



Fall 2010

## Your Donations & Education

A newsletter exclusively for supporters of the  
Kosovo American Education Fund (KAEF)

### With Your Support, KAEF Searches for Tomorrow's Leaders

— *Application, Testing and Interviews Ensure  
That Your Contributions Support Only the Most  
Qualified and Deserving Candidates* —

Your generous contributions to KAEF have helped us to provide 46 Master's Degree fellowships since 2005. We strive to make sure that each and every one of those fellowships is given only to the most talented, forward-looking and devoted future leaders of Kosova. In order to ensure that your contributions support Kosova's best and brightest, every year KAEF engages in a thorough, open, fair and highly competitive selection process to determine the recipients of the KAEF fellowships – and of your generous support. This year was no different. Below you can learn a little more about the steps KAEF takes to find the best candidates:

**The Online Application.** KAEF selection starts with an online application. The application includes academic information, essays, and recommendations from colleagues or professors. Each year, the majority of candidates are unable to complete a full application. This year, 477 candidates participated in the application process. The high level of activity demonstrates that the KAEF program is now established as a leading provider of educational opportunity in Kosova. A total of 87 applicants successfully completed the application and moved on to the next round. 45% of candidates were from municipalities besides Prishtina, demonstrating that KAEF reaches talented leaders all across Kosova.



*Three members of the preliminary selection panel discuss KAEF applications at American Councils' office in Washington, D.C. Each KAEF application is evaluated at least twice to give every candidate a fair chance at winning the Fellowship.*

**Preliminary Selection.** An independent group of evaluators met in Washington, D.C. on September 8th to read and assess the 87 KAEF applications. The evaluators were chosen based on their experience in U.S. higher education, and they scored each applicant based on several criteria, among them, leadership potential, academic ability, and devotion to Kosova. Each application was read by at least two evaluators to make sure that every candidate was scored fairly.

**Interviews.** The preliminary selection committee identified 35 semifinalists to be interviewed in Prishtina on September 25th and 26th. This year's interview teams consisted of American Councils staff members and university admissions specialists interviewing in two teams of two members. The universities represented this year were Michigan State University and Colorado State University. Prior to the interviews, a reception was held at Tiffany Restaurant on the evening of September 24th, where the candidates were able to share their common experiences from the selection process with one another and to begin developing a social network among their peers.

**Testing.** Based upon the interviews, a group of "Tier-2" semifinalists have been established. Those Tier-2 semifinalists will be taking the GMAT and GRE examinations on October 20th and 27th. Their scores on those tests will help the final selection committee in picking the finalists.

**Final Selection.** Shortly after KAEF receives test scores for its candidates, it convenes a final selection panel in Washing-

### Have You Seen It? Kosovo Featured in *Chicago Tribune*

Have you read the fascinating and positive article on Kosovo that appeared in the July 11th issue of the *Chicago Tribune*?

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/ct-trav-0711-kosovo-20100711,0,6122249.story>

The story, entitled, "Kosovo on the Rise," explores the progress Kosovo has made in the last decade.

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ton, D.C. The panel is once again an independent group with experience in U.S. university admissions. Each semifinalist's application is thoroughly reviewed by at least two evaluators. Only after every application has been read and scored are we ready to identify the finalists.

**Announcement of Finalists.** Finalists will be identified by year's-end and placement at top-notch U.S. universities will begin immediately thereafter. This year, the KAEF Graduate Fellowship Program will award up to eight fellowships for master's level study in the U.S. to support the economic and social development of Kosovo. The number of fellowships KAEF can support depends to a large extent on the support of donors like you!

## Young American Professionals Support Their Colleagues in Kosovo

### Participants in the Emerging Young Professionals Program raise over \$1,200 to Support KAEF Fellowships

A group of young American professionals raised over \$1,200 at a Chicago fundraiser on September 1st. They organized the fundraiser ahead of a three-week trip to Kosovo on the Emerging Young Professionals Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by American Councils. The program brought 15 young Kosovar professionals to the Chicago area for three weeks to meet and interact with their peers in the business world. A reciprocal visit of Americans to Kosova occurred at the end of September, and the participants, wanting to bring a gift to the community of young professionals in Kosovo, decided to raise money to support KAEF fellowships. Their contributions are now joined with your own donations in supporting educational opportunities for young, talented leaders in Kosovo.

Your continued support of the KAEF program is crucial. Please visit [www.support-kaef.org](http://www.support-kaef.org) to learn how you can make a donation.

## Your Support Helps to Build Civil Society

### Alumni Create Valuable and Lasting Institutions

Your contributions to KAEF don't only provide individuals with fellowships. Your support ultimately creates positive change in Kosovo through providing a top-notch education for the future leaders of its businesses and institutions. One example of that change is the Balkan Policy Institute (IPOL), an independent think-tank that "works to promote sustainable development and good governance through pragmatic policy making that works for the welfare of the citizens." IPOL (<http://policyinstitute.eu/>) was founded by Seb Bytyçi, a member of the first group of KAEF fellows, and involves seven other KAEF alumni in its research and ongoing programs.

"Our main successes so far," said Bytyçi. "Have been the installation of monitoring of the rule of law and the performance of EULEX (EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo), and building civil society networks to advocate for reform. We have helped change the attitude of citizens and civil society organizations on the issue of demanding accountability for international missions in Kosovo."

Your ongoing support of KAEF fellowships has been central to IPOL's success. "I have been able to use the invaluable skills and experience taken from the KAEF fellowship and practice it in the running of the institute," said Bytyçi. "A KAEF fellow does not just get education at top schools, but also great life experiences and knowledge of the working environment in the USA. KAEF gives scholars the background and confidence to start new initiatives and achieve success in their fields thus improving their community and society."

Bytyçi's fellowship was just the start for KAEF's involvement in IPOL. "Other KAEF fellows are involved in the Institute (IPOL) as well," said Bytyçi. "They are part of our board of experts and they contribute significantly with analysis, ideas and comments in our research."

Mr. Bytyçi and IPOL are a shining example of the kind of positive change that your contributions create through education. His education and experience in the U.S. helped prepare him to found and lead a groundbreaking policy institute that receives support from institutional donors like the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Through alumni like Mr. Bytyçi, your investments in the education of talented individuals pay dividends for all of Kosovo.

## Thank You, Donors!



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