

# Update

## NIS Future Leaders Train at Sabre

In a significant development for the Internet Training Workshops Program, Sabre Foundation recently hosted two groups of 14 high school exchange students from the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union for computer and Internet "Training of Trainers" workshops.

The workshops, which are a pilot program of the Department of State's (DOS) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, took place April 16 through 20 and April 30 through May 4, respectively. The 28 students, who are participants in the DOS Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program, hailed from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The FLEX program is one of the most successful U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, as evidenced by the increasing number of students who apply and by the significant contributions that FLEXers make when they return to their home communities. Although the FLEX program is nearly ten years old, this is the first year that the DOS decided to include Internet and computer training workshops for its most talented students. Sabre began preparing customized training materials for the students soon after being selected, through an open grant competition, to administer the program.

Sabre's FLEX workshops focused on improving the basic computer and Internet skills of the students and imparting techniques that would enable them to teach others upon return to their home communities in summer 2001. The workshops offered concrete training techniques and role-playing exercises to "train the trainers." Participants became aware of the differences there can be in how individuals approach learning and were exposed to common challenges they may encounter with their own trainees, such as physical disabilities.

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*FLEX Program participants (clockwise from front) Sergey Atliyev, Marina Livina, Tanya Ivanovich and Ilyas Maylibaev training at Sabre in April.*

Another goal of the sessions was for participants to gain an understanding of the changing role of technology in a democratic country and in emerging democracies. The training included site-visits to Boston-area non-profit organizations such as City Year, which taps the civic power of young people. A student from a local high school also talked to the NIS students about her role as a volunteer IT support specialist and trainer at her school. Her presentation was enlightening for the FLEX students, who commented that they seldom encounter young women who enjoy such leadership positions in their own schools. The students also collaborated to create a web page for the group that they continue to maintain independently through e-mail discussions and a dedicated online chat room.

Only about half of the students who trained at Sabre reported having Internet access in their home schools. For some, public Internet cafes are the only access to computers and the web. As a consequence, Sabre's trainers worked with the students to help them envision creative ways to apply their new skills. For example, students were urged to volunteer their services to local computer centers and other community organizations. Collaboration with FLEX alumni groups was also strongly encouraged.

Established in 1993, the Future Leaders Exchange program brings highly motivated students from the NIS to the U.S. for nine months to live with an American family and attend an American high school. More than 8,000 students have participated in the program, which aims to have a lasting impact by exposing these future leaders to U.S. society, civic initiatives and a market economy. Sabre is very pleased to make a contribution to this program through its Internet training workshops.

## Assorted Notes

Sabre representative visits libraries in South Africa. Sabre's Becky Schneider traveled to South Africa in February to undertake a technical assessment of libraries at Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs). Becky visited five technikons and three universities to evaluate the technical infrastructure and training needs of their libraries. The results of these assessments will be extremely valuable to Sabre in planning the future of its South Africa book program and identifying possible applications of the Internet Training Workshops Program.

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AAUP media auction supports Sabre Africa programs. A media auction held during the June 2001 annual meeting of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) raised more than \$16,000 to support Sabre Foundation's Book Donation and Internet Training programs in Africa. Thanks go out to all donating publishers and participating presses.

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Collaboration with Indiana University. Sabre is currently working with Indiana University (IU) on a project to provide much-needed books to The American University of Kyrgyzstan (AUK). This project is being funded by the U.S. State Department, through a grant to IU, to help AUK develop into the premier higher education institution in the region.

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Special thanks to The Atlantic Philanthropies. Sabre Foundation would like to extend its most sincere thanks to The Atlantic Philanthropies, without whose support, in the form of a generous inaugural grant, the Internet Training Workshops Program could not have been established. Since its inception in 1998, the IT Workshops Program has trained 147 individuals from 30 countries.



