

Did You Know...?



IBP founder, Harriet Van Meter, was inducted into the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni on April 16, 2010.

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IBP Hosts Former President of India



IBP Board President welcomes former President of India His Excellency Dr. Abdul Kalam to IBP's Spring Banquet.

Former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Kalam delivered a speech to more than 200 guests at IBP's Spring Banquet at Christ's Church Cathedral in Lexington, Kentucky on Wednesday, April 7.

Dr. Kalam, who has demonstrated great dedication to students around the world, spoke on the role of education and knowledge in today's emerging economies and how it will be used as the primary production resource in modern society. He explained that, "efficient utilization of existing knowledge can create comprehensive wealth for nations in the form of better health, education, and infrastructure for improving

the quality of life."

His Excellency has used this same philosophy in leading India toward a strong

"Books should act as a bridge between different cultures and help spread the best ideas from one part of the world to another. Books will help overcome our diversities and generate better understanding between nations and societies."

- Dr. APJ Kalam



Dr. Abdul Kalam spoke both about his own love of books and the power of books to spread ideas.

knowledge-based economy through his Technology Vision 2020 plan, which serves as a road map for India in its quest to move up in status to a developed nation.

Dr. Kalam also discussed the importance of books in societal development and even noted the role books have played in his own life. "I have always found great knowledge and happiness in the company of books," he remarked. "I regard my library as my most valued possession and the moments spent there are some of the most enriching and cherished ones."

His Excellency served as president of India from 2002-07 and was responsible for several advancements in promoting the nation's development. A complete transcript of Dr. Kalam's speech can be read at www.intlbookproject.org.



Changing Lives

From our Overseas Partners...



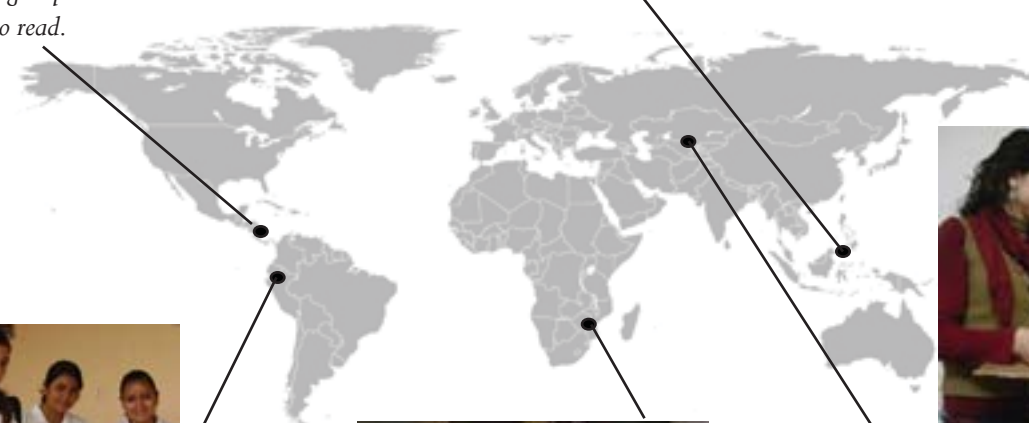
I will be closing my Peace Corps service in May and these books helped strengthen the library and reading opportunities that I have been working to enhance during my service. Many of the students were part of my weekly story group and were excited to have a new set of books to read.

Kathryn McMillan
Costa Rica



Thank you for the gift of reading to the least fortunate kids here in the Philippines. I just wish you can see the faces of the children when we opened the boxes. They were clapping their hands upon seeing the great, great books! They grabbed the books as if they were toys! Now I can provide each child one book in Science and Math with pictures!

Ma. Theresa Malabon
Escalante City
Philippines



I'm a student of Saint Joseph School in Ecuador. I'm very happy because I know that your foundation helped my school. Now we have many books and we are thankful because with that books we will learn things and will become the best students.

Areli Medina
Student at Saint Joseph School
Ecuador



Thank you so much for the pallet of books! The shipment arrived before sunrise this morning but the children were so excited they followed the truck through town to the school. There was certainly a lot of joy and dancing! The children were dancing too and so precious as we pulled out the books and they sat down to read.

Karen Roller
Malawi



On behalf of 1,500 teachers – members of the Kazakhstan Reading Association, I would like to express our gratitude to you for doing this tremendous work. We deeply appreciate your generosity and wish you all the best and good luck.

Sapargul Mirseitova,
KazRA President
Kazakhstan

Strengthening Education in Post-Communist Albania

University of Kentucky doctoral candidate Ridvan Peshkopia is all too familiar with the problems in Albanian higher education. A native of the Eastern European country, Ridvan grew up during the communist regime when access to books was often restricted to classics translated into Albanian by Marxist authors. Although the nation continues to progress since the fall of communism in 1990, the notorious lack of books in Albania created by the 45 year isolation remains a major problem for local universities. Ridvan considers himself fortunate to have studied in the United States. “Most Albanians do not have this opportunity,” he says, and is therefore dedicated to providing the necessary tools for intellectual development



Nursing students at the American University of Tirana (AUT) practice pediatric care. AUT has traditionally trained medical professionals, but is expanding to teach a broader liberal arts curriculum.

through IBP. Ridvan and his fiancée, Damilola “Lola” Adebisi, have packed a sea container shipment of 20,000 books for the American University of Tirana (AUT) through IBP. Founded in 2008,

AUT is a private institution that stems from a network of schools which prepares nurses for practice in the US. While it has a strong medical focus,

"The absence of books continues to represent a tremendous challenge for development in Albania."

