

### 3rd ANNUAL TASTE OF GEORGIA

ATSCC & GA2GE foundation together with Friendship Force organization held its 3rd Annual Taste of Georgia on October 16th at the City Hall of Atlanta. Over 150 guests attended the event that benefited IDPs of Georgia as well as orphanages in Tbilisi and Kutaisi.

The guests dined on Georgian traditional dishes, desserts and enjoyed Georgian Champagne, Bagrationi 1882. Honored guests included Congressman Jim Marshall, Fulton County Commissioner Robb Pitts, Ambassador to the USA Batu Kutelia, Major General William Terry Nesbitt.

\* Congressman Jim Marshall was awarded Phoenix Award for his involvement with the country of Georgia;

\*Norma & Jack Hassingers were awarded with Crystal Globe Award for their 20 years of dedication to the country of Georgia.

Taste of Georgia was a great success and once again it brought together natives of the Country of Georgia together with their local friends who have been involved with their home country. It is this type of friendship and support that the country needs today so that it will continue its progress and development.

Local Georgian community wants to thank all that were involved in the event and for all the hard work that people put in it to make it a such an unforgettable evening.



*Guests enjoying 3rd Annual Taste of GE*

### VISIT OF OPEN WORLD DELEGATION, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM GEORGIA

In November ATSCC hosted a delegation of City Council Members from the Country of Georgia through the Open World programs with the leadership of Friendship Force International. The delegates included: Zviad Aphkhazava, Vice Chairman of Lanchkhuti Municipal Council; Manuchari Jokhadze, Head of the Finance and Budget Commission of Gardabani Municipal Council; David Katamadze, Head of the Council of Tkibuli Municipal Council; Aleko Mameshvili, Chairman of the Ozurgeti Municipality Council; and Vardo Gvarjaladze, the facilitator.

The delegates attended meetings relative to their work interests and experiences. The meetings were with Atlanta City Council members at City Hall; witnessing local elections at the Timber Ridge Elementary School in

Marietta; being included in Senator Johnny Isakson's successful re-elections celebration; visiting with Bill Thornton, Deputy Director of Internal Services of the Georgia Municipal Association; visiting with Bart L. Graham, State Revenue Commissioner; meeting with the City Manager of Marietta, William F. Bruton Jr.; and visiting the Dekalb Recycling Center and Landfill Conversion Center. In addition, John Marshall University organized an educational discussion between the Georgian delegates and the Law professors. This meeting assisted the delegation in understanding the State of Georgia's regulations as they related to state development and progress.

Lastly, the delegation had a great time exploring Atlanta and enjoyed its enormous aquarium, shopping malls,

Coca-Cola museum, and CNN Center. Many of the Georgians said their favorite experience while exploring Atlanta was an unforgettable visit to the Hawks game where they had an opportunity to meet with Zaza Pachulia, who is a native of Georgia.



*Delegation visiting Hall Booth Smith & Slover PC, Atlanta, GA.*

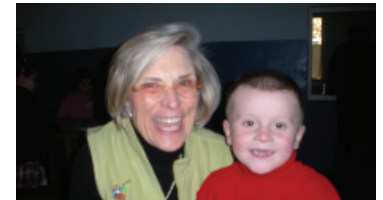
## UPDATE FROM PEACHTREE ROAD SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

The volunteers from Peachtree Road Sponsor-A-Child program just returned from visiting the Kitski orphanage in Georgia with many wonderful stories. The volunteers spent 4 1/2 days with the children and taught arts and crafts, music, and dance. A lot of time was also spent playing basketball, soccer, and Uno in their donated playground. After days filled with fun, it was time to leave. The older youth prepared an amazing presentation on the country of Georgia using the new projector a PRUMC donor had given Kitski and

showcased an elaborate dance for our departure. Also, two vocational programs have been established in the orphanage thanks to donations from Peachtree Road Sponsor-A-Child program. There is a Hair Styling program and our local plumber, Bondo, has been hired to teach the children the trade of plumbing. We hope to establish a bread-making vocational program soon so the children can learn to bake their own daily bread as bread is one of the more expensive foods delivered to Kitski each day.

Finally, the Peachtree Road Sponsor-A-Child program has been moved to February, so please consider re-sponsoring your "adopted" child at that time.

To Sponsor a child please contact Lynn Banks at [lynnsbanks@charter.net](mailto:lynnsbanks@charter.net);



## EMORY UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL AWARD - LADO GURGENIDZE

On November 15, Emory University honored Mr. Lado Gurgenedze with an International Award. Gurgenedze a Georgian and British citizen, received his MBA from Goizueta Business School of Emory University in 1993.

