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## Building democracy one place at a time

By Joshua Edward  
Whalesong Staff

When most of us take a vacation, we tend towards the relaxing, if somewhat banal: we recline on beaches and relax in cabins; we “get away from it all,” whatever our individual “all” may be.

Dr. Jonathan Anderson, Director of the Master of Public Administration program at UAS, takes a “higher road” when it comes to time away: he recently spent two weeks not at Disneyland, but in war torn Kosovo, Serbia, organizing and administering one of the country’s first democratic elections.

Under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OCSE), Anderson used his expertise in elections and public policy to build the frameworks for democracy in Kosovo. Most of us in the United States take our democratic duties for granted: even if we vote (which many of us don’t), we do it as an afterthought; a stop before or after work, another errand to pack into a busy day. In a country like Kosovo, such lazy political luxuries must seem a world away.

Anderson views his role in the Kosovo election as two-fold: while they were there to build a working system (next stop Florida?), they were also there for a greater purpose, to “build confidence in democracy.”

For residents of Kosovo, the concept of democracy is a new one.

Suffering under a dictatorship throughout the better part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they have seen their region both literally and figuratively disintegrate in the past decade. As an ethnically different region of Serbia (most Kosovars are Muslim and ethnic Albanians), Kosovo was prime for Slobodon Milosovich’s institutionalized genocide. As the country rebuilds, questions that we in the

United States take for granted when voting are still being answered: who gets to vote? Where will people vote? Who can run for office? How do you control election fraud in a country still rebuilding its government’s infrastructure? It was Anderson’s role to help Kosovars answer these questions.



Photo by Jonathan Anderson

A battered building in Kosovo destroyed during the Balkan conflict in 1999.

First, says Anderson, the OCSE needed to “identify voters, and register those voters in legitimate districts.” Each voter was given a voter registration card; unlike our equivalent in the US, voter cards in Kosovo also functioned as a picture ID. The next step in the demo-

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## Leadership Summit leaves legacy

By Sean Smith  
Whalesong Staff

Students attending this year’s Leadership Summit reached their peak and had an unexpected fun time doing it. On March 29, students made their way to the UAS campus at 8:30a.m., where they feared the worst: a long, boring day of lectures and readings; basically, school. What the 50 current and future leaders of UAS found was a day packed with keynote speeches, roundtable discussions, and valuable workshops that not only informed, but kept the drowsy awake throughout.

Jon McElwain, a leadership student, said, “The workshops were excellent and highly worth my while.” McElwain was one of the many students who gained information about leadership through specially costumed workshops given by current UAS adminis-

tration and the keynote speaker, Mindy Hurt. A native Texan, she made the trip from Baltimore to give a presentation on her book, *Destiny Points: Decisions for College and Beyond*.

“[The summit was] extremely important to teach the students leadership skills. [It] really helps students individually, but benefits UAS as a whole. And to have high school involvement is very exciting,” Chancellor John Pugh said about the Leadership Summit and the four high school students that not only got up and made the trip, but were very energetic about all the events throughout the day.

Philip Dierking, along with Amanda Underwood and Megan Bush, said they saw a flyer for the summit at the high school and thought there should be more things to

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Photo by Greg Cohen

On April 4, an eagle was spotted taking on the challenge of parking by helping students near the upper lots.