- Ridvan Peshkopia

AUT is working to include law, political science, sociology, and architecture in its curriculum. The book shipment will not only provide needed educational resources for specific disciplines but will also be used to help students learn English, an increasingly important language in Albania.

Ridvan found a worthy partner in Lulzim Ndreu, who serves as an administrator at AUT. Mr. Ndreu has demonstrated that he is serious

about the challenge and the preparation needed for the large shipment of books.

Ridvan was impressed by Mr. Ndreu’s ambition for AUT to be a world-class university and his willingness to cooperate with IBP and meet the necessary criteria. Ridvan and Lola individually selected each book in the shipment. The shipment is scheduled to arrive in Durres, Albania in early June.

Gregg Matching Grant for Former Soviet States

Mrs. Gregg, a long-time IBP supporter, has generously offered to match donations up to a total of \$5,000 for book shipments to organizations in the former Soviet states. Help us reach our goal of 50 small book shipments to this region!



Lola Adebisi and Ridvan Peshkopia selected each book for the shipment to Albania.



One Book

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

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Shop IBP's Book Store!

Open 9 am to 5 pm,
Monday through Friday.

NEXT BOOKSALE July 16 and 17

Returned PCV Continues to Serve Village Schools

By Harry Siler



When the weather is nice, teachers at the Nkakasani Junior Primary School hold class outside under a tree. IBP is sending a large shipment of primary school textbooks this spring to several schools in this region of South Africa.

Imagine a classroom with 70 or more children. They are seated in pairs at a double desk, if there are enough desks. The room's five or six textbooks are spread out among the kids during a reading period. Each student must wait his turn as the precious books move around among them. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in that room, sent to support the five village primary schools of Mahlaba-Cross in Limpopo Province, South Africa's poorest.

I didn't know what "support" meant, so for a week I walked the dusty roads to each of the schools, visiting each classroom to see what life was like, quietly slipping into a desk alongside a 3rd grade boy, only to have all the children stare at me and not the teacher. It didn't take me anytime to see needs: books,

paper, pencils, chairs, chalk, as well as basic necessities such as water and electricity.

Because I was old, white, and male (the trifecta in South Africa) and from America to boot, I was respected and listened to in ways I had not experienced before or since. I did what I could in my two years of service, including buying books at flea markets and yard sales to tote home in my giant backpack to spread around among the five schools. We developed classroom libraries of a few appropriate books, in castoff hand baskets from the kind manager of a grocery store in the nearby town of Tzaneen.

In the seven years I've been back home I've continued to send books given to me by friends, family, and school systems. Sometimes there are multiple copies of

school books and a teacher's manual which can transform a classroom. IBP is sending over 20,000 books to classrooms in Mahlaba-Cross. Can you imagine what it will be like for each child to have his own book and be able to read along as the teacher reads aloud? To someday, when teachers have adjusted a bit, be able to take a book home to study and show his family what he's learning in school? Maybe to teach at home, sharing with his parents what they never saw?

This gift of books from IBP will do that for him and for many others. The five village primary schools, the two village secondary schools, and another primary school in neighboring Tzaneen will share in these riches. In all, about 4,500 children will benefit from these books in ways that none of us can imagine.



Harry Siler transporting books for donation to schools in South Africa during his time in the Peace Corps.

At a Time



Thank You to our Volunteers and Supporters!



Above: Volunteer Kati Dygert packs books for Albania.

Left: Enthusiastic volunteers from UPS help set up for our fall book sale.



Hazel Bush, Cecile Nevett and Jo Ann Miller smile for a photo at the IBP Fall Fundraiser.



Volunteers from Target pack a Balikbayan box for an elementary school in the Philippines.

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WeIRD & WONDERfuL!

A Books as Bridges Cultural Event

When: Monday, May 17th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Where: The Explorium
 440 West Short Street, Lexington KY

Books as Bridges students, families, and teachers will gather to celebrate world cultures and to recognize students who completed a service project for their overseas pen-pals.

Have you been to Ecuador, Ghana, South Africa, Morocco, Uganda, or the Philippines?

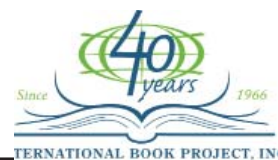
Contact Tracy Nearhoof at bab@intlbookproject.org to help us celebrate these cultures!

Sponsored by: 



Books as Bridges

Note From the Director



With your help, IBP shipped more than 207,000 books to 63 different countries last year, impacting hundreds of thousands of students worldwide. Thank you for your generosity even during tough economic times!

In 2010, I am thrilled that IBP will be able to help several individuals, who had a dream to provide books for their home communities, make that dream a reality. You have read about Ridvan Peshkopia's desire for a university library in Albania and Harry Siler's work providing books to village schools in South Africa. IBP is also working on

projects to create a library in Tengecha Village, Kenya, stock a library in Macedonia, and send university textbooks to Tanzania.

We need your help to make these projects happen! First, we are in great need of several types of books including children's picture story, medical, art

and photography, classics, and dictionaries. We also always need books for native speakers of French and Spanish.

Second, the need for books always exceeds the funds available for shipping. Please consider contributing financially to help IBP send books to our overseas partners.



Tengecha Village in Kenya will receive a small community library of 1,000 books from IBP this summer. IBP still needs \$1,500 in funding to complete the project.

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