Lado Gurgenedze is a career banker who put the country of Georgia on the global institutional investor map by leading the first-ever international equity and debt capital markets issues by Bank of Georgia and the Georgian government as well as

the country's first-ever domestic IPO.

As Executive Chairman and CEO, he spearheaded a turnaround of Bank of Georgia increasing the bank's total assets and net income many times over. In 2007-2008, Gurgenedze served as Prime Minister of Georgia, leading the Georgian economy through the final stage of free-market reforms including tax cuts, financial services sector reform as well as aggressive privatization and liberalization policies. In the aftermath of the August 2008 conflict

with Russia, Gurgenedze was instrumental in stabilizing the Georgian economy and its financial sector.

In September 2009, Gurgenedze together with Dinu Patriciu established Liberty Investments. This year, Liberty Investments completed the first phase of acquiring a controlling equity interest in Liberty Bank, which has the largest client base in Georgia. The rebranded bank has returned to profitability, growing much faster than the Georgian banking sector.

## BATU KUTELIA, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

Batu Kutelia, the Georgian acting Ambassador to the United States since December 2008, has accepted a new position as the Deputy Secretary of the Georgian National Security Council (NSC).

Before serving as Georgian ambassador to the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Mr. Kutelia served as First Deputy Minister of Defense and head of the Foreign Intelligence Special Service. Mr. Kutelia focused on strengthening U.S.- Georgian economic and military ties and was respected in the international community.

Temur Yakobashvili, who was unanimously approved by the Georgian Parliament on November 24th, 2010, is replacing Mr. Kutelia's position as Ambassador.

The newly approved Georgian ambassador has said that his diplomatic activity will aim at achieving the de-occupation of Georgia and the increasing cooperation between the United States and Georgia in terms of security issues. Yakobashvili's new charter provides for expanding partnerships and cooperation between the two countries in defense, security, economy, power

engineering, democratic reforms, diplomacy, and culture.

Mr. Kutelia released a statement regarding his new charter: "Sending a vice-premier as an ambassador, it is first of all a political signal and I think it is a message from Georgia that against the background of these new realities we want to lift relations with the United States to the new level and [that Tbilisi wants] full-pledged implementation of Charter on Strategic Partnership [with the U.S.]."

## Georgian Health Care 2020 : MEDEA 2011

The first Georgia-U.S. Conference on Georgian health care, organized by the First Lady of Georgia, the Embassy of Georgia to the United States, and the Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs, and Georgia to Georgia Foundation will take place on February 1-2 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Titled "Georgian Health Care 2020: MEDEA 2011", the highly anticipated conference will include representatives from U.S. and international organizations, Georgian government officials, non-governmental organizations, and medical and public health professionals.

The conference is intended to generate awareness on the challenges faced by the health care system in Georgia and to identify key strategic priorities to strengthen the existing capacities of the

system. There are four main goals of the conference, which include:

-Setting up a forum and format for exchange of information and expertise among bio-medical and public health communities in Georgia and the USA.

-Discuss and agree on the roadmap and a work-plan for institutionalizing the support and integration of the Georgian expat community in the Georgian health reforms.

-Map the technical, financial and human resources available through the Georgian expat community in the US, as well as American and US-based international financial and technical organizations, and matching them with the needs of Georgian health reforms.

-Agree on mechanisms to attract foreign investment and international development assistance for the implementation of the agreed health care reform work-plan in Georgia.

The list of participating partners in the MEDEA 2011 conference include, but are not limited to: members of the National Health Authorities and coordination bodies in Georgia, U.S. Government agencies and implementing partners (USAID, CDC), and members from Academic Institutions from Georgia and the U.S., including representatives from Emory University, Harvard University, Georgetown University, and Tbilisi State Medical University.

## W.SCOTT HENWOOD TEACHING IN GEORGIA

Scott Henwood greatly enjoyed his wonderful experience while teaching in Georgia. Much to Georgian student's excitement, Scott returned to Tbilisi for three weeks this fall to teach the second installment of American Legal History at Ilia State University. Scott's excellent teaching was not

only limited to the University; he also taught a well-received Professional and Legal Writing course with the Georgian Justice Department in Tbilisi.

Thankfully, this will not be the last we hear of Scott Henwood's outstanding teaching as he has been invited back to

Tbilisi by the Justice Department and Ilia State University to teach again in 2011!

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINEUS SUPPORT*

**ATSCC will host its meeting on December 21 at the office of HBSS at 191 Peachtree Street, suite 2900. Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Please RSVP to [Ninat@hbss.net](mailto:Ninat@hbss.net). [www.atssc.org](http://www.atssc.org)**

Atlanta Tbilisi Sister City Committee  
191 Peachtree Street  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30303

[www.atssc.org](http://www.atssc.org)