*Sabre's long-standing philosophical programs have continued in 2001 with sponsorship of the newly-forming Michael Oakeshott Association and its inaugural conference, depicted in the commemorative booklet cover at left and described in detail in the enclosed insert. Widely considered one of the leading philosophers of politics and history of the 20th Century, Oakeshott also made his mark in other areas of philosophy. This centenary conference breaks new ground in examining the full range of his thought. It is dedicated to the memory of Burton C. Gray, a former Sabre president and student of Oakeshott's work.*

## More IT Workshops

The first half of 2001 featured a great deal of activity in Sabre's Internet Training Workshops Program. In addition to the FLEX workshops, other highlights included:

Workshops for Fulbright scholars. Sabre began offering participants in the State Department's Fulbright Program the opportunity to attend IT workshops in 2000. Fulbrighters conduct intensive research projects at American colleges and universities, usually several months or more in duration, and are often overwhelmed by the wealth of information resources available to them in the United States. Sabre's trainers have helped some Fulbrighters learn basic Internet search skills and others to build electronic databases.

Fulbrighters from Slovenia and Tunisia have so far participated in Sabre Internet training workshops in 2001.

A workshop for Sabre's Liberian partner. In January 2001, Sabre held a two-week computer and Internet training workshop for representatives of the Foundation's Liberian book partner, the Church-Related Educational Development Organization, Inc. (CREDO). The trainees, CREDO Executive Director William Harris and staff member Alfreda Parker, were initially most interested in topics, such as word processing and mail merges, that would help them tackle the daily activities of their organization. Later in the training, they began to explore with Sabre's trainers ways in which CREDO might track its book inventory electronically using spreadsheets. In the workshop's final days, Mr. Harris learned how to search for information on the Internet and even dabbled in web site design.

Second and third workshops for Bosnian secondary students. Continuing a collaboration which began with an IT workshop in 2000, in January 2001 Sabre conducted Internet training workshops for two groups of talented teenagers participating in the U.S. State Department's Youth Leadership Program for Bosnia & Herzegovina, administered by Project Harmony. Like the FLEX workshops, these sessions focused on community activism and teaching the students to share their skills with others in their home country. The training covered use of e-mail and Internet searching techniques, as well as web site design.



*Sabre's Tim Nikula instructs trainees Valentina Dzodzo and Nebojsa Krulj of Bosnia & Herzegovina*

As a practical demonstration of the impact that young people can have through use of the Internet, each group met with the founders of a web site designed for teenagers, by teenagers.



## Book Donations

Following up on a year 2000 which saw Sabre ship more containers of educational materials overseas than ever before, Sabre's international Book Donation Program continued to increase the pace of its activities in the first six months of 2001. Among the latest developments:

Last shipments of *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience*. The final shipments containing the landmark *Africana* encyclopedia left Sabre's warehouse in March and June, for Zambia and Kenya respectively. With the help of a generous donation from Citigroup to *Africana.com*, a web site founded by the editors of *Africana*, 1,000 copies of the encyclopedia, with a retail value of \$100,000, have now been shipped to Sabre partners for distribution on the African continent.

Inspired by the dream of the late W.E.B. Du Bois and edited by Harvard Professors Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Africana* is the first encyclopedia to cover the entire history of Africans and the world-wide African diaspora.

Continued cooperation with Peace Corps. So far in 2001, Sabre has shipped containers destined for Peace Corps projects in Benin, Jordan, Morocco and Zambia, bringing the total number of



From Left: Alexander Diedyk, Olha Isaievych and Ludviha Baltina of Sabre-Svitlo, Sabre Foundation's Tanya Vitvitsky, Alexander Sydorenko of Ukraine's Humanitarian Aid Committee and Larysa Molchanjuk of IRF at IRF's offices in Kyiv, Ukraine.



Students opening boxes of newly arrived Sabre books in the courtyard of Ahmed Bennacer lycée, in Zagora, Morocco.

countries served by the cooperative agreement between the organizations to 18, on four continents. Sabre has to date shipped over 200,000 books, with a Fair Market Value over \$4 million, through its partnership with Peace Corps.

Collaboration with Sabre-Svitlo and International Renaissance Foundation. In Ukraine, Sabre's decade-long partnership with Sabre-Svitlo has been supplemented by the significant assistance of the Soros-funded International Renaissance Foundation (IRF). Thanks to a generous grant from IRF, Sabre-Svitlo has developed a database of available titles and ongoing recipients, established contacts with recipients by e-mail and arranged a more reliable system for book distribution. Dr. Yevhen Bystrytsky, IRF Director, has also been instrumental in establishing a "Council of Experts", made up of prominent scholars, to advise Sabre-Svitlo on title selection and distribution.

Since 1990, Sabre has shipped more than 600,000 books to Ukraine through its partnership with Sabre-Svitlo.

New partners in Kenya and Tanzania. Sabre recently sent its first book shipments to the Kenya Book Foundation and the Tanzania Book Support Trust, Sabre's newest partners in Africa. The Foundation looks forward to a long and successful collaboration with these two organizations.

Sabre Foundation in 2000 shipped over \$12 million worth of books overseas and provided Internet and computer training to 57 individuals from 15 different countries, all on an operating budget of less than \$700,000. For information on making a contribution to Sabre, please contact Ken Mackler, Comptroller, at (617) 868-3510 or [sabre@sabre.org](mailto:sabre@sabre.org). Sabre also accepts contributions online at [www.sabre.org](http://www.sabre.org). All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

## 2001 Donors...So Far. Won't You Join Them?

Leonard J. & Joyce B. Baldyga, VA  
James Balog, FL  
Laurence & Elizabeth Bergreen, NY  
Books For Africa, MN  
Marijan Boskovic, CT  
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, WI\*  
Center for Democracy & Free Enterprise, Czech Republic  
Citigroup Foundation, NY  
CSA District Council #5, NJ  
Naomi Farber & Steven Grosby, SC\*  
Fundacion Amistad, Inc., NY  
Ghana Book Trust, Ghana  
Burton C. Gray, Jr., DC\*  
C. Boyden Gray, DC\*  
Hunter C. Gray, NY\*  
Jane C. Gray, MA\*  
James Hendler, MD  
Hornblow Foundation, NY  
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Seattle Foundation, WA  
Peter M. Stark, SC\*  
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Stephan Stecura, OH  
United States Department of State  
United States Embassy, Pakistan  
Zeljko Urban, Brazil  
USAID Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program  
J. Jackson Walter, VA  
World Foundation of Ukrainian Medical Associations, MI  
Ned & Janet Yost, OH

(Donations marked with an asterisk [\*] are those earmarked for the Michael Oakeshott Association/Burton C. Gray Conference.)

## A Message from Jordan



*Students at a boys school in Mulah, Jordan.*

From: [Ann Furr](mailto:Ann.Furr@sabre.org)  
To: [sabre@sabre.org](mailto:sabre@sabre.org)  
Date: Sunday, June 24, 2001 10:02 AM

I am a Peace Corps volunteer in Safawi, Jordan. I work at the Jordan Research and Development Programme - an arid land research programme that works primarily among the Bedouin. I just finished unpacking and cataloguing all of the books that you sent to me (about 150 of the ones that you sent to Jordan) and I just want you to know how thrilled we are with them. I could hardly get them unpacked because people wanted to read them right away.

I am using them in my English class already, the scientists are devouring them, and the children at our IT center love them.

Thank you so very much.

Ann Furr

## Sabre Redesigns Web Site

Sabre is redesigning its home page on the World Wide Web at [www.sabre.org](http://www.sabre.org) to make it easier for visitors to find the information they are looking for. As this is an ongoing process, please feel free to visit our site and let us know what you think about the changes we are making. All comments are welcome. If you would like to be informed electronically of the latest additions to our site and other late-breaking Sabre news, please send your e-mail address to [sabre@sabre.org](mailto:sabre@sabre.org).

For your convenience, this update is also available online at [www.sabre.org](http://www.sabre.org).

## Sabre's Book Donation Philosophy

Sabre's Book Donation Program is valued by overseas NGOs because of Sabre's steadfast adherence to the policy that when it comes to the educational needs of developing and transitional countries, indigenous organizations know best. The keystone of Sabre's book program is that it is demand-driven. Rather than trying to send as many books as possible, regardless of demonstrated need, Sabre gives its overseas partners the opportunity to select books and CD-ROMs from detailed inventory offering lists that are sent electronically. Only titles and quantities specifically requested by its partners are shipped by Sabre. Those titles are new, high-quality, up-to-date books selected by Sabre from the offerings made by donating publishers. In the selection process, Sabre's rule-of-thumb is that something which is of no value in the U.S. is usually equally valueless overseas. The schools, universities, libraries and individuals that benefit from Sabre's Book Donation Program are not regarded as the recipients of aid for whom "any book is better than no book at all" - they are regarded instead as customers without money.

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Sabre is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and is registered as a Private Voluntary Organization with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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 Sabre Foundation