

# GEORGIAN Honorary Consul

Fall - Winter 2011



## WELCOME

As Honorary Consul, I welcome you to the quarterly edition of our online newsletter. This newsletter will contain current articles of interest related to the Country of Georgia, information related to visas and other travel information, and online links and information about current events happening in our local community.

### 4TH ANNUAL TASTE OF GEORGIA

The 4th Annual Taste of Georgia was a tremendous success. The celebration, held at Atlanta City Hall on October 16th, marked over 25 years of friendship and cooperation between the state of Georgia and the country of Georgia. ATSCC and Ga2Ge Foundation welcomed over 150 guests for a night of Georgian culture, music, and friendship. Attendees enjoyed artwork from talented Georgian artists, Ilia Chitadze and Zaza Sakheishvili as they dined on traditional Georgian dishes made by local Georgian families. The event honored Ambassador of Georgia to the United States Temur Iakobashvili, Major General Terry Nesbitt and Letha Nesbitt for their longstanding commitment to furthering the relationships between the state of Georgia and the country of Georgia. ATSCC and Ga2Ge would like to thank all of the hard working volunteers.

### VICE PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA, GEORGE BARAMIDZE VISITS ATLANTA

On September 2011, Mr. Giorgi Baramidze visited Atlanta, GA, where he was greeted by a team of Mr. John Hall Jr., the Honorary Consul to the Country of Georgia, at Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C. As the country of Georgia plans to promote and concentrate its further development efforts on the growth of agriculture projects in the country, it was Mr. Baramidze's plan to reach out to our local politicians and leaders for guidance.

Mr. Baramidze visited with Secretary of Agriculture Gary Black, Mr. Steve Henson, Georgia Senate Minority Leader (Democratic), Senator Tommie Williams; Georgia Senate President Pro Tempore (Republican) and with Lt. Governor Casey Cagle; Attorney General Sam Olens; and Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia Mr. Baramidze was joined at lunch by Former Governor Sonny Perdue; Chief Operating Officer, Trey Childress; and Economic Development Commissioner, Heidi Green, and Senator Ronnie Chance, (Chairman of the Senate Economic Development Committee). That evening Hall Booth Smith & Slover hosted a dinner at the Sundial Restaurant at the Peachtree Plaza Hotel in the honor of Mr. Baramidze's visit where local Georgian business owners and members of Georgian community were happy to join.

### MR. SCOTT HENWOOD NAMED PROFESSOR AT ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY, GEORGIA

Two years ago, Mr. Scott Henwood first traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia and offered to teach American Legal History and Legal writing. Since then Mr. Henwood has been teaching at various departments at the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as at the Law school of Ilia State University. During his latest trip to Tbilisi in October of 2011, Ilia State University offered Mr. Henwood the position of professor at the Law School which will require him to teach at least twice a year. Mr. Henwood accepted the offer with great enthusiasm and is looking forward to his trip in Spring.

### OPEN WORLD DELEGATION VISITS GA2GE & ATSCC

The Ga2Ge along with ATSCC, hosted a Georgian delegation from the Open World Leadership, September 23rd to October 1st. A group of five attorneys from the country of Georgia visited Atlanta to learn more about the rule of law in an attempt to further ongoing legal reforms in the country of Georgia.

The delegates visited with justices of the federal and state judiciary; sat in on court proceedings; met with law professors, government leaders, and attorneys; and toured the United States Penitentiary in Atlanta. The trip also facilitated cultural exchange through receptions with host families and local volunteers and attendance to Atlanta Braves baseball game. Guests were also able to attend local community events such as Womenetics: Global Women's Initiative, gathering for Mr. John Wilkinson, and events at the local law firm of Hall Booth Smith & Slover, P.C. By all measures, the trip was a tremendous success and provided delegates with insight and information to help them create a more just and fair legal system.

Ga2Ge Foundation is looking forward to becoming the grantee organization for Open World Programs and is looking forward to hosting more delegations as it continues to foster personal, economic, and cultural relationships between the state of Georgia and the country of Georgia.

## JOHN E. HALL, JR. GEORGIAN HONORARY CONSUL

John E. Hall Jr. is a founding partner of the Atlanta-based law firm Hall Booth Smith & Slover and serves as Honorary Consul to the Republic of Georgia. Additionally, Mr. Hall has served as chairman of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) since January 2008. Mr. Hall has been a positive force in Georgia-US relations. He has visited Tbilisi a number of times, and in November 2008, he presented Mayor Giorgi Ugulava with a plaque commemorating the 20th anniversary of the ATSCC in a nationally televised public ceremony. As the Honorary Consul, Mr. Hall hopes to further develop closer ties between the State of Georgia and the Republic of Georgia, as well as provide guidance and assistance to Georgians in the United States. He intends to develop a focal point for the needs of Georgians here in the US and abroad.

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### Sponsor a Child:

Sponsor a Georgian Child on January 22nd & 29th at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church from 10 am-1 pm.

There are over 350 children at 5 institutions who need sponsors. ~ \$275 a year provides nutritional food, medical checking & medicines. With any extra funding, volunteers purchase winter shoes, coats, toys, etc.

For more information please visit:  
[www.georgiamissions.org](http://www.georgiamissions.org)



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