networking and

sharing experiences that the Alumni Association provides. PAS staff and KUSA Board members sat for TV interviews with the two major networks, in advance of the General Assembly to advertise the event. Kosovo-wide print and broadcast media covered the event, with PD staff and newly-elected KUSA Board members giving several interviews. In fact, the national TV channel showed its interview with the PAO five times over the course of January 17.

KUSA is unique in Kosovo. Instead of fighting for one cause or ideology, KUSA's mission is to serve its members of all ethnicities and religions, and to "mobilize the power of the alumni for positive change.