



July 2008

## Monthly Newsletter



Grinning from ear to ear, the ESL Students participating in the Kosovo Youth Council project hold up their Certificates of Completion. Back row to the left is Program Assistant Merita Musmurati and in the middle PAO Karyn Posner-Mullen. Photo by Faton Vatovci, July 10, 2008

### **KOSOVO: DEMCOM PROJECT SUPPORTS INTER-ETHNIC ESL LESSONS**

Forty-five 12-14 year-old students, including Albanian, Turk, Serb and Roma children and many parents, celebrated completing their first level of English classes this past week in the town of Rahovec, about 90 minutes from Pristina. Located at the aptly-named Center for Peace, the 12 week, three-times-a-week classes, created an interest in English language-learning that was palpable. Different groups of students performed four different skits that not only were amusing, but highlighted their colloquial command of the language, their American accents and also focused on their interests, including the U.S., Justin Timberlake and visiting the dentist (!) PAO Karyn Posner-Mullen participated in an ESL class whose lesson -- an argument among children about a preferred form of cooked chicken: roasted or stewed -- demonstrated basic conflict resolution. Certificates were handed out, and all 45 students have signed up for Level 2.



4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration – American Corner in Pristina, organized by the American Corner volunteers. Location: National and University Library, Pristina. July 4, 2008.

### **KOSOVO AMERICAN CORNERS CELEBRATE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>.**

The Pristina and Prizren American Corners hosted July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations on Friday. Both of the Corners have an active corps of volunteers (mostly university students) who organized the events. The Pristina celebration included a short speech by Fulbright visiting scholar, Ralph Cintron, on the key issues leading up to the U.S. Declaration of Independence, as well as trivia games about U.S. history and a raffle for prizes like U.S. maps and copies of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Both celebrations were packed with visitors and local media. The Embassy supports three American Corners in Pristina, Prizren and North Mitrovica.



Kosovo Serb, Albanian and Turkish students study English together in the ideal classroom. Photo by: Laura Hochla, U.S. Embassy, July 20-27, 2008

### **SECOND-ANNUAL MULTI-ETHNIC SUMMER CAMP BRINGS ALBANIANS, SERBS AND TURKS TOGETHER WITH ENGLISH.**

22 students and 4 teachers spent July 20-27 near Bitola, Macedonia teaching and learning English. Sponsored by Pristina PD and Directed by English Language Fellow, Molly Staeheli, the camp gives teachers new strategies for teaching inter-ethnic acceptance and understanding through English. While students play camp games with Macedonia Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) in the mornings, Molly leads intensive teaching workshops for the teachers. In the afternoons, the teacher's team – teach mixed-ethnic groups of students using new lessons and strategies they practiced in the morning.

As the only common language, students must use English to communicate with their new friends. Teachers come away with new tools and strategies, as well as deeper understanding of their role in shaping the perceptions and prejudices of the next generation.

## **KOSOVO'S NEW AMBASSADOR PRESENTS HER CREDENTIALS AND MEETS THE PRESS:**



July 25, 2008 U.S. Ambassador Tina S. Kaidanow Presents Her Credentials to President Fatmir Sejdiu.

Tina S. Kaidanow was sworn in as Ambassador to Kosovo by Secretary of State Rice on July 18, and returned to Pristina to present her credentials to Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu on July 25. In his statement during the event, the president mentioned that he and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci had also attended the Ambassador's swearing-in during their visit to Washington, which had included meetings with Secretary Rice and President Bush.

On July 28, Ambassador Kaidanow sat down to her first on-the-record interviews with Kosovo media since the February 17 Declaration of Independence. In a 12-minute interview with Kosovo State Television, *RTK*, broadcast in prime time that night, Ambassador Kaidanow stressed the positive events of 2008, which include the passage of Kosovo's Constitution and implementation of the Ahtisaari Plan. That same day, she also fielded an exclusive, two-part interview with *Kosova Sot*, the country's popular daily, which headlined their piece: **A POSITIVE MESSAGE FOR KOSOVO.**



July 28, 2008 U.S. Ambassador Tina S. Kaidanow.