

Earthquake relief becomes USEFP priority

Kashmir/NWFP catastrophe disrupts regular activities

The staff at USEFP, Islamabad was looking forward to the Columbus Day weekend. We left office on Friday, October 7 upbeat. "Enjoy the long weekend," we all said unaware that our world would be upturned in less than twenty-four hours.

Islamabad and the northern parts of Pakistan were jolted at 8:55 am on Saturday, October 8 with an earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Within hours we along with the rest of the world began learning about the devastation caused, especially in the northern areas. Some of our children had lost classfellows. Everyone was affected by the images that began streaming in. In the next two days, Islamabad changed from a quiet scenic city to a refugee city being flooded with the homeless, the injured and the destitute. The true extent of the calamity is still unknown. The effect on education alone is catastrophic in the affected areas, with some 8,000 schools having disappeared along, very sadly, with most of their students.

When we returned to the office on Tuesday morning, it was to a totally somber atmosphere. The entire team at USEFP was already engaged in relief activities of some kind or other. A hurried meeting was held and we decided to contribute one day's salary of the entire staff to the Presidents Relief Fund. Some staff members also decided to help the Children's Hospital as the greatest number of patients arriving by helicopter were children. Staff members volunteered their time for counseling traumatized children at the hospital. Some staff members helped in the drive for collecting items for patients at the hospital in Rawalpindi and the SOS villages. Generally the staff was responding collectively and individually to calls for help. They still are, as well as striving to keep the office running at close to the speed it was before. Work goes on. Meanwhile, we are thinking about what institutional role we might play in helping schools/youth in this much much altered and difficult scenario.



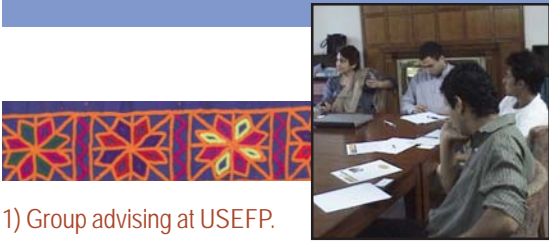
Fulbright family: earthquake affectees Kashif Malik, Batool Ata and new baby Furqan. Batool is a professor of English at AJK Univeristy. She tells her story on page two.

International Education Week

Unfortunately, we have had to curtail our planned activities somewhat in these difficult circumstances. However, during IEW (November 14 - 18) we will be holding workshops for students interested in undergraduate study on writing personal statements and applying for financial aid. We will also hold one for teachers on the topic of writing effective letters of recommendation. Please call or email for details.

Student Services in Islamabad

Group advising sessions for graduate study are held every Wednesday at 3:00 pm and for undergraduate study on Thursdays also at 3:00 pm. Call or email to reserve your place.



1) Group advising at USEFP.

2) Outreach at Roots School in Rawalpindi.

3) Outreach at Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) School in Islamabad



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Outreach in Lahore and Islamabad

In October, our adviser visited Lahore Grammar School, Lahore College of Arts and Sciences (LACAS), Salamat-ICAS and Forman Christian College (FCC). In Islamabad, our advisers made presentations at University College Islamabad (UCI), Headstart, Lahore Grammar School, and International School of Arts and Sciences. To have one of our advisers visit your school, call or email. If your school is outside of the Islamabad/Rawalpindi area, contact us and we will make sure that your school is included in our next outreach to your area.

Other Awards for U.S. Study

South Florida (USF) International Undergraduate Scholars Award

Deadline: January 2, 2006

web.usf.edu/iac/admissions/iusa.php

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

University of Texas at Austin

Deadline: February 1, 2006

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/about/fellowships>

Samuel Huntington Public Service Award for College Seniors

Deadline: February 15, 2006

www.nationalgridus.com/education

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University scholarship for a one-year Master of Science in International Health Policy and Management beginning Fall 2006.

Deadline: March 31, 2006

<http://heller.brandeis.edu/sid>

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My story by Batool Ata

It was October 8, 2005. I was very tired after a sleepless night with my baby, who was born on September 28. He had been released from the hospital late, just a day before, because of jaundice. My husband Kashif and I were angry with the hospital administration that had pushed us out of hospital sooner than necessary. But that may have saved us. The quake hit at 8:52 a.m. and everything – hospitals, schools, colleges, the university and houses – were gone within seconds. I, along with the baby and other family members, was dragged from the falling house by my husband. The whole city was nothing more than a heap of broken concrete with thousands trapped inside. My father-in-law and father were injured, like many others. My small nephew died in his school like thousands of other students. We lived under the open skies in heavy rain for two days with my 10-day-old son, Furqan.

One of our relatives in Islamabad took us in. When we got to Islamabad, I contacted with the Executive Director of USEFP and appealed for help. Very surprisingly, the response was immediate and the staff at USEFP arranged to accommodate us at the Fulbright House, also giving us a monthly stipend for a period of three months. My husband is still in Muzaffarabad engaged in rescue activities. A place we knew now is gone, the people we knew are gone, but my husband who used to be a systems analyst in the Planning & Development Department in the AJK Government believes that things will be fine one day, if we keep on struggling with the help of others. As Dr. Clark wrote to me, "We shall try to do what we can to help you and our family. You are part of Fulbright family now and we do try to help our own, as well as others."

Coming Events

November 14 – 18: International Education Week

November 15 – 18: Outreach to Karachi schools

November 29 – 30: Outreach to Karachi universities

Prometric Testing Center News

Major changes in GRE

Overhauled GRE Will Feature New Types of Questions and Last 90 Minutes Longer

Adapted from an article by Elizabeth J. Farrell

The Graduate Record Examination is undergoing an extreme makeover. After four years of research, officials at the Educational Testing Service say they have nearly finished the most significant overhaul of the GRE in its 55-year history.

New sample questions will be available on the ETS Web site by the end of this month, and the revamped exam will be offered for the first time in October 2006. Each of the computer-based test's three sections — verbal reasoning, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning — will have different types of questions and new formats. Minor changes in the final version of the test will be made after November, when field testing of the new version has been completed.

The GRE will also be much longer. Instead of taking two and a half hours, the new version will last at least four hours. And for the first time, test takers will be allowed to use an on-screen calculator for the quantitative section.

The test will also no longer be offered in a computer-adaptive format, in which the difficulty of each question is determined by whether or not the previous question was answered correctly.

According to David G. Payne, executive director of the GRE program, the changes are intended to make the test a more accurate gauge of how qualified prospective students are to do graduate-level work.

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Changes in content

Verbal: More critical-reading questions and, for the first time, sentence-equivalence questions, which ask test takers to pick the best paraphrase for a piece of sample text.

Quantitative: Fewer questions on geometry; more data interpretation and word problems that require test takers to apply mathematics to “real-life scenarios.” Instead of one 45-minute section, there will be two 40-minute quantitative sections.

Analytical-writing: 15 minutes shorter and more specific than before to avoid the problem of people recycling essays they had memorized from practice tests. Admissions deans will have access to those writing samples under the new system. Currently they can view only the scores.

Technical changes

The 200-to-800-point scale will be replaced with one ranging from 120 to 170 because the number of questions on the test is different. Computer-adaptive test format will be replaced with a linear testing model. The computer-adaptive test calibrates the difficulty of each question based on how the test taker had answered the previous question. In the linear approach, every test taker receives the same questions in identical order. Each administration of the GRE will be given only once, and no test takers will have the same questions on different dates. Instead of offering the test continuously, it will be given 30 times a year.

Remember, we're just an email away!! advising@usefpakistan.org

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Fulbright/Humphrey Program News

Distinguished Fulbright alumnus lost in earthquake relief effort commemorated at USEFP



Dr. Syed Hamidullah

On Wednesday, October 25, Fulbright alumni gathered at The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan in Islamabad to commemorate Dr. Syed Hamidullah. Dr. Hamidullah, professor of earth and environmental science and former director at the National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, lost his life in the helicopter that crashed along with

six Army personnel on October 16. The professor was engaged in relief work and making preparations for undertaking a geological survey of the quake-damaged area.

Dr. Hamidullah had twice been awarded Fulbright Fellowships for research in the United States, at Princeton University and the University of Nebraska in Omaha. In 1993, he was honoured by the Government of Pakistan as Scientist of the Year.

Distinguished Fulbright alumni paid tribute to Dr. Hamidullah's scholarly and humanitarian contributions to Pakistan noting that he had perished in the service of both his country and academic discipline. Attending the service

were United States Educational Foundation board members, Dr. Thomas Pickrel of the United States embassy and Mr. Thomas Crehan of USAID, and staff. Fulbright alumni attending were Dr. Najma Najam, Dr. I.N. Hassan, Dr. Razia Sultana, Dr. Samina Jalali, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Dr. Adam Nayyar, Dr. Saeeda Asadullah Khan, Dr. Abdul Hameed, Dr. Shaheena Ayub Bhatti, and Mr. Nasrullah Mirza. Dr. Asghar Qadir, Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Dr. Naeem Tariq were unable to attend but sent condolence messages.

Dr. Grace Clark, USEFP's Executive Director, participated by telephone from the United States giving a moving eulogy that concluded with these thoughts, "For all of us, Dr. Hamidullah's life reminds us of our passion for our discipline, of the importance of both building and sharing knowledge, of the opportunities for mutual understanding that a Fulbright scholarship presents, and of why it is always more important to be a good human being than a good scholar. Dr. Hamidullah was a scholar, a Fulbright alumnus, a humanitarian, and a good friend. May we all learn from his example of how to live and how to die. May God give rest and peace to his soul."

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