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THE BISLIMI GROUP

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EDUCATION FOR PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE

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Second Generation of EFP Scholars Heads to America

Prishtina, December 17, 2007—The Bislimi Group Foundation, established in 2006 by Faton Bislimi, continues to provide undergraduate scholarships for deserving Kosovar students who want to study in the United States through the generous Education for Peace Scholarships Program granted and hosted by Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas, one of the best liberal arts colleges (as ranked by the *US News and World Report*).

Just like in the previous year, the selection criteria for successful applicants were quite rigorous. Nevertheless, after a few months of hard work and dedication, the successful candidates of our EFP Scholarships Program completed the final steps in preparation for their new academic life in Texas by obtaining US student visas at the US Embassy in Skopje.

The successful candidates were selected from a very qualified pool of applicants. One of the scholarship winners, Mr Valim Bucaj, was declared “Kosova Student of the Year 2007” by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, upon completion of high school with a all-high academic record on his national maturity test – getting a perfect 100%. In support of Valmir came the Municipality of Malisheva as well. The Mayor of Malisheva, Mr Gani Krasniqi, and his staff worked very hard to ensure that Valmir’s hometown would provide him with a grant to support his living expenses while at TLU, in the amount of €7,000 (\$10,150). In this context, the Foundation wants to publicly thank Mayor Krasniqi and the Municipality of Malisheva for not only helping a deserving young man to pursue his dream of quality education in America, but also for providing a wonderful example to other relevant government authorities in Kosova when it comes to supporting talented individuals of this country to ensure a better future.

Applications for the EFP Scholarships Program were received from students across Kosova attending public as well as private education institutions. While our wish would be to send more students to the US for quality education, the number of our scholarships is limited. Based on the last year’s experience and difficulties with raising the necessary amounts to support the two half-scholarships, TLU generously made one half-scholarship from last year a full one this year and decided to provide three full scholarships for the EFP Scholarships Program 2007. Due to technical delays, our second generation of students will be starting their full-time studies at TLU in the Spring 2008 semester, beginning on January 12, 2008.

The second generation of our EFP scholarship recipients traveling to the US in a few short weeks consists of three very deserving Kosovar students, who we believe will continue the successful tradition of our first generation:

- **Mr Valmir Bucaj**, Student of the Year 2007, valedictorian of his high school graduating class, son of a Kosova War martyr, is a brilliant young Kosovar. He has been very active outside school, on top of having a perfect academic record and fluency in English.
- **Ms Drilona Aliu**, an honors graduate of the Guilderland High School in New York, an extremely capable young lady is a wonderful student, hard working, and has fluent knowledge of English. She has a personality of high values and strong virtues.
- **Ms Teuta Hyseni**, another brilliant, but quite shy, young Kosovar student, who just finished high school with a perfect CGPA of 4.0 in Gjilan, is another great EFP scholarship recipient. Her extracurricular activities are an integral part of her achievements and she has a good command of English. Orphaned at a young age, she became a major contributor to her family's wellbeing, who never gave up her dream for quality education.

Mr. Faton Bislimi, founder and president of The Bislimi Group, says that he is very proud of the first group of EFP students who did very well at TLU. Most of them got into the prestigious Honors Program and other honor societies on campus. He continually encourages them to be an active part of the TLU campus and wishes the same for the second generation.

“Kosova needs well educated and professional people,” Bislimi said, “and TLU is the right place to not only get a diploma but also a truly valuable education.” Bislimi believes that TLU has made a difference in his own life and is continuing to make a very important difference in the lives of our EFP students and through them in the lives of all Kosovars. “We cannot ever thank TLU enough for their generosity, and our friends and supporters in Texas – such as the Kinsmen Lutheran Church, and other congregations and individuals that have kindly supported our EFP students.”

The Bislimi Group is a not-for-profit organization, which strives to help build a peaceful and prosperous future for Kosova through quality education. Founded in 2006, The Bislimi Group implements the Education for Peace Scholarships Program hosted by TLU. Texas Lutheran University is an exclusively undergraduate university of the liberal arts, sciences and professional studies. Founded in 1891, TLU has been recognized repeatedly by *US News & World Report* magazine as one of America's best comprehensive colleges. The university also was included in 2007 *The Princeton Review* list of best colleges in the western United States.