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## Honorable Mentions: February 2012 State Alumni Member of the Month

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BELGRADE & BUDAPEST -- There were two honorable mentions for the February State Alumni Member of the Month feature: Hungarian [Fulbright](#) and HAESF alumnus [Tamás Csörgő](#) and Serbian [American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange \(A-SMYLE\)](#) program alumna [Katarina Kohen](#).

### **Tamás Csörgő: Fulbright Program and Hungarian American Enterprise Scholarship Fund (HAESF), Hungary**

As a Fulbright alumnus, Dr. Csörgő challenges students in his village of Vizsnek, and in his former middle School in the city of Gyöngyös, both in Northern Hungary, to emulate the educational practices of the best universities in the world. He acted as a visiting research scholar at Harvard and at Case Western Reserve University, both with HAESF support. He was visiting researcher or professor also at other great universities including Columbia University in New York (supported by a Fulbright Advanced Research Award); the University of Lund, Sweden; the University of São Paulo, Brazil; and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He organized, with the support of a Fulbright Alumni Initiatives Award, the participation of Hungarian physicists in the PHENIX experiment at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA, a world leading facility of the U.S. Department of Energy.

He directly applies the educational techniques that he sees at the best universities of the world to the Science Club of his former high school in Gyöngyös, Hungary, and based on this successful example, he initiated a nation-wide Science Club movement in Hungary. Dr. Csörgő, among other duties, has been serving as the volunteer manager of the Hungarian Fulbright alumni listserv for many years. He also volunteered for the Meet the Scientist Fulbright alumni initiative, promoting science, innovation and study in the U.S. to Hungarian high school students.

Dr. Csörgő is proud of his humble beginnings and strongly feels that coming from a modest, small village in the countryside should not impede anybody's ability to succeed and build an international career. Besides the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Csörgő commutes to work at Brookhaven National Laboratory, at Harvard and at CERN in Switzerland but he also finds time to volunteer in the Hungarian Fulbright community and in his own community in the countryside. He still lives in his small village of Vizsnek, two hours from Budapest, which he considers the best place for creative work.

He has been serving his local community, his village and his former high school for four years providing summer camps in his own home for the children and attracting scientists and researchers from home and abroad to come as speakers. He has been at the forefront of a drive in Hungarian education towards self-education, currently runs five science clubs in high schools in the country and in Budapest involving alumni. He is a passionate proponent of personal responsibility in cultivating one's own mind.

In August 2011, Dr. Csörgő received the Knight Cross from the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic from the President of Hungary for organizing the Hungarian



February State Alumni Member of the Month runners up, Hungarian Fulbright and HAESF alumnus Tamás Csörgő and Serbian A-SMYLE alumna Katarina Kohen.

participation in international collaborations like PHENIX in the United States, for supporting young talents and for his commitment to education. In September 2011, he was elected, for his scientific achievements, as a member of the Academy of Europe (London), a prestigious and highly selective non-governmental organization promoting learning, education and research on the European level.

**Katarina Kohen: American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE), Serbia**

Guided by philanthropic ideas and concepts of international cooperation, as well as embracing the concept of youth civic initiatives, Katarina Kohen has been an active alumna ever since 2007 when she returned from participating in the American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE) Program. Ever since her return to Serbia, Katarina has been implementing skills and knowledge gained through the program. Among her many activities, she is working actively in alumni networks, including ENAM (European Network of American Alumni Associations) and the "Think Big Team," and in other organizations, such as People to People International, European Law Students Association, and Youth Rotary club in Dedinje, Belgrade.

Founding of the alumni association "Think Big Team" was originally Katarina's idea and in large part the product of her initiative and efforts. Ever since it was founded in February 2010, Katarina has been the leader of the association, which has successfully accomplished many projects in the last two years. In October 2010 Katarina was appointed as the Deputy coordinator of the Organizing Committee and the Head of Marketing and Communications at world's first regional alumni organization for alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, ENAM (European Network of American Alumni Associations). In December 2011, Katarina was chosen to be a member of ENAM's board of directors. By being part of ENAM, Katarina is actively creating bonds between alumni from Serbia and alumni from other European countries.

While she was still in the United States, great part of her exchange experience consisted of active engagement in volunteer work and community service. For her efforts she was awarded with certificate of Achievement and a President's Volunteering Service Award from the White House. Her engagement continued upon her return to Serbia, where she has participated in various actions organized by American Councils for International Education in Belgrade and her fellow alumni from A-SMYLE network. Katarina also has been awarded the title of the Ambassador for Epilepsy for Serbia's National Epilepsy Association for philanthropic achievements in the field.

Katarina is an inspiration and a role model to many young people. She is using every possible chance to stand up and talk about possible improvements and is always ready for action